



S. C. Smith, photo.

### A CRISIS IN THE MEAT EXPORT TRADE.

A tussle between the meat companies and the slaughtermen has been pending for some time, consequent upon a demand by the men for an increase in the rate of pay. The Federation of Slaughtermen has cancelled registration under the Arbitration Act, preferring freedom of contract to compulsory arbitration in a crisis, and notice has been given to cease work on Monday next. The men demanded a rise from 25/ to 30/ per 100 sheep, and the companies in conference decided to offer 27/6. Both sides resolutely refuse to yield, and the two Wellington companies are preparing to close down their works at the cessation of operations by the slaughtermen. A determined fight is promised. The photos show two of the big killing works which are affected. (1) The Gear Co.'s works at Petone. (2) The Meat Export Co.'s works at Ngahaurungu.