

Slaughtering and Meat Packing.—The growth of this industry has been accompanied by a concentration of the major part of the production of the industry into a comparatively small number of large establishments, thereby facilitating the utilization of by-products and greater efficiency of operation. There has been a large increase in the number of establishments since 1930, only 76 firms having reported in that year, whereas in 1931 the number was 147, owing to the inclusion of wholesale butchers operating small plants engaged in slaughtering only. The inclusion of these small establishments did not affect materially the value of production of the industry, which increased from \$3,799,552 in 1870 to \$7,132,831 in 1890, and to \$22,217,984 in 1900. In the next decade it more than doubled, attaining a value of \$48,527,076 in 1910, and by 1920 a value of \$240,544,618 (the highest on record) was reported. In 1939 it was \$185,196,133, as compared with \$175,767,382 in 1938. The principal statistics of the industry for 1938 appear in Chapter XIV, Table 9 at pp. 318-319. The slaughterings reported by establishments in the industry in 1939 are: cattle 927,588; calves 687,539; sheep and lambs 785,653; and hogs 3,793,468.

Establishments that prepare meat products for export are subject to inspection under the Meat and Canned Foods Act. In practice these include all the principal packing establishments but do not include local wholesale butchers included in the slaughtering and meat-packing industry above, nor slaughtering by retail butchers and by farmers for their own use and local sale. By reference to Table 16 it may be observed that for 1939 inspected slaughterings represented the following proportions of total estimated slaughterings: cattle 76.6 p.c.; calves 56.96 p.c.; sheep and lambs 53.1 p.c.; and hogs 69.9 p.c.

16.—Live Stock Slaughtered at Canadian Inspected Establishments, by Months, 1938 and 1939

Month	1938				1939			
	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Hogs	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Hogs
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
January.....	70,174	30,293	59,026	324,355	69,851	31,950	42,251	262,701
February.....	57,803	33,933	44,996	276,255	54,718	31,591	37,225	244,987
March.....	68,854	61,144	35,501	299,814	66,902	61,885	39,151	299,250
April.....	62,951	80,645	24,698	275,898	57,486	77,677	30,739	259,022
May.....	71,049	95,666	26,845	251,804	72,583	101,682	30,221	280,807
June.....	63,522	77,450	47,994	207,972	66,335	74,205	47,069	220,141
July.....	65,170	61,331	62,832	172,244	64,525	62,458	61,911	217,293
August.....	71,754	60,263	83,654	194,316	74,433	57,241	88,363	267,510
September.....	81,272	52,028	113,255	242,198	84,380	51,645	104,183	269,571
October.....	87,967	50,476	154,001	297,440	98,718	53,620	159,843	425,406
November.....	94,020	43,976	100,286	314,507	98,098	44,056	96,010	473,201
December.....	64,724	29,374	48,591	280,400	65,631	31,107	46,862	403,756
Totals.....	859,260	676,579	801,679	3,137,203	873,660	679,117	783,828	3,623,645

Consumption of Animal Products.—The consumption of animal products such as meat, butter and eggs is generally more pronounced in the case of people with a high standard of living. In Canada there is a relatively high per capita consumption of beef, pork, butter and eggs but a relatively low per capita consumption of mutton and lamb, and cheese. During the depression years, the per capita consumption of these products was not affected as much as might have been expected. Changes in the per capita consumption of various animal products occur as a result of changes in price relationships. These, in turn, are related to cycles of over- and