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 greater efficiency of operation and the utilization of by-products. 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 1940 it was $228,500,487, as compared with $185,196,133 in 1939. The principal statistics of the industry for 1939 appear in Chapter XIV, Table 9 at pp. 368-369. The slaughterings reported by establishments in the industry in 1940 were: cattle 935,920; calves 717,835; sheep and lambs 763,044; and hogs 5,531,051.

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. In 1940 inspected slaughterings represented the following proportions of total estimated slaughterings: cattle 77·1 p.c.; calves 64·2 p.c.; sheep and lambs 59·7 p.c.; and hogs 77·5 p.c.

15.—Live Stock Slaughtered at Canadian Inspected Establishments, by Months, 1939 and 1940

Month	1939				1940			
	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Hogs	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Hogs
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
January	69,851	31,950	42,251	262,701	72,954	30,128	47,729	383,925
February	54,718	31,591	37,225	244,987	60,066	33,919	36,467	383,325
March	66,902	61,885	39,151	299,250	63,928	51,097	36,822	377,925
April	57,486	77,677	30,739	259,022	71,702	96,025	29,113	407,831
May	72,583	101,682	30,221	280,807	71,553	94,950	23,848	446,441
June	66,335	74,205	47,069	220,141	61,464	74,527	36,383	319,361
July	64,525	62,458	61,911	217,293	65,552	73,103	60,370	335,834
August	74,433	57,241	88,363	267,510	75,362	56,601	79,864	364,065
September	84,380	51,645	104,183	269,571	78,309	52,900	90,188	447,347
October	98,718	53,620	159,843	425,406	99,488	57,463	153,022	631,835
November	98,098	44,056	96,010	473,201	99,263	51,193	118,768	697,058
December	65,631	31,107	46,862	403,756	71,278	32,012	52,591	662,136
Totals	**873,660**	**679,117**	**783,828**	**3,623,645**	**890,919**	**703,918**	**765,165**	**5,457,083**

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