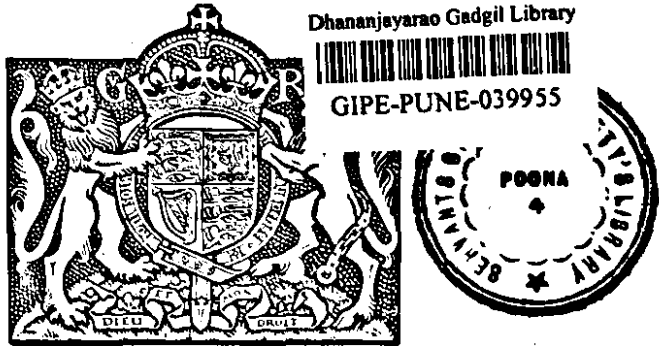


Report on  
Markets and Fairs  
in  
England and Wales

(Part I: General Review)

Economic Series No. 13.

(For list of other Reports, in  
this Series, see inside of cover).



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES.

Report  
on  
Markets and Fairs  
in  
England and Wales  
(Part I : General Review).

LONDON :  
PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:  
Austral House, Kingsway, London, W.C. 2; 120, George Street, Edinburgh;  
York Street, Manchester; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff;  
15, Donegall Square West, Belfast;  
or through any Bookseller.

1927.  
Price 6d. Net.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS.

---

PREFACE	-	
<i>Chapter</i>		
<b>I. INTRODUCTORY</b>	-	-
(i) Historical	-	-
(a) Definition of a Market	-	-
(b) Intention of a Market	-	-
(c) Origin of Markets	-	-
(d) Origin of Fairs	-	-
(ii) Acquisition of Market Rights	-	-
(iii) Regulation of Markets	-	-
(iv) Administration of Markets	-	-
<b>II. MARKET CHARGES AND FINANCE</b>	-	-
(i) Charges	-	-
(a) Rents	-	-
(b) Tolls	-	-
(c) Other Charges	-	-
(ii) Finance	-	-
<b>III. DEVELOPMENT AND CLASSIFICATION OF MARKETS</b>	-	-
<b>IV. RETAIL MARKETS</b>	-	-
<b>V. WHOLESALE PRODUCE MARKETS</b>	-	-
(i) Markets in Producing Areas	-	-
(a) Fruit and Vegetable Markets	-	-
(b) Egg and Poultry Markets	-	-
(c) Cheese and Butter Markets	-	-
(d) Corn and Provender Markets	-	-
(e) Wool Auctions	-	-
(ii) Markets in Consuming Centres	-	-
<b>VI. LIVESTOCK MARKETS (I)</b>	-	-
(i) Development	-	-
(ii) Private-treaty Markets	-	-
(iii) Auction Sales of Fat Stock	-	-
(iv) Auction Sales of Store Stock	-	-
(v) Weighing and Sale by Weight	-	-
(vi) Auction Selling Charges	-	-
(vii) The Credit Factor	-	-
<b>VII. LIVESTOCK MARKETS (II)</b>	-	-
(i) Auction "Rings"	-	-
(ii) Conditions of Sale	-	-
(iii) Livestock Street Markets	-	-
(iv) Accommodation in Livestock Markets	-	-
(v) Public and Private Control of Auction Marts	-	-
(vi) Co-ordination	-	-
(vii) Possibilities of Country Slaughtering	-	-
<b>VIII. ABATTOIRS, COLD STORES, HIDE AND SKIN MARKETS</b>	-	-
(i) Abattoirs	-	-
(ii) Cold Storage Accommodation	-	-
(iii) Hide and Skin Markets	-	-
<b>IX. CONCLUSION</b>	-	-
<b>APPENDICES I TO III</b>	-	72

## PREFACE.

During the 18th and 19th centuries, various Royal Commissions were appointed to enquire into the prevailing condition of agriculture, but, in the published reports, little or nothing was said on the subject of markets and marketing. The first special enquiry into markets was that of the Royal Commission on Market Rights and Tolls, which was appointed in 1887 and issued its final report in 1891, but the Commissioners made no attempt to deal with the more general aspects of marketing. The next enquiry was undertaken by a Departmental Committee in 1920, but was limited to the wholesale food markets of London. The appointment of the Linlithgow Committee followed in December, 1922. This Committee surveyed the whole marketing field and its Final Report\* contained the following recommendation :—

“During the course of our enquiry we have been struck by the lack of readily available information regarding the markets of the country. This appears to be due to the fact that there is no general body of legislation on the subject ; many markets owe their origin to early charters, others are controlled by Local Authorities under private Acts of Parliament, while others have been established under the general powers of the Public Health and other Acts. As a result, there is no Government Department which is concerned to consider the relation of local markets to the food supply of the country, their influence on prices, or their general suitability from the point of view either of the consumer or the producer. The Ministry of Health in England and Wales and the Department of Health in Scotland only come into the picture, we understand, in connection with the powers of Local Authorities (mainly in regard to sanitation and finance) as prescribed by certain Acts of Parliament, and cannot deal in any way with the wider aspect of the question to which we have referred above. As a preliminary step to the further consideration of this question, we think it desirable that the Government Departments concerned should collect and publish information as to the control and ownership of markets, and any relative information likely to be useful.”

In furtherance of this recommendation, a survey of the agricultural markets and fairs of England and Wales has been undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in connection with and complementary to its investigations into the marketing of agricultural produce. A knowledge of the markets of the country is essential if the methods of marketing agricultural produce are to be fully understood.

\* Cmd. 2008. 1924.

For the purpose of this survey, it has been found convenient to divide the country into areas comprising groups of counties and particulars have been obtained, or are in course of being obtained, of the markets in each group. It is proposed, in due course, to publish Reports in the Economic Series which will present the information so accumulated in a form which will be of value to producers and other users of the markets. Sufficient information is, however, now available regarding markets generally to provide material for the present introductory Report. The general view of markets and market conditions which this Report affords will give perspective to the necessarily more detailed Reports to follow.

It is desired to acknowledge the assistance rendered in connection with this Report by the Northern Market Authorities Association, the Association of Midland Market Authorities, and a number of individuals, including auctioneers and market owners, officers of County Councils, Borough Councils and other local authorities, and of local branches of the National Farmer Union.

**APPENDIX I: A CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF CERTAIN ACTS  
RELATING TO MARKETS AND FAIRS, 1796-1926.**

1796. Hay and Straw Act.  
 1834. " " "  
 1839. Metropolitan Police Act. (Fairs in Metropolitan Police District.)  
 1847. Towns (Improvement) Clauses Act.  
       Markets and Fairs Clauses Act.  
 1856. Hay and Straw Act.  
 1860. Local Taxation Returns Act.  
 1868. Metropolitan Police Act. (Fairs in Metropolitan Police District.)  
 1871. The Fairs Act.  
 1873. " "  
 1875. Public Health Act.  
 1877. Local Taxation Returns Act.  
 1878. Weights and Measures Act.  
 1882. Municipal Corporation Act.  
 1884. Public Health (Confirmation of Byelaws) Act.  
 1887. Markets and Fairs (Weighing of Cattle) Act.  
 1888. Local Government Act.  
 1890. Public Health (Amendment) Act.  
 1891. Markets and Fairs (Weighing of Cattle) Act.  
 1893. Sale of Goods Act.  
 1894. Diseases of Animals Act.  
 1897. Weights and Measures Act.  
 1903. Diseases of Animals Act.  
 1907. Public Health (Amendment) Act.  
 1908. Public Health (Amendment) Act. Under Section 166 Rural  
       District Councils given same powers as previously given to other  
       Local Authorities.  
 1909. Diseases of Animals Act.  
 1910. " " "  
 1921. Corn Sales Act.  
 1922. Diseases of Animals Act.  
 1925. " " "  
 1925. Public Health Act. Local Authorities given power to erect cold  
       stores in connection with markets and to make reasonable  
       charge for the use of same, with the consent of the Ministry of  
       Health.  
 1926. Markets and Fairs (Weighing of Cattle) Act.  
 1926. Horticultural Produce (Sales on Commission) Act.

## APPENDIX II: CONDITIONS OF SALE IN LIVESTOCK AUCTION MARTS.

### (A) Conditions usually found in Livestock Auction Marts.

- (1) Highest bidder to be the purchaser. In the event of dispute, the lot to be put up for sale again or the auctioneer to determine such dispute.
  - (2) Auctioneer to regulate the amount of the bidding and to have the right to reject any bid.
- N.B.—In some markets the amount of advance is laid down for each class of stock.
- (3) No person shall retract any bid.
  - (4) Auctioneer will not recognise the transfer of any lot.
  - (5) Regulations regarding payment in full or of a deposit, if required, by the purchaser. Purchasers paying by cheque to give satisfactory references if required.
  - (6) Purchaser to disclose his full name and address on the fall of the hammer.
  - (7) Lots are sold with all faults and errors of description.
  - (8) Lots to be cleared on the conclusion of the sale or within a stated time thereafter. No lots to be the property of the buyer or to be taken away till paid for. No lot to be removed during the sale.
  - (9) Every lot to be considered as delivered at the fall of the hammer and the declaration of the name of the purchaser to be deemed a full and sufficient acceptance and to bar all questions of delivery.
  - (10) All lots to be at the purchaser's risk at the fall of the hammer.
  - (11) No contra-accounts or set-offs allowed.
  - (12) All lots are to be sold without reserve in the absence of written instructions to the contrary.
  - (13) The auctioneer acts only as an agent between the vendor and the purchaser.
  - (14) The auctioneer not liable for loss of or damage to stock consigned to him or third party damages occasioned by such stock.
  - (15) Right to refuse any animal supposed to be suffering from any disease.
  - (16) Right to withhold payment if a question of warranty arises until such question is settled.
  - (17) If any purchaser fails to comply with the conditions of sale his deposit, if any, to be forfeited and the auctioneers may resell, the defaulter bearing any deficiency which may arise, including all charges, which may be recovered as liquidated damages. The vendor to take any surplus arising from such second sale.
  - (18) No appeal from the auctioneer's decision.
  - (19) Specified time varying from a few hours to four days for claims to be forwarded.

### (B) Other Conditions not so generally found.

- (1) Auctioneer will not be responsible for any loss occasioned by fire, accident or otherwise.
- (2) Auctioneer to have a lien on any lot for any sums due to him in respect of current or previous sale.
- (3) Auctioneer, his servants or agents may summarily recover lots taken away in contravention of the conditions of sale.
- (4) Purchaser liable for all costs incurred in the collection or recovery of purchase money.
- (5) Purchaser to be deemed to have inspected the lot he buys.
- (6) Name and address of the sender to be furnished to the purchaser if required.
- (7) Contract of sale to be with the auctioneer.
- (8) Vendor to have the right to withdraw any lot before sale.

It will be seen that most of the above in Class B amplify one or other of the clauses in Class A.

## APPENDIX III: NOTES ON MARKETS IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

### (A) Dresden Livestock Markets and Slaughterhouses.

The Dresden municipal livestock markets and abattoirs, which were completed in 1910, are situated some three miles outside the city and occupy about 89 acres, of which the cattle markets and kindred buildings cover about 47 acres and the slaughter halls, cold stores, &c., about 42 acres. They are quoted generally on the Continent as the embodiment of all that is best in livestock markets and abattoir construction and design. (See Fig. 26.)

The buildings are of concrete and present a striking appearance. The outside walls are white, with black plinths to a height of about 3 feet. The roofs are constructed of red ribbed-tiles and are of the low, steep, Dutch type, with glazed lights about midway between the eaves and the ridge. The roadways throughout the premises are wide and straight and intersect each other at right angles. Adjacent to all the principal buildings are vacant sites for extensions; there are also other available spaces which are at present planted with trees or formed into ornamental flower gardens. At the main entrance there is a suite of offices for the use of the director and other members of the administrative staff; this accommodation includes a large board room and an exchange with offices and restaurant. A main line of railway extends along the whole of one side of the premises, with special sidings provided with stages for dealing with animals and carcasses, and equipped with apparatus for cleansing and disinfecting wagons and other vehicles. In addition to the covered reception lairages there are separate buildings for marketing live cattle and sheep respectively, and one for calves and pigs. There are also separate slaughter halls for cattle and pigs respectively, and one for calves and sheep, as well as separate slaughter halls for horses, imported animals and diseased animals. Special premises are provided for the treatment of blood, offal, hides and skins and there is also a melting establishment for fat and a destructor plant for dealing with condemned carcasses. Boilers and machinery are provided for supplying steam and hot water to the various departments and for operating the refrigerating machinery which serves the cooling rooms adjacent to each block of slaughter halls and is also employed for the manufacture of ice. Dwelling houses with gardens are provided for employees.

On arrival by rail, the animals are unloaded into pens (see Fig. 27), each of which holds a truck load, whence after weighing, if the senders so wish, at a special weighing house, they enter the covered market lairage where, in accordance with disease regulations, they remain for two or three days before sale in the market halls by private treaty. The cost of feeding is defrayed by the sellers, the amount of food allowed to be given on the day prior to slaughter being fixed by byelaw.

On market day, the animals are driven forward to the market halls where automatic weighing machines, which print weighing slips in triplicate, are provided at a number of convenient points. The market hall for cattle is a building 380 feet long by 190 feet wide and affords accommodation for 1,200 head, the main passages being about 16 feet wide and the side passages about 10 feet wide. A separate market hall, 380 feet long by 240 feet wide, affords accommodation for 3,700 pigs and 3,100 calves, and is sub-divided into 390 pens or stalls. The sheep market is about 160 feet long by 95 feet wide and provides accommodation for 2,200 head. Lairage accommodation is provided in three neighbouring buildings for unsold animals, the first, about 110 feet by 65 feet, is for cattle, the second, 70 feet by 65 feet, is for calves, and the third, containing 36 separate compartments, is for sheep and pigs.

In the construction of the market halls, careful attention has been given to lighting and the most suitable material for floors, and for the fittings and partitions dividing the pens. (See Fig. 28.) The flooring is constructed of specially-finished concrete, or other similar material,



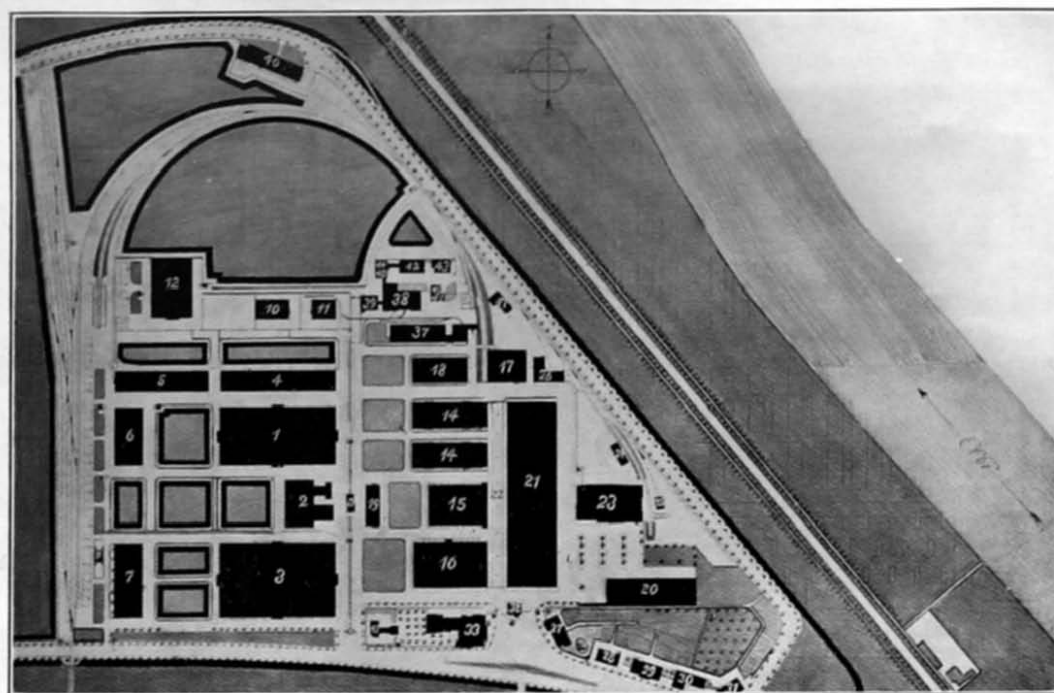


FIG. 26.—Plan of the Municipal Livestock Markets and Slaughterhouses, Dresden, Germany.

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| 1. Market Hall for Cattle.                             | 12. Lairs for Foreign Cattle.              | 24. Workshop.   |
| 2. Market Hall for Sheep, and Market Manager's Office. | 13. Emergency accommodation.               | 26. Hide, Skin, and Tallow Stores.                                |
| 3. Market Hall for Pigs and Calves.                    | 14. Slaughter Hall for Cattle.             | 27. Administrative Department.                                    |
| 4, 5, & 6. Feeding Stalls for Cattle.                  | 15. Slaughter Hall for Calves and Sheep.   | 28. Show Department.  |
| 7. Feeding Stalls for Pigs.                            | 16. Slaughter Hall for Pigs.               | 29, 30, & 31. Shops.  |
| 8. Gate-keeper's Lodge—Animals entrance.               | 17. Manure Shed.                           | 32. Porter's Lodge.   |
| 9. Weighing House.                                     | 18. Lairage for Cattle awaiting slaughter. | 33. Hotel, Exchange, with Cafe and Garden Buffet.                 |
| 10. Extra Stalls for Cattle.                           | 19. Lairage for Pigs awaiting slaughter.   | 42, 43, & 44. Isolation Lairs, Slaughter House, and Cooling Room. |
| 11. Extra Stalls for Calves and Sheep.                 | 20. Stalls for Horses.                     | 46. Tallow, Gut, and Hide Factory.                                |
|  | 21. Cooling House.                         |   |
|  | 23. Boiler House and Engine Room.          |   |

MUNICIPAL LIVESTOCK MARKETS AND SLAUGHTERHOUSES, DRESDEN,  
GERMANY.

(Figures 26 to 33 are reproduced from a special supplement to *Der  
Industrieban*, "Der Neue Stadtische Vieh und Schlacthof zu Dresden.")



FIG. 27.—Unloading Docks.



FIG. 28.—Market Hall for Pigs.



FIG. 29.—Cattle Slaughter Hall.

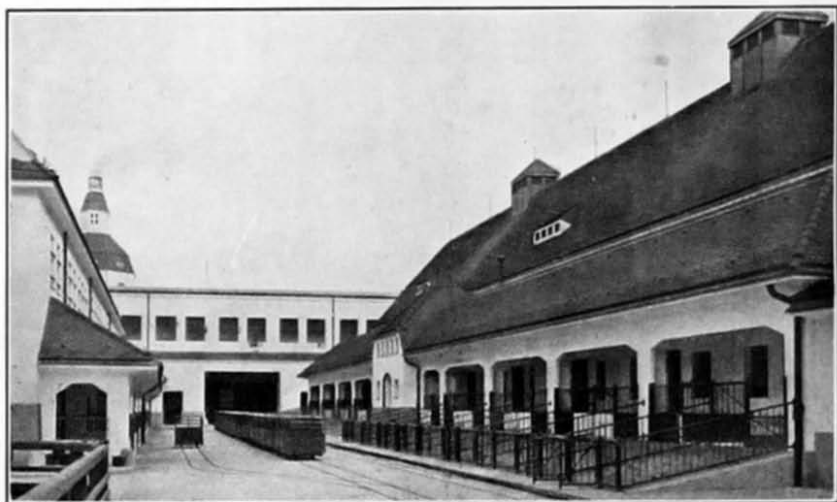


FIG. 30.—Waiting Pens for Pigs.

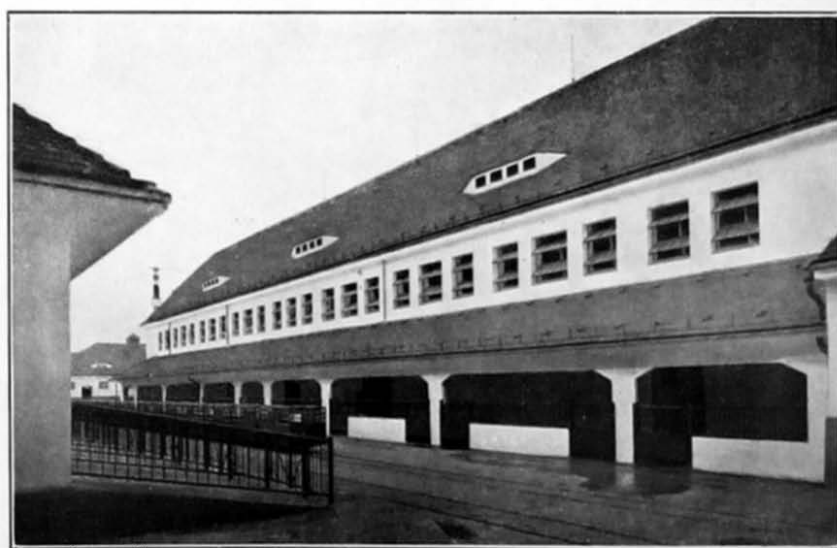


FIG. 31.—Waiting Pens for Sheep and Calves.

which, in addition to being sanitary and easily cleansable, affords a good foothold for the animals. The partitions, surfaces of column casings and ceilings are of ferro-concrete, finished with smooth cement, with a hard white surface. The design of the gates and other equipment for diverting animals to various parts of the building is specially notable, as also is the general lightness of these and other fittings.

The livestock market is held twice a week, on Monday and Thursday; Monday is the more important market, the number of livestock entering being, on the average, from 700 to 1,000 fat cattle, from 2,300 to 2,500 pigs, about 700 calves, and from 600 to 1,000 sheep. At the Thursday market from 500 to 700 pigs and from 500 to 700 calves arrive. From 80 to 90 per cent. of the animals arrive by rail. Cattle are consigned to the market by dealers and sometimes by farmers' associations, who brand the beasts with their mark. Pigs are chiefly sent in by co-operative societies. The animals are all sold on a live-weight basis by commission agents and wholesale butchers, for whom banking facilities are provided at the abattoir.

The official prices for publication are obtained in the following way. For each transaction, a slip showing the seller's name, the name of the purchaser and the kind, price and weight of the animal, is signed by the seller and given to the purchaser, who has then to take it to the fees office, whence it is sent to the market office. There, on each principal market day, an official price is reached on the basis of these slips with the assistance of an honorary committee representative of market users and composed of twelve members—namely, four farmers, four dealers and four butchers. The committee is authorised to examine the books of traders for this purpose.

About 75 per cent. of the animals passing through the market are slaughtered on the premises, mostly on market days. Butchers are responsible for their own slaughtering. A rigid system of carcass inspection by the veterinary officers of the establishment is in operation, in connection with which a scheme of insurance against condemnation of carcasses of cattle and pigs of the age of three months and over is administered by the city authorities; butchers slaughtering animals pay a small premium per head for this purpose.

There are two large slaughter halls for cattle, each being about 235 feet long by 72 feet wide, one, 196 feet long by 152 feet wide, for calves and sheep, and another, 240 feet long by 152 feet wide, for pigs. These are commodious and lofty, with a generous provision for daylight and ventilation. (See Fig. 29.)

The slaughter halls for cattle are floored with stone flags; those for calves, sheep and pigs with specially finished concrete. The walls and columns are faced with glazed bricks or tiles to a height of about 6 feet, and all fittings and appliances are of galvanised or enamelled iron. At intervals of about 12 to 15 feet throughout the slaughter hall for cattle, chains are bolted to the floor for securing animals during slaughter, and near each of these is a crutch, or rest, on which the carcass is supported during the first part of the flaying operation. The carcass is hoisted by hand-power winches on to specially constructed collapsible cambrills and from these transferred to hooks suspended from twin-bar runways, which extend throughout the premises for the transfer of carcasses to the cooling house or elsewhere.

Pigs, calves and sheep intended for slaughter are conveyed in special wagons from the market hall to the slaughter hall, rails being laid for this purpose. The roadways are thus kept much clearer than would be the case if the animals were driven through in the ordinary way. The wagons are unloaded direct into waiting pens (see Figs. 30 and 31), which, in the case of the pig slaughter hall, open into stunning pens, the floors of which are on a level with the top of the scalding tanks. After the animals have been slaughtered and bled in the stunning pens, they are transferred by means of a hinged lever arrangement into the scalding tanks, and thence on to the "scutching" tables. As in the cattle slaughter hall, the

slaughter hall for pigs is fitted throughout with overhead twin-bar runways for the movement of carcasses to the cooling house adjoining.

Extensive provision is made for the refrigeration of carcasses and offals and for the salting and storage, at low temperatures, of bacon, hams, and other meat products. The main building used for this purpose is about 410 feet long by 165 feet wide, the greater proportion of the space being subdivided into lock-up cubicles let to various firms on quarterly or annual tenancies. The floors of this building are laid with cream-coloured tiles, and the roof is of ferro-concrete, finished in smooth white cement. (See Figs. 32 and 33.)

No expense has been spared to achieve this ideal in market and slaughterhouse construction and equipment. The cost of the buildings and site was about £800,000, and they serve a city with a population of about 550,000. The establishment is run on strictly business lines. All expenses, including amortisation, have to be met out of charges; the original capital expenditure is being liquidated over a period of 33 years and will be entirely paid off in 1943.

The director of the markets and abattoirs is a veterinary surgeon and is assisted by 20 other veterinary officers.

### (B) Other Markets and Market Arrangements.

The following notes on markets and market arrangements in other countries bring out points of interest that have come to notice, but they are not intended to be comprehensive.

#### (i) *Continental Markets.*

(a) *Belgium.*—At the wholesale fruit and vegetable market in Brussels (Grande Place), no person may sell unless provided with a certificate showing that he (or she) is a *bona fide* producer (i.e., farmer, market gardener, &c.). Concurrently with this market, a "re-sellers' " market is held on the public streets and boulevards near by.

In Antwerp, there are both public and private markets. The private markets are owned by companies and are held in covered buildings; the public markets, however, are held in the squares or streets and are not administered directly by the city, but by the intervention of a person called the "farmer" (*le fermier*), who collects the fees and is responsible for them to the municipality. The post of "farmer" is awarded each year to the highest bidder; anyone is qualified to enter for the post provided he is of good standing and able to pay the caution money of 500 francs. A candidate does not bid a fixed sum but a percentage of the market dues; he is not allowed to charge more than the fees fixed by the municipality. The markets administered in this manner are concerned mainly with fruit and vegetables; the slaughterhouse and fish market of Antwerp are administered directly by the municipal authorities.

(b) *France.*—The Paris municipal market (Les Halles Centrales) is the principal wholesale fruit and vegetable market in France, and not only supplies Paris, but distributes fruit and vegetables to other French towns. Meat, poultry, fish and, in fact, all kinds of foodstuffs, are also disposed of. The covered-in portion of the market is reserved for commission salesmen. While the wide streets between the market premises and the adjoining streets within a prescribed area are reserved to growers, including dealers who buy and market the produce of the smaller cultivators. The market is the property of the Paris municipality. It is controlled by regulations which prescribe in considerable detail the methods of sale, generally with a view to the protection of the grower who consigns his goods to the market for sale on commission. For example, the commission agents are liable to suspension for "unprofessional conduct" and to prosecution for falsification of sales, prices or charges. The law prohibits them from buying on their own account either inside the market or elsewhere, it being expressly provided that they are to be remunerated solely by commission to be arranged freely between them and their senders. The number of commission agents is limited by the space available; when vacancies arise, admissions are made in accordance with detailed regulations which

[Facing page 76.]



FIG. 32.—Cold Store and Power House.

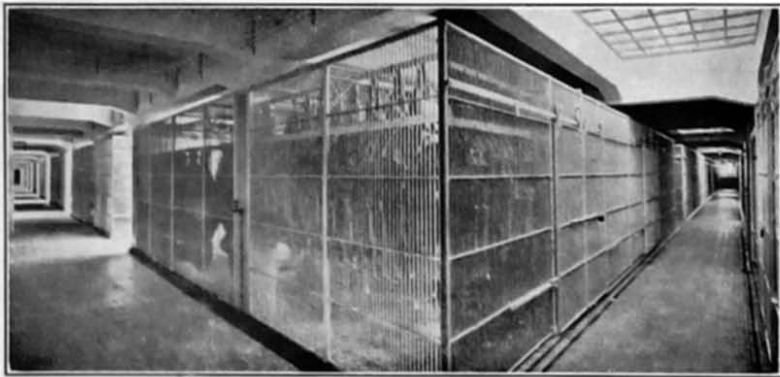


FIG. 33.—Interior of Cold Store.

slaughter hall for pigs is fitted throughout with overhead twin-bar runways for the movement of carcasses to the cooling house adjoining.

Extensive provision is made for the refrigeration of carcasses and offals and for the salting and storage, at low temperatures, of bacon, hams, and other meat products. The main building used for this purpose is about 410 feet long by 165 feet wide, the greater proportion of the space being subdivided into lock-up cubicles let to various firms on quarterly or annual tenancies. The floors of this building are laid with cream-coloured tiles, and the roof is of ferro-concrete, finished in smooth white cement. (See Figs. 32 and 33.)

No expense has been spared to achieve this ideal in market and slaughterhouse construction and equipment. The cost of the buildings and site was about £800,000, and they serve a city with a population of about 550,000. The establishment is run on strictly business lines. All expenses, including amortisation, have to be met out of charges; the original capital expenditure is being liquidated over a period of 33 years and will be entirely paid off in 1943.

The director of the markets and abattoirs is a veterinary surgeon and is assisted by 20 other veterinary officers.

### (B) Other Markets and Market Arrangements.

The following notes on markets and market arrangements in other countries bring out points of interest that have come to notice, but they are not intended to be comprehensive.

#### (i) Continental Markets.

(a) *Belgium*.—At the wholesale fruit and vegetable market in Brussels (Grande Place), no person may sell unless provided with a certificate showing that he (or she) is a *bona fide* producer (i.e., farmer, market gardener, &c.). Concurrently with this market, a "re-sellers' " market is held on the public streets and boulevards near by.

In Antwerp, there are both public and private markets. The private markets are owned by companies and are held in covered buildings; the public markets, however, are held in the squares or streets and are not administered directly by the city, but by the intervention of a person called the "farmer" (*le fermier*), who collects the fees and is responsible for them to the municipality. The post of "farmer" is awarded each year to the highest bidder; anyone is qualified to enter for the post provided he is of good standing and able to pay the caution money of 500 francs. A candidate does not bid a fixed sum but a percentage of the market dues; he is not allowed to charge more than the fees fixed by the municipality. The markets administered in this manner are concerned mainly with fruit and vegetables; the slaughterhouse and fish market of Antwerp are administered directly by the municipal authorities.

(b) *France*.—The Paris municipal market (*Les Halles Centrales*) is the principal wholesale fruit and vegetable market in France, and not only supplies Paris, but distributes fruit and vegetables to other French towns. Meat, poultry, fish and, in fact, all kinds of foodstuffs, are also disposed of. The covered-in portion of the market is reserved for commission salesmen, while the wide streets between the market premises and the adjoining streets within a prescribed area are reserved to growers, including dealers who buy and market the produce of the smaller cultivators. The market is the property of the Paris municipality. It is controlled by regulations which prescribe in considerable detail the methods of sale, generally with a view to the protection of the grower who consigns his goods to the market for sale on commission. For example, the commission agents are liable to suspension for "unprofessional conduct" and to prosecution for falsification of sales, prices or charges. The law prohibits them from buying on their own account either inside the market or elsewhere, it being expressly provided that they are to be remunerated solely by commission to be arranged freely between them and their senders. The number of commission agents is limited by the space available; when vacancies arise, admissions are made in accordance with detailed regulations which



[Facing page 76.]



FIG. 32.—Cold Store and Power House.

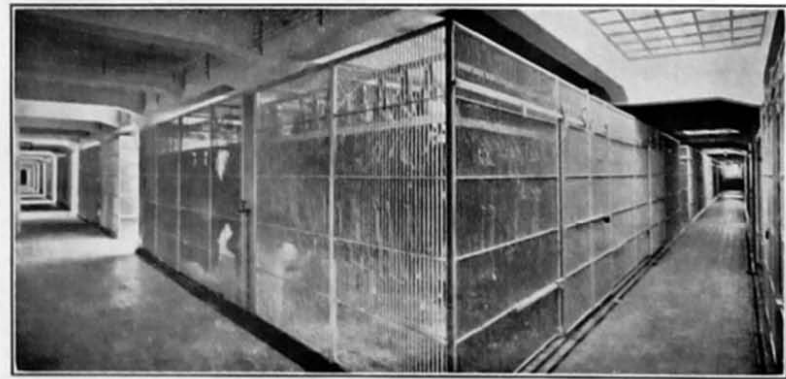


FIG. 33.—Interior of Cold Store.



FIG. 34.—Municipal Abattoirs, Berne, Switzerland.

aim at ensuring that only persons of reliability operate in the market. A complete record of each sale has to be kept by the commission agents, giving the date and number of sale, the name of the sender, the description of the goods, the weight or number of packages, the method of sale and price, and the name of the purchaser; in addition, the commission charged and the charges incurred in respect of railway transport, cartage, control, tolls, weighing, telegrams, cheques, unloading, storage, carriage of empties, &c., must be separately specified. These particulars are open to inspection by the grower, who can at any time within three years, demand an investigation by the police of the facts recorded. The agent's books are also open to inspection by the authorities, for the purpose of seeing that the regulations are fulfilled.

A daily record of prices is posted in the market, giving the maximum, minimum and average prices realised for each class of fruit and vegetables, these prices being settled by a committee composed of the market inspector and three commission agents selected by their colleagues. In actual practice, all the commission agents serve in rotation on this committee.

The Prefecture of Police is charged with the inspection and control of the market from the point of view of sanitation, and possesses wide powers in this connection.

(c) *Germany*.—The Berlin abattoirs and markets cover a site of 118 acres and are nearly a mile long. As in most German cities, fat cattle, sheep and pigs intended for the abattoir are not allowed to be driven through the streets, but must be conveyed by rail or by means of suitable vehicles.

At Cologne, permission to hold markets is given by the police authorities, in conjunction with the municipal authorities, and a regulation exists by which all goods to be sold by auction have to be sold by the municipal auctioneer and may not be sold by anyone else. This method increases the strength of the auction by compelling all buyers to compete at one centre.

(d) *Holland*.—At Leewarden Market, the premier market for cattle destined for export alive, inspection by official veterinary officers takes place at the entrance to the market; the cattle are led in, two by two, and inspected by officers stationed on each side of each entrance; decrepit and weak cattle are exposed for sale in a special portion of the market. Five weighing machines are in use at this market, one of which is automatic and prints weighing slips in duplicate; the others require a checker and a clerk.

It has been estimated that 90 per cent. of all fruit and vegetables and early potatoes are sold by auction in Holland. These auctions are maintained by growers organisations, most of which enforce the rule that members shall sell all their produce through the auction. This rule concentrates marketing and strengthens the auction system.

(e) *Switzerland*.—The municipal abattoirs at Berne are the most up-to-date in Switzerland. (See Fig. 34.) The site is on the outskirts of the town, about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the business centre. The abattoirs have been designed on the so-called "pavilion" system—that is to say, each building, or group of buildings, is equipped for a different purpose, the traffic in the establishment being uni-directional. The main features are practicability, combined with the humane treatment of the animals and extreme cleanliness. All animals are put over the weighbridge on entering the abattoirs, a large proportion of the cattle being sold by producers on a live-weight basis.

#### (ii) *South Africa, Canada and the United States.*

(a) *South Africa*.—All the markets in South Africa are municipally owned, but the conduct and management is left almost entirely in the hands of a "market master," who is responsible for the market to the municipal authorities. The main function of a market master is to bring producer and consumer into the closest possible contact. All market

masters, excluding those at East London and Cape Town, act as agents for producers who consign their produce to them, the object being to encourage market agencies under the direct supervision and control of the market masters. In most cases, as in Bloemfontein market, the auctioneering is done by the market master and his assistants; in some cases he also acts as commission agent himself, and, as a rule, owns large warehouses where his client's produce is stored as necessary. At Durban, the market master handles 75 per cent. of the produce consigned to the market, sales being wholesale, in large and small lots, by auction. The commission agents who operate in the markets are supervised by a system of market notes. The commission agent has to fill in the notes and hand them to the market master; the notes must state clearly the quantity of produce sold and the amount realised. Prices are collected by the market master each morning and are sent on by him to headquarters at Pretoria, where they are collated and telegraphed before 3 o'clock each afternoon to post offices in the outlying districts. By this means farmers, even in the most remote districts, are informed, during the course of the evening, of the prices that ruled at the more important markets in the morning.

Under the Public Auctions and Transactions in Livestock and Produce Act, 1925, to "regulate certain transactions in and the sale by auction of livestock and agricultural produce," sale of livestock by auction is to be held in places where the public have free access. The auctioneer must announce the name of the purchaser of livestock, and, after the conclusion of the auction, must make out and deliver to each seller a sales note showing the names of the seller and the purchaser, the number and description of animals sold, the prices at which the animals were sold, the deduction which the auctioneer is permitted to make from the purchase prices and retain for his commission and for all *bona fide* rail, feeding, &c., charges incurred by him in respect of the transaction and the net amount due to the seller. Certain restrictions are imposed on auctioneers in respect of the sale of livestock: thus, it is unlawful for an auctioneer to give, offer or undertake to give any secret or undisclosed rebate in connection with sales, to refuse to accept any bid unless he has good reason to believe (the proof of which shall be upon him) that the bidder is unable to comply with the conditions of sale as to payment, to sell to himself or to any person with whom he is associated in business directly or indirectly, or to pay to the seller or to credit him with a sum less than the amount of the purchase price after deduction of all charges lawfully made under the Act.

(b) *Canada (Alberta)*.—Under the "Stock Yards Act,"\* passed in May, 1926, in the province of Alberta, the Minister of Agriculture has power, with the approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, to make regulations—

(a) governing the conduct of livestock exchanges and the issue of licences to such exchanges;

(b) prescribing the persons who are to be entitled to do business at stock yards;

(c) providing for the issue of licences to commission merchants and the giving of security by such merchants;

(d) providing for the issue of licences to co-operative associations and prescribing the conditions upon which and the method in which any such association shall be entitled to do business at a stock yard; and the terms upon which any such association shall be entitled to become a member of and exercise the rights of membership in a livestock exchange;

(e) providing for the issue of licences to owners, lessees, occupiers, or operators of stock yards;

---

\* "Stock yards" here means "any area of land used for a public market for purchasing and selling livestock with the buildings, fencing, gates, chutes, weigh scales and other equipment situated thereon or used in conjunction therewith."



FIG. 35.—Community Market, London, Ontario, Canada.



FIG. 36.—Market exterior, Detroit, U.S.A.



FIG. 37.—Market interior, Detroit, U.S.A.

(f) providing for the construction, equipment and inspection of such stock yards ;

(g) approving of byelaws made by exchanges, or prescribing byelaws to be complied with by such exchanges ;

(h) prescribing the fees to be charged in stock yards ;

(i) providing for the appointment of inspectors of livestock, livestock yards and livestock exchanges, and any other officers that may be required to carry out the regulations made under the provisions of this Act ;

(j) prescribing the conditions upon which the operation of stock yards may be begun, or upon the breach of which they may be closed ;

(k) providing for the grading of livestock ;

(l) providing for the inspection, branding and marketing of livestock ;

(m) prescribing the kind or description of livestock which may be offered for sale at stock yards ;

(n) which are calculated to ensure the fair conduct of livestock exchange and co-operative associations or on the part of commission merchants, or owners, lessees, occupiers or operators of stock yards.

(c) *United States.*—In the United States, open retail markets are common. They may be held along the street—a defined length of kerb being set aside by local authority for that purpose—or on a vacant piece of land where farmers congregate in their motor wagons to sell direct to consumers. A Canadian example of this type of market is shown in Fig. 35. Some of the larger cities have large market buildings with wholesale and retail divisions, comprising hundreds of stalls and equipped with cold storages, railway switches, &c. Detroit Market (Detroit has about 1,200,000 inhabitants) may be given as a typical example of an American “farmers’ market.” (See Figs. 36 and 37, and also Diagram D, hown here.) It is situated in an important producing area, and

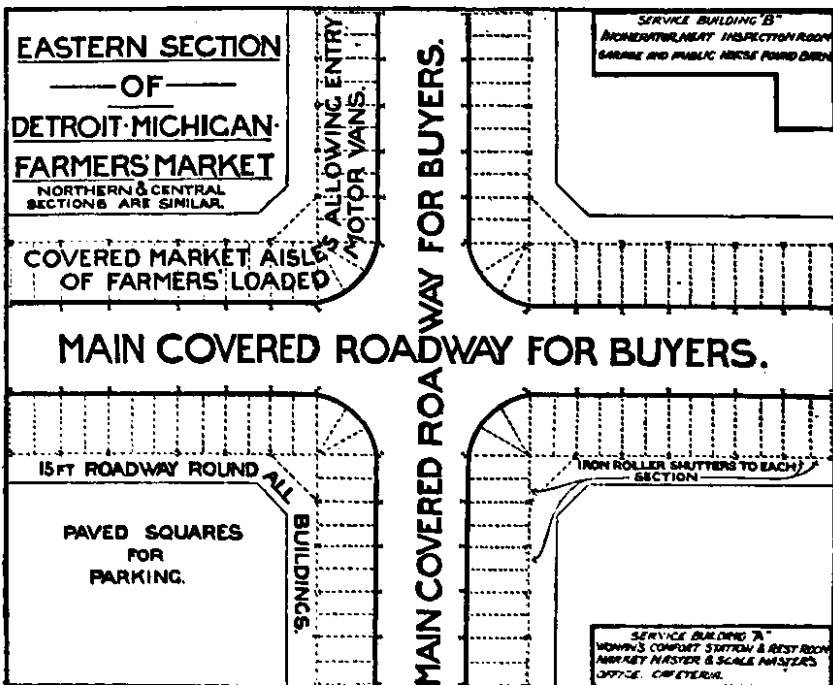


DIAGRAM D.

growers are within easy motor distance. The market occupies 17 acres, of which  $4\frac{1}{2}$  acres are covered. In addition, 7 acres are set aside for parking buyers' vehicles (of which more than 1,200 can be accommodated), and for roadways. The market buildings are in the form of a cross, which provides four paved corners for the parking of buyers' vehicles; this encourages the use of the market by retailers. In the newest portions of the market, the building is of concrete, brick and steel, and is well lighted. Rolling steel doors surround the outer edge and completely enclose the market. There are 667 market stalls under cover and 700 market stalls are outside the buildings and used for overflow. Over 800 growers rent stall space by the year. Public comfort rooms are provided, in addition to the usual office and general service buildings.

The system of auction selling has come into prominence in the important centres of population in the United States, more particularly in connection with the sale of goods, such as fruit and vegetables, which are sufficiently well standardised to permit of systematic sampling. Pure-bred breeding stock is practically the only kind of livestock sold by auction in the United States. There are, however, a few fat stock auctions in California and some of the Southern States. An important development is the formation of producers co-operative livestock commission associations in the large central markets; 25 such associations, operating in 20 different markets, handled livestock to the value of nearly £60 million in 1924.