

403. There was a decrease in the export of sheep during 1890, but if care is taken to send over animals that will make a good quality of mutton, a ready market will always be found and a steady expansion of this branch of the trade should be looked for. There was a decrease of 319,600 in the number of sheep and lambs imported into Great Britain during the year. Canada, in this branch of the meat trade, has a formidable rival in the Australasian colonies, the shipments of mutton from which are increasing in quantity every year, and the trade has assumed proportions of great magnitude with astonishing rapidity. In 1882 the total quantity of frozen meat exported from New Zealand was 15,244 cwt., valued at \$94,117, while in 1889 there were exported 874,102 carcasses of sheep, 132,645 carcasses of lambs and 7,941,657 lbs. of beef, the whole being valued at \$3,582,431, and in addition \$721,332 worth of preserved and salted meat were exported. The total quantity of dead meat imported into the United Kingdom from Australasia in 1889 was 710,595 cwt., while in 1890 the carcasses imported from the same countries were 1,773,478 in number. In 1880 the total number imported was only 400.

Exports of sheep.

Exports of dead meat from Australasia.

404. Successful as the live and dead meat export trade has proved, there are other articles of food for which there is an enormous demand from Great Britain, which, though this country is well adapted to produce them, the following tables, giving the quantities and values of provisions exported from Canada in each year since 1873. and the principal countries to which they were sent, show that, with one or two exceptions, articles which could be produced here in large quantities are only being exported to a small extent.

Export of provisions from Canada, 1874-1890.