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of Agriculture and Fisheries: Economic Series. 658.842

Reports on Markets and Fairs in England and Wales-Part I-General Review No. 13. pp. 1-39.
X9(J):51.3.N3t F7.1

Reports on Markets and Fairs in England and Wales Part II-Midland Markets.No.14. pp.40-118
X9(J):51.3.N3t F7.2

Report on Markets and Fairs in England and Wales Part III-Northern Markets. No.19. pp.119-208.
X9(J):51.3.N3t F7.3

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X9(J):51.3.N3t F7.4

Report on Markets and Fairs in England and Wales-Part V-Welsh Markets. No.26. pp. 320-419
X9(J):51.3.N3t F7.5

Part VI.- London Markets. X9(J):51.3.N3t F76

Part VII.- Final Review. X9(J):51.3.N3t F77



FIG. 1.—The old Market Place, Manchester, a century ago.

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:
Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C. 2; 120, George Street, Edinburgh;
York Street, Manchester; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff,
15, Donegall Square West, Belfast;
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1927.
Price 6d. Net.

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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.

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* Cmd. 2008. 1924.

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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 Farmers' Union.

MARKETS AND FAIRS IN ENGLAND AND WALES.

CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTORY.*

(i) Historical.

(*a*) **Definition of a Market.**—In the strict sense of the word, a market is "the franchise right of having a concourse of buyers and sellers to dispose of commodities in respect of which the franchise is given."†

In addition to this strict or legal sense, the word market is used in two other ways. In a popular sense, it is used to describe any public concourse at an appointed time of buyers and sellers of commodities at a place more or less limited or defined. Thus, many auctioneers' saleyards or cattle auctions, which have no franchise, are described as markets, though they are not markets in the proper sense of the word. Further, the word is used in an economic sense, as in such phrases as "the need to find new markets," "developing the overseas market," &c. Cournot‡ says: "Economists understand by the term *market*, not any particular market place in which things are bought and sold, but the whole of any region in which buyers and sellers are in such free intercourse with one another that the prices of the same goods tend to equality easily and quickly."

(*b*) **Intention of a Market.**—It is probable that, in the first instance, markets grew up spontaneously at a port, at a cross-road, around a castle or a monastery and then, under the maxim which feudal law derived from the Romans (*ubi est multitudo, ibi debet esse rector*)§ the law put the market under feudal authority for reasons of police.

While the original intention of granting market rights was thus to prevent tumults and breaches of the peace, the function of markets as a means of guarding against dishonest dealing must have become important at an early date. Thus, in Anglo-Saxon times, transactions in the market were usually made before the "reeve," or some person appointed by him, or in the presence of two or three "credible witnesses." Such a sale in "market overt," as it was called, gave the buyer a title against all comers. In fact, the advantages of having a regular market were twofold.

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* Although every care has been taken to ensure accuracy of fact as regards both history and law, this section of the report is not intended to be used as an historical or legal text.

† "Laws relating to Markets and Fairs." Pease and Chitty.

‡ *See* Marshall, "Principles of Economics," Book V, Chapter I.

§ This may be translated "Where there is a crowd, someone should be responsible for its control."

"Not only is there more variety to be got there, but more security. If Higg, the son of Snell, bought an ox by private treaty, and the ox turned out to have been stolen, Higg would be responsible to the original owner, and might be hanged for having the ox in his possession. But if he bought it in 'market overt' before the proper witnesses, he would be safe. Hence the grant of market privileges by the Crown made a place the buying and selling centre for the whole district, while the right of holding a fair would attract buyers and sellers from a much wider area."* Besides furnishing the necessary medium whereby a buyer could obtain a good title to his purchases, through the publicity attaching to transactions, the market played an important part in the social life of the people, enabling them to exchange items of news and experience and to compare prices. Markets have, accordingly, assumed a real and direct influence on prices, which, in the neighbourhood of a market, should tend to be steady.

(c) **Origin of Markets.**—The gathering together of people at a convenient centre, at certain times of the year, or on certain days of the week, for the interchange of food and other necessaries of life is one of the oldest practices of civilisation.

In this country, contemporary with the evolution of a central system of Government, market trading grew to such importance that the Crown assumed the right to say whether or not fairs and markets were to be held. This prerogative of the Sovereign is said to be of Frankish origin. The franchise of holding markets and fairs was usually conferred by Royal Charter. Markets were also created by mesne lords, at any rate up to the time of Edward I. It follows that some of the existing market rights go back to a very early date. It is known that markets have been in existence within the confines of the City of London for more than 1,000 years; Billingsgate was used for the sale of fish 1,000 years ago, and Smithfield Market already existed in 1253.

The franchise of holding markets or fairs was granted, in some cases, to lords of the manor, in others to ecclesiastical bodies or ancient municipal corporations. From early times there have thus been both private and public markets.

In granting a Charter, regard was had to those factors which would contribute to the success of the market from a revenue standpoint, especially to the existence of a likely site which had already been used as a buying and selling centre within easy access of ports, roads, bridgeheads and other points where traders congregate. It was not the usual custom to specify the commodities to be sold, but, with the increase of trade, there arose a tendency to sell various commodities in separate market places, as the names of the streets in many old towns testify—Sheep Street, Milk Street, Cornhill, Poultry, Beastmarket, Butter Cross, Haymarket, &c. In consideration of the provision of land for the purpose of the market or of the expenses of its upkeep, the

* "History of Municipal Government in Liverpool." Professor Ramsay Muir.

Crown frequently granted to owners of markets and fairs the right to levy tolls on goods sold in the market. Some markets have remained toll-free.

(*d*) **Origin of Fairs.**—The difference between a market and a fair is suggested by the words themselves—a fair conveys the idea of holiday. "Every fair is a market, but every market is not a fair."* The chief difference lies, however, in the fact that fairs were as a rule bigger and were not held so frequently as markets which dealt largely with perishable foodstuffs. They were generally held on a fixed day or days in the year—in most cases a saint's day—and very often in a churchyard or outside a monastery or convent. By Statute 13, Edward I, fairs and markets were forbidden to be held in churchyards, and by 27 Henry VI, Ch. V, due observance of Sunday and the abolition of fairs and markets on Sunday and high feast days were enacted. Probably the oldest fair in England is the Lee (Yorkshire) Horse Fair, which has been held for nearly 800 years without intermission.

Fairs play a relatively small part in present-day marketing in England and have survived chiefly as pleasure fairs; as business centres, they have been replaced by the more modern form of "annual sales." A detailed description of an old English fair—that at Stourbridge (near Cambridge)—is given in Defoe's "Tour through Britain." An illustration of the Boston May Sheep Fair about 1830 is shown in Fig. 2.

The number of fairs held in England has gradually decreased with the rise of the properly constituted market. There are at present about 1,548 fairs held in 549 centres in England and Wales for the sale of livestock and agricultural produce. Although local commodity fairs are dying out, the great commodity fairs which flourished in the 15th century in France (Lyons), at Geneva, and, later, in Germany (Frankfort and Leipzig), and in the 19th century in Russia (Nijni Novgorod), developed from fairs dealing with special commodities produced in the region to sample fairs, such as those at Lyons and Leipzig. The annual motor shows of the present day may be regarded as in the same class; national fairs or trade exhibitions in this country are now tending to increase.

(ii) Acquisition of Market Rights.

From 1199 to 1483, over 2,800 grants of markets were made by the Crown and more than half of these were made in the first 74 years of that period. In the period from 1700 to 1846, the number of grants was 93.† Such grants may be, and sometimes are still made, but in recent times the right to hold a market has usually been derived from an Act of Parliament. Acts of Parliament relating to particular markets and fairs already in existence have also frequently been passed on the initiative of

* Elton and Costelloe: "Final Report of Royal Commission on Market Rights and Tolls."

† "An Agricultural Faggot." Sir Henry Rew.

market authorities in order more clearly to define their powers, or, in some cases, to enable them to vary their powers—especially when a charter defined the location of a market and it was desired to remove the market to some other place.

The Local Government Act, 1858, may be said to have inaugurated a new era in the history of this subject, since it conferred additional powers on local authorities to establish markets. These powers were extended by the Public Health Act, 1875, to urban district councils, and by the Public Health Act, 1908, to rural district councils, subject to the consent of the Minister of Health, who almost invariably directs that a local enquiry shall be held.

So it comes about that, from a strictly legal standpoint, markets can be classified as (1) common-law markets and (2) statutory markets. The former includes (*a*) charter markets, *i.e.*, markets of which the rights have been granted to any person or body corporate by Royal Charter or Letters Patent still in existence, and (*b*) markets by prescription, *i.e.*, markets of which the possessor can show no ancient grant but can prove that the right has been enjoyed from time immemorial, in which case the Courts presume a lost Charter. Statutory markets include (*a*) those markets created by special local Acts, and (*b*) those set up under Public General Acts.

Many of the common law rights to hold markets and levy tolls, originally granted to the lord of the manor, or other persons, have, during recent years, been acquired by local authorities, by purchase, or by lease, sometimes at considerable expense, sometimes at a " peppercorn " rent, or as a gift for the benefit of the town. Further, a charter or local Act market owned by a local authority can, by resolution of the local authority, be converted into a statutory market, but there is no means of converting a privately-owned charter market into a Public General Act market unless it is first acquired by a local authority.

There is also a third class of so-called markets, namely, those which have been established neither by royal prerogative nor by the authority of an Act of Parliament. These are often spoken of as markets, and have been so referred to even in cases in the Courts, but it is important to remember that they do not enjoy legal protection, and must be distinguished from markets with a regular origin and formal legal existence. The majority of the privately-owned auction marts are in this class.

New markets may be and have frequently been authorised by special Acts of Parliament within the common law distance of existing markets. With this important exception, a legal market is rigidly protected from an infringement of its franchise by the setting up of a new market within seven leucae, which is approximately equivalent to $6\frac{2}{3}$ miles. As against this. a new market may be set up alongside an existing market which is not legally constituted.

If a franchise is usurped by the setting up of a rival market within the common-law area of a legal market, the owner of

the franchise can apply for an injunction which would be granted without proof of actual damage if the rival market is held on the same day as the legal market, but if it is held on a different day actual damage must be proved. It is not necessary to show that the defendant has set up what purports to be a legal market; it is enough that he has erected stalls and taken stallage. Other acts which count as a disturbance of the franchise are taking advantage of a market by selling just outside it to avoid paying the toll, selling by sample to avoid paying toll on the bulk,* or wrongfully preventing produce or cattle from coming to a market. The question of sales elsewhere than in markets, where the market has been established by special Acts subsequent to 1847, or under the Public Health Act, 1875, is provided for mainly by Section 13 of the Markets and Fairs Clauses Act, 1847, although other provisions may be found in special Acts.

A franchise may be lost by (*a*) forfeiture, (*e.g.*, through acts done or tolls levied, &c., not being in accordance with the conditions of the franchise), (*b*) surrender, or (*c*) extinction by Act of Parliament. Under the Fairs Act, 1871, as amended by the Local Government Act, 1894, the Home Secretary has power to abolish fairs with the consent in writing of the owner, upon representations being made by the district council of the district in which the fair is held, or by the owner.

(iii) Regulation of Markets.

Under ancient grants, the owner of the market was held responsible for the maintenance of law and order in the market, and severe penalties were enacted for bad behaviour or dishonest dealing. Further, in early times, a court of "pie poudre" was held in every fair and market; the right to hold this court was incident to every grant by the Crown and it might even exist by grant or prescription where there was no legal fair or market. It was held before the steward appointed by the lord, or before the mayor or his deputy and two citizens. As a rule, the court had jurisdiction only in matters arising within, and during the time of, the fair or market, such as contracts, trespasses and batteries. Although now obsolete, the court played an important part in the maintenance of law and order, and in the fulfilling of contracts made in the markets. This rather arbitrary court of civil jurisdiction forms an interesting contrast to the mass of laws and statutes which govern the markets of the present day, a subject on which relatively little has been written and about which little is known even by those who most frequent the markets.

A chronological list of Acts (since 1795) relating to markets and fairs is given in Appendix I, page 72. Of basic importance

* It should be noted that the Minister of Health now takes the view that a toll on samples can be imposed under the powers conferred by Section 166 of the Public Health Act, 1875 (*i.e.*, with respect to a statutory market to which that Act applies).

is the Markets and Fairs Clauses Act, 1847, which consolidated in one Act certain provisions usually contained in Acts for constructing or regulating markets and fairs. This Act now affects all markets and fairs authorised by special statute which declares that the Act shall be incorporated therewith. Since 1847, the conditions of marketing have changed materially, but no further general enactment regulating markets has been passed. Further, in some cases, the powers of local authorities are more comprehensive than those exercised in other cases under the Markets and Fairs Clauses Act, 1847, and the anomaly now exists that there is no standard Act operating throughout the country in respect of the conduct and control of markets.

The position regarding byelaws, tolls, and market-days may be briefly noted. The following authorities may make and, from time to time, repeal or alter byelaws for markets, which, when made under the ordinary law must, to be enforceable, be approved by the Minister of Health :—

(1) Town councils, urban district and rural district councils with respect to markets belonging to them.

(2) The Common Council of the City of London and town councils, with respect to markets provided or carried on by them under Section 32 of the Diseases of Animals Act, 1894 ; these byelaws require to be approved by the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.*

(3) Persons authorised to construct or regulate markets by special Acts incorporating the Markets and Fairs Clauses Act, 1847, Section 42.

Model byelaws for the regulation of publicly-owned markets, other than those referred to in (2) above, are issued by the Ministry of Health. These are constantly revised and kept up to date. The latest edition was issued in 1925. They provide, *inter alia*, for :—

(*a*) regulating the use of the market place and the buildings, stalls, pens and standings therein, and for preventing nuisances or obstructions therein or in the immediate approaches thereto ;

(*b*) fixing the days and hours during each day on which the market shall be held.

Owners of statutory markets and fairs usually possess power, under their Acts, to make byelaws, but the private owner of a common-law market or fair has, as such, no power to make byelaws, and his regulations with regard to the use of the market or fair cannot be enforced either by fine or imprisonment.†

All tolls leviable by a local authority under the Public Health Act, 1875, are required to be approved by the Minister of Health.

* County Councils are also provided for in this connection, but, at present, no markets are controlled by County Councils.

† "The Law Relating to Markets and Fairs." Pease and Chitty.

Where tolls are authorised by special Act, their amount is usually fixed by the Act itself, though occasionally there is power to vary them with or without the consent of the Minister of Health. In other cases, an amending Act or Provisional Order of the Minister of Health, subject to Parliamentary sanction, is required. Certain Acts of Parliament provide for the charging of such rents as the authority may consider reasonable, but, as a general rule, rents and stallages are matters of contract between the market authority and the persons who desire stalls. In common-law markets, toll is not payable in respect of sales unless the owner be entitled thereto by grant or prescription or by statute ; for taking stallage, piccage* or pennage, no grant or prescription need be shown.

Under a Statute of Henry VI, to which reference has been made, it is illegal to show goods for sale in a market on Sundays, Good Fridays and certain other holy days. With these exceptions, a market can be held on any one or more days in the week according to the days prescribed by the local authority in pursuance of Section 14 of the Markets and Fairs Clauses Act, 1847, or as appointed by any byelaw which may be made by the authority. If a rival market is held on days other than those authorised, it is necessary, to prove damage, to obtain an injunction against the disturbance (*see* page 9). This also applies, in general, to charter markets, though Charters sometimes define the power of the market authority to regulate or prohibit standings in the market on days other than market days. Where a Charter alone, or an Act of Parliament alone, governs the market and fixes the days, the authority cannot alter them—unless the proper steps are taken to make available the machinery provided for that purpose in the Markets and Fairs Clauses Act. This is one of the advantages of converting a publicly-owned market held under Charter or special Act into a Public Health Act market. It should be noted that, at present, the market authorities of privately-owned charter markets, and of privately-owned markets under local Acts, have no means of varying their market days, apart, of course, from getting a new Charter or a new Act.

Among Acts or regulations of general application which react on the conduct of markets and on market transactions may be mentioned the Weights and Measures Act, 1878, under which owners or managers of public markets "shall provide proper scales and balances, and weights and measures or other machines for the purpose of weighing or measuring all goods sold, offered or exposed for sale in any such markets" ; the accuracy of such weights and measures was required to be tested at least twice in every year. Under the Corn Returns Act, 1882, all buyers of British corn in certain scheduled markets must make returns of all purchases, stating the quantity and the price. From these returns, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries calculates average prices for publication in the "London Gazette."

* Piccage is "a duty for picking holes in the lord's ground for the posts of the stalls" (Comyns Digest IV, 185).

The Markets and Fairs (Weighing of Cattle) Act, 1887, requires market owners to provide suitable and adequate accommodation for the weighing of cattle sold. The Diseases of Animals Act, 1894, empowers the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries from time to time to make, alter and revoke orders relating to the holding and conduct of markets and fairs, and matters connected therewith; animal landing wharves, stations, lairs and sheds and other places provided by local authorities were also made subject to its provisions.

During the War, markets were subjected to numerous Orders issued under the Defence of the Realm Act, but, with the cessation of hostilities, these were gradually withdrawn and so left no permanent impression on the laws governing markets and fairs.

Among Acts or regulations passed or issued since the War are the Corn Sales Act of 1921, under which the hundredweight became the standard weight of measure for corn, the Public Health Meat Regulations, 1925, in regard to cleanliness in handling meat, the Horticultural Produce (Sales on Commission) Act, 1926, which requires salesmen of fruit and vegetables consigned for sale on commission to detail the charges made for services other than selling, and the Sale of Food (Weights and Measures) Act, 1926, which relates mainly to the retail trade. Of particular reference to auction markets is the Markets and Fairs (Weighing of Cattle) Act, 1926, in regard to the compulsory weighing of fat stock in auction marts before sale.

It will be seen that both the Minister of Health and the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries are concerned in the administration of various statutes affecting markets.

The jurisdiction of the Minister of Health extends to sanctioning loans to local authorities, confirming byelaws, approving tolls, granting the powers of an urban authority to rural district councils, approving sale, appropriation and lease of land acquired or used for market purposes, reporting on proposed local legislation, making Provisional Orders amending existing Acts, and advising local authorities on questions of market law and practice.

The powers of the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries are not concerned with the establishment of markets, but with the administration of certain Acts of Parliament that, *inter alia*, affect markets. These include the Merchandise Marks Act, the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, the Weighing of Cattle Acts, the Corn Returns Act, and the Diseases of Animals Acts. The Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries also has jurisdiction over animal landing wharves and undertakes the collection and publication of market prices.

The Home Secretary is directly concerned with fairs and, under the Fairs Act, 1873, has powers to vary the days on which fairs are held, or, as stated above, to abolish fairs altogether. The Home Secretary is also responsible for the administration

of the Shops Act, the provisions of which are applicable to stalls in markets; the Board of Trade is responsible for the administration of the Weights and Measures Acts; these powers, however apply to trading in general and not to markets in particular.

(iv) Administration of Markets.

It should be noted that the only matters in which external authority has any voice, as regards markets, are those specified in the preceding section; the more important are that the consent of the Minister of Health is required for loans, byelaws and tolls, and that cattle markets must be paved and cleansed as the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries directs. In general, the principle adopted is that the functions of local authorities in relation to markets should rest on a similar footing to that of certain of their other activities in the sphere of municipal government, *i.e.*, they should be free to manage their own affairs, subject to their fulfilling a minimum standard in each branch of their administration.

For the administration and management of publicly-owned markets, a special Markets Committee of the local authority is, as a rule, responsible; this Committee is advised to a varying extent by the market superintendent, an official who is directly responsible to the Markets Committee for all that takes place on the markets. The market superintendent, from the nature of his work, must necessarily be in close touch with both buyers and sellers, and also with present-day problems of marketing and market management.

Users of the markets are not always directly represented on Markets Committees. This probably accounts for a suggestion made in relation to Smithfield Market, London, by the Departmental Committee on the Wholesale Food Markets of London,* that a market advisory committee should be formed to assist the Markets Committee; such an advisory committee, it was suggested, should be under the chairmanship of the market superintendent and should consist of representatives of the various classes of traders using the market, including retailers, to whom should be added representatives of the railways, public carriers, porters, &c. This suggestion has never been acted on. At first sight, it does, of course, appear anomalous that the Committee responsible for the markets should not comprise representatives of the users, though market superintendents naturally keep in touch with all sections of the trade. The present system is, however, so much an integral part of the machinery of local government that the direct representations of users would be an innovation which would certainly be opposed. As an instance, a special committee of the Manchester Corporation has considered this question and has recommended that no market tenant, or councillor representing the ward in which the

* Cmd. 1341. 1921.

market is situated, should serve on the Markets Committee; this recommendation was adopted by the City Council.

In private markets, or in markets not legally constituted, control is entirely in the hands of the market owner or auctioneer as the case may be, and with the exception of co-operative auctions, which are few in number, the users of such markets have no representation on the management. Regulations in regard to sanitation, nuisance and, in the case of cattle markets, in regard to paving, disinfecting and the provision of weighbridges, &c., have to be adhered to as in the case of publicly-controlled markets.

CHAPTER II: MARKET CHARGES AND FINANCE.

(i) Charges.

(*a*) **Rents.**—Charges for stall-space are the chief source of income of the market owner, and these charges, especially in the wholesale fruit and vegetable markets and retail markets, are gradually taking the place of tolls, except as regards locally-grown produce. They are easier and, therefore, less expensive to collect than tolls; they ensure a more settled position for tenants, and they enable a distinction to be made between stalls according to their situation in the market.

The rentals charged at markets vary considerably with such factors as the accommodation provided, the length of tenancy and the importance of the market. The average rents charged in wholesale fruit and vegetable markets may be judged from the following examples :—

	Per sq. yd. per week.
Leicester	9*d.*
Birmingham	1*s.* 2*d.* to 2*s.*
Newcastle	9*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.*
Manchester	1*s.* 3*d.* to 1*s.* 9*d.*
Liverpool	2*s.* to 3*s.*

Although tolls in municipal markets are usually subject to ratification by the Minister of Health, rents, except where there is a local Act requirement to the contrary, are not subject to such approval, although, in many cases, they have replaced tolls previously charged. This is explained by the fact that whereas rents are essentially matters of contract, for nobody is obliged to take the space for which a rent is charged, tolls fall to be paid by every person who brings into the market goods of the class to which the toll applies, and as the franchise of market imports a correlative right in every one of the King's subjects to bring marketable commodities there, the theory of the law is that the fixing of the scale of tolls should not be left without control by some authority on behalf of the Crown.

The rents chargeable in markets held under local Acts are, in some cases, limited by those Acts. The limits imposed are sometimes much in excess of what can, in fact, be charged. A striking case is that of Bury, where the authorities have power to charge for any goods up to 6*d.* per day or part of a day per square foot. In some cases, however, the schedules are definitely restrictive. There is no uniformity in the limits fixed by these schedules in various market Acts; anomalies, where they exist, can only be removed by fresh legislation.

In some markets, there is a waiting list of applicants for stalls; when a vacancy arises, the list is considered and the future tenant selected therefrom. In other cases, when a stall becomes vacant, the authorities advertise for tenders for the future

occupancy leaving it to the applicant to quote the rental he is prepared to pay. Another method is for the market authority itself to fix the rent and to advertise the stall at that figure.

In markets where rents established by custom are charged and these are less than those which would be secured by open tender, the local authority virtually subsidises its tenants. If, in such cases, the market tenants are in competition with outside traders, there would seem to be a case for deciding rentals by tender or by other competitive method. Where the stalls are let by tender, the charge should, if possible, be proportionate to the area occupied, having due regard to the situation of the stall and its equipment.

The tender system protects the local authority from any suggestion of favouritism as between one applicant and another in the matter of rent, although, where the system has been in operation for a considerable period, it may, no doubt, happen that standings of similar value are held at different rentals, due possibly to differences in tenancy periods and in the conditions prevailing when past vacancies have been filled. Further, market authorities claim that the tender system enables them to obtain an economic rent for the standings; this would certainly be the case if they accepted the highest tender, but it is known that this is not always possible, as, for instance, when an applicant tenders a higher sum than that which a special Act allows the market authority to take, or when, in the opinion of the market authority, the person who makes the highest offer is not a desirable tenant.

Where the rentals are fixed by the market authority prior to advertising the ground to let, it is claimed that the authority, as a business body, is as competent to gauge the value of a stall as the trader, and that, in advertising for tenants at a stipulated rental, it is not handicapped in the selection of a tenant by any complication in regard to the rent. This practice enables an authority to differentiate between the rents of the stalls in good positions and those less favourably situated; but, in general, it is probably the case that, in markets where this practice obtains, variations are not so great as in markets where the tender system is in operation.

Closely connected with the letting of space in markets are the questions of security of tenure and of goodwill. In markets where a continuous daily business is transacted, weekly rentals are usual. Weekly rentals offer the following advantages over arrangements made from day to day:—

(*a*) they provide a regular revenue which can be easily collected;

(*b*) they afford a measure of permanence to stallholding while, at the same time, leaving a market authority theoretically free to revise its tenant roll at weekly intervals; this may be said to give some assurance that business

will be conducted in a proper manner, which is of great importance to senders and sustains the reputation of the market as a business centre.

Many merchants in wholesale fruit and vegetable markets, particularly those who have a large capital invested in their businesses, regard the weekly tenancy as an irksome and petty restriction wholly unsuited to modern trading conditions, and consider that the time has arrived for market authorities, in the interests of their markets, to overhaul their procedure in this important respect. The attitude of the trade can be understood, even though it rarely happens that a reliable trader in a municipal undertaking is unnecessarily disturbed in the tenancy of his stall. This leads to another point. In the more important markets, there are many traders who have continued in occupation of stands for over half a century without any more security than the payment of a weekly rent. Many of these are commission salesmen. By their enterprise and business acumen they have built up a flourishing business, which they are naturally reluctant to surrender when they are no longer able to continue their personal supervision. A number of authorities in such cases (or on the death of a tenant) give sympathetic consideration to the claims of the next of kin; but there are other cases in which the tenant feels that he should be permitted to dispose of his market business and that the market authority should accept as tenant a person nominated by him. Where a vacating tenant has occupied his stand for a specified number of years, some market authorities do, in fact, permit him to nominate a successor, subject to their approval. From the trader's standpoint, there is much to be said in favour of this recognition of goodwill, but, in the absence of any special safeguard, its development throughout the market would, in effect, take out of the hands of the market authority the power of selecting its own tenants.

Closely connected with this is the question of admitting limited liability companies as tenants of a stall. At least one important authority has an arrangement under which partnerships, limited companies, &c., are not recognised as tenants, but the stall is held either by an individual, or jointly by two or three persons. In this way, when the tenant or one of the joint tenants severs his connection with the occupancy of the stall, the future tenancy is subject to the consideration of the Market authority.

In wholesale fruit and vegetable markets, produce grown within carting distance of the market is usually sold from the carts or wagons in which it arrives—a practice that has increased with the development of motor transport. Carts or wagons are then usually regarded as occupying a certain space "per day," and a charge in the nature of a daily rent (though it may sometimes be inaccurately called a toll) is made accordingly. As a rule, this varies from 4*d*. to 1*s*. for carts and from 6*d*. to 2*s*. for wagons and is, in some cases, irrespective of the volume and

nature of the produce carried. At some of the larger markets, the charges are higher; thus, at Birmingham, the charges are :—

Covered Market.

Carts :—

1/–	2 wheels.
1/–	Cart load of hay.
1/6	Containing loose vegetables* (loaded in body).
2/–	,, ,, ,, (loaded on wings).
2/6	,, ,, ,, (gearing above body).

Wagons ;—

2/–	More than 2 wheels.
1/6	Wagon load of hay.
2/–	Horse drawn (vegetables)* wagon (loaded in body).
2/6	,, ,, ,, (loaded on wings).
3/– to 3/6	,, railway wagon (gearing above body).
3/– to 7/6	Mechanically-propelled vehicle containing loose vegetables.*

Uncovered Market.

Carts :—

6*d*.	2 wheels.
6*d*.	Fruit or vegetables (loaded in body).
9*d*.	,, ,, ,, (loaded on wings).
1/–	,, ,, ,, (gearing above body).

Wagons :—

1/–	More than 2 wheels.
1/–	Fruit and vegetables (loaded in body).
1/6	,, ,, ,, (loaded on wings).
2/–	,, ,, ,, railway wagon (gearing above body).

In publicly-controlled cattle markets, where sales are by auction, the auctioneer usually pays the market authority for his right to use a certain sale ring, or for his exclusive use of the sale ring on a certain day. In some cattle markets, parts are let on a yearly rental to dealers; the rental per pen is in the neighbourhood of £2 per annum and entitles the dealer to have first claim on a particular pen each market day.

In public abattoirs and meat markets, the charges vary according to the facilities given. Charges in public slaughterhouses constructed under the Public Health Act, 1875, require the approval of the Minister of Health. Charges for the use of slaughterhouses, meat markets or chill rooms may be imposed at a rate per animal, though, in general, it is more convenient in the case of regular users to make inclusive charges for accommodation according to the area occupied. This is of particular importance in abattoirs in order to ensure that there is no undue retention of space by butchers in excess of the amount of slaughter carried on.

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* *Or* fruit and vegetables mixed.

Stallage.—Stallage is "a duty levied by an owner of a market for the liberty of having stalls in a fair or market or for removing them from one place to another."* At the present time, it represents a small rent charge paid by the casual users of a market for the privilege of hiring a stall for a limited period of time; it is usually collected daily. The average charge for stall accommodation in an open retail market is 3*d.* per square yard per day. In a number of retail markets, a distinction favourable to ratepayers or residents is made in the rents charged.

(*b*) **Tolls.**—From evidence given before the Royal Commission on Market Rights and Tolls towards the end of last century, it would seem that the legality of some of the tolls charged had long been regarded as dubious or their incidence held to be irregular and bearing little or no relation to the value of the goods offered or to the accommodation given in return for the charges levied. Examples of tolls in kind were also brought to the notice of the Commissioners. Happily, many of the abuses connected with the charging and collecting of market tolls have now been rectified; it is believed that all tolls in kind and a number of arbitrary and uncertain charges have disappeared.

As far as possible, particulars of the tolls now charged in each market of England and Wales have recently been collected and tabulated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and are available for general reference. It is, however, exceedingly difficult to draw comparisons between the tolls charged at different markets. It must be borne in mind that tolls are not the only ource of income available to market owners; rents are charged in many markets in addition to tolls and, in such cases, the tolls are not comparable with those charged in a market where they are the only charges levied.

In legally-constituted livestock markets, a toll is charged on each beast entering the market whether it be sold by auction, by private treaty or not sold at all. Tolls are, in fact, the most convenient form in which the market charges can be levied in livestock markets, although experience shows that, in order to avoid disputes, they should be assessed as soon as the animals enter the market and collected immediately. A number of private-treaty markets have, however, given way, either wholly or in part, to the more modern auction marts which are in the ownership or control of auctioneers or market companies and at which no market charges, as such, are levied. In other cases, especially where there is no accommodation for private treaty business, the auctioneer compounds and pays a lump sum annually to the market owners in lieu of tolls; the market then becomes, in effect, toll-free.

Tolls on livestock have, of course, no appreciable effect on the cost of butcher's meat, but, where charged, the range is consider-

* Comyns Digest IV, 185.

able, and this is not wholly explained by the fact that the smaller markets usually find it necessary to charge higher tolls than those in which a large volume of business is transacted. The per head tolls on bulls vary from 3*d.* to 1*s* 4*d.*, on cows, heifers and steers from ½*d.** to 1*s.*, and on calves from 1*d.* to 4*d.* Tolls on pigs vary from ½*d.* for sucking pigs to 3*d.* or 4*d.* for fat hogs. Sometimes, but not often, the charges are levied on a weight basis. The greatest variation in tolls is found in the case of stallions; these vary as a rule from 1*s.* to 3*s.* 6*d.*, but, in one, case at least, the toll charged is 5*s.* The tolls on other horses vary from 6*d.* to 2*s.* The tolls on sheep vary from 4*d.* to 3*s.* per score. At many markets, there are "reductions for quantity" for sheep, thus :—

on 10 or less	9*d.*
on 10 to 20	1/6.
on 20 to 30	2/3.
or 2 to 5 in a pen	3*d.*
over 5 in a pen	6*d.*

It is interesting to note that, in some cases,—at Nottingham, under a local Act, and at Louth, for example—a different and higher toll is charged on beasts sold by auction than on those sold by private treaty. An extra toll on goods sold by auction is, however, generally regarded as objectionable so far as the general law is concerned.

Tolls on such commodities as eggs, butter, cheese and poultry (both live and dead) vary in their method of assessment, but are usually levied at so much per hamper, basket or crate as the case may be, the amount of toll being in proportion to the size of the receptacle; thus at Crewe, the toll payable on egg-baskets or egg-boxes measuring 17 in. × 14 in. is 1½*d.*, on containers measuring 2 ft 6 in. × 2 ft. is 2½*d.* and so on up the scale until the toll on a box measuring 4 ft. × 6 ft. is 6*d.* irrespective of the number of eggs offered for sale in the boxes; these are representative tolls.

In most wholesale fruit and vegetable markets, provision is made for the levying of tolls on a package basis. These tolls are only charged on packages of locally-grown produce brought in and disposed of by the growers themselves; they may be regarded as a charge for space occupied and, therefore, as corresponding to the charges levied on carts and wagons from which produce is sold (*see* page 17). Covent Garden Market and the Borough Market in London are exceptional in that the package toll system is, as far as possible, applied to all produce received for disposal. In other London markets and in all provincial wholesale markets, produce received by distributors who are stallholders is not subject to toll, but carries, of course, the overhead charge by way of rent levied by the market authority on the space occupied by its tenants.

* This is exceptionally low.

(c) **Other Charges.**—

Parking, &c.—A number of owners of retail markets have considerably augmented their income by allowing cars to be parked in the market place on non-market days at a charge of 6*d.* or 1*s.*, but there are, of course, legal complications where a market is in the highway, as in the old-fashioned market-squares of country towns. In one instance the income derived from parking charges is said to exceed £500 per annum. Similarly, at many wholesale markets, a charge is levied on all buyers and sellers who wish to park their cars and carts in the market on market days. In some cases floats or carts plying for hire in the market also pay a charge, usually 1*s.*, although in Leeds carts plying for hire only pay 2*d.* At the fruit and vegetable market at Brentford an entry charge is levied on all vehicles.

Weighing.—At some markets a separate charge is made for the use of the weighbridge in order to cover its cost and the wages of the attendant. The charges for the use of a weighbridge vary, in the case of livestock, from 1*d.* to 6*d.*, and, in the case of fruit and vegetables, from ½*d.* for 28 lb. up to 1*s.* for 5-ton to 10-ton loads. At present, traders in wholesale fruit and vegetable markets make but little use of the weighbridges when the market charges are on the load and not by weight, although outside traders often employ the machines considerably. Under the Markets and Fairs (Weighing of Cattle) Act, 1926, charges for weighing as prescribed by the principal Act of 1887 are altered and a sum not exceeding 6*d.* per head of cattle and 3*d.* for every lot of 5 or less sheep or pigs is the limit now chargeable at auction sales.

Porterage.—Charges for porterage fall more especially on producers who consign produce such as fruit and vegetables to market. They have naturally increased somewhat since the War, notably at Covent Garden. They vary considerably with the distance over which the produce has to be carried; thus, at some markets, where the produce can be unloaded direct on to the stalls, the porterage charges are relatively low; at other markets where wagons are unable to draw in and unload, the charges are higher. A special porterage service provided by the market authority is only necessary in congested markets; in properly laid-out markets users can employ their own staff for this purpose, and prefer to do so.

(ii) Finance.

There is great divergence between towns of approximately equal population in the amount of profit earned by municipal markets. There are various reasons for this. Population figures are not, of course, a certain guide to the number of possible users of a market; the population of the surrounding district has also to be taken into account. Some market authorities have redeemed capital charges while others are still paying them;

some, again, are benefiting from past prudence in the acquisition of property for market extensions. It must also be remembered that markets are carried on under different Charters and Acts which limit the powers of market authorities in different ways.

Investigation shows that, while profits in the smaller markets are negligible, they tend to be considerable in the larger towns, particularly those with a population exceeding 80,000. It is the custom of some local authorities to put by a portion of the surplus accruing from their markets after all expenses and interest have been paid, in order to create a fund as a reserve for future expenditure on the markets themselves, or for the reduction of rents and tolls. Much of the market accommodation in this country is antiquated and inadequate, as is instanced by the growth of wholesale establishments on the fringe of many markets, and it is obviously a sound and far-seeing policy to build up a fund which can be used to provide more accommodation and greater spaciousness. The principle of applying such a fund to the reduction of tolls reflects the point of view of the producer who naturally wants low marketing costs and contends that he should not be required to contribute to the relief of the rates. This point of view was upheld by the Linlithgow Committee. In general, also, the principle has guided the Minister of Health in approving revised charges for tolls; as a rule, approval has only been given when it could be shown that the charges were reasonable.

Taking the country as a whole, the more usual procedure is, however, for any surpluses arising from markets, after payment of interest and sinking fund charges, to be diverted into the general accounts of the market authority. In some cases this is made obligatory by the Act under which the market is conducted, and it is not even possible for the authorities concerned to form a reserve fund out of profits for future market improvements. In a borough there is an express statutory direction in Section 139 of the Municipal Corporations Act, 1882, that the profits therein specified (which would include the profits of a market belonging to a municipal corporation as such) shall be paid into the borough fund. Decisions of the Courts show that the principles laid down in this Act will be applied under a local Act in the absence of any contrary provision in such Act. As regards markets held under the Public Health Acts, there is no exactly corresponding enactment, but there is no power under the Public Health Acts authorising a local authority to establish a separate fund for market purposes, and as all expenses are to be paid out of the general fund and the power of raising a rate is, with certain exceptions, only to be exercised to feed this fund, it is evident that any profits on a market undertaking established under the Act must be paid into it.

The principle that profits should go into the general accounts is supported by a number of local authorities. In some cases the amount which accrues from market undertakings is considerable. The local authorities hold that as they provide the

money in the first place, they are entitled to make their markets remunerative consistently with maintaining the efficiency desirable for the consumer and, further, that the probability that markets will contribute to lower rates serves to stimulate interest in their welfare and development.

It cannot be denied that there is an apparent conflict of interest between, on the one hand, local authorities, representing, in the main, the consumers, and, on the other hand, the producers who use the markets for the disposal of their wares. It is obviously impracticable for charges to be based on such an exact estimate of costs that no profits would be earned. Authorities must budget for a safe margin, which in favourable years will be exceeded. It is also reasonable that a fair share of the police, sewage and other services rendered to the markets should be set against their revenues. These are at present usually included in the general municipal accounts. Further, apart from tolls—and in many wholesale produce markets only a small proportion of the produce is subject to tollage—reduction of charges, such as rents, would be of no direct or appreciable benefit to either producer or consumer. Local authorities urge that in any case their charges are limited by economic considerations. No one can compel a trader to come into a market when he can sell, unaffected by market rights, in his own shop or warehouse. Bearing these considerations in mind, it may be asked whether the amount of rent charged to traders in a market is not less important to the producer than the provision of proper market facilities. It is in the larger towns that good wholesale markets are of the greatest importance to the producer, and a policy designed to that end would have great value.

At present, when a large town finds it necessary to make any considerable market improvement, it usually has to have recourse to a loan. In view of the numerous demands on the borrowing powers of local authorities, the necessity to borrow must often be inconvenient and, in consequence, market improvements must frequently be postponed or neglected. Delay of this kind may, in some cases, be a serious matter. The opportunity to purchase a site may not recur, and if the proper time for expansion of the market is missed, traders may go elsewhere for accommodation. It would, therefore, be to the ultimate advantage of producers and other users if a proportion of the profits earned on markets were allocated to reserve for extensions and improvements. As has been shown, many market authorities are prevented, by statute, from following this course; an amendment of the law would, therefore, be necessary before the creation of a reserve fund, out of profits, could be legalised.

CHAPTER III: DEVELOPMENT AND CLASSIFICATION OF MARKETS.

Originally all produce markets served for the direct exchange of commodities between producer and consumer, and were, in essence, retail markets. Illustrations of old markets are shown in Fig. 1 (*frontispiece*) and Fig. 3. With the development of commercial agriculture many farmers marketed a greater volume of produce than they could conveniently sell in small lots to consumers; similarly, particularly in areas where production tended towards specialisation, a considerable quantity of produce was raised which was surplus to local demand and had to be marketed further afield. The first gave rise to the local trader who specialised in retail distribution; the second to the country dealer who specialised in the collection and assembling of produce for dispatch in bulk to distant consuming centres. In some instances country markets have reacted to these developments by changing gradually from retail to mainly or wholly wholesale trade. In other cases local markets have declined relatively in importance; their predominantly retail character has remained, but production surplus to local requirements has come to be handled mostly by dealers, without recourse to market facilities.

In the main consuming centres the original retail markets have largely persisted and, in many cases, still make provision for the sale of locally-grown produce by producers; but local produce is invariably supplemented by supplies from all parts. Here, again, there has been specialisation, and not only do retail distributors, as such, now predominate in most retail markets, but shops and stores throughout urban areas now account for by far the greater part of the retail trade. Increasing urbanisation, and, with it, the growing difficulty of bringing food to and distributing it in thickly-populated areas, has also given rise to the specialist activities associated with wholesale distribution, and in the more important towns and cities there are now central markets devoted to wholesale trade; they afford facilities for concentrating produce from wide areas, including overseas sources of supply, and for its subsequent dispersion in bulk among wholesale and retail distributors. The normal line of market development has been for both wholesale and retail business to be conducted side by side in the same market until it was found more advantageous to separate the trades.

Two further points may be made in connection with markets in large consuming centres. The first is that in most wholesale markets a space is reserved for local growers who can bring in sufficient quantities of produce to sell wholesale. The second is



FIG. 2.—Boston May Sheep Fair about 1830. 24,000 sheep shown.

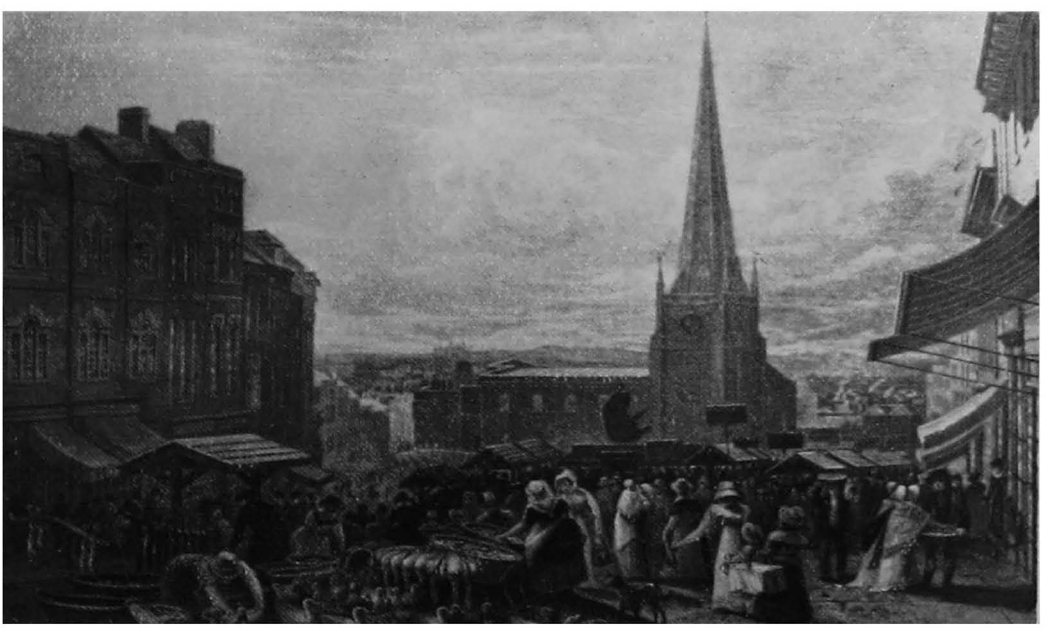


FIG. 3.—High Street Market, Birmingham, in 1827.

Facing page 25.]



FIG. 4.—Retail Market, Derby.



FIG. 5.—Market Hall, Birkenhead.

that the retail markets in many of the large cities have been developed and extended in such a way that they bear little resemblance to the small retail markets or street markets from which they arose (*see* Figs. 4 and 5). Covered accommodation has been erected in many cases and often both an open-air retail market and a covered retail market are to be found in the same town.

So far as can be ascertained, there are 1,345 separate markets in England and Wales at which agricultural supplies are disposed of.* From information furnished by local authorities and other market owners, it appears that, of these, 269 markets are solely devoted to retail trade, 754 to wholesale trade only, and 322 to both classes of business in varying proportions. An analysis of these markets on the basis of market rights, if any, and according to whether they are public or private markets, gives the following results :—

——	Charter.	Public Health Act.	Local or Special Act.	Other so-called Markets.	Total.
			Public Markets.		
Retail only - -	85	67	33	—	185
Wholesale only -	31	10	17	—	58
Retail and Wholesale	105	50	88	—	243
Total Public Markets	221	127	138	—	486
			Private Markets.		
Retail only - -	26	—	6	52	84
Wholesale only -	74	—	20	602	696
Retail and Wholesale	22	—	8	49	79
Total Private Markets	122	—	34	703	859
Total Public and Private Markets -	343	127	172	703	1,345

The following Table gives a reclassification according to commodities and method of sale. It should be borne in mind that frequently in one and the same market more than one commodity or commodity group is handled and sales may be by both private treaty and auction. Further, at many of the markets where both retail and wholesale business is carried on, the quantity of produce disposed of by retail, in some cases, and wholesale, in others, may, at times, be negligible.

* In addition, there are 1,548 agricultural fairs held in 549 centres (*see* page 7).

Commodity.	Public.				Private.			
	Auction only.	Private Treaty only.	Auction and Private Treaty.	Total.	Auction only.	Private Treaty only.	Auction and Private Treaty.	Total.
Retail only.								
Butter and Cheese	3	230	7	240	9	67	1	77
Eggs	4	217	5	226	11	58	4	73
Fish	—	287	5	292	1	74	1	76
Fruit and Vegetables	1	267	11	279	15	90	1	106
Meat	—	315	6	321	3	88	1	92
Poultry	6	172	11	189	18	48	4	70
Wholesale only.								
Butter and Cheese	10	11	1	22	93	11	4	108
Corn	—	118	—	118	—	62	—	62*
Eggs	15	15	2	32	101	6	2	109
Fish	2	3	1	6	4	3	3	10
Fruit and Vegetables	7	5	—	12	93	10	4	107
Livestock	98	28	98	224	698	9	30	737
Meat	1	3	—	4	9	1	2	12
Poultry	36	11	4	51	271	6	6	283
Wool (Annual Sales)	38	21	1	60	24	13	1	38
Retail and Wholesale.								
Butter and Cheese	5	70	18	93	15	16	1	32
Eggs	6	66	20	92	20	14	3	37
Fish	1	29	4	34	2	1	—	3
Fruit and Vegetables	5	81	19	105	13	13	3	29
Meat	1	22	2	25	1	3	—	4
Poultry	12	55	58	125	25	11	4	40

Markets at which produce is sold solely or partly by retail are to be found in both town and country and are discussed in the next Chapter.

Although no hard-and-fast line can be drawn, wholesale markets may be broadly classified according to function into (1) markets in producing areas, which are usually assembling markets whence produce is dispatched to distant centres of

* In addition there are 160 street markets.

demand and (2) markets in thickly populated areas where produce is concentrated from home and abroad for distribution locally and to other markets.

Those wholesale markets that are situated in the producing areas are referred to briefly in Chapter V of this Report, but they are being fully described in the various Reports issued in the Economic Series dealing with the marketing of the commodities concerned, and will receive notice in subsequent numbers of this survey. Wholesale markets in the large consuming centres are also considered in Chapter V.

Livestock markets, from their dissimilarity to produce markets, are discussed separately (Chapters VI and VII), as also, for the sake of convenience, are abattoirs, cold stores and hide and skin markets (Chapter VIII). Prominence has been given to livestock markets, not only because they are numerically the most important, but because their turnover of home-produced supplies is, in the aggregate, enormous and more farmers are personally concerned with them in one way or another than with any other kind of wholesale market.

CHAPTER IV: RETAIL MARKETS.

Retail markets are mostly held on sites which have been so used for generations. They vary from small open-air "farmers' markets" held weekly or bi-weekly in market squares in country districts to the daily markets held in commodious halls in large cities which, from an architectural and business standpoint, are in keeping with the importance of the markets as agencies in the distribution of food. There are still, however, large towns where daily retail markets are held on open spaces and, although such markets may be both popular and picturesque, they do not meet the health and traffic requirements of the present day.

Both classes of retail markets—open and covered—are tending more and more to change from centres mainly for the sale of foodstuffs to mere arcades of stalls for the sale of haberdashery, crockery, books, clothing, ironmongery and toys. In some retail markets, by far the greater space is now devoted to non-agricultural commodities. The argument in favour of the admission into the market of a variety of trades is that the market is thus made attractive to all classes of the community and costs are spread. Hence, the market charges which fall on foodstuffs are lower than they might otherwise be. This latter point is important in a market where space is provided for local growers who, at certain periods of the year, have not sufficient produce to sell in the market for more than one or two days in the week. On the other hand, the increasing space given to traders of general merchandise who regularly occupy the market does, of course, decrease the space allocated to foodstuffs, and it would, therefore, seem to be of advantage, from the standpoint of agricultural marketing, if, in the allocation of stalls, a preference were shown to producers and sellers of agricultural produce.

In the large towns, the central sites on which the markets are held have become very valuable property (*see* Figs. 6 and 7). Hence, retail markets are frequently criticised on the ground that the market trader has an advantage over the retail shopkeeper owing to the market rents not being commensurate with the value of the market site. This raises the wider issue of the economic justification of public retail markets—an issue on which there are differences of opinion. It seems, however, to be generally agreed that most retail markets play an important part in price determination and that they offer both variety and cheapness; in so far as producers sell direct to consumers, such markets also offer produce at its freshest and afford a ready means of disposing of surplus produce which might otherwise fail to find a market. But if, as is often the case, the prices charged for perishable produce in retail markets are somewhat lower than those charged for similar produce in shops outside, it must be remembered that these latter commonly render additional services such as delivery and credit, which cost money and must be paid for.

In a number of wholesale markets stalls are to be found at which a purely retail trade is simultaneously carried on. It is held that to separate the two classes of business in such cases would not only be an unnecessary disturbance, but might be disadvan-



FIG. 6.—The Great Market Place, Nottingham.



FIG. 7.—The Morledge Market, Derby.

tageous to both, since each depends to some extent on the other. The general opinion appears, however, to be that it is better practice to segregate the two classes of trade, and, if separate markets or sections of the market are not available, to confine them to separate periods of the day.

A point of some interest is the possibility of opening retail markets in the outer zones of large towns to keep pace with the growth of population. Some market authorities have this under consideration. Derby, for instance, is extending largely in one direction and the Town Council has recently authorised the purchase of land in the new district for the purpose of a suburban market which, within the next five years, may be within convenient shopping range of as many as 10,000 people. Liverpool affords another example.

During recent years, a number of unauthorised retail markets have been set up in various localities; in some cases they are, no doubt, an infringement of existing market rights. The promoter of the market seems merely to have made arrangements with a landowner for the occupation of certain ground, and then advertised the holding of a market. Sometimes stalls with canvas roofs have been provided, fitted with trestle tables and let to stall-holders at agreed rents The sites occupied by these so-called markets are often quite unsuitable for the purpose.

Street or kerb markets are found in large towns and cities. Though not strictly markets, they are retail markets in embryo. The existence of a flourishing street market is probably evidence that a municipal retail market would succeed in the neighbourhood. For traffic reasons, street markets are now in process of disappearing from main thoroughfares. They are, in fact, an illegitimate obstruction of the highway except in a few places where they have been legalised by local Acts.

There is also a move towards regulating hawkers and requiring them to take out a local licence in addition to the licence-fee payable to the State under the Hawkers Act, 1888. Some local authorities already have power under local Acts to license and regulate hawkers; others have no such powers.

The whole question of street trading in the London area has recently received much attention in consequence of traffic congestion. In 1926 the Bermondsey Borough Council (Street Trading) Act was passed, and the London County Council is promoting legislation in the session of Parliament of 1927 to enable metropolitan borough councils to deal with street trading on similar lines. The main features of the Bermondsey Act are that persons selling from a barrow in a stationary position at a place in a carriage-way or footpath of any street in the borough must take out an annual licence for which the fee is 5*s*. Persons trading with a barrow which they ordinarily move from place to place do not require a licence. The licence may prescribe the street or area and the position at which the licensee may trade, the articles and things in which he may trade, the day or days on which he may trade, and the number of barrows, &c., that he may use. Penalties are laid down for infringements of the Act.

CHAPTER V: WHOLESALE PRODUCE MARKETS.

(i) Markets in Producing Areas.

(*a*) **Fruit and Vegetables.**—With the exception of the fruit and vegetable auctions in the West Midlands, which number 17 in all, the wholesale fruit and vegetable markets in producing areas are not of great importance. There are, of course, many markets throughout the country to which producers bring in seasonal supplies of fruit and vegetables on market days, and where the buyers are retailers as well as consumers. Such markets are, however, local in character and influence; they do not, as a rule, attract buyers from a distance. As regards potatoes, it is true that in the potato-growing areas the bulk of the supplies is sold at the point of production—in one or two market towns, such as Boston and Spalding in the case of Lincolnshire; but these markets are merely meeting places of buyers and sellers, such as a corn exchange, where sales are effected on sample or description. There is no market in the sense of a building where supplies are assembled for disposal.*

The fruit and vegetable auctions in the West Midlands are in a different category. While large quantities of local produce are sold by private treaty to dealers, or consigned to distant wholesale markets, such as those in Birmingham, South Wales and the North, it has been estimated that, at least, a quarter and possbily a third of the total produce grown in Worcestershire, Warwickshire, Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, and, to a less extent, in some of the neighbouring counties, is sold in the local auctions. These are, in some cases, markets in the strict sense of the term, that is to say, they are held on premises owned by local authorities and protected by Charter or local Act. The auctions at Coventry, Gloucester, Cheltenham, Hereford and Worcester are of this character. In other cases, where there is no statutory or charter market, they are simply private auction marts. Two or three may exist in the same town. They are owned or controlled by private firms, individuals or co-operative societies.†

In the fruit-growing areas of the Eastern Counties and Kent, the auction method of marketing is seldom practised. The explanation appears to be that whereas, in the West Midlands, there are a large number of small growers who raise miscellaneous crops of fruit and vegetables, including apples, pears, plums, strawberries, beans, peas, cabbages, asparagus, lettuce, celery, mint and wallflowers, in the Eastern Counties and in Kent, the holdings are larger and the crops show less variety. In the West Midlands, some form of assembly market has, therefore, been found to be desirable to bring together the miscellaneous contributions of a large number of growers whose individual output is frequently too small to pass economically through the ordinary

* *See* Economic Series No. 9 (Potato Marketing)

† *See also* Economic Series No. 1, Chapter VI, and Economic Series No. 15 (Fruit Marketing).

commercial channels; further, the variety of crops raised ensures for the auction a continuous supply—varying, it is true, in volume —throughout the year. In the Eastern Counties and Kent, the output of individual growers is usually large enough to justify direct consignment to distant centres of demand, while fruit production predominates and there is, therefore, a short season of supply.

(*b*) **Egg and Poultry Markets.***—Eggs are sold at practically all private-treaty markets in country districts. Auction sales of eggs are held in about 193 markets in England and Wales, the great majority of which are private markets. These are distributed over the Eastern Counties, the South Midlands and the Southern and South-Eastern Counties; egg auctions are practically unknown in Cornwall, Devon, Wales and the North.

Eggs bought at country markets for consignment to distant centres are generally repacked in the market-place in the buyers' own boxes. Sometimes the eggs, so packed, are railed away there and then; sometimes they are removed to buyers' premises— which may be anywhere within a motor journey of the market —and tested and graded before being finally repacked for dispatch. Apart from a few markets such as Carlisle, Oswestry, Welshpool and Barnstaple markets, no special provision is made to enable buyers to pack under cover. Similarly, unlike some of the markets in Northern Ireland, facilities for candling eggs are seldom, if ever, available. In view of the perishable nature of eggs and of the growing commerical importance of grading and packing, failure to provide suitable accommodation, both for the protection of supplies from sun and rain and for testing, grading and packing, may lead to the gradual displacement of country markets in areas of surplus production by collecting, grading, packing and forwarding stations which operate without the aid of local market facilities and consign produce direct to the central wholesale markets or to retail distributors in consuming centres.

Poultry, in varying quantities, is sold by private treaty at 311 public markets and 79 privately-owned markets—live poultry in 25 instances, both live and dead in 249 and dead in 116. There are also, at least, 328 private and 127 public markets at which poultry is sold by auction; at 309 of these, live poultry only is sold; at 137, both live and dead; and at 9, dead only. The poultry auctions are fairly evenly distributed over the country, except in Wales and the Northern Counties of England, where there are comparatively few. The provision for poultry sales in some of the public markets is satisfactory, but many auctioneers complain of the failure of marke. authorities to provide them with proper facilities.

(*c*) **Cheese and Butter Markets.**—Facilities for the sale of butter, both by auction and by private treaty, are to be found at most country markets. At many of the markets, as, for

* *See* Economic Series No. 10 (Egg Marketing); *also* Economic Series No. 11 (Poultry Marketing).

example, at Carlisle, butter is sold direct by the producer to the consumer, but if a large quantity is offered, the sale is usually to a wholesale buyer. Butter is sold wholesale at almost every egg auction, but the lots are, as a rule, small and only average a few pounds. There are no country markets solely devoted to the sale of butter, though at a few, such as Carmarthen, Brecon and Pwllheli Markets, butter takes a prominent place among the commodities sold.

Markets at which cheese is sold are to be found in all the principal cheese-making districts; thus, cheese "fairs" are held in Chester every third Wednesday in the month in a separate cheese market in the public market; the trade in this case is entirely by private treaty. Fairs are also held at Nantwich In Shropshire cheese fairs are held every third week at Shrewsbury Wem, Whitchurch, Market Drayton and Ellesmere; nearly all the cheese disposed of through these fairs is manufactured by farmers. Cheese fairs are also held in other cheese-making districts, as, for example, at Stafford, Frome, Shepton Mallet and Yeovil. At Highbridge, Somerset, weekly auction sales of cheese are held.

(*d*) **Corn and Provender Markets.**—Sales of corn and provender are held at 340 centres in England and Wales, of which 118 are controlled by municipal authorities, 62 by corn exchange companies, and 160 are held in inns, streets, cattle-markets and other places. With the increase of stock and dairy farming and the decline in arable acreage, the corn exchanges outside the notably arable counties have fallen on hard times. The business which used to be transacted in them now commonly takes place elsewhere. The corn exchanges of such typical arable counties as Lincoln, Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridge, still flourish. Even in these districts, however, some of the larger exchanges, such as that at Lincoln, are now important dealers' markets, where imported wheat is dealt in as well as home-grown and where the bulk of sales is transacted between agricultural merchants.

In general, and notably in the West of England and in the Midlands, not only has the corn exchange building been diverted to other uses, but the centre for selling and buying corn, feeding stuffs and fertilisers has, in many instances, been moved to, or to some place near, the cattle market. Often the business is done in a hotel courtyard, or it may be done in the market itself and in various public houses in the neighbourhood. It seems probable that this change is not only attributable to the decline of cereal growing, but to the increased sale of imported feeding stuffs and fertilisers. The farmer has corn and provender to sell only at certain times in the year, while the imported feeding stuffs trade in one form or another is continuous. As this latter trade increased, corn-merchants were more and more inclined to follow farmers to where they could be found.

The particular place where business is conducted has no great significance from a marketing standpoint, but when the business is split up between a number of places, the advantage of a



FIG. 8.—Smithfield Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Market, Birmingham.



FIG. 9.—Smithfield Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Market, Manchester.



FIG. 10.—Interior of new Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Market, Derby, showing stands the evening before a market day.



FIG. 11.—Exterior of new Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Market, Derby, showing parking ground for motor lorries.



FIG. 12.—Wholesale Fish Market, Birmingham.



FIG. 13.—Wholesale Meat Market, Manchester.

market is lost in so far as buyers and sellers are less able to compare prices and take advantage of competition. Both traders and farmers in a corn and provender exchange are, at times, buyers and sellers, and it would be to the ultimate benefit of all parties if a common centre could be selected and adhered to in those towns where at present the business is dispersed. In towns where the corn market and the cattle market are held on different days, it might be considered whether they could not with greater advantage be held on the same day, assuming that such a change would not cause one corn market to clash with another in the immediate neighbourhood.

The accommodation required for a corn market is small. The necessary business in most market towns can be carried out in any room which is conveniently situated in regard to the cattle market provided it has sufficient space for the merchants and traders who, in some cases, have small stalls for the display of samples. In many country markets even less than this accommodation is made to serve.

(*e*) **Wool Auctions.***—There are under 100 seasonal auction sales of wool in country districts. These are held chiefly in the Midlands and in Wales during the months of June and July, and vary considerably in size and importance.

(ii) Markets in Consuming Centres.†

Wholesale produce markets are generally found in towns of 100,000 or more inhabitants, except where such towns are served by wholesale markets in other large towns close by. Apart from fish and fruit auctions at the ports whence produce arriving by sea is distributed inland over wide areas, mainly to other wholesale markets, there are three main classes of wholesale produce markets in consuming centres :—

fruit, flower and vegetable markets (*see* Figs. 8 to 11);
fish and poultry markets (*see* Fig. 12);
meat markets (*see* Fig. 13).

With very few exceptions these are owned by local authorities. They are held daily and, apart from a few markets, particularly Covent Garden Market and Smithfield Meat Market, London, they mainly serve the needs of the district in which they are situated. They are a great convenience to the retail trade in that they enable the quality and price of large supplies of a wide range of commodities to be quickly compared and a selection made to the best advantage. They help to steady prices; they also help to ensure that prices are a reasonably fair reflection of the relation

* *See also* Economic Series No. 7 (Wool Marketing).

† Particulars of the wool auctions in London, Liverpool, Bradford and centres in the North and West of England are given in the Report on Wool Marketing (Economic Series No. 7). The London Egg Exchange is described in the Report on Egg Marketing (Economic Series No. 10); other produce exchanges will be considered in subsequent Reports.

of supply and demand. Further, the concentration of produce at wholesale markets facilitates food inspection and other public health services and makes for speedy and economical distribution. Finally, a recognised wholesale market, the tenants of which may mostly be old-established firms, should give confidence to distant suppliers.

In many cases the facilities provided by local authorities for the marketing of perishable produce of all descriptions are adequate for the requirements of their districts. By way of example, the wholesale fruit and vegetable markets at Derby and Manchester may be mentioned. The market at Derby is a good example of an up-to-date wholesale market in a medium-sized town. The market at Manchester, which has over 27,000 square yards under glass, is an important distributing centre for the North of England and supplies a population of nearly 4½ million people within a 25-mile radius. Mention should also be made of the wholesale fruit and vegetable market at Spitalfields, London, which is in course of reconstruction, and on which the City Corporation has recently decided to spend a sum of £2 million. There are, however, large towns in which no wholesale produce market has been provided. In others, again, the wholesale markets are quite unable to cope with the increased road traffic of recent years, or have so outgrown existing accommodation that the trade has overflowed into private premises. The extension of market business on to private premises takes the control out of the hands of the local authority and may make the subsequent enlargement of the market a difficult matter, or its removal to another site a somewhat uncertain venture. In some cases, the lack of adequate or suitable facilities is not less than a definite restriction of trade and adds to the cost of distribution. The grant of statutory powers to local authorities carries with it a responsibility for ensuring that the requisite facilities are provided for both wholesale and retail trade.

From views expressed by officers of local authorities and others experienced in market business, the following brief notes have been compiled to afford some indication of what may be regarded as a desirable standard in the provision of wholesale market facilities in consuming centres.

(1) The size of the market should be sufficient to provide accommodation for the ascertained or estimated requirements of all *bona fide* applicants for space who are in a position to obtain and dispose of supplies of produce. The market authority should have, at its disposal, land or property adjacent to the markets which is available for extension purposes as occasion arises. In congested markets where lateral extension is impossible, there are distinct possibilities in a double-deck system, particularly if there is a slope in the ground.

(2) Close proximity to the railways is desirable and, in view particularly of the increased use of road motor transport for the conveyance of foodstuffs, the approaches to the market

should communicate with main or arterial roads. A parking ground for vehicles should be provided (*see* Fig. 11).

(3) Adjacent to or within the wholesale market there should be space to accommodate producers or producers' organisations, who are desirous of disposing directly of their produce. In the fruit and vegetable market this need only be a plot of land, suitably paved and covered, on to which farmers can bring their vehicles and sell therefrom. In the meat market, a section should be reserved for producers and properly equipped for hanging and displaying meat.

(4) The market should be roofed for protection from the weather, well lighted, provided with louvre ventilation and glazed on the northerly side. An adequate system of artificial lighting throughout the market is essential.

(5) The regulation of traffic in wholesale markets is important; in a number of markets, it is a stipulation that vehicles should proceed in one direction only. The roadways through the market (where vehicular traffic is permitted) should be capable of accommodating three fully-loaded vehicles abreast with clearance between them. Alternatively, the view is held that a generous provision of roadway facilities encourages traffic to loiter and that it is better practice to fix a time-limit for the loading and off-loading of vehicles. Similarly, although it is usually recommended that there should be passages of not less than 5 feet in width between each stall, or block of stalls, in order to facilitate the carrying or trucking of packages, there is support for the view that wide alleyways tend to get blocked through use as parking spaces for porter's barrows. The efficiency of a market for perishables depends, very largely, on the speed with which produce can be moved about.

(6) Each stall should have adequate frontage to facilitate the display of goods. In certain of the larger wholesale markets, the average size of stalls is about 35 square yards. The stalls should be designed to meet the particular requirements of the various branches of the trade. Where wholesale merchants have inadequate facilities for storing empties outside the market, basement or other suitable accommodation should be provided in the market.

(7) The floor of the stalls in all wholesale markets should be of impervious material and raised about 3 inches above the level of the roadways in those cases where vehicular traffic is permitted in the market. (In a number of meat markets horse and motor traffic is prohibited.) In both fish and meat markets the side walls should be tiled, or faced with other impervious and easily cleansed material.

(8) The wholesale meat market should be adjacent to and directly connected with the abattoir and a system of overhead rails provided for conveying meat from the slaughterhouses to the market and from one part of the market to another or to loading

points outside the market. The accommodation should include provision for meat inspection.

(9) For obvious reasons, the wholesale fish market should be separate but not too far distant from the wholesale fruit and vegetable market. Special attention should be given to the speedy removal of empty fish-boxes.

(10) Cold-storage accommodation, conveniently situated for the various markets, should be available for the needs of traders. In some of the larger markets there is a tendency for market authorities to undertake the provision of special warehouse accommodation for the storage of supplies.

CHAPTER VI: LIVESTOCK MARKETS (I).

(i) Development.

There are 961 livestock markets in England and Wales; of these 224 are publicly controlled—145 by borough councils and 71 by urban district councils. The selling of livestock in markets dates from earliest times when business was conducted in "market overt," and is the accepted system in this and other countries.

About the beginning of the 19th century there was a tendency for dealers and butchers to short-circuit the markets and buy direct from neighbouring farmers who, for their part, were thus saved the payment of tolls and o her market charges. In order to arrest this evasion of tolls, the laws* were enforced against "forestallers" or "engrossers" who bought produce on its way to market. It was, however, the introduction of auction selling for livestock, about the year 1836, that mostly helped to restore the markets to their old position as centres for the sale of livestock whether by auction or private treaty. Evidence of this is furnished by the numerous local Acts of this period which provided for the enlargement and improvement of markets in various parts of the country. Farmers apparently realised that, when selling privately, they had to rely on their own estimates of values, while, when dealing in the market, the prices were, at least, open to competition.

It is of interest to note the circumstances that accounted for the rapid increase in the number of livestock auction marts. Sixty years before the method was first introduced for livestock, a tax had been imposed to the extent of 1*s.* in the pound on all movables and 7*d.* in the pound on all heritable property sold by auction except when a sale took place on a farm. In proposing this tax, Lord North stated that:—

> "The tax was intended to answer more purposes than those of mere finance. Auctions were multiplied of late years in all parts of the Kingdom to that excess as to be very mischievous to every fair trader, and, in many cases, were attended with circumstances of gross fraud and impositions."

The tax was abolished by Sir Robert Peel in 1845. Up to this time, before a sale could be held, the auctioneers were required to give three days' notice to the Excise Officer, to lodge with him a catalogue of the articles to be sold, and, finally, to attend the Collector of Excise every quarter, produce a copy of the roup roll, make a declaration that it was a true account, and pay the duty. It can easily be seen that this was an almost unsurmountable barrier to selling livestock by auction except upon the farm to which it belonged.

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* Repealed by 7 and 8 Vict., Ch. 24.

The Royal Commission of 1893 found auctions well-established in all parts of the country; but, in the evidence given, it is clear that objections were felt to some features of the system. Thus:—

> " . . . the selling of cattle at auction marts instead of selling them privately to buyers who come round is said to be prejudicial to farmers because the system is more expensive, it causes farmers to waste more of their time, and it is asserted that butchers make rings and do not bid against each other. The butchers who attend these auctions go in for buying as low as they can. They do not, as was formerly the case, go round to the farms and get the stock, but they buy at the lowest price by auction and many farmers have to take their stock away again or sacrifice them at ruinous prices."

In spite of these criticisms, which are to be heard even to-day, auctions have continued to grow and there are now 924 livestock auctions in England and Wales. Of these, 402 are held weekly, 263 fortnightly, 17 once every three weeks, 146 monthly and 96 at intervals of more than one month. A few are owned or controlled by farmers' co-operative societies and a number, particularly in the North, by farmers' joint stock companies.*

The reversion from private dealing to dealing in markets was not, of course, complete. In Nottinghamshire, for example, it is estimated that the proportion of store cattle, milk cows, sheep and pigs that pass through the hands of dealers and go direct from farm to farm, or from dealers' land to farms, is still about 20 per cent. There are districts where the percentage is even higher. In Scotland and the North the proportion would probably not greatly exceed 10 per cent.

It should also be borne in mind that, in certain districts at any rate, a tendency in the other direction seems once more to have set in. This is attributable to a variety of causes. The War is said to be partly responsible in that it brought buyers into close personal contact with producers. Probably, a more weighty reason is that during periods of foot-and-mouth disease and swine fever, when farmers are unable to dispose of their stock at the usual markets, they enlist the services of dealers to dispose of their fat stock to butchers, or they may themselves send direct to butchers in the scheduled area; in some cases, these relationships have continued long after the restrictions have been removed. It is possible that the present tendency for farmers to dispose of their fat stock without recourse to local markets is not without significance. In certain areas, it is noticeable that wholesale butchers are steadily increasing their purchases from farmers direct. Wholesalers in meat markets who accept fat stock for slaughter and sale on commission seem also, in some cases, to be extending their business.

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* *See* Economic Series No. 1, Chapter VII.

A further change in marketing conditions has been brought about by the development of transport. The increase in railway facilities, and, more recently, the enormous increase in motor traffic, has enabled the farmer to send his produce to more distant markets than formerly. As a result, some markets have grown considerably; others—notably the smaller livestock markets—are declining. In fact, a number of livestock markets have become insignificant from the point of view of supplies and some are moribund. It must be remembered that the circumstances that have combined to extend the selling range of farmers have also extended the buying range of traders; cheap railway fares and an ever-increasing network of omnibus services make it possible for buyers to operate over wide areas; many have their own motor cars.

It is of interest to refer briefly to the function of livestock markets during the Food Control period. The Food Controller divided Great Britain into 19 areas for the control of livestock—13 for England and Wales and 6 for Scotland. These corresponded with the food control areas, thus co-ordinating wholesale and retail distribution. A Livestock Commissioner was appointed for each area with comprehensive powers for the regulation of slaughter; in each market-district, a deputy chairman of auctioneers supervised the selling and allocation of livestock. All beasts and sheep, with certain exceptions, went through the markets, sales being under the control of a local auctioneers' committee and of a grading committee. For the purposes of meat distribution, markets were divided into (*a*) local markets and (*b*) distributing markets. Farms in a market-district were attached to the local market and farmers sent their stock there or to the nearest distributing market according to instructions. At the latter the cattle were allocated to buyers or taken over by the Ministry of Food at prices not exceeding a schedule of maximum prices for each grade of stock. The farmers' selection committee arranged for the proper proportion of local cattle to be supplied to the local market. In each county there was at least one distributing market selected for its geographical position, railway communication and market facilities. The auction system was dropped. Stock for slaughter was graded as to quality at the local market and the farmer was paid according to live weight and grade. An alternative method was introduced at a later stage by which the farmer was paid for his stock after slaughter, when its dressed weight could be accurately ascertained. In order that farmers might have confidence in this method, a number of slaughterhouses were put under co-operative control.*

The livestock markets of the present day may, in general, be broadly divided into assembly markets in producing areas and distributive markets in consuming centres. In a country so thickly populated as England and Wales, these distinctions

* *See also* Ecomomic Series No. 1, Chapter VIII.

tend, it is true, to be obscured. Even in producing areas there is, of course, a local demand, as a rule easily satisfied by a small proportion of the supplies. Conversely, many distributive markets in consuming centres draw most of their supplies from surrounding districts. Though some markets are, as it were, on the border line, the distinction is, nevertheless, useful.

It may be added that, in most counties, cattle markets are usually held twice weekly or weekly; in some counties, fortnightly markets are the rule in all but the principal market towns. The frequency of the larger markets is justified, but some of the smaller markets might well be held less often. A good sale once a month is far better than four bad sales. Markets for fat and store stock respectively are frequently held on separate days, fat stock on a day that will allow for selling the carcases for the week-end trade, according to whether buyers are mainly wholesale or retail butchers. In the more important assembly markets in producing areas the separation of "fat" and "store" days is an aid to efficiency, promotes trade and prepares the way for large seasonal sales of each category of stock. The importance of the store-stock markets is naturally seasonal, as stores are chiefly in demand in the spring months and again in the late summer and autumn.

A change in the market day is, as a rule, to be deprecated, but one or two markets would seem likely to benefit by a change. At Peterborough the fat-cattle market is said to suffer from lack of buyers, since the market is held on the same day as the markets at Nottingham, Leicester, Wellingborough and Northampton. At Bridgnorth there has been an agitation for 30 years to have the market day changed from Saturday to Friday. In general, it should be remembered that livestock sold in exporting areas in markets held on Saturdays, or even on Fridays in some cases, may be delayed on the railway, or at unloading centres, until Monday morning. On the other hand, many dealers, for credit reasons, are said to prefer Saturday markets.

(ii) Private-treaty Markets.

Until the rise of auction marts all markets were private-treaty markets and although auctions have now been established at most public markets, a considerable amount of private-treaty dealing still continues in them. There are, further, a number of important markets in the country in which private treaty is the sole or the main method of business. Returns collected show that out of 961 cattle markets 796 are auction markets only, 128 are both auction and private-treaty, 37 are private-treaty markets only. It may be added that private-treaty markets are common throughout the Continent, auction marts being altogether exceptional.

Markets in which private treaty is the main form of sale fall into two classes. The first and smaller class consists of a few large fat-stock markets in large towns, such as Leeds and Liverpool. These seem to be largely dealers' markets; wholesale butchers preponderate among the buyers. In such markets both

sellers and buyers are thoroughly accustomed to valuation and to dealing in large numbers; attempts to introduce the auction system have not succeeded. The second class consists of the large store-stock markets and, in particular, those to which large numbers of Irish cattle are consigned. At some of these markets auction sales practically never take place; at Bristol, for instance, there are no auction sales except an occasional sale of pedigree stock, the main trade of the market being the sale of Irish stores by private treaty. At others there is a certain amount of auction selling of fat stock. Hull, Norwich and Doncaster, which are large collecting centres for both fat and store cattle, are among markets where both private-treaty sales (for stores) and auction selling (for fat stock) flourish. Dublin cattle market is a good example of a large private dealing market for both fat and store stock.

The private-treaty market can only be satisfactory if both buyers and sellers know their business thoroughly and are well acquainted with current values. Hence, private-treaty markets of store stock are probably most useful where dea'ers and farmers are both operating on a considerable scale.

The facilities required for a private-dea'ing market are less elaborate than those for an auction mart where cattle have to be moved through the auction ring. While a weighing machine must be provided in a private-dealing market where tolls are taken, the law does not make its use compulsory as in the case of fat cattle passing through an auction ring.

(iii) Auction Sales of Fat Stock.

At auction sales fat cattle are usually sold through the ring. Sheep and calves are generally auctioned from the pens in the Midlands and in the South (*see* Fig. 14), though in the North of England and in Scotland it is a common practice to sell them through the auction rings (*see* Fig. 25).

The bulk of the supplies of fat stock disposed of in auction markets, particularly the smaller markets, comes, in general, from within a radius of no more than from 10 to 12 miles round the market. In the Midlands this holds whether the market is in a producing or a consuming area. In the North some of the larger markets draw stock from a much wider radius, especially supplies of fat sheep and lambs, while markets that draw on neighbouring areas where grass-fed beasts are mainly produced have, at times, to supplement their supplies by stall-fed cattle from a distance. These distant supplies may amount to 50 per cent. or more of the fat stock handled, but they are usually dealers' animals that have already changed hands in an auction mart or by private treaty.

One reason for the predominance of short-range marketing is that it enables the farmer to get rid of his animals in good condition without taking a speculative risk in transferring them to more distant markets. Another, and, perhaps, stronger,

reason is that, unless circumstances are exceptional, farmers always prefer to be present when they have stock for sale, and no changes designed to improve sale by auction that did not take account of this fact would stand any chance of success in the case of farmers' markets. Auctioneers encourage the practice as being likely to promote confidence. The distance which a farmer can reasonably travel to attend a market is, therefore, a limiting factor, but, with modern transport facilities, it should be feasible for a large market to serve an area of from 20 to 30 miles radius.

Four kinds of livestock auction markets can be distinguished :—

small marts in producing areas ;
large marts in producing areas (*see* Fig. 15) ;
small marts close to consuming centres ;
large marts in consuming centres (*see* Fig. 16).

The small country auction suffers from a number of disadvantages. Unless the district is one with special advantages for fattening, so that the general average of fat stock pitched is unusually and consistently high, it is not worth while for buyers from a distance to attend the market regularly. Buyers then tend to become local butchers and a fluctuating clientele of dealers. As supplies are apt to vary considerably from market to market, it follows that prices tend to fluctuate excessively. In a small market, again, there is more possibility of "ringing." Further, the individual producer of high-grade stock receives little or no encouragement, since those buyers who are prepared to pay for quality do not usually attend. By way of illustration, it may be mentioned that an attempt was recently made by an auctioneer to start a market some four miles from the nearest railway centre and close to other livestock markets. At one of the sales, seven sheep and two pigs were offered. It is obvious that such a sale is of no assistance to the producer. In some cases auctioneers frankly admit that they carry on small country auctions at a loss in order to retain their connection with farmers for other purposes.

Farmers who send regularly to small country auctions frequently complain that prices compare unfavourably with those realised in the bigger country markets and in the markets in consuming centres. Prices realised in producing areas and consuming centres should not, of course, be compared without making allowance for transport and other charges. But the prices realised in the small country markets can be fairly compared with prices in the large country markets for a similar grade and quality of beast, and the difference is a measure of the advantage of a better marketing system. In many districts it would clearly be to the advantage of producers to take their stock to larger markets further afield rather than to use the smaller markets merely because they are close at hand.

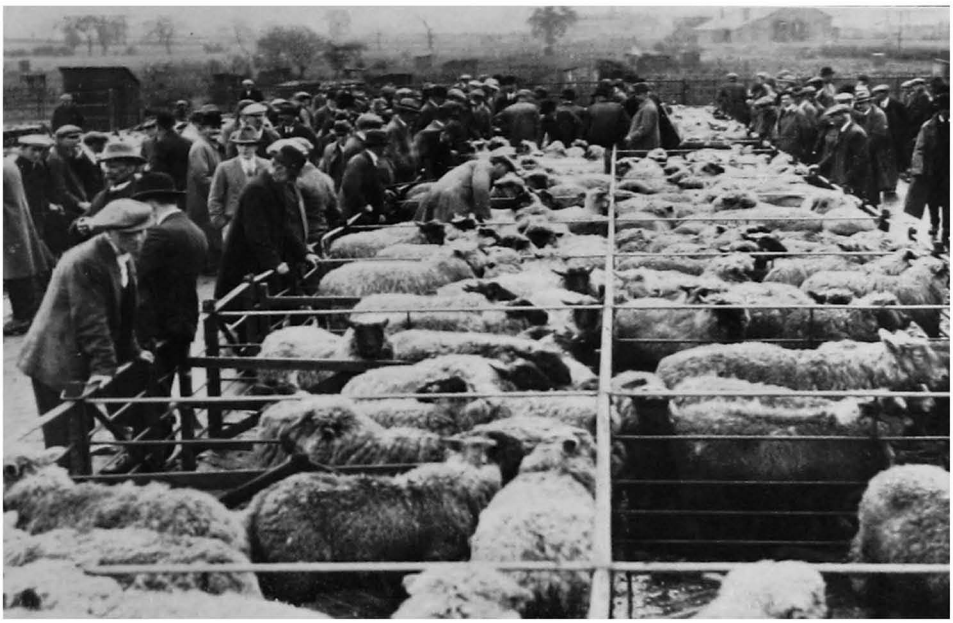


FIG. 14.—Sheep Pens, Midland Marts, Ltd., Banbury.



FIG. 15.—Cattle Ring, Midland Marts, Ltd., Banbury.

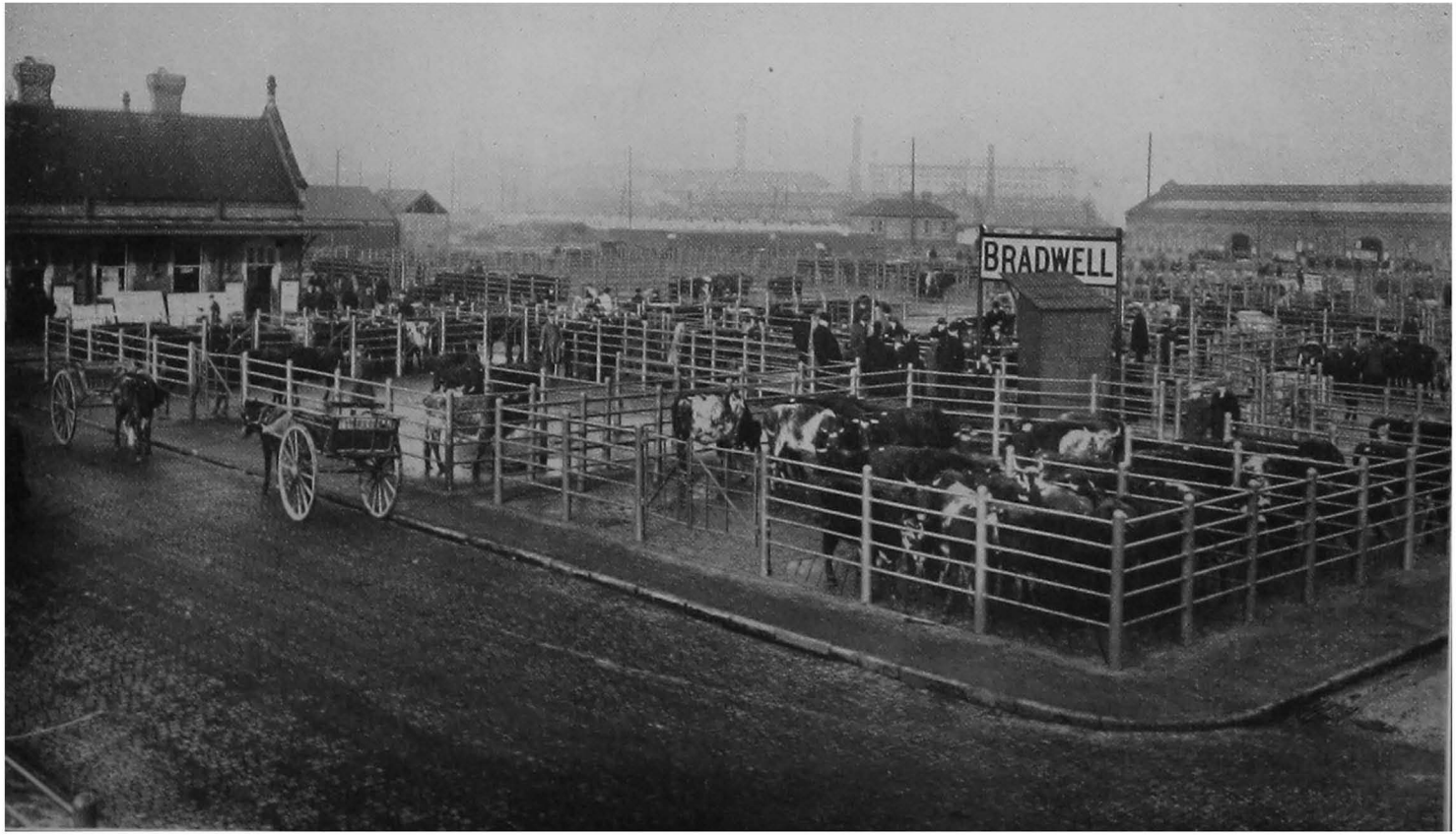


Fig. 16.—The Cattle Market, Nottingham.

At present the relative importance of the country markets in a district depends largely on the energy and efficiency of the auctioneers. Thus, in a period of years, one market becomes the leading centre and is, in turn, displaced by another with the rise and decline of a firm of auctioneers. Only rarely does one market in these circumstances become so large as to establish a permanent leadership and develop into such a dominant centre as, for instance, has happened at Shrewsbury or Rugby. It may be suggested that if producers took a keener interest in the size of the market to which they send their stock and appreciated the disadvantages of selling in small markets, auctioneers would be less tempted to continue or open markets unnecessarily. A greater step forward would be made if, in areas with too many small markets, some understanding were reached between farmers, auctioneers and other interests by which centralisation could be effected. This is referred to later.

In Scotland where, unlike England, cattle markets are largely under private ownership, many small markets have been eliminated in the last 20 years. This is undoubtedly connected with the rise of a large firm of auctioneers, Messrs. Macdonald Fraser & Co. This firm, which has an issued capital of £221,960, has its registered offices in Perth and branch establishments at Glasgow, Dunfermline, Thornton, Milnathort, Blairgowrie, Aberfeldy, Kingussie, Grantown-on-Spey, Inverness, Lairg (Sutherland) and Aberdeen. It has also a controlling holding in Messrs. Speedie Bros., who have centres at Stirling, Cupar, Ladybank, Anstruther and Oban. The business was founded in 1864, and from an initial turnover in stock of about 7,000 sheep and 1,600 cattle, it has increased to a total at all centres in 1925 of 586,200 sheep, 95,258 cattle, 4,270 horses and 5,300 milch cows. Small auctions cannot survive when the business is concentrated in this way. In England, on the other hand, few auctioneers sell at more than three or four markets.

The large assembly markets in producing areas, such as Shrewsbury, Rugby, Northampton, Gloucester, and the Midland Marts, Ltd., at Banbury, are distinguished from other country markets by the greater proportion of supplies which come from a distance. In general these supplies are sent in by dealers and not by farmers. In this connection, the example of Scotland may again be quoted. A leading firm of auctioneers states that while Scottish farmers are careful to attend the sale of their stock, they seldom send fat stock on foot for more than four or five miles, and for greater distances make use of the railway or, to an increasing extent, of motor-floats. As the transport of stock by rail is expensive, except for large numbers, such a system is only worked economically because a constant stream of beasts is sent in by rail to ensure full wagons and low rates. This involves organisation. In England a relatively small amount of fat stock goes by rail to market, except dealers' stock. Any attempt, therefore, to centralise markets in country districts could only be successful if the forwarding of stock by rail or motor were organised as in Scotland.

Markets in consuming centres have different problems to meet. Normally one would expect to find a central market to which all the animals of the surrounding neighbourhood were consigned for sale. Instances of such markets are to be found in the Midlands at Nottingham, Leicester and Derby. This, however, is not the only system used. In districts close to large consuming centres there is a tendency for small markets to exist. Instances of this are to be seen in Monmouthshire, near the industrial districts of South Wales, in Staffordshire and round Birmingham. Most of these small markets show greater liveliness than the small country market in producing areas, because buyers are for the most part retail butchers who require beasts for immediate slaughter and are said to prefer such markets rather than face the competition of the large buyer in a central market. It should, however, be recognised that if such markets are multiplied, competition among buyers is diminished. A limited number of large markets in an industrial area appears, therefore, to be a preferable arrangement.

One difficulty may, however, be mentioned. When cities become very large, it is not always possible to keep a cattle market in existence. Birmingham, for instance, had, at one time, a flourishing cattle market; now it receives no supplies. The former cattle trade has gone to the small country markets surrounding the city, while, in addition, increasing quantities of home-produced meat are being sent direct to the abattoir and wholesale meat market. Most of these animals are sent in by wholesale butchers, but some are consigned by farmers to be sold on commission on a dead weight basis. This example suggests that, in the largest towns, the dead-meat markets might in time interfere with the fat-stock business of the small neighbouring auctions or even absorb it completely (*see* also page 59).

Livestock markets in consuming centres seem to have no special difficulties in normal times in adjusting supply and demand. Most of them are old-established and have a level trade. In the large markets, unless conditions are exceptional, there are always a sufficient number of large buyers to absorb the supplies; in the small markets, wholesalers are usually present who will take surpluses, while farmers, in general, fix reserves which prevent such markets being glutted.

(iv) Auction Sales of Store Stock.

Taking the country as a whole, a smaller percentage of store stock is sold by auction than is the case with fat stock. This is mainly due to the fact that the majority of stores, if exposed for sale in a market at all, are the property of dealers, who have collected them from farms in the store-raising districts of the country and have transported them for sale in the fattening districts. Dealers (amongst whom must be included dealers in Irish cattle) whose living depends on their ability to drive a good bargain naturally tend to patronise private-treaty markets,

such as exist at St. Ives, Peterborough, Norwich, Northampton and York, to the exclusion of auction marts.

In addition to the number of stores which change hands direct from farm to farm, or which are sold at private-treaty markets, a considerable number are purchased at *seasonal* sales organised by auctioneers at different centres throughout the country, such as at Reading, Chichester, Salisbury, Carlisle and Banbury. These seasonal sales are often the outcome of fairs. It must not be supposed, however, that the *weekly* auction mart, as a means of disposing of store stock, is not used. It is used to as full an extent as the seasonal variations of the trade allow, but it is obvious that organised seasonal sales of store stock, either by private treaty or by auction, whether in large markets, such as Leicester, or in the small auction marts, such as exist in the valleys of Yorkshire and Lancashire, are a convenient method of meeting the necessarily fluctuating demands of the store cattle and store sheep trade.

The question whether store stock should be sold by private treaty or by auction is one on which opinion varies in different parts of the country. In Northumberland, Westmorland and the North generally, a large percentage of store stock, both sheep and cattle, is sold through the auctions in bunches ranging from 10 to 30 in the case of cattle and from 20 to 60 in the case of sheep; the same also applies to Scotland. This may be due to the fact that the auction system saves time and has been found to have competitive advantages. At certain markets in the Midlands and the South all store-stock is sold by private treaty. Canadian and Irish store cattle are, as a rule, sold by private treaty even in the North of England, probably because they are consigned by dealers. Recently a few auction sales of Irish stores have been specially organised in this country, the stores offered having been consigned direct by Irish breeders; the average number on offer at any one sale would appear to be about 500.

The trade in store pigs differs from the trade in store cattle and sheep in that, with the exception of the smaller markets, store pigs are almost invariably sold by auction at the same markets as fat pigs.

(v) Weighing and Sale by Weight.

Under the Markets and Fairs (Weighing of Cattle) Act, 1926, an auctioneer shall not offer for sale in any market, fair or mart, in or near which a weighing machine is provided for the purpose of complying with the provisions of the Markets and Fairs (Weighing of Cattle) Acts, 1887 and 1891, any cattle which are fit for immediate slaughter unless they have been weighed on the weighing machine and their weight disclosed by the auctioneer to intending purchasers at the time of offer for sale. Exemptions can, however, be made by the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries in certain circumstances. The Act does not apply to cattle sold by private treaty.

Of the 710 markets affected by the Act, in only about 250 has it already been more or less the practice for cattle to be weighed before sale.

In the more up-to-date markets, where dial weighbridges have been installed, the weighbridges are placed at the entrance of the selling ring, and as the cattle stand on the weighbridge before passing into the ring, the weight of each beast is recorded on the dial (*see* Fig. 17). Where the dial has no fixed pointer, the weights are in some cases chalked up on a blackboard—which, however, is rarely consulted, except in the North of England—or more often are not recorded at all.

Although, therefore, the Act of 1926 is a step in the right direction, it still remains to convince the seller of the usefulness of the dial weighbridge The buyer who is handling large quantities of stock obviously has greater opportunities of confirming his skill in making purchases "by eye" than has the seller. The seller would, therefore, be well advised to translate his sales of cattle into the prices per cwt. which his beasts fetch. Auctioneers would be acting in the farmers' interest in emulating the example of Shrewsbury, which, it is claimed, was the first market where a weighbridge was erected and animals were publicly weighed before entering the sale ring. At this market the weight of the bunch of cattle and the average weight of each are place on a blackboard within view of sellers and buyers, who, with the aid of a ready-reckoner, can see at a glance what is the price per cwt. live weight. It is suggested that ready-reckoners in large type should be posted conspicuously on the walls of all livestock auction rings. With a few exceptions, notably in Cornwall, bidding by live weight is not practised, though it might usefully be tried in markets in other parts of the country.

It has been proved in Scotland that the installation of weighbridges and their use by farmers, who convert the weights and prices by ready-reckoner into terms of price per live cwt., have not only contributed to the improvement in livestock auctions which has admittedly taken place during the last 20 years, but have given the farmers more confidence in the auction system and supplied them with valuable data regarding the value of stock.

(vi) Auction Selling Charges.

Auctioneers' charges for selling usually average from 1¼ to 2½ per cent. of the gross price realised; they are usually made at a fixed rate per £1, but, in some markets, they are made on a per head basis. As a general rule, they can hardly be regarded as out of proportion to the services rendered, to the expenses, such as rent, book-keeping, bad debts, advertising, &c., which auctioneers incur, or to the fact that auctioneers have to carry the risk of their markets being closed for long periods as a result of foot-and-mouth disease. Competition also plays an important part in keeping charges within reasonable limits. At the same

time, it must be admitted that, in the course of a year, the commission paid to auctioneers for the sale of livestock on a farm of even medium size is a very considerable item of expenditure. The scope for economies is not great, but cheaper selling should be possible if overhead charges could be spread over a larger turnover by, for example, eliminating the smaller marts, by reducing the number of auctioneers selling the same class of stock in a large market, or by amalgamating the control of some of the larger marts.

(vii) The Credit Factor.*

Auctioneers sometimes allow farmers to buy livestock on credit, on condition that the stock is resold in their markets. In some districts, auctioneers also give credit to butchers who buy at their sales. The suggestion is sometimes made that the "hold" which auctioneers thus acquire over supplies is inimical to farmers' interests.

It should be pointed out, however, that, if wisely used, such a "hold" may be beneficial rather than otherwise. Normally, it would not be to the advantage of an auctioneer who has given credit to a farmer to press him to sell the stock concerned unless it were ready for sale, since the auctioneer would, thereby, do no good to the reputation of his market and would lose by obtaining a smaller commission. Further, it would only be to his interest to call on farmers to sell if the stock entered for a particular sale were less than usual and if prices were likely, therefore, to be better.

In point of fact, the credit arrangement referred to above is in general use by all successful auctioneers and is, no doubt, one way of securing a strong and regular market, which is, of course, desirable from a producers' standpoint. It is probable, too, that, in present circumstances, the credit which flows into agriculture from this source is of great value in financing production. The system is one which the farmer understands and is ready to use, and there is no reason to suppose that he pays unduly for it. He may, perhaps, have to pay more than if he used ordinary bank credit, but as short-term bank credit is not, at present, used by farmers here to the extent that it is abroad, credit from auctioneers is a useful substitute. There is also the point that an auctioneer is in a better position to know the value of the stock on which he is, in effect, lending the money, than the manager of a bank could be. A less desirable form of credit is where the auctioneer finances the purchase of the stock and, on re-sale, recoups himself by taking half the gross profit.

It is interesting to note the details of a credit scheme which has been started, comparatively recently, by a firm of auctioneers in the Midlands. Farmers who apply for credit are divided into classes. The first consists of farmers of good standing who are short of capital. These are given credit to purchase stock on

* *See also* Economic Series No. 8 (Report on Agricultural Credit), p. 31.

signing a document that they will, when disposing of them, sell them through the auction. In the event of bad trade, they can withdraw them from a sale and sell later on. The only charge, besides the ordinary commission of 3*d.* in the £ for selling, is an interest charge of 1 per cent. above the rate which the firm has to pay the bank for any money it borrows for this purpose. The second class consists of farmers whose credit is doubtful. These buy through the auction but transfer the stock afterwards to the firm. An agreement is signed by which the firm undertakes, if necessary, to advance further sums to defray the cost of feeding. When the stock is ready for market the farmer brings them back to the mart and the total proceeds of sale are handed to him, less the same amount that would have been deducted in the case of transactions in the first class. In both cases, the farmer, through the market, is secured the maximum profit according to his ability to buy and feed satisfactorily. Apart from interest charges, the scheme, in fact, places him in as good a position to stock his land as the wealthiest farmer. It may be noted that in Scotland, where the Bills of Sale Acts do not apply, an arrangement of this kind has been common practice for many years.

This scheme undoubtedly ties the farmer to the market, but there is a safeguard in the fact that the firm in question has a strong producer element in its composition. Experience shows that failures among co-operative livestock auctions can usually be traced to their inability to cope with the credit problem. In most cases they have not sufficient capital to give the same credit facilities as the private auctioneer, and, consequently, go under. If, however, these societies were in a position to give adequate credit to their members and other buyers in the market, the fact that members would thereby be tied would be an advantage, for it would strengthen the market which is working in their interests in exactly the same way as the contract system strengthens other forms of co-operative marketing.

CHAPTER VII: LIVESTOCK MARKETS (II).

(i) Auction "Rings."

Under the Sale of Goods Act, 1893, a vendor may not himself bid for the commodities which he is offering for sale; he may not employ anyone else to bid for him, nor may the auctioneer knowingly accept such a bid unless the right to bid has been expressly reserved in the advertised conditions of sale. Such is the law governing the practice known in various parts of the country as "bogus-bidding" or "trotting."

When buyers in combination agree not to bid in competition in order to obtain the goods offered for sale at a low figure they are said to have formed a "ring." Goods so obtained are usually divided up among the members of the "ring," either at an agreed price or by further private auction. The latter procedure is termed a "knock-out." It is known that "rings" exist in agricultural markets of all kinds, but it is hard to prove that "ringing" is actually taking place. An auctioneer is not, of course, bound to accept a bid if he knows that it comes from a member of a "ring."

The practice of "ringing" is not, in itself, illegal. In the case of *Levi* v. *Levi*, which was decided in 1833, Baron Gurney laid down the law as follows: "Owners of goods have a right to expect at an auction that there will be an open competition from the public; and if a knot of men go to an auction upon an agreement among themselves of the kind that has been described, they are guilty of an indictable offence and may be tried for conspiracy."*

This judgment has, on more than one occasion, been adversely criticised, particularly by Mr. Justice Wright in the case of *Leopard* v. *Litoun*. In that case, it appeared that, in 1896, the Government held a sale of surplus stores at Woolwich Arsenal, and among the lots sold was one consisting of four cases of sweet spirit of nitre. Prior to the sale it had been arranged between the plaintiff and defendant that they should not bid against each other, that the defendant should purchase the goods and that, after the sale, they should agree as to how the goods should be disposed. At the sale the goods were knocked down to the defendant for £5, and it was subsequently arranged that the defendant should sell the goods to the plaintiff for £6. The value of the goods was £13 10*s*. The defendant failed to perform his part of the contract and the plaintiff thereupon sued him. The deputy county court Judge held that the arrangement between the parties prior to the sale was a conspiracy to cheat the Government and accordingly non-suited the plaintiff. The plaintiff appealed on the grounds that there was no conspiracy and, even if there were, it did not affect the subsequent contract. Mr. Justice Wright said that he could

* H. Hart: "Law relating to Auctioneers."

see nothing illegal in what the parties had done and expressed the view that *Levi* v. *Levi* was not law. This view was affirmed by a majority of the judges in the case, in the Court of Appeal, of *Rawlings* v. *General Trading Company* (1921, 1 King's Bench, page 635).

It therefore seems that a " knock-out " *per se*, is not indictable or even illegal. Yet it may be observed that such a proceeding is not unlikely to bring in its train unfair and fraudulent practices on the part of the associates which may render them, in the result, indictable for conspiracy. Reference might also be made to a recent decision given by Mr. Justice McCardie in June, 1926, that the existence of a " knock-out " does not make a sale invalid —although the " unfair and injurious system of knock-outs was far too prevalent."

A Bill was introduced by Lord Darling in the 1926 Session of Parliament to make illegal any agreement not to bid at an auction sale in competition with any other person with intent that the property offered for sale shall be afterwards acquired by the person making the agreement, or some other person, from the purchaser of the property at the sale. The Bill did not succeed in passing before the Session concluded. It has been introduced in the House of Commons in the present Session and has been given a Second Reading.

Although some auctioneers affirm that they have never had evidence of " rings " and that " rings " exist only in the imagination of a few disappointed sellers, it does, unfortunately, appear to be the case that " ringing " has increased in recent years in the smaller and less efficient markets. The usual way of combating the evil is either by reserving, on behalf of the vendor, the right to bid, or by reserving the animals to be sold at a certain figure , if the reserve is not reached, it is understood that the farmer is prepared to take his beasts home again. There is no doubt, however, that, in the case of livestock auctions, " ringing " can best be countered by concentrating supplies on the larger markets, or by sending direct to abattoirs in touch with wholesale meat markets.

(ii) Conditions of Sale.*

Except in a few instances, conditions of sale are posted by the auctioneers in all livestock markets. On the whole, there is substantial agreement between the main conditions laid down, though there is considerable variation in phrasing. The main variation of an important character relates to the right or disability of a vendor to bid for his own stock ; uniformity in this respect would be an advantage.

In a number of cases, the auctioneer reserves, on behalf of the vendor, the right to bid. In others, all lots are to be sold to the highest bidder unless the auctioneer is given a reserve in writing before the sale ; this is, in effect much the same as the practice which prevails at other auctions where a vendor may

* For particulars, *see* Appendix II, page 73.

bid once only. At other auctions, again, the practice is for the vendor to bid up to the reserve price. The important point in connection with vendors' bids, is that they are illegal unless notified on the conditions of sale.

It is the general practice in auctions of land and houses for the vendor to reserve the right to bid in the conditions of sale; in such auctions, time is not usually of paramount importance. It is questionable, however, whether it is desirable for the auctioneer to make a practice of allowing bidding by vendors at livestock auctions, since, if persisted in, it defeats its own object, and, in most cases, causes delay. Fixing a reserve price is, of course, a different matter and is, in many cases, essential to protect the interests of the vendor.

Some conditions of sale include special clauses relating to warranties and descriptions. In a number of cases special lists of such conditions for the sale of dairy cows and horses are printed for information. This appears to be a desirable practice. Definite allowances are sometimes prescribed for cows sold down-calving and for cows not calving within a specified time. In Wiltshire, for example, several auctioneers have been asked to agree to a suggestion that where the animal fails to calve within 20 days of the date stated at the auction, the vendor shall allow 5*s*. per week in summer and 10*s*. in winter until the calving takes place. In view of the great importance of warranties, particularly in markets where dairy cattle are sold, an agreed scheme applied throughout the country would probably be of service to such markets.

For these and other reasons, it would, therefore, seem desirable that, as in the case of wool, standard conditions of sale should be laid down by the Auctioneers Institute, after consultation with the users of the markets.* A point for consideration is whether a rule should not be introduced into the standard conditions to prevent buyers from entering the ring in the case of cattle sales. Such a rule would have a great effect in speeding up business. The example of Scotland, where the custom of excluding buyers from the ring is general, seems to show that it can be adopted without hardship to buyers.

The mere drafting of conditions of sale might, however, be of little value unless their observance could be made obligatory on members by the professional organisations concerned. This leads to the question whether the Auctioneers Institute should have more responsibility in regard to auctioneers' licences. At present, these are granted, without inquiry, by the Board of Customs and Excise on payment of an annual fee of £10. In other countries, such as Australia, some scrutiny of licences is required by law.

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* *See also* Economic Series No. 7 (Wool Marketing), Economic Series No. 10 (Egg Marketing) and Economic Series No. 11 (Poultry Marketing).

(iii) Livestock Street Markets.

It is remarkable that while nearly all livestock markets must have originally been held in the street or open market place, the exceptions being privately-owned auction marts of recent date, comparatively few livestock street markets exist at the present day. This is, in itself, a testimony to the greater convenience of the properly-equipped market, removed from the street and, as a rule, situated near a railway station. The acquisition of a new site and the building of a new market usually involve considerable expense which would not be incurred without good reason

The impulse to provide a better alternative to the street market may have originated in, or been reinforced by, the growth of auctions. Proper sale-rings are a great convenience to all concerned and, in the nature of things, are not to be found in a street market. A market place without pens, without sale-rings, without any covered accommodation, must necessarily make business slower and more difficult to transact, and this alone should induce the authorities concerned to afford better facilities. Further, it has been proved that a street market jeopardises the success of any attempt to establish an efficient market under satisfactory conditions in the same centre. Finally, it is practically impossible to pass all fat cattle over a weighbridge in the street.

There are also other features of the street market which help to make it an anachronism (*see* Figs. 18 and 19). It leads to unnecessary cruelty. Fat beasts are bruised in the endeavour to keep them under control and lose value. It is undesirable from a sanitary and public health standpoint. Lastly, there can be no question that, from a traffic standpoint, the existence of street markets is a nuisance. In some cases, indeed, the congestion is such that it is difficult for vehicles to pass through the streets where the market is in progress; in all cases, there is the danger of stock breaking away.

It may be asked why the local authorities concerned—nearly all street markets are owned by local authorities—do not provide proper accommodation. Many reasons could, no doubt, be put forward, including the difficulty of extinguishing market rights, and the opposition of vested interests. Shop-keepers fear that if the market is removed from the square, their trade may suffer. Licensees of public-houses adjacent to the market place are naturally averse to any alteration which would take the market away. Hence there is usually a considerable body of local opinion ready to support those who urge that the market has been in its present position from time immemorial, and what was good enough then is good enough to-day.

Farmers, on the other hand, are well aware that they stand to gain by the provision of proper market accommodation. In fact, in some of the worst cases, farmers refuse to send their stock to the market because the facilities offered are so poor.



FIG. 17.—Cattle Auction Market, Bridgnorth.



FIG. 18.—A livestock street market.



FIG. 19.—A country livestock market 20 years ago.
(Reproduced from "The Field" and by courtesy of Mr. W. Carter Platte.)

The small-holder, with a fat beast to sell, has a special grievance. He cannot afford to pay a drover to mind the animal and he is, therefore, compelled to remain by it, perhaps for half the morning, till it is put through the auction. In an ordinary market, as soon as the beast is driven into the allotted pen, he would be free for any other business. Auctioneers, it need hardly be said, are almost universally against street markets, which they regard as a serious handicap to their business. Dealers, with store stock to offer, probably find that a street market provides sufficient accommodation for their purpose, but, when dealing in fat cattle, they are in much the same position as the farmer or the butcher, and welcome improved facilities.

The impossibility of marketing cattle efficiently in the streets, the cruelty and the waste of time which street markets cause, the likelihood that they may spread disease and their interference with traffic seem strong *prima facie* reasons for abolishing all livestock markets held in public thoroughfares. If, as is often the case, the markets are nothing more than small-paved areas in the corner of market-places where, every week or fortnight, a few beasts are sold to local buyers at poor prices, it would be an advantage, from a marketing standpoint, if they ceased to exist altogether. If they are big markets attracting large buyers, it should be an economic proposition to provide satisfactory accommodation.

Some exception might perhaps be made in favour of annual sales and cattle fairs held in the street, but only on the ground that the nuisance is less frequent. Further, these tend to diminish as the practice of selling by auction extends.

(iv) Accommodation in Livestock Markets.

In general, the lay-out of cattle markets is on a common plan, though, in some cases, the facilities are not as convenient as they might be. From views expressed by market superintendents, auctioneers and others experienced in market practice, the following notes have been prepared to show what are commonly regarded as desirable features of a well-planned livestock market.

(1) Where possible, the cattle market should have its own railway sidings leading direct, by a separate market road, into the market. Where this is not possible, the narrow streets of the town should be avoided by using by-pass roads. The cattle market should in no case be more than a mile from the railway and should be near main roads.

(2) The roadways in the market should be wide and paved. The pens should be so placed as to permit of easy access from the unloading banks at the railway sidings, or from the roads by which stock are brought in direct by sellers, and should give easy access to the drawing pens through which the animals pass prior to entering the sale-rings. To avoid damage and unnecessary suffering to the animals, efficient, movable, unloading banks should be provided for calves, sheep and pigs arriving by road vehicles.

(3) For store cattle, there is no great advantage in covering the pens, unless the covered accommodation is up to date and permits of good lighting. For fat-stock, dairy cattle, calves and pigs, covered accommodation is desirable (*see* Fig. 20). Byres and sheds should be well ventilated and free from draught. At the larger Scottish livestock markets, notably Edinburgh and Glasgow, and at many of the larger markets in the North of England, the whole of the market area is covered (*see* Figs. 22 and 23); the expenditure incurred is said to have been more than justified by increased business. Where pens are not covered, trees afford a welcome shade to animals in summer as well as add to the attractiveness of the market, though the roots are liable to damage the market paving. Where animals, such as Irish stores, are detained over a period of days, covered lairage accommodation is desirable (*see* Fig. 21).

(4) Pens should be provided with double-acting gates. Iron divisions between the pens have been found to be the most satisfactory. Feeding troughs should be of concrete, or preferably of glazed brick. Pens should, of course, be paved; the most satisfactory form of paving for cattle markets is concrete, which should be well roughened by grooving and by brushing the surface before it sets. Pens should be drained on the multiple system which permits of draining into the sides of the market roadways.

(5) There should be three or more rings in a market, for dairy cows, fat cattle and sheep respectively (*see* Figs. 24 and 25), and possibly store stock. The ring should be centrally situated, so that a buyer having business in more than one ring may pass quickly from one to the other. Where the rings are centrally situated, one pay-office will serve all the rings and will assist in the rapid and prompt payment of accounts—an important point in auction business. The entrances to and exits from the rings should be just wide enough for the beasts and no more; if too wide, they tend to be packed with buyers and onlookers, which makes it difficult, without unnecessary cruelty, to induce the animals to pass through. Space wasted on the approaches to the rings also means less space for buyers and sellers.

(6) The sale ring should be covered for protection from the weather (*see* Fig. 24). It should be well ventilated—without being cold and draughty—and well lighted, but the building itself need not be too solid, as this makes enlargement or alteration expensive; at the same time, a ring built of galvanised iron or metal work has often bad acoustics. Artificial lighting should be available in the ring on dark days.

(7) Staging and tiered seats to permit of good observation should be provided around the ring and should be adequate to accommodate the buyers attending the larger sales. In some of the Scottish auctions there is seating accommodation for 500 to 700 people, and no buyers are allowed in the ring during selling. In England the presence of a large number of people in the ring is a common occurrence; in one instance, as many as 80 were



Fig. 20.—Covered pig pens at Peterborough.



Fig. 21.—Lairages and dairy cow byres, Cattle Market, Leicester.



FIG. 22.—Sheep pens in private auction market of Messrs. John Swan & Sons, Ltd., Edinburgh.

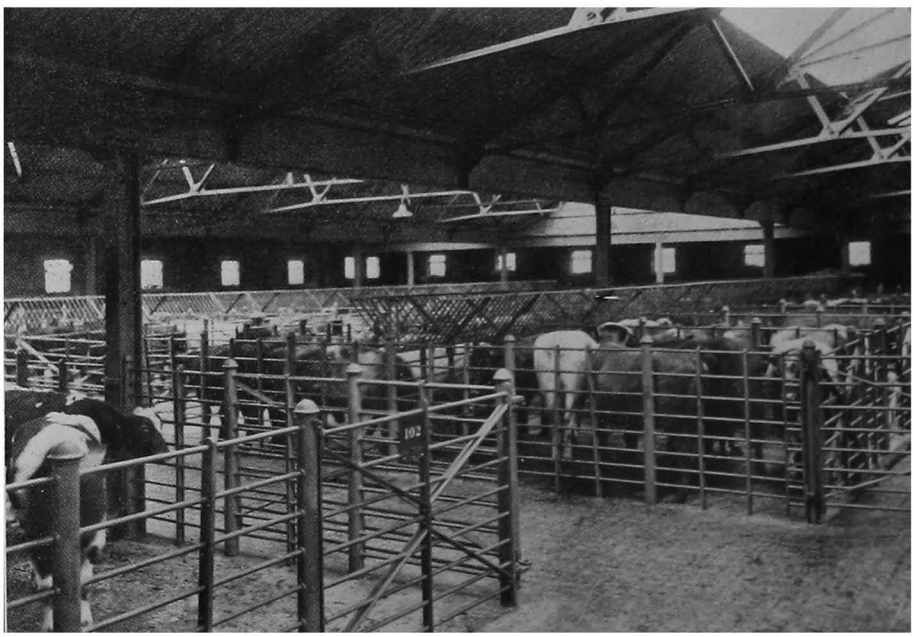


FIG. 23.—Feeding and lairage pens in the same market, Edinburgh.



FIG. 24.—Cattle ring in private auction market, Edinburgh.



FIG. 25.—Sheep ring in private auction market, Perth.

counted in a single ring, and not all were buyers. There are even cases where auctioneers permit dealers to invade the rostrum during sales—a practice which has been the subject of protest by branches of the National Farmers Union. No seats within the ring should be provided in the case of cattle auctions and no one but the drover and the vendor should be allowed within the ring.

(8) The weighbridge should be situated at the entrance to the ring, the dial facing the auctioneer; the board for recording the weights of the animals should be on one side of the exit for stock, which should be opposite the entry. A small point, but one of some importance, is the provision of a reliable clock.

(9) Refreshment rooms, in or near the market, and lavatories should be provided. A settling-room should be provided for buyers. There should also be adequate parking accommodation for vehicles. Pigs and sheep are, in many cases, transported to and from market in motor vans; buyers and sellers use motor cars extensively.

A plan showing the lay-out of a modern livestock auction market is shown in Diagram A on page 56.

(v) Public and Private Control of Auction Marts.

The larger auction marts are mainly situated in markets owned by public authorities, while many of the smaller country marts are in private hands.

In many publicly-owned markets it is difficult to exercise adequate control over the selling arrangements. Apparently, in a number of cases, the authorities regard themselves as under an obligation to permit any auctioneer, who is ready to pay them rent, to sell in the market, with the result that, in some markets, there are too many auctioneers. In one instance noted there are as many as 25. In this connection attention should be drawn to the fact that a byelaw made by the predecessor in title of the Tavistock Urban District Council, under Section 42 of the Markets and Fairs Clauses Act, 1847, to the effect that " no person shall sell or cause to be sold by auction, Dutch auction or public competition . . . without the consent of the superintendent, collector, inspector or surveyor of the markets or his assistant " was held by Mr. Justice Romer in December, 1922, to be invalid as being repugnant to the laws regulating the conditions prevailing in that part of the United Kingdom in which it was sought to be imposed and also, as a byelaw, it had the effect of prohibiting sales by auction in public market in that place. It should, however, be added that the local Act did not require confirmation of the byelaw by the Minister of Health, and that the latter has expressed the opinion that a byelaw, differently framed (in particular, regulating rather than prohibiting auctions, and laying down rules rather than depending on discretion) would not be invalid.

It remains true, nevertheless, that the powers of local authorities to limit the number of auctioneers in public markets

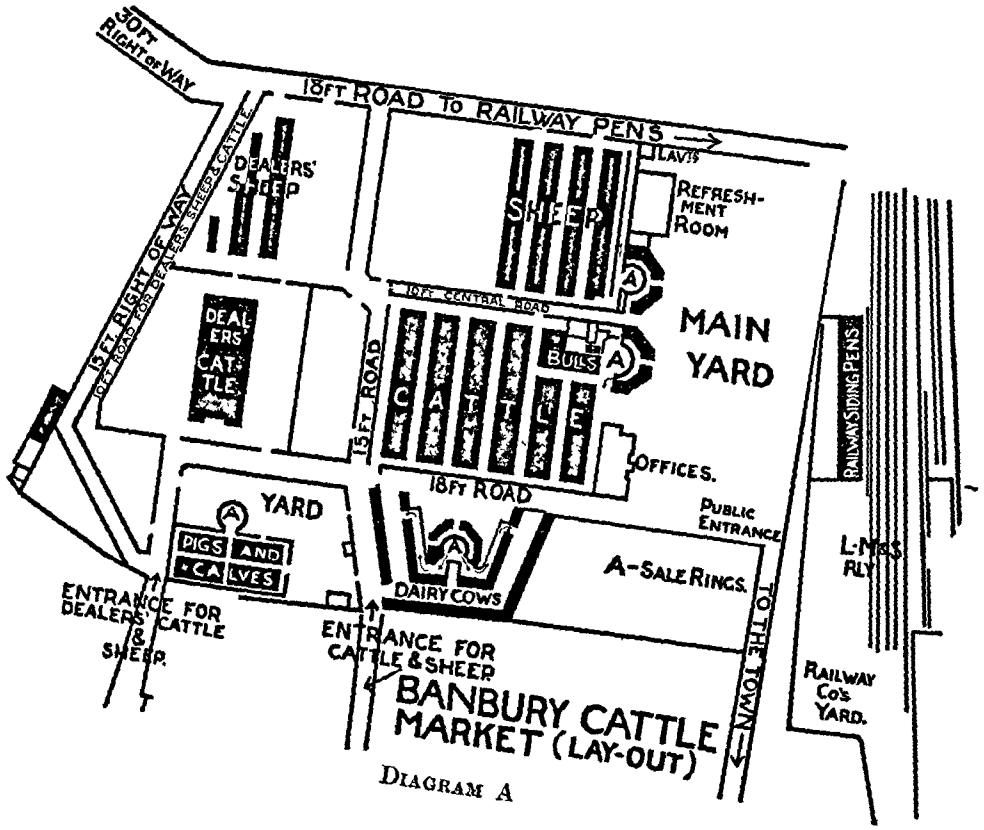

30FT RIGHT OF WAY
18FT ROAD TO RAILWAY PENS
LAVTS
DEALERS' SHEEP
SHEEP
REFRESHMENT ROOM
15 FT RIGHT OF WAY
OF ROAD FOR DEALERS' SHEEP & CATTLE
18FT CENTRAL ROAD
DEALERS CATTLE
BULLS
MAIN YARD
15FT ROAD
CATTLE
OFFICES.
18FT ROAD
PUBLIC ENTRANCE
YARD
RAILWAY SIDING PENS
PIGS AND CALVES
L.M.&S. RLY
A-SALE RINGS.
DAIRY COWS
TO THE TOWN
ENTRANCE FOR DEALERS' CATTLE & SHEEP
ENTRANCE FOR CATTLE & SHEEP
RAILWAY Co's YARD.
BANBURY CATTLE MARKET (LAY-OUT)

DIAGRAM A

are restricted, and that they are unable to exercise the control which, in certain cases, might be exercised by a private owner, unless, as for example, at Derby and Bridlington, powers in that regard have been specially conferred by Parliament. At Derby the Markets Committee, or any of its officers, is empowered by the local Act to prevent, at any time, any person exercising the calling of an auctioneer in the Cattle Market. Under the Bridlington Corporation Act, 1904, commodities, except perishables, may not be sold by auction unless with the consent of the Corporation.

Further, local authorities are, in many cases, unable to prevent the clashing of sales of one and the same kind in their markets. There is a good deal to be said for the view that it should be competent for a local authority to intervene, if necessary, for that purpose, and, in some cases, as in Glasgow, this is already achieved by byelaw. In other cases, clashing can only be avoided by agreement, as, for example, when the auctioneers arrange to take turns in holding their sales. In one instance, at least, an arrangement has been made by which one auctioneer handles cattle, another sheep, another pigs. Much can also be done to ensure effective competition by concentrating the sale rings in one part of the market, so that it is easy for buyers to pass from one to the other. In the smaller privately-owned markets, and in farmer-controlled marts, the auction is in the hands of a single firm and no question of clashing arises.

Then again, in publicly-owned markets, there is undue competition from private dealing. Just as a local authority cannot forbid auctions, so it cannot forbid private dealing, and, therefore, dealers can come to market early and make their purchases before the time specified for the auction sale to begin. This practice, if it becomes at all common in a market, makes it difficult for the auctioneer to organise the sale, and may, at any time, cause disappointment to buyers who come from a long distance. In a private market, as a rule, no selling is possible before the advertised time and all buyers are given an equal opportunity.

On the other hand, it is a disadvantage of private ownership that markets that are, in themselves, uneconomic tend to be perpetuated and, hence, that an unnecessary number of markets is likely to be maintained. Auctioneers who own a small market are generally reluctant to give it up, even though it returns no profit or shows an annual loss (*see* page 42). In some instances, it is known that such auctions are only continued to keep out a rival firm.

Then, again, in small privately-owned markets, it sometimes happens that the auctioneer is not in a strong enough position to exercise adequate control. It is said that some markets are manipulated by dealers to such an extent that local farmers no longer send in supplies; there are other markets where a few butchers have established supremacy. In the latter case,

the market probably disappears in due course, but a market which is nursed by a group of dealers may go on indefinitely.

Further, the weaker private markets, as is natural, are often poorly equipped, though poor equipment cannot be regarded as characteristic of private ownership, since some of the best-equipped markets for their size are in private hands. This is especially true of the North of England. In this connection, it has been suggested that Charters have a restrictive effect on the efforts of local authorities to improve public markets, and there can be no doubt that some local authorities have done less to develop and improve the markets under their charge than an average firm of auctioneers would have done in similar circumstances. The desire for increased business would, normally, be sufficient inducement to any competent auctioneer to see that his market has the necessary facilities.

It is a noticeable fact that the great majority of the markets in Scotland and the North of England, where, in general, auctions are more efficiently conducted than in the South, are privately owned. Hence, it has been urged by some that it would be a good thing if many of the public markets in the producing areas were similarly under private control. There is no suggestion that any change could or should be made in the ownership of the large publicly-owned markets in consuming centres, but it is contended that the smaller local authorities are often indifferent to the efficient administration of markets while, at the same time, private firms are unable to step in and effect the desired improvement.

It should be noted that local authorities owning markets under the general law cannot lease them without the consent of the Minister of Health.

(vi) Co-ordination.

There are four parties mainly concerned with livestock markets, namely, farmers, auctioneers, buyers and market owners, and there is reason to think that the more far-seeing leaders of each class would be willing to examine the livestock markets in their own area to see whether economies could be effected by reducing the numbers of these markets and strengthening the larger among them. Farmers stand to gain most, and since any reorganisation would be useless and even harmful unless it were at least as convenient to farmers as the present system, the local branches of the National Farmers Union would seem to be the bodies from which the initiative should come. It is obvious, however, that other interests would have to be brought into consultation at an early stage, which suggests that it might be of advantage if market committees were set up voluntarily in the producing areas by the interests concerned to discuss the problems of livestock marketing arising in their particular districts.

The idea of viewing a producing area as a marketing unit is comparatively novel, and even if some agreement could be

reached as to the best possible arrangement of markets for a county, the plan decided on could hardly be carried into effect as a single step. Changes would almost certainly have to take place gradually, and probably as a result of careful enquiry and practical experiment in one or two particular areas.

This, however, leads automatically to a wider issue. In a city there is a marketing committee of the Corporation, which superintends, regulates and improves the city markets. But there is at present no regional body which functions in the same way for the rural markets of all kinds in a county area. It has, therefore, been suggested that a market committee of the county council should be formed in each county and charged with this duty, or alternatively, that regional markets committees, such as those suggested above, should be set up for the purpose. Such bodies would, it is felt, not only lead to co-operation between the interests concerned in raising the standard of markets and marketing methods, but they would be in a better and stronger position than market owners, as individuals, to face such problems as the elimination of small, economically and financially unsound markets, the restrictions, if any, caused by market Charters, the multiplication of auctioneers in certain markets, the avoidance of unnecessary clashing of market days, the elimination, as far as possible, of the unnecessary haulage and handling of both produce and livestock, the organisation of market trains and motor transport for livestock and the planning of new markets.

A difficulty in regard to this suggestion is that the control which such committees could exercise would, in present circumstances, be limited by the market rights of local authorities and other market owners. As to how far improvements could be achieved by local influence without interfering with existing market rights and without the aid of statutory powers are matters which would call for further consideration.

(vii) Possibilities of Country Slaughtering.

Reference has been made to the fact that the practice of consigning fat stock to a public abattoir for sale on commission on a dead-weight basis is reported to be on the increase in many places; as the dead-meat markets in large towns are growing in importance, it is possible that there will be a trend in this direction in future.

The slaughterhouses which market the farmers' stock in this way are nearly always situated in consuming centres. From time to time attempts have been made to establish slaughterhouses in producing areas, but the principal difficulty is that of supply. A large slaughterhouse cannot be operated economically unless its turnover is large, which is, of course, contingent on the suitable fat cattle in the area of supply being sent to the abattoir. The number of producing areas in England and Wales which would be suitable for the introduction of such a system is, in any event, limited. Its main advantage lies in saving the loss in

weight and deterioration which livestock sustain when moved from market to market, or when railed long distances on the hoof and in the lower railway rates on dead-meat than on live-stock. It is, therefore, applicable to what may be termed exporting areas, *i.e.*, areas that regularly consign to distant markets.

Slaughtering for consignment to distant markets is, however, a complicated business. The edible by-products have to be used immediately, but their market is in the consuming centres, and if offals have to be transported to any distance, losses may be considerable. Then again, unless the slaughterhouse is large, the inedible by-products cannot be utilised to full advantage. There is the further point that, if the market is poor, livestock can always be returned to the farm or railed to another market, but meat, if to be sold fresh, must be disposed of immediately. Finally, meat quickly loses its "bloom," and, if railed long distances, may compare unfavourably in appearance, though not in quality, with meat freshly killed at the point of consumption.

That these difficulties are not insuperable is proved by the fact that the highest-priced meat sold in Smithfield Market, London, is marketed in this way. This is beef from the Aberdeen district, which is, as a rule, sold in the London market 36 hours after dispatch. One of the features of this trade is that, on the whole, it is a trade in high-class beef; though, on occasion, the less highly-priced joints are also marketed in the same way. The trade is of long standing, and appears to continue partly because the senders have adopted what is essentially the principle of an export trade and, in general, limit railings to supplies of prime quality, partly because of the existence of a large surplus over local requirements, and partly because of a well-organised railway service. Of greater importance is the fact that the Smithfield wholesale carcase butcher prefers to handle meat killed at the point of production rather than to receive cattle on the hoof. This preference is not, in fact, confined to Aberdeen, but extends to supplies landed at Birkenhead and elsewhere. There is now a tendency for small supplies of English cattle to be dealt with in this way in certain parts of England.

CHAPTER VIII: ABATTOIRS, COLD STORES, HIDE AND SKIN MARKETS.

(i) Abattoirs.

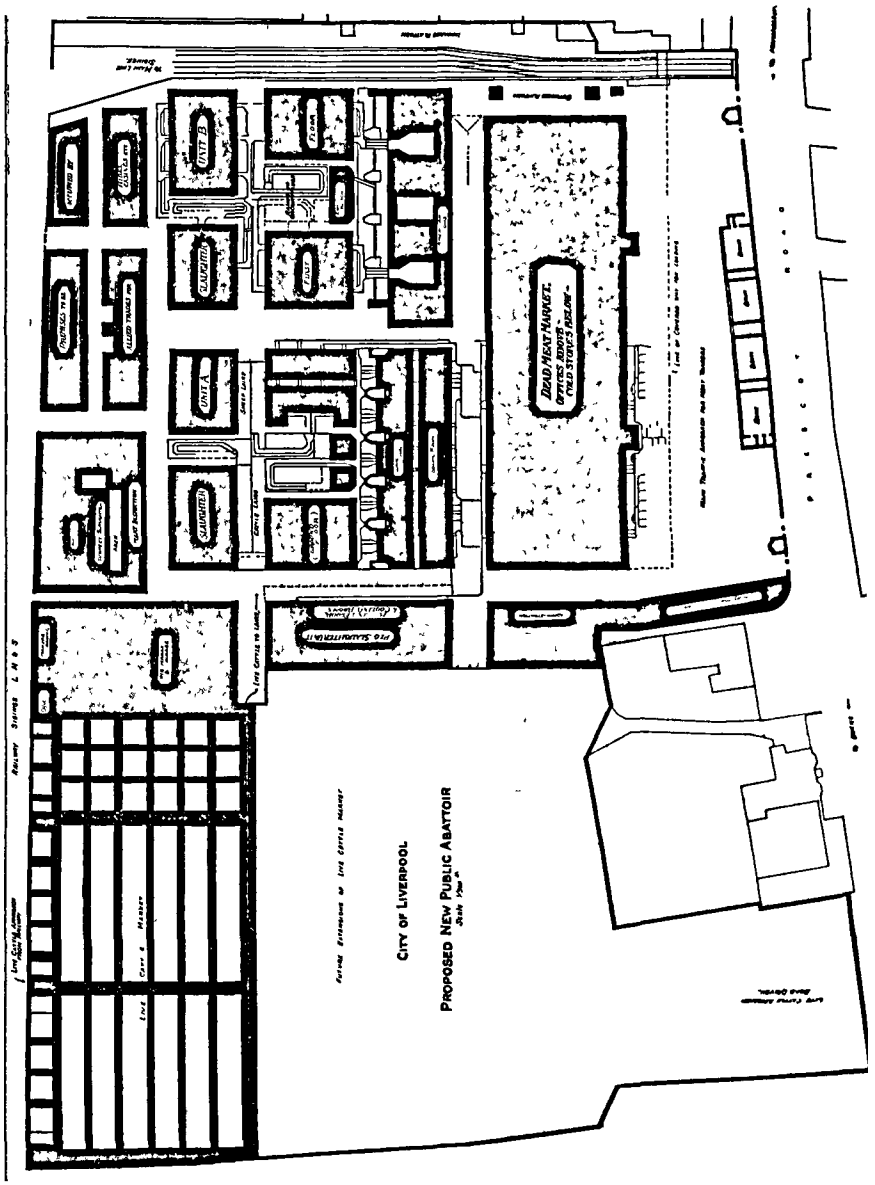
By reason of Section 169 (second paragraph) of the Public Health Act, 1875, which incorporates provisions from the Towns Improvement Clauses Act, 1847, and is extended to all rural districts by the Rural District Councils (Slaughterhouses) Order, 1924, all private slaughterhouses have to be either licensed or registered and are open to inspection by local authorities, who can make byelaws for the regulation of such slaughterhouses. Section 169 (first paragraph) of the Act of 1875 (which has been extended to all rural districts by the Order of 1924) empowers local authorities to provide public slaughterhouses and to make byelaws in regard to them.

Slaughtering is carried out on farms to a limited extent, but, more usually, it is carried out at the small private slaughterhouses of butchers and dealers. These are often situated a long distance from the livestock market and in the centre of densely-populated districts in close touch with private dwellings. They often present undesirable features from a sanitary standpoint and, in any case, their location frequently necessitates the beasts being driven from the market through the streets of the town—a procedure which may be both laborious and dangerous. There are approximately 20,000 private slaughterhouses in England and Wales. In a number of the larger consuming centres, private slaughterhouses are declining in numbers, their places being taken by public slaughterhouses owned and controlled by the local authorities and erected where possible, immediately adjacent to the cattle and meat market (*see* Diagram B on page 62). There are about 100 public abattoirs in England and Wales. The improvement in the finished article, which results from the better hygienic conditions prevailing in a well-managed and adequately equipped public slaughterhouse, the economies made possible by the more efficient utilisation of by-products, the elimination of cruelty, and the ease of supervision are among the strongest arguments in favour of the abolition of small slaughterhouses.

The following quotation from the Report* of the Inter-Departmental Committee on the Humane Slaughtering of Animals is relevant:—

> "However humane and scientific in theory may be the methods of slaughter, it is inevitable that abuses and cruelty may result in practice, unless there is a proper system of official supervision. This can only be satisfactorily effected in public abattoirs, which it is hoped

* Cmd. 2150. 1904.


CITY OF LIVERPOOL
PROPOSED NEW PUBLIC ABATTOIR
DEAD MEAT MARKET
OFFICES, BOOTH
HIDE STORES, BOILER
UNIT B
UNIT A
CHILLING
CHILLING
PIG SLAUGHTER
Railway Sidings
Cattle Market

will eventually become the only legal places of slaughter; but the Committee is of the opinion that much might be done in the meantime by local urban and rural authorities, if they took full advantage of the power entrusted to them under the existing laws."

The Linlithgow Committee* made the following recommendations with regard to slaughterhouses :—

> " The public interest demands a considerable extension of the system of public abattoirs and the improvement of those already in existence and, finally, that these facilities should be made available to users at the minimum cost. Every urban authority should take advantage of its existing powers and make suitable byelaws for the regulation and inspection of private slaughterhouses and should consider the advisability of providing a public abattoir. Urban authorities in Scotland have power to abolish private slaughterhouses when public accommodation is available. Similar powers of supersession should be given to local authorities in England and Wales subject to adequate compensation being paid where justifiable."

There are, of course, arguments on the other side. Many retail butchers complain that, for various reasons, they find slaughtering in public abattoirs both troublesome and inconvenient, and some prefer to relinquish slaughtering altogether and to buy their dead meat from the wholesale trade rather than to use the public abattoirs. This is apt to lead to increased demand by butchers for imported meat at the expense of home-produced. Certainly, in any town where slaughtering is, as far as possible, concentrated in a public abattoir, the local authority is under a special obligation to provide accommodation that is not only adequate but up to date in equipment and design. In many public abattoirs, the available space is inadequate (which may place the smaller butcher at a disadvantage compared with the large wholesaler), and the facilities provided for hanging and cooling carcases and for treating edible and inedible offals are insufficient and antiquated.

It is interesting to note that, at the present time, and as a result of the attention which has been given to the methods of slaughtering in abattoirs, a " model " abattoir (*see* Diagram C on page 64) is being erected at Letchworth to demonstrate humane slaughtering and the hygienic treatment of meat. The building, in addition to the usual slaughter hall, cooling hall, &c., will also include a lecture theatre where technical instruction is to be given.

It may be added that 11 farmers' co-operative slaughterhouses are operating at the present time. Their combined output is, however, relatively small.†

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* Third Interim Report. Cmd. 1927. 1923.

† *See* Economic Series No. 1, pp. 111–121.

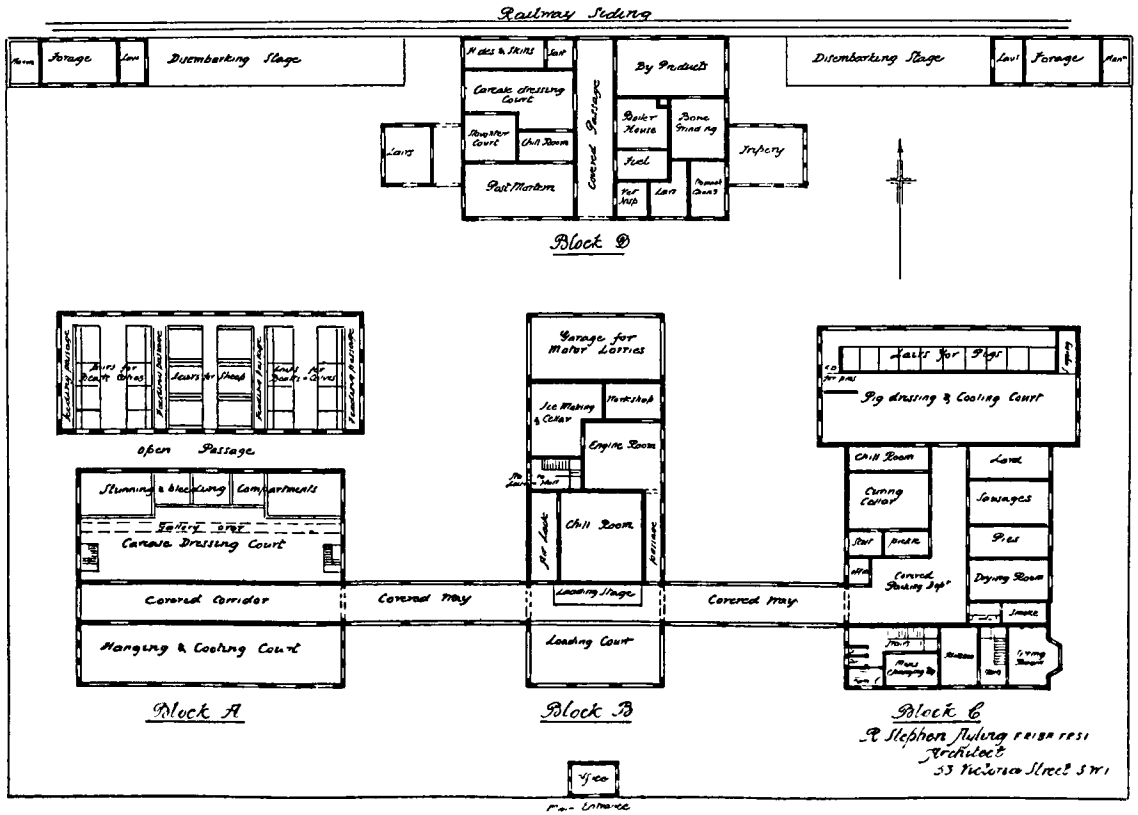


DIAGRAM C.—Plan of Ground Floor for Design for Public Abattoir, Bacon Factory, and technical Training Centre suitable for a Town with about 50,000 Inhabitants. (*From the model shown at the British Empire Exhibition by the Model Abattoir Society.*)

(ii) Cold Storage Accommodation.

The erection of cold storage accommodation by municipal authorities or by private enterprise, as an adjunct to abattoirs and markets, has effected a radical change in the markets of some of the largest towns, more especially in connection with the distribution of overseas produce. As is the case with abattoirs the provision of cold stores involves a considerable outlay of capital and it is for the municipal authorities to decide whether such outlay would be justified, on their part, in the particular market under their control, having regard to the fact that municipal cold stores necessarily compete, in some degree, with privately-owned stores that are run as specialist enterprises and, further, that in the country generally, the amount of cold storage accommodation exceeds actual requirements. The important point in most large towns is, however, whether existing cold stores are erected in the right place from a market standpoint.

The desirability of providing cold stores has recently been recognised by Parliament. Under the Public Health Act, 1925, local authorities, which have provided markets or public slaughterhouses, may, under certain conditions, erect cold stores, without promoting a special Bill for that purpose. The Act does not permit the municipal sale of ice, unless special powers already exist.

In some cases, where cold storage accommodation is provided by local authorities, it is run at a financial loss. The cost of cold storage facilities should not, however, be considered apart from the market which they serve. They save large quantities of food stuffs from deterioration and they stabilise market conditions by enabling stocks of perishable commodities to be held over for a period until supplies are short; they are a factor in attracting market business. In fact, the benefit accruing to the market and to the community from efficient cold storage accommodation cannot readily be computed in terms of money.

(iii) Hide and Skin Markets.

Properly speaking there are no hide and skin markets in this country, if by "market" is meant one established either by Charter, prescription or Act of Parliament. The trade in home-produced hides and skins is in the hands of a number of private firms, whose premises may be adjacent to a livestock market or large slaughterhouse. In this sense, there are about 130 hide and skin markets representing, in the aggregate, a trade of roughly £5,000,000 per annum.

The premises usually consist of ordinary warehouse accommodation covering a large floor space. In some cases, the hides are bought outright from butchers and others; in other cases, particularly in what are known as butchers' markets, the whole trade is done on commission.

Butchers always look upon hides as being one of the perquisites included with entrails, &c. No separate allowance is made by

butchers to farmers for hides, either when animals are bought by auction or on a dead-weight basis, although the value is usually taken into account by the two parties. It is not generally realised by farmers that the tanner pays about £2 for a hide in good condition from an average bullock. From the butchers the hides are collected, in the case of large towns, daily and in the case of outlying districts perhaps every three days, and dispatched to the nearest hide and skin market; here they are weighed and, after an allowance has been deducted for dirt, &c., adhering to the hide, packed according to weight (except in the case of sheep skins, which are graded according to size), graded and laid in lots on the floor After examination, they are sold, usually, in an adjoining room, to a limited clientele of hide buyers who forward them to the orders of various tanners, the selling is sometimes by auction and sometimes by private treaty. The various grades of weight are usually (i) 49 lb. and under, (ii) 50-59 lbs., (iii) 60-69 lb., (iv) 70-79 lb, (v) 80-89 lb., (vi) 90 lb and upwards At the present time, the heavier the hide, the higher price per lb. it commands. Hides are generally classed in two qualities, namely, "firsts" and "soconds", third quality are "casual" hides It is interesting to nete that, apart from salting the hides—a precaution undertaken especially in hot weather or in order to keep them in condition—no processing is attempted until the hides and skins arrive at the tannery Sheep skins are first dispatched to "fellmongers," whose business it is to remove the wool and forward the skin (then known as the "pelt") to the tanners, the hair on bullock hides, &c., is usually removed at the tannery.

Some few years ago the Hide, Leather and Allied Trades Improvement Society (consisting of the hide market and the tanners buying hides) was founded. At intervals an inspector from the Society is sent round to inspect the hides at the Society's registered markets with a view to maintaining a standard of classification and weighing. An inspection charge of ½d. per hide is paid by the purchaser. The Society's registered markets include practically all the hide and skin markets in the country.

The conditions under which hides, fats, &c, are sold in this country were considered by the Standing Committee on Trusts * It is sufficient, therefore, to say that the price of hides is governed by world prices, though there are certain markets, such as Messrs Markendale's at Manchester, which are looked upon as "leaders" in price determination. Best prices are realised in July to September, while lower prices rule from December to April, in both cases, the demand from the leather manufacturers is, of course, the governing factor.

It has been stated on good authority that the value of the hides and skins produced in this country could be very substantially increased if (1) flaying by butchers were improved, (2) damage by the warble fly were eliminated by dressing, and (3) hides were put into a more marketable condition by butchers. Much could be

* Cmd. 1057, 1920.

done for the improvement of English hides if farmers and dealers could be convinced that it would be to their financial advantage to market good quality hides by the more general eradication of " warbles." At present the payment they receive, indirectly, for hides is negligible compared with the ultimate price realised, and, apart from the health of their animals, it does not seem to them to matter greatly whether " warbles " are present or not, or whether the hides are marketed in good condition or to the best advantage.

Probably, the best solution of the difficulty lies in the concentration of slaughtering. This would assist in raising the standard of the trade and would lead to better organisation. It would also ensure that the hides and skins are marketed in the condition which commands the highest prices.

Raw fats are sold either direct to tallow melters, or to collectors who sell to tallow melters, or through auctions held usually by the " hide markets." In the North and Midlands fat is generally bought for textile purposes and is obtained through the " hide markets," generally by private treaty, the buyers sometimes attending themselves and sometimes sending their orders to the same professional buyers who buy the hides for the tanners.

CHAPTER IX: CONCLUSION.

Efficient markets are important not only for the functions which they perform, but for the reactions which they have on agriculture. There are instances where it is claimed that the mere provision of market facilities has greatly stimulated local production. The wholesale fruit and vegetable auctions in the West Midlands may be quoted as an example; at Swansea, again, where the Corporation cleared a space for local growers in the retail market, a market-gardening industry is in course of development in the immediate neighbourhood. In all cases, the establishment of new wholesale markets has helped the growth of the wholesale trade.

Of greater importance, perhaps, is the stimulus which efficient markets give to what may be termed "quality-production"; in the markets in producing areas, the product of one farm competes with that of another; in the markets in consuming centres, home produce, in detail and in the mass, meets the competition of supplies from abroad. Further, good markets have great educative value in enabling producers to appreciate the advantage of a reputation for quality and reliability and in informing them of market requirements.

In many livestock markets there is, of course, no external competition from imported animals, though the prices paid for prime stock in good markets have some effect in levelling up quality. There is, however, the difficulty that the districts which produce stores for the grazing and feeding districts are usually at a considerable distance from the latter—too far away, in many cases, to react properly to variations in the prices realised for varying qualities in the fat-stock market. Further, in the breeding areas, young stores are mainly sold through dealers who do not, as a rule, make sufficient differences in their price for differences in quality, or they may be sold through small auctions which do not reflect true differences in value. So it comes about that there is often no very marked incentive to produce good stores, which probably goes some way to explain the quantity of second and third grade animals to be seen in most fat-stock markets. In Scotland, where a greater proportion of the store stock passes through well-conducted auction marts, there is greater price differentiation.

Perhaps the most vital service rendered by a good market and good market practice is the creation of confidence, which is the foundation of trade. For confidence, in its turn, promotes enterprise, and successful enterprise increases, production. Conversely, the effect of an inefficient market, or of a market where supplies are irregular and prices fluctuate violently, may be to destroy confidence, and hence to limit production. This is a general statement which is borne out by the facts of agriculture in this country. To take one instance only, the price-fixing agreement between farmers and

distributors in regard to fluid milk has introduced a stabilising element into the trade. The farmer has known, within a little, what returns he can look for. In the case of commodities which pass through markets and do not readily lend themselves to this method of price stabilisation, the question very often resolves itself into one of ensuring such conditions as will give the farmer confidence that his produce or stock is being sold to the best advantage. This confidence does not always exist at the present time, and if both sellers and buyers realised how injurious are all conditions which hinder its establishment a concerted effort to improve markets and market practices might be anticipated.

Nowhere is the effect of lack of confidence seen more clearly than in the smaller livestock auctions. It requires a considerable knowledge of such auctions to appreciate the finessing which goes on occasionally. In a market of this kind the farmer always dreads a sudden and violent fall in price, and to guard against it puts a reserve, it may be, on every animal he shows. If he is a timid seller, he may put an animal through the sale ring at three or four successive auctions, buying it in on each occasion, with loss of time and money. It is said that some farmers are so well-known to follow this practice at certain auctions that buyers walk away when their beasts are shown. On the other hand, if there is a " ring " among the buyers so that the farmer cannot get a bid which represents the true value of his animals, it can only be that buyers, for their part, have failed to recognise that, in destroying confidence by not paying a fair price, they must, in the long run, handicap themselves in so far as they damage the auction and discourage the producer. Both parties are acting in what they conceive to be their best interests, but, in fact, are prejudicing their own livelihood. The proper remedy in this case is larger auctions, in which farmers will, from experience, acquire more confidence. It would be a revelation to farmers who sell in these small auctions to pay a visit to the large Scottish markets, such as those at Perth, Lanark or Edinburgh, where the advantages of broader competition can be seen.

It follows that any measures that can be suggested for enhancing the efficiency of markets generally and for improving market conditions call for careful consideration. A number of such suggestions have been made in the course of this Report.

The basic consideration which is sometimes lost sight of is that a Charter or Act conferring a market franchise, and with it a monopoly of market rights within a radius of 6⅔ miles, also carries a corresponding obligation to provide proper facilities. Among assembly markets in producing areas, distributive markets in consuming centres and among livestock markets, there is need for improved facilities in many instances. In a number of large towns, the erection of new wholesale markets or the enlargement of existing markets is long overdue to cope, not only with the requirements of large and growing populations, but with the development of motor transport. From views expressed by

competent authorities, some indication is given, in pages 34 to 36 and 53 to 55, of the features to be desired in well-planned and well-conducted markets

In view of the large number of public markets in England and Wales, the question of the control exercisable by local authorities over the markets within their jurisdiction is one of considerable importance, and there is much to be said for the view that they should be freed from out-of-date and seemingly useless restrictions in the administration of their markets. For example, in public markets where auction sales are held, it seems anomalous that unless special provision is made by local Act, public authorities are unable to restrict the number of auctioneers selling in their markets or to prevent the same classes of stock being sold at the same time in more than one place. In privately-owned markets these difficulties of control do not, of course, arise.

In regard to livestock markets generally, investigation shows that their efficiency varies widely in different parts of the country, the Northern markets on the whole being better than those in the South The main weakness of the system in England is the unnecessary number of small separate auctions, a weakness which would, no doubt, be even worse than it is but for the protection afforded by the franchise system. It leads to a number of evils, which defeat the object of an auction and, if persisted in, their own object; such are the formation of "rings," repeated offering of stock through the seller's lack of confidence in an auction, running up of stock by owners and, in general, division of buyers and lack of competition. It also leads to waste through stock being moved repeatedly from one small auction to another.

The desirability of amalgamating the smaller auctions applies, however, not only to livestock markets, but to others, such as egg auctions, poultry auctions and wool auctions. The suggestion has been made (pages 58, 59) that a possible way of co-ordinating markets, of effecting the desired concentration and of dealing with other problems which raise difficulties for the individual market owner, would be through area-committees representative of all interests concerned.

It is, of course, desirable that market authorities should administer their own markets with as little interference as possible, but experience shows that some authorities are not sufficiently alive to the importance of keeping their markets reasonably up to date. Local authorities in large towns naturally tend to look on markets from the point of view of their constituents, the consumers, and the interpretation of their responsibilities is a matter for local decision. But in holding franchises, all market authorities have also a responsibility towards producers, both neighbouring and distant, who send supplies to the markets. In short, there are considerations affecting markets in their relation, on the one hand, to the whole agricultural industry and, on the other hand, to food distribution which are of national scope and importance. There would, therefore, seem to be a reasonable case for the greater exercise of central authority in regard to

market problems of more than local significance, including the economic development of markets generally.

There is a tendency in some quarters to think that because markets are institutions of great antiquity and the rights under which many of them are held go back to the Middle Ages, they do not fit in with modern business and have little to offer to modern trade. Nothing could be further from the truth. This survey is concerned with England and Wales, but reference is made in Appendix III to various markets abroad a wider examination shows that, in all the principal countries, the development of markets to meet modern conditions has been marked. It is so in France and Germany. It is especially true of America. Both the older and the newer countries have, in fact, found that the old device of a market can still play an important part in the sale of agricultural produce, and that expenditure on making such markets efficient is well worth while. The capital already invested in markets in England and Wales runs into many millions of pounds, but fresh capital must be constantly employed, as business increases, to keep the markets up to date and worthy of serving the vast trade in agricultural products—home-produced, Empire and foreign—which is transacted in this country.

Markets and Co-operation Branch,
Economics Division,
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries,
March, 1927.

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 carcases, 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 carcases 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,

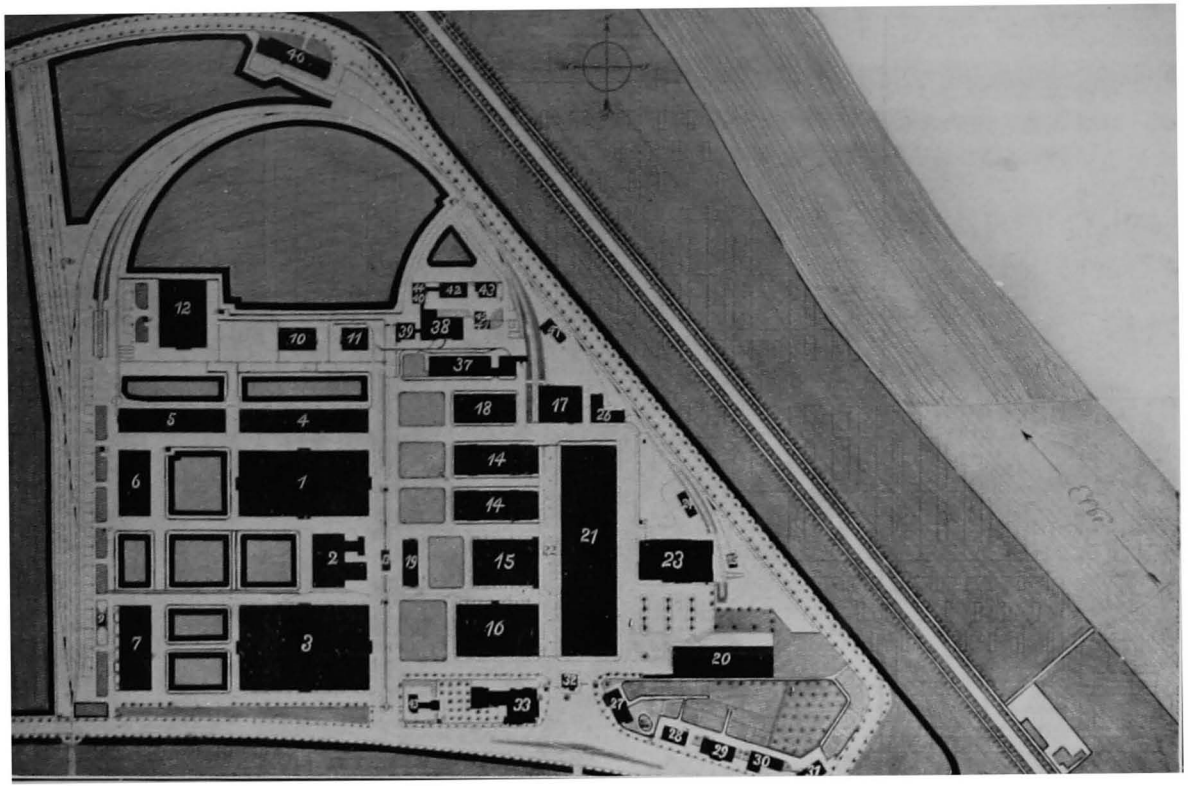


FIG. 26.—Plan of the Municipal Livestock Markets and Slaughterhouses, Dresden, Germany.

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

[*Facing page* 74.

Municipal Livestock Markets and Slaughterhouses, Dresden, Germany.

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



Fig. 27.—Unloading Docks.

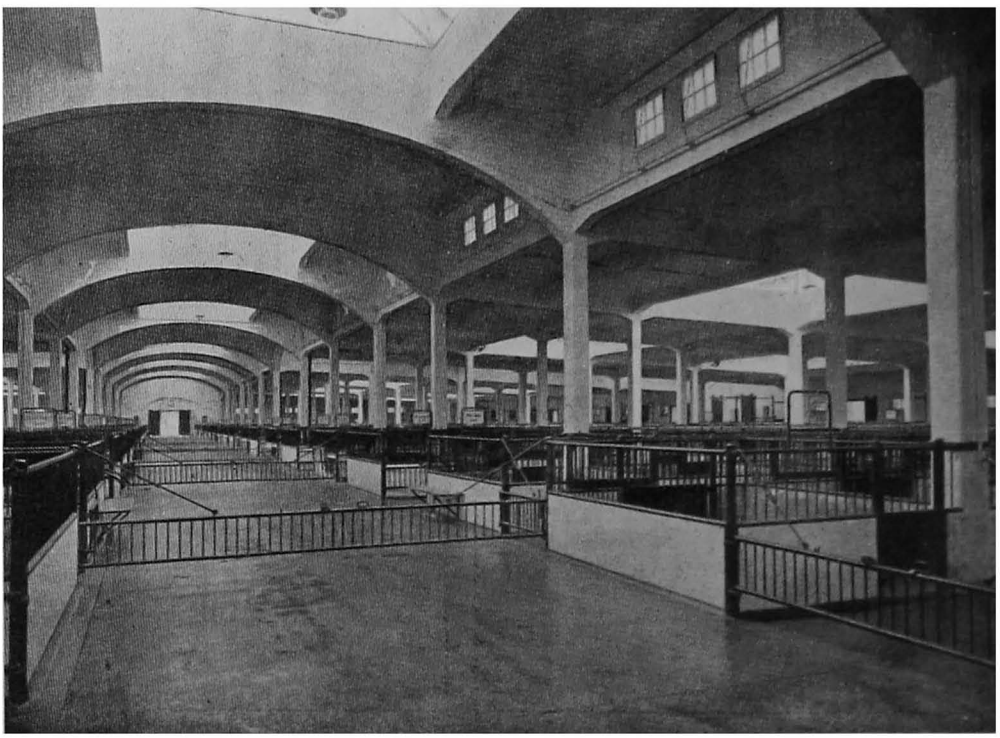


Fig. 28.—Market Hall for Pigs.



FIG. 29.—Cattle Slaughter Hall.

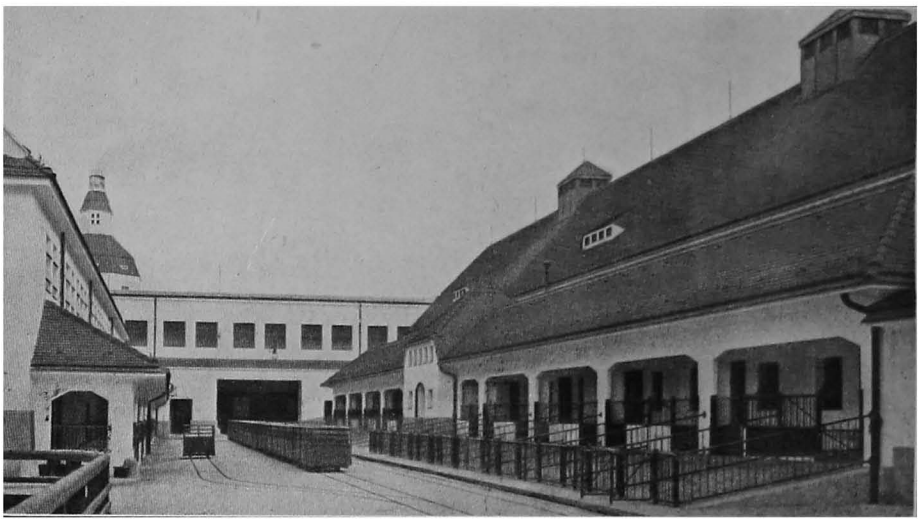


FIG. 30.—Waiting Pens for Pigs.



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 carcase inspection by the veterinary officers of the establishment is in operation, in connection with which a scheme of insurance against condemnation of carcases 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 carcase is supported during the first part of the flaying operation. The carcase 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 carcases 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 carcases to the cooling house adjoining.

Extensive provision is made for the refrigeration of carcases 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

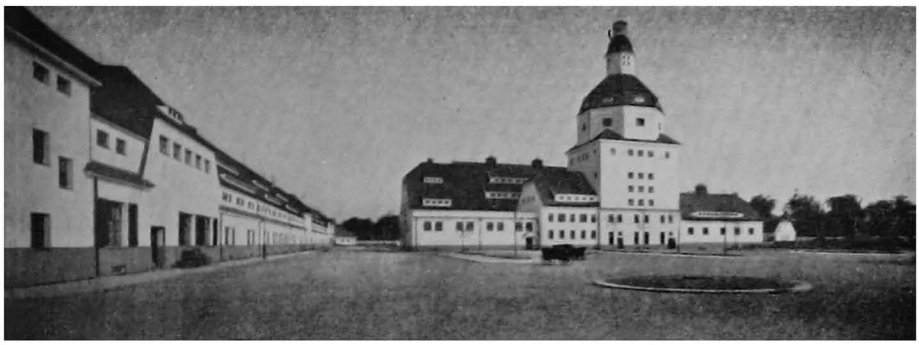


FIG. 32.—Cold Store and Power House.

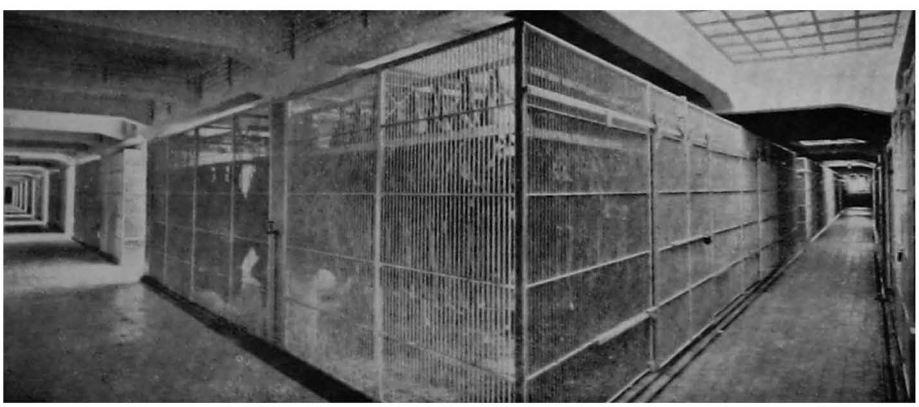


FIG. 33.—Interior of Cold Store.

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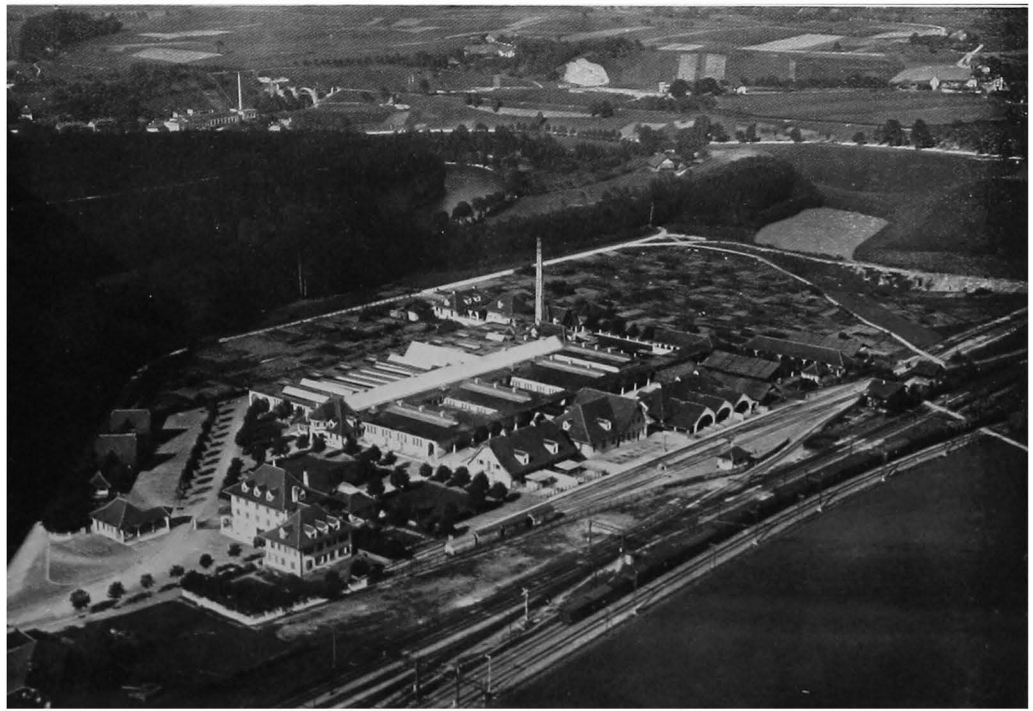


FIG. 34.—Municipal Abattoirs, Berne, Switzerland.

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 2½ 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 agent for producers who consign their produce to them, the object being t encourage market agencies under the direct supervision and control c the market masters. In most cases, as in Bloemfontein market, th auctioneering is done by the market master and his assistants; in som cases he also acts as commission agent himself, and, as a rule, owns larg warehouses where his client's produce is stored as necessary. At Durban the market master handles 75 per cent. of the produce consigned to th market, sales being wholesale, in large and small lots, by auction. Th commission agents who operate in the markets are supervised by a syste of market notes. The commission agent has to fill in the notes and han them to the market master; the notes must state clearly the quantit of produce sold and the amount realised. Prices are collected by th market master each morning and are sent on by him to headquarter at Pretoria, where they are collated and telegraphed before 3 o'clock eac afternoon to post offices in the outlying districts. By this means farmer even in the most remote districts, are informed, during the course of th evening, of the prices that ruled at the more important markets in th morning.

Under the Public Auctions and Transactions in Livestock and Produc Act, 1925, to "regulate certain transactions in and the sale by auctio 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 con clusion of the auction, must make out and deliver to each seller a sale note showing the names of the seller and the purchaser, the number an description of animals sold, the prices at which the animals were sold, th deduction which the auctioneer is permitted to make from the purchas 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 amoun due to the seller. Certain restrictions are imposed on auctioneers i respect of the sale of livestock: thus, it is unlawful for an auctioneer t give, offer or undertake to give any secret or undisclosed rebate in con nection with sales, to refuse to accept any bid unless he has good reaso to believe (the proof of which shall be upon him) that the bidder is unabl to comply with the conditions of sale as to payment, to sell to himsel or to any person with whom he is associated in business directly or indi rectly, or to pay to the seller or to credit him with a sum less than th amount of the purchase price after deduction of all charges lawfully mad 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 regu lations—

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

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

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

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

[Facing page 78.



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

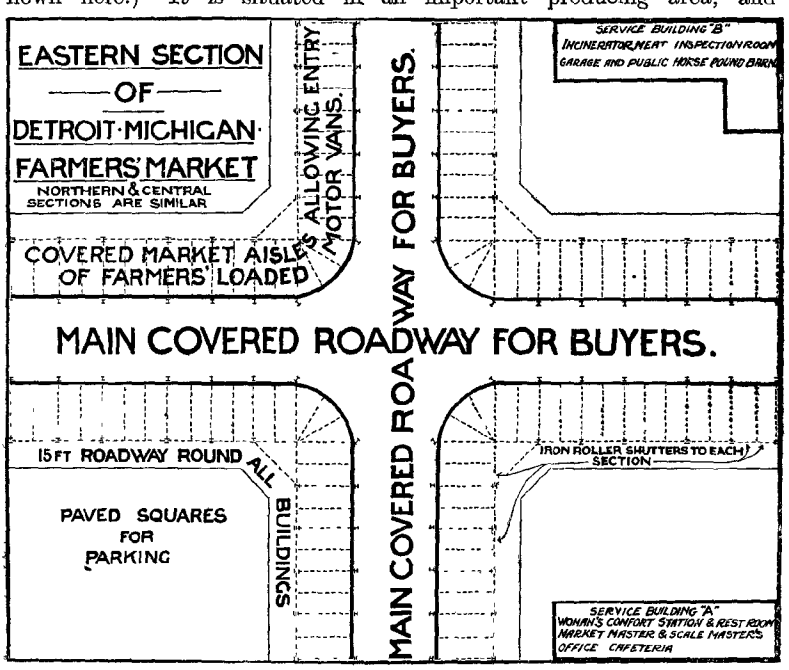


DIAGRAM D.

growers are within easy motor distance. The market occupies 17 acres, of which 4½ 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.

Printed under the authority of His Majesty's Stationery Office
By Wyman & Sons, Limited, Fetter Lane, London, E.C. 4.

Economic Series, No. 14.

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



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES.

Markets and Fairs

in

England and Wales

(Part II. Midland Markets.)

LONDON :
PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:
Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C. 2; 120, George Street, Edinburgh;
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DISTRIBUTION OF MARKETS IN THE MIDLAND COUNTIES.

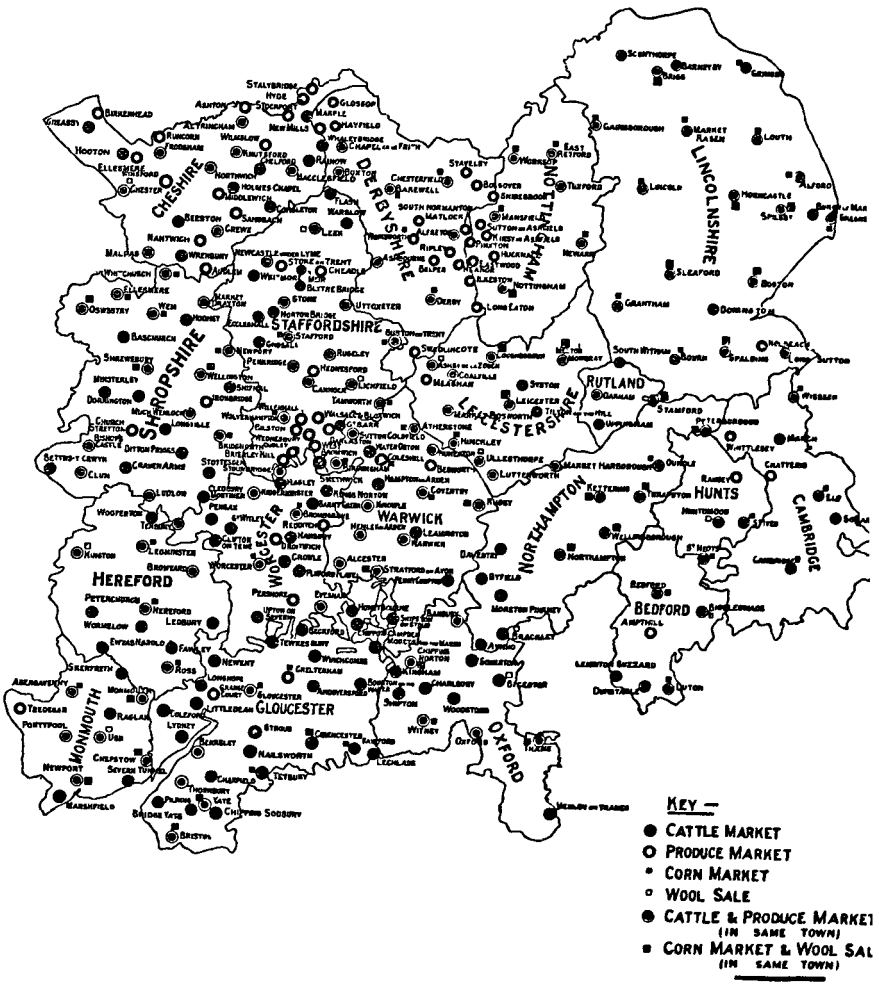


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MARKETS AND FAIRS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, PART II.—MIDLAND MARKETS.

INTRODUCTION.

The Linlithgow Committee, in its final Report,* commented on the lack of readily available information regarding the markets of the country and recommended that data as to the control and ownership of markets should be officially collected and published together with any relevant information likely to be useful. In pursuance of this recommendation, a survey of the agricultural markets and fairs in England and Wales has been undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in connection with its investigations into the marketing of agricultural produce. A preliminary Report† dealing with the origin of markets, the acquisition of market rights, the regulation and administration of markets and giving a general view of markets and market conditions in this country has already been published. The present Report gives a close-up view of market facilities in the Midland Counties, and will be followed in due course by similar Reports relating to other areas.

Part I of the present Report, taken with Appendix I, summarises the Midland markets as a whole. Part II re-examines the market position county by county, brief notes on a few markets of general or special interest being added. For convenience, the counties are arranged alphabetically, but the broad distinction between those which are mainly producing areas and those which include large aggregations of population should, of course, be kept in mind, The county descriptions should be read in conjunction with Appendix II, which is a list of the markets by counties showing, for each market, particulars such as ownership, method of sale and commodities sold. This Appendix is a general conspectus of the position which should furnish producers and others concerned with much information of a kind which the Ministry is frequently asked to supply. Section IV of Part I of the Report reviews the position regarding fairs, a list of which is given in Appendix III. Part III of the Report gives a fairly full account of ten important markets in producing areas and of the markets in a number of consuming centres. These have been selected as illustrating points of general interest and importance and not necessarily because of superior organisation, lay-out or accommodation. In short, the present Report provides a much-needed reference book of livestock and

* Cmd. 2008/1924.

† Economic Series No. 13.

produce markets in the area under consideration. As such, it should prove of value not only to producers and distributors, but to market owners and members of market committees.

Markets have evolved without system or co-ordination under a method of trial and error. They vary greatly and it must be accepted as certain that the present arrangements are not the best possible from an economic standpoint. Regarded, therefore, as something more than a mere statement of the situation and characteristics of a collection of markets, the Report affords a basis for the local investigation and discussion of a number of important problems such, for example, as why one method of sale is practised in one place and a different method in another and whether, in some parts, markets are not so numerous that concentration would be an advantage. A glance at the map (Fig. 1.—Frontispiece) brings out the distribution of markets throughout the counties in the Midland area. Then again, considerable variation exists in the extent to which the larger towns and cities in the Midland area have developed their wholesale produce markets. While many are up to date and a credit to the business ability of the market authorities, there are several which are below the average in accommodation and efficiency. In general, the defect in regard to wholesale markets in Midland consuming centres lies rather in an insufficiency of markets and market accommodation than in redundancy. In the case of country livestock markets, the tendency is the other way. If there are too few good wholesale markets in the Midlands, there are probably too many livestock markets to secure the best results from the standpoint of the producer. In a number of cases, this is aggravated by the unnecessary clashing of sales of the same kind of stock at the same market centre. As regards abattoirs, there are now several large cities int he North which are undertaking schemes for the improvement of their public slaughtering facilities and, in some cases, meat markets, but at present only two large towns in the Midlands are known to have such improvements in hand.

Apart from any question of numbers, the producer is intimately concerned with the physical efficiency of markets, particularly of those in producing areas, and it is of some importance to him that improvements should be made in such matters as lay-out and accommodation in cases where the existing arrangements involve waste of sellers' time, damage to produce, or cause injury and unnecessary suffering to animals. It is satisfactory to record that a number of improvement schemes are in hand or contemplated by market owners.

This opportunity is taken of acknowledging the assistance rendered in connection with this Report by the Association of Midland Market Authorities, by local authorities generally and by individual auctioneers and market owners who have furnished the information on which it is based.

PART I.—THE MIDLAND MARKETS AS A WHOLE.

(I) GENERAL.

Appendix I, page 104, classifies, by counties, the Midland markets as a whole according to ownership, *i.e.* whether publicly or privately owned and nature of business carried on, *i.e.* whether retail only, wholesale only, or both wholesale and retail.

There are 414 markets for the sale of agricultural produce in the area covered by the present Report, ranging from 3 in Rutland and 6 in Lincolnshire (Holland) to 37 each in Cheshire and Gloucestershire and as many as 50 in Staffordshire. Of the total number of markets in the area, 156 are publicly owned and 258 are owned privately. It may be added that 65 public and 41 private markets are carried on under Charters, 51 public markets are carried on under the Public Health Acts, 45, including 6 private markets, have been established by Local or Special Acts, while 211 markets, of which 179 are wholesale only and mainly livestock auction marts, appear not to be markets in the strictly legal sense.* Produce is sold retail in 140 public markets and 43 private markets, a preponderance in favour of public ownership which, in the nature of things, is to be expected.

(II) CLASSIFICATION BY COMMODITIES.

The following table gives a reclassification of the Midland markets according to commodities sold and method of sale, *i.e.* whether by private treaty only, by auction only, or by both methods.

---

* That is to say, they appear not to have been established either by royal prerogative or by the authority of an Act of Parliament. *See* page 8, Report on Markets and Fairs, Part 1. Economic Series, No. 13. In this Report it has not been thought necessary to limit the word "market" to its strict meaning.

Commodity sold.	No. of Public Markets.			No. of Private Markets			Total number of markets at which commodity is sold.
	Auction only.	Private Treaty only.	Both Auction and Private Treaty.	Auction only.	Private Treaty only.	Both Auction and Private Treaty.	
			Retail Only.				
Butter and Cheese ..	1	68	2	2	21	1	95
Eggs ..	1	72	2	2	19	—	96
Fish ..	—	108	2	—	24	—	134
Fruit and Vegetables	—	93	3	1	29	1	127
Meat ..	—	119	2	—	30	—	151
Poultry ..	3	56	2	3	14	—	78
			Wholesale Only.				
Butter and Cheese ..	1	8	1	32	4	3	49
Corn ..	—	43	—	5	32	—	80*
Eggs ..	1	7	1	30	3	3	45
Fish ..	—	—	—	2	1	—	3
Fruit and Vegetables	—	—	1	36	1	2	40
Livestock ..	34	2	34	164	1	14	249
Meat ..	—	—	1	3	—	1	5
Poultry ..	14	1	—	87	2	1	105
Wool ..	14	9	—	17	3	—	43
			Wholesale and Retail.				
Butter and Cheese ..	2	22	14	5	3	—	46
Eggs ..	2	22	14	5	3	1	47
Fish ..	—	7	2	—	—	—	9
Fruit and Vegetables	4	21	12	5	2	2	46
Meat ..	—	3	1	1	2	—	7
Poultry ..	5	10	35	6	2	1	59

* In addition, sales take place at 30 centres on other than market premises.

(*a*) Retail.

The retail markets in the Midland area range from the well-equipped covered market held daily in a city such as Birmingham or Chester to the small open-air retail market held once a week in many country towns. In most retail markets, meat, fish, fruit and vegetables are commonly sold; eggs, butter and cheese are disposed of in fewer markets and poultry in fewer still. One or two auctions report retail sales of certain commodities, chiefly poultry, butter, cheese and eggs. In many of the larger city and town markets, only a small proportion of the stalls is now devoted to agricultural produce.

(*b*) Wholesale.*

Butter and Cheese.—Altogether, returns show that wholesale sales of butter and cheese in varying quantities take place at 89 75 different markets in the Midland area, of which a fair number are auction markets. There are no specialised markets for the sale of butter. Small quantities are sold in nearly all local markets and bought by consumers or by higglers, who re-sell to small shopkeepers, or by retailers themselves. In a few markets, fairly large quantities of butter are on sale during the flush milk season. Specialised markets for the sale of cheese exist only in those districts manufacturing "Cheshire Cheese" where this variety greatly exceeds others in importance. These districts cover Cheshire and parts of Shropshire and Staffordshire, cheese fairs being held at a number of centres, including Chester (Fig. 2), Nantwich, Whitchurch and Shrewsbury. In Leicestershire and Derbyshire, the varieties of Derby, Stilton and Leicester cheese are manufactured, but only small quantities find their way into the local markets, as also is the case with Double and Single Gloucester cheeses made in that county and parts of Worcestershire. Soft-cheese making is a feature in the Isle of Ely, and small quantities are sold in the local markets, but, owing to the perishability of the cheese made (known as Cambridge or York), supplies are usually sold in advance of manufacture or direct to retail customers. A similar direct trade in Colwick cheeses exists in Nottingham. Other cheeses, such as Cheddar, are found in many markets throughout the Midlands.

Corn and Provender.—There are 80 markets in the Midland Area that report sales of corn; 5 of these are auction markets and a number are corn exchanges. The corn markets at Lincoln (at which over 1 million cwt. of British corn is dealt in annually), Peterborough (Fig. 3) and Cambridge are factors' markets, and are perhaps the largest centres for corn business in the Midland area. Boston, Spalding and Ely are examples of farmers' markets where British corn is predominant. Bristol and Birmingham are large markets for imported grain. At Bristol, large sales of imported corn are made in the Commercial Rooms; the smaller sales of country wholesalers and farmers take place in the Corn Exchange buildings. At Birmingham, imported grain is handled in the Corn Exchange. There are large sales of corn at Burton-on-Trent, Newark and Worksop, particularly of barley; the barley sales, however, take place in the offices of the brewers and maltsters and not in corn exchanges. In other places, such as Nottingham and Oxford, where corn exchanges exist, and in many other places in the Midlands where no corn exchanges are provided, most of the corn dealings take place in or around the cattle markets or in inns. There are about 30

* Additional information as to wholesale markets will be found in other Reports in the Economic Series, notably Nos. 1, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 15.

centres in the Midland area where corn business is regularly done in this way on other than market premises.

Although over 50 markets in the Midland counties report sales of hay and straw, the trade done at any one market is not large. At some places a few loads are still offered for sale by private treaty or auction on the open market square or in the cattle market, but much of the trade once associated with recognised markets is now done on private premises.

Eggs.—There are 45 markets in the Midland counties where eggs are sold wholesale only; of these, no more than 10 are solely private treaty markets. In addition, there are 47 markets where both a wholesale and a retail trade is done in eggs; of these, about half, mainly public markets, are solely devoted to private treaty business. Altogether, eggs are sold wholesale by auction at 57 separate markets, of which 39 are privately owned. Sale by auction is gaining ground at the expense of the private treaty method, except in the large wholesale markets in consuming centres and in one or two counties. In Nottinghamshire and Shropshire, for example, no regular auction sales of eggs are reported. A few towns have more than one auction; in some instances, notably where two or more combined egg, fruit and vegetable auctions are held in the same town, no attempt is made to avoid the clashing of selling-times.

In general, the premises and equipment of egg auctions are not elaborate. In many cases, notably in a number of publicly owned markets, they are capable of considerable improvement.

Poultry.—There are as many as 105 markets in the Midland counties where poultry is sold wholesale only; of these, no more than 3 are markets where sale by private treaty is the sole method of business. In a further 59 markets, both wholesale and retail trade in poultry is carried on; of these, 47 report auction sales. Altogether, there are 149 separate markets in the Midland counties where poultry is sold wholesale by auction; 95 of these are privately owned. The figures show that the system of auction sale largely preponderates in this trade in the Midland counties; there is evidence, too, that, as with eggs, it has been longer established in the east than in the west Midlands. In the rural districts there are comparatively few centres of importance where private treaty sales persist; Oswestry market is a notable exception. Chief among the private treaty markets that remain are the city wholesale markets where this method of sale may be expected to continue. It should be added that the quantities of dressed poultry sold by auction are negligible at most wholesale markets; supplies consist almost wholly of live birds. Many of the auction sales are run in conjunction with a cattle auction.

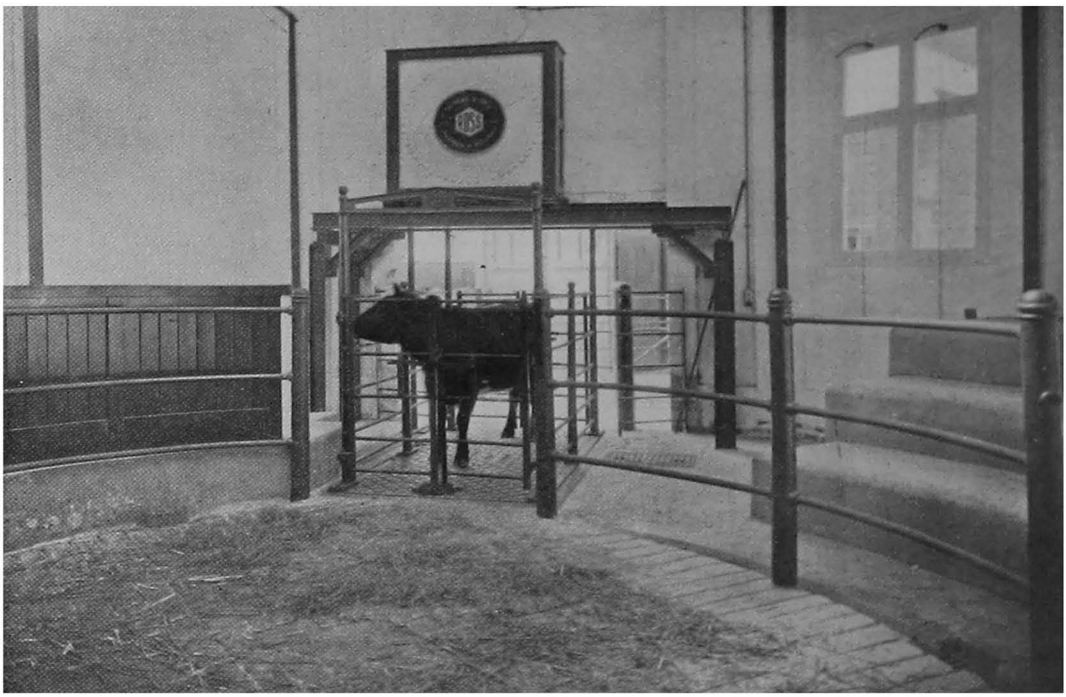
Some of the poultry auctions are well equipped; others leave much to be desired. A covering should be provided for the pens in which the birds are exposed for sale; this is by no means always done.

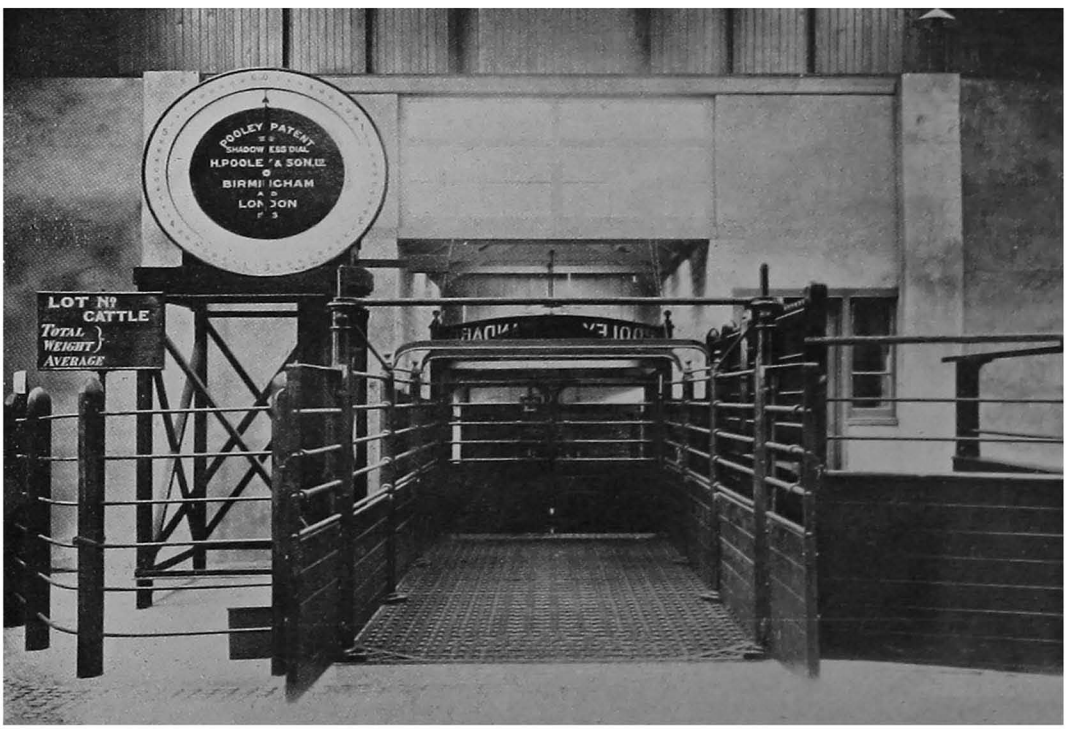


FIG. 2.—Chester : Cheese Fair.



FIG. 3.—Peterborough ; Corn Exchange.





FIGS. 4 and 5.—**Weighbridges at entrance to Sale Rings.**

Fruit and Vegetables.—Returns show that fruit and vegetables are sold wholesale at 86 markets in the Midland counties; sale is wholly or partly by auction in the majority of cases. In 46 of these markets, business is done on both wholesale and retail lines. So far as markets in producing areas are concerned, interest centres chiefly in the specialised fruit and vegetable auctions of the West Midlands which are genuine assembly markets whence produce is despatched over a very wide area. Elsewhere in producing areas, sales of fruit and vegetables by auction have no special significance. In the potato growing areas, the bulk of the supplies is sold by private treaty on the basis of sample or description. Sales take place at a few market towns where buyers and sellers congregate for that purpose, but there are no large wholesale markets in the sense of a building where potatoes are assembled for disposal.

Distributing markets for fruit and vegetables are usually found in towns of 100,000 or more inhabitants, unless these are already adequately served by markets in neighbouring centres. The towns of this size in the Midland area are Birmingham, Birkenhead, Bristol, Coventry, Derby, Leicester, Nottingham, Stoke and Wolverhampton. Most of these have a separate wholesale fruit and vegetable market. In the first rank must be placed Birmingham market (page 88), which is one of the half dozen largest markets in the country. Derby, Leicester and Wolverhampton have up-to-date wholesale fruit and vegetable markets with ample accommodation for present needs. Special attention might be directed to the market at Derby, which was opened as recently as 1925. Birkenhead has also an adequate covered market. Bristol, the second largest city in the group, has a market which was built in 1745 and is now cramped and out of keeping with modern developments. Nottingham (page 98) and Coventry (page 61) rely on uncovered open spaces for their wholesale markets. Stoke has no established wholesale fruit and vegetable market, but a wholesale business in fruit and vegetables is conducted in an open square on one day in the week. There are no other large towns in the Midland area with separate wholesale fruit and vegetable markets. Mention may, however, be made of Newport (Mon.), where both a wholesale and a retail trade is carried on in the covered market.

*Livestock.**—Livestock is sold at no less than 249 markets in the Midland area, of which 179, mostly auction marts, are privately owned. Sale is by both auction and private treaty in 48 markets; sale by auction is the sole method in 193 markets, while only 3 markets now remain that are solely devoted to private treaty business. A rough division of these markets into those situated in producing areas and those situated in consuming centres shows that there are nearly 4 times as many private as public markets in producing areas, the numbers being about equal in consuming centres. The greater proportion of public markets in consuming

* *See* also Economic Series No. 13, Chaps. VI and VII.

centres is, of course, explained by the fact that cities and towns generally own their markets.

The largest livestock markets in the Midlands are those at Shrewsbury (166,915), Gloucester (150,275), Hereford (143,675), Oswestry (141,617), Rugby (125,811), Northampton (118,013), Leicester (111,921), Chester (110,681), and Derby (109,868). The figures in brackets are the total number of livestock of all kinds, except horses, passing through the market in a recent typical year.* All these are public markets and primarily auction markets. In addition, Birmingham (160,300) is almost wholly a private treaty market for pigs; Wolverhampton (112,606) has also a pig market, a public private treaty cattle market and two private auction marts. Among the most up-to-date private auction marts are those at Banbury, Bridgnorth and Lichfield. Mention may also be made of the Crewe and St. Ives markets, which are partly publicly and partly privately owned. Several counties in producing areas have an unusually large number of private markets; Gloucester (24), Shropshire (21), Staffordshire (20), and Cheshire (16) may be mentioned in this connection.

With the exception of Bristol market, where the cattle trade is almost entirely confined to the sale of Irish stores, and Birmingham, where the market is a fat-pig market only, all the markets in the Midlands handle both fat and store stock. It is the case, however, that in some markets one or other class of livestock predominates. Shrewsbury, Gloucester, Hereford, Northampton, St. Ives and, to a less extent, Oswestry and Peterborough, are markets where the store cattle offered for sale considerably outnumber the fat cattle. At Derby and Leicester, the quantities of each class are more equally divided. At Rugby, Wolverhampton and Wellington, on the other hand, the numbers of fat cattle are much in excess of the numbers of stores offered. Hereford, Northampton, and St. Ives are the only large markets in the Midlands where store sheep exceed the supplies of fat sheep. Shrewsbury and Oswestry are the only important markets where larger quantities of store pigs than fat pigs are regularly offered.

On the whole, Midland livestock markets, with a few notable exceptions, cannot be regarded as good markets for dairy cows. In some counties, this is so much the case that practically the whole of the trade in dairy cows of quality is in the hands of dealers who buy from and sell direct to the farm. In the North, on the other hand, and particularly, perhaps, in Cumberland, the best dairy cows are sold through the markets. There are two factors which may have an influence in discouraging sale through markets. One is that the covered accommodation for dairy cattle in the private auction marts of the North is much superior to the accommodation in most Midland markets. In some of the latter markets, in fact, the accommodation, besides the absence of cover, is so ill-suited to its purpose that farmers and dealers will not risk sending a valuable down-calving animal into the market. A second explanation appears

* For complete figures for Midland livestock markets as a whole, *see* Appendix IV, pages 156–161.

to be the better system of warranties usual in the North. Concerted effort by market owners, farmers and auctioneers might considerably improve the conditions in the Midlands in this respect and so secure for the Midland markets the same reputation for dairy cows as many of the Northern markets enjoy.

On the general question of accommodation, it may be observed that, in general, the rings for the sale of cattle by auction are more frequently covered in the north Midlands than in the south Midlands. Such large Corporation markets as Rugby, Northampton, Derby and Leicester have no covered rings and, in this respect, compare unfavourably with the better-equipped private auction marts. This is a matter in which local authorities might do a great deal for the convenience of market users. The rings at the new Banbury Auction Mart are examples of permanent structures; this auction has three covered rings, one for fat and store cattle, one for dairy cows and one for sheep; the two former are completely covered; in the latter, the seating accommodation only is covered.

There is no standard size of ring common to all markets. Rings vary from a diameter of 15 feet at Cambridge to 27 feet at Banbury. They may be even larger at one or two markets. One object of a small ring is to prevent buyers entering it, but larger rings are better in so far as they allow more people to view the stock. Accommodation for buyers round the ring also varies greatly.* Banbury has provision for from 250 to 300 people. There is, of course, a great difference between the numbers present at the ringside in various markets; where the market is in the centre of a town, spectators are often present who have no direct interest in the sale.

It will be seen from Appendix II that a large and increasing number of livestock markets in the Midlands are now fitted with weighing machines of the dial type (Fig. 4). The advantage of the dial weighing machine is that no mistake can arise in announcing the weight of the animals offered for sale; vendors and intending purchasers can see the weight as the animal stands on the weighbridge. Speed of weighing and the fact that no manipulation is required are additional advantages. Machines should of course be adequately fenced to prevent any additional weight being placed on the machine during weighing. For weighing fat cattle, a dial weighbridge of 30-cwt. capacity should suffice. In England, there is a greater demand for single-beast or fat-cattle machines than for store-cattle machines. For weighing a number of store cattle, larger machines are, of course, necessary (Fig. 5), and these are a feature of the Scottish markets, where the weighing machines are usually covered in and properly protected, thus requiring only normal attention to ensure maintenance in an efficient condition over a long period. The position of the weighbridge and dial in relation to the sale ring in a satisfactorily designed auction mart is shewn in Fig. 6.

* See also Economic Series No. 13, page 54

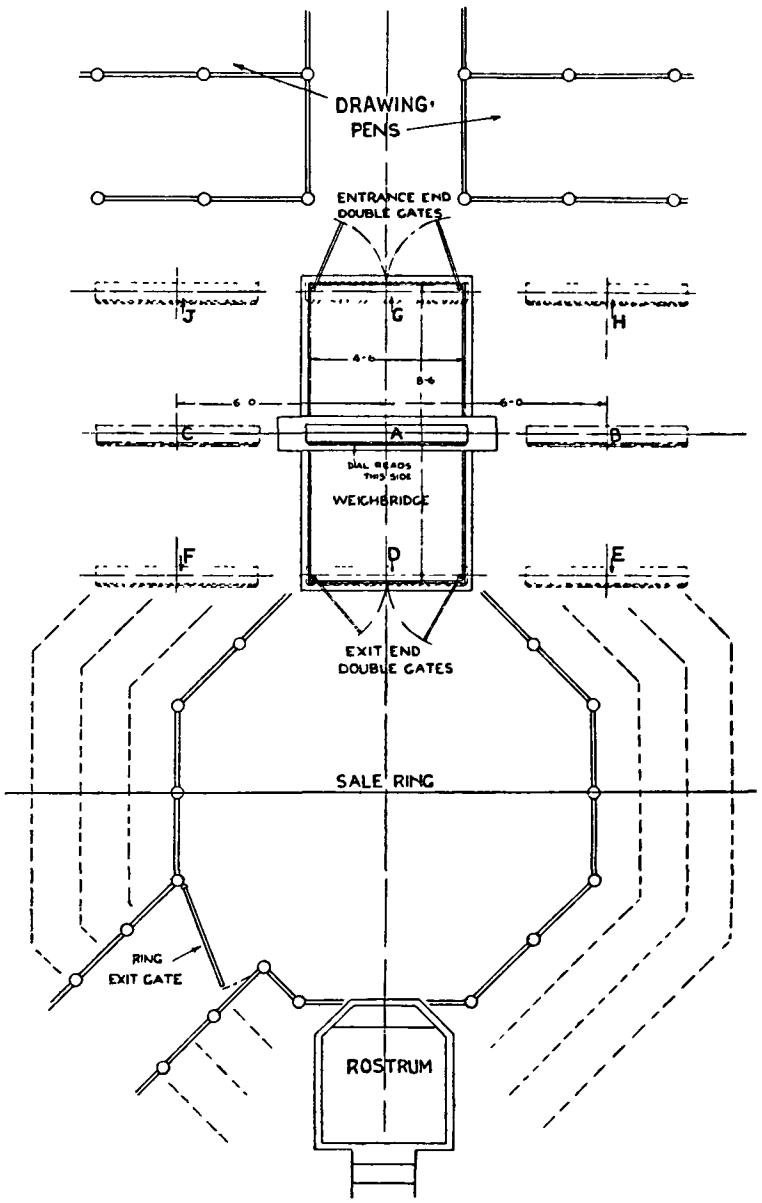


FIG 6—Block plan showing typical ring, rostrum and position of weighbridge. The dial can occupy any of the positions indicated by letters A B, C, &c.

Many of the Midland markets lack covered accommodation for stock and, on that account, are liable to lose custom to those more efficiently equipped. Covered accommodation is not only desirable for dairy cattle and auction rings; it is also advisable for calf and pig pens. At some markets, where no covered accommodation is provided for pigs, awnings are put up in hot weather, but this is not a satisfactory substitute for proper roofing. At a few livestock markets, such as those at Gloucester, Leicester and Boston, there are a number of trees in the market. These are useful in providing shade for all stock in hot weather, but care should be taken to plant species that do not send out large roots near the surface. There are several instances of markets where a number of pens can no longer be used owing to the pavement being disturbed by shallow-rooting trees.

Ramps or inclined planes for unloading and loading vehicles should be regarded as necessities in a livestock market. Permanent ramps are very satisfactory where the arrangement of the market favours their use—a good example of a permanent ramp is to be found at Wellingborough — but in the larger markets they may cause congestion. At some markets a queue of vehicles can be seen waiting their turn to unload or load at the permanent ramp. On the whole, movable ramps are preferable at most markets. The practice of bringing livestock to market and taking livestock from market by road transport is increasing; vehicles specially designed for this purpose are frequently provided with loading gear, but many more have no such equipment. Market authorities should, therefore, see that a sufficient number of ramps are provided and that they are used. The loss occasioned by rough handling of animals falls, in the long run, on the farmer, and it is of importance to producers that full use should be made of the ramps. This is by no means always done.

Pens vary greatly in size at different markets. At some, the large-pen system is found and no attempt is made to separate beasts even into small lots. No doubt the variation in the size of pens arises to some extent from the different classes of trade for which the markets were originally built. Where a market was originally intended for the sale of store stock, the pens are usually larger. The arrangement common in the North of England is for each beast to be penned separately. Details of the pens to be found in representative markets, such as Rugby and Nottingham, are given on pages 74 and 99 respectively.

Meat.—The provision of a wholesale meat market* is, in practice, dependent on the existence of a public abattoir; but, even where abattoirs exist, wholesale meat markets are only found where the abattoirs serve a very large population and there is room for wholesale trading between the abattoir and the retail shop. For this

* *See* also Economic Series No. 13, pages 33 to 36.

reason, the population figure of 100,000 given as the limit above which wholesale produce markets are usually found is much too low for wholesale meat markets. It is difficult to suggest any corresponding figure, but it would seem that a wholesale meat market, to be a success, should serve a population of at least 500,000. A qualifying fact, of course. is that a large wholesale meat market may find customers over a wide radius. Nevertheless, it is remarkable that, apart from Birkenhead, the only large town with a separately established wholesale meat market in the area under consideration is Birmingham, though it may be expected that, in course of time, wholesale meat markets will be found to be a necessity in such centres as Bristol, the Potteries, and either Leicester or Nottingham. The wholesale meat trade at Birkenhead is carried on in close conjunction with the Woodside and Wallasey lairages (*see* page 101), and its supplies consist of Irish and Canadian cattle slaughtered at the abattoir. Wholesalers from many districts attend these lairages and buy both live cattle and dead meat.

Abattoirs (*i.e.*. slaughter halls) are found at Birmingham, Birkenhead, Chester, Lincoln, Hanley, Hereford, Shrewsbury and Wolverhampton. Some of these are small and, as a rule, there are also a number of private slaughterhouses in the towns concerned. Hereford is an instance of a town with no private slaughterhouses. Here the abattoir was built about 60 years ago, and is consequently not very up-to-date. There is, at present, no outstanding example of a public abattoir* on a large scale in the Midland area. A description of the Birmingham abattoir is given on pages 86 and 87.

Prior to the erection of abattoirs or public slaughter halls, it was the practice in many large towns to erect public slaughtering accommodation, with separate units for individual slaughtering, adjacent to the market. This arrangement still exists, for example, at Derby, Leicester, Northampton and Newport (Mon.) and, while it may be of service in facilitating inspection, it is generally regarded as an out-of-date method for a large town. There are also a number of smaller towns in the Midlands which have one or two public slaughterhouses to supplement private slaughtering arrangements. Such towns are Runcorn, Chesterfield, Market Harborough, Melton Mowbray, Scunthorpe, Abergavenny, Retford, Bridgnorth, Oswestry, Knowle and Rugby. In the majority of cases, these public slaughterhouses are let to butchers.

The principal markets in the Midlands area, where cold-storage and ice-making plant is provided by the market owner, are Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Leicester. Birmingham has 237,000 cubic feet of cold-storage in the basement of the city meat market and an ice-making plant with a capacity of 35 tons daily. The cold-stores and plant are leased to a private company. Wolverhampton

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* *See* description of Dresden markets and slaughterhouses. Economic Series No. 13. Appendix III.

has 5 cold-storage rooms in the markets, with a total capacity of 20,000 cubic feet, and an ice-making plant with a capacity of ten tons daily. The Leicester plant has a capacity of 50,000 cubic feet, and there are two 5-ton ice-making plants. There is no wholesale meat market at Leicester, and the plant is mainly used in connection with the wholesale produce market. Lincoln has, at its abattoir, cold-storage extending to 16,000 cubic feet.

In the area covered by this Report, there are 35 hide and skin "markets" registered by the Hide, Leather and Allied Trades' Improvement Society, of which 3 are in Birmingham, and 2 in Derby and Grimsby respectively. These "markets" are found mostly in the larger towns. Some are merely collecting depots and have been disregarded for the purpose of this Report. The premises of the remainder consist usually of ordinary warehouses, and the hides are either bought outright from butchers or others or the trade is done on commission; business is by auction, or private treaty, or both.

*Wool.**—There are 43 centres for the sale of wool in the Midland area. Of these, 12 are private treaty sales only and the remainder auctions. Although the importance of the auctions varies from year to year, the following may be mentioned as being among the most important in the Midland area :—Chester, Kettering, Leicester, Lichfield, Monmouth, Northampton, Oswestry, Peterborough, Shrewsbury, Wellingborough and Wellington. The distribution of the auctions varies; Northamptonshire with 6 and Leicestershire with 5 account for nearly one-half of the total number of auctions; so far as is known, no wool auctions are held in Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Derbyshire, Rutland and Worcestershire, and but one each in Cheshire, Herefordshire and Huntingdonshire. There are no central wool markets in the Midland counties such as exist at London, Liverpool, Bradford and centres in the north-west of England and in Scotland.

Wool auctions are not held at regular intervals in the same manner as livestock auctions, but are held once or twice during certain seasons of the year. In general, no special premises are used, the sales taking place in some local hall or exchange specially hired for the purpose; the fleeces are arranged in the best manner possible and are inspected by buyers on the day prior to the sale.

Fish.—The principal wholesale fish market in the Midland area is at Grimsby. Apart from this large port market, there are few wholesale fish markets in the Midlands. Birmingham (1,894 sq. yds.), Derby (700 sq. yds.) and Bristol (500 sq. yds.) have separate covered fish markets under Corporation control. At Stoke-on-Trent a wholesale fish market is held in the covered general market. There is a small wholesale fish market at Northampton (156 sq. yds.) owned by the London Midland and Scottish Railway Company. At other

* *See* also Economic Series No. 13, Chap. V.

towns, such as Leicester and Nottingham, a section of the wholesale fruit and vegetable market is devoted to the wholesale fish trade. A certain amount of wholesaling also takes place at many retail markets.

(III) RENTS, STALLAGES AND TOLLS.*

In view of the demand for information which reaches the Ministry from time to time regarding the market charges levied in wholesale produce markets and in livestock markets and their relationship to general marketing costs, it has been considered desirable to ascertain (*a*) the charges made in the various wholesale markets in the Midland area for spaces and stalls or stands and (*b*) the tolls levied on butter, cheese, eggs, poultry, fruit and vegetables, hay and straw and on livestock of all kinds. This information is not included in this Report, but particulars in regard to any particular market can be obtained by those interested on application to the Ministry.

The charges for space frequently relate to those parts of the market which are set apart for occupation by growers who desire to sell their own produce; charges for stalls or stands relate, in general, to rents payable by the regular market tenants. These charges vary considerably from one market to another. Tolls show even greater variations, both in amount and in method of assessment. Tolls on butter are usually levied according to size of basket, box, hamper, barrel or other container and sometimes, though infrequently, according to weight. Cheese is invariably assessed according to weight; at Chester, a charge per package is also made. Eggs are charged according to size of basket or box, and, in some markets, according to number. Chickens, fowls, ducks, geese and turkeys are charged sometimes according to size of receptacles, sometimes per couple, sometimes per bird; the tolls on dressed poultry may differ from those on live birds. In the open market at Birmingham, provision is made for a charge on droves of ducks, geese and turkeys; at Bromsgrove, the toll on chicks and ducklings up to 14 days old is charged on the dozen. Tolls on fruit and vegetables are levied on loaded carts, wagons, barrows or trucks, or according to the package, *i.e.*, whether bag, sack, box, cask, crate, hamper, basket or sieve, and sometimes according to weight or number. Tolls on hay and straw are charged on the cart or wagon but sometimes per load, ball, truss, etc. Tolls on livestock may be separately scheduled for any or all of the various kinds of stock. Thus, though the tolls on cows, steers or heifers are usually the same in the same market, higher tolls may be levied on bulls and fat beasts; calves are charged for at a lower rate. Rams are separately assessed for toll in many markets, but no distinction is made, as a rule, between sheep and lambs. Both fat and store pigs are usually charged the same toll, but, in some markets, separate provision is

* *See* also Economic Series No. 13, Chap. II.

made for sucking-pigs and for sows with litters. Stallions and mares are usually charged at different rates; a different and lower charge is usual on colts, fillies, or foals.

It is not the purpose of this Report to comment on the variations in the charges made by market authorities by way of rent or toll; variations depend on local circumstances and are matters of local interest. It should be added that charges for stall-space, especially in wholesale fruit and vegetable markets and retail markets, are gradually replacing tolls except as regards the comparatively small proportion of the produce handled which is grown locally and brought in and disposed of by the growers themselves. On the other hand, tolls, where leviable as in legally constituted markets, are the most convenient form in which charges can be levied in livestock markets. In the more modern auction marts owned or controlled by auctioneers or market companies, no market charges, as such, are levied; some auctioneers operating in a market where tolls are leviable and no private treaty business is done, pay a lump sum annually to the market owners in lieu of tolls, thus rendering the market, in effect, toll-free to users.

(IV) FAIRS.

(a) General.

So far as can be ascertained, about 250 recognised fairs are still held at about 100 centres in the area covered by this Report. Particulars of these fairs, their location, dates on which held and the commodities sold, are given in Appendix III, pages 148 to 155. The fairs are held chiefly for the sale of horses, sheep and cattle. There are no pig fairs; this has been explained by the fact that, formerly, pig-flesh was mainly marketed in a cured state—farmers and villagers killed their own pigs and marketed the bacon and hams —and, further, that pig production has always been fairly widespread and less disposed to concentration in particular areas than in the case of sheep and cattle. Fairs where commodities other than livestock are sold include a few special wool fairs—which now usually take the form of auction sales and are included in this Report under the general head of markets—the two wool and leather fairs and the seed fair held annually at Bristol, the annual hop fair at Worcester and the wood fair at Peterborough for the sale of English-grown timber. At a few fairs, as, for example, at Hereford, Leicester, Stamford and Newcastle-under-Lyme, agricultural produce generally is sold. A small cheese fair is held at Mansfield in October, although livestock is gradually displacing cheese in importance. In Cheshire and Shropshire, there are numerous cheese fairs, but these have the character of regular markets and have been so regarded for the purpose of this Report. The same applies to the so-called "cattle-fairs" in the counties on the Welsh border, particularly Shropshire; these are regular weekly or fortnightly markets of the

usual kind. Similarly, in compiling Appendix III, no regard has been paid to special sales of livestock at large centres such as Chesterfield, Derby, Hereford, Leicester, Nottingham and Bristol which are designated as " fairs " and advertised as such in order, presumably, to attract entries and buyers from a bigger area than would be the case if the word " fair " were not used. In any event, livestock fairs are mostly held on the site of the usual market, frequently on the usual market day, and many of them are indistinguishable, except in larger turnover and in the fact that they are held seasonally, from the usual routine markets.

Following the trend of recent years, reports show that many of the fairs still proclaimed annually are declining in importance as centres for the disposal of agricultural produce and tend to linger on as pleasure fairs. A striking illustration of this occurs at Luton, Beds., where two livestock fairs, said to have originated in 1066 or earlier, attracted no entries in 1925 and 1926; a pleasure fair is still held on the original dates, but there appears to be no likelihood of a revival of the fair for agricultural business. Several reasons are given for the decline in importance of the old fairs. Thus at Hinckley, Leics., a once famous livestock fair is now practically defunct owing, it is said, to the manufacture of hosiery having superseded the agricultural industry of the district, whilst at Boston, Lincs., the decline of the fairs is attributed to a change from grazing to arable farming. At Leek, Staffs, once important cheese fairs have declined with the establishment of cheese factories in the neighbourhood. A very old poultry fair originally held at Much Wenlock, Salop, under a Charter of Edward IV, was not advertised in 1926, the reason given for its decline being that improved methods of transport now enable dealers to collect more easily from farms. There is little doubt, however, that the growth of well-appointed markets held at regular intervals is the main factor in the supersession of the old-time fair. Apart from the fact that stock is brought into a marketable condition more quickly nowadays than was formerly the case, the system of sale by auction and the installation of weighing machines enable the farmer to dispose of his stock in ways more in line with modern business procedure than was possible at the old fairs, many of which were held in the streets (Fig. 7). Tradition, however, dies hard, even where a fair has become an anachronism. Thus, it is stated that at Ripley, Derbyshire, an ancient livestock fair, which has been practically superseded by auction marts, is still supported by some farmers and dealers who wish to keep up old associations. On the other hand, there are recent instances of the desire to establish new fairs, or gatherings resembling fairs, particularly where conditions preclude the formation of regular markets; an example of this is shown at Blaenavon, Mon., where a gathering resembling a livestock fair was instituted by a local farmers' organisation as late as 1924 to meet the needs of the small farmers in an industrial area.

(b) Horse Fairs.

Changes in methods of transport have naturally affected the importance of horse fairs, and, although some are still important, the business done at many of them is to-day practically negligible. Support of this statement is furnished by reports from Cambridge and Whittlesey, Cambs., which show that once important horse fairs held at these places attracted, when last held, only 3 and 2 entries respectively. On the other hand, a large horse fair, the survival of two annual fairs, is still held at Spilsby, Lincs., and here some hundreds of horses change hands annually, mainly by a system of barter whereby the dealers exchange young horses for old and cast animals. Large horse fairs are also held at other centres, including Stow-on-the-Wold, Glos., St. Neots, Hunts., Holbeach, Lincs., Pershore, Worcs., Worcester itself and at Brampton Bryan, Herefordshire. At Huntington, Herefordshire, two large fairs have been held annually for over a century and, although business has decreased, several hundred horses, chiefly Welsh ponies, are shown at each fair; the fair held at Worcester is notable as a centre for the disposal of Irish and Welsh horses.

(c) Sheep Fairs.

In a number of places, sheep fairs are still of some importance. This applies particularly to Lincolnshire. Thus the old fairs established for centuries at places like Wragby and Partney, still attract buyers from a wide area for the purchase of store and breeding sheep. Two fairs, or gatherings resembling fairs, of more recent origin are those held at Scunthorpe and Brigg, the former specialising in Lincoln Longwool pedigree rams and ewes and the latter handling Lincoln, Hampshire, Oxford and Suffolk rams and Lincoln breeding ewes and shearlings. The towns of Leicester and Nottingham both hold large sheep fairs annually in October; that at Leicester disposed of over 10,000 sheep in 1926, whilst at the Nottingham fair in the same year, about 5,700 sheep were sold. An important sheep fair has existed continuously at Oxford for the last 40 or 50 years. This is held in August when pedigree Oxford Down, Hampshire Down, Ryeland and Suffolk rams, breeding ewes and store sheep are exposed for sale to the number of over 7,000; at Bicester, an ancient sheep fair is held, also in August, and attracts usually about 4,000 head. Business at these fairs is stated to be slightly on the increase. Gloucester is the venue of an old-established pedigree sheep fair, known as "Barton Fair," held in September. Buyers attend this fair from the neighbouring counties and from Wales; usually about 500 rams and 3,500 ewes and lambs are on view. One of the largest and most successful sheep fairs in the Midlands is the Ram Fair at Northampton which has been held continuously since 1796; usually, about 7,500 head of rams and other sheep are shown. At East Retford, Notts., sheep to the number of 3,000

are sold at the October fair, which is held under a Charter dated 1246; this fair is said to be a necessity owing to the inadequacy of existing market facilities. At the two annual fairs which have been held continuously at Mansfield for periods of 550 and 700 years respectively, the sales of sheep are stated to be increasing. The Worcester sheep fair attracts farmers and flockmasters from a wide area who purchase store and breeding sheep for winter feeding. At the fair held at Church Stretton, Salop, the sheep shown are almost exclusively of the Kerry Hill breed.

(d) Cattle Fairs.

There are still a number of cattle fairs in existence, now mainly, it appears, for the disposal of store cattle. The Martinmas Fair held at Rugby is stated to be of special importance as it attracts buyers from considerable distances, including the Eastern Counties, who purchase cattle here for winter feeding. Amongst other important cattle fairs are the Worcester fair, where Irish cattle are a feature, the October fair at Hereford, and the fairs at Macclesfield, Cheshire, which, it is stated, are used for the disposal of dairy cattle to farmers in the surrounding districts. Bulls are disposed of at many of the cattle fairs, though Lincoln, Boston, Alford and Brigg, all in Lincolnshire, are the only centres that report special bull fairs. The Lincoln bull fair, held annually in April, attracts a large entry—271 head being disposed of in 1926. At Boston, the bull fair has not been traced beyond recent origin, but it is held in conjunction with the May fair which dates from time immemorial. Although the old livestock fairs in this town are rapidly being superseded by weekly markets, the bull fair apparently remains distinctive and attracts considerable numbers of entries and buyers, as does the bull fair held at Alford in October. The bull fair at Brigg is also of apparently recent origin; it has been held annually for the last 20 years; 30 head were disposed of in 1926. The large entry of calves at the livestock fairs held in Derby at Easter and Whitsuntide is worthy of mention; about 1,160 calves, in all, were sold at these two fairs in 1925.

PART II.—THE COUNTIES AND THEIR MARKETS.

BEDFORDSHIRE.

(a) General.

The most notable feature of the agriculture of Bedfordshire is the market gardening industry, which is mainly located round Biggleswade, Potton, Ampthill and Bedford; two-fifths of the total acreage of brussels sprouts grown in England are found in these neighbourhoods, where also green peas, beans, cabbages, cauliflowers, carrots and onions are produced. The district round Biggleswade and Potton is also important for early potatoes. The chief corn crop is wheat.

The trade in corn is done chiefly at the corn exchanges at Bedford and Luton; local millers are the chief buyers. Eggs and poultry are sold at practically all markets; supplies are also sent to neighbouring markets, such as St. Neots (Hunts.) and Hitchin (Herts.). There are three regular auction sales of eggs in Bedfordshire and four at which poultry is sold. There is no important wholesale fruit and vegetable market, as such, in the county, and, apart from sales in local retail markets such as those at Bedford and Luton, produce raised in the market-gardening areas is mainly sent away for sale on commission. The most important livestock market is Bedford (notably for pigs), followed by Luton, Leighton Buzzard, Biggleswade, and Dunstable. Practically no trade of importance in store stock is done at the livestock markets, where, with the exception of Bedford market, business in general is said to be falling off.

(b) Notes on particular markets.

Bedford.—There are two cattle markets in Bedford, one owned by the Corporation and one privately owned. Part of the former is at present used for horse sales and is about to be reconditioned. The latter, an auction mart opened in 1835 and held weekly, is in two portions on opposite sides of the road; on the one side are the open cattle pens, with a gangway leading to a covered sale ring via a 30-cwt. dial weighbridge, and pens for sheep. On the opposite side of the road are separate covered iron pens for store and fat pigs respectively. These are separated by a roadway; store and fat pigs are sold in different rings, but not at the same time. There is ample room for expansion on this side of the road if necessary. A railway loading dock is situated within reasonable distance of the market.

Bedford has a general retail market at which fruit and vegetables, dairy produce, &c., are sold. A corn market is held in a building

owned by the Corporation. There is also a private auction mart in the town with covered accommodation for the sale of eggs, butter, poultry, fruit and vegetables.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

(a) General.

Cambridgeshire can be divided into two areas. The south-west of the county is devoted to mixed farming, resembling, in general, the arable farming of Suffolk and other neighbouring counties. The north-east, which includes the Isle of Ely, is low-lying and partly fen-land, where cultivation tends to be more specialised and holdings are on the average smaller. In the higher part of the county there is a considerable production of wheat, barley and oats. The district cannot be regarded as a feeding area, but dairying shows a steady increase. Sheep are to be found in fair numbers; pigs are also largely produced. In the low-lying part of the county, wheat is prominent, but barley and oats are less generally grown. Of recent years, sugar beet and celery have come into prominence. Throughout the fens, potatoes are grown in large quantities, while round Chatteris is a district noted for carrots. In the Wisbech area, tree and bush fruits, roots, vegetables, flowers and bulbs are grown extensively and asparagus to some extent, while nearer Cambridge, round Cottenham, Willingham and other villages, there is an important fruit and flower district.

In general, Cambridgeshire appears to be well-equipped as regards markets, and, apart from local retail markets, there are not, as in some counties, a number of small markets of doubtful value. The principal market for the sale of grain is the Corn Exchange at Cambridge, where buyers are seedsmen and millers; a proportion of the grain grown in the county is sold in neighbouring markets, such as Bury St. Edmunds. Eggs are sold by auction in five markets and poultry in seven. Eggs and poultry also go to neighbouring markets, such as Saffron Walden, Royston, Newmarket and St. Ives. Apart from small fruit and vegetable sales at Cambridge, where buyers are mainly local greengrocers, and at Chatteris, there are no wholesale assembly markets in Cambridgeshire similar to those in the west Midlands. The fruit and vegetable produce is mainly sent away for sale on commission, Wisbech being the centre for the trade in potatoes and fruit. Most of the cattle are sent into Cambridge market, but some are sent to neighbouring markets outside the county, such as Saffron Walden, St. Ives, and Newmarket; supplies from the Isle of Ely mainly go to the markets at Ely and St. Ives (Hunts.). Cambridge market is usually well supplied with sheep and pigs. March has an important market for pigs and also a poultry auction.

(b) Notes on particular markets.

Cambridge.—The cattle market is a good example of a medium-sized country market. Most of the stock sold is drawn from the district, but, from June to Christmas, fat cattle are received from Leicestershire and a fair number of Irish cattle are put on the market during the autumn. Fat cattle are sold to local butchers and to London. Fat pigs are sent to Birmingham, Nottingham and the North. The market is well situated as regards transport facilities and is well arranged, covered accommodation being provided for most of the pig pens as well as for cows and calves. Covered accommodation is provided for carts and lorries just outside the market. The only notable omission in the market is covering for the sale rings; the latter are smaller than the average, which probably accounts for the fact that buyers do not congregate inside the rings. In addition to a weighbridge in the centre of the market, a dial weighbridge has been provided in the fat-stock auction ring. The market is owned by the Cambridge Corporation, parts being let to three firms of auctioneers. Butchers bring in hides for sale to a "hide, skin and fat market" which is situated in the cattle market.

Auction sales of butter, eggs, poultry and market garden produce are held in the cattle market twice weekly.

A general retail market is held in the Market Place, at which butter, eggs, fruit, vegetables and meat are sold. Fish is sold in a separate part of the market. Corn sales are held in the Corn Exchange.

CHESHIRE.

(a) General.

South Cheshire, *i.e.* south of the Chester-to-Crewe railway, is, in general, heavy land devoted to grassland dairying. North Cheshire, with the growing market of Lancashire on its borders and with its own steadily increasing population, is roughly half arable with production of milk (sold as fluid milk), potatoes, corn, straw and hay. The cow population is very large and more concentrated than in any other county. Rearing is not largely practised—say, 10 calves for every 35 to 45 cows. Numbers of heifers and young cows are brought from Lancashire, Cumberland, Wales and Ireland. Sheep are not numerous and are mainly "flying flocks" for early lamb and north-country lambs for fattening; pigs, on the other hand, are kept in large numbers in the south of the county for whey consumption. Market gardens are found within easy transport radius of the south-Lancashire towns. The neighbourhoods of Frodsham and Delamere are famous for early potatoes. Orchards are few; damsons, black-currants and strawberries are grown in the Dee valley.

Only one market in the county, namely Chester, reports sales of corn. The cheese produced in south Cheshire is sold mainly on the

farm but partly in fairs held periodically at Nantwich and Chester. and, outside the county, at Whitchurch, Wem, Market Drayton and Stafford Butter is not produced to any great extent. "Whey-butter" is made on cheese-farms and sold in local market towns. Eggs and poultry are sold in local markets and auctions throughout the county, the largest being Nantwich and Sandbach. There is an important wholesale produce market at Birkenhead. The potatoes and market garden produce of north Cheshire are, however, mostly sent direct to consuming centres, chiefly in south Lancashire and the Potteries, but Sandbach is an important wholesale potato market to which supplies are attracted. Cottagers' fruit is also sold in Sandbach market which is glutted in good seasons. The relatively small quantity of apples and soft fruit produced is mainly sold in local markets or to higglers.

The chief livestock markets are at Crewe, Chester, Beeston and Malpas in south Cheshire and at Chelford in north Cheshire, at all of which sales are by auction. There are numerous other auction marts, but they are not of great importance, and, with the development of motor transport, are tending to lose trade. Apart from the lairages at Birkenhead which serve, in effect, as a large distributive centre for Irish and Canadian cattle, the larger markets in the county may be classed as assembly markets. Calves are marketed throughout the year, particularly in the Spring. Dairy stock s largely bought in auctions outside the county, either by farmers themselves or by dealers who re-sell privately or through the auction sales. Dairy cows are kept as long as they are profitable, and a few only, mostly put in by dealers, are sold in auctions. There are, on the other hand, large sales of draft cows, most of which are sold half-fat and bought by local butchers or by butchers from adjoining industrial areas and some by feeders from Shropshire, Norfolk and Yorkshire. A few special store stock sales are held every Spring at Crewe and a few annual sales of pedigree bulls and cows. The trade in breeding ewes and store sheep is in the hands of dealers; the stock mostly comes direct on to the farms, although small numbers are put into the auctions. Practically all the fat sheep and lambs are sold by auction. About one-third of the store pigs fed in the county are home reared; the remainder come mostly from Wales and are brought on to the farms by dealers. Fat pigs (cutters) are sold in large numbers in auctions. In south Cheshire, most of the pigs are baconers, a large proportion being sold on the farms to agents of Midland curing firms. There are fortnightly horse sales at Crewe, where about 200 horses, drawn from a wide area, change hands.

Retail markets exist in most towns, but have, with few exceptions, lost their original character of produce markets, a great part of their trade being in non-agricultural commodities.

(b) Notes on particular markets.

Beeston.—There are a few good country auction marts in the county, of which perhaps the most important and successful is

Beeston, where sales take place at about 12.30 o'clock, thus allowing buyers to arrive from Crewe market which is held on the same day. The market, which is near the main road and the railway, is efficiently run and has good accommodation for dairy cows, cattle, calves, sheep and pigs. About one-third of the market is covered. Live poultry are sold by auction in the market. The livestock are drawn from local farms and are sold chiefly to Lancashire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, and to other parts of Cheshire. A 25-cwt. dial weighbridge is installed in the market.

Birkenhead.—The Birkenhead Corporation controls a large retail market,* a wholesale fruit and vegetable market adjoining the retail market, and an abattoir situated about half a mile from the market buildings. There is no market for the sale of local cattle ; imported animals are landed for sale at the Woodside and Wallasey lairages, a description of which is given on pages 101 to 103. Part of the wholesale fruit and vegetable market has a high slate and glass roof, supported by iron framework, with open sides (Fig. 8). The market is not separated into special stands, but three passages, 18 to 21 feet wide, are left between the groups of produce to allow two vehicles to pass. The produce is delivered to the market largely by motor wagons. Sales are by private treaty. The market is conveniently situated in regard to the railway and arterial roads. As a result of the development of motor traffic, Cheshire growers and retailers are tending to go direct to the larger wholesale produce markets of Liverpool and Manchester and to miss Birkenhead which now has little more than a local trade. The attendance of purchasers at the retail market on Fridays and Saturdays is very large—up to 20,000 people pass through it on Saturdays. Stalls are reserved for producers for the sale of butter, cheese, eggs, poultry, fresh pork, vegetables, etc.

Chester.—The cattle markets consist of a store cattle market for private treaty sales, a fat-cattle market which is let to a firm of auctioneers, and a private auction mart. At the entrance to the fat-cattle sale-ring at the two auctions are a 50-cwt. and a 30-cwt. dial weighbridge respectively. No accommodation is available on the present sites to meet future expansion of business. The Council's unleased market for private sales of store stock—about 100 stores and dairy cows are sold per week—is the usual type of uncovered market. Within a quarter of a mile from the cattle market, is a small public abattoir accessible to road transport only.

The retail market in the centre of the town is a building 35-40 feet high with glazed roof and covers about 2 acres. It is well lighted with electricity. The stalls are 12 ft. by 12 ft., roofed and provided with roll or other form of shutters. One acre of the market space is set aside for poultry, butter, eggs and cheese. Here the farmer's wife has been largely superseded by the huckster who sells

* *See* Economic Series No. 13, Fig. 5.

produce collected from farms within a radius of from 10 to 20 miles. The produce is sold from trestle stands—3 feet wide. A large quantity of cheese is sold by producers in a part of the market set aside for the purpose (Fig. 2); 800 tons were sold in 1925, principally to factors for Lancashire and Yorkshire. There are two platform scales up to 6-cwt. capacity and one up to ½-ton for weighing cheese. Chester has an annual wool sale; a private firm holds weekly sales of hides and skins.

Crewe.—Crewe is one of the most important railway centres in the country and is conveniently placed as a distributing centre. Buyers come from a considerable distance, there being no markets of importance within about 20 miles. There are two cattle auctions in the town, the larger of which is, in fact, two markets; one, known as the Crewe Cattle Market, is held on land belonging to the London Midland and Scottish Railway Company and is exempt from tolls; the other, on the opposite side of the road, is on the freehold of the auctioneers but within the borough jurisdiction and tolls are paid to the Corporation. A 40-cwt. dial weighing machine is installed at the entrance to each fat-cattle sale-ring. The fat and store cattle sold come mainly from farms within a radius of 12 miles. Fat cows account for a large part of the beef offered for sale. The store cattle that are offered are bought by graziers, the majority being heifers intended to supplement the dairy herds. Apart from local demands, the bulk of the fat cattle and fat sheep are purchased by butchers from Birmingham and the Potteries. Wholesale buyers for Manchester and Stockport also operate in the market. Buyers of pigs and calves attend from Lancashire, Yorkshire, Birmingham and the Potteries. There is considerable competition among buyers and, from the point of view of prices, the market is good. Eight licensed auctioneers are employed, each being responsible for a separate class of stock, *i.e.*, store cattle, dairy cows, fat cattle, sheep, pigs, calves and horses. This specialisation has been found to be successful. Dealers are using the auction more and more and there is a tendency for the number of cattle sold privately to decrease. The smaller mart was opened in April, 1925, and is operated by a firm of auctioneers on the same day as the larger auction. The Corporation owns a retail market, but there is no wholesale produce market in the town.

DERBYSHIRE.

(a) General.

Of the total acreage under crops and grass in Derbyshire, less than one-fifth is arable land. Arable farming, including sheep and barley husbandry, is found in the north-eastern parts of the county and mixed farming is common in the south. The main agricultural feature of the county is the production of milk, the typical dairy holding having about 75 per cent. of permanent grass. Com-

[*Facing page* 28.



FIG. 7.—Stamford: Annual November Beast and Horse Fair.



FIG. 8.—Birkenhead: Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Market.

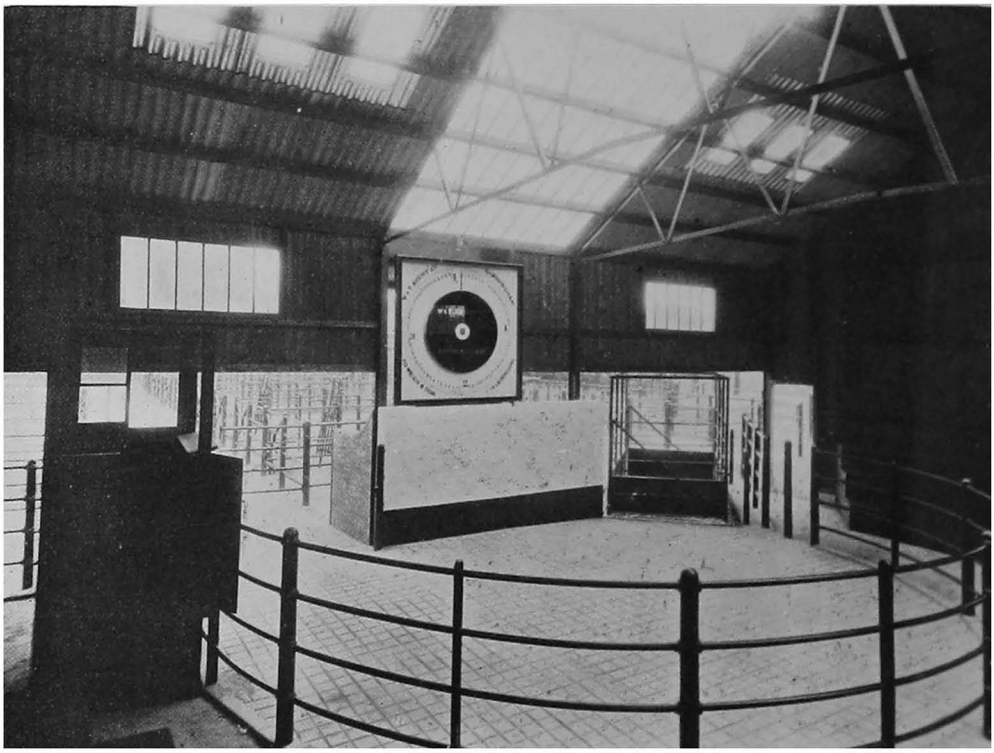


FIG. 9.—Tewkesbury Market, Covered Sale Ring.



FIG. 10.—Gloucester : Cattle Market.

paratively small quantities of vegetables are grown, except in a small area around Melbourne, south of Derby, which is important for market gardening. The summer fattening of bullocks is practically confined to the valleys of the Trent, Dove and Derwent. On the Yorkshire borders, there is a large area of upland sheep grazings.

With the exception of Derby market, the markets of the county are small. A striking feature is the number of retail markets scattered throughout the county where local produce of every description is sold. Corn is sold at Alfreton, Bakewell, Chesterfield, Derby and Wirksworth. Eggs and poultry are disposed of at Derby wholesale market, also at Ashbourne, Buxton, Chesterfield and other markets. There is an important wholesale fruit and vegetable market at Derby. The area around Melbourne sends supplies to Derby market and to other centres such as Nottingham and Manchester. Elsewhere, practically the whole of the output of vegetables is absorbed locally. Little fruit is grown. The bulk of the milk produced is sold for consumption as fluid milk, but some butter and cheese, chiefly Stilton and Derbyshire, are made. Wirksworth and Ashbourne markets are noteworthy for wholesale sales of butter and cheese.

The chief markets for the sale of livestock are Derby—by far the biggest and best equipped cattle market in the county (*see* page 91), Ashbourne and Bakewell; smaller markets are held at Alfreton, Buxton, Chapel-en-le-Frith, Chesterfield and Wirksworth. A number of fairs, more especially for the sale of sheep and store cattle, are also held at various centres. So far as can be ascertained, there are no wool auctions in the county.

(b) Notes on particular markets.

Ashbourne.—The cattle market is worthy of special mention for the number of dairy cows, heifers and calves which pass through it in the course of a year. It is owned by the Urban District Council and occupies an area of 7,430 sq. yds., of which 960 sq. yds. have been covered over for dairy cattle, calves and pigs. Cattle and sheep are sold by both private treaty and auction; auction selling of pigs and calves also takes place. A 30-cwt. dial weighbridge has recently been installed in the fat-cattle ring. Supplies are almost entirely drawn from within a radius of 10 miles, but the distributing area of the market is large and embraces such towns as Derby, Nottingham, Wolverhampton, Hull, Sheffield, the Pottery towns and, in fact, the Midlands generally. A large number of calves are auctioned every alternate week, some 4,000 being sold in a recent complete year. Ashbourne has an open-air general market in which auction sales of poultry are also held.

Bakewell.—The cattle market, owned by the local authority, is situated on the main line of the London Midland and Scottish Railway, amid the high dairying and grazing areas of the Peak district. It occupies an area of some 3,000 sq. yds. and is a well-

built and well-planned market. There is no dial weighbridge adjacent to the auction ring, but an ordinary weighbridge is situated a short distance away. The market draws its supplies from a wide area, a considerable trade in dairy cows, bullocks and both fat and store sheep being done at certain times of the year. The accommodation includes the usual pens for private treaty business; in addition, a special part of the market is reserved for auction selling and is equipped with a sale ring. There is covered accommodation for dairy cows, pigs, and calves. The market is apt to be overcrowded, especially on Fair days, when as many as 1,000 head of sheep are penned. A number of fat beasts are bought for consumption in Chesterfield, which is only a few miles distant; others are sent to Sheffield, Nottingham, Derby, Buxton, Leek, Liverpool, and Manchester. Bakewell has also a general retail market as well as a covered market hall which is used for the sale of corn and cattle foods.

Derby.—See pages 91 to 95.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

(a) General.

The character of farming in Gloucestershire is largely determined by the strongly marked physical features of the county. The Cotswolds, in the east, are mainly devoted to sheep and corn, with a certain amount of stock raising. In the extreme south-east, near the Thames Valley, dairying is the main industry. North and north-west, there is extensive market gardening and fruit culture. The valelands, particularly along the valley of the Severn, are rich and heavy and afford good grazing; here is also dairy farming and extensive arable cultivation. Some of the richest grazing is to be found n the Berkeley vale, which is famous for its dairying, although the old cheese-making industry has now largely given place to milk selling. West of the Severn, sheep and corn are predominant in the districts bordering Hereford and Monmouth on the one side and the river on the other. On the extreme west of the county lies the Forest of Dean, with a fringe of small farms. Gloucestershire ranks high as a pig breeding and feeding county, there being close association between dairying and pig keeping.

While there are one or two small markets which might well be closed and certain street markets which lack proper accommodation, the majority of the markets of the county are conveniently placed and appear to be satisfactory to the producer. Small quantities of butter are sold by auction at Berkeley, Cheltenham, Gloucester, Stroud and Yate. Cheese is also sold at these markets, but the comparatively small quantities now made by farmers are largely sold direct to factors and shopkeepers. Bristol has a weekly corn market and there is an important corn market at Cirencester. Corn is also sold at a number of other market centres. A large number of eggs pass through the egg auctions, which are now a regular feature

of the fruit and vegetable auctions in the county. Live and dead poultry are also sold at these markets. Eggs do not appear to be sold by auction at any of the livestock markets, and poultry at only a few. A considerable proportion of the fruit and a lesser proportion of the vegetables produced in the county are sent away to industrial centres for sale on commission. Fruit, especially apples and plums, is also sold by growers direct to dealers; cider apples and perry pears are generally sold direct to cider and perry makers. To the north of Gloucester, however, much of the produce goes through the produce auctions which are characteristic of the west Midlands —at Gloucester, Cheltenham* and Grange Court,* or at similar markets in neighbouring counties, such as at Evesham†, Coventry§ and Stratford-on-Avon. South of Gloucester, there is a small auction mart at Berkeley for fruit and other produce and a similar market exists at Thornbury during the apple season; another has recently been opened at Stroud. There is no auction selling of home-grown fruit and vegetables in Bristol, but, at Yate, a firm of auctioneers which conducts a livestock auction has started a produce section. This is, at present, a purely local affair, but has possibilities of development into a centre for the sale, by auction, of fruit and vegetables from the Frampton, Cotterell and Winterbourne district a few miles away.

Gloucester and Bristol are the most important livestock markets. The first is especially noted for calves, dairy and fat cattle, and pigs. Bristol has also a market for Irish stores landed at Avonmouth Tewkesbury (Fig. 9) and Yate are medium-sized markets for sheep and pigs. Chipping Sodbury, Moreton-in-the-Marsh and Cirencester are centres for sheep from the Cotswolds. The fortnightly sale of cattle, sheep and pigs at Andoversford attracts buyers from various industrial and grazing centres. This market is owned by an association of local farmers, and the auctioneers pay for the right to sell. There is a successful co-operative livestock auction at Chipping Campden and another at Winchcombe. The latter, however, has declined in recent years owing to the spread of dairying and market gardening in the district. The other livestock markets in the county are the usual type of small country market and possess no features of special interest. There are one or two street markets still in existence, such as at Lechlade and Fairford. Fat stock is mainly sold through the auctions; pigs, however, are largely sold direct to dealers. Butchers and dealers from the Midlands and South Wales attend many of the fat-stock markets. Wool sales are held at Bristol, Chipping Campden, Cirencester and Yate.

(b) Notes on particular markets.

Bristol.—The cattle market, which adjoins the joint station of the Great Western and London, Midland and Scottish Railways, was reconstructed in 1914, and is exceptionally well equipped for its

* *See* pages 81 to 82.
† *See* pages 82 to 84.
§ *See* pages 61 to 62.

purpose, namely the sale of Irish stores. There is a dial weighbridge in the market. The other markets in Bristol are held in the Corn Exchange or adjoining premises and consist of wholesale and retail fruit, flower and vegetable markets, a wholesale and retail fish market, a retail meat market and a corn market. Up to 1908, there was a wholesale meat market, but in that year the premises were closed down and demolished. The corn market, at which a large trade is carried on, is one of the best known in the country. The Market Hall in the centre of the old city was opened in 1745, and was in all probability an exceptionally fine building for a fruit and general merchandise market of that period. The accommodation which the Hall provides is now, however, inadequate and merchants have been compelled to acquire premises in the surrounding streets. Wool and leather fairs are held in March and September in the Corn Exchange.

The retail market is held in various passages, arches and smaller halls surrounding the main Market Hall. Different commodities are, so far as possible, kept apart—the flower stalls, for instance, are all in one passage. The accommodation is, however, restricted. The fish market is in a separate hall.

Cheltenham and Grange Courts —*See* pages 81 and 82.

Gloucester.—The cattle market (Fig. 10) is conveniently placed near the Great Western and London Midland and Scottish stations, and is one of the most important markets in the West of England. It is held twice a week ; dairy and store stock are sold on Saturdays, fat stock and all classes of pigs on Mondays. Both fat stock and dairy cattle come from a wide area. With the exception of pigs, which are largely bought by dealers, the fat stock is mainly sold to butchers. South Wales, Bristol, Birmingham and Leicester take a fair proportion. A good proportion of the dairy cattle goes into the hands of dealers. The store cattle, sheep and pigs offered in the market are reared locally and many are bought by graziers, feeders and dealers from more distant parts. Two firms of auctioneers sell in the market. The trade of the market is increasing and the question of extending the accommodation has received consideration. This is one of the markets where cattle are not penned in the strict sense of the term, but are kept in position in bays by drovers, or by the owners, and gradually move forward into the sale ring alley. Here they are kept apart until allowed to enter the ring one by one. From the ring, they pass into a large collecting pen where they are sorted out by the various purchasers after the sale. This arrangement is not so convenient as that by which sellers and buyers have their own pens. There are two covered rings for the sale of dairy cows and fat cattle and two uncovered rings for the sale of stores. There is no covered lairage accommodation for any stock except calves, of which 250 can be tied up under cover. The market is, however, full of trees which give excellent shade in summer. Two dial weighbridges have recently been installed at the entrance to each of the fat-cattle rings.

There is an important wholesale fruit and vegetable auction held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays on a portion of the cattle market appropriated for the purpose. This market has grown steadily since its institution in 1900. It serves a wide area which includes South Wales, the South of England and the consuming centres in the North. Other markets at Gloucester are the corn market held on Saturdays in the Corn Exchange, which adjoins the cattle market, and the general covered retail market in Eastgate Street. At one time, farmers' wives used to bring butter, eggs, etc , to this market, but sellers are now regular traders.

HEREFORDSHIRE.

(a) General.

Hereford is mainly a cattle breeding and rearing county in which breeders fatten their own stock. There is little dairying, though the output of milk is increasing. Fruit growing comes next in importance after stock breeding. Cider apples are grown in all parts of the county; the proportion of pot-fruit grown increases eastwards. It is reckoned that about 90 per cent. of the cider crop goes direct to the factory, and that about 70 per cent. of the general crop goes to market. Hops are another staple crop.

There are only ten regular market centres in the whole county. Hereford, as is proper to a county town, appears to draw its supplies from the largest area. There is, however, keen competition between Hereford and Leominster, particularly in the store cattle and sheep trade. Supplies of eggs, poultry, rabbits, etc., are sold at the usual local markets. The manner of marketing fruit varies with the type of holding. The produce of the apple plantations mainly goes direct to commission salesmen or retail distributors in the industrial centres of the North. The smaller and varied crops from the mixed farms mainly find their way into the local markets. The two principal livestock markets are held at Hereford and Leominster; among the smaller markets may be mentioned those at Bromyard, Kington, Ledbury and Ross. At Kington, sales are direct from breeder to feeder; the market is well laid out and forms a good example of a market for a small place. Improvements to Ledbury market are under consideration. Bromyard, situated mainly in a breeding district, is an example of a market which suffers from lack of competition among buyers; it is too far by motor from South Wales, railway facilities are inadequate, and so dealers from Midland towns are said to have it almost all their own way. There are Corn Exchanges at Hereford and Leominster. There is a wool auction at Kington.

(b) Notes on particular markets.

Hereford.—The cattle market (Fig. 11) is on a site which allows for extension in the future. A motor park and special railway sidings are provided and there is also space for dealing in other commodities

such as fruit and eggs. A certain amount of covered space is provided for calves and dairy cattle. A special feature is the ample provision of loading banks which facilitate the handling of large numbers of pigs and sheep. Fat stock from this market is partly absorbed by the city itself, but is mainly sent away to the South Wales and Birmingham districts. Store cattle are bought by local feeders in the Midland area and by buyers from other parts. There are several auctioneers operating in the market, but the arrangements as regards accommodation and times of selling are such that, in effect, the number is restricted. Selling times are settled by mutual agreement under the direction of the Markets Committee. Each auction ring has a dial weighing machine. In the centre of the market there is a public dial weighbridge. A sale of horses by auction is held monthly. Weekly auctions, principally for apples and pears, are held during the season, the fruit being sent chiefly to South Wales. The Corporation hires out pots to growers and also holds a stock of non-returnable packages for the convenience of those who use the market. Poultry is sold by auction in a shed in the cattle market; a portion of this space is specially fitted up for the sale of graded eggs. Space is rented to wholesale poultry buyers both in the cattle market and in the butter market for the conduct of their business. A considerable part of the butter market is specially fitted up for the sale of produce of all kinds by producers direct to consumers. The corn exchange is privately owned.

Leominster.—Fat stock from Leominster market goes to Birmingham and South Wales, and also supplies local needs. Stores from the autumn sales go to Cheshire and Lancashire; the market also distributes supplies between local breeders, feeders and dealers drawing them from within a radius of about 20 miles. The live-stock is sold in two privately controlled auction yards, each equipped with a dial weighing machine. Butter, cheese, eggs, fruit, poultry and vegetables are sold by auction in a portion of the market. The produce market at Leominster, where butter, eggs, fruit, meat and poultry are sold retail, is very small and the accommodation is limited. There are two public weighing machines in the retail market.

The corn exchange is privately owned.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE.

(a) General.

Huntingdonshire is almost wholly an agricultural county. The chief crop is wheat, which is grown on more than a quarter of the arable area, but, on the lighter soils, considerable quantities of barley and oats are grown and, on the fens, potatoes and carrots. Towards the Bedfordshire border, potatoes, carrots and brussels sprouts are prominent. Market gardening and fruit farming have increased in importance in recent years. Dairy farming is not

extensively practised. Large numbers of cattle are fattened; pigs are extensively bred and reared.

There are only four market centres in the county, namely Huntingdon, Ramsey (retail), St. Ives and St. Neots. The markets are very small except that at St. Ives. The principal market for the sale of wheat is the Corn Exchange at St. Ives, where practically the whole trade is in English corn, buyers being local millers and merchants. Corn is also sold at St. Neots. Most of the eggs and poultry produced are sold by auction in the local markets, especially at St. Ives, where from 2,400 to 5,000 score of eggs are disposed of per week according to season. Live poultry is chiefly bought for the Jewish trade and sent to London and Midland towns; the practice of collecting from farms for this trade is said to be increasing. As in Bedfordshire, there is no large fruit and vegetable produce market, although there are auction sales at Huntingdon and St. Neots; most of the surplus is sent direct to London and to Midland centres. There are livestock auction marts at St. Ives and St. Neots and there is a small pig auction at Huntingdon. A public cattle market for sale by private treaty is also situated at St. Ives. By far the greater proportion of the trade is done at St. Ives, which, at one time, was considered the second largest market in England. A number of buyers attend this market from a considerable distance, fat beasts going to London and also to Nottingham, Derby and other Midland towns; fat pigs are purchased by butchers from all over the county and from parts of Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire. An annual wool sale is held at Huntingdon.

St. Ives.—*See* pages 75 and 76, also pages 80 and 81.

LEICESTERSHIRE.

(a) General.

Grassland farming predominates in Leicestershire, both bullock grazing and dairying being carried on to a large extent on some of the finest and richest pastures in England. Stilton cheese is made in the north-east of the county, though to a less extent than formerly. Corn is grown chiefly on the lighter soils, wheat being more generally grown than barley. Very little fruit growing or market gardening is practised, except in small areas in the north of the county and around the larger towns. Rail and road facilities all over the county are good.

The principal markets for the sale of wheat and other grain are the corn exchanges at Leicester, where approximately 10,000 cwt. of home-grown wheat, 31,000 cwt. of barley and 43,000 cwt. of oats are disposed of annually, Loughborough, which deals with about one-third and Melton Mowbray with about one-seventh of the quantity which changes hands at Leicester. The chief egg markets in the county are at Leicester, Melton Mowbray, and Market Harborough. Practically two-thirds of the eggs passing through the last two markets find their way into the Leicester shops or on to

the Leicester markets in the course of a week. There is very little surplus available for export to consuming centres in other counties. Fruit and vegetables from the Castle Donington and Barrow districts come mainly into Leicester wholesale market or are sent direct to Leicester shopkeepers.

The chief markets for the sale of cattle, both fat and store, are situated at Leicester*, Melton Mowbray, Market Harborough, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, and Loughborough. In addition, small live-stock auction marts exist at Ullesthorpe, Market Bosworth, Coalville, Lutterworth, Syston and Hinckley. Periodical sales are held at other centres in the county as occasion demands, especially in the spring, when large quantities of store cattle are brought in from neighbouring counties and from Ireland. Some of these beasts are again marketed at the end of the summer, when the markets are often flooded with bullocks in a half-fat condition which are bought by dealers for consignment to the root-growing counties for finishing. Fat bullocks are mostly sold by auction and are either slaughtered for local consumption or are consigned to London, Birmingham, Sheffield, Rotherham, Derby, Chesterfield, Wakefield, Hull and other centres. The chief markets for the sale of sheep are the same as those for cattle; periodical sales of sheep are also held in various parts of the county during the spring and autumn. Wool is sold by auction at Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicester, Loughborough, Melton Mowbray and Ullesthorpe.

(b) Notes on particular markets.

Leicester.—*See* pages 95 to 97.

Market Harborough.—*See* pages 68 to 70.

Melton Mowbray.—The cattle market is situated in close proximity to the railway siding and is one of the most important in the county. A considerable number of cattle (including Irish stores), sheep and especially calves, pass through the market in the course of a year. Fat beasts are consigned to Leicester, Nottingham, London and other centres. Although the existing accommodation in the way of pens, covered accommodation for pigs, sale rings and implement stands, is in good order, there appears to be sufficient trade to justify the provision of more accommodation. Beasts for sale by private treaty have to stand in odd corners of the market or in the avenues, especially during the spring sales. Two firms of auctioneers have each installed a dial weighbridge. One of the main features of the market is a successful farmers' co-operative auction mart.† Live poultry is sold by auction in the cattle market. There is also an annual auction sale of wool. A general retail market is held in the streets.

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* Economic Series No 13 Fig. 21.

† *See* Economic Series No. 1, Chap. VII.

LINCOLNSHIRE.

(a) General.

For convenience of description, the three administrative parts of Lincolnshire are here considered together. A large portion of the county is devoted to intensive cultivation, the principal areas being the fen and marsh lands, which mostly lie in the Holland division in the south-east, and the Isle of Axholme in the north-west; here, large quantities of potatoes and market garden crops are grown. Potatoes are also grown in other parts of the county, notably round Brigg and Winterton. In some districts, mainly in the north, the light soil is particularly suitable for carrots, while throughout the fens and intermixed with the more ordinary crops there are specialised areas where fruit growing (mainly on the border towards Wisbech), bulb and flower growing (mainly round Spalding) and seed growing are carried on. The centre of the county is mainly arable with little permanent grass; much of it is pre-eminently sheep and barley land. Taking Lincolnshire as a whole, wheat is the most important crop, closely followed by barley, which is grown chiefly in the Lindsey division where oats are also prominent. In various parts, beans are extensively grown. The principal grazing areas are in the north and east on the marsh land between the Wolds and the sea and on the Trentside pastures; in the south-west, in the Kesteven division, there is another district which is famous for the quality of its fattening pastures. Other grazing areas are along the Axholme in the north and certain districts in the south, such as the Wash land below Spalding. Even in the fen area, there are patches of heavy land which are down to permanent pasture. Yard-feeding is also extensively practised in the fens in order to obtain farmyard manure which is regarded as essential for intensive cultivation. In common with the Eastern Counties, pigs are largely produced, especially by the small holders, while large quantities of eggs and poultry are "exported." Finally, though Lincolnshire is not a dairy county, it has shared in the general inclination towards dairying which is on the increase in certain districts, notably in Kesteven and in the north-east.

Corn is sold at seventeen markets in the county, of which eleven are in the Lindsey division. There are a fair number of egg and poultry auctions of varying efficiency; many of them are of comparatively recent origin. Fruit and vegetables are sold wholesale at Lincoln, but the "export" business in these commodities passes almost entirely through the hands of commission agents in London and provincial centres to whom the produce is consigned either directly by farmers or by local produce merchants. Plums and bush fruits generally are mainly sold locally to jam-makers and other buyers. Strawberries, of which 2,000 acres are grown in the Spalding neighbourhood, are sent to the midland and

northern markets, to London and as far as Scotland. Flowers are sent direct to practically every large town in the country, the chief receiving centres being London, Manchester, Liverpool, Newcastle, Glasgow and Edinburgh. The average quantity of flowers leaving Spalding station daily during the middle of the season is over 30 tons. In general, the bulk of the main-crop potatoes is sold by producers to merchants at markets in the county. It is noticeable that at Brigg in the north, or at Boston and Spalding, the two great centres for the disposal of potatoes in the south, no potato exchange exists, but the business is carried on in a number of places such as hotels and inns or in the street. A considerable quantity of the potatoes grown in the north of the county is marketed at Doncaster and sent thence to the industrial centres of Yorkshire and Lancashire. Early potatoes are mainly sent on commission to agents in the large distributing markets of the Midlands in the same way as other vegetables.

Louth, Sleaford, Lincoln, Grantham, Stamford, Gainsborough, Spalding and Boston are among the principal livestock markets in the order of average sales. Owing, it may be, to the fact that Lincolnshire is not too well provided with railways and that distances are great, there are a considerable number of livestock markets in the county, some of which seem too small to attract sufficient buyers to ensure effective competition. On the other hand, there are markets, such as Boston, which, though comparatively inaccessible, attract good buyers in consequence of the quality of the beasts shown. With few exceptions—notably Grantham—Lincolnshire livestock markets are behind the times in equipment. Dial weighbridges have, however, been installed in eight livestock markets and are about to be fixed in three more. Covered accommodation for pigs and dairy cows is rare, while, in too many markets, the renovation or renewal of equipment is overdue. At Spalding, the market is still a street market of the old-fashioned kind and business is conducted under great difficulties. Nevertheless, the good quality of the stock attracts large buyers and the market, except in a physical sense, is a good one; it is, in fact, the principal market in south Lincolnshire. In some markets, there seems to be undue competition between auctioneers in the sense that no limitation is placed on the number who may sell in a market or the sales of competing firms may clash as to times. This must, in some cases, have the effect of diminishing the number of buyers attending individual sale-rings: it is not, of course, a feature peculiar to the county. Most markets in Lincolnshire are good markets for pigs. Fat pigs are bought mainly for the industrial towns in the Midlands and North. A large number of pigs from the northern part of the county are said to go to Doncaster. There are wool sales at Spalding, Sleaford, Stamford, Brigg, Horncastle and Spilsby. Wool is also sold privately by sheep farmers to agents of the Bradford wool firms on market days at Lincoln and other towns.

(b) Notes on particular markets.

Boston.—The cattle market draws supplies from about 14 miles to the north-west, 10 miles to the north-east, 6 miles to the south, and 10 miles to the south-west. It is reckoned that about 60 per cent. of the fat stock are bought by local butchers while the remainder go to Lincoln, Grantham, Retford, London and to the larger Yorkshire towns. Store cattle are largely bought for the Market Harborough district. The market has a good reputation for the quality of its stock. It is situated in the centre of the town and the site is convenient for arrivals from the north, but congestion is apt to occur on market days at the bridge to the south of the market. The station is about a quarter of a mile distant, where there are ample dock facilities for loading and unloading stock. The lay-out of the market is affected by its position, which is in a large open space in the town where two roads, Wide Bargate and Strait Bargate, converge. The cattle and sheep market lies between these two roads, the pens running east and west. There is no covered accommodation for stock, except in the separate pig market. There are, however, a number of trees near the standings and round the principal yard into which beasts pass after sale. Lack of covered accommodation for dairy cattle is met as elsewhere by the practice of selling cows first so that they can be got away early. No abattoir accommodation is provided. A point of interest is that at one time, more than twenty years ago, no fewer than fourteen auctioneers were in unrestricted competition in the cattle market with, it is said, unsatisfactory results. To-day, only two auctioneers sell in the market, although no arrangement is made to avoid clashing of sale and both may be selling the same class of stock at the same time. In general, however, the organisation of the market is good. Most of the stock is booked with the auctioneers previous to the market so that the auctioneers' employees are on the look-out for sellers and know to what pens to direct them.

A retail market for the sale of produce is held in the Market Place, where a wholesale corn business is also transacted, the corn dealers using small removable market vans.*

Gainsborough.—The cattle market is owned by a company which leases the market to a firm of auctioneers. The market is mainly supplied by the surrounding districts; it is reckoned that about two-thirds of the stock are sent in by producers and one-third by dealers. Purchasers of fat stock for local consumption account for not more than one-sixth of the supplies; the balance goes to more distant centres, such as Lincoln, Nottingham, Sheffield and also occasionally to London. A dial weighbridge is fitted at the entrance to the cattle sale ring. Gainsborough retail markets, held on Tuesdays and Saturdays, are owned by the local authority. There is a small covered market, but the majority of stalls are in the

* *See* Economic Series No. 9, Fig. 2.

market place. There is a certain amount of wholesale buying of eggs and dead poultry in these markets. In addition, an auction sale of eggs, live poultry, etc., is held in a private sale-yard, the auctioneers paying a charge to the urban district council as the market authority. There is a corn exchange.

Grantham.—The livestock saleyard was built by the firm of auctioneers which carries on business there. As Grantham itself is a consuming centre, the proportion of stock sold for local consumption is much higher than in the case of Louth and Sleaford markets, and is estimated to be about 40 per cent. There is a dial weighbridge adjoining the ring. The auction sales in this market are on Mondays. On Saturdays, a pig auction is held in the streets of the town. The annual supplies at this latter market, which is under the control of the Corporation, amount to about 2,000 pigs. On the same day there is an open-air retail market—at which fish, poultry, fruit, vegetables and meat are sold—a covered retail market and a produce and live poultry auction; these are also under the control of the Corporation. There is a corn exchange owned by a private company and a " hide and skin market."

Lincoln.—The cattle market is owned by the Corporation, who permit auctioneers to sell therein on payment of fees; the order in which the auctioneers sell is determined annually by drawing lots. Practically the whole of the fat stock on offer is sent in by farmers direct and drawn from a radius of from 15 to 20 miles. A large proportion is sold to butchers in the surrounding district; in addition, buyers of sheep and pigs for the London market and one or two buyers for butchers in Nottingham, Doncaster, Newcastle and other centres also attend. It is proposed to instal a dial weighing machine at the entrance to the cattle sale-ring. Sales of store stock are held on Fridays, but, except for short periods in the spring and autumn, supplies are small. The market is situated about half a mile from the London and North Eastern and London Midland and Scottish Railway stations, where there is ample dock accommodation. The approaches by road are convenient, and there is room for parking farmers' carts, wagons, lorries, &c. The only covered accommodation for cattle is five loose-boxes in the lower market. Very few dairy cattle come to this market and no special pens are provided for them. No Irish cattle are exposed for sale. There is ample room for expansion when necessary. Slaughtering accommodation is provided adjoining the market.

There are two covered retail markets at Lincoln, the Central Market (Fig. 12) controlled by the Corporation and a market controlled by a private company which also owns the important Corn Exchange. Buyers of wheat and barley attend the Corn Exchange from a wide area. Much of the corn from the smaller Lincolnshire exchanges is sold again in Lincoln. An egg auction has recently been inaugurated.

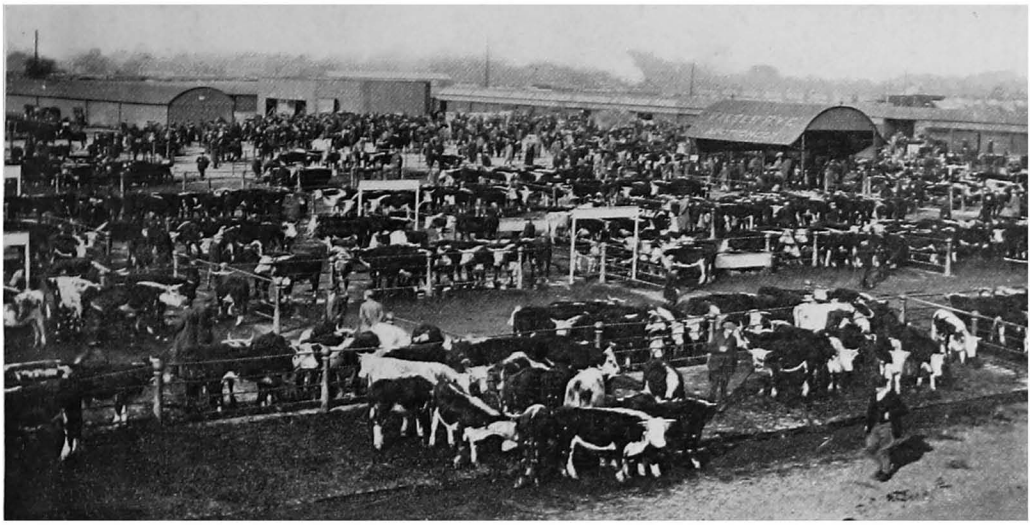




Fig. 12.—Lincoln : Central Market.

[Facing page 41.]

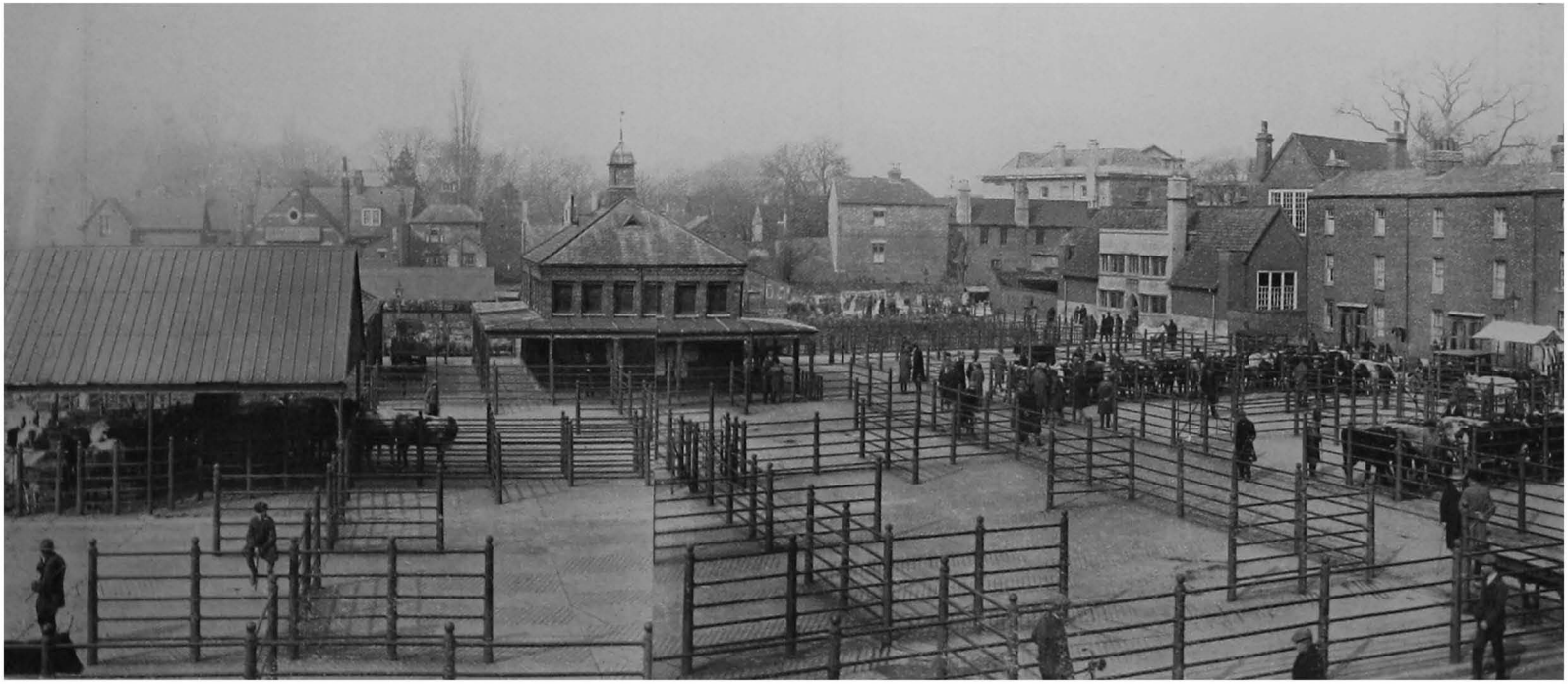


FIG. 13.—Oxford: Cattle Market.

Louth.—The cattle market is the largest livestock market in Lincolnshire. The market is owned by the Corporation and five firms of auctioneers sell in it. It is essentially an assembly market for stock from the surrounding district. It is estimated that 90 per cent. of the supplies are sold for consumption outside a ten-mile radius of the market. Cattle and sheep mainly go to Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire and Yorkshire; pigs go to Grimsby, Lincoln and Sheffield. Sales in the market are chiefly by auction, though there is some private treaty business. Small quantities of potatoes are, at times, sold by auction for local consumption. A wholesale produce market for the sale of eggs, dairy produce, etc., by private treaty is held weekly. There is also an open-air retail market held once a week and a live poultry auction. Corn sales are held in the Corn Exchange; buyers of wheat and barley attend from other towns in Lincolnshire and buyers of barley from Newark and Peterborough.

Sleaford.—The livestock market is an assembly market, of much the same character as Louth, except that fewer cattle and more pigs are offered at Sleaford. Both markets are large sheep markets. Fat stock is sold mainly for consignment to distant centres, such as Nottingham, Leicester, Derby, Birmingham, Manchester, Wakefield, Doncaster, Rotherham and London. The market is leased to a firm of auctioneers. Business is reported to be increasing. A new dial weighing machine has recently been installed adjoining the sale rings. Sleaford has also a small open-air retail market, a corn exchange and a butter market. There is an annual wool auction, but this is not held on market premises.

Stamford.—The markets are administered by the Town Council. They consist of a cattle market held twice weekly, on Mondays and Fridays, and a general market held on Fridays and Saturdays. The cattle market has recently been enlarged and is increasing in importance. There is no covered accommodation, except for a live poultry auction. The general market is held in two large streets. Corn and wool sales take place in the Corn Exchange, which is privately owned.

MONMOUTHSHIRE.

(a) General.

The county may be divided into two distinct areas—industrial and agricultural—the latter comprising fertile pastoral districts, such as the Usk valley and the land bordering the estuary of the Severn, and the mixed farming area along the Usk valley north of Cwmbran and Shirenewton. Farmers concentrate largely on the rearing and fattening of Hereford cattle, while large quantities of grass are also made into hay and sold to the collieries. Numbers of farmers have, however, given up cattle rearing and feeding in favour of dairy farming, mainly for milk production. There is also some cheese making and sometimes the making of butter in conjunction with

calf rearing. Sheep breeding is extensively practised. The proportion of arable land in the county is comparatively small. Out of the total acreage under crops and grass, only about one-seventh is returned as arable. There are about 2,600 acres under orchards, mainly apples. Market gardening is carried on in the neighbourhood of Newport, Abergavenny, Chepstow and Monmouth. Railway facilities for the agricultural area are poor. While the industrial valleys are well provided with local lines, there is only a branch line from Pontypool to Monmouth for the rural districts. There are two or three stations on the main line from Cardiff to Bristol in the south of the County, but the whole of the Usk valley—which is most important agriculturally—has practically no rail service along its length.

In general, it may be said that the problem of marketing in Monmouthshire is a simple one, in view of the proximity of the agricultural districts to an important industrial area. The lack of adequate railway facilities in parts of the county, however, makes concentration on one or two large markets difficult. Dressed poultry, eggs, butter and cheese are sold weekly by auction at Usk. Live poultry is sold to some extent in the livestock auction marts at Abergavenny, Usk, Newport, Monmouth and Chepstow. This trade is not large at present, but is increasing. Locally grown market garden produce is sold by auction at Abergavenny, Monmouth and Usk; many buyers come to these sales from the mining areas and from Newport, Cardiff, Swansea, Penarth and Barry. Market gardeners who live within a reasonable distance of Newport or Cardiff take their produce to these towns and sell direct to shops or consumers.

Abergavenny, Newport and Pontypool are the only routine livestock markets in the county that are held weekly, the rest, namely, Usk, Monmouth, Chepstow, Severn Tunnel Junction and Marshfield, which are situated in good districts for fat stock, being fortnightly. Owing to the proximity of the industrial area, there is always a ready demand for fat stock of all kinds. A certain amount of stock which formerly was sent into Newport is now, owing to the difficulties of droving stock through Newport with its dense traffic, deflected to other local markets. Nearly all the stock from these markets goes to the west. Corn and wool are sold in the markets at Abergavenny, Chepstow, Monmouth and Newport. There is also a wool auction at Usk.

(b) Notes on particular markets.

Abergavenny.—The markets are owned by the Town Council. They comprise a general market, a cattle market, and a fruit auction market. The general market for butter, eggs, poultry, vegetables and fruit is held on Tuesdays and Fridays. Trade in this market is mostly retail, though a number of wholesale transactions take place in such commodities as poultry, eggs, fruit and potatoes. This

wholesale trade is increasing. The weekly cattle market has a 30-cwt. dial weighbridge and covered accommodation for cows, calves and small pigs ; it draws supplies from a radius of ten to fifteen miles, which, except for a small local demand, go to South Wales. Four firms of auctioneers sell in the market ; at certain times of the year, the market is especially busy with sheep sales. There are " corn shelters " in the market for merchants dealing in cattle food, etc. Wool is sold by private treaty in the market. The wholesale fruit auction was started a few years ago, and is held in a covered part of the cattle market ; buyers are mainly retailers from South Wales.

Monmouth.—The cattle market is owned by the Corporation and is held fortnightly. The stock offered is almost entirely producers' stock drawn from the neighbourhood, though a few Irish store cattle are sometimes seen. The local demand is not large ; the majority of purchases are for South Wales and, to a less extent, for Bristol and the Midlands. The market has covered accommodation for cows and calves and a covered selling ring ; otherwise it is uncovered. Two firms of auctioneers sell in this market, which is provided with two dial weighbridges additional to the public weighbridge on the street. There are seasonal auction sales of wool. The Corporation also owns slaughterhouses which are let to local butchers. Butter, cheese, eggs and poultry are sold in a wholesale and retail produce market held on Fridays. There is an auction of live poultry every Friday in the Borough Hall and also a sale of fruit and vegetables (wholesale and retail), which, at certain seasons, is by auction.

Newport.—The covered general market is owned by the Corporation and is held daily, but the principal market days are Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Small shopkeepers buy wholesale in the market which is, in addition, a shopping centre for local consumers. Apart from imported produce, the bulk of the produce sold is grown locally. A small amount of produce is received for sale on commission. Fruit and vegetables, flowers, fish, butter, cheese and eggs are disposed of both wholesale and retail in the market. There are also retail meat and poultry stalls and a number of stalls for groceries, confectionery, fancy goods, clothing, hardware, etc.

The Corporation owns slaughterhouses in the Borough, but the cattle market is owned by a limited company. The weekly market is held on Wednesday. A sale of horses is held on the first Friday of each month. This is one of the markets in a consuming centre which has suffered in recent years from the competition of other markets in the neighbouring countryside. It is a large market, capable of accommodating 3,000 beasts, possesses considerable shedding and has two dial weighing machines installed in the auction rings. Three firms of auctioneers sell in the market. Supplies are mainly drawn from " the Moors " on the north bank of the Severn and from the hill farms to the north of the town. A considerable

proportion of the store stock is brought in by dealers, much of it being Irish. Corn and wool are sold by private treaty.

Usk.—The cattle market, held on alternate Mondays (alternating with Monmouth) and owned by the Urban District Council, is at present one of the best fat and store stock markets in the county. There is a dial weighbridge (owned by one firm of auctioneers), covered accommodation for cows and calves and poultry. Buyers from across the Severn and from all parts of South Wales attend this market. Supplies of fat stock are mostly local, but stores and sheep come also from the surrounding hill districts. There is a wool sale in the market and dealers attend in season from the county and from Herefordshire.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

(With Soke of Peterborough.)

(a) General.

The fattening of cattle and sheep is the outstanding agricultural feature of Northamptonshire. Dairying is relatively unimportant. Fruit and vegetable growing has also no special significance. In the south-west, in addition to a considerable acreage of grass, the land is, in part, devoted to turnip and barley growing, but, on the heavier types of soil, wheat is the staple crop.

The Soke of Peterborough comprises some 53,000 acres of land and includes several small villages as well as the City of Peterborough itself. There is good fen land where the Soke adjoins Lincolnshire and Cambridgeshire, but the remainder is varied. Wheat and barley are largely grown, and, to a lesser extent, potatoes, turnips and mangolds. Sugar beet is now an important crop.

Markets are held at only ten places in Northamptonshire itself. The principal markets for corn are at Northampton, Kettering, Wellingborough, Thrapston and Oundle, where the business is largely in home-grown corn and the buyers are local millers and merchants. Eggs and poultry are also sold wholesale in these markets, mostly by auction. There is also a poultry auction at Brackley. Fruit and vegetables are sold wholesale in Thrapston market, but there is no specialised wholesale fruit and vegetable market in the county. The more important livestock markets are at Northampton, Kettering, Thrapston and Wellingborough; smaller auction marts are to be found at Daventry, Aynho, Moreton-Pinkney, Oundle, Byfield and Brackley (a street market). The utility of some of the smaller markets is questionable in view of the number of large, well-conducted markets within easy reach. To a certain extent, of course, the smaller markets act as assembly markets for the bigger ones and so are liable to be absorbed by them; Towcester, for example, has been absorbed by Northampton, and Byfield is being gradually absorbed by Banbury. The accommodation for dairy cows is notably deficient in the markets of Northamptonshire, including the larger markets; it is almost impossible to inspect

the animals properly, and once they are sold they are herded loose in pens in some other part of the market. Owing to this, the trade in dairy cows is largely run by private treaty outside the markets. There is an extensive trade in store cattle, especially in the spring ; large numbers of stores of mixed breeding are exposed for sale by dealers who bring them mainly from the Welsh borders and from Ireland. In the Autumn, the markets are over-crowded with bullocks in a half-fat condition. A large number of sheep are reared and grazed in the county and there is a big trade in breeding ewes brought in by dealers from the Border sales. The chief market for sheep is Northampton. Auction sales of wool are held at Brackley, Kettering, Northampton, Thrapston and Wellingborough. The trade in pigs is mostly local, the chief buyers being local butchers and bacon factory representatives from Birmingham and other centres.

The markets in the Soke are situated at Peterborough itself, and consist of an open retail market, an important corn exchange (Fig. 3) and a cattle market where auction sales of eggs and poultry are also held.

(b) Notes on particular markets.

Kettering.—A considerable trade in fat and store cattle, pigs, sheep, poultry and eggs is done in the cattle market. Fat stock are bought by local buyers and by buyers from London, Leicester, Derby, Nottingham and other large centres ; the store trade is mostly local, although a few stores are sent on to markets in Leicestershire, Rutland, Bedfordshire and Huntingdonshire. Considerable improvements have recently been effected in this market and ample accommodation is now provided for sub-dividing dairy cattle and store cattle during their particular season. The dispersing pens for use when the selling is over have been improved and can either be used as one large pen or subdivided into one, two, three or four sections, each section being usable independently. A covered sale ring for the convenience of buyers has been erected and a new 4-ton cattle weighbridge installed with a 6-ft. dial visible from all parts of the sale ring.

Kettering has also an open-air retail street market which is held twice weekly.

Northampton.—In the cattle market, the selling of fat cattle is mainly in the hands of two firms of auctioneers who operate in immediately adjacent rings and generally at the same time. Fat pigs are sold in a well-built, roofed-in building ; here, four firms of auctioneers sell at one time (Fig. 14). The sale of store cattle is practically entirely by private treaty in a portion of the market set aside for that purpose. About 1,000 stores per week are sold on the average at the busy times of the year. The accommodation for sheep, poultry and horses is excellent, although at certain times of the year the accommodation of the whole market is taxed to its utmost. A

separate building is set apart in the centre of the market for use as a corn exchange and there are also brick-built loose-boxes and other accommodation where cattle may be left overnight. Covered-in accommodation for store pigs and dairy cows has recently been provided at a cost of approximately £400, and a wooden loading and unloading stage is now being erected. Apart from local butchers, the chief buyers at the market are bacon factory representatives and dealers who send away to markets in other consuming centres such as Rugby, Coventry and Wolverhampton. There are four dial weighbridges in use. An annual sale of wool is held, usually in June.

An open-air retail market is held in the market square in the centre of the town for the sale of butter, eggs, poultry, fruit, vegetables, fish and miscellaneous commodities. There is accommodation for 240 stalls, each stall space being 12 ft. by 6 ft. Stall-spaces are let by tender A separate wholesale fish market is owned by the London Midland and Scottish Railway Company and is held daily. There is also a " hide and skin market."

Peterborough.—The livestock market is well laid-out, paved and stalled, with a dial weighbridge for cattle, a well built concrete selling ring, covered pens* for pigs, a large concrete water tank where animals may be watered, wide roadways and adequate room for expansion. Unfortunately, the market is placed some little distance from the unloading docks, thus necessitating the beasts being driven through the streets of the town. The store trade is mainly done by private treaty, buyers being dealers and feeders from various parts of the country. The fat-cattle trade is in the hands of three firms of auctioneers who, by mutual agreement, take it in turn to sell; this is done partly to avoid splitting up the buyers and partly because there is only one sale ring and only one weighbridge over which the animals pass on their way to the ring. Practically all the fat sheep and all the fat pigs are sold by auction. The market is one of the most important distributing centres in the country and is well served by railway facilities on the main lines. Apart from local requirements, fat stock is bought for despatch to London, Birmingham, Leicester, Stamford, Mansfield, Leeds, Bradford, Newcastle and other centres of demand. In addition to livestock, some 2,500 score of eggs are sold by auction every week, as well as live poultry, fresh dairy butter and a small quantity of hay, straw and roots. A wool auction is held annually. Peterborough is recognised as being the centre of the shire-horse world; at the horse repository, a well appointed, privately owned yard, periodical sales are held in the spring and autumn. Stallions and mares come from and are sold to all parts of the country.

The open retail market is held in the centre of the town. There is no trouble in letting the stalls, some 100 in number, and the

* *See* Economic Series No. 13, Fig. 20.

market is well patronised. Produce and vegetables from neighbouring farms, locally-fed meat, fish from Grimsby, Hull and Boston, and merchandise of all descriptions are chiefly sold in this market. There are large sales of potatoes on Saturdays in the Corn Exchange and streets adjoining and in the cattle market. The Corn Exchange is owned and managed by a limited company originally formed in 1848. The lettings of the various stands are on an annual basis as also are the subscriptions charged in lieu of entrance fees. The bulk of the grain produced within a radius of ten miles of Peterborough is said to be disposed of at this market.

Wellingborough.—The cattle market, erected in 1905 at a cost of £12,000 in order to move the market off the streets, is situated some little distance from the centre of the town and also some distance from the railway station. Covered accommodation is provided for a corn exchange and for calves and pigs; sheds are provided for poultry, butter and eggs. There are separate sale rings for sheep and beasts. Situated on a slight hill, one end of the market is built up to form a terrace on which are situated the corn exchange, auctioneers' offices, merchants' offices and a canteen. One corner has also been built up to form a useful loading and unloading dock. Only one firm of auctioneers operates in this market. The market is held on Wednesday, which is the same day as that on which the market at Northampton, only ten miles away, is held. In order to enable buyers to attend both markets, selling does not start at Wellingborough until the afternoon. A certain number of pens are let to individual buyers; stock bought by them is driven direct to these pens immediately after purchase; this greatly facilitates dividing up afterwards. An index-lever weighing machine, weighing up to ten tons, is fitted in the cattle market.

Wellingborough has also an open retail market with about 70 stalls, where fruit, vegetables, meat, fish and general merchandise are sold.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

(a) General.

About half the acreage of the county is arable, mainly in the districts adjoining the "Dukeries," where the four course rotation, *i.e.*, roots, barley, seeds, oats, is practised. In the central parts of the county there is some excellent heavy land where cattle are reared. Along the rich alluvial valley of the Trent there are some high-class fattening lands. Sheep breeding is carried on to a considerable extent in various parts of the county. Pigs, both in the Retford area and in the mining areas, are bred and fed for local consumption and a number is sent away. Dairying is carried on in all parts of the county, but is of more importance in the south and west; in the extreme south of the county Stilton cheese is made. Market gardening is carried on in the Nottingham and Retford districts, all kinds of vegetables being grown for local

markets. Peas, picked green, are a special feature of this trade. There is not much fruit farming, but, in the Southwell district, over 400 acres are devoted to orchard and small fruit, while in the petty-sessional division of Nottingham, nearly 800 acres are under these crops.

There are ten market centres in the county. Eggs, poultry and dairy produce are sold in most of the retail markets. Live poultry is sold wholesale by auction, at Mansfield, Nottingham, Retford and Tuxford, but no regular egg auctions are reported. The county as a whole is rather a consuming or importing area for eggs and poultry than a producing or exporting area. There is one wholesale market for fruit and vegetables — Sneinton Market, Nottingham (*see* page 98); some wholesale trade is also done at Mansfield Market, to which many of the smaller growers send their produce for disposal. The larger market gardeners within a radius of ten miles of Nottingham sell their own produce in the Sneinton Market Recently, many of these growers have acquired motor lorries with which they deliver produce direct to shops. Growers in the Mansfield area supply local retailers direct. Retailers in the Worksop area receive supplies direct from growers round Retford. Growers in the north of the county usually send the bulk of their produce to Sheffield, Doncaster and Gainsborough. Livestock markets are held at Nottingham and Mansfield, which are the most important centres, and at Newark, Retford, Worksop and Tuxford. At Nottingham (*see* pages 98 to 100) and Newark sales are conducted on two days a week, one day being devoted to fat stock and the other to stores. The markets at Mansfield, Newark, Nottingham, Retford and Worksop report sales of corn. There are wool auctions at Nottingham and Newark.

(b) Notes on particular markets.

Mansfield.—The markets consist of a cattle market and a general market owned by the Mansfield Corporation. The cattle market is near the centre of the town and is primarily a fat stock market as is usual in a consuming centre. With the exception of a small portion reserved for pigs, the market is uncovered. Buyers are mainly retail butchers in Mansfield or Nottingham. The market does not fully meet local requirements and many Mansfield butchers also buy in Nottingham. It is estimated that 70 per cent. of the supplies come direct from local producers, 10 per cent. from dealers and the remainder from beyond a twelve-mile radius principally through dealers. Seven firms of auctioneers sell in the market; there is little private treaty business. Two dial weighbridges have been provided. Auction sales of hay, straw and live poultry are also held.

The general market is held on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Here eggs, fish, meat, dressed poultry, fruit, vegetables and flowers are sold retail. There is some wholesale business in

fruit and vegetables. There is also a "hide and skin market" in the town.

Newark.—An important cattle market is carried on by the Newark Cattle Market Company to which part of the freehold belongs, part being subject to a small perpetual rentcharge payable to the owner of the market rights. Sales are by auction and private treaty, the proportion being about 85 per cent. by auction and 15 per cent. by private treaty. Dealers supply about 60 per cent. of the store stock offered. Store cattle are drawn mainly from the St. Ives (Hunts), Peterborough and Retford areas, and store sheep from Leicestershire, Shropshire, Kent and Derbyshire; Nottingham and Melton Mowbray areas supply a number of calves. Buyers are mainly local, but about 10 per cent. of the fat stock is sent to other markets for re-sale. The market is uncovered except for a small portion reserved for pigs (260 sq. yds.) and calves (40 sq. yds.). A dial weighbridge has been installed at the entrance to the cattle sale-ring. The accommodation includes auctioneers' offices and a settling room. A weekly poultry auction is held at which about 1,500 to 2,000 birds are sold. Newark has also publicly owned covered and uncovered retail markets, where considerable quantities of locally produced butter, eggs, poultry, fruit and vegetables are sold. There is also a Corn Exchange owned by a private company; corn business is, however, no longer transacted in this building but in the street. Wool sales are held annually in June. There is also a "hide and skin market."

Nottingham.—*See* pages 97 to 101.

Retford.—The cattle market is leased by the Retford Cattle Market Company from the London and North Eastern Railway Company and is conveniently situated for rail transport. The market is of medium size. It is uncovered except for a small amount of covered accommodation for pigs. A dial weighing machine is fitted near the cattle ring. Besides purchases for Retford and neighbouring colliery districts and for Nottingham, some of the stock is bought for consignment to more distant centres such as London and Sheffield. There are two railway sidings in the market and most of the fat cattle, sheep and pigs are entrained on the market premises. The market is held on Mondays, but a small number of dairy and store cattle are also sold by auction in the market square on Saturdays, on which day auction sales of live poultry and potatoes and a retail market are also held in the square. The town possesses a market hall in which butter, cheese, eggs and dead poultry are sold retail, and also a covered retail meat market. These markets are owned by the Retford Corporation under a Charter of Edward I. Corn sales take place in the Corn Exchange.

OXFORDSHIRE.

(a) General.

Less than half of the total acreage in Oxfordshire under crops and grass is arable land. Wheat is the largest crop. There is a considerable amount of sheep and barley land, but the practice of folding sheep has declined in recent years and milk production on mixed farms is now more general. The principal grazing areas are in the Thame, Banbury and Witney districts. Orchards and land under small fruits account for but a small acreage, of which about half is in the petty sessional divisions of Henley, Bullingdon and Chadlington.

In general, Oxfordshire is a good example of the tendency towards concentration of markets. Many small livestock markets, such as those at Eynsham, Deddington, Hayford and Kidlington, have closed and others are dying fast. Banbury and Oxford are the principal centres for corn business. Bicester, Chipping Norton, Thame and Witney are other centres where corn is sold. There are wool sales by private treaty at Chipping Norton and Thame and a small wool auction at Bicester where buyers from Leicester and Banbury attend. Live poultry is sold by auction at Banbury, Oxford, Witney and at some of the smaller livestock markets. Eggs are sold wholesale by private treaty at Thame and in the general market at Banbury, and by auction in the new Banbury livestock auction mart, at Chipping Norton and in Oxford market. With one or two exceptions the accommodation provided for the sale of poultry and eggs compares unfavourably with that provided in many similar markets in the east Midlands. Considerable quantities of eggs are sent to markets outside the county; Reading, in particular, takes large supplies from the south. There is no wholesale fruit and vegetable market in Oxfordshire, but a certain amount of produce is brought into the market places for local sale.

The principal markets for livestock are Banbury, Oxford, Thame, Bicester and Witney, the two last being held fortnightly. Both Banbury and Thame are situated in districts where the feeding value of the pastures is much above the average for the county; both these markets attract buyers from a distance. The Oxford market is mainly occupied with meeting local needs, but buyers from London and the central Midlands may also attend if there is a shortage of fat beasts at Thame. Banbury street market (as distinct from the auction mart, *see* pages 66 to 68) persists as an important market for store stock, which is mostly bought by dealers for resale at markets in Warwickshire and Staffordshire. Stores, both cattle and sheep, come from considerable distances to this market, where Irish cattle and Scotch sheep are also to be found at certain periods of the year.

(b) Notes on particular markets.

Banbury Auction Market.—*See* pages 66 to 68.

Oxford.—The markets consist of a weekly livestock market, a covered retail market held daily and a weekly uncovered retail

market. All are owned by the Corporation under ancient rights and Charters. The covered retail market is a good example of its type. Space is let on weekly, quarterly and annual tenancies. There is some wholesaling of fruit and vegetables in this market, but otherwise the trade is purely retail. The livestock market (Fig. 13) is a fairly large store-stock market which draws most of its supplies from the surrounding districts. A few sheep are brought by dealers from more distant sources. Irish store cattle are also occasionally offered in small bunches. Local butchers buy the greater part of the fat stock. A dial weighbridge is provided. A live-poultry auction is carried on, for which more space would seem to be needed. Eggs and butter are also sold by auction. Although there is a Corn Exchange adjoining the market, the business of buying and selling corn, feeding stuffs, etc., has for many years been carried on in an inn yard. Provision is, however, being made for the accommodation of the dealers in the cattle market. There is also a weekly "hide and skin market" held on private premises; sales are by auction and private treaty.

Thame.—The rights of the cattle market were recently purchased by the Urban District Council from the Lord of the Manor. While still a street market of medium size, it has a good reputation for the class of stock on offer, and, in consequence, attracts buyers from distant centres such as Birmingham, London, Reading and Aylesbury. Supplies come chiefly from the Vale of Aylesbury, Chiltern Hills, south Oxfordshire and north and mid-Buckinghamshire and are nearly all disposed of for "export" to other districts. In conjunction with the cattle market, there is a small retail street market at which a certain amount of wholesale trade in butter, eggs and poultry is done.

RUTLAND.

(a) General.

Rutland is a small county covering some 152 square miles. Agriculture is the only industry of importance. Approximately two-thirds of the cultivated area is under permanent grass, arable farming being confined to the thin land in the east where the soil is adapted to the cultivation of barley of exceptionally good malting quality. Sheep farming is important. The grass-land varies from the rich fattening pastures of the Welland valley to the cold boulder clay pastures in the north-west where the rearing of store cattle and, to a certain extent, sheep farming is followed. In general, the grass land is well adapted to the fattening of cattle on summer grazing; winter fattening in yards is not a feature of this county. Thus, in the autumn, supplies of store cattle go out of the county to the Fens and to Norfolk for yard fattening, while, to supplement the stores reared within the county, cattle for summer fattening are imported from Ireland and from counties on the Welsh border and are purchased either from dealers or through the auctions at Melton Mow-

bray, Market Harborough and Stamford ; store stock sales are also held at Oakham in the autumn. Dairying, which is confined to the Leicestershire border, is not important, but has developed noticeably in recent years. There is a small area under fruit near Uppingham.

There are only two markets in the county—at Oakham and Uppingham ; both are small weekly livestock markets, the former being the more important and better equipped. There is a large sale of breeding-sheep at Oakham at the end of September and important cattle sales are held in October and November. A number of important and well equipped livestock markets, such as those at Melton Mowbray, Stamford, Peterborough and Market Harborough, surround the county and draw heavily on the available supplies of fat stock. The same applies to other commodities. The Stamford corn exchange is the chief outlet for cereals produced in the county, although sales are, to some extent, effected at Melton Mowbray. Eggs and poultry are marketed mainly through Stamford or Melton Mowbray markets. Live poultry is sold by auction at Oakham. A co-operative egg society collects over the eastern half of the county and markets its supplies direct to retailers in Nottingham, while some of the bigger producers market their own supplies direct to retailers in Leicester. Fruit is either disposed of to local agents or is sent, chiefly by road, direct to Leicester Market. Wool is sold almost entirely through commission buyers.

SHROPSHIRE.

(a) General.

Hilly in the west and south and falling away to the Cheshire plain in the north, Shropshire shows a great variety of farming conditions. Of the grain crops, oats are important and grown generally throughout the county ; wheat and barley are noteworthy in the centre and north. Cheese-making is important in the north. Towards Oswestry in the west, dairying is combined with stock feeding. Some of the land is too strong for sheep, but there is a certain amount of winter feeding of sheep brought down from the Church Stretton and Bishops Castle country. Pigs are kept in appreciable numbers by the dairy farmers, also poultry of all kinds. Calves, on the other hand, are frequently sold off when only a few days old. In the southern half of the county, mixed farming, with sheep and cattle, is general. Breeding flocks of the native Shropshire breed are often large, the tegs being fed off by the end of March. There is very little summer feeding of cattle except, perhaps, near Much Wenlock and the extreme south of Ludlow, but, as a rule, a large amount of winter beef is produced. Forward bullocks are bought in the summer and finished off in time for the Christmas market. In the south-east, where the county touches the fruit growing districts of Worcester and Hereford, appreciable quantities of pot fruit, cider apples, cherries and other fruits are produced.

There are a number of cheese fairs held periodically in the county at Ellesmere, Market Drayton, Shrewsbury, Wem and Whitchurch. Butter is sold wholesale at several markets, namely, Clun, Market Drayton, Oswestry, Wellington, Wem and Whitchurch. There are no auction marts for the sale of eggs and only two for the sale of poultry. Both commodities are, however, sold by private treaty at a number of centres, notably at Oswestry (page 79). The cider fruit produced is mainly for home consumption; the other fruit is sold at local markets or at the specialised auction markets in the neighbouring county of Worcestershire. The physical configuration of Shropshire accounts for the number of small livestock markets which are found throughout the county, especially among the valleys on the west. Shrewsbury market (page 76) acts as a distributing centre for stores from the surrounding counties as well as from Shropshire itself, its trade being very much larger than is usually found in county towns of equal size. Shrewsbury is also of note as a fat-cattle market. Further south, as at Craven Arms and Ludlow, fat stock become important in the markets; in this district, too, are large autumn sheep sales. Other important fat stock markets are at Oswestry (page 71), Wellington and Bridgnorth, where most of the beasts find their way to Birmingham and Kidderminster and a proportion to South Wales. At both Market Drayton and Whitchurch in the north, a large number of dairy cattle are sold, particularly in the spring months. At Market Drayton, the majority of the supplies and the buyers come from Cheshire and Staffordshire; at Whitchurch, they come from Cheshire and the detached part of Flintshire. Wool auctions are held at Oswestry, Shrewsbury and Wellington. The markets at Bridgnorth, Ellesmere, Newport, Oswestry, Shrewsbury, Wellington, Wem and Whitchurch report sales of corn. Corn business is also important at Market Drayton and other centres.

(b) Notes on particular markets.

Bridgnorth.—The livestock auction has many points of interest. The auctioneers, who also control the market at Much Wenlock, are in close touch with both buyers and sellers and, without any formal arrangement, appear to have a good idea of the quantity of stock coming in even for their ordinary sales. Each pen is numbered, and, at special sales, as each lot of cattle arrives at the market gate, the drover is handed an envelope on which is the number of his pen, and, inside, are the sale numbers of the cattle entered. Selling is carefully scheduled at the rate of 50 head of cattle an hour. At the special sheep sales, all sheep are put through the ring; a boy remains with each lot of sheep the whole time, and sees that they return to the pen from which they came. The sale ring* is an excellent covered structure with tiered stands; buyers are kept out of the ring on

* *See* Economic Series No. 13, Fig. 17.

special days, but it has not yet been found possible to keep butchers out when fat stock are being sold. A 5-ton dial weighbridge adjoins the cattle ring. Good loading banks are provided in the market and adjoining property has been acquired to enable separate roads to be provided for the "in" and "out" traffic. Dairy cattle are accommodated in special covered sheds. Supplies of fat stock are consigned chiefly to Birmingham, Dudley and the Black Country. A horse auction is held every fortnight.

A public retail market for the sale of fruit and vegetables, flowers, etc , is held in the main street. Butter, cheese, eggs and poultry are sold by producers in a covered space under the Town Hall ; no charges are levied. Corn sales are also held.

Craven Arms —Largely due to the activities of the two firms of auctioneers concerned, Craven Arms, a small village supporting a population of some 1,200 persons, has become one of the most important collecting and distributing centres for stock—especially store sheep and Hereford cattle—in the Midland Counties. The fact that it is situated at a junction of two main lines of railway is, of course, an important advantage. The regular market (Fig. 15) is held on alternate Mondays, and about 300 fat cattle, 1,500 fat sheep and lambs and 300 pigs and calves are, on the average, offered at each sale in the two stock yards weekly throughout the year. The fat stock is bought chiefly for the central Midlands and South Wales. During the months of June, August and September, large sales of store sheep and lambs and breeding ewes take place, over 73,000 being sold during a recent year. Sufficient accommodation is available to meet normal demands at any of the fortnightly or monthly sales, and extensions are about to be made to obviate the use of temporary pens during the busiest months. Two dial weighbridges are in use. During the spring and autumn, pedigree Hereford bull sales are held. The premises are used for important sales of horses on the first Saturday of each month and of ponies twice yearly.

Market Drayton.—The livestock market, acquired by Staffordshire Farmers' Limited, an agricultural co-operative society, is important for the sale of cattle, sheep and pigs. The accommodation provided includes covered pens and a dial weighbridge. Dealers' pens for private sales are included in the market accommodation. Fat stock is consigned to the Potteries, Manchester and Birmingham. Special sales of store stock are held during the year. The uncovered retail market for the sale of fruit, vegetables, flowers and live poultry is held in the streets. There is covered market accommodation for butter, cheese, eggs, dead poultry, meat and fish. A fair is held on every third Thursday in each month in a separate covered market at which over 800 tons of Cheshire cheese are disposed of annually. The cheese is sent away chiefly to the Northern Counties.

Oswestry.—*See* pages 71 and 72, also pages 79 and 80.
Shrewsbury.—*See* pages 76 to 79.

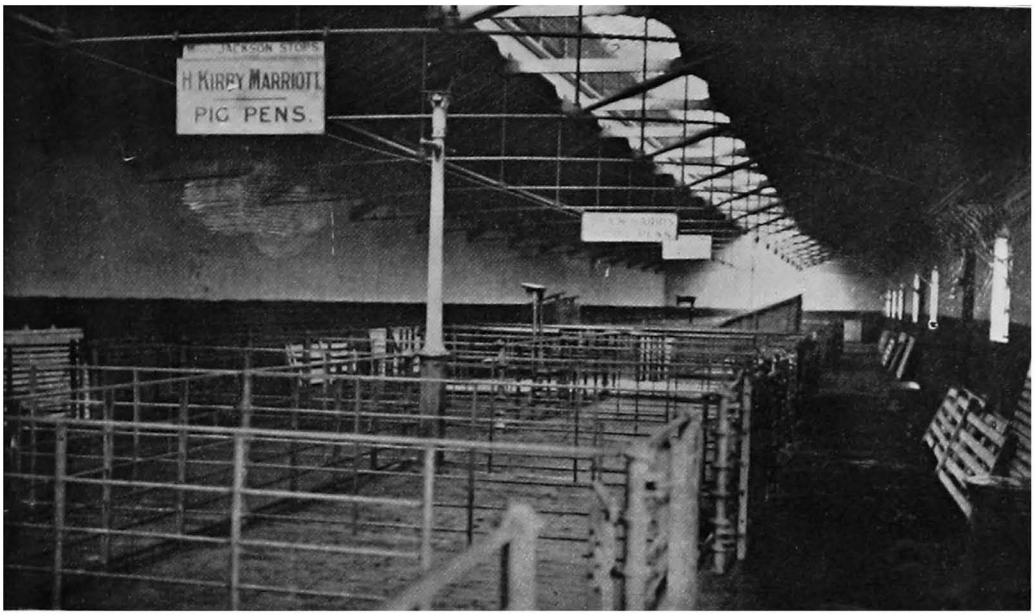


FIG. 14.—Northampton : Covered Pig Market.

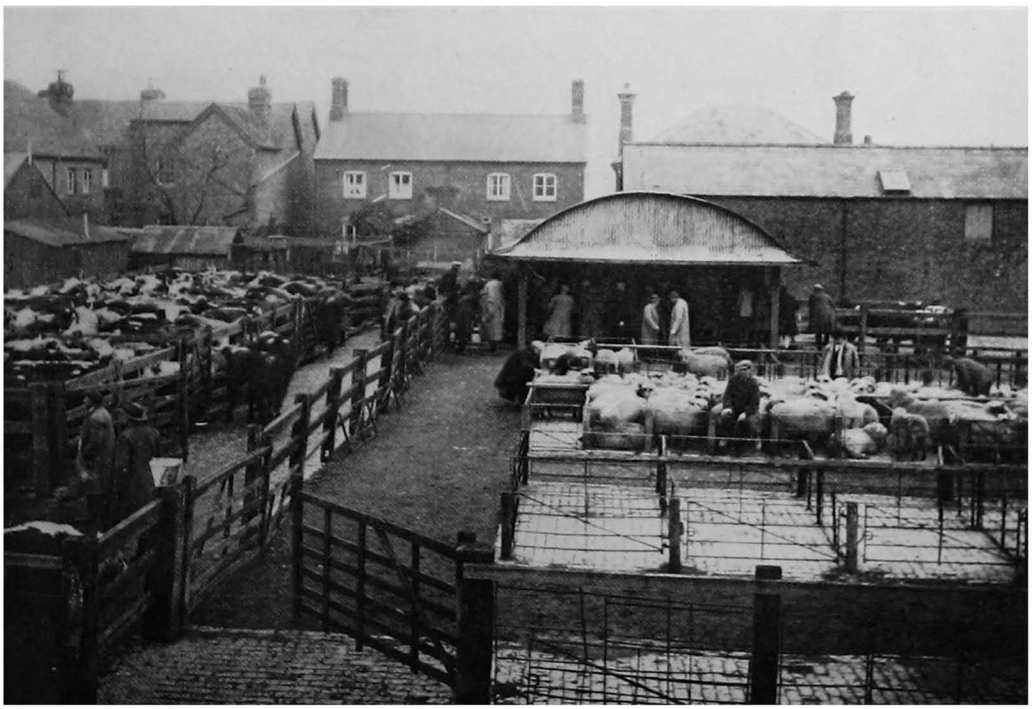
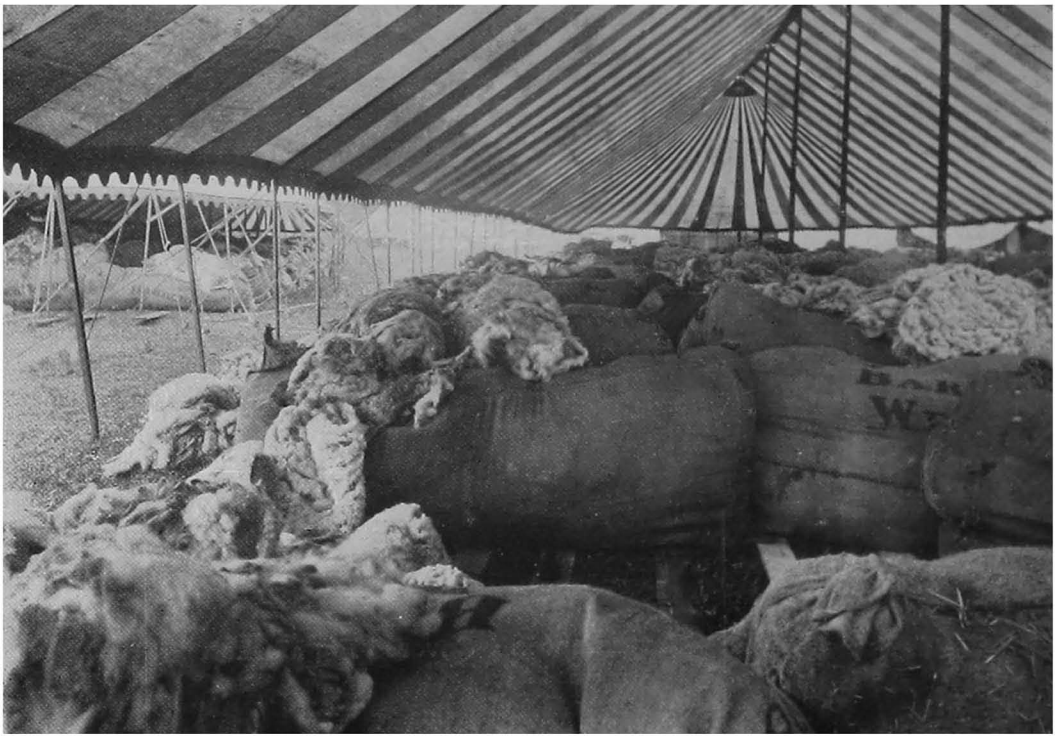
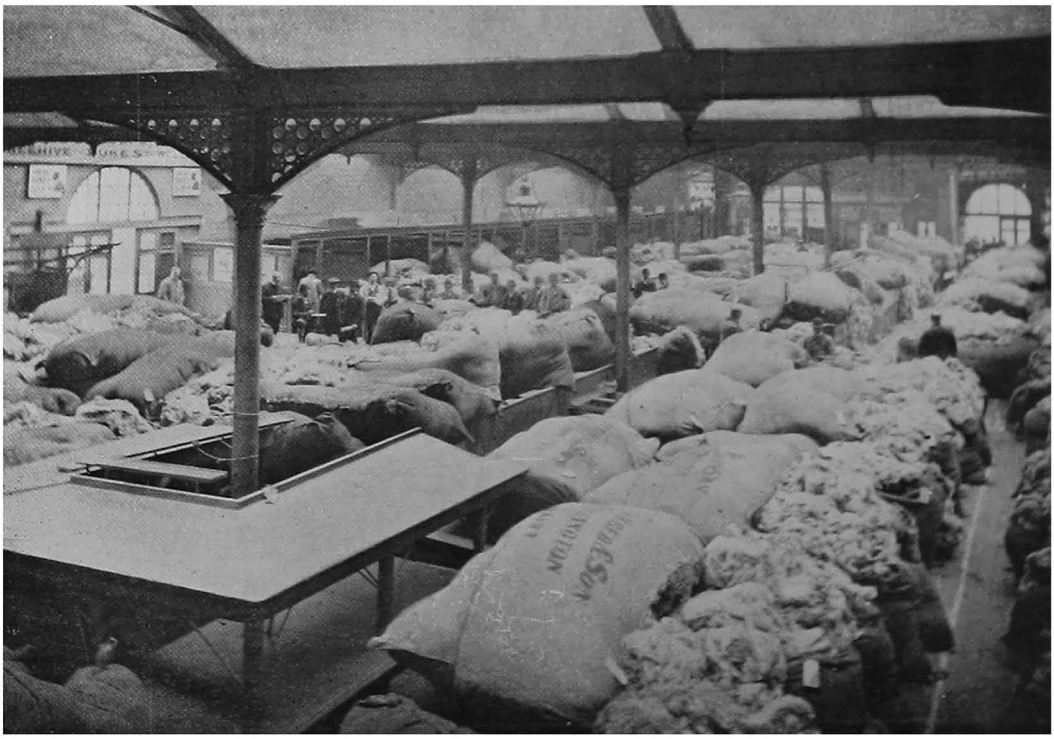


FIG. 15.—Craven Arms : Auction Mart.





FIGS. 16 and 17.—Wellington (Salop) : Wool Auction.

Wellington.—The livestock auction sale yard at Wellington was one of the first to be established and has accommodation for 600 cattle, 1,500 sheep, 800 pigs, and 200 calves; there is covered accommodation for 200 cattle and a covered shed for calves. Apart from local requirements, the fat stock is consigned to London, Birmingham, Chester, Oxford, Coventry, Wolverhampton and to towns in the Black Country, the Potteries and Lancashire. This is chiefly a fat stock market and supplies, apart from those drawn locally, come from a wide area, but, owing, it is said, to the increased rail charges, the number of senders of fat cattle from Scotland, and North and Mid-Wales has fallen off. On the other hand, the advent of motor lorries has increased the distant supplies of sheep, pigs and calves. In the winter feeding season, the average weekly supplies are 275 fat cattle, 75 dairy and store cattle, 120 calves, 1,250 sheep, and 500 pigs. The first single-beast dial weighbridge was installed in the market in 1896; a dial weighbridge for store cattle in bunches was installed in 1903. Two annual sales of breeding ewes and store lambs are held in September. At the general produce market, about two-thirds of which are covered, locally produced fruit and vegetables, butter, cheese, eggs, live and dead poultry are sold both retail and wholesale, supplies being bought for consignment to Birmingham and Wolverhampton. Meat and fish are sold retail. There is a corn exchange. Wool sales* are held in private premises at which from 50,000 to 60,000 fleeces are sold annually (Figs. 16 and 17). The markets are owned by a private company, the livestock market being rented to a firm of auctioneers.

Whitchurch.—In addition to a public cattle market, there is a general produce market, a live poultry market, and a corn exchange. A cheese fair is held every third Wednesday in the month, nearly 1,500 tons being pitched in 1926. The eggs, butter, poultry and vegetables offered in the general market are drawn from north Shropshire, Flintshire and south Cheshire and are disposed of both retail and wholesale, the wholesale trading being in supplies for Manchester, the Potteries and the Birmingham district. The larger portion of the cattle market is let to three firms of auctioneers, each being allocated separate accommodation. Most of the pig, calf and sheep pens are covered, and covered tyings are provided for dairy cows. Cattle and pigs are sent chiefly to the Midlands. A 30-cwt. dial weighbridge has been installed by one firm of auctioneers in their ring; there is also a public weighing machine in the market. Live poultry is sold by auction in the livestock market and by private treaty in the poultry market.

STAFFORDSHIRE.

(a) General.

Staffordshire is pre-eminently a milk producing county, but it includes some districts where mixed-farming predominates. Broadly,

* *See* also pages 84 and 85.

the north-east and east may be described as a grass country with dairying as its chief industry and some stock raising ; in the north-west and south-west, there is more arable land. In the south, there is a considerable area devoted to potato growing ; potatoes are also grown in the Blore Heath district and on the Cheshire border. There is a little market gardening near Tamworth and Lichfield, and in the Seisdon district in the south-west of the county. The production of fruit is negligible.

A fair amount of cheese is produced in the county. A cheese fair is held at Stafford every third week but the trade is not large ; only about 6 tons of cheese are pitched at a sale. Butter and cheese are sold wholesale by private treaty at Leek, Lichfield, Stone, Wolverhampton and Uttoxeter ; cheese is also sold by auction at Tamworth. Egg auctions are held at Cannock, Lichfield, Penkridge, Tamworth and Wolverhampton ; there is a wholesale trade in eggs by private treaty at Leek, Lichfield, Stone, Uttoxeter, and Wolverhampton markets. Live poultry is sold wholesale by auction at Burton-on-Trent, Cannock, Lichfield, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Penkridge, Rugeley, Stafford, Tamworth and Wolverhampton, and, by private treaty, at Leek, Uttoxeter and Wolverhampton. Apart from the small retail markets, fruit and vegetables are sold wholesale by private treaty at Burton-on-Trent, Lichfield, Stoke-on-Trent (Hanley Market) and Wolverhampton, and by auction at Cannock, Lichfield, Penkridge, Tamworth and Wolverhampton. Potatoes are sold by auction in some of the livestock auctions in the potato growing districts ; at Penkridge and Lichfield large quantities are regularly sold in this way. Wolverhampton has a well equipped market building, but market facilities in the Pottery towns generally are not good. An open-air market held once a week compares unfavourably with the modern wholesale produce market to be found in most large towns. Newcastle-under-Lyme has a covered market, but the available space is said to be insufficient. A proposal to establish a separate covered wholesale fruit and vegetable market at Stoke-on-Trent has for some time been under consideration.

Practically all fat and store stock is sold in auctions which are held weekly or fortnightly in all parts of the county. Private sales of fat stock to butchers and dealers are much less general in Staffordshire than in other parts of the Midlands. There is a considerable number of auctions, which may, in part, be due to the existence of two large consuming areas in the county, the Birmingham-Wolverhampton area in the south and the Potteries and coal-mining area in the north ; markets in proximity to industrial centres tend to be small and numerous. Wolverhampton, Penkridge, Lichfield, Uttoxeter, Tamworth and Burton-on-Trent are the largest markets in the county. The importance of Stafford as an auction centre has declined of recent years; much of the stock which would formerly have been offered there now goes to Penkridge and other auctions in the vicinity. Butchers buy the bulk of the fat cattle

for their own killing. Dealers who buy store cattle in the auctions chiefly sell in other auctions, and it is common for cattle to be offered for sale in three or four auctions in a week. This is particularly the case also with down-calving cows; few farmers in the county rear calves, so that there is always a strong demand for dairy cows, which appear at the auctions to a greater extent than in most counties. As might be expected, most markets in the county have on offer a large number of calves; Uttoxeter is especially noted in this respect. Returns show that cattle, mainly dairy cows, are particularly numerous in the Uttoxeter district. The Uttoxeter market is, in consequence, a good one, but it is said to be cramped for space and to require bringing up to date. On the whole, however, the accommodation at the various auctions in the county is sufficient even though supplies are increasing. Corn markets are held at Stafford, Tamworth and Wolverhampton; dealings in corn also take place at market centres, such as Burton-on-Trent. Wool is sold by private treaty at Leek and by auction at Lichfield.

(b) Notes on particular markets.

Burton-upon-Trent.—The cattle market, which is of medium importance, is privately owned and is let on a yearly lease to two firms of auctioneers who sell on alternate Mondays. The accommodation includes about 1,000 sq. yds. of covered shedding for pigs, calves and poultry, a long covered shed for cattle and a covered cattle yard. There are also extensive uncovered pens for sheep. A 30-cwt. dial weighbridge has been installed in the cattle market. Supplies are, in the main, drawn from parts of Staffordshire and Derbyshire within a radius of ten miles—a district in which a considerable amount of dairying is carried on; about 25 per cent. of the supplies are consigned by dealers from Norfolk, Lincolnshire and Leicestershire. The area supplied by the market includes, besides Burton itself, which takes the greater part of the fat stock, the towns of Swadlincote, Repton and Derby; about 20 per cent. of the supplies are sold to industrial centres such as Birmingham. The store stock is bought by local farmers. A number of calves are sent from this market for rearing in Lincolnshire. Dealing in corn and feeding stuffs takes place in the livestock market. The wholesale fruit and vegetable market, established in 1923, consists of sale sheds, store rooms, banana-ripening houses and garages. Railway sidings run into the market. There are daily retail markets in the market place and in the market hall (Fig. 18), where butter, eggs, dressed poultry, fruit, vegetables and meat are sold. There is also a retail fish market, built in 1925.

Lichfield.—The livestock market, conveniently situated about a quarter of a mile from the railway station, is a good example of a medium-sized, well-appointed market. The approaches by road

are also convenient. Stock of all kinds is mainly received direct from producers in the south-east of the county. Apart from local requirements, the market caters for the demands of the greater part of south Staffordshire, supplies being bought for the adjoining towns of Birmingham, Wolverhampton and the Potteries. The accommodation in the market is sufficient for present-day requirements and there is ample room for expansion when necessary. All dairy cows, for which there is accommodation for from 60 to 80 head, pigs to the number of about 250, and calves, are stalled under cover; covered accommodation is also provided for fat cattle. The uncovered pens are used for sheep and provide accommodation for about 500 head. A proportion of the store cattle entered may also be provided for under cover. There is a dial weighbridge in the market. It is not often that animals are detained in the market yard for a period of days, but when such is the case they are, according to the weather, either housed under cover or turned into ample field accommodation adjoining the saleyard. Horses are sold by auction in the livestock market, where there is accommodation for 350 with a trial ground. Potatoes and wool (about 30,000 fleeces annually) are also sold by auction on the market premises.

Lichfield has a small public general market for the sale, chiefly retail, of fruit and vegetables, flowers, poultry, cheese, eggs, meat and fish; about one-eighth of the space is covered.

Newcastle-under-Lyme.—Newcastle-under-Lyme has a population of about 23,000, and is on the direct road from Liverpool and Manchester to London and Birmingham. On the north, east and south, the town is bounded by Stoke-on-Trent with a population of approximately 300,000. The district would seem to be in need of a good up-to-date wholesale market for fruit, vegetables and fish, and better accommodation and facilities for marketing cattle.

The general retail market, the control of which has recently been taken over by the Corporation, is held in the Market Place. The lay-out consists of a double row of stalls in three sections (Fig. 19), the design of the large stalls being similar to those in the Derby and Nottingham open-air markets. The stall rents vary from 2*s.* to 12*s.*, according to size and position. The stalls are used on Mondays for fruit and vegetables, eggs, cheese, fish, meat and miscellaneous commodities. On Saturdays, market gardeners offer large quantities of home-grown produce. The covered retail market is situated on the west side of the Market Place and measures approximately 40 yds. by 20 yds. and contains 30 stalls of varying dimensions. The Smithfield cattle market adjoins the North Staffordshire Railway; proposals are under consideration for putting in a railway siding. There is accommodation for 400 cattle and 700 sheep and pigs.

Wolverhampton.—Wolverhampton is an example of a town with a fairly complete system of markets. These are the cattle market,



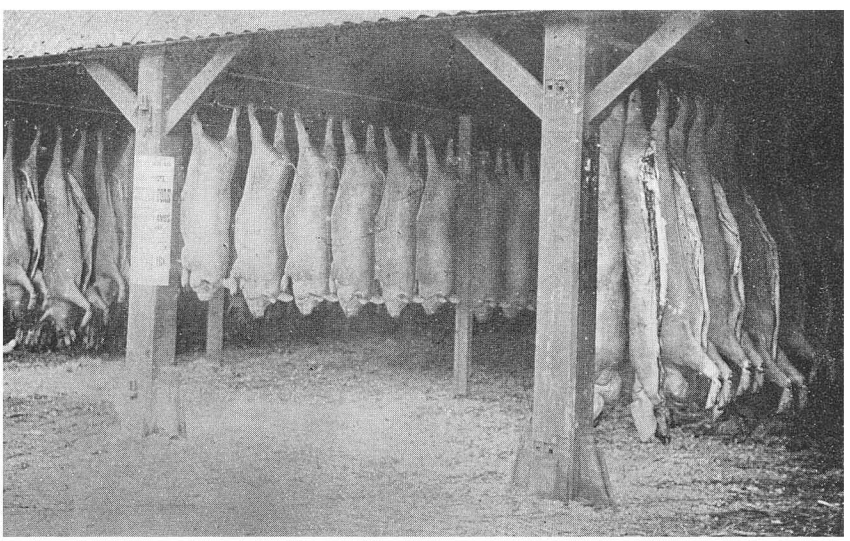
FIG. 18.—Burton-on-Trent : Market Hall.



FIG. 19.—Newcastle-under-Lyme : Retail Market.

[*Facing page* 59.





FIGS. 20 and 21.—Coventry: Growers Sales, Ltd.

live pig market, wholesale fruit and vegetable market, covered retail market and uncovered retail market. There are also a municipal abattoir, two privately owned cattle markets, a corn exchange and a "hide and skin market" The municipal cattle market, situated within half a mile of the railway stations, is mainly supplied by dealers and has declined in recent years. The two private auction marts, which pay tolls to the Corporation, are typical examples of medium-sized cattle markets in a large town. Supplies for these markets are mainly local and are drawn chiefly from the western side including the Shropshire border. The fat stock is disposed of to local butchers within a radius of 12 miles; about 25 per cent. is sent to Birmingham. Store stock is not an important trade. The amount of slaughtering in the abattoir is steadily increasing (50,000 head of livestock were slaughtered in 1926), but there are no facilities for a meat market. The Corporation own a cold store and ice manufactory. A scheme for extending both the cold storage and the abattoir and for providing a wholesale meat market at a total estimated cost of £70,000 has been approved. The live-pig market is important; it is of the same character as the Birmingham pig market, which it antedates by many years. The wholesale fruit and vegetable market is a good example of a medium-sized market of its kind, the arrangements as to entrances and exits, gangways, offices, etc., being well designed. It is found here, as with most markets, that roadways sufficiently wide for horse-drawn vehicles are now barely adequate for motor lorries. When this market was established it was not possible to let all the space to wholesalers, and some was allotted to retailers who still carry on business in this market, which adjoins both the uncovered and covered retail markets. As is usual with covered retail markets in large towns, there is a demand for more space. As far as possible each commodity is sold in a separate portion of the market.

WARWICKSHIRE.

(a) General.

The general character of farming is varied. In the south of the county, farming is mixed arable and stock rearing, with dairying in the neighbourhood of the larger towns. There is a large market-gardening and fruit-growing district, from Stratford-on-Avon to the Worcester border on the south-west, which marches with the Evesham country. Other market-gardening and fruit-growing areas are around Leamington and Warwick and from Stratford-on-Avon to Bearley, also in the north of the county round Birmingham and Coventry and near Tamworth on the Staffordshire border. North Warwickshire is, however, largely a dairying district supplying milk to neighbouring industrial towns. In certain areas, such as north-west of Coventry, rearing and feeding are also carried on. Eastwards, there is a great grazing area to the south and south-

east of Rugby, and though much of the stock that is offered in Rugby market comes from a distance, there is a large local supply. Poultry keeping and dairying are extending in places throughout the county.

There are auction sales of eggs and live poultry at a number of the livestock markets in the county and at the fruit and vegetable auctions. It is noticeable that, while supplies of fruit and vegetables for Coventry auction market are drawn mainly from south Warwickshire and south-west Worcestershire, eggs come from much greater distances. At this market, eggs are sold coming from as far west as Cornwall and as far east as Suffolk. Apart from Birmingham, no private treaty markets report wholesale business in either eggs or poultry.

There are fourteen markets in Warwickshire where a wholesale trade in fruit and vegetables is carried on. The wholesale fruit and vegetable market at Birmingham (*see* page 88) is one of the largest distributive markets in England and may be regarded as a model in respect of accommodation, organisation and lay-out. The general method of sale in this market is by private treaty direct to retailers, auctions being held only for imported produce and, it may be, for remainders. At the wholesale fruit and vegetable markets at Coventry and Stratford-on-Avon, sale is by auction. The three fruit and vegetable auctions at Stratford-on-Avon are assembly markets. corresponding to the auctions at Evesham and elsewhere in the west Midlands which are a feature of the fruit-growing and market-gardening district extending from Stratford-on-Avon to beyond Cheltenham. Among other similar sales in Warwickshire may be mentioned those at Alcester, Coleshill and Henley-in-Arden. These fruit and vegetable markets are generally held in inn-yards, partly covered in for the purpose. The accommodation is usually sufficient for the smaller sales, but it cannot compare for convenience with markets, such as are to be found in some cases in Worcestershire, that have been specially built for auction sales of fruit and vegetables.

In addition to the important market for cattle and sheep at Rugby (*see* page 72), there are livestock markets at Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick, and smaller markets at Leamington—stated to be one of the oldest livestock sales in the Midlands—Knowle, Nuneaton, Hampton-in-Arden, Atherstone, Coventry, Water Orton, Sutton Coldfield, Fenny Compton and Alcester. These are all auction marts, and in view of the proximity of many of them to each other, a movement towards centralisation may, perhaps, be inevitable in the future. There is also a small co-operative farmers' auction at Henley-in-Arden. Birmingham has a large pig market and a well equipped cattle market which is not used.* A private livestock auction mart is conducted at Kings Norton. The area from which fat stock is drawn by the Warwickshire markets

* *See* Economic Series No. 13, page 44.

is reported to be local, *i.e.* from within a radius of from eight to ten miles round each market, except in the case of Rugby. Birmingham and Coventry take the largest share of the supplies of fat stock from all these markets. In the south, Leamington, Warwick, Alcester, Redditch and other towns absorb a proportion, while in the north, apart from local demands, the distributive area includes Wolverhampton, the Black Country and the West Riding of Yorkshire. In all the country livestock markets, the bulk of the supplies come in during the latter half of the year. In February, March and April, local stall-fed cattle are offered in such a market as Rugby, and stall-fed cattle from Norfolk make their appearance. Supplies diminish notably in the months of May and June. Fat sheep and lambs are drawn approximately from the same area as fat cattle, the season beginning in May and ending in December. With the exception of Birmingham pig market, supplies of fat pigs and calves are drawn from the surrounding districts. Supplies of store cattle are naturally heaviest from March to the beginning of May, and from the middle of August to the end of November. They come from a distance to such a market as Rugby, Irish and Welsh cattle being in evidence, while dealers also offer Devon and Hereford stores besides local supplies. For Rugby market, supplies of store sheep in season are drawn from as far away as Kent and Scotland.

The markets at Atherstone, Birmingham, Coleshill, Coventry, Rugby, and Stratford-on-Avon report business in corn; business is also done at other market centres. Wool is sold by auction at Rugby and Stratford-on-Avon.

(b) Notes on particular markets.

Birmingham.—*See* pages 85 to 91.

Coventry.—With a population of 128,000, Coventry has a retail market of the ordinary type, a medium-sized livestock auction market and a wholesale fruit and vegetable market. The last is, at present, held in the Barrack Square and is of comparatively recent origin. In 1921, Growers' Sales (Coventry), Limited, a co-operative society of producers, rented a portion of the Square from the Corporation on an annual tenancy for the purpose of holding fruit and vegetable auctions (Figs. 20 and 21.). As this enterprise became established, a number of wholesale merchants and commission agents took premises in the Square and another auctioneer commenced business. The wholesale section of the market is housed in the old Barrack buildings surrounding the Square; these have serious disadvantages as a wholesale market and may be required, at a later date, for other purposes. Further, the market has only one entrance, to reach which a hundred yards of narrow street must be traversed. The business transacted in the market is, however, considerable and is increasing, which suggests that the market will, in due course, find a permanent home elsewhere. An interesting point is that the market has called into being a motor

collecting service by which produce is brought in daily, mainly from the Evesham district. Seven 2-ton motor vans are at present employed for this purpose. The service is organised by a private contractor. Most of the fruit and vegetable produce comes in this way by road, but eggs are, in general, received from a greater distance and come, for the most part, by rail. A few huts and sheds are used in the Square on Fridays and Saturdays for retail trade.

The fruit and vegetable auctions at Coventry are similar in their methods of sale and in most other respects to those generally found in the west Midlands, but they are unique, so far as home produce is concerned, in being held in a large consuming centre, and in undertaking the sale of meat by auction (Fig. 21) in addition to the usual commodities, such as fruit and vegetables, live and dead poultry, eggs and dairy produce. The auction method of disposal of perishables in terminal markets is not uncommon in other countries, and, in some instances, is the normal method of meeting the requirements of the retail trade in populous centres.

Henley-in-Arden.—The livestock market is one of the few co-operative livestock auctions in the country. It is held fortnightly and is not a large market, but it is well established and sufficiently near Birmingham and other large towns to attract buyers from these centres ; a dial weighbridge is provided. A weekly sale by auction of fruit and vegetables, flowers, butter and live and dead poultry is also held in this market ; it is reported that business in these commodities is increasing.

Rugby.—*See* pages 72 to 75.

Stratford-on-Avon.—The markets consist of three privately owned wholesale fruit and vegetable auctions held on the same days thrice weekly, two privately owned cattle markets held fortnightly, and a weekly corn market which is leased by the Corporation to a limited company. There is also an annual wool auction. Supplies of eggs and poultry are sold at the produce auctions as well as fruit and vegetables. The produce is sent away chiefly to Birmingham and Coventry. The two cattle markets, both of which are equipped with dial weighbridges, are typical medium-sized country markets —one with good covered accommodation—depending almost entirely on local supplies sent in from within a radius of from eight to ten miles. Dealers bring in a few stores from more distant areas. Apart from local butchers, buyers of fat stock mainly come from Birmingham, Coventry and Wolverhampton. There is no retail market at Stratford-on-Avon.

WORCESTERSHIRE.

(a) General.

Worcester is famous for fruit growing and market gardening. Apples are grown on about half the orchard area. The Evesham

and Pershore districts are especially celebrated for plums, there being more than a million plum trees in the county. Pears are grown fairly extensively and cherries are of some importance. Small fruit is also very generally grown. The specialised areas of fruit production are mainly in the Worcester, Evesham, Pershore, Tenbury, Hundred House (Great Witley) and Upton petty sessional divisions, but, in general, the other divisions of the county, excluding the industrialised areas in the north, grow much more than the average amount of fruit. The specialised areas also produce large quantities of green peas and beans, cabbage, broccoli, brussels sprouts, asparagus, flowers, leeks, onions and other market garden crops in great variety. At one time, the area under hops was considerable, but this has somewhat diminished and is now mainly to be found in the western valleys. The southern part of the county is an exporting area for milk and dairying is also carried on in the north in the vicinity of the large towns. Otherwise, farming in the county is mixed. There is a fairly large number of pigs in the county.

Corn is disposed of at Worcester Corn Exchange and hops in the Hop Market. No regular wool sales are reported in the county. Eggs and poultry are sold, as a side-line, at most of the fruit and vegetable auctions, and poultry at several of the livestock auctions. Worcestershire is the home of the fruit and vegetable auction. Indeed, it was at Evesham that this method of selling fruit and vegetables at the point of production was started. There are two such auctions in Evesham (*see* page 82), and two at Pershore, one of which is operated by a growers' co-operative society.* Other auctions are at Bromsgrove, Droitwich, Kidderminster, Tenbury and Worcester, the latter being held on market premises which have been leased from the Corporation by a producers' co-operative society. Butter and cheese are sold wholesale in small quantities in these auctions, the accommodation in which varies considerably. The larger auctions have premises which have been specially designed and provide ample covered accommodation, good lighting and, as a rule, convenient arrangements for traffic. In other cases, existing buildings have been adapted, with the result that there is considerable room for improvement in some instances. The bulk of the produce on offer goes to the central Midlands, Wales and the North of England, but the area of distribution is wide and Worcestershire produce makes its way, through these auction marts, to all parts of England, to Scotland, and even to Ireland. It is impossible to say what proportion of the total quantity of "exported" produce passes through the auctions. The Pershore Co-operative Fruit Market, for example, claims to deal with about half the produce grown within a radius of about ten to twelve miles of Pershore. On the other hand, an experienced auctioneer states that, in his opinion, the

* *See* Economic Series No. 1, pages 87 to 93, and Economic Series, No. 15, Fig. 34

auctions " only touch the fringe of the marketing business." There is no doubt that the trade which passes direct to wholesale merchants and commission agents in consuming centres is very large.

Worcester is the most important livestock market, followed by Kidderminster, Bromsgrove, Tenbury, Shipston-on-Stour, Hagley, Upton-on-Severn and Barnt Green. There are smaller markets at Evesham and Stourbridge. With the exception of the weekly markets at Worcester, Bromsgrove and Hagley, the markets are held fortnightly. In general, the bulk of the supplies comes from within a ten-mile radius of the towns concerned; the majority of buyers are local retailers. This, however, does not apply to the more remote markets, such as those at Tenbury and Upton-on-Severn, where the fat cattle are mostly railed away to consuming centres in the Midlands. In addition to these markets there are a few seasonal sales which provide a useful market for store stock. These are held twice or three times a year at various places, namely, Great Witley, Flyford Flavel, Hanbury, Crowle, Clifton-on-Teme and Pensax. The stock on offer is mainly bought by feeders in neighbouring districts and counties, but buyers sometimes come from as far as Northamptonshire and Leicestershire.

(b) Notes on particular markets.

Bromsgrove.—The markets are owned by the Urban District Council and consist of a livestock market, recently enlarged and remodelled, and a produce market. The livestock market, in which there are two sale rings each provided with drawing pens and a 30-cwt. dial weighbridge, is notable as a good market for milking cows and calves; buyers of fat stock are principally retail butchers from Birmingham and the Black Country. The produce market is held in the market hall, which is divided into wholesale (auction) and retail (private treaty) sections. This market was opened as a wholesale fruit and vegetable auction in 1926, which suggests that the practice of auctioning fruit and vegetables at the point of production is still extending. The market gardening industry carried on in the surrounding district ensures a large and constant supply of produce.

Evesham —*See* pages 82 to 84.

Kidderminster —The markets are owned by the Town Council and consist of wholesale and retail produce markets, and a livestock market (Fig. 22) which is held fortnightly in the former. The livestock market has recently been fitted with overhead cover, sale rings and dial weighbridges. For its size, it is a comparatively important pig market. Supplies are sent largely to the Birmingham district. An interesting point in connection with the wholesale market is that the bye-laws contain a clause laying down the minimum quantities which can be offered; a provision of this kind is unusual. A large amount of vegetables, fruit and poultry passes through the wholesale market, mainly through the agency of the



FIG. 22.—Kidderminster : Livestock Market.



FIG. 23.—Banbury Livestock Auction Mart : Cowshed.

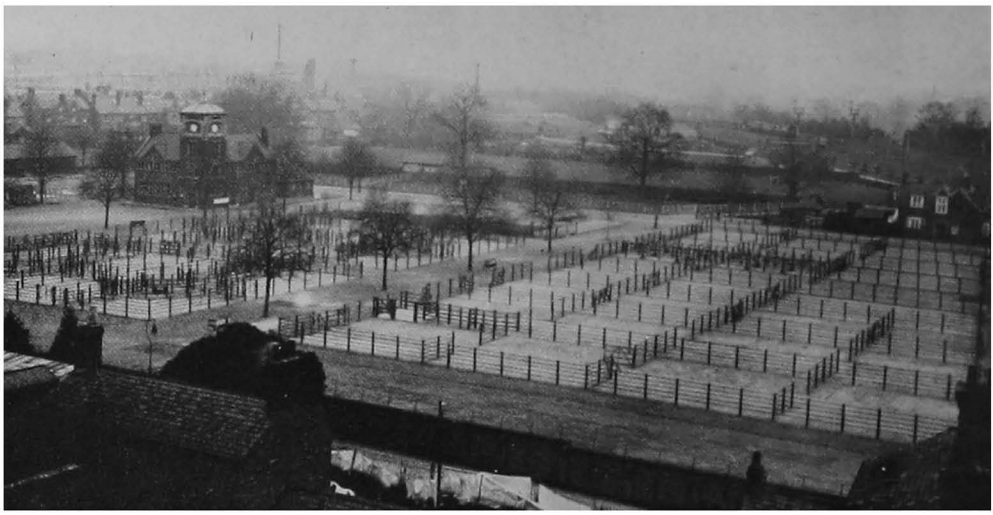


FIG. 26.—Market Harborough : Cattle Market.



FIG: 27—St. Ives (Hunts.) : Cattle Market.

three firms of auctioneers who sell there. The covered retail market is held twice a week for agricultural produce and other commodities.

Tenbury.—Here there is a medium-sized cattle market which is notable for the high average quality of stock offered. The market is toll-free and has a covered sale ring and covered pig pens; there is uncovered accommodation for 1,000 cattle. The entrances and exits are on a main street. A 5-ton dial weighbridge is fitted for fat and store cattle. The annual cattle and sheep sales are attended by buyers from a wide area. Fruit, vegetables, butter, cheese, eggs and poultry are also sold by auction in this market.

Worcester.—The markets comprise a cattle market, a wholesale fruit and vegetable market, in which sales are by auction, a general retail market, a meat and fish market, a hop market and a corn exchange. All are owned by the Corporation. The cattle market is the principal livestock market in Worcestershire and deals with about 80,000 animals a year, of which 70,000 are sheep and pigs mainly drawn from within a ten to fifteen mile radius. Fat stock are purchased by local butchers and large numbers are sent to Birmingham and Wolverhampton. Three dial weighbridges are installed. Three firms of auctioneers sell in the market, and, in general, care is taken to avoid selling the same class of stock in different rings at the same time. The arrangements for penning cattle in this market have for some time been considered unsatisfactory and recently a loan has been sanctioned to improve the market and remedy its defects. The alterations recently completed provide for three sale rings each with 30 pens measuring 10 ft. by 10 ft. and 20 dealers' pens and one sale ring with 30 pens and 14 dealers' pens. There is covered accommodation for 50 cows and for calves. The market suffers, to some extent, by being about a mile distant from the London Midland and Scottish Railway Station at Shrub Hill, but there is one loading bank, a railway siding with cattle docks close to the market, from which stock can be moved by the Great Western Railway. There is an abattoir near the market. Auction sales of horses and poultry are also held. The wholesale fruit and vegetable market is mainly used by Worcestershire Farmers, Limited, a producers' co-operative society. It is similar in character to other west Midland auction marts, and is held every week-day (except Saturday) during the fruit season, and on Tuesdays and Fridays during the remaining part of the year. Buyers are principally local retailers and large retailers from neighbouring towns. The market is also used by a private auctioneer for the sale of poultry, eggs, game and sundries, and, on Saturdays, by retailers who sell hardware, provisions and drapery. The general market for the sale of butter, poultry, eggs and general goods, and the meat and fish market are covered retail markets of the usual type, open daily.

PART III.—SOME MIDLAND MARKETS DESCRIBED.

(I) MARKETS IN PRODUCING AREAS.

In this section a number of markets of different types have been selected for more detailed description as presenting certain features of interest.

(a) Cattle Markets.

Banbury.—Until recently, all livestock was sold in the streets at an old Charter Market. In 1924, however, an agreement was entered into by the Corporation of Banbury with a new Company, Midland Marts, Limited, by which the Company purchased land in the vicinity of the railway station for the purpose of a new saleyard* to be equipped adequately and efficiently for the sale of all classes of livestock. The object of the promoters was to establish an undertaking which would become not only a convenient centre for the marketing of farmstock of all kinds from the immediate district, but would also attract buyers and sellers from a wide area. In short, it was an effort to promote centralisation of livestock marketing.

The first essential for the creation of a market of this nature is convenience with regard to rail and road transit, in order that the stock may be handled expeditiously and with the minimum of expense. The Banbury saleyard has been built adjacent to lairages which have direct communication with three main railway systems, the London Midland and Scottish, the Great Western, and the London and North Eastern. It is also convenient for road transport from any part of the surrounding country and is close to the passenger stations in the town.

The accommodation in the saleyard has been carefully designed to facilitate quick penning and selling. Sheep, pigs, cattle, dairy cows and calves, all have separate pens, and there is easy access to, and exit from, the main sale rings. Two main passages at right angles lead to and from the rings ; the pens and subsidiary passages are all parallel. A constant stream of stock can be kept moving through the rings without any fear of congestion or of confusion between lots.

On arriving at the saleyard, sellers are notified of the pens that have been reserved for them. At sales of stores and dairy cows, a ballot of the stock invoiced beforehand is taken and pens allotted accordingly in order to avoid favouritism. So far, this arrangement has not been introduced for fat stock sales owing to the reluctance of senders to book in advance. Once the animals are

* *See* Economic Series No. 13, Figs. 14, 15, and Diagram A, page 56.

penned, they are in charge of the company's employees, who drive them into the sale ring and, after sale, unless a buyer has reserved a special pen for his purchases, return them to the pens from which they came.

The 140 cattle pens are each capable of holding from five to ten cattle. Permanent penning accommodation of somewhat similar design is provided for 1,500 sheep, the pens holding from ten to fifty sheep. Temporary pennage, consisting of wooden hurdles, is available for the larger sales of store sheep. A total of 6,000 sheep can be handled in this way. Covered accommodation in a well constructed building is available for dairy cows, pedigree stock and horses. There is stallage for 120 cows and for 70 horses. A feature of the cowshed (Fig. 23) is its width of passage—15 ft. being allowed—and its lighting ; in this way customers can view the stock to advantage. A special ring is provided for selling the cows, the approaches and exits of which are carefully planned in order to avoid congestion. Accommodation for calves is also provided, and, in addition, provision is made for the display of from 400 to 500 cattle by dealers in a part of the saleyard reserved for this purpose. Separate covered accommodation has recently been provided for the sale by auction of poultry and eggs.

The company keeps in close touch with the railway traffic representatives and special train services are arranged whenever sufficient numbers of stock are forthcoming from any district to make up six wagons. An increasing quantity of stock is now being delivered by road. Extensive space is provided on the premises for motor lorries, farmers' carts and other vehicles.

The saleyard is controlled by eight directors ; six are farmers and two are auctioneers. When the scheme was promoted, it was hoped that all the shares would be taken up by producers, with a maximum of 250 £1 shares per holder, but it was found necessary, in order to complete capitalisation, to allot shares in larger blocks and to modify the producer qualification. A loan of £10,000 was granted by the Government under the Trade Facilities Act. The company is the sole salesman ; no other auctioneer is allowed to use the premises except by special arrangement for pedigree sales. The Company is responsible for cleansing and disinfecting the market to the satisfaction of the local authority, on whose behalf a veterinary inspector attends sales.

The undertaking is a new departure and has involved heavy capital expenditure. Since it opened in 1925, the quantity of fat stock passing through the market has shown a large increase, but sufficient time has not yet elapsed to test its capacity to attract buyers and sellers from a wide radius. Stock is drawn chiefly from Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire, Warwickshire and Buckinghamshire. Store cattle are also received from Shropshire, Gloucestershire, Kent, Somerset, Dorset, Hampshire, Wales and Ireland, and store sheep from Kent, Somerset, Hampshire, Cumberland and Scotland. The

following figures show the progress of the market to 30th September, 1927 :—

Quarter ended.	Fat Cattle.	Store Cattle.	Fat Sheep and Lambs.	Store Sheep and Lambs.	Fat and Store Pigs.	Dairy Cattle.	Calves.
1925.							
30th June ..	749	3,568	5,999	—	328	189	307
30th September	895	2,826	6,162	5,995	49	385	333
31st December	1,285	898	6,009	—	141	437	578
1926.							
31st March ..	1,302	1,118	10,081	—	1,603	276	490
30th June ..	1,110	2,510	10,710	—	1,614	288	588
30th September	2,135	3,806	13,917	11,623	1,344	657	735
31st December	2,316	1,410	13,876	1,868	1,530	801	784
1927							
31st March ..	3,173	1,146	13,797	—	2,067	393	512
30th June ..	2,930	2,830	15,605		2,361	566	1,024
30th September	4,111	3,243	31,610		1,590	807	913

As an example of the increase in the carriage of livestock by rail since the establishment of the saleyard, the following are the numbers of trucks of livestock dealt with by the Great Western Railway at Banbury in 1913, 1922 and 1926; the first two years refer to the street market only.

Year.	Forwarded from Banbury.	Received at Banbury.
1913	1,315	1,336
1922	994	952
1926	2,221	1,911

Market Harborough.—Surrounded on all sides by rich grazing lands which carry a large head of stock during the summer months, Market Harborough is a natural distributing centre for a large number of fat cattle and sheep.

Mention of a market occurs as far back as 1219, when the market was held on a Monday. In the year 1221, however, the market day was changed to a Tuesday, on which day it has been held ever since. Up to 1903, the market was held in the market square, sheep being penned in hurdles, but cattle had no accommodation except the streets.

In 1900, the market rights were purchased by the Local Authority from the Lord of the Manor, and a poll of the ratepayers was taken which resulted in a small majority in favour of removing the market from the streets and building a new one. About twelve acres of land lying between the road leading to the railway station and the main road to Northampton were purchased, and six acres laid out and used for the new market. This was opened in 1903.

There are three entrances to the market (Fig. 24), one, the main entrance, being on the Northampton road. The railway station is close at hand so that cattle can reach the market without passing through the main thoroughfares of the town. Railway facilities for stock are good, the market being served by the main line from London to Leicester and the North, and by branch lines to Northampton, Rugby, Melton Mowbray and Peterborough. Fat cattle and sheep are consigned to consuming centres in the North of England, the Midlands and to London.

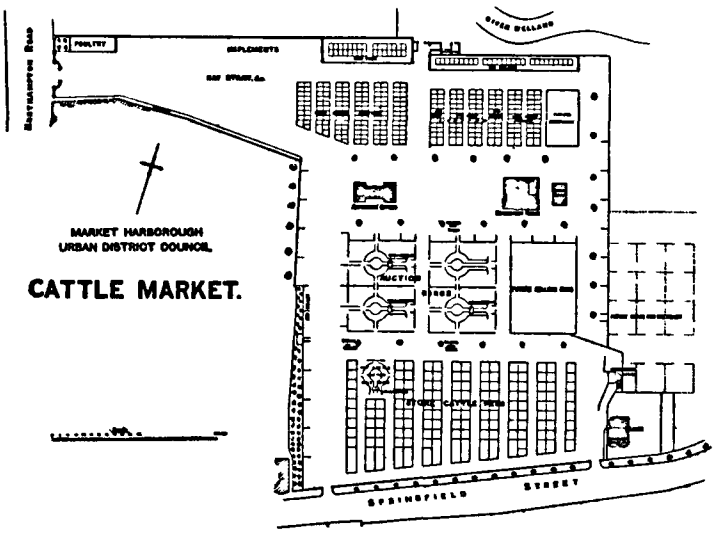


FIG 24.

Although a fair number of animals are dealt with all the year round, the chief trade in fat cattle and sheep is done from the second week in June up to the beginning of December. At the height of the season, upwards of 600 cattle and 1,500 sheep per week are dealt with. Most of the fat cattle and sheep are drawn from a radius of ten miles, store cattle being generally collected from a distance and shown by dealers. Recently a portion of the market has been licensed for Irish store cattle, which are detained in three fields close to the town.

In addition to the ordinary pens for cattle, sheep, pigs and calves, there are some substantial and attractive buildings. The main building (Fig. 26), with a clock tower, is of red brick, and contains a large settling room upstairs, first and second-class refreshment bars, also kitchen, scullery and lavatory accommodation. A little distance away is a block of office buildings which are used by auctioneers and by agricultural merchants for corn and other business; these are situated in the centre of the market between the sheep and cattle pens.

About 300 pigs can be accommodated in the pig-shed which is fitted with pens with iron fencing and paved with concrete. The building is roofed with tiles and fitted with a skylight over the whole length. Close by is the calf shed with accommodation for over 160 animals; this is also fitted with pens, with iron fencing and concrete floors, and roofed over. The sheep pens are a short distance away; over 1,500 sheep can be accommodated in the pens let to auctioneers; in adjoining pens, accommodation is provided for about 440 sheep for sale by private treaty.

Accommodation is provided for approximately 2,000 cattle, all pens being strongly paved with granite setts, grouted with cement and fenced with iron rails. Five selling rings are provided, all of them being uncovered. Each ring is surrounded by four large pens in which fat cattle are tied. Beasts enter the sale rings by a narrow passage-way and, after sale, pass through the ring to an adjoining pen, and so do not interfere with beasts moving forward to the rings.

Pens to accommodate about 1,000 beasts adjoin and these are available for dealers' or farmers' cattle for sale by private treaty. As most of the cattle are either fat or store, no separate accommodation is provided for dairy cows, these being accommodated in the pens adjoining the sale ring. Accommodation is also provided along the west wall for horses. All the roadways in the market are wide and paved with tar macadam on 8 inches of foundation. Most of the market roadways are shaded with trees and several drinking troughs are provided.

At the main entrance, there is accommodation for poultry auctions. At the Springfield Street entrance is the superintendent's lodge, a substantial building with office accommodation. Adjoining this is the weighbridge, an index lever machine, which registers up to seven tons. The Urban District Council have installed four 30-cwt. automatic dial weighbridges in the selling rings. Ample accommodation is available for farmers' carts and lorries. Adjoining the market are two small paddocks, the property of the Council; these are used occasionally for keeping beasts which are not claimed after sale. No abattoir accommodation is provided in the market, but three slaughterhouses, erected by the Council, are situated close by; these are let to local butchers.

The following figures show the number of stock passing through the market in the years 1913, 1922 and 1926:—

	1913.	1922.	1926.
Fat cattle	6,832	11,694	11,324
Store cattle	5,991	7,540	4,687
Sheep	25,076	31,819	33,846
Pigs	3,471	2,850	1,863
Calves	1,008	1,467	1,600

Oswestry.—The Smithfield Cattle Market, which was erected under powers conferred upon the Corporation by the Oswestry Markets and Fairs Act, 1848, is reckoned, from the point of view of the number of stock handled, to be among the first half-dozen cattle markets in the country; it is situated on the fringe of the town, but not more than half-a-mile from the railway where there are two cattle docks with transit pens. It draws supplies from a wide radius, including the southern parts of the counties of Montgomery, Denbigh and Flint. Fat stock are consigned to the industrial areas of Lancashire, Yorkshire, Staffordshire and Warwickshire. Seven auctioneers operate in different parts of the market and have their own offices. The current agreements between the Corporation and the auctioneers are for periods of twenty-one years dating from 1914, the basic "leasehold licence" being £15 per annum. Toll is charged on the weekly returns on a percentage basis. Each agreement contains clauses which, if contravened, entitle the Corporation to cancel the agreement at short notice.

In addition to the space occupied by the auctioneers—and pens not occupied by 11 o'clock are automatically at the disposal of the market inspector—there are public pens and a settling room for private treaty business; but as the auctioneers usually have agents at the entrances canvassing for stock, the business done by private treaty is relatively small.

The pens, constructed of ironwork, and, in the case of cattle, paved partly with granite setts and partly with bricks bedded on concrete, are generally well laid out, the whole market being arranged on the square plan. The dairy cattle pens in the centre of the market are covered by iron shedding. On each side of the area allotted to dairy cows are, respectively, the store cattle pens and sale ring, and the fat cattle pens and sale ring with a 25-cwt. dial weighbridge. These are not covered. In addition, one outer side of the market is occupied by (1) fat cattle pens and sale ring with 25-cwt. dial weighbridge, (2) store cattle pens for private treaty sales with public weighing machine close at hand, (3) pig pens. The other outer side of the market is allocated to sheep. The pig and sheep pens are well designed and arranged back to back, which permits of convenient arrangement of the selling plank. Brick or concrete floors slope gradually towards the front of each pen. A small slaughterhouse with lairage is also included in the market accommodation. The Corporation is alive to the necessity for increased accommodation and, at present, a scheme is on foot for the acquisition of premises adjoining the market, which, with a small space recently added, should provide for considerable expansion.

The numbers of livestock which have passed through the Oswestry Smithfield during the past three years are as follows :—

	Cattle (including calves)	Sheep.	Pigs.
1924	24,883	58,339	28,286
1925	35,802	60,849	34,966
1926	39,079	88,635	34,477

The monthly market for horses, called the Horse Fair, which has been of considerable importance in the past, is now nearly defunct. It attracts only a few nags of various kinds, a number of traps and a small quantity of harness and agricultural implements.

Rugby.—Situated on the borders of three great agricultural counties—Warwick, Leicester and Northampton—and served by three main lines of railway, Rugby is one of the most important market centres for livestock in the Midlands.

In 1877, the Local Authority was wise enough to foresee the future of Rugby as a market town and purchased a site of about eight acres on which a livestock market was opened a year later (Fig. 25). Business has steadily increased, necessitating repeated extensions on which a sum of £20,000 has been spent to date. The present market occupies about three-quarters of the original site ; it is understood that plans for further extensions are being prepared.

The following figures show the importance of the market :—

Year ended 31st March.

	1902.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
Cattle ..	38,432	53,678	33,075	32,614	41,919
Sheep ..	58,574	88,594	67,200	82,857	103,593
Pigs	6,049	10,233	7,056	9,326	9,289
Horses ..	1,722	930	686	601	664
Calves ..	2,566	6,010	3,850	3,953	4,932

In the busy season, from July to December, as many as 1,000 fat cattle pass through the market each week. Local butchers buy in the market, but supplies are mostly sent further afield. Store cattle from Ireland and Wales—in a busy season as many as 1,000 per week—are sold by private treaty to graziers in the surrounding counties. Rugby is also rapidly becoming a good market for

dairy cattle and calves. Live poultry is sold by auction in the market.

The market is conveniently situated at the northern extremity, and about three-quarters of a mile from the centre of the town, and in close proximity to the railway stations and loading banks. The distance from the market gate to the railway sidings is about 250 yards. Stock coming by road can enter the market by streets little frequented by other traffic. After market, animals can be quickly entrained at the different loading banks; in fact, as soon as animals purchased for railing pass in at the "sold" yards,

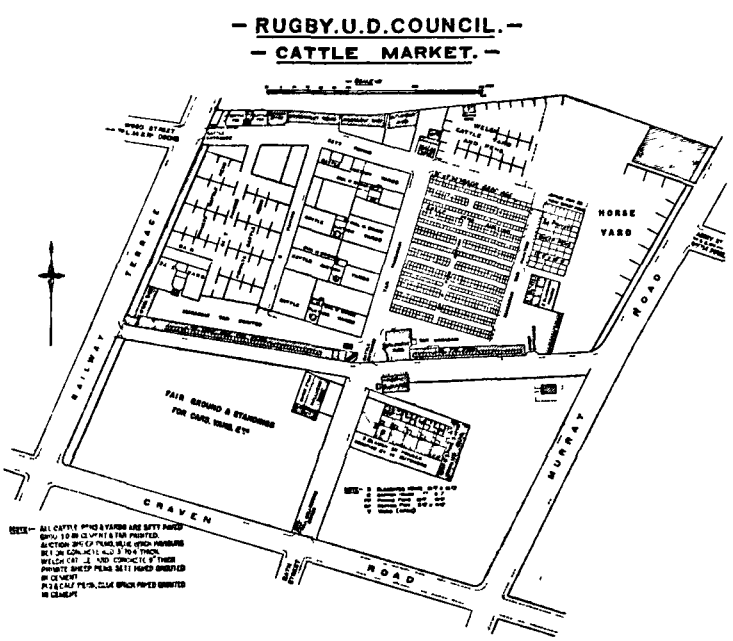


FIG. 25.

drovers segregate them, and they are immediately entrained. At each railway siding there is a causeway entrance leading up to the loading banks, on either side of which, on market days, cattle trucks are standing, ready cleaned out and disinfected; guide rails face each truck. It is estimated that 95 per cent. of the stock handled in the market are sent away by train. This facilitates penning, selling and despatching. In fact, in the height of the fat cattle season, a train often gets away by noon with a full load. Sometimes a special train is chartered when large supplies are bought for any one centre such as Birmingham, Manchester, Sheffield or London. At the present time, four firms of auctioneers operate in the market.

The following notes on the accommodation provided in the market are of interest :—

Fat Cattle.—Fat cattle occupy the yards in the centre of the market and are tied up to the top rail by chain. In the busy season it is not possible to tie them all up. Here they are inspected by prospective buyers before entering the sale rings. Each auctioneer occupies a space of about 980 sq. yds., divided into two collecting pens and two outlet pens, with the rostrum and weighbridge in the centre. The drover knows beforehand to which auction ring his cattle are allocated. As each beast is loosened it is driven along a narrow gangway to the dial weighbridge, and remains there until the previous beast goes out of the ring into the "sold" yard. The fences round the yard consist of four iron rails to a height of 5 ft. 6 in.

Store Cattle.—Practically all the store cattle entered at Rugby Market are sold by private treaty. There are 48 separate pens, 15 yds. × 12 yds. set aside on the north-west edge of the market for Irish cattle and Welsh cattle. Since more Irish than Welsh cattle are shown, the pens used by Irish stores are totally enclosed, whilst those used for Welsh animals are open on one side. In addition to and adjoining the above there is another lot of private pens as follows:—

30 pens 17 ft. × 12 ft.
1 pen 35 ft. × 28 ft.
1 ,, 50 ft. × 50 ft.
1 ,, 20 ft. × 60 ft.

Close to these are three fenced-in yards, holding about 20 cattle each, which are chiefly used by drovers for sorting-out purposes:—

1 yard 26 ft. × 22 ft.
1 ,, 22 ft. × 22 ft.
1 ,, 28 ft. × 22 ft.

Dairy Cows.—A pitch of 815 sq. yds., divided into five sections, is reserved at the south-west corner of the market for the receiving and selling of dairy cows. This is leased to a firm of auctioneers, who handle all the dairy cow and calf trade Here the pens are divided up into resting pens and sale ring and sold pens, with one pen for calves, the rostrum being in between. All the cows are numbered and tied up to the rails, which are the same height as those round the fat-cattle yards.

Calves.—Along the south wall of the present market there are 46 calf pens, 6 ft. × 7 ft., holding about 4 calves each, with a roofing over all. The calves are numbered and sold in the pens, the auctioneer walking along the top end.

Sheep.—There are a large number of sheep pens occupying about one-quarter of the east side of the market. These consist of four iron rails, 3 ft. high, and are allocated to four auctioneers as follows:—

(1) Eight rows of 240 pens, 5 ft. 6 in. × 6 ft. 6 in., holding about five sheep each.
(2) Seven rows of 220 pens (same size).
(3) Three rows of 97 pens (same size).
(4) Three rows of 79 pens (same size).

There is no covering to these pens, and the sheep are all sold where they stand, the auctioneer walking along a plank at the head of the pens. Additional pens are being erected, as there is insufficient accommodation. There are also private sheep pens consisting of:—

Seven rows 10 ft. × 8 ft., holding about 20 sheep.
One row 10 ft. × 5 ft. ,, ,, 16 ,,

Pigs.—The accommodation for pigs is not particularly satisfactory on account of the lack of shelter for large pigs. The pens, 6 ft. × 7 ft., holding about five pigs each, and consisting of seven iron rails to a height of 3 ft., are situated along the south wall, with a roofing all the way along. These are used mainly for small pigs. For large pigs, a number of the sheep pens adjoining are utilised.

Bulls.—Bulls are tied up to the rails in the fat cattle rings ; no separate pens are provided.

On the whole, accommodation is ample in the market, but there is room for improvement in regard to covered sale rings, covered sheds for dairy cows and more covered shedding for pigs and calves. There are five dial weighbridges, one owned by the Rugby Urban District Council and four by the auctioneers using the market. The auctioneers' weighbridges are placed in close proximity to the sale rings and all cattle are obliged to pass over them before entering the selling pens. The market authority considers that there is no need for lairages, as stock arriving from a distance on Saturday and Sunday for the Monday market is turned out on privately owned grass land. There is no abattoir for a consignment trade in dead meat, although the opinion is expressed that Rugby would be an ideal centre for such a business. Within the market area there are, however, two separate slaughterhouse buildings. One is an old building, beside the sheep pens, in which there are three tenants ; the other is a new building at the main entrance gate, and accommodates fourteen tenants in five sheds ; the tenants are all local butchers. The old building, which will shortly be demolished, is built of brick, but is not equipped with modern appliances.

St. Ives (Hunts).—The cattle market (Fig. 27) is held under a charter originally granted about the year 1200. With the exception of a small auction mart at Huntingdon—six miles away—there is no other cattle market within a fair distance. The market is conveniently situated for the transport of stock both by rail and road. It is served by branch lines of the London and North Eastern and London Midland and Scottish Railways, the railway unloading docks being situated within a few yards of the market. The market is also well situated in regard to main roads for the movement of stock from the St. Neots, Huntingdon, Ramsey and Cambridge districts.

The market is in two portions ; one, erected forty years ago, when the old street market was closed, is owned and controlled by the Corporation ; the other, on the opposite side of the road, is owned and controlled by a firm of auctioneers who pay toll to the Corporation.

The Corporation market is used only for the sale of fat and store cattle and sheep by private treaty. The accommodation is, therefore, of the simplest ; there are the usual iron pens set in a concrete floor, and there is a weighbridge situated in one corner. Many of the pens, especially in the cattle section of the market, are let to

dealers who, in addition to paying a toll on cattle brought in for sale, pay a sum of about £2 per annum for the privilege of having the same pen reserved for them each week. A part of this market is set aside and licensed for the use of Irish store cattle; fields outside the town are also licensed to enable the Irish stores to complete a quarantine period if necessary. At one time, St. Ives was one of the largest store stock markets in the country, and it is said that as many as 12,000 head of Irish stores have been exposed for sale on a single day. Of late years, however, trade has declined, and only some 12,000 fat and store cattle and a similar number of store sheep and lambs are now passed through the market in a year. The decline has been greatest in the Irish store cattle trade.

The whole of the trade in pigs is transacted at the private auction mart across the road. Here, in addition to the ordinary sale ring, covered accommodation is provided for pigs and for fat cattle; additional shedding accommodation is also available for store cattle when necessary. A dial weighbridge is installed. There is also a covered horse repository. A considerable trade in fat cattle and sheep is carried on at this mart, which is also considered to be a good market for the sale of both fat and store pigs. In a recent year, about 11,000 fat pigs and as many store pigs were sold; these were drawn from all over Huntingdonshire and from the neighbouring counties of Cambridge and Bedford. Apart from local needs, the fat pigs are purchased for bacon factories or for reconsignment to the industrial centres in the Midlands and elsewhere. The fat cattle on offer are mainly bought for Midland consuming centres and for London. The important egg and poultry auction mart (Fig. 28), controlled by the same firm of auctioneers, is situated a little distance away.*

Shrewsbury.—The livestock auction market (Figs. 29 and 30) is not only the largest in the Midlands, judged by the volume of business, but it is also one of the oldest. It is owned by the Corporation and was opened in 1850. A satisfactory arrangement is in force by which the four firms of auctioneers sell in rotation according to a schedule drawn up by the Markets Committee.

The fat-stock sale caters for local butchers and also for buyers from Wolverhampton, Birmingham and the Potteries. Entries for the weekly store-stock sale are drawn from Shropshire and frequently from the neighbouring counties of Stafford, Chester, Montgomery and Hereford. Some of the stores are collected from small markets, but most come direct from the breeders. About 1,000 to 1,200 stores are pitched on the average. Diminishing numbers of store cattle are sold by private treaty; already the majority are sold under the hammer. Buyers of stores are drawn from a wide area, including Scotland, Yorkshire, the Eastern Counties, Kent and Sussex.

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* *See* also pages 80 and 81.

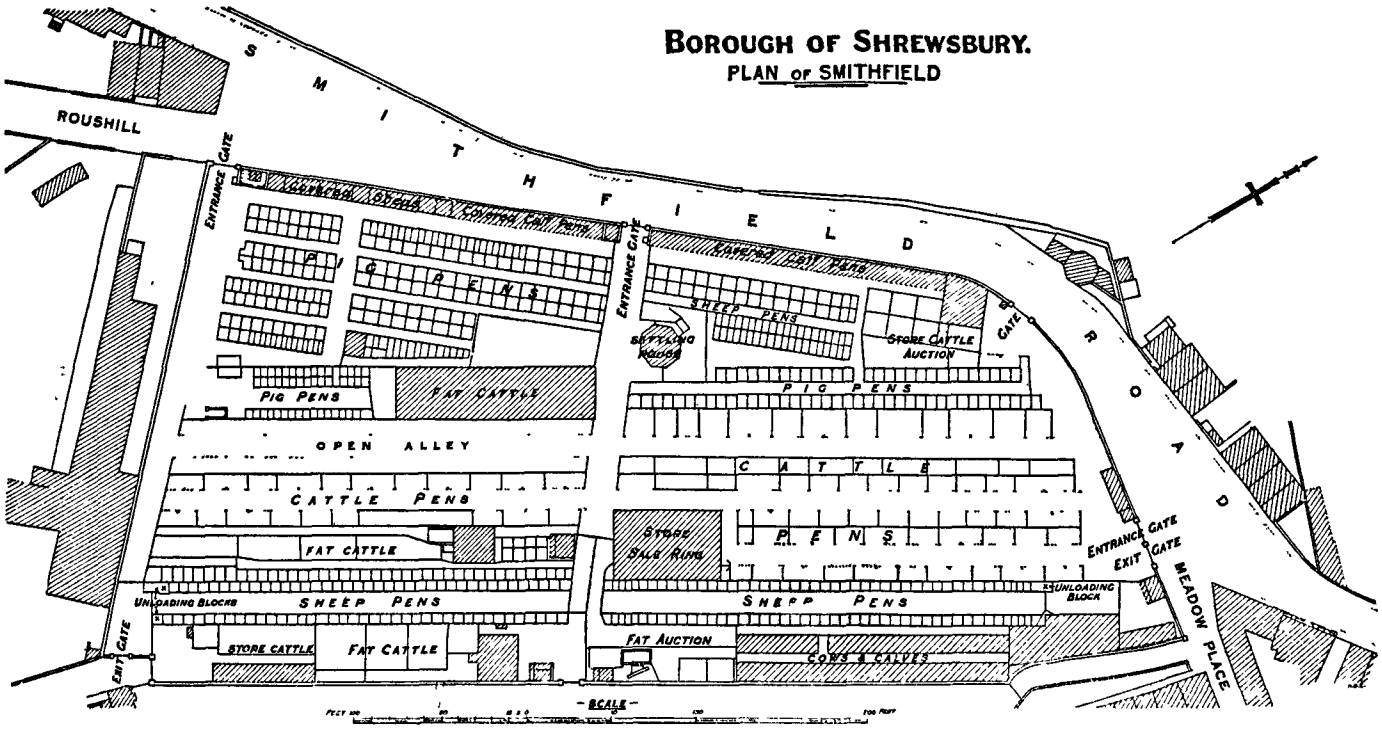

BOROUGH OF SHREWSBURY.
PLAN of SMITHFIELD
SMITHFIELD ROAD
ROUSHILL
ENTRANCE GATE
EXIT GATE
MEADOW PLACE
PENS
SHEEP PENS
PIG PENS
FAT CATTLE
OPEN ALLEY
CATTLE PENS
STORE SALE RING
STORE CATTLE AUCTION
SETTLING HOUSE
FAT AUCTION
COWS & CALVES
UNLOADING BLOCKS
UNLOADING BLOCK
STORE CATTLE
SCALE

FIG. 30.

The market is so situated that traffic has access to the sale-yard from all directions without interfering with the normal traffic of the town. The distance from the station is only about 300 yards, so that cattle can be quickly and conveniently entrained. For the large store-stock sales, special trains are arranged for the movement of supplies. To meet the convenience of senders who use road transport, six unloading docks have been provided in the yard. These are about 4 ft. high in front and bordered by substantial wooden posts with iron railings

The cattle pens are conveniently planned and are of varying sizes capable of holding from 8 to 25 head. The pig and sheep pens also vary in size and are suitably placed on either side of the market. The four auctioneers are each allotted a specified number of pens. When stock arrives at the saleyard, the attendants are directed to the pens already set apart for their animals; this saves delay and inconvenience. When cattle are ready for sale they pass along the passages between the pens and so on to the weighbridges. Having passed through the ring, the cattle proceed by different passages either to their original pens or to collecting pens where they await removal.

The market is well equipped with sale rings; each of the four auctioneers has a separate rostrum. Each ring is encircled by iron rails and has a dial weighbridge with fixed pointers at the entrance side opposite the auctioneer and in view of all purchasers. Shrewsbury was the first market in England where a weighbridge was erected and used for both fat and store stock, and to this is partly attributed the extensive trade in store cattle which has been built up. The sale rings for fat stock have corrugated iron roofs but no seating accommodation, and, although there is standing room for about 60 buyers, only those in front can conveniently take an active share in the bidding. The store-cattle sale ring is a substantial brick building with a slated roof.

Users of the market complain of the accommodation provided for cows and calves. About 160 cows and calves can, however, be comfortably housed under cover. This is provided by a slated lean-to roof against the main outside wall of the yard. One auctioneer has covered accommodation for fat cattle, but there is no further market accommodation provided under cover. Irish cattle are not specially catered for. Trees are planted at various points throughout the yard which afford shade to sheep and pigs during hot weather. When stock is left over night, which seldom happens, lairage accommodation is provided, the animals being fed and attended by the yardsmen at a cost of 3*d.* a head, exclusive of feeding charges. The drainage system is good, consisting of surface drains cut in concrete running down either side of the pens into similar drains running parallel along each side of the roadways or passages and emptying, at various points, into the main sewer.



FIG. 28.—St. Ives (Hunts.): Poultry Auction.

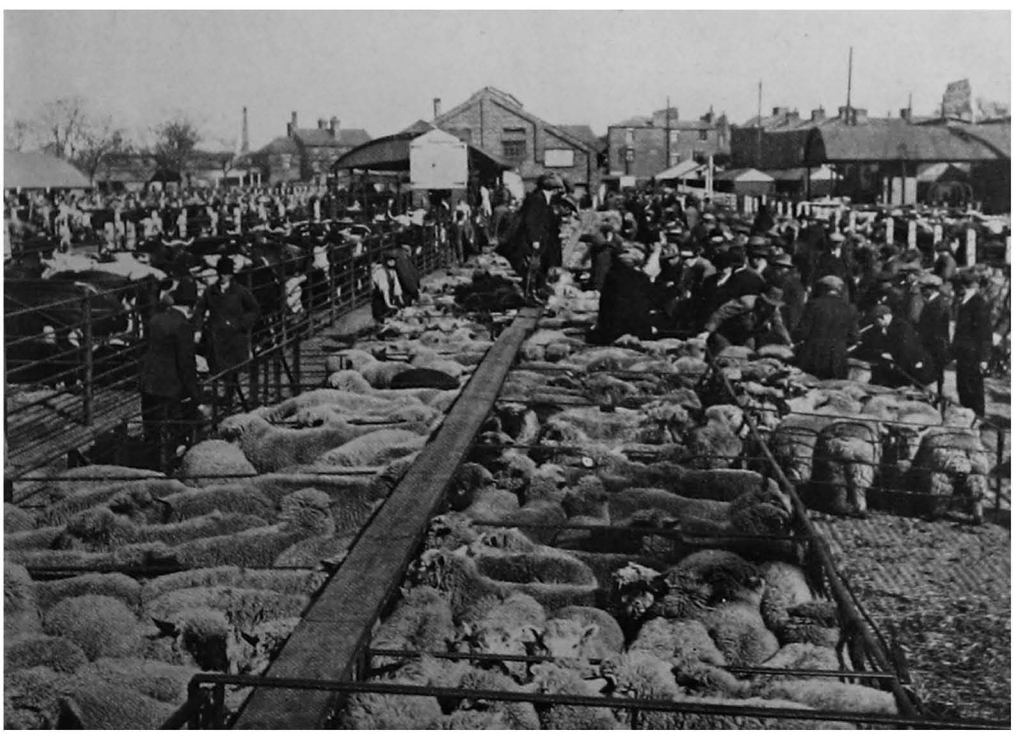


FIG. 29.—Shrewsbury: Live Stock Market.





FIGS. 31 and 32.—Oswestry: **Egg and Poultry Market.**

Recently a provisional order has been obtained which authorises the Corporation to borrow £4,500 for the extension of the market

The following are the numbers of livestock entering Shrewsbury market in 1913, 1922 and 1926 :—

	1913.	1922.	1926.
Fat cattle	8,227	7,681	7,414
Store cattle	56,179	49,804	41,017
Dairy cows	3,682	3,717	3,634
Calves	7,808	9,475	9,080
Fat sheep	43,527	25,101	48,910
Store sheep	25,797	33,114	10,388
Fat pigs	11,965	14,750	9,992
Store pigs	14,909	25,148	23,978

Adjacent to the market is a well equipped horse repository with accommodation for 200 horses.

A slaughterhouse owned by the Corporation adjoins the market. It is on the " open " slaughterhall system with separate compartments for sheep, pigs and cattle. All slaughtering is under the supervision of the abattoir and meat inspector. There is a tripery and gut scraping department on the site.

(b) Egg and Poultry Markets.

Oswestry.—At least one-third of the Cross Market is devoted to sales of eggs and poultry by producers to country wholesalers (Figs. 31 and 32). The market, which is entirely under cover, is somewhat inconvenient in many respects owing to the piecemeal additions that have from time to time been made ; but it has one notable advantage in that it is supplied with a special loading platform on a side-road which is a great convenience in the centre of a busy country town. The fact that egg buyers can pack under cover is also an important advantage.

Sales of poultry and eggs are conducted solely by private treaty. Special sales of dressed poultry are held annually at Christmas. Produce coming into the market pays toll ; rent is charged to the buyers who have certain spaces allotted to them on which to assemble their purchases. Live birds are usually brought in tied in couples, frequently in open baskets ; they are then sold at so much per lb. live weight. Scales are always available. Buyers admit that, as a result of this system of sale by live weight, prices are such that they cannot resell to London and have to depend almost entirely on direct trade with retailers in the provinces. They would prefer sale by the head.

One corner of the market is set apart for retail trade in fish and meat and provisions and the centre of the market for producers' sales of eggs, butter, fruit and vegetables and general farm produce. The market generally is becoming overcrowded, but adjoining premises have recently been acquired by the Corporation, and

improvements are now contemplated. It is proposed to extend the market considerably and, in addition, to build a public hall above it.

St. Ives (Hunts.).—As a poultry market, St. Ives was of little importance before the War, the sales of live poultry being then held in the Cattle Market. Increasing production of poultry produce led, however, to the provision of a special poultry market* by the auctioneers who already conducted live stock sales in the Cattle Market. A piece of land, 3½ acres in extent, within 100 yards of the Cattle Market, was taken for the purpose. Business in the new market was not confined to live poultry, but was extended to sales of eggs and butter.

The market was well supported from the outset, but the quantity of produce received during the early years was small compared with the output of the district. Progress has, however, been rapid, as the following figures show :—

	Poultry (head).	Eggs (scores).
1919	55,450	26,892
1920	63,556	32,697
1921	83,666	43,895
1922	91,840	60,806
1923	107,971	77,238
1924	122,975	112.706
1925	128,709	131,876
1926	132,287	181,626

In order to cope with the growing volume of business, it has been necessary to extend the accommodation for both poultry and eggs, and in the last few years a sum of over £700 has been spent in the provision of additional facilities. Egg sales are held in a large brick and slated hall which also contains offices. This covers an area of 3,000 sq. ft. The building was constructed with the purpose not only of displaying supplies to best advantage, but of affording ample accommodation for buyers to pack under cover. The eggs are displayed on three-tier shelves which are capable of holding at least 7,000 score. The accommodation in the poultry section consists of 1,000 wire pens, in three tiers, installed in large open timber and iron sheds which have been designed to secure the best conditions of lighting and ventilation, to facilitate cleansing and also to protect both birds and buyers from the weather. There is a large space inside the market for the parking of vehicles. A refreshment room was added in 1924. The premises are the private property of the auctioneers and, until 1926, no tolls were charged. At the beginning of that year, the Local Authority took up its

* *See* Fig. 28.

power and a small toll was introduced, the sum of 1*d.* per pen being charged on poultry in pens.

Sales are held each Monday, commencing at 11 o'clock, and lasting, as a rule, until approximately 4 o'clock. A large number of poultry buyers attend from London; egg buyers come from neighbouring parts. From time to time, special prize sales of high-class breeding stock are held in addition to special Christmas sales.

The efforts of the auctioneers to encourage a high standard of produce have attracted many large egg and poultry buyers, while there has been a gradual extension of the area from which supplies are drawn. At present, the auction is said to draw supplies from as far as 20 miles. Produce which was formerly collected from farms or taken to small nearby markets now comes in regularly to St. Ives. An efficient and well organised carrier service has been arranged and has contributed to the success of the market.

(c) Fruit and Vegetable Markets.

Cheltenham.—The market, which is of great antiquity, is owned by the Cheltenham Corporation. For some time prior to 1919 it had not been of much importance, but, in that year, it was revived by the formation of a producers' co-operative society—the Gloucestershire Fruit and Vegetable Co-operative Marketing Society—which rented part of the market from the Corporation and started a produce auction* for the benefit of the large number of small growers in the district. The business of the society has shown a fairly steady increase, and the auction now ranks among the larger produce auctions in the west Midlands. The market is situated on the outskirts of the town and has an area of 1¾ acres, including sheds and buildings covering 1,288 sq. yds. The buildings were not expressly designed for a produce auction, and they have been added to and improved since the society started; further improvements are now contemplated. In 1923, the sale of eggs and poultry by auction was added to the society's activities, and this trade grew to considerable proportions. Since January, 1927, the society has undertaken the sale of eggs by private treaty, and now runs a special department for this purpose. Eggs are tested and graded on the lines recommended by the Ministry and packed for despatch in non-returnables; in this respect, the society may be said to be pioneering reform in the trade. An army hut with a capacity of 700 sq. ft. is used, at the moment, for the work of the egg department. Poultry are sold in pens in the open. The society also carries on a produce auction at Grange Court (*see* page 82).

The fruit and vegetable auction is conducted on similar lines to other west country auctions, but it has one notable feature. The Society has for some years used its best efforts to persuade growers to abandon returnable packages in favour of non-returnables. In this, it has succeeded to a remarkable degree, and it is

* *See* Economic Series No. 15, Fig. 35.

now rare to see a returnable pot or bushel in the market; this is also the case at Grange Court. The Society also has a scheme by which growers can apply for a registered number. Every applicant has to sign a declaration that in the packing of all fruit, tomatoes, cucumbers, vegetables and cut flowers sent for sale under such number, the bulk fairly corresponds with the top layer of each package in the consignment. A special part of the market is set aside for produce sold under this scheme, and an examining committee, consisting of two buyers and two growers with an independent chairman, has powers to examine any package in this section and to suspend any registered grower who has failed to conform with the rules. About 25 per cent. of the senders have registered numbers. Buyers in this market are normally retailers from Cheltenham and wholesalers and retailers from South Wales, Swindon and the Birmingham district. During the fruit season, however, produce is bought for despatch to the North and other parts of England. In addition to the Gloucestershire Society, a private auctioneer holds weekly sales of poultry, eggs and butter. There are also stalls for retail sales of bacon and other commodities. The market was formerly used for the sale of livestock as well as produce, but since the opening of other markets in the neighbourhood, such as those at Andoversford and Beckford, the livestock trade has disappeared.

Grange Court.—This market was started in 1920 for the sale by auction of the fruit, mainly apples and plums, grown in the Grange Court district, which lies to the west of Gloucester.

The buildings consist of three large sheds opening on three sides of a square; on the fourth side is the main road. They cover an area of 2,700 sq. yds.; in addition, there is about 2,000 sq. yds. of uncovered market. The market is close to Grange Court Station, the junction of the Hereford and South Wales lines. Two of the sheds are used for the sale of fruit and vegetables and for live poultry A part of the other shed is used for storage of empties. There is also a small hut which is used as an office.

Prior to the formation of this market, the produce of the neighbourhood was either taken eight miles by road to Gloucester or sent to commission salesmen in distant markets. During the fruit season, about 90 per cent. of the produce offered is bought by wholesalers, mainly for South Wales. During the rest of the year retailers take a larger proportion. Non-returnable packages are used for fruit and vegetables and the registered number scheme is in operation.

Evesham.—The method of selling fruit and market garden produce by auction at the point of production, which is characteristic of the fruit growing and market gardening area of the west Midlands, originated at Evesham about 50 years ago. As the Evesham district is still the centre of the most intensive cultivation

in that area, it is probable that a greater weight of produce passes through the two Evesham fruit and vegetable markets than through any other markets of similar type in the west Midlands. No figures are, however, available of the weight of produce handled in any of these markets; the volume of business is said to be increasing.

The Central Market at Evesham* is held in a specially designed auction yard in the middle of the town. The sales of fruit and vegetables and small supplies of butter, cheese and poultry are held daily under a Dutch barn which covers an area of 1,600 sq. yds. In addition there is an uncovered area of 900 sq. yds. Pens are provided for live fowls. The offices are within the market, and there is a store for empties across the road. Separate entrances for incoming and outgoing traffic are provided.

The Smithfield Market (Fig. 33) for the sale, by auction, of fruit and vegetables and small quantities of butter, cheese, eggs and live and dead poultry is held in the Evesham Cattle Market, except when the premises are required for livestock sales which are held fortnightly. On these days, a large specially constructed shed with concrete flooring, adjoining the market is the place of sale. On this site there are stores for empties, also a range of shops where the wicker empties are made. The covered accommodation measures 140 yds. by 33 yds., the uncovered, 158 yds. by 20 yds.

Methods of sale are similar in both markets, and, in point of fact, are much the same in all the fruit and vegetable auctions of the area. Variations relate to minor details, such as charges for empties, number schemes, etc., referred to below. Auction charges for fruit and vegetables appear to be standardised in all markets at 7½ per cent. Some variation exists as regards poultry and eggs, but the general auction commission for these articles is 5 per cent. Some markets also undertake the sale of growers' crops by contract on commission; where this is done the usual commission charged is 3¾ per cent.

Practically all the produce handled is grown within a radius of ten miles of the market. It is brought to the auction in pots, half-pots, chip baskets, and other customary containers. Every description of package required for the marketing of produce is supplied on application, nominal hire being charged on each package when marketed. The market provides porters for unloading. A consistent endeavour is made by the auction authorities to encourage better packing and grading. As at other produce auctions in the west Midlands, a scheme is in operation at both the Evesham markets by which each grower has a permanent number. Special tallies bearing this number are supplied free of charge; these are attached to the package by the sender and remain in position until removed by the buyer. Without disclosing the personal identity of the grower, this arrangement enables the buyers to

* *See* Economic Series No. 15, Fig. 33.

bid for lots bearing numbers which, in their experience, are associated with fair and satisfactory packing.

In the Evesham markets, it is reckoned that nearly 75 per cent. of the produce offered is bought by wholesalers, about one per cent. by consumers and the remainder by retailers. Retailers send their lorries from Birmingham, Worcester and other towns to convey their purchases direct to their own premises. Some produce bought on wholesale account is also handled in this manner, but the great bulk, which goes to all parts of England and South Wales, Glasgow and other large towns in Scotland and sometimes to Dublin and Belfast, is, as a rule, bought at the auction by wholesalers' agents and despatched by passenger train. On the whole, the facilities which auctions of this type provide are more used by the small grower than by the large. The auctions are, in fact, assembly markets where consignments that are too small to send away as units, or to attract buyers to individual holdings, can be viewed, purchased and bulked for despatch. Many of the large growers supplement their own supplies for despatch by purchases in the auction marts at Evesham.

(d) Wool Auctions.

Wellington.—The wool auction at Wellington*, in addition to being one of the largest in the Midlands, affords a typical example of the procedure usually adopted at country wool sales.

The sale, which is organised and controlled by a local firm of auctioneers, is held annually either in June or early July. The premises used consist of large tents, occupying approximately 4,500 sq. yds., which are specially hired and erected for the occasion. Sales are also held in the Market Hall and in the Smithfield Cattle Market. The wool is displayed inside the tents in wool sheets which are the property of the auctioneers, and for the hire of which the buyer is charged ninepence. Usually the various lots of wool may be inspected by buyers on the day previous to the sale, for which purpose the sheets have to be opened and, after inspection, repacked and restitched.

A catalogue of the sale is published a few days beforehand; this gives the lot number, the name of the vendor, the number of sheets, the number of fleeces and the variety of wool, *i.e.*, whether it is Shropshire wool, Kerry Hill wool, lambs' wool or crossbred wool, and so on. No grading is carried out before the sale, either by the auctioneers or by the growers, but quality is encouraged by the auctioneers who offer a number of prizes for the best lots of washed wool. In addition, one of the conditions of sale states that " all greys perceptible throughout the fleece, blacks and greasy in washed clips, and greys perceptible throughout the fleece and blacks in greasy clips, to be declared and sold separately, or an

* *See* Figs. 16 and 17.

allowance of one fourth shall be made, also an allowance of 1*s.* 6*d.* each for cotts or 25 per cent. on the whole lot complained of and found faulty, whichever may be the less. No locks shall be packed in the fleeces." These and other conditions of sale are typical of all wool auctions and have been standardized by the joint action of auctioneers, buyers and growers through their respective organisations.

As each lot enters the tent, it is weighed ; on this arrival weight the farmer is paid within one month of the sale. The weighing and checking of the wool necessitates the use of six weighing machines, and the employment of twelve clerks and fifty men for a week. The buyer is charged on the weight of the wool as taken on despatch from the sale.

Bidding is by so much per pound ; one of the conditions of sale states that advances must not be less than a farthing per pound. The auctioneer's commission on the sale, which includes weighing in and weighing out the wool, etc., is 4 per cent.

The number of fleeces exposed for sale varies somewhat from year to year, but an average number would be between 50,000 and 60,000 a year. These are supplied by growers throughout Shropshire and from Montgomery, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, and Worcestershire.

Railway facilities for the sale are good, Wellington being served both by the London Midland and Scottish and the Great Western Railways. Buyers attend from a considerable distance. Manufacturers of woollen goods are large buyers, but wool merchants also attend from Bradford, Halifax, Rochdale, Keighley, Newtown, Worcester and Leicester.

(II) CITY MARKETS.

Birmingham.

Birmingham, with a population of almost a million, affords a typical example of a complete market system serving a large industrial area. The markets date from ancient times. Until 1806, the Lord of the Manor and his court-leet were the market authority and derived a considerable income from payments by traders for the right of selling, in public places, horses, cattle, sheep, pigs and agricultural produce. In 1806, the Commissioners, then the governing body of the town, under the Birmingham Street Act, became contractors for the tolls and obtained control of the market administration. A few years later, Smithfield Cattle Market was opened ; this was supplemented by the erection of a small dead-meat market in Jamaica Row. In 1824, the Commissioners purchased the market rights and tolls for the sum of £12,500 from the Lord of the Manor, and in 1851, under the Birmingham Improvement Act, which transferred to the Town Council all the governing

powers of the borough, the markets were acquired by the City Corporation under whose control they have remained. Since their acquisition by the Corporation, extensions and improvements have been made in the markets at a total cost of upwards of £350,000.

The markets at the present time consist of the wholesale meat market (Fig. 34) and slaughterhouses situated in Bradford Street, the wholesale fruit and vegetable market in St. Martin's Lane, the wholesale fish market in Bell Street, the cattle and pig market in Montague Street, the retail market hall in High Street, the retail meat market in Jamaica Row and the retail flower and plant market in the Bull Ring. These are under the direct supervision of the Market Superintendent, who is responsible to the Markets and Fairs Committee of the Corporation for the conduct and management of the markets. With the exception of the cattle and pig market in Montague Street, the other markets are all situated within a few minutes walking distance of each other; this facilitates cleansing and general supervision.

In addition to these markets the following privately controlled markets are held by agreement with the Local Authority: (i) cattle saleyard, King's Norton; (ii) general retail market, Soho Road, Handsworth; (iii) general retail market, High Street, Erdington. There are also three hide and skin auction markets and an important corn exchange.

Wholesale Meat Market and Slaughterhouses.—The present commodious meat market and slaughterhouses were erected in 1891 at a total cost of £126,989. The growth of business is shown by the following record of the number of animals slaughtered on the premises :—

Year ended	Number of animals slaughtered
31st December, 1898	143,193
31st March, 1907	220,498
,, ,, 1921	258,222
,, ,, 1924	279,545
,, ,, 1925	332,243
,, ,, 1926	331,107

The main buildings may be grouped for description as follows :—

1. *Private slaughterhouses* for the wholesale trade. These consist of a row of 20 slaughterhouses for wholesale salesmen, each being fitted with the necessary apparatus for two sets of men to work at one time. In the yard outside are waiting pens for animals about to be killed. Lairage for about 200 beasts is provided over the slaughterhouse and for about 500 sheep over the block of offices, access being obtained by a sloping way leading from the yard. The drainage from these buildings is well arranged; from the concrete floors of the lairs the drainage flows into open iron troughs running along the outside wall, whence it descends by iron shoots into shallow open channels in the pavement of the yard. The swillings from the floor also flow directly into the open channels and so into a catchpit, where all the solid matter is removed by meshed screens before the drainage reaches the

sewers. It is perhaps a defect of the original site that a large proportion of the lairage accommodation is, from lack of space, situated above the slaughterhouse, making it necessary to take beasts up and down a steeply inclined ramp.

2. *Engine rooms* (for electric light and refrigeration), cold-stores and chill rooms. These are situated in the basement. The cold-storage premises, which are leased by the Corporation to a refrigeration company, have a capacity of 130,000 cu. ft. for freezing, and 70,000 cu. ft. for chilling.

3. *The tripery, etc.* This block of buildings contains two large Lancashire boilers for supplying hot water and steam for all purposes connected with the slaughtering of cattle and the treatment of tripe; steam is also conveyed to the scalding tubs in the pig slaughterhall. Adjoining the boiler-house is a room for condemned meat and, on the ground floor, immediately opposite the pig slaughterhall, is a lairage for 200 pigs.

4. *The public slaughterhalls.* These consist of (*a*) pig slaughterhall, 96 ft. long by 40 ft. wide, so divided that scalding, scraping and dressing takes place on one side of the hall, the other side being used for hanging the carcases; (*b*) a beast, sheep and calf slaughterhall, where the fittings are arranged for 26 sets of men, the slaughtering taking place on one side only of the hall as in the case of pigs. Water is supplied from a tower capable of holding 45 tons of water.

5. *The wholesale meat market.* This is the largest and most central building of the block, being separated from the slaughtering establishments on either side by a covered roadway for carts and wagons. It is 365 ft. long, 90 ft. wide and 65 ft. in height, fitted for hanging over 3,000 sides of beef in 73 market stands, and divided by two longitudinal and three cross avenues. This market was one of the first in the country to be fitted with a complete system of overhead travelling rails. The meat, on being hoisted to roller-hook height, remains suspended while conveyed to any of the market stands for sale, to the covered roadways for carting away or to the lifts to be taken down to the chill rooms in the basement, from which it may subsequently be returned in the same way. In addition to home-produced meat, a considerable quantity of imported meat is handled here, chiefly from Liverpool, Birkenhead, Garston, Manchester and London, and, to a lesser extent, from other ports, such as Bristol, Avonmouth and Cardiff.

Hides and calves' skins are collected by three firms (two of which are controlled by butchers) and sold, under numerous classifications as to quality and weight, to tanners. Sheep and lambs' skins are collected in the same manner and by the same firms, but, in some cases, they are "fellmongered," *i.e.*, the wool is separated from the skin and sold for milling, the pelt being sold for tanning. The principal edible offals, such as heads, tongues, livers, plucks, hearts, sweetbreads, tails, brains, lungs, spleen, etc., are sold by the wholesalers to retailers in a similar manner to the carcases. Tripe and feet from cattle are dealt with on the premises, cleansed, cooked and prepared for food and disposed of while fresh by a co-operative company. The cooking is done in steam-jacketed pans and is carried out under the immediate supervision of the city authorities. Of the offal, which is partly edible and partly inedible, the bellies and guts of calves are, to some extent, sold for consumption as tripe, but the maw, or fourth stomach, is sold for the extraction of rennet. The tripe from sheep and lambs is collected by the city authorities and used in the manufacture of feeding meal, poultry food and fertiliser. Guts are collected by two or three firms; preliminary cleansing is carried out on the premises, after which some are exported direct as sausage casings, some sold for home use, and some are taken to outside premises for further processing into sausage casings, tennis strings, surgical gut, &c. The inside fat from all animals is collected principally by one firm which specialises in the preparation of edible fats, such as

shredded suet, beef dripping and also various grades of beef and mutton tallow. Blood is collected by a firm which extracts as much of the serum or liquid as possible, after which both serum and clot are taken to outside premises, the serum being dried into blood albumen, the clot into a feeding meal for pigs and poultry and the residue into an ammoniacal fertiliser. There is a further large quantity of miscellaneous waste offal, which is collected by the city authorities and used in the manufacture of feeding meal and fertilisers. The whole of the manure fom the lairages and slaughter-halls is also collected and disposed of by the City Authorities. Offal which is judged to be unfit for distribution to the public is surrendered by traders to the City Authorities, who utilise it in the extraction of tallow and the manufacture of feeding meal and fertiliser.

*The Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Market.**—The wholesale fruit and vegetable salesmen formerly carried on business in High Street, opposite the Market Hall, Worcester Street and Spiceal Street (all in the open air), and in the vaults under the Market Hall, but, in 1880, the Markets and Fairs Committee decided to remedy the inconvenience of this arrangement and to develop the fruit and vegetable market in accordance with the requirements of the town. A covered market was accordingly erected on land bounded by St. Martin's Lane, Jamaica Row and Moat Lane, and opened in 1883. Subsequently, in 1892, the area formerly occupied by the Pig Market was added, but even this extension was soon insufficient for the rapidly increasing trade and it was decided to take in the space formerly occupied by the Smithfield Cattle Market and that occupied by adjoining premises in Moat Lane; this extension was completed in 1903.

The present market, which covers an area of 14,561 sq. yds., is one of the largest and best organised in the country. It is divided into two sections; one is set apart for stands occupied by wholesale merchants and commission salesmen on weekly tenancies, at rentals which vary from 1*s.* 2*d.* to 2*s* 2*d.* per square yard per week, and, in a few instances, are as high as 2*s.* 6*d.* per square yard per week. Although the usual method of sale is by private treaty, a substantial quantity of produce is auctioned. The other section of the market is set apart for the use of market gardeners and others who bring in their own produce for sale and pay a daily toll varying from 2*s.* to 5*s.* per wagon according to capacity. For quantities less than a load, 1*d.* per bushel is charged. The produce in the growers' section is mainly heavy green vegetables, although a small quantity of locally grown fruit is offered during the season. Small wholesale merchants or "higglers," who also sell by retail, are permitted to occupy pitches normally reserved for growers, a practice which sometimes results in the growers being crowded out; when this occurs, growers can obtain pitches in the adjoining street. This section is also used on Tuesday and Saturday afternoons for sale by retail of clothing, hardware, manufactured goods, &c.

Overhead offices, adjoining the outer walls of the market, have been erected for salesmen. In addition, salesmen are allowed to

* *See* Economic Series No. 13, Fig. 8.

erect on their stands offices of design and dimensions approved by the Local Authority. Although the market is well laid out and spacious, some of the adjoining streets are narrow, and the market traffic, by adding considerably to the heavy merchandise traffic of the district, causes considerable congestion. The trade of the market is steadily increasing, and the space available in both the growers' and salesmen's sections is taxed to the utmost. The acquisition of a site suitable for extension is under consideration.

The market is well situated for supplies of home-grown fruit and vegetables. Market gardening has developed extensively on the east, west and south within carting distance of the city, particularly in the Bromsgrove district, while the great Midland fruit area reaches to within 25 miles of the city. Home-grown fruit is also drawn in large quantities from the Eastern and Southern counties. A considerable quantity of imported produce finds its way to the wholesale market, apples coming from Liverpool, Birkenhead, Southampton, the Humber ports, Bristol, Avonmouth, Swansea, Newport, &c., as also do cauliflowers, onions and potatoes, while bananas are drawn chiefly from the Bristol Channel ports, and to a lesser extent from Liverpool and Birkenhead.

*The Wholesale Fish Market.**—In order to complete this survey of Birmingham markets, a brief reference may be made to the Fish Market. The wholesale fish dealers were originally located in Dale End, in the open street. It was found, however, that fish supplies were much restricted by the inadequate accommodation, and a market building was accordingly erected at the corner of Bell Street, facing the Bull Ring. This was opened in 1869. The improved facilities led to a rapid increase in the fish trade. Certain adjoining properties were purchased by the Corporation in 1878 and 1882, and the market was considerably enlarged in 1885 and 1888, when overhead offices, adjoining the outer walls of the market, were erected for the salesmen. The vaults under the Market Hall facing the Fish Market in Bell Street, formerly used by the wholesale fruit salesmen, are now also used for the wholesale fish trade. A small plot of freehold land adjoining the market has recently been acquired by the Corporation for future market extension. The stands are let on weekly tenancies and a small portion of the market is reserved for use on payment of tolls. Sales of fish received direct from the principal fishing ports are by private treaty, on commission or by auction. Good supplies of English eggs are marketed and also large quantities imported from Ireland, Denmark and Russia. There are also considerable wholesale sales of poultry, game and rabbits. Cold-stores, with a freezing capacity of 37,048 cubic feet, and an ice-making plant, with a capacity of 35 tons per day, have been installed in the basement of the fish market. These premises are let on lease.

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* *See* Economic Series No. 13, Fig. 12.

The Cattle and Pig Market.—This is situated in Montague Street, in close proximity to railway loading and unloading docks. The greater part of the market is covered ; it has four weighbridges, and is well equipped for the sale of livestock. Whilst the volume of business transacted in the wholesale markets for the sale of fish, game, poultry, fruit, vegetables, meat, &c., has steadily increased, that of the livestock market has for some time shown a tendency to decrease, and since August, 1919, no animals, except pigs, have been exposed for sale. The decline in the number of cattle exposed for sale is attributed to the changes which have taken place in the meat trade generally, notably the development of the wholesale dead meat trade and the increasing tendency of butchers, both wholesale and retail, to buy their livestock in the producing areas. Large numbers of pigs still pass through the market, but even pig supplies have fallen off due to the decline of the trade in Irish pigs and to the closing of the market for varying periods on account of foot-and-mouth disease.

The following shows the trend of pig sales :—

Year	Number of pigs
1872	96,909
1881	56,230
1890-1	138,237
1900-1	208,397
1910-11	235,156
1920-21	142,067
1921-22	191,848
1922-23	158,594
1923-24	193,270
1924-25	157,624
1925-26	153,324

The Retail Market Hall.—This was opened in February, 1835, and is 365 ft. long, 106 ft. wide, and 60 ft. high. The stalls are divided by four main avenues with short connecting avenues running at right angles ; those in one of the side avenues are occupied mainly by fishmongers, those in the main avenue by florists, fruiterers, &c., and those in two narrower avenues adjoining the main avenue are used for the sale of miscellaneous wares, live poultry, &c. The stalls are erected by the Corporation, and whilst they are adapted in design to the particular business to be carried on, the elevations are kept as uniform as possible. A few temporary stalls are erected each Thursday in the Market Hall for the sale by farmers of butter, eggs and poultry ; this trade, however, is gradually decreasing.

The Retail Meat Market.—This was erected on 212 sq. yds. of freehold land purchased in 1850, and on 348 sq. yds. of land leased from the Governors of King Edward's Grammar School in 1851.

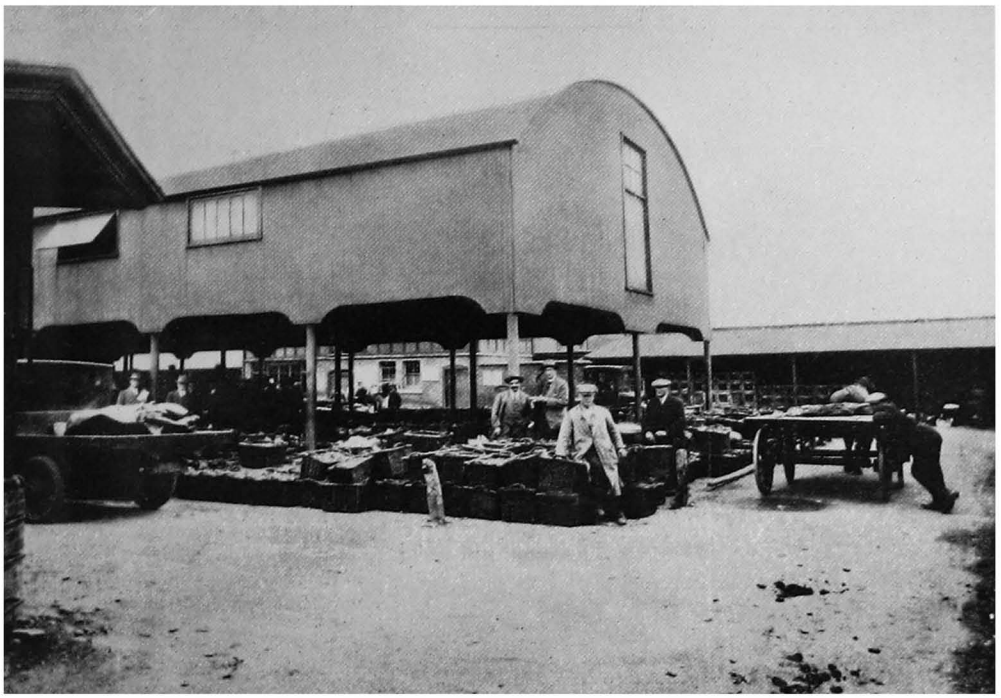


FIG. 33.—Evesham : Smithfield Fruit and Vegetable Market.



FIG. 34.—Birmingham : Wholesale Meat Market.

Facing page 91.]



FIG. 36.—Derby Cattle Market: Auction Rings.



FIG. 37.—Derby: New Retail Fish, Game and Poultry Market.

It was used as a wholesale meat market until the wholesale trade was transferred to another site in 1897. At the present time, a retail meat market is held in part of the premises on Saturdays, the remainder being used as a sale-room by a wholesale fruit merchant, and as store-rooms for fruit, empties, etc.

The Bull Ring Market.—This is an open-air market for the retail sale of flowers, fruit-trees, plants, shrubs, poultry and rabbits. It is held thrice weekly.

Derby.

In 1204, a Charter was granted by King John confirming the right of the town to hold markets and take toll. The principal market day at that period was Friday, as it is to-day.

*Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Market.**—This market was opened in May, 1925, and is one of the best in the Midlands. The market was previously held in the open in the market place, but owing to the growth of business the site became unsuitable and a new site, 3¾ acres in extent, was acquired about a quarter of a mile away. The present commodious covered market was erected on the central portion and measures 220 ft. long by 150 ft. wide. About ¾ acre of adjoining land is used for parking the vehicles of both sellers and buyers.

The market has a double-span roof of glass and slate, and is laid out with four cross roads, 24 ft. wide, with two alley-ways the whole length of the market. The design is such that another one or two spans can be added without rearranging either the roads or the stands or interfering with the present one-way traffic system which is proving successful. Twenty-three stands are occupied by wholesale distributors of fruit, flowers and vegetables, seven are allocated for the sale of fish, and the remaining thirty-eight are let to growers who market their own produce. The whole is lit by electric light, including the open yards and the parking ground. On three sides, banana stores, warehouses and motor garages have been or are being erected; on the west side there is a canteen as well as further warehouse accommodation. There is also a block of offices near the entrance, in addition to the offices adjacent to the stands. The market is well supplied with locally grown vegetables, the bulk of which comes from Melbourne some seven miles away. A considerable volume of home-grown produce is consigned direct to the market, but large supplies are also drawn from Covent Garden. Imported continental fruits come through Hull, Grimsby and London, both directly consigned and through the port auctions.

Cattle Market.—The cattle market was built by the Corporation in 1861 and covers an area of 5½ acres (Figs. 35 and 36); it is held two days a week, on Tuesdays for fat stock and on Fridays for

* *See* Economic Series No. 13, Figs. 10 and 11.

store stock. It is conveniently situated as regards both rail and road facilities, the railway being within 300 yds. The normal traffic of the town does not interfere with supplies coming into the market. As the surrounding district does not produce sufficient beef and mutton for its own needs, the market draws its supplies from a fairly wide area. The nearest important markets are: Ashbourne, 14 miles to the north-west, Bakewell, 25 miles to the north, Nottingham, 16 miles to the east, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, 15 miles to the south-west and Loughborough, 19 miles to the south-east.

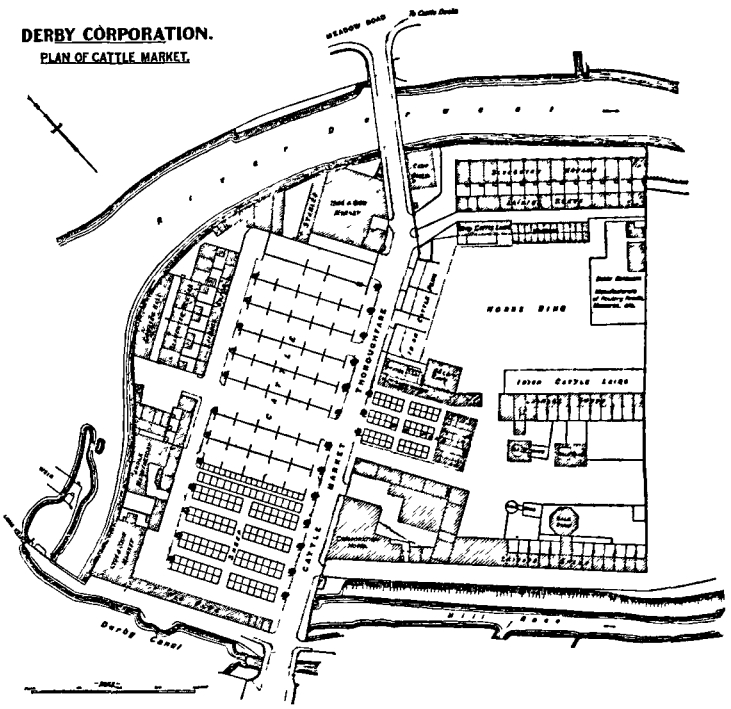


FIG. 35

The store cattle offered at Derby include a fair number of Irish animals and odd droves from Worcester, Gloucester, Somerset and Essex. Derby is one of the largest markets in the country for dairy cows. As elsewhere, most of the better-class trade in cows appears to be in the hands of dealers. The average weekly numbers of fat stock offered are 320 cattle, 850 sheep, 80 calves and 65 pigs. About 50 per cent. of the supplies of fat cattle are drawn from local herds; 20 per cent. come from Norfolk, the same proportion from Shropshire and 10 per cent. from various other sources. During the first half of the year, supplies come chiefly from Norfolk and Shropshire,

and later on from the Leicestershire pastures. Fat stock is bought for such centres as Wirksworth, Ripley, Belper, Matlock, Burton-on-Trent, Birmingham, Sheffield, Chesterfield, Leicester, Peterborough, Boston and Manchester, while store stock is sent to Rugby, Manchester, North Derbyshire, Crewe, Loughborough, Newark, Leicester, Newport (Mon.), Peterborough, Doncaster, Wisbech, King's Lynn and North Wales. An important feature of this market is the large number of calves offered, an average of 250 being seen at a Friday's market of which about 30 per cent. go for rearing. The store sheep season lasts from the end of August to the end of November; supplies during that period average 550 sheep and 150 lambs a week. In September, 1926, 2,092 store sheep were offered in one market. These come chiefly from the Craven Arms and Kerry Hill sales; some come from the Rugby and Newark districts. The lambs come mainly from Lincolnshire. The fat lamb trade, which starts about Whitsuntide and lasts until the turnip hoggs come in, is a notable feature of the district. Most of the store pigs are bred locally; 70 per cent. are sold at from eight to twelve weeks old; a few stronger stores come from Cambridge. Store pigs are nearly all disposed of for local feeding. On the whole, fat pigs were shown in larger numbers before the War than they are at the present time.

For convenience the market may be regarded as in three parts; the section on the north side of the road, which is known as the "Stones," the western part of the section on the south side of the road, known as the "Auction," and the eastern part on the south of the road known as the "Horse Repository."

The open standings on the "Stones" are reserved for dealers; the two most westerly standings are used exclusively for Irish cattle. There are four rings in the "Auction" held by four firms of auctioneers. The market has for some years had two platform weighing machines; in consequence of the passing of the Markets and Fairs (Weighing of Cattle) Act, 1926, two dial machines of 30-cwt. capacity are to be installed at the entrances to the sale rings. A second entrance to the sale rings has been arranged to avoid the necessity for store cattle to pass over the weighbridge. The lairages are conveniently situated with regard to the sale rings; a definite proportion of the lairage accommodation is allotted to each ring. After sale, the cattle pass into the open yard used exclusively by the auctioneer concerned, and are drawn out by purchasers as required. On the north-west side of the "Horse Repository" there are further standings reserved for Irish cattle. The covered accommodation for cattle is approximately 12,200 sq. ft., and, for pigs, 2,680 sq. ft., inclusive of the two alley-ways, but there is no covered accommodation for sheep. There are no special byres for dairy cattle; lairages on the east side of the "Horse Repository" are allotted to Irish cattle.

Practically the entire market, with the exception of the "Horse Repository," is paved with small stone blocks set in cement.

The following figures show the total head of stock of all kinds passing through the market in 1913, 1922, 1925 and 1926:—

		Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Total.	
1913	Fat ..	19,414	7,672	42,857	7,206	77,149	133,782
	Store ..	24,641	12,911	15,040	4,041	56,633	
1922	Fat ..	14,258	4,483	38,291	4,325	61,357	111,516
	Store ..	20,948	10,457	13,405	5,349	50,159	
1925	Fat ..	10,904	3,791	22,624	3,644	40,963	85,278
	Store ..	23,121	6,677	11,617	2,900	44,315	
1926	Fat ..	13,082	3,849	42,220	3,527	62,678	109,868
	Store ..	19,266	10,060	13,071	4,793	47,190	

The decrease in 1926 as compared with 1913 is partly accounted for by the closing of the market for thirteen weeks in the former year owing to outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease.

There are two blocks of slaughterhouses adjoining the market, one comprising nine and the other fourteen compartments. Accommodation for allied trades is also within easy reach of the market; in the western corner there is a hide and skin market and another is situated on the eastern side; adjoining the first is a gut cleaning and tripery business, while contiguous with this again is a candle manufactory. There is a commodious cold-store near the market. On the western side of the cattle market, at the rear of the Irish cattle stands, Derby Butchers, Limited, have leased a piece of land on which has been erected a factory for dealing with fat, bones, offal, and condemned carcases. Poultry foods and fertilisers are manufactured.

Corn Exchange.—Sales of corn are held in the Corn Exchange on Fridays.

Retail Markets.—The market place is used three days a week for the retail sale of flowers, fruit and vegetables. The Florists' Market is held in the Market Place each Friday. Nurserymen sell their own produce, such as fruit trees and bushes and flowering plants of all kinds.

The Market Hall*, which was opened in 1864, has a single-span iron roof, measures approximately 220 ft. by 115 ft., contains 38 butchers' shops and 150 stalls, and is open to the public each weekday. There is usually a waiting list of prospective tenants. The Poultry Market is held on Fridays and Saturdays in an annexe to the Market Hall; at this market, poultry, both live and dead, dogs, rabbits, pigeons, etc., are sold. A small market, where farmers' wives sell butter and eggs by retail, is held on Fridays

* *See* Economic Series No. 13, Fig. 4.

in an adjacent yard, but this has declined in recent years. A new retail market for fish, poultry and game has been provided by the Corporation at the south end of the Market Hall. This market (Fig. 37) is 100 ft. long by 40 ft. wide, and consists of 15 stalls. The floor, stall sides and slabs are in polished Terrazzo marble ; the walls are of white glazed brick. Market land adjoining the Market Hall and fish market is used as parking space for motor-buses.

The Morledge Markets are held twice a week on a piece of land named the Morledge, which has an area of about 3,800 sq. yds. and lies between the Market Place and the cattle market.* On Saturdays, half the Morledge is used for the retail sale of fruit and vegetables, a number of the stalls being tenanted by growers.

In addition to controlling the retail markets, the Corporation, under the powers of a Local Act, licences and regulates street hawkers ; about 180 licenses are issued.

Leicester.

Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Market.—The wholesale fruit and vegetable market† was erected in 1902 at a cost of £80,000. The trade has rapidly outgrown the accommodation provided, and has overflowed into neighbouring business premises, which now cover a much greater space than the market itself ; the thoroughfares surrounding the market are consequently very congested when the market is in progress. A scheme for the enlargement of the market is under consideration. At one time space was provided for growers who sell their own produce, but little use was made of it and provision is no longer made. At one end of the market, the wholesale fish trade is accommodated. The stands in the market, of which some 26 are devoted to fruit and vegetables, have an office overhead and a frontage of about 15 ft. extending to a depth of 25 ft. The backs of the stands open on to streets which run parallel with the inner avenue.

There is said to be always a good demand for English produce, which is generally cleared early in the day. Supplies of home-grown fruit are mainly drawn from the east and west Midland fruit-growing areas ; early strawberries come from Hampshire and Cornwall. Imported fruit and vegetables arrive at the market from the Mersey and Bristol Channel ports and, to a lesser extent, from London and the Humber ports. About 50 per cent. of the imported apples and 40 per cent. of the bananas sold come from Liverpool, Birkenhead or Manchester, while supplies of imported vegetables come equally from the Mersey ports and from Bristol, Avonmouth, Cardiff and Swansea. Very little produce is sold on commission. Supplies of eggs and poultry are sold by private treaty.

Under the wholesale fish market there is cold storage capacity to the extent of 50,000 cubic feet with air circulation on the

* *See* Economic Series No. 13, Fig. 7.
† Fig. 40.

"Lindy" principle. The plant is in duplicate and there are four chambers with temperatures varying from 32° F. down to 20° F. The cold stores are largely used by the market tenants, and are also available for the dealers in perishable goods.

Cattle Market.—The cattle market is owned and controlled by the Corporation, and is situated some little distance from the centre of the town but close to the railway unloading docks. The market draws on a wide area for its supplies and is a typical example of a flourishing cattle market in a large city.

Adequate pens for sheep (Fig. 38) and cattle are provided in addition to covered accommodation for pigs, and well-built lairages (Fig. 39) in which stock arriving overnight may be housed.* Separate lairages and pens are provided for imported cattle. A large proportion of the trade done in this market is by auction. The selling arrangements are good. All fat cattle and dairy cows are tied up separately before and after sale, which is of great assistance to buyers and makes the best use of the pens. A large number of trees have been planted at various points in the market and afford welcome shade in the summer. Two weighbridges are available, only one of which, situated in the centre of the market, has hitherto been used, and then only by request. The four selling rings are all equipped with 30-cwt. dial weighing machines with overhead bearings.

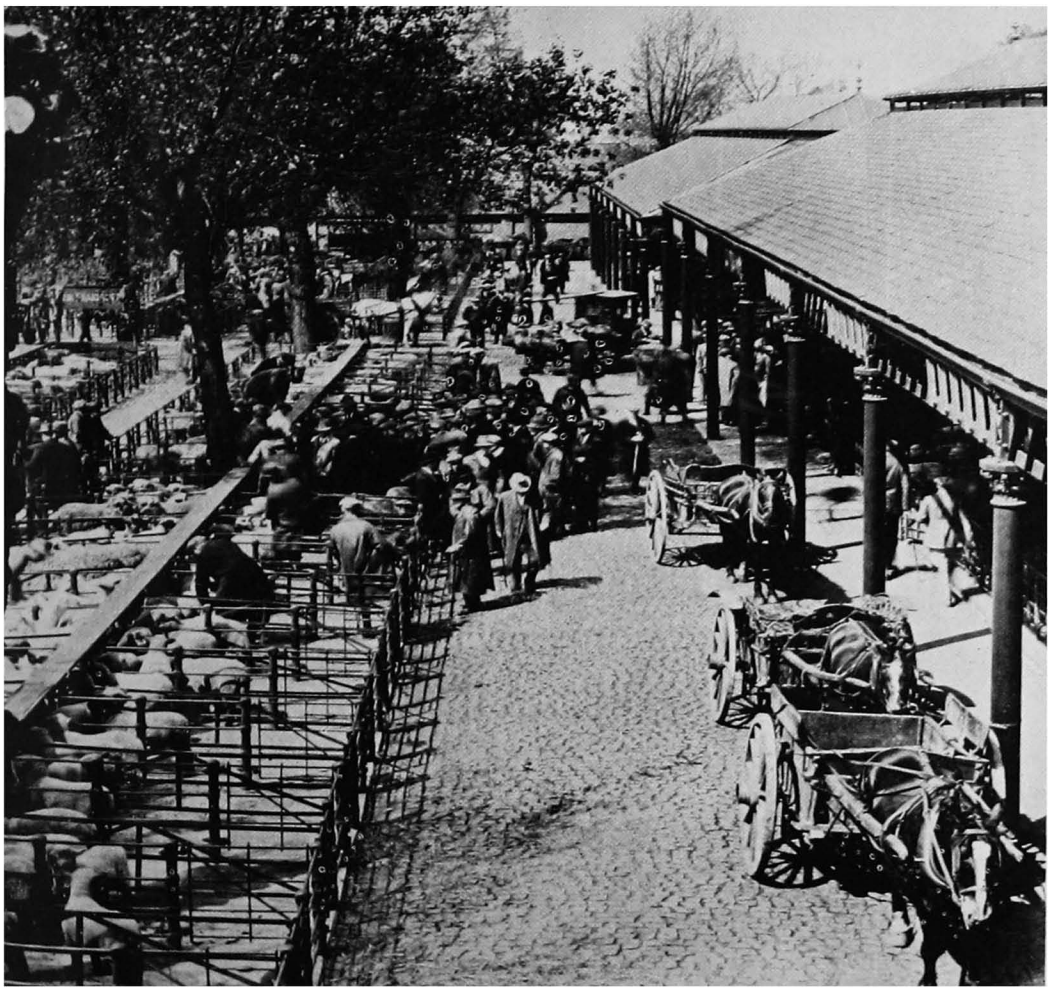
An attempt, made some years ago, to establish a farmers' co-operative auction in the market failed through lack of support.

The market is open on Wednesdays for the sale of fat beasts and on Saturdays for the sale of stores. In addition, sales of Irish cattle are held at various intervals; on these occasions only part of the market is used, a large temporary sale-ring being erected in one of the avenues. The fat stock market draws its supplies from a large area and, from June to January, sends stock to many parts of England. Leicester market, in addition to supplying the needs of the city, is the centre from which supplies are drawn by most of the large manufacturing villages in the neighbourhood.

The following figures show the numbers of animals passing through the market in the years 1913, 1922, and 1926.

	Cattle.		Sheep.		Pigs.		Dairy Cows.	Calves.
	Fat.	Store.	Fat.	Store.	Fat.	Store.		
1913 ..	28,040	18,837	65,101	15,194	6,679	4,174	2,691	3,317
1922 ..	17,422	14,263	40,500	20,098	6,333	5,000	2,037	4,381
1926 ..	15,605	14,305	50,135	14,085	6,580	4,300	1,663	4,211

* *See* Economic Series No. 13, Fig. 21.





FIGS. 38 and 39.—Leicester: Live Stock Market.



FIG. 40.—Leicester : Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Market.

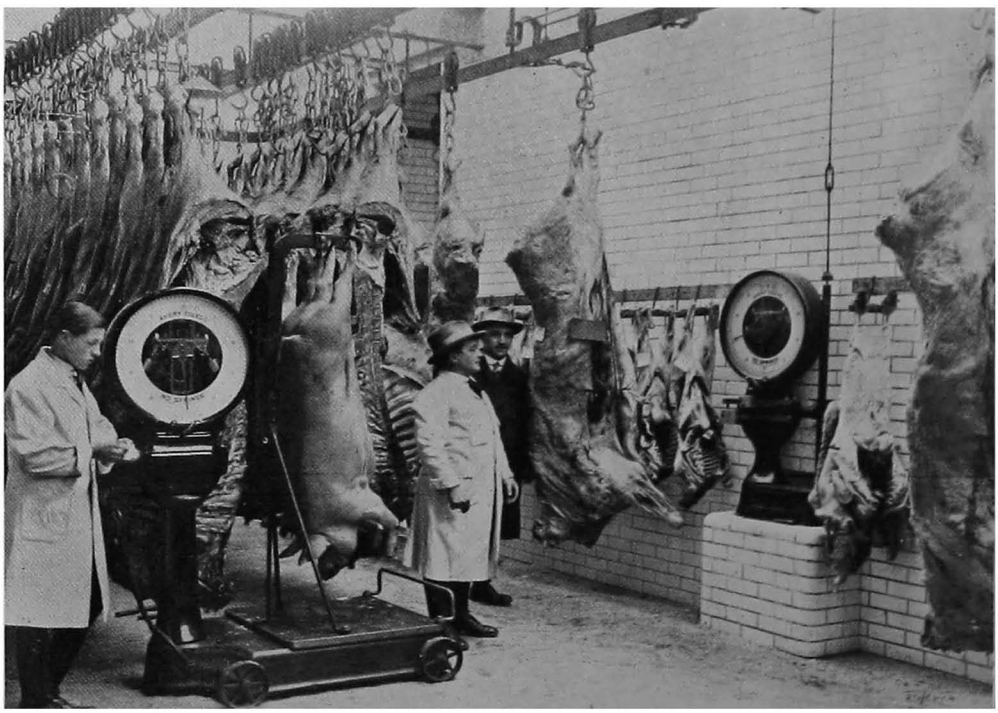


FIG. 41.—Weighing Machines in a Wholesale Meat Market.

Adjoining the cattle market are 18 public slaughterhouses; these are additional to 49 private slaughterhouses in the town. There is a proposal on foot to erect a municipal abattoir which will incorporate the latest improvements and include a wholesale meat market in the general lay-out. Reference should also be made to the Leicester Co-operative Society's pork factory, which adjoins the market. A great number of pigs (in addition to cattle and sheep) are slaughtered daily for sale in the Society's shops in the town.

Retail Market.—The retail market is held in the open market-place in the centre of the town; business is done every day of the week, but chiefly on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. The stalls, all of which are lit by electricity, are of a temporary nature and covered with canvas; they are arranged in avenues, the various commodities being kept separate as far as possible. The stalls are let by tender and there are always numerous applicants. A portion of the market is held in the Market Hall, which is 100 ft. long by 60 ft. wide; here the stalls resemble small lock-up shops. At the north-west side of the Market Place is the retail fish and poultry market, a substantial brick-built structure with steel-trussed roof.

The total number of retail stalls in all parts of the market is approximately 500, occupied by 350 tenants. No one may occupy more than two stalls. The interests of stall-holders are watched over by the Retail Market Traders' Association, of which the majority of stall-holders are members. The market is well patronised and a big trade is done during the course of the year. Some idea of the business done may be gathered from the fact that the revenue from tolls, etc., in 1926 was in the neighbourhood of £25,000.

The Markets Committee of the Corporation hold that a retail market is primarily intended for the sale of home-grown produce, and accommodation has always been arranged accordingly. Further, the market on Wednesdays is held under an ancient charter which provides that a certain space shall be set aside for the free use of growers of home-grown perishable goods, provided no actual stall is erected. Very few growers, however, take advantage of this privilege.

As far as possible, stalls for the sale of imported and home-killed meat are kept separate, but a re-arrangement of the meat stalls has lately become necessary in order to comply with the new meat regulations. Before the War, there were about 130 butchers' stalls, of which only 65 have since re-opened.

Nottingham.

The markets of the city under the control of the Corporation are the Great Market Place,* the Sneinton Wholesale Produce and Fish Market, and the Cattle Market. The Corporation also control

* *See* Economic Series No. 13, Fig. 6.

a small retail market at Bulwell, about four miles from the centre of the city. There is a privately controlled hide and skin auction held on Fridays, and a corn market held in the Corn Exchange on Saturdays.

*Wholesale Fruit, Vegetable and Fish Market.**—The Sneinton Market is an open space of over two acres, including roadways. The bulk of this square is occupied by the standings of wholesale fruit and vegetable merchants (1,802 sq. yds.), and wholesale fish, poultry, and game merchants (835 sq. yds.). Owing to the inability of the Local Authority to provide sufficient accommodation, a number of wholesalers have acquired property in the vicinity of the market in order to extend their operations.

There is also an adjoining piece of land (1,060 sq. yds.) on which the wholesale country produce market is held. Here local growers of fruit, vegetables, plants and flowers sell direct to retail shopkeepers in the early morning; it is estimated that 1,000 tons of produce are sold during a year, 95 per cent. of the supplies being vegetables. The same piece of land is used on Mondays as a general retail market, chiefly for the sale of manufactured goods; this retail market extends into adjoining thoroughfares.

A considerable quantity of imported fruit is sold at Sneinton Market; apples come chiefly from Liverpool, Birkenhead and Manchester, while 90 per cent. of the bananas are received from Bristol, Avonmouth, Cardiff, Swansea and Newport. Home-grown fruit is drawn chiefly from the Eastern Counties and west Midlands. While direct consignments are the rule, there is still a substantial amount of home-grown fruit purchased from Covent Garden.

Criticism of the Sneinton Market is superfluous, since the authorities concerned are well aware of its deficiencies. Thus, the Annual Report of the Market and Fairs Committee of the City for 1924 states: "The present market is quite inadequate for the volume of trade carried on, and your Committee feel that the time is not far distant when it will be necessary to provide more facilities for trading in this important centre of food distribution." Various improvement schemes have been under consideration. There is increasing local support for the view that a city of the size of Nottingham should have a covered wholesale market for fruit and vegetables, a covered wholesale fish market, and a covered wholesale meat market.

Cattle Market.†—The Cattle Market is one of the principal consuming markets of the Midlands. Buyers of fat stock are mainly local retailers, although Birmingham butchers occasionally attend. It is reckoned that 50 per cent. of the supplies are received direct from local farms and 30 per cent. from dealers; the remainder come from collecting markets such as Newark. A fair number of

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* *See* Economic Series No 15, Fig 50.

† *See* Economic Series No. 13, Fig. 16.

Irish stores, which are mostly bought for farms within 10 to 15 miles of the City, pass through the market annually.

The market was built in 1886, and is situated in the south-east part of the town within a few minutes' walk of both the London and North-Eastern and London Midland and Scottish railway stations; a siding from the latter railway runs into the market and the L.N.E.R. cattle docks are in close proximity. It occupies a site of seven acres. There are two main approaches, one through the main part of the town from the north-east, the other over the Trent Bridge lying south of the city, but as the proportion of supplies received by rail is unusually high, the ordinary traffic of the town is not interfered with.

Cattle, on reaching the market, are allotted certain pens according to the auctioneer to whom they are consigned for sale. Immediately after sale, they are placed in the " bought ' yards and removed by the purchasers. The cattle pens, with accommodation for 800 head, are divided into four main groups, which vary in size and design as follows :—

No. 1 enclosure, size 108 ft. × 110 ft., containing 10 pens, 10 ft. × 10 ft., a ring, yards, and passages, all inter-communicating with gates and stiles.

No. 2 enclosure, size 75 ft. × 110 ft., containing six pens 10 ft. × 10 ft., a ring, yards and passages, inter-communicating.

No. 3 enclosure, size 62 ft. × 110 ft., containing six pens of varying sizes, two rings, yards and passages, inter-communicating.

Facing these three enclosures is No. 4 enclosure, size 120 ft. × 150 ft., with two rings, &c., which also contains accommodation for private treaty business, namely four open pens separated by a 16 ft. gangway from eight others occupying a frontage of 18 ft. × 150 ft.

In addition, there are three large open pens where Irish stores are usually sold, six large covered lairages, of which one is reserved for use in conjunction with the slaughterhouse, a shed (120 ft. by 16 ft.) with ten large pens (12 ft. by 12 ft.) for calves, and a large covered brick building (140 ft. by 45 ft.) for pigs containing 24 pens, size 10 ft. by 10 ft., and 24 pens, size 10 ft. by 6 ft. Large sliding doors give access from this building to the market, and, at each side, are inclined runs, railed in, leading to the outside loading platform. There is ample open pen accommodation for sheep occupying a frontage of 130 ft. by 140 ft. with inter-communicating pens, size 6 ft. by 9 ft. The rings are centrally situated in relation to the pens; they are 15 ft. across with 3-tier accommodation for buyers and a covered rostrum for the auctioneer and his clerk. Cattle are driven from the pens into the enclosed yards and thence down an alley into the ring. Dial weighing machines are provided in each of the three principal rings and a further machine is available for miscellaneous weighings. The whole market place, including all buildings, is concreted and well drained by open gutters leading to gullies in the enclosures; no pens drain into the roadways. All the enclosures, pens, and rings are bounded by iron standards and rails, only the

calf pens being wooden structures. Good accommodation is provided for garaging motor-cars, and there are well-equipped refreshment rooms, auctioneers' offices and show-rooms for agricultural implement dealers and seed merchants. Wide thoroughfares traverse the market giving ample room for lorries and carts to move freely to any part. The market site is not completely utilised and a little space is available for further pens or buildings if required.

The Corporation let certain enclosures, by the year, to auctioneers who, in addition, pay a toll on cattle that pass through their hands ; this latter charge is passed on to the vendor. Dealers and others selling cattle privately in the market occupy the open pens and also pay tolls.

The auctioneers have separate rings, but take turns to sell first This arrangement is not entirely satisfactory, since, in practice, several sell at the same time. It is said, however, that there are always sufficient buyers to ensure competition.

The following table shows that the market has declined somewhat in recent years, although the position is now improving :—

Year ended 31st March.	Numbers of stock dealt with.						
	Cattle.	Bulls.	Sheep.	Calves.	Pigs.	Horses.	Total.
1914 ..	34,773	629	75,170	4,378	14,633	1,283	130,866
1922 ..	26,974	191	55,387	4,314	20,159	920	107,945
1923 ..	28,084	283	50,366	3,914	22,384	1,181	106,212
1924 .	23,810	231	24,730	3,167	15,611	583	68,132
1925 ..	6,775	64	8,771	617	5,988	209	22,424
1926 ..	20,139	183	40,164	2,898	14,927	297	78,608

For 1924, 1925 and 1926 the above figures are separately distinguished according to method of sale, as follows :—

	Cattle.			Sheep.			Pigs.		
	1924.	1925.	1926.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1924.	1925.	1926.
Fat.									
Auction ..	13,655	4,065	11,776	12,658	8,332	36,938	10,117	4,276	8,930
Private Treaty	1,980	331	1,819	1,484	290	1,342	—	—	—
Stores.									
Auction ..	*4,211	*945	*2,861	6,572	149	534	5,488	1,712	5,997
Private Treaty	*3,964	*1,434	*3,683	4,016	—	1,350	6	—	—

* Including dairy cows.

Retail Market.—The Great Market Place is an open square in the centre of the city. Here an old-established retail market is held—one of the largest open retail markets in the country. Market days are Wednesdays and Saturdays, but stalls for the sale of fish, poultry, game, fruit and vegetables are in use every day. On market days, there is a space (715 sq. yds.) set aside for stalls of "country produce," *i.e.*, locally grown fruit, vegetables, dairy produce, poultry, flowers, plants, &c., which are sold direct by producers to consumers. The remainder of the square is occupied by stalls in which manufactured goods of all kinds are sold. There are about 350 stalls, in all, occupying a frontage of nearly a mile. The Corporation are understood to be considering the removal of this market and the building of a large covered market.

Mersey (Birkenhead) Cattle Wharf.

The Wharf, which is situated at Woodside and Wallasey, was first established in 1879 to deal with imported livestock and was styled "The Birkenhead Foreign Animals' Wharf," its purpose being to isolate imported animals on arrival in order to safeguard British flocks and herds from disease. This remains the principal function of the wharf, which, although in essence a very important distributing centre for live and dead meat, is not a market in the ordinary sense of the term. It is under the control of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board.

At Woodside, there are 21 slaughterhouses, capable of dealing with about 2,000 cattle a day, and a cooling-house for 4,000 sides of beef. At Wallasey, there are 13 slaughterhouses, with a capacity of about 1,000 cattle a day, and corresponding cooling-room space; there is also a block of slaughterhouses for sheep, capable of handling 7,000 sheep a day; at present, only three houses are fitted up for the slaughter of pigs, but, as occasion arises, unlimited accommodation can be provided by adapting cattle and sheep slaughterhouses with portable fittings kept for this purpose.

It is possible to expose for sale, at the two lairages, 7,000 live cattle and 22,000 sheep at a time. The charges per head are as follows:—

	Lairage	Fodder for first 12 hrs. after landing.	Use of slaughter-house.	Use of Chill Room.
Oxen and calves ..	1*s.* 6*d.* (for first 24 hours after landing)	1*s.* 0*d.*	3*s.*	2*s.* (Oxen) 9*d.* (Calves)
Pigs	6*d.* to midnight of 5th day after landing	3*d.*	6*d.*	6*d.*
Sheep, lambs and goats	4*d.* to midnight of 5th day after landing	2*d.*	3*d.*	4*d.*

The first Irish animals were landed at Wallasey in July, 1912. For many years Ireland had annually exported to this country an average of three quarters of a million cattle and hundreds of thousands of sheep, lambs and pigs; these had been sold in such markets as Stanley (Liverpool), Salford, York and Wakefield. The presence of foot-and-mouth disease among Irish herds made continuance of this method of sale undesirable. The meat, however, was a necessity, and since no killing plant of any magnitude existed in Ireland, the services of the Foreign Animals' Wharves at Woodside and Wallasey were called into play.

The total number of all animals landed and slaughtered at the Mersey Cattle Wharf in 1926 were :—

	Oxen and Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Goats.	Pigs.
Landed				
Irish	165,187	312,670	75	35,785
Manx	208	4,047	5	171
Canadian	31,452	—	—	—
Foreign	7,418	—	—	490
	204,265	316,717	80	36,446
Slaughtered.				
Irish	45,876	150,312	66	1,681
Manx . . .	16	605	—	—
Canadian	21,553	—	—	—
Foreign	7,444	—	—	490
	74,889	150,917	66	2,171

Of the 9,736 Canadian cattle which were landed during the year, but not slaughtered in the landing place, 1,376 were licensed for further feeding and 8,360 were licensed to outside slaughter-houses.

There are two landing stages at the Mersey Cattle Wharf. At Wallasey, foreign animals are landed from the United States, etc., and have to be slaughtered in the landing place within ten days. At Woodside, animals are landed from Ireland, the Isle of Man, and from Canada. On landing the animals are taken charge of by drovers and fed and bedded during the detention period. The animals destined for transit inland are entrained and despatched. Those for sale at Birkenhead are penned. An attempt at selling Canadian cattle by auction was not successful owing to the difficulty of informing buyers in advance when the boats would arrive.

The Irish cattle are consigned chiefly to the following markets :— Norwich, York, Doncaster, Rugby, Salford, Nottingham, Leeds,

Leicester and Banbury. Canadian store cattle are removed under licence to the following districts :—London, Birmingham, Watford, Middlesex, Leicestershire, Norfolk, Lancashire, Cheshire, Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and Scotland. Beef carcases are sent chiefly to London, Liverpool, Birkenhead, Manchester, Birmingham, Bolton, Stockport and Huddersfield ; the Irish sheep carcases to Liverpool, Birkenhead, London, Bolton, Manchester and Blackburn.

Markets and Co-operation Branch,
Economics Division,
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries,
September, 1927.

APPENDIX I.

Summary of the Markets in the Midland Counties Classified according to Method of Sale.

County.	Public Markets.			Private Markets.			Total.
	Retail.	Wholesale.	Both Retail and Wholesale.	Retail.	Wholesale.	Both Retail and Wholesale.	
Bedford ..	1	—	5	—	4	—	10
Cambridge ..	2	—	3	—	5	—	10
Cheshire ..	10	1	5	4	16	1	37
Derby	11	—	6	8	4	—	29
Gloucester ..	—	4	4	—	27	2	37
Hereford ..	3	—	2	—	12	1	18
Huntingdon ..	—	1	1	1	3	2	8
Leicester ..	2	1	4	2	9	1	19
Lincoln ..							
(Holland)	—	—	4	—	2	—	6
(Kesteven) ..	—	—	2	2	8	—	12
(Lindsey) ..	—	—	7	1	15	2	25
Monmouth ..	1	2	3	1	7	—	14
Northampton .	—	1	4	—	7	1	13
Nottingham ..	3	—	5	1	4	—	13
Oxford ..	—	2	5	—	6	—	13
Rutland ..	—	1	—	—	2	—	3
Shropshire ..	3	1	7	2	20	2	35
Stafford ..	12	—	9	4	23	2	50
Warwick ..	5	2	4	1	22	2	36
Worcester ..	4	—	3	—	19	—	26
Total ..	57	16	83	27	215	16	414

APPENDIX II.

Markets in the Midland Counties.

(This statement is compiled from information furnished by the owners or lessees of the markets and sales enumerated. The commodities included under the heading "Character of market" are sold wholesale by private treaty unless otherwise indicated.)

Abbreviations used throughout this Appendix:—
c = Covered area. *u* = Uncovered area.
(*a.l.*) = Auctioneer selling livestock in public markets.
(*a.p.*) = Auctioneer selling produce in public markets.
(*d.w.*) = Dial weighbridge, installed or about to be installed.

† = Wholesale corn business carried on elsewhere than on the market premises.

Number of cattle, sheep and pigs passing through the market in a recent typical year:—* over 60,000; ** 10,000 to 60,000; *** under 10,000.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
BEDFORDSHIRE			
Ampthill			
Market .. 316 *c*	Ampthill U.D.C. ..	Thurs. ..	General retail produce.
Bedford			
Cattle Market 3181 *u*	Bedford Corpn. ..	Sat. ..	Horses.
Corn Exchange 710 *c*	,, ,, ..	Sat. ..	Corn.
General Market 1700 *u*	,, ,, ..	Wed., Sat...	General retail produce.
**Auction .. 515 *c* (*d.w.*) 4600 *u*	Stafford, Rogers & A. W. Merry, Ltd., Bedford	Sat. ..	Livestock.
Auction .. 2420 *c* & *u*	W. & H. Peacock, Bedford	Wed., Sat...	General produce, eggs and poultry.
Biggleswade			
Market 1694 *u*	Biggleswade U.D.C.	Wed., Sat...	General retail produce. Corn.
***Auction ..	Maddison & Western, Biggleswade	Mon. ..	Dairy produce, livestock, eggs and poultry, fruit and veg.
Dunstable			
***Market	Dunstable Corpn. (Cattle Market:—Lessee: C. A. Allcorn, Dunstable.)	Wed., Sat...	Livestock and poultry auction. Wholesale and retail produce.
Leighton Buzzard			
**Market .. 750 *u* (*d.w.*)	Leighton Buzzard U.D.C. (2 *a.l.*)	Tues. ..	Livestockauction. General retail produce. Hay and straw. Corn.†

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Luton			
Markets 1985 *c* 513 *u*	Luton Corpn. ..	Gen. Market. Daily	Wholesale and retail sales of fruit and veg.
		Corn Market. Mon.	Corn. General retail produ .
**Auction	J. Cumberland & Sons, Luton	Mon. ..	Livestock, dairy produce, eggs, poultry, fruit and veg.
CAMBRIDGESHIRE			
Cambridge			
*Cattle Market (*d.w.*) 20500 *c* & *u*	Cambridge Corpn. (3 *a.l.* and 2 *a.p.*)	Mon. .. Horses: Tues. (monthly)	Livestock. Hay and straw.
		Mon , Sat ..	Dairy produce, egg and poultry auction.
Corn Exchange 1966 *u*	,, ,,	Sat. ..	Corn.
General Market, Market Place *u*	,, ,,	Wed., Sat...	Retail produce.
Hide and Skin Market	M. M. Simpson ..	Daily ..	Hides and skins.
Chatteris			
Auction .. 9680 *c* & *u*	F. W. Seward, Chatteris	Fri... ..	Eggs, poultry and general produce
Ely			
***Cattle Market .. (*d.w.*) 9680 *u*	Ely U.D.C. (4 *a.l.*)	Thurs. ..	Livestock auction Hay, straw, and hides.
Dairy Produce and Poultry 3020 *u*	,, ,,	Thurs. ..	Auction and private treaty sales of eggs, poultry and dairy produce.
General Market 4840 *u*	,, ,,	Thurs. ..	General retail produce.
Corn Exchange 600 *c*	Ely Corn Exchange Co., Ltd.	Thurs. ..	Corn.
March			
Market 1800 *u*	March U.D.C. ..	Wed., Sat..	General retail produce.
**Auction 1200 *c* 3200 *u*	F. Grounds & Sons, March	Wed. ..	Livestock, eggs and poultry.
Soham			
***Auction 924 *c* & *u*	W. A. Slack, Soham	Mon. .	Pigs and poultry.
Whittlesey			
Market .. 100 *c* 2000 *u*	Whittlesey U.D.C...	Fri., Sat. ..	General retail produce.
Auction *u*	Laurance & Johnson, Whittlesey	Fri. ..	Dairy produce, eggs and poultry.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Wisbech			
***Cattle Market (*d.w.*) 32336 *u*	Wisbech Corpn. (4 *a.l.* and 2 *a.p.*)	Fat: Thurs. Store: Sat.	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock; poultry auction.
Corn Exchange *c*	,, ,,	Sat. ..	Corn.
General Market, Market Place *u*	,, ,,	Sat. ..	Retail produce.
CHESHIRE			
Altrincham			
Market 3211 *c*	Altrincham U.D.C.	Tues., Sat...	Retail produce.
***Auction 1210 *c* 1210 *u* (*Public Slaughter-house*)	John Arnold, Altrincham	Mon. ..	Livestock and poultry.
Ashton-upon-Mersey			
Market 750 *c* 340 *u*	W. J. Woodfine, Ashton-upon-Mersey	Tues., Fri., Sat.	General retail produce.
Audlem			
Market .. 50 *c* 1500 *u*	Audlem Public Hall Co., Ltd.	Thurs. ..	Fruit, veg. and poultry. General retail produce.
Beeston			
**Auction 1620 *c* (*d.w.*) 3220 *u*	J. Wright, Alpraham Tarporley	Mon. ..	Livestock and poultry.
Birkenhead			
Markets 8000 *c* 1250 *u* (*Public Slaughter-house*)	Birkenhead Corpn...	Retail: Daily. Wholesale Fruit and Veg: Fri. (also Tues. May to Sept.)	Retail produce. Wholesale and retail sales of fruit, veg , eggs
Woodside and Wallasey Lairages	Mersey Docks and Harbour Board, Liverpool	Daily ..	Irish and Isle of Man cattle, sheep, pigs, Canadian store cattle. Foreign fat cattle, sheep and pigs. Meat.
Chelford			
***Auction 396 *c* (*d.w.*) 2036 *u*	Chelford Cattle Market Co., Ltd.	Mon. ..	Livestock.
Chester			
Northgate St. Market 9680 *c*	Chester Corpn. ..	Produce: Daily.	Wholesale and retail sales of fruit and veg. Retail produce.
		Cheese Fair: 3rd Weds.	Cheese.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Chester—*cont*			
*Smithfield Cattle Market 3378 *c* (*d.w.*) 3337 *u* (*Public Slaughter-house*)	Chester Corpn (2 *a l*)	Fat: Tues. Store: Thurs. Horses: Thurs. (monthly)	Auction and private treaty sales of live-stock and poultry. Auction sales of wool. Corn.†
Hide and Skin Market	A Mullins, Chester ..	Weekly ..	Private treaty sales of hides and skins.
**Auction 3630 *c* (*d.w.*)	S R. Fearnall, Chester	Fat: Tues Store and Dairy } Thurs	Livestock and poultry.
Congleton			
**Auction 600 *c* 1640 *u*	Congleton Corpn. Lessee: H. Harold Lloyd, Congleton	Tues. ..	Livestock and poultry.
Crewe			
Market 2200 *c* 1750 *u*	Crewe Corpn. ..	Mon., Fri., Sat.	General retail produce.
*Auction 4000 *c* 10500 *u* Cattle Market (*d.w.*) 3300 *c* 21871 *u*	Henry Manley & Sons, Ltd., Crewe	Cattle: Mon. Horses: fortnightly	Livestock and poultry. Private treaty sales of store cattle and sheep.
**Auction 3000 *c* (*d.w.*) 3454 *u*	J. M. Barker & Co., New Smithfield, Crewe	Mon. ..	Livestock.
Ellesmere Port			
Market 283 *c* 626 *u* (*Public Slaughter-house*)	Ellesmere Port and Whitby U.D.C.	Daily. (Stall-holders: Fri.)	General retail produce.
Frodsham			
Market .. 300 *u*	The Marquis of Cholmondeley	Thurs. ..	General retail produce.
***Auction 150 *c* 450 *u*	Frodsham Farmers' Auction Co., Ltd.	Tues. ..	Livestock and poultry.
Greasby			
***Auction 450 *c* 1970 *u*	S. R. Fearnall, Chester	Alt. Wed. ..	Livestock and poultry.
Holmes Chapel			
***Auction 204 *c* 1045 *u*	Holmes Chapel Farmers' Ltd., Holmes Chapel	Alt. Tues. ..	Livestock.
Hooton			
***Auction 500 *c* 2500 *u*	Cunnah & Roberts, Chester	Mon. and sometimes Fri.	Livestock and poultry.
Hyde			
Market 5140 *c* & *u*	Hyde Corpn.	Sat. chiefly, but daily for meat, fruit, &c.	General retail produce.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Knutsford			
Market .. *u*	Lord Egerton of Tatton	Sat. ..	Retail produce.
***Auction 280 *c* 500 *u*	John Arnold, Altrincham	‡Mon ..	Livestock and poultry.
Macclesfield			
***Cattle Market .. 795 *u*	Macclesfield Corpn. Lessees: Turner & Son, Macclesfield	Mon. ..	Livestock auction.
General Market 3923 *u*	Macclesfield Corpn...	Tues., Thurs. Fri., Sat.	General retail produce.
Malpas			
**Auction.. .. (*d.w.*)	Frank Lloyd & Sons, Whitchurch, Salop	Alt. Tues...	Livestock, poultry and potatoes.
Marple			
***Auction 600 *c* 450 *u*	Brady & Sons, Stockport	Mon. ..	Livestock and poultry.
Middlewich			
Market .. 180 *c* 720 *u*	Middlewich U.D.C.	Tues. ..	General retail produce.
Nantwich			
Market 1900 *c*	Nantwich U.D.C. ..	Thurs., Sat.	Dairy produce, fruit, veg., eggs and poultry. General retail produce.
Cheese Fair 1350 *c*	Nantwich U.D.C. in conjunction with the Cheshire Dairy Farmers' Assocn.	Every 3rd Thurs.	Cheese.
Hide and Skin Market	W. & W. T. Blud ..	—	Hides and skins.
Northwich			
Market ..1051 *c* 1477 *u*	Northwich U.D.C...	Fri... ..	General retail produce.
***Auction 130 *c* 620 *u*	J. M. Barker, The Woodside, Minshull Vernon, Middlewich	Mon. ..	Livestock and poultry.
Rainow			
***Auction 300 *c* 1200 *u*	Pott Shrigley & District Farmers' Assocn.	Alt. Wed. ..	Livestock and poultry.
Runcorn			
Market .. 300 *c* 171 *u* (*Public Slaughter-house*)	Runcorn U.D.C. ..	Sat. ..	Retail produce.

‡ Only one market held since June, 1926.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Sandbach			
Market .. 500 *c* 5961 *u*	Sandbach U.D.C. ..	Thurs. ..	Auction and private treaty sales of dairy produce, fruit, veg., poultry and eggs. General retail produce.
Stalybridge			
Market 2081 *c* 6099 *u*	Stalybridge Corpn...	Cov. Mart: Daily. Uncov.Marts Mon.	Retail produce.
Stockport			
Market 1824 *c* 2687 *u*	Stockport Corpn. ..	Fri., Sat. ..	Retail produce.
Wilmslow			
Market 4235 *u*	Wilmslow U.D.C. ..	Fri... ..	General retail produce.
Winsford			
Market .. 50 *u*	Winsford Entertainments, Ltd., 76, Derby Street, Macclesfield	Sat. ..	Auction and private treaty sales of dairy produce and eggs.
Wrenbury			
***Auction 1210 *c* (*d.w.*) 1210 *u*	Joseph Wright, Alpraham, Tarporley	Alt. Tues. ..	Livestock and poultry.
DERBYSHIRE			
Alfreton			
Market . 660 *u*	Alfreton U.D.C. ..	Fri., Sat. ..	General retail produce. Corn.†
***Auction 1500 *u*	J. G. Severn & Co., Alfreton	Mon. ..	Livestock and poultry.
Ashbourne			
**Cattle Market 960 *c* 6470 *u* (*d.w.*)	Ashbourne U.D.C. (1 *a.l.*)	Alt. Thurs.	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock
Produce Market 2500 *u*	,, ,,	Sat. ..	General produce, chiefly retail. Auction sales of poultry.
Bakewell			
**Cattle Market 225 *c* 2995 *u*	Bakewell U.D.C. (1 *a.l.*)	Mon. ..	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock. Hay and straw.
General Market 3240 *c*	,, ,,	Mon. .. Butter and Eggs: Fri.	Retail produce.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Bakewell—*cont*			
Market Hall 96 *c*	Bakewell U D C ..	Mon. ..	Corn.
Belper			
Market 1270 *u*	The Belper Market & Fair Co., Ltd.	Sat.: Thurs. (monthly)	Retail produce.
Bolsover			
Market 1200 *u*	Bolsover U.D.C. ..	Fri., sometimes also Sat.	General retail produce.
Buxton			
General Market 2800 *u*	Buxton Corpn. ..	Sat. ..	General retail produce.
***Cattle Market .. (*Public Slaughter-house*)	Buxton Corpn. (Lessees: Hampson, Bros., Ltd., Buxton)	1st and 3rd Sat.	Livestock and poultry auction
Chapel-en-le-Frith			
Market 1000 *u*	Chapel-en-le-Frith R.D.C.	Thurs. ..	General retail produce.
***Auction 419 *c* 1297 *u*	Hampson Bros., Ltd., Buxton	1st and 3rd Thurs. Annual sales of sheep and lambs	Livestock and poultry.
Chesterfield			
***Cattle Market 269 *c* 10454 *u* (*Public Slaughter-house*)	Chesterfield Corpn. (3 *a.l.*)	Sat. ..	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock. Auction sales of poultry. Hay and straw. Corn.
General Market 451 *c* 3435 *u*	,, ,,	Sat. ..	Retail produce.
Derby			
*Cattle Market and Slaughter-houses 5555 *c* 21065 *u* (2 *d.w.*)	Derby Corpn. (4 *a.l.*)	Fat Stock: Tues. Store Stock and Horses: Fri.	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock.
Fish Market 444 *c*	,, ,,	Daily ..	Retail sales of fish and poultry.
Hide Markets 900 *c*	,, ,,	Tues., Fri...	Auction and private treaty sales of hides, skins and fats.
Market Hall 3250 *c*	,, ,,	Daily ..	General retail produce.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Derby—*cont.*			
Market Hall Annexe 500 *c*	Derby Corpn. ..	Poultry: Fri. and Sat. Butter, Eggs, &c.: Fri.	Retail dairy produce, eggs and poultry.
Market Place 3460 *u*	,, ,,	Thurs., Fri., Sat.	Retail fruit and veg.
Morledge Market 3800 *u*	,, ,,	Fri., Sat. ..	General retail
Wholesale Market 3666 *c* 14484 *u*	,, ,,	Daily ..	Fruit, veg, fish, eggs and poultry.
Corn Exchange 279 *c*	Derby Corn Exchange Committee	Fri.	Corn.
Glossop			
Market 1160 *c* 4300 *u*	Glossop Corpn. ..	Fri., Sat. ..	General retail produce.
Hayfield			
Market .. 400 *u*	H. Arden, 23, Parrott St., Clayton, Manchester	Tues. ..	General retail produce.
Heanor			
Market 2700 *u*	Heanor U.D.C. ..	Sat. ..	General retail produce.
Ilkeston			
Market 3487 *u*	Ilkeston Corpn. ..	Sat. ..	General retail produce.
Long Eaton ..			
Market .. 962 *u*	Long Eaton U.D.C.	Fri., Sat. ..	General retail produce.
Matlock			
Market 2420 *u*	Harold A. Taylor, Railway Hotel, Matlock	Tues., Fri...	General retail produce.
New Mills			
Market .. 507 *u*	New Mills U.D.C...	Fri., Sat. ..	General retail produce.
Market .. 220 *c*	Threlfall's Brewery Co., Ltd., Salford	Fri., Sat. ..	General retail produce.
Pinxton			
Market .. 500 *u*	Isobel Dalby, North Street, Pinxton	Fri.	Retail produce.
Ripley			
Market 2000 *u*	Ripley U.D.C. ..	Sat. ..	General retail produce.
Shirebrook			
Market 6400 *u*	Baker, Halford & Sons, St. Peter's Gate, Nottingham	Fri. ..	General retail produce.
South Normanton			
Market .. 500 *u*	South Normanton P.C.	Sat. ..	General retail produce.
Staveley			
Market .. 500 *u*	A. Davis, Crown Hotel, Staveley	Fri.	General retail produce.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Staveley—*cont.*			
Market .. *c*	Miners' Welfare Committee, Markham Hall, Staveley	Daily ..	General retail produce.
Swadlincote			
Market .. 229 *c* 797 *u*	Swadlincote U.D.C.	Fri., Sat. ..	General retail produce.
Wirksworth			
Market 1150 *u*	Wirksworth U.D.C.	Tues. ..	Auction and private treaty sales of dairy produce, eggs and poultry, hay and straw. Corn.
			General retail produce.
***Auction 2500 *u*	G. Marsden & Son, Wirksworth	Tues. (monthly)	Livestock and poultry.
GLOUCESTERSHIRE			
Andoversford			
**Auction 5868 *u*	Andoversford Sale Yard Co., Ltd.	Alt. Fri. ..	Livestock and poultry. Corn.†
Beckford			
***Auction 4840 *u*	G. Hone, Tewkesbury	Tues. (monthly)	Livestock. Corn.†
Berkeley			
Auction 180 *c* 500 *u*	John R. J. Alpass, Berkeley	Tues. ..	Dairy produce, fruit, veg., eggs and poultry.
Berkeley Road			
***Auction 9680 *u*	J. Pearce Pope & Sons, Gloucester	Last Wed. each month	Livestock. Corn.†
Bourton-on-the-Water			
***Auction 1210 *u*	Tayler & Fletcher, Cold Aston, Bourton-on-Water	4th Mon. each month	Livestock and poultry. Corn.†
***Auction 2640 *u*	J. A. Bloss, Bourton-on-Water	4th Mon. each month	Livestock and poultry.
Bridgeyate			
***Auction 6500 *u*	G. Nichols, Young, Hunt & Co., Bristol	Alt. Wed. ..	Livestock.
Bristol			
Gen. and Corn Markets 2500 *c*	Bristol Corpn. ..	Produce and Gen. Markets: Daily	General retail produce. Fruit, veg., hay, straw.
		Corn Market: Tues., Thurs.	Corn.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Bristol—*cont*			
Fish Market 500 *c*	Bristol Corpn ..	Daily ..	Wholesale and retail sales of fish.
**Cattle Market 14520 *c* & *u* (*d w*)	Trustees of Bristol Cattle Market and Wool Hall (3 *a.l.*)	Thurs. ..	Livestock auction. Private treaty sale of wool.
Charfield			
**Auction 7260 *u*	Moses Smith, Luce Davies & Co., Bristol	1st and 3rd Wed. each month	Livestock. Corn.†
Cheltenham			
Market 1288 *c* 7182 *u* (*Public Slaughter-house*)	Cheltenham Corpn.		
	Lessees of part of market: Gloucester Fruit and Vegetable Co-operative Marketing Society, Ltd., Cheltenham	Tues., Thurs. (Daily during soft fruit season)	Auction and private treaty sales of dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg., meat. Auction sales of poultry.
	Remainder leased by: (*a*) Chas. C. Castle, Cheltenham	Thurs. ..	General retail produce. Auction sales of dairy produce, eggs and poultry.
	(*b*) Private Stall-holders	Thurs. ..	General retail produce.
Corn Market ..	The Tenant, Lamb Hotel, Cheltenham	Thurs. ..	Corn.
Hide and Skin Market	A. H. Taylor's Butchers' Hide & Skin Co., Ltd.	Fri.	Auction sales of hides and skins.
Chipping Campden			
**Market 6000 *u*	Campden & District Farmers' Co-operative Assocn., Ltd.	Last Wed. each month	Livestock, poultry and wool auctions.
Chipping Sodbury			
**Market 2600 *u*	Trustees on behalf of Chipping Sodbury P.C. (2 *a.l.*)	Alt. Tues. ..	Livestock auction. Corn.†
Cirencester			
**Market 14520 *u*	Cirencester U.D.C. (2 *a.l.*)	1st Mon. each month	Livestock auction.
Wool Auction ..	A. F. Hobbs & Chambers, Cirencester	Annually: 2nd Thurs. in July	Wool.
Corn Hall ..	Cirencester Corn Hall Co., Ltd.	Mon. ..	Corn.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Coleford			
***Market .. *u*	Coleford Market Hall Co., Ltd.	4th Tues. each month	Private treaty and auction sales of livestock
Fairford			
***Market .. *u*	Fairford Market Committee	2nd Tues. each month	Livestock and poultry auction. Corn.
Gloucester			
Eastgate Retail Market 2250 *c*	Gloucester Corpn. ..	Daily ..	Retail produce.
*Cattle Market (including wholesale produce market and corn exchange) 3108 *c* 16356 *u* (2 *d.w.*)	,, ,, (2 *a.l.* and 3 *a.p.*)	Pigs and Fat Stock: Mon	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock.
		Store and Dairy: Sat	
		Mon, Wed, Fri	Auction sales of eggs, dairy produce, poultry, fruit, veg., hay and straw
		Sat	Corn.
Grange Court			
Market 2700 *c* 2000 *u*	Gloucester Fruit & Vegetable Co-op. Marketing Society, Ltd., Fruit Market, Cheltenham	Wed., also Mon. and Fri. during fruit season	Auction sales of fruit and veg., wholesale and retail auction sales of pork, bacon and poultry.
Honeybourne			
***Auction 7260 *u*	E. G. Righton, Jn., The Abbey, Evesham	Three times annually—Apl., Aug. and Oct.	Livestock.
Lechlade			
***Auction 2000 *u*	Innocent & Son, Lechlade	Last Tues. each month	Livestock. Corn.†
Littledean			
***Auction *u*	Jones, Knapp, & Kennedy, Monmouth	Twice annually—Aug. and Sep.	Store sheep. Cattle (occasionally).
Longhope			
***Auction	Bruton, Knowles & Co., Gloucester	Twice annually—Spring and Autumn	Livestock.
Lydney			
***Auction 4840 *u*	J. Pearce Pope & Sons, Gloucester	Tues. (monthly)	Livestock. Corn.†

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Moreton-in-Marsh			
**Auction 207 *c* 3756 *u* (*d.w.*)	Bosley & Harper, Shipston-on-Stour	2nd Tues. each month	Livestock. Corn.†
Nailsworth			
***Auction 12000 *u*	J. Pearce Pope & Sons, Gloucester	Last Tues. each month	Livestock. Corn.†
Newent			
***Auction 2420 *u*	Pope & Smith, Ledbury, Hereford	Alt. Thurs.	Livestock. Corn.†
Pilning			
***Auction 4840 *u*	Moses Smith, Luce Davies & Co., Thornbury	1st Mon. each month	Livestock.
Stroud			
Auction 150 *c* 120 *u*	John R. J. Alpass, Berkeley	Thurs. ..	Dairy produce, eggs, poultry, fruit and veg.
Tetbury			
***Cattle Market 4840 *u*	Tetbury Market Committee	2nd Wed. each month	Livestock auction.
Corn Market 600 *c*	Tetbury feoffees ..	Wed. ..	Corn, hay, straw.
Tewkesbury			
**Auction .. (*d.w.*)	Moore & Sons, Tewkesbury	Alt. Wed. ..	Livestock and poultry. Corn.†
***Auction 600 *c* (*d.w.*) 7000 *u*	G. Hone, Tewkesbury	Alt. Wed. ..	Livestock.
Thornbury			
***Market .. 180 *c* (*d.w.*) 7260 *u*	Owners: Thornbury R.D.C. (Lessees: Moses Smith, Luce Davies & Co., Thornbury)	Produce: Wed.	Retail auction and private treaty sales of dairy produce, eggs, poultry, fruit and veg.
	,, ,,	Cattle: Alt. Wed.	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock.
Winchcombe			
***Market .. .. (*d.w.*)	Winchcombe Co-operative Auction Market, Ltd.	3rd Tues. each month	Livestock auction.
Yate			
**Cattle Market (*d.w.*) 1000 *c* 8000 *u*	G. Nichols, Young, Hunt & Co., Bristol	Alt. Tues. ..	Livestock auction.
Produce Auction 250 *c*	,, ,,	Tues. ..	Dairy produce, eggs, poultry, meat, fruit, veg, corn and wool.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
HEREFORDSHIRE			
Bromyard			
Market .. 500 *u*	Bromyard U.D.C. ..	Thurs. ..	General retail produce. Corn.†
**Auction 982 *c* (*d.w.*) 4729 *u*	Bentley, Hobbs & Mytton, Worcester	Alt. Thurs.	Livestock.
Auction 90 *c*	H. P. Barnsley, Bromyard	Thurs. ..	Wholesale and retail sales of dairy produce, eggs, poultry, fruit and veg.
Ewyas Harold			
***Auction 3000 *u*	J. Straker Son & Chadwick, Abergavenny, Monmouth	Alt. Mon. ..	Private treaty and auction sales of livestock.
Hereford			
Butter Market 1532 *c*	Hereford Corpn. ..	Wed., Sat...	Wholesale and retail sales of dairy produce, eggs and poultry.
*Cattle Market (3 *d.w.*) 5752 *c* 36083 *u* (*Public Slaughter-house*)	,, ,, (3 *a.l.* and 1 *a.p.*)	Wed. .. Horses: Sat (monthly)	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock. Auction sales of fruit, veg. and poultry.
Corn Exchange	Hereford Corn Exchange & Kemble Theatre Committee	Wed. ..	Hay and straw. Corn.
Kington			
Market .. *c*	Kington U.D.C. ..	Tues. ..	General retail produce. Corn.†
**Auction 14520 *u*	Jackson & McCartney Craven Arms, Salop	Alt. Thurs.	Livestock.
***Auction *u*	Jones, Knapp & Kennedy, Monmouth	Alt. Thurs.	Livestock, poultry and wool.
Ledbury			
**Market 4840 *u* (*d.w.*)	The Ledbury Market & Fairs Co., Ltd.	Alt. Tues. ..	Livestock auction. Corn.†
Leominster			
Market 1600 *c*	Leominster Corpn...	Fri... ..	Retail produce.
**Auction 4840 *u* (*d.w.*)	Edwards, Russell & Baldwin, Leominster	Cattle: Alt. Tues. Produce: Fri.	Livestock, dairy produce, eggs, poultry, fruit and veg.
**Auction 220 *c* (*d.w.*) 2600 *u*	Morris, Marshall & Poole, Ludlow	Alt. Tues. ..	Livestock.
Corn Market 533 *c*	Leominster Cinema Co., Ltd.	Fri... ..	Corn.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Peterchurch			
***Auction 350 *u*	M. Harris, Abergavenny, Monmouth	Alt. Mon. ..	Livestock.
Ross			
**Cattle Market 47*c* (*d.w.*) 1755 *u*	Ross U.D.C. (1 *a.l.* 1 *a.p.*)	Alt. Tues. ..	Livestock auction. Corn.
Produce Market 605 *c*	,, ,,	Tues. ..	Auction sales of fruit and veg.
		Thurs ..	General retail produce.
Woofferton			
***Auction	John Norton & Bright, Leominster	Last Mon. each month	Livestock.
Wormelow			
***Auction 800 *u*	T. J. Phillips & Co., Colva, Withington	Monthly on Mon. following Monmouth Cattle Market	Livestock.
HUNTINGDONSHIRE			
Huntingdon			
***Auction 4033 *c* (*d.w.*) 8067 *u*	R. & E. Handson, Huntingdon	Sat. ..	Dairy produce, eggs, poultry, fruit and veg., pigs.
Wool Auction 4840 *u*	Dilley, Theakston & Read, Huntingdon	Annually (generally last Wed. in June)	Wool.
Ramsey			
Market .. *u*	Mrs. H. Perry, Ramsey	Sat. ..	General retail produce.
St. Ives			
**Cattle Market (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	St. Ives Corpn. ..	Mon. ..	Private treaty sales of livestock.
**Auction Mart *c & u* (*d.w.*)	Dilley, Theakston & Read, Huntingdon	Mon. .. Horses: 2nd Tues each month	Livestock, dairy produce, eggs and poultry.
Corn Exchange 376 *c*	St. Ives Corn Exchange and Public Hall Co., Ltd.	Mon. ..	Corn. Hay and straw. Potatoes.
St. Neots			
Market 5000 *u*	St. Neots U.D.C. ..	Thurs. ..	Dairy produce hay, straw and corn. General retail produce.
***Auction 672 *c* 672 *u*	Huckle & Shaw, St. Neots	Thurs. ..	Livestock, dairy produce, fruit and veg., eggs and poultry.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
St. Neots—*cont.*			
**Auction 2420 *c* 2420 *u*	S. V. Ekins, St. Neots.	Thurs. ..	Livestock, dairy produce, eggs and poultry, fruit and veg
LEICESTERSHIRE			
Ashby-de-la-Zouch			
**Auction 800 *c* (*d.w.*) 7200 *u*	German, Stevenson & Stimson, Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Alt. Mon. ..	Livestock, dairy produce, eggs. poultry, fruit, veg., hay, straw and wool.
Coalville			
***Cattle Market 300 *c* 4000 *u*	Orchard & Joyce, Ashby-de-la-Zouch	Alt. Tues. ..	Livestock and poultry auction.
Central Market 400 *c* 1400 *u*	The Governors of Wyggeston's Hospital, Leicester	Fri.	General retail produce.
Smithfield Market Produce 700 *c*	A. W. Tyler, Red House Hotel, Coalville	Fri.	Retail produce.
***Cattle .. *u*	P. L. Kirby, Leicester	Alt. Mon. ..	Livestock and poultry auction.
Hinckley			
***Auction 2000 *u*	T. Aucott, Hinckley	Alt. Mon. ..	Livestock, eggs, poultry, dairy produce, corn, hay and potatoes.
Leicester			
*Cattle Market 6000 *c* 30000 *u* (5 *d.w.*) (*Public Slaughter-house*)	Leicester Corpn. (4 *a.l.* and 2 *a.p.*)	Fat: Wed. Store: Sat.	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock and poultry.
Corn Market 600 *c*	,, ,,	Sat. ..	Corn.
Fish and Poultry Market 900 *c*	,, ,,	Daily ..	Retail fish, poultry, fruit and veg.
General Market 667 *c* 10000 *u*	,, ,,	Daily ..	General retail produce.
Hay Market 1000 *u*	,, ,,	Wed. ..	Hay, straw, roots.
Wholesale Market 3800 *c*	,, ,,	Daily ..	Fish, fruit, veg., eggs and poultry.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Leicester—*cont*			
Hide, &c., Market 800 *c* 50 *u*	Leicestershire Butchers' Hide, Skin & Fat Co., Ltd.	Thurs., Sat.	Hides, skins, fats.
Horse Repository 3764 *c* & *u*	Warner, Sheppard & Wade, Ltd., Leicester	Sat. ..	Auction sales of Horses.
Wool Auction ..	Whittle, Attenborough & Co.; Shakespear & McTurk; Warner, Shepherd & Wade & P. L. Kirby; & E. A. Lane	Annually (3rd or 4th Tues in June)	Wool.
Loughborough			
**Cattle Market 3630 *u* (*d.w.*)	Loughborough Corpn. (3 *a.l.*)	Mon. ..	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock and poultry. Auction sales of wool, hay and straw. Corn.
General Markets 3630 *u*	,, ,,	Thurs., Sat.	Retail produce.
Lutterworth			
General Market *u*	Lutterworth Town Estates Trustees	Thurs. ..	General retail produce.
***Cattle Market 150 *c* (*d.w.*) 2270 *u*	Nixon, Toone & Harrison, Nuneaton	2nd Thurs. each month	Livestock and poultry auction.
Market Bosworth			
***Auction 300 *c* 4000 *u*	Orchard & Joyce, Hinckley	Alt. Mon. ..	Auction sales of livestock,, poultry, hay and straw.
Market Harborough			
**Cattle Market 876 *c* (4 *d.w.*) 9500 *u* (*Public Slaughter-house*)	Market Harborough U.D.C. (2 *a.l.*)	Tues. ..	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock. Auction sales of poultry.
General Market 1400 *u*	,, ,,	Tues., Sat...	Retail produce. Dairy produce and eggs.
Measham			
Market .. 900 *u*	Measham P.C. ..	Fri... ..	Retail produce.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Melton Mowbray			
*Cattle Market 1087 *c* 19722 *u* (2 *d.w.*) (*Public Slaughter-house*)	Melton Mowbray U.D.C. (7 *a.l.*)	Tues. ..	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock. Auction sales of poultry, hay, straw and wool.
General Market *u*	The Feoffees of Melton Mowbray Town Estate	Tues., Sat...	Corn, dairy produce and eggs. Retail produce.
Syston			
***Auction .. *u*	Eric Lane, Thrumaston	Alt. Mon. ..	Livestock and poultry.
Tilton-on-the-Hill			
***Auction .. *u*	Whittle, Attenborough & Co., Leicester	Fri. (Periodically during Spring and Autumn)	Livestock.
Ullesthorpe			
**Auction .. 150 *c* 2420 *u*	Nixon, Toone & Harrison, Ullesthorpe	Tues. ..	Livestock, poultry, dairy produce, potatoes and wool.
LINCOLNSHIRE (Holland)			
Boston			
**Cattle Market 730 *c* (2 *d.w.*) 13090 *u*	Boston Corpn. .. (2 *a.l.*)	Wed. ..	Livestock and poultry auction.
	,, ,, ..	Wed., Sat...	Corn, dairy produce, eggs, fruit, and veg., hay and straw.
General Market 4908 *u*			Retail produce.
Donington			
***Market 300 *u*	Donington Market Committee	Thurs. ..	Livestock and poultry auction.
Holbeach			
Market 2000 *u*	Holbeach U.D.C. ..	Thurs., Sat.	Auction sales of poultry, potatoes and fruit. Retail produce.
Long Sutton			
***Market 1000 *u*	Long Sutton U.D.C. (2 *a.l.* & 2 *a.p.*)	Fri... ..	Auction sales of livestock, fruit, veg. and poultry. Private treaty sales of dairy produce and eggs.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Spalding			
Butter and Corn Market 904 *c*	Spalding U.D.C. ..	Tues. ..	Dairy produce, eggs, corn, hay and straw.
**Cattle Market (*d.w.*) 1165 *u*	,, ,, (5 *a.l.*)	Tues. ..	Private treaty and auction sales of livestock. Auction sales of poultry.
Sheep Market 1700 *u*	,, ,,	Tues. ..	Private treaty and auction sales of sheep.
General Market 1943 *u*	,, ,,	Tues., Sat. Wool—Annually	General retail produce. Wool.
***Calf Sale .. (Kesteven)	T. D. Hix, Holbeach	Tues. ..	Calves.
Bourne			
General Market	The Marquess of Exeter (Lord of the Manor)	Thurs. ..	General retail produce.
**Auction 500 *c* 4000 *u*	Longstaff & Co., Bourne	Thurs. ..	Livestock.
Corn Market ..	Bourne Public Hall & Corn Exchange Co., Ltd.	Thurs. ..	Corn.
Grantham			
***General Market 272 *c* 9000 *u*	Grantham Corpn. ..	Sat. ..	Auction sales of pigs, horses, eggs, poultry, fruit, veg. and dairy produce. General retail produce.
**Auction 6500 *u* (*d.w.*)	Escritt and Barrell, Grantham	Mon. ..	Livestock.
Corn Exchange	Grantham Exchange Hall Co.	Sat. ..	Corn, hay, straw.
Hide and Skin Market	Walter Plumb & Sons	—	Hides and skins.
Sleaford			
Produce Market 100 *u*	G. Butler, Sleaford	Mon., Sat. ..	Retail produce.
**Cattle Market 18150 *u* (*d.w.*)	Earl & Lawrence, Sleaford	Mon. ..	Private treaty and auction sales of livestock. Auction sale of wool.
Corn Exchange 400 *c*	Sleaford Corn Exchange, Ltd.	Mon. ..	Dairy produce, eggs and corn.
South Witham			
***Auction ..	Shouler & Son, Melton Mowbray, Leicester	Weds. during Spring and Autumn	Livestock.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Stamford			
**Cattle Market 7109 *c* & *u* (*d.w.*)	Stamford Corpn. (5 *a.l.*)	Mon., Fri. ..	Livestock and poultry auction.
General Market *u*	,, ,,	Fri., Sat.	General retail produce.
Corn Exchange 311 *c*	Stamford Corn Exchange Co., Ltd.	Fri.	Corn. Wool.
(Lindsey)			
Alford			
***Cattle Market (*d.w.*) 9680 *u*	Alford Cattle Market Co., Ltd.	Tues. ..	Auction sales of livestock and poultry.
Corn Exchange 175 *c*	Alford Corn Exchange Co., Ltd.	Tues. and Fair Day	Corn.
General Market 600 *u*	H. M. Read, Alford	Tues., Sat...	Retail produce.
Barnetby			
**Auction ..	Dickinson & Davy, Brigg	Alt. Tues. ..	Livestock.
***Auction 600 *u*	H. H. Markham, Great Grimsby	Alt. Tues. ..	Livestock and potatoes.
Brigg			
General Market 9680 *u*	Brigg U.D.C. (3 *a.p.*)	Thurs., Sat.	Auction sales of dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg. and poultry. Private treaty sales of corn, hay, straw and wool. General retail produce.
***Cattle Market	(*a*) Dickinson & Davy, Brigg (*b*) W. F. & F. Glasier, Brigg	Fat: Alt. Tues. Store: Thurs.	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock.
Corn Market *c*	The Tenant, Angel Hotel, Brigg	Thurs. ..	Corn. Potato and wool auction.
Burgh-le-Marsh			
***Market 6528 *u* (*d.w.*)	Burgh-le-Marsh Market Co., Ltd.	Thurs. Apl.–Nov. weekly; Dec.–Mar. monthly	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock.
Gainsborough			
General Market 392 *c* 1696 *u*	Gainsborough U.D.C. (2 *a.p.*)	Tues. and Sat.	Dairy produce and eggs. General retail produce.
Corn Exchange	,, ,,	Tues. ..	Corn.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Gainsborough—*cont*			
***Auction ..	Gainsborough U C D. (1 *a.l.*)	Tues. ..	Auction sales of calves, horses, hay, straw and poultry.
Auction —	F. Platt, Plough Inn, Gainsborough	Tues. ..	Dairy produce, eggs, poultry. General produce.
**Cattle Market 300 *c* (*d.w.*) 4700 *u*	Drewery & Wheeldon, Gainsborough	Mon. ..	Livestock auction.
Hide and Skin Market	Mansfield Hide and Skin Co , Ltd	Tues , Thurs , Fri.	Hides and skins.
Grimsby			
**Cattle Market 3134 *u* (*d.w.*)	Grimsby Corpn. (5 *a.l.*)	Mon. ..	Private treaty and auction sales of livestock. Private treaty sales of poultry.
General Market 702 *c* 1424 *u*	,, ,,	Fri ..	Dairy produce, eggs and corn. Retail produce.
Fish Market 26645 *c* Herring Market 4795 *c*	L.N.E.R. Co. ..	Daily ..	Auction sales of fish.
Hide and Skin Market	1. East Grimsby Hide & Skin Co., Ltd. 2. E. G. Hossell ..	Thurs. ..	Auction sales of sheep skins.
Horncastle			
**Market 1500 *u*	Horncastle U.D.C. (2 *a.l.*)	Cattle: Alt. Thurs.	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock.
		Sat. ..	Auction sales of poultry
		Corn and Gen.: Sat.	Dairy produce, corn, hay, straw, eggs, and wool. Retail produce
Lincoln			
**Cattle Market 236 *c* 14445 *u* (*d.w.*) (*Public Slaughter-house*)	Lincoln Corpn. (5 *a.l.*)	Fat: Tues. Store: Fri.	Private treaty and auction sales of livestock. Auction sales of hay and straw.
Central Market 561 *c*	,, ,,	Fri., Sat. ..	Dairy produce, poultry and eggs. Retail produce.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Lincoln—*cont.*			
Corn Exchange 3800 *c*	Lincoln Corn Exchange & Market Co., Ltd.	Fri., Sat. ..	Corn, hay, straw, fruit and veg. Retail produce.
Auction 100 *c* 700 *u*	H. F. Stennett, Gainsborough	Fri. ..	Eggs, poultry, fruit, veg, and dairy produce
Hide and Skin Market	Lincoln & Lincolnshire Hide, Skin, Fat & Wool Co., Ltd.	Fri.	Auction sales of hides, skins, &c.
Louth			
**Cattle Market 22230 *u* (*d.w.*)	Louth Corpn. (5 *a.l.*)	Fri.	Private treaty and auction sales of livestock and poultry.
Produce Market 851 *c* 3040 *u*	,, ,,	Wed. ..	Dairy produce and eggs. Auction and private treaty sales of potatoes. Retail produce.
Corn Exchange	Louth Corn Exchange Co.	Wed. ..	Corn.
Market Rasen			
**Cattle Market 9680 *u*	J. H. Nettleship, Market Rasen	Tues. ..	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock.
General Market, (Market Square) 1825 *u*	,, ,,	Tues. ..	Dairy produce, corn, eggs, fruit, veg., and poultry. Auction and private treaty sales of pigs. General retail produce.
Scunthorpe			
***Cattle Market 2069 *u* (*Public Slaughter-house*)	Scunthorpe and Frodingham U.D.C. (4 *a.l.* and 1 *a.p.*)	Mon. ..	Livestock, poultry, fruit and veg. auction.
General Market 589 *c* 6546 *u*	,, ,,	Fri., Sat. ..	General retail produce.
Skegness			
***Auction 928 *c* 3398 *u*	G. F. Ball, Skegness	Tues. ..	Livestock, dairy produce, corn, hay, straw, eggs, fruit, veg. and poultry.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Spilsby			
General Market 5000 *u*	Jesse Parsons, Spilsby	Mon. ..	Dairy produce, corn, eggs, fruit, veg., hides, poultry and wool. Auction sales of fruit and veg. General retail produce.
**Cattle Market 3200 *u*	H. Atkinson, Spilsby	Mon. ..	Private treaty and auction sales of live-stock.
MONMOUTH-SHIRE			
Abergavenny			
*Cattle Market 17570 *c* & *u* (*d.w.*) (*Public Slaughter-house*)	Abergavenny Corpn. (4 *a.l.*)	Tues. ..	Auction and private treaty sales of live-stock. Auction sales of poultry. Private treaty sales of corn, hay, straw and wool.
Fruit Market 430 *c*	,, ,,	Tues., Fri...	Auction sales of fruit and veg.
General Market 2040 *u*	,, ,,	Tues., Fri...	Dairy produce, fruit, veg., eggs and poultry. General retail produce.
Chepstow			
**Market 2500 *c* 5770 *u*	Chepstow U.D.C. (2 *a.l.*)	Alt. Tues. .. Wool: Annually—in June	Livestock, poultry and wool auction. Corn, hay, straw.
Marshfield			
***Auction 8470 *u*	Scott, Block & Webbs, Newport	Alt. Mon. ..	Livestock.
Monmouth			
**Markets 1107 *c* 8690 *u* (2 *d.w.*) (*Public Slaughter-house*)	Monmouth Corpn. (2 *a.l.* and 1 *a p.*)	Produce: Fri.	Auction sales of fruit, veg., poultry and wool. Dairy produce, eggs, corn, hay and straw. Retail produce.
		Cattle: Alt. Mon. ..	Auction and private treaty sales of live-stock.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Newport			
General Market 4088 *c* 507 *u* (*Public Slaughter-house*)	Newport Corpn. ..	Daily ..	Dairy produce, eggs, fish, fruit, veg. and poultry. General retail produce.
**Cattle Market 4217 *c* 17303 *u* (2 *d.w.*)	Newport (Mon.) Cattle Markets Co, Ltd.	Wed. .. (Horses: 1st Fri. each month)	Private treaty and auction sales of live-stock. Auction sales of poultry Corn, hay, straw, and wool.
Hide and Skin Market	Newport Hide and Skin Co., Ltd.	Thurs. ..	Auction sales of hides; private treaty sales of skins.
Pontypool			
Market 1200 *c* 5150 *u*	Pontypool U.D.C. ..	Wed., Sat...	Retail produce.
***Auction *u*	Davis & Sons, Pontypool	Wed. ..	Livestock.
Raglan			
***Auction *u*	(*a*) Rennie, Taylor & Till, Newport (*b*) Newland, Hunt & Williams, Newport	Bi-annually—Apl. and Oct.	Livestock.
Severn Tunnel Junction			
**Auction 100 *c* (*d.w.*) 3000 *u*	Newland, Hunt & Williams, Newport	Alt. Tues. ..	Livestock.
Skenfreth			
***Auction .. *u*	Rennie, Taylor & Till, Monmouth	Bi-annually—Apl. and Oct.	Livestock.
Tredegar			
Market .. 600 *c*	Vaughan Bros., Tredegar	Fri., Sat. ..	General retail produce.
Usk			
**Market .. 226 *c* 7500 *u* (*d.w.*)	Usk U.D.C. (3 *a.l.* and 1 *a.p.*)	Alt., Mon.	Livestock, poultry and wool auction.
Auction .. *u*	Davis & Sons, Usk..	Thurs. ..	Dairy produce, fruit, veg., eggs and poultry.
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE			
Aynho			
***Auction 14520 *u* (*d.w.*)	Paxton & Holiday, Bicester, Oxford	1st and 3rd Tues. each month	Livestock.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Brackley			
***Market .. 400 *u*	Brackley Corpn. (1 *a.l.*)	Alt. Mon. Wool: Annually—in June	Livestock, poultry and wool auction. Corn.†
Byfield			
***Auction 2093 *u* (*d.w.*)	Midland Marts, Ltd., Banbury, Oxford	Alt. Tues. ..	Livestock.
Daventry			
**Auction 80 *c* (*d.w.*) 1800 *u*	Merry, Sons & Co., Daventry	Tues. ..	Livestock. Corn.†
Kettering			
General Market 400 *c* 1484 *u*	Kettering U.D.C. .	Fri., Sat. ..	Retail produce.
Corn Exchange	,, ,, ..	Fri.	Corn, hay and straw.
**Cattle Market 1200 *c* 10567 *u* (*d.w.*)	,, ,, .. (2 *a.l.* and 2 *a.p.*)	Fri.	Auction sales of livestock, dairy produce, eggs and wool. Auction and private treaty sales of poultry
Moreton Pinkney			
***Auction 72 *c* (*d.w.*) 1250 *u*	J. M Harris, Northampton	Alt. Mon. ..	Livestock. Corn.†
Northampton			
*Cattle Market 2921 *c* 20416 *u* (4 *d.w.*) (*Public Slaughter-house*)	Northampton Corpn. (5 *a.l.* and 1 *a.p.*)	Wed., Sat. Wool: Annually	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock and dairy produce. Auction sales of poultry, eggs, wool, hay and straw. Corn.
General Market 5035 *u*	,, ,,	Wed., Sat...	General retail produce.
Fish Market 156 *c*	L.M. & S. Rly. Co...	Daily ..	Fish.
Hide and Skin Market	P. Gray & Co., Ltd.	Sat. ..	Auction sales of hides.
Oundle			
***Market .. .. (*d.w.*)	Oundle Cattle Market Co., Ltd.	Thurs. ..	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock. Dairy produce, corn and eggs.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Thrapston			
**Market .. 296 *c* 2800 *u*	Thrapston Market Co., Ltd.	Tues. ..	Auction sales of livestock, poultry, wool, fruit, veg., hay and straw, dairy produce and eggs. Retail produce. Corn.
Wellingborough			
**Cattle Market 11111 *c* & *u*	Wellingborough U.D.C. (1 *a.l.* and 1 *a.p.*)	Wed. .. Wool: Annually—in June	Auction sales of livestock, dairy produce, eggs, hay, straw, poultry, and wool. Corn
General Market 3216 *u*	,, ,,	Wed., Sat...	General retail produce.
SOKE OF PETERBOROUGH			
Peterborough			
General Market 1830 *u*	Peterborough Corpn.	Wed., Sat...	General retail produce.
*Cattle Market 21477 *u* (*d.w.*)	,, ,, (3 *a.l.*)	Wed., Sat...	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock Dairy produce, eggs, poultry, hay, straw and wool. Potatoes (chiefly private treaty).
Corn Exchange 600 *c*	Peterborough Corn Exchange, Ltd.	Sat. ..	Corn. Hay, straw and potatoes
Repository *c*	Sexton, Grimwade & Beck, Peterborough	Periodically	Auction sales of horses
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE			
Eastwood			
Market .. 400 *u*	Samuel Wood, Sun Inn, Eastwood	Fri... ..	General retail produce.
Hucknall			
Market 3600 *u*	Hucknall U.D.C. ..	Fri... ..	General retail produce.
Kirkby-in-Ashfield			
Market .. 755 *c* 3540 *u*	Kirkby-in-Ashfield U D C.	Fri... ..	General retail produce.
Mansfield			
**Cattle Market 13600 *u* (2 *d.w.*)	Mansfield Corpn. (7 *a.l.*)	Mon. ..	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock, hay and straw. Auction sales of poultry. Corn.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Mansfield—*cont.*			
General Market 4300 *u*	Mansfield Corpn.	Thurs., Fri., Sat.	Fruit and veg. Retail produce.
Hide and Skin Market	Mansfield Hide & Skin Co., Ltd.	Daily ..	Hides and skins.
Newark-on-Trent			
General Market 1300 *c* 3600 *u*	Newark Corpn. ..	Wed., Sat...	General retail produce. Corn.
Hide and Skin Market	Newark Hide & Skin Co., Ltd.	—	Hides and skins.
**Cattle Market 300 *c* 17000 *u* (*d.w.*)	Newark Cattle Market Co.	Fat: Tues. Store: Wed.	Auction and private treaty live-stock Auction sales of hay, straw, and poultry
Wool Auction ..	Hawson & Taylor, Newark	Annually—towards the end of June	Wool.
Nottingham			
Bulwell Market 115 *u*	Nottingham Corpn.	Fri., Sat. ..	General retail produce.
*Cattle Market 1000 *c* 45980 *u* (3 *d.w.*)	,, ,, (7 *a.l.*)	Fat.: Wed. Store: Sat.	Auction and private treaty sales of live-stock, hay and straw. Auction sales of poultry and wool.
Great Market Place 20146 *u*	,, ,,	Daily ..	General retail produce.
Sneinton Market 10860 *u*	,, ,,	Wholesale: Daily. Retail: Mon, Sat.	Wholesale and retail fruit and veg. Fish, poultry
Wholesale Country Produce Market 1060 *u*	,, ,,	Daily ..	Fruit and veg.
Corn Exchange	Nottingham Corn Exchange and Public Hall Co., Ltd.	Sat. ..	Corn.
Hide, &c., Markets	1 Nottingham Hide, Skin and Fat Market Co., Ltd.	Fri... ..	Auction sales of hides, skins and fats.
	2. Bitterlings, Ltd.	Mon ..	Hides, skins, fats.
Retford			
Corn Market 280 *c*	East Retford Corpn.	Sat. ..	Corn.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Retford—*cont*			
Market Hall 336 *c*	East Retford Corpn.	Sat. ..	Retail produce.
Shambles Market 240 *c*	,, ,,	Sat. ..	Retail meat.
***Cattle and General Markets (Market Square) 3620 *u* (*Public Slaughter-house*)	,, ,, (2 *a.l.*)	Sat. ..	Auction sales of livestock, hay, straw and potatoes Auction and private treaty sales of poultry. General retail produce.
**Cattle Market 7260 *u* (*d.w.*)	Retford Cattle Market Co., Ltd.	Mon. ..	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock.
Sutton-in-Ashfield			
Market 3266 *c* & *u*	Sutton-in-Ashfield U.D.C.	Fri., Sat. ..	General retail produce.
Tuxford			
***Market .. 96 *c* 4744 *u* (*d.w.*)	The Tuxford Cattle Market Company	1st Mon. in each month (Poultry:—Xmas sale only)	Livestock, poultry and potato auction.
Worksop			
General Market 3000 *u*	Worksop U.D.C.	Wed., Sat. ..	Retail produce. Corn.
**Cattle Market 14000 *u* (*d.w.*)	,, ,, (7 *a.l.*)	Wed. ..	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock.
Hide and Skin Market	Mansfield Hide & Skin Co., Ltd.	Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri	Hides and skins.
OXFORDSHIRE			
Banbury			
**Cattle Market 6940 *u*	Banbury Corpn. ..	Thurs. ..	Livestock.
General Market 2173 *u*	,, ,, ..	Thurs., Sat.	Auction sales of poultry. General retail and wholesale produce. Corn.†
*Auction Mart 1470 *c* 22246 *u* (*d.w.*)	Midland Marts, Ltd., Banbury	Thurs. .. Store Cattle and Sheep: Tues. weekly to monthly. Horses: 1st Mon. each month	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock. Auction sales of dairy produce, eggs and poultry.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Bicester			
**Market .. 500 *c* 7000 *u*	Bicester U.D.C. (3 *a.l.*)	Alt. Fri. ..	Livestock and poultry auction. Corn.†
Wool Sale ..	Paxton & Holiday, Bicester	2nd Fri. in June	Wool auction.
Charlbury			
***Auction 1600 *u*	Tayler & Fletcher, Cold Aston, Bourton - on - water, Glos.	1st Mon. each month (Sept. to March)	Livestock.
Chipping Norton			
***Market Square 7180 *u*	Chipping Norton Corpn. (4 *a.l.* and 4 *a.p.*)	General Market: Wed. Cattle Market: 1st Wed. each month.	Auction sales of livestock, dairy produce, eggs, potatoes and poultry. Corn, hay, straw and wool General retail produce.
Henley-on-Thames			
***Market Place *u*	Simmons & Sons, Henley-on-Thames	Thurs. ..	Livestock auction
Kingham			
***Auction 750 *c* 1670 *u*	Tayler & Fletcher, Cold Aston, Bourton - on - Water, Glos.	3rd Mon. each month	Livestock and poultry.
Oxford			
General Market 6141 *c*	Oxford Corpn. (2 *a.p.*)	Daily ..	Fruit and veg General retail produce.
**Cattle Market 9680 *u* (*d.w.*)	,, ,, (3 *a.l.*)	Wed. ..	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock. Auction sales of eggs, dairy produce and poultry. Corn.† Retail produce.
Hide and Skin Market	Harrison & Lucas, Ltd.	Sat. ..	Auction and private treaty sales of hides and skins.
Shipton-under-Wychwood			
***Auction 1210 *u*	Tayler & Fletcher, Cold Aston, Bourton - on - Water, Glos.	2nd Mon. each month	Livestock and poultry.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Somerton			
***Market 4840 *u*	Midland Marts, Ltd., Banbury	2nd Tues. each month in Spring	Livestock auction.
Thame			
**Market .. *u*	Thame U.D.C. (3 *a.l.*)	Tues. ..	Auction sales of livestock. Dairy produce, corn, eggs, hay, straw, hides, poultry, and wool. Retail produce.
Witney			
***Cattle Market 3100 *u*	Witney U.D.C. (2 *a.l.*)	Alt. Thurs.	Livestock and poultry auction.
Corn Market 450 *c*	,, ,,	Thurs. ..	Corn.
Sheep and General Markets 2000 *u*	,, ,,	Alt. Thurs.	Auction sales of sheep. Retail produce.
Woodstock			
***Markets *u*	Woodstock Corpn. Lessees: Franklin & Jones, Oxford	Tues. ..	Livestock auction.
RUTLAND			
Oakham			
**South Street Auction 350 *c* 9330 *u*	D. N. & J. Royce, Oakham	Mon. ..	Livestock, dairy produce, potatoes and poultry
***Station Road Auction 1000 *u*	G. H. S. Smith, Oakham	Mon. ..	Livestock and poultry.
Uppingham			
***Market .. 760 *u*	Uppingham P.C. (2 *a.l.*)	Thurs. ..	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock.
SHROPSHIRE			
Baschurch			
***Auction 300 *c* (*d.w.*) 4000 *u*	W. Everall, Shrewsbury	Alt. Mon. ..	Livestock.
Bettws-y-Crwyn			
***Annual sales 2420 *u*	Morris, Marshall & Poole, Ludlow	Cattle: Mar. Sheep: Sept.	Livestock auction.
Bishop's Castle			
Market Place *u*	Bishop's Castle Corpn	Fri.	Retail produce.
**Cattle Auction (*d.w.*) 1600 *u*	Jackson & McCartney, Craven Arms	Alt. Fri. ..	Livestock.
Bridgnorth			
Market .. .. (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	Bridgnorth Corpn. ..	Sat. ..	General retail produce. Corn.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Bridgnorth—*cont*			
**Auction 760 *c* (*d.w.*) 4086 *u*	Nock, Deighton & Son, Bridgnorth	Alt. Mon. ..	Livestock and poultry.
Horse Repository	,, ,,	Sat. (bi-monthly)	Horse auction.
Church Stretton			
Market .. 96 *c*	Trustees of Town Hall, Church Stretton	Thurs. ..	Retail produce.
Cleobury Mortimer			
**Auction 850 *u*	Nock, Deighton & Son, Bridgnorth	Alt. Wed. ..	Livestock.
Clun			
Market	——	Tues. ..	Dairy produce, eggs and poultry.
***Auction ..	Jackson & McCartney, Craven Arms	Tues (June, Sept. and Oct.)	Livestock.
Craven Arms			
*Auction 3611 *u* (*d.w.*)	,, ,,	Cattle: Alt. Mon. Ponies: twice yearly (May and Oct.) Horses: 1st Sat. each month.	Livestock. Corn.†
**Auction 150 *c* (*d.w.*) 1250 *u*	Morris, Marshall & Poole, Ludlow	Alt. Mon. ..	Livestock.
Ditton Priors			
***Auction ..	Nock, Deighton & Son, Bridgnorth	Wed. monthly	Livestock.
Dorrington			
***Auction .. 30 *c* 1770 *u*	A. Mansell & Co., Shrewsbury	Alt. Thurs. (Every 3rd Thurs. in July, Aug.)	Livestock.
Ellesmere			
General Market 1053 *c*	Ellesmere U.D.C. ..	Tues., Sat. Cheese Fair: 3rd Fri.	Retail produce. Cheese. Corn
**Cattle Market 1458 *c* 5832 *u*	,, ,, (3 *a.l.*)	Alt. Tues. ..	Livestock auction.
Hodnet			
***Auction .. 340 *c* (*d w*) 3000 *u*	Barber & Son, Wellington	Tues. ..	Livestock.
Ironbridge			
Market 2000 *c* 2000 *u*	Mrs. A. J. Jarvis, High Street, Ironbridge	Fri., Sat. ..	General retail produce.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Longville			
***Auction ..	Nock, Deighton & Son, Bridgnorth	Wed. (monthly)	Livestock.
Ludlow			
Market .. *c*	Ludlow Corpn. ..	Mon., Sat...	Retail produce.
**Auction 115 *c* 5900 *u* (*d.w.*)	Morris, Marshall & Poole, Ludlow	Alt. Mon. ..	Livestock, hay and straw. Corn.†
Market Drayton			
Market .. 356 *c* *u*	Market Drayton U.D.C.	Wed. ..	Wholesale and retail produce. Corn.†
*Market .. 900 *c* 9680 *u* (*d.w.*)	StaffordshireFarmers, Ltd., Stafford	Wed. ..	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock.
Cheese Fair .. 600 *c*	Market Drayton Cheese Fair Assocn.	Every 3rd Thurs.	Cheese.
Minsterley			
***Auction 1600 *u*	Morris, Marshall & Poole, Ludlow	2nd Mon. each month Sheep Sale in Sept.	Livestock.
Much Wenlock			
Market .. *c* & *u*	Wenlock Corpn. ..	Mon. ..	Retail produce.
***Auction 100 *c* (*d.w.*) 1700 *u*	Nock, Deighton & Son, Bridgnorth	Alt. Mon. ..	Livestock.
Newport			
General Market 1000 *c*	Newport (Salop) Market Co.	Fri.	Retail produce. Corn.
**Smithfield Market 200 *c* (*d.w.*) 3000 *u*	,, ,,	Alt. Mon. ..	Livestock auction.
Oswestry			
Bailey Head Market 780 *c*	Oswestry Corpn. ..	Wed. ..	General retail produce.
Cross Market 2000 *c*	,, ,, ..	Wed., Sat...	Wholesale and retail sales of dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg; poultry and fish.
Powis Hall Market 820 *c*	,, ,, ..	Wed. Wool:— Annually — in July	Auction and private treaty sales of dairy produce. Corn and wool.
*Smithfield Market (2 *d.w.*) (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	,, ,, .. (7 *a.l.*)	Wed. ..	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Oswestry—*cont.*			
Horse Repository 3900 *c*	Oswestry Corpn ..	1st Wed. each each month	Auction and private treaty sales of horses.
Wool Auction 1130 *c*	Whitfield & Riley, Oswestry	1st or 2nd Fri. in July	Wool.
Shifnal			
***Auction .. 170 *c* 2600 *u* (*d.w.*)	Davies, White & Perry, Shifnal	Alt. Mon. ..	Livestock.
Shrewsbury			
*Cattle Market 450 *c* 14520 *u* (5 *d.w.*) (*Public Slaughter-house*)	Shrewsbury Corpn. (4 *a.l.*)	Tues., Fri...	Private treaty and auction sales of livestock. Auction sales of wool. Hay and straw.
General Market 4000 *c*	,, ,,	Wed, Sat...	General retail produce. Corn.
		Cheese Fair: 3rd Thurs.	Cheese
Stottesden			
***Auction .. *u*	Nock, Deighton & Son, Bridgnorth	Three or four times yearly	Livestock.
Wellington			
General Market 2280 *c* 1200 *u*	Wellington (Salop) Market Co.	Thurs. ..	Wholesale and retail general produce. Corn
*Cattle Market 1700 *c* 8000 *u* (*d.w.*)	,, ,, (Lessees: Barber & Son, Wellington)	Mon. ..	Livestock auction.
Wool Sale 4500 *c*	Barber & Son, Wellington	June or July	Auction sales of wool.
Wem			
Market .. 388 *c* 450 *u*	Wem U.D.C. ..	General Market: Thurs.	Retail produce. Corn.
		Cheese Fairs: 3rd Wed.	Butter, cheese, eggs.
**Auction 7334 *c* & *u* (*d.w.*)	Hall, Waterıdge & Owen, Ltd., Shrewsbury	Alt. Mon. ..	Livestock.
Whitchurch			
**Cattle Market 3339 *c* 9261 *u* (*d.w.*)	Whitchurch U.D.C. (3 *a.l.*)	Mon. ..	Auction sales of livestock and poultry
Corn Exchange 168 *c*	,, ,,	Fri. ..	Corn.
Market Hall 1337 *c*	,, ,,	Fri. ..	Wholesale and retail general produce.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Whitchurch—*cont.*			
Market Hall 1337 *c*	Whitchurch U.D.C. (3 *a. l.*)	Cheese Fairs: 3rd Wed.	Cheese.
Market Square 128 *u*	,, ,,		
Poultry Market 155 *c*	,, ,,	Fri.	Wholesale and retail sales of poultry.
STAFFORDSHIRE			
Bilston			
Market 2120 *c* 3000 *u*	Bilston U.D.C. ..	Mon., Sat...	General retail produce.
Blythe Bridge			
***Auction .. .. (*d.w.*)	W. S. Bagshaw & Sons, Uttoxeter	Alt. Mon. ..	Livestock.
Brierley Hill			
Market .. 900 *c* 1500 *u*	J. Taylor, Brierley Hill	Tues., Sat...	Retail produce.
Burton-on-Trent			
General Market 2000 *c* 1950 *u*	Burton-on-Trent Corpn.	Daily ..	General retail produce.
Fish Market 300 *c*	,, ,,	Daily ..	Retail sales of fish.
Wholesale Market 500 *c*	,, ,,	Daily ..	Fruit and veg.
**Auction 1050 *c* 4920 *u* (*d.w.*)	(*a*) Arnold & Son, Burton-on-Trent (*b*) Rowland & Sons, Burton-on-Trent	Mon. ..	Livestock, poultry, hay and straw. Corn.
Cannock			
Market .. 550 *c* 1750 *u*	Cannock Market Hall Co.	Tues., Sat...	Retail produce.
**Auction 487 *c* 4185 *u*	Boot & Son, Cannock	Alt. Tues. ..	Livestock, dairy produce, eggs, poultry and veg.
Cheadle			
Market .. 300 *c* 670 *u*	Louisa Bradbury, Cheadle	Fri.	General retail produce.
Darlaston			
Market .. 100 *u*	Darlaston U.D.C. ..	Sat. ..	General retail produce.
Eccleshall			
**Auction 429 *c* 4431 *u* (*d.w.*)	South & Stubbs, Stafford	Alt. Mon. ..	Livestock.
Flash			
***Auction 842 *u*	Hampson Bros., Ltd., Buxton, Derby	Last Fri. each month	Livestock.
Gnosall			
***Auction ..	Davies, White & Perry, Newport, Salop	Twice yearly —May and Sept.	Livestock.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Great Barr			
***Auction 250 *c* 400 *u* (*d.w.*)	Winterton & Sons, Lichfield	Alt. Tues. ..	Livestock.
Hednesford			
Market .. 400 *c* 400 *u*	Hednesford Market Hall Co., Ltd.	Sat. ..	Retail produce.
Leek			
**Cattle Market 148 *c* 7649 *u* (*d.w.*)	Leek U.D.C. (2 *a.l.*)	Wed. ..	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock. Wool.
General Market 606 *c* 2103 *u*	,, ,,	Wed. ..	Wholesale and retail general produce.
Lichfield			
Market Square 170 *c* 1200 *u*	Lichfield Corpn. ..	Fri.	Wholesale and retail general produce.
**Auction .. (*d.w.*) *c.* & *u*	Winterton & Sons, Lichfield	Cattle: Alt. Mon. Horses: 1st Fri. each month	Livestock, potatoes and wool.
Auction ..	Selwyn Smith, Lichfield	Wed. ..	Fruit, veg., eggs, and poultry.
Meir			
**Auction ..	W S Bagshaw & Sons, Uttoxeter	Alt. Tues. ..	Livestock.
Newcastle-under-Lyme			
Produce and General Market 800 *c* 2000 *u*	Newcastle-under-Lyme Corpn.	Mon., Fri., Sat. Wed. (during summer)	General retail produce. Retail farm produce and fruit
**Cattle Market 2420 *c* 7260 *u*	,, ,, (Lessees: Heywood & Son, Newcastle-under-Lyme)	Mon. ..	Livestock, poultry and hay auction.
Norton Bridge			
***Auction 1500 *c* 9680 *u* (*d.w.*)	Heywood & Son, Newcastle-under-Lyme	Alt. Tues. ..	Livestock.
Penkridge			
**Auction 400 *c* 9280 *u* (*d.w.*)	Ballard & Heathcote, Penkridge	Mon. ..	Livestock, eggs, poultry, fruit and veg.
**Auction 1338 *c* 4514 *u* (*d.w.*)	South & Stubbs, Stafford	Mon. ..	Livestock, potatoes and poultry.
Rugeley			
Market .. 350 *c* 550 *u*	Rugeley U.D.C. ..	Thurs., Sat.	General retail produce.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Rugeley—*cont.*			
**Auction 2420 *u* (*d.w.*)	G. Brown, Rugeley	Alt. Tues. ..	Livestock, potatoes and poultry.
Smethwick			
Market 1300 *u*	Smethwick Corpn. ..	Fri. (evenings only)	General retail produce.
Stafford			
St. John's Market 2024 *c*	Stafford Corpn. ..	Tues., Sat.	General retail produce.
400 *u*		Cheese Fair: every three weeks	Cheese.
***Auction 357 *c*	South & Stubbs,	Alt. Fri. ..	Livestock.
1947 *u*	Stafford		
***Auction 500 *c*	George Horne, Staf-	Alt. Tues. ..	Livestock, potatoes and poultry.
4000 *u* (*d.w.*)	ford		
Corn Exchange 222 *c*	Stafford Corn Exchange Committee	Fri.	Corn.
Stoke-on-Trent			
Burslem Markets 1813 *c*	Stoke-on-Trent Corpn.	Mon., Sat...	General retail produce.
Hanley General Markets 4632 *c*	,, ,,	General:	Fruit and veg.
773 *u*		Wed., Fri., Sat.	General retail produce.
		Meat and Fish: Sat.	
		Wholesale: Wed., Sat.	
Hide and Skin Market	,, ,, (Lessees: J. & W. Heathcote, Ltd., Hanley)	Fri... ..	Auction and private treaty sales of hides and skins.
Longton Market 3268 *c*	Stoke-on-Trent Corpn.	General: Sat. Fish: Daily	General retail produce.
Stoke Markets 1881 *c*	,, ,,	General: Fri., Sat.	General retail produce.
790 *u*		Fish: Daily	Fish.
Hide and Skin Market	North Stafford Hide and Skin Market Co, Ltd.		Hides and skins
Tunstall Markets 1536 *c*	Stoke-on-Trent Corpn.	General: Mon., Fri., Sat.	General retail produce.
208 *u*		Fish: Sat.	
Stone			
Market Hall 250 *c*	Stone Market Hall Trustees	Tues., Sat...	Dairy produce and eggs.
390 *u*			General retail produce.
**Auction 2000 *c*	Heywood & Son,	Alt. Tues. ..	Livestock.
1295 *u* (2 *d.w.*)	Stone		

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Tamworth			
Market .. 400 *u*	Tamworth Corpn. ..	Sat. ..	General retail produce.
**Auction 11796 *c* 7565 *u* (*d.w.*)	Tamworth Public Cattle Sales Co., Ltd., Tamworth	Alt. Mon. ..	Livestock, dairy produce, eggs, poultry, fruit, veg., hay, straw and corn.
Uttoxeter			
**Market Place 8000 *u* (*d.w.*)	Uttoxeter U.D.C. (Cattle Market:—Lessees: W. S. Bagshaw & Sons, Uttoxeter)	Alt. Wed. ..	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock,
		Wed. ..	Wholesale and retail produce.
Walsall and Bloxwich			
Markets 1960 *u*	Walsall Corpn. ..	Bloxwich Market: Sat. Walsall Market: Tues., Sat.	General retail produce.
Warslow			
***Auction *u*	J. Oakes Ash & Son, Leek	Fri. (Periodically)	Livestock.
Wednesbury			
Market 1000 *u*	Wednesbury Corpn.	Fri., Sat. ..	General retail produce.
West Bromwich			
Market 3000 *c*	Exors. of J. W. Field c/o Wm. Bache & Sons, Solicitors, West Bromwich	Mon., Fri., Sat.	General retail produce.
Willenhall			
Market 2350 *u*	Willenhall U.D.C...	Sat. ..	General retail produce.
Wolverhampton			
**Cattle Market 9075 *u* (*d.w.*) (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	Wolverhampton Corpn. (2 *a.l.*)	Pigs: Daily. Other Stock: Wed.	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock.
Retail Markets 5150 *c* 2935 *u*	,, ,,	Daily ..	General retail produce.
Wholesale Meat Market 10 *c*	,, ,,	Daily ..	Meat.
Wholesale Produce Market 2611 *c*	,, ,,	Daily ..	Auction and private treaty sales of dairy produce, eggs, poultry, fruit and veg.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Wolverhampton —*cont*			
**Auction 500 *c* 2600 *u* (*d.w.*)	Nock & Joseland, Wolverhampton	Wed. ..	Livestock.
**Auction 414 *c* 820 *u* (*d.w.*)	Walker, Lloyd & Hill, Wolverhampton	Wed. ..	Livestock and poultry.
Corn Market	Wolverhampton Corn Market Committee	Wed. ..	Corn, hay and straw.
Hide and Skin Market	Wolverhampton Butchers' Hide & Skin Co., Ltd.	Sat. ..	Auction and private treaty sales of hides and skins.
WARWICKSHIRE			
Alcester			
***Auction 100 *c* 7260 *u*	E. G. Righton, Junr., Evesham	Alt. Wed. ..	Livestock.
Auction 140 *c* 2280 *u*	E. A. Jephcott, Alcester	Fri.	Wholesale and retail auction sales of dairy produce, eggs, poultry, fruit, and veg.
Atherstone			
Market .. 800 *c* 1900 *u*	Atherstone R.D.C...	Tues., Sat...	General retail produce. Corn.
**Auction 645 *c* 4207 *u* (*d.w.*)	Atherstone Public Cattle Sales Co., Ltd.	Alt. Tues. ..	Livestock, dairy produce, eggs, poultry, fruit, veg., hay and straw.
Bedworth			
Market	J. Richards, Hit-or-Miss Inn, Bedworth	Tues., Fri., Sat.	General retail produce.
Birmingham			
Bull Ring Market 765 *u*	Birmingham Corpn.	Tues., Thurs., Sat.	Retail eggs, poultry, rabbits, plants, shrubs and flowers.
*Livestock Market 6461 *c* 2000 *u*	,, ,,	Daily ..	Pigs.
City Meat Market and Slaughter-house 12243 *c*	,, ,,	Daily ..	Meat.
Fish Market 1894 *c*	,, ,,	Daily ..	Auction and private treaty sales of fish, dairy produce, eggs and poultry.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Birmingham—*cont*			
Market Hall 4314 *c*	Birmingham Corpn.	Daily ..	General retail produce.
St. Martins Market 1620 *c*	,, ,,	Sat. ..	Retail meat.
Smithfield Wholesale Fruit and Veg Market 14561 *c*	,, ,,	Daily ..	Auction and private treaty sales of dairy produce, eggs, poultry, fruit, and veg. (Cattle market not now held.)
Erdington Market 1000 *u*	Birmingham Corpn. Lessees: Busbie & Gourdie, Erdington	Fri.	General retail produce.
Handsworth Market 2486 *u*	Birmingham Corpn. Lessee: A. Smallwood, Handsworth	Three days weekly	General retail produce.
***King's Norton Auction 3000 *u*	Birmingham Corpn. Lessees: Neasom & White, Redditch	Alt. Wed. ..	Livestock and poultry auction.
Corn Exchange	Birmingham Corn Exchange, Ltd.,	Thurs ..	Corn.
Hide and Skin Markets	1. City & District Hide & Skin Co., Ltd.,	Fri. ..	Auction sales of skins.
	2. Edward Suckling & Co.	Fri. ..	
	3. Birmingham Butchers' Skin & Wool Co., Ltd.	Fri.	Auction sales of hides and skins.
Coleshill			
Auction 90 *c* 162 *u*	A. T. Sidwell & Son, Mereden, Coventry	Fri.	Dairy produce, eggs, poultry, fruit and veg.
Auction 240 *c*	Warrington Bennett, Kenilworth	Fri.	Dairy produce, eggs, poultry, fruit, veg, hay, straw and corn.
Coventry			
Market Hall 3400 *c* 260 *u*	Coventry Corpn. ..	Fri., Sat. ..	Retail produce.
Smithfield Market 3000 *u*	,, ,,	Daily ..	Retail produce
Wholesale Market 5798 *c* 11566 *u*	,, ,, ..	,, ..	Hay, straw, fruit, veg., fish and meat.
Corn Exchange 250 *c*	,, ,, ..	Fri. ..	Corn

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Coventry—*cont.*			
**Cattle Auction 650 *c* (*d.w.*) 5400 *u*	Coventry Public Cattle Sales Co., Ltd.	Tues. ..	Livestock and poultry.
Central Market 200 *c* 600 *u*	C. Arnold Crapp, Coventry	Meat: Mon., Thurs. Other Produce: daily	Auction sales of dairy produce, fish, fruit, veg, hay, straw, eggs, poultry and meat.
Co-operative Market 226 *c* 503 *u*	Growers' Sales (Coventry), Ltd.	Daily ..	Auction sales of dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg., poultry and meat.
Fenny Compton			
***Auction 1210 *u*	John Margetts & Son, Warwick	Alt. Mon.—May to Dec.	Livestock.
Hampton-in-Arden			
**Auction 576 *c* (*d.w.*) 2005 *u*	E. Whittindale, Coventry	Alt. Mon. .. Thurs. ..	Livestock. Poultry and produce.
Henley-in-Arden			
**Auction .. (*d.w.*)	Henley Auction Sales Ltd.	Livestock: Alt. Mon. Produce: Wed.	Livestock, dairy produce, fruit, veg. and poultry.
Knowle			
**Auction 4840 *u* (*d.w.*) (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	R. B. Colbourne & Thompson, Warwick	Alt. Wed. ..	Livestock, poultry, fruit and veg.
Leamington Spa			
**Auction 9660 *u* (*d.w.*)	John Staite & Sons, Leamington	Alt. Wed. ..	Livestock.
Nuneaton			
Market .. .. (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	Nuneaton Corpn. ..	Sat. ..	General retail produce. Corn.†
**Auction 756 *c* 2578 *u*	Nixon, Toone and Harrison, Nuneaton	Alt. Tues. ..	Livestock, poultry, potatoes, hay and straw.
Rugby			
*Cattle Market 28582 *u* (5 *d.w.*) (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	Rugby U.D.C. (4 *a.l.*)	Mon. ..	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock. Auction sales of poultry and, annually of wool. Corn, hay, straw.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Rugby—*cont*			
Central Market 1189 *u*	Rugby U.D.C. ..	Sat. ..	General retail produce.
Stratford-on-Avon			
Auction *c* & *u*	A. M. Bailey, Rother Street, Stratford-on-Avon	Mon., Wed., Fri'	Dairy produce, eggs, poultry fruit and veg.
Auction *c* & *u*	C. H. Bullard, Guild Street, Stratford-on-Avon	Mon., Wed., Fri.	Dairy produce, eggs, poultry, meat, fruit and veg.
Auction *c* & *u*	R Garrett, John Street, Stratford-on-Avon	Mon., Wed., Fri.	Dairy produce, eggs, poultry, fruit and veg.
**Auction 2400 *c* 4840 *u* (*d w.*)	Hutchings and Deer, Bridgfoot, Stratford-on-Avon	Livestock; Alt. Tues. Wool: Annually	Livestock and wool.
**Auction 250 *c* 9330 *u* (*d.w.*)	Walker Barnard & Son, Stratford-on-Avon	Alt. Tues. .	Livestock, hay and straw.
Corn Exchange 262 *c*	Stratford - on - Avon Corpn. Lessees: Stratford-on-Avon Corn Exchange Co., Ltd.	Fri.	Corn. Seeds, manures, &c.
Sutton Coldfield			
Market .. 300 *u*	Sutton Coldfield Corpn.	Sat. ..	General retail produce.
***Auction 300 *c* 700 *u*	Winterton & Sons, Lichfield	Alt. Tues. ..	Livestock and poultry.
Warwick			
Market .. 150 *u*	Warwick Corpn. ..	Sat. ..	Retail produce. Corn.†
***Auction 1500 *c* 3340 *u*	R. B. Colbourne & Thompson, Warwick	Mon. ..	Livestock, poultry, fruit, veg hay and straw.
**Auction 75 *c* 20000 *u*	John Margetts & Sons, Warwick	Alt. Wed. ..	Livestock.
Water Orton			
***Auction 650 *c* (*d.w.*) 4190 *u*	E. Whittindale, Coventry	Alt. Wed. ..	Livestock and poultry.
WORCESTERSHIRE			
Barnt Green			
**Auction 320 *c* (*d.w.*) 5578 *u*	Neasom & White, Redditch	Alt. Wed. ..	Livestock and poultry.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Bromsgrove			
**Cattle Market 530 *c* (2 *d w.*) 3950 *u*	Bromsgrove U.D.C. (2 *a.l.*)	Tues. ..	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock.
General Market 531 *c*	,, ,,	Tues., Fri., Sat.	General retail produce.
Wholesale Market 1069 *c*	Bromsgrove U D C (1 *a p*)	Tues., Fri., Sat.	Auction sales of dairy produce, eggs, fish, fruit, veg. and poultry.
Clifton-on-Teme			
***Auction *u*	Bentley, Hobbs & Mytton, Worcester	Twice annually—Spring and Autumn	Livestock.
Crowle			
***Auction 2000 *u*	Hugh Sumner, Hedges & Luce, Bromsgrove	Bi-annual sales—Apr. and Sept.	Livestock.
Droitwich			
Market .. 132 *c* 90 *u*	Droitwich Corpn. ..	Fri. . . .	Retail produce.
Auction 400 *u*	Hugh Sumner, Hedges & Luce, Bromsgrove	Fri.	Dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg., poultry.
Dudley			
Market 3080 *u*	Dudley Corpn. ..	Daily ..	General retail produce.
Evesham			
Auction 1600 *c* 900 *u*	F. & E. Beck, Evesham	Daily, except Sat.	Dairy produce, fruit, veg. and poultry.
Auction 4620 *c* 3160 *u*	Harvey Hunt, Ltd., Evesham	Daily .	Dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg. and poultry.
**Auction 3630 *u*	E. G. Righton, Jnr., Evesham	Alt. Mon.	Livestock. Corn †
Flyford Flavel			
***Auction *u*	Chappell & Foster, Bromsgrove	Three sales annually—Spring, Summer, & Autumn	Livestock and poultry.
Great Witley			
***Auction	Nock & Joseland, Kidderminster	Three sales annually—Apl., Aug. and Oct.	Livestock.
Hagley			
**Auction 7260 *u*	Chappell & Foster, Bromsgrove	Mon. ..	Livestock and poultry.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Hanbury			
***Auction 3000 *u*	(*a*) Chappell & Foster Bromsgrove (*b*) Hugh Sumner, Hedges & Luce, Bromsgrove	Three sales annually—Spring, Summer & Autumn	Livestock.
Kidderminster			
**Cattle and Wholesale Markets 4319 *c* 3784 *u* (2 *d.w.*)	Kidderminster Corpn. (3 *a.l.* and 3 *a p.*)	Cattle: Alt. Tues. Produce: Thurs.	Auction sales of livestock, poultry, fruit and veg.
General Market 2170 *c*	,, ,,	Thurs., Sat.	General retail produce.
Pensax			
***Auction *u*	G H. Banks, Kidderminster	Spring and Autumn	Store Cattle.
Pershore			
Central Market 800 *c*	The Central Market (Pershore), Ltd.	Mon to Fri.	Auction sales of dairy produce, eggs, poultry, fruit and veg.
Co-operative Market 5182 *c* 2563 *u*	The Pershore Co-operative Fruit Market Ltd.	Mon. to Fri. (May to Nov.) Mon., Wed., Thurs. (Dec. to Apl.)	Private treaty and auction sales of dairy produce, eggs, poultry, fruit and veg.
Redditch			
Market . 730 *u*	Redditch U.D.C. .	Tues., Thurs., Fri., Sat.	General retail produce.
Shipston-on-Stour			
**Auction 1210 *u*	Bosley & Harper, Shipston-on-Stour	Alt. Wed. ..	Livestock.
Stourbridge			
Market .. 920 *c*	Stourbridge Corpn...	Daily ..	General retail produce.
***Auction 200 *c* 5000 *u*	H. King & Son, Stourbridge	Alt. Tues. ..	Livestock.
Tenbury			
Auction: Produce 600 *c* **Cattle 620 *c* 4500 *u* (*d.w.*)	Edwards, Russell & Baldwin, Tenbury	Alt. Tues. ..	Livestock, dairy produce, eggs, poultry, fruit and veg
Upton-on-Severn			
**Auction 2900 *u* (*d.w.*)	Moore & Sons, Tewkesbury	Alt. Wed. ..	Livestock and poultry.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Worcester			
*Cattle Market 915 *c* 12745 *u* (3 *d.w.*) (*Public Slaughter-house*)	Worcester Corpn. (3 *a.l.*)	Mon. ..	Auction and private treaty sales of live-stock. Auction sales of poultry.
Fruit and Veg. Market 600 *c* 180 *u*	,, ,, (Lessees: Worcester-shire Farmers, Ltd.)	Mon. to Fri. during fruit season. Tues. and Fri. re-mainder of year.	Auction sales of dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg and poultry.
General Market 1810 *c*	Worcester Corpn. ..	Daily. ..	Retail produce.
Hop Market 360 *u*	,, ,, ..	Sat. during season	Hops.
Meat and Fish Market 750 *c*	,, ,, ..	Daily ..	Retail fish and meat.
Corn Exchange	——	Sat. ..	Corn.

NOTE ON LIVESTOCK MARKET DAYS AND TIMES.

With the exception of Birmingham pig market, which opens at 6 o'clock in the morning, and some 15 markets which are held after mid-day in order, usually, to avoid clashing with other neighbouring markets, the great majority of the large and medium-sized livestock markets in the Midlands commence operations some time between 10 and 12 in the morning. The most popular times are, in order, 11, 11.30 and 10.30 a.m. A few markets start earlier than 10 o'clock, but in these cases there is usually some local reason, such as the necessity for entraining the stock sold before a certain time in order to catch a through connection.

An analysis of the days of the week on which the Midland livestock markets are held reveals the fact that 87 weekly and 77 fortnightly fat-stock markets are held on the first three days of the week, as compared with 20 weekly and 15 fortnightly markets held on the last three days. Monday is the most popular day, with 69 weekly and fortnightly markets; the numbers fall as the week proceeds until Friday and Saturday have but seven each.

APPENDIX III.

Agricultural Fairs in the Midland Counties.

* Held on same day as usual market.
** No other markets or sales held.

(This table is compiled from information furnished to the Ministry from various sources regarding the fairs enumerated.

Location.	Approximate Date.	Type.
Bedfordshire		
Biggleswade.. ..	Feb. 14th	Horses.
**Elstow	May 15th	Horses, Ponies.
	Nov. 5th	
**Potton . ..	1st Mon. after Jan 25th ..	Horses.
Cambs. & Isle of Ely		
Cambridge	June 24th ..	Horses.
	Sept. 24th .. (Sturbridge Fair)	
Ely . ..	*Last Thurs. in May and two following days	Livestock, Produce.
	*Last Thurs. in Oct. and two following days (If May fair falls on Ascension Day, fair held in previous week)	
Whittlesey .. .	June 13th	Horses.
Wisbech ..	*2nd Thurs. in May ..	Horses, Cattle.
	*1st Thurs. in Aug. ..	Cattle.
	July 25th	Horses.
Cheshire		
Macclesfield ..	Mar. 6th	Horses, Cattle.
	Apr. 4th .. .	
	May 6th	
	June 22nd .	
	July 11th .	
	Aug. 12th	
	Sept. 4th ..	
	Oct. 4th	
	Nov. 11th (on following day if date falls on Sunday)	
Whaley Bridge ..	Jan. 26th	Cattle.
	Apr. 26th.. ..	
	July 26th.. ..	
	Oct. 26th . ..	
Derbyshire		
Alfreton	July 31st	Horses, Cattle, Sheep.
Bakewell	*Easter Mon. ..	Livestock, Horses.
	*Whit. Mon. ..	
	*Mon. before Aug. 26th	
	*Mon. after Oct. 10th	
	*Mon. after Nov. 11th	

Location.	Approximate Date.	Type.
Derbyshire—*cont.*		
Buxton	Mon. before 2nd Wed. in Sept.	Livestock, Horses.
	Oct. 28th ..	
Chesterfield	*Last Sats. in Jan., Feb., Sept. and Nov.	Cattle, Sheep, Horses.
	*First Sats. in Apr., May and July ..	
Derby	*Tues. before Easter	Fat Cattle, Calves, Sheep, Pigs.
	*Tues. before Whitsun	
	*Fri. after Easter ..	Horses, Store Cattle, Calves, Pigs.
	*Fri. after Whitsun	
**Hartington		
1. Newhaven Fair	Tues. before 2nd Wed. in Sept.	Cattle, Sheep, Horses.
2. Oldhaven Fair	Oct. 30th (except when date falls on a Sun.)	Rams, Sheep (mainly stores), Cattle, Horses.
**Hathersage ..	1st Fri. after Sun. nearest to Oct. 11th.	Sheep (mainly), Horses, Cattle, Pigs
**Higham	1st Wed. after New Year's Day ..	Cattle.
Ripley	Nearest Thurs. to Oct. 23rd	Livestock, Horses.
**Tideswell	May 15th (when date falls on a Sun., Parish Council fixes date)	Livestock, Horses.
	Oct. 29th (do., do.) 2nd Wed. in Sept.	
Gloucestershire		
Bristol	*1st Thurs. in Mar.	Livestock.
	*1st Thurs. in Sept.	
	2nd Wed. in Mar.	Leather, Wool.
	2nd Wed. in Sept.	
	1st Thurs. in Mar. and previous day ..	Seeds.
Gloucester	*1st Sat. in Apr.	Young Cattle, Horses
	*1st Sat. in July ..	Cattle, Horses.
	*Last Sat. in Nov...	
	Sept. 28th (Barton Fair)	Rams, Breeding Ewes, Store Lambs, a few Horses.
**Marshfield	May 24th	Livestock.
	Oct. 24th ..	
**Stow-on-the-Wold ..	May 12th and day after	Horses.
	Oct. 24th and day after	
Herefordshire		
Brampton Bryan ..	June 22nd	Horses.
Ewyas Harold ..	Mar 7th	Store Stock.
	May 2nd	
	Aug. 8th	
	Sept. 9th	Sheep (ewes mainly).
	Oct. 10th	Store Stock.
	Dec. 19th	Cattle (mainly fat stock).

Location.	Approximate Date.	Type.
Herefordshire—*cont*		
Fawley	April	Livestock.
Hereford	*1st Wed. after Feb. 2nd	Livestock, Produce.
	* ,, ,, ,, Mar. 2nd	
	* ,, ,, in Apr.	
	* ,, ,, after May 2nd	
	* ,, ,, in July..	
	*3rd ,, ,, Aug.	
	* ,, ,, ,, Oct.	
	*2nd ,, ,, Dec.	
**Huntington	July 18th	Horses (mainly Welsh ponies), Cattle, Sheep.
	Nov. 13th.. ..	
**Kingsland . ..	Oct. 11th (or day following if date falls on a Sun.)	Horses, foals.
**Longtown	Feb. 14th ..	Store Stock.
	Apr. 25th ..	
	Sept. 21st..	Sheep.
	Nov. 14th..	Store Stock.
Huntingdonshire		
St. Ives	Whit. Mon. ..	Horses.
	*2nd Mon. in Oct...	
St. Neots	*Ascension Day ..	Cattle, Horses.
	*3rd Thurs. in Sept.	
Leicestershire ..		
**Belton	Mon. after Trinity Week	Horses (Cattle, &c., can be sold).
Hinckley	Aug. 26th..	Welsh Ponies.
Leicester	2nd Fri. in Mar...	Cattle, Sheep, Horses, Produce.
	,, ,, ,, May ..	
	,, ,, ,, July ..	
	,, ,, ,, Oct. ..	
	,, ,, ,, Dec. ..	
	2nd Thurs. in Oct. ..	Sheep, Horses.
Loughborough ..	2nd Thurs. in Nov. ..	Horses, Cattle.
Market Bosworth ..	May 6th and 7th	Cattle, Sheep.
Lincolnshire (Holland)		
Boston	May 4th	Sheep, Bulls.
	May 5th	Cattle.
	Sept. 15th	Cattle, Sheep, Foals.
	Nov. 18th..	Horses.
Donington	May 26th (or Mon. following if date falls on a Sun.)	Livestock (mainly horses).
	Sept 4th (or Mon following if date falls on a Sun.)	Livestock.
	Oct 17th (or Mon. following if date falls on a Sun.)	

Location.	Approximate Date.	Type.
Lincolnshire (Holland) —*contd.*		
Holbeach	May 17th	Horses (particularly cart horses).
	Sept. 17th ..	
Spalding	*Tues. after May 4th	Cattle, Sheep, Horses.
	*Tues. nearest Sept. 25th	
Lincolnshire (Kesteven)		
Bourne	*1st Thurs. in April ..	Store Cattle.
	*1st Thurs. after May 5th	
	*Last Thurs. in Sept.	
	*Last Thurs in Oct. ..	Horses, Store Cattle.
**Corby	Mon. before Oct. 11th ..	Sheep, a few Cattle and Horses.
Sleaford	*Plough Mon. (2nd Mon in Jan)	Store Cattle and Sheep.
	*Easter Mon. ..	
	*Mon. nearest to Oct 20th	
Stamford	Tues. before Candlemas Day	Horses, Cattle, Sheep.
	*Mon. before May 12th ..	Cattle, Sheep, Cheese, Vegetables.
	*Mon. after 4th Sun. in Lent. (Mid Lent Fair)	Horses.
	Nov. 8th (St. Simon's and St. Jude's Fair)	Horses, Sheep, Cattle.
	Nov. 9th (St. Simon's and St. Jude's Fair)	
**Stow Green	June 12th..	Horses (mainly young Irish and Welsh), a few Store Stock.
	1st Wed. and Thurs. in July.	Wool.
Lincolnshire (Lindsey)		
Alford	*Whit Tuesday	Cattle, Sheep.
	July 31st	Sheep.
	Sept. 17th ..	
	Nov. 8th	Cattle, Sheep.
	Last week in Oct. ..	Bulls.
Brigg..	Apr. 8th	Bulls and store stock.
	Sept. 16th..	Rams, Breeding Ewes (mainly of Lincoln breed).
**Caistor	Fri. before Palm Sun. ..	Sheep.
	Sat. ,, ,, ,, ..	Cattle, Horses.
	Fri. after Oct. 11th ..	Sheep.
	Sat ,, ,, ,, ..	Cattle, Horses.
**Epworth	1st Thurs. after May 1st..	Horses, Cattle.
	1st Thurs. after Sept. 29th	Sheep, Pigs.
Gainsborough ..	*Easter Tues and Wed. ..	Cattle.
	*Tues. and Wed. after Oct. 20th.	Cattle, Sheep.
Horncastle	*3rd Thurs. in Lent in any year when Easter falls late.	Cattle, Sheep.
	*5th Thurs. in Lent.	
	*Last Thurs. in Lent.	

Location.	Approximate Date.	Type.
Lincolnshire (Lindsey) —*cont.*		
Horncastle—*cont.*	June 21st	Horses.
	June 22nd (except when one of the days falls on a Sun.)	Cattle, Sheep.
	1st whole week in Aug. ..	Horses.
	*Thurs. of 1st whole week in Aug.	Cattle, Sheep.
	*2nd Thurs. in Sept. ..	Rams, Sheep, Cattle.
	*Last Thurs. in Oct. ..	Sheep, Cattle, Horses.
Lincoln	Last whole week in Apr., 1st 3 days.	Horses.
	Last whole week in Apr., 4th day.	Sheep, Bulls.
	Last whole week in Apr., 5th day	Cattle.
	*1st Fri. in July	Rams.
	*3rd ,, ,, Oct... ..	Sheep, Horses.
	*3rd ,, ,, Nov. ..	Sheep, Cattle.
	*Fri. after Sept. 12th ..	Rams, Horses.
Louth	Apr. 29th and 30th ..	Sheep (1st day). Cattle, Horses (2nd day)
	Nov. 23rd..	Horses.
Market Rasen ..	*4th Tues. in Lent.. .. (Spring Fair).	Cattle.
	Sept. 25th .. .. (Autumn Fair).	Livestock.
**Partney	Aug. 1st	Sheep (stores and breeding), a few foals.
	Aug. 25th.. ..	
	Sept. 18th.. ..	
**Saltfleet	Oct. 3rd	Horses (mainly cart colts).
Scunthorpe	Sept. (dates fixed by Market Committee)	Sheep. (Lincoln Longwool rams and ewes, and Lincoln cross-bred sheep).
Spilsby	*1st Mon. after July 12th.	Horses.
**Spridlington ..	Aug.	Livestock.
**Tattershall	Sept. 25th	Horses, Cattle, Sheep
**Wragby	May 1st	Livestock.
	Sept. 28th and 29th	
	1st Thurs. in Nov.	
Monmouthshire		
Abergavenny ..	*3rd Tues. in Jan.	..
	* ,, ,, ,, Mar.	Livestock, Horses.
	* ,, ,, ,, June	
	* ,, ,, ,, Nov.	
	*Last ,, ,, July	
**Blaenavon	1st Mon. in Apr...	Livestock.
	,, ,, ,, Sept.	
Chepstow	1st Thurs. in Oct. ..	Horses.
Monmouth	2nd Mon. in May..	Livestock.
	Nov. 22nd ..	

Location.	Approximate Date.	Type.
Monmouthshire—*cont.*		
Newport	*2nd Wed. in Apr. *Whit. Wed. .. *2nd Wed. in Aug. *2nd Wed. in Nov.	Livestock.
	June 23rd	Wool.
Pontypool	Apr. 2nd .. .. Apr. 22nd.. .. July 5th .. .. Oct. 10th	Livestock, Produce.
Usk	Apr. 20th .. .. Trinity Mon. ..	Livestock.
	Oct. 29th	Livestock (mainly horses).
	Dec. 16th	Livestock (mainly fat stock).
Northamptonshire		
Northampton ..	3rd Fri. in Feb.	Store Cattle.
	Sat. nearest June 24th	Horses, Cattle.
	Sept. 19th (or day after if date falls on a Sun.)	Rams,
	1st Thurs. in Nov. 3rd Fri. in Nov. (Corporation can alter dates by byelaws).	Store Cattle.
Peterborough ..	1st Tues, Wed. and Thurs. in Oct. (Peterborough Bridge Fair).	Horses, Cattle, Rams, Wood. (Fair for each commodity held in a separate meadow)
**Rothwell	Trinity Mon. and 4 following days	Horses, Cattle.
Thrapston	*1st Tues. in May.. * ,, ,, after Oct. 11th	Livestock, Produce.
	*1st Tues. in Aug... ..	Cattle.
	(The Market Company have power to alter the dates).	
Nottinghamshire		
East Retford ..	Mar. 23rd.	Horses (a small number).
	Oct. 2nd	Sheep, Cattle.
Eastwood	1st Mon. in May	Cattle, Sheep, Pigs (very small numbers).
Mansfield	2nd Thurs. in July ..	Horses, Cattle, Sheep.
	2nd Thurs. in Oct. (Cheese Fair)	Cheese (very small quantity), Sheep, Cattle, Horses.
Newark	14 days before Good Fri. May 14th .. *Whit. Tues. ..	Cattle, Sheep.
	Aug. 2nd .. *Wed. before Oct. 2nd.	Sheep.
	Nov. 1st .. .. Mon. before Dec. 11th	Cattle, Sheep.

Location.	Approximate Date.	Type.
Nottinghamshire —*cont.*		
Nottingham ..	Thurs. before Good Fri. (Easter Fair) 1st Thurs. in Oct. .. (Goose Fair)	Livestock (mainly sheep, cattle and horses), and a small quantity of Cheese.
**Southwell	3rd Mon. in Apr. ,, ,, ,, Sept.	Livestock, Produce.
Tuxford	May 12th (or day after if date falls on a Sun.) Sept. 25th (varying to Sept. 28th) ..	Sheep, Pigs, Store Cattle.
Oxfordshire		
**Bampton	Aug. 25th and 26th ..	Horses.
Banbury	Mon. and Tues. before 1st Thurs. in Jan, after Old Twelfth Day	Horses.
Bicester	*Fri. nearest Aug. 5th ..	Sheep, a few Horses.
Henley-on-Thames..	Mar. 7th	Horses.
Oxford	*2nd Wed. in Aug. ..	Pedigree Oxford and Hampshire Down, Ryeland and Suffolk Rams and Breeding Ewes, and Store Sheep.
**Stokenchurch ..	July 10th	Horses.
Thame	Oct. 11th	Horses.
Shropshire		
Bridgnorth	May 1st Oct 29th (St Luke's Fair)	Livestock.
Church Stretton ..	Sept. 25th	Sheep, Horses. (Mainly Kerry Hill sheep, and ponies).
Market Drayton ..	Oct. 24th	Horses (mainly) a few cattle and sheep.
Much Wenlock ..	Christmas	Poultry.
Westbury	Oct.	Horses.
Staffordshire		
Leek	*Wed. before Feb. 13th *Easter Wed. .. *Whit. Wed. .. *1st Wed. in July .. *Last Wed. in July *Wed. after Oct. 10th *Wed after Christmas Day (or Thurs. if Christmas Day is a Wed.).	Livestock, Produce.
	May 18th .. .. Nov. 13th.. ..	Livestock, Horses.

Location.	Approximate Date.	Type.
Staffordshire—*cont.*		
Newcastle-under-Lyme.	*12 monthly Fairs held annually. *Principal Fairs.* *2nd Mon. in Jan... (Newmarket Fair) *Easter Mon. .. (Easter Fair) *Mon. before Shrove Tues. (Shrove Fair) *Whit. Mon. .. (Whit. Fair) *Mon. after Sept. 11th (Wakes Fair) *1st Mon. in Nov. (Cold Fair)	Livestock, Produce.
	*Mon. before July 15th (Wool Fair)	Wool.
Rugeley	June 1st to 5th	Horses.
	June 6th	Horses, Cattle.
Warwickshire		
Rugby	Mon. before Nov. 19th and 5 following days	Cattle, Horses.
	Nov. 22nd or Tues. after if date falls on a Sun. or Mon... .. (Martinmas Fair)	Store Cattle.
Warwick	*2nd Mon. in Nov. ..	Horses, a few Store Cattle.
Worcestershire		
Bromsgrove	June 24th.. .. .. (Midsummer Day Fair)	Horses.
Pershore	June 26th..	Horses.
Worcester	Sept. 19th	Sheep, Rams. Cattle, (mainly Irish). Horses (mainly Irish and Welsh), Hops.

APPENDIX IV.

Statement showing the Live Stock Markets and Auctions in the Midland Counties arranged according to the total number of Cattle, Calves, Sheep and Pigs passing through each during a recent typical year. Where there are two or more Live Stock Markets or Auctions in a town, the total number of the various classes of Live Stock passing through all the Markets is given.

Market.	Frequency.	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Total.
Shrewsbury ..	Twice weekly ..	53,228	9,857	65,518	38,312	166,915
Birmingham .. (including King's Norton)	Daily except Sats. (Pigs); fortnightly (other stock)	300	600	400	159,000	160,300
Gloucester .	Twice weekly ..	24,469	13,369	59,849	52,588	150,275
Hereford ..	Weekly ..	28,240	8,230	78,229	28,976	143,675
Oswestry ..	,, ..	26,037	9,765	70,849	34,966	141,617
Rugby .. .	,, ..	31,515	4,017	81,066	9,213	125,811
Northampton ..	Twice weekly ..	34,865	3,601	61,665	17,882	118,013
Wolverhampton	Daily (Pigs); weekly (other stock) ..	12,671	2,000	53,162	44,773	112,606
Leicester ..	Twice weekly ..	30,996	4,195	65,755	10,975	111,921
Derby .. .	,, ,,	32,348	13,909	55,291	8,320	109,868
Nottingham ..	,, ,, ..	28,307	3,914	50,366	22,384	104,971
Banbury .	Weekly ..	33,329	2,597	62,075	6,091	104,092
Craven Arms .	Fortnightly ..	9,622	1,298	73,264	12,998	97,182
Wellington ..	Weekly ..	12,360	4,180	46,114	21,128	83,782
Worcester ..	,, .	10,000	4,000	45,000	24,000	83,000
Cambridge .	,, ..	10,529	5,366	25,559	41,317	82,771
Crewe .. .	,, ..	12,991	8,479	35,130	24,530	81,130
Chester ..	Twice weekly .	20,574	10,243	30,768	18,846	80,431
Abergavenny .	Weekly ..	5,000	1,500	70,000	2,500	79,000
Market Drayton	,, ..	25,000	3,750	25,000	25,000	78,750
Melton Mowbray	,, ..	17,500	6,000	40,000	10,000	73,500
St. Ives ..	,, .	16,500	1,500	20,000	25,000	63,000
Peterborough	Twice weekly ..	14,649	1,085	21,350	24,981	62,065
Mansfield .	Weekly .	10,000	1,000	30,000	18,000	59,000
Leominster ..	Fortnightly ..	14,975	1,875	21,750	16,250	54,850
Kidderminster	,, ..	5,778	1,825	28,494	18,596	54,693
Penkridge .	Weekly ..	13,000	4,500	27,000	9,500	54,000
Louth	,, ..	9,000	—	34,500	6,000	49,500
Market Harborough .	,, ..	15,000	1,400	29,000	3,400	48,800
Sleaford ..	,, ..	3,750	450	33,000	11,500	48,700
Stratford - on - Avon ..	Fortnightly ..	7,700	1,875	23,000	15,000	47,575
Lincoln ..	Twice weekly ..	5,703	198	31,753	9,053	46,707
Newark ..	,, ,, ..	8,757	777	27,987	8,499	46,020
Lichfield ..	Fortnightly ..	9,350	2,800	23,000	9,500	44,650
Whitchurch ..	Weekly ..	13,750	8,750	5,000	15,000	42,500
Grantham ..	,, ..	6,800	750	27,000	6,100	40,650
Stamford ..	Twice weekly ..	5,731	254	26,808	6,013	38,806
Kington ..	Fortnightly ..	150	798	34,762	2,229	37,939

Market.	Frequency.	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Total.
Beeston ..	Weekly ..	7,022	9,926	4,533	15,919	37,400
Bristol ..	,, ..	33,270	485	3,613	—	37,368
Ellesmere	Fortnightly ..	4,250	6,250	10,000	16,500	37,000
Retford ..	Weekly ..	4,870	230	20,500	10,000	35,600
Oxford ..	,, ..	6,479	1,925	22,769	4,138	35,311
Usk	Fortnightly ..	4,617	1,080	19,737	9,207	34,641
Newport (Mon.)	Weekly ..	5,517	2,840	16,159	9,721	34,237
Gainsborough ..	,, ..	5,000	50	20,000	8,000	33,050
Ludlow ..	Fortnightly ..	5,000	—	22,000	5,000	32,000
Uttoxeter ..	Weekly ..	8,750	8,750	10,000	4,375	31,875
Warwick ..	,, ..	8,000	1,400	16,200	5,500	31,100
Kettering ..	,, ..	5,947	353	18,054	5,883	30,237
Monmouth ..	Fortnightly ..	4,125	625	15,000	10,250	30,000
Tamworth ..	,, ..	9,000	2,000	13,000	5,000	29,000
Bromsgrove ..	Weekly ..	6,000	2,750	10,000	10,000	28,750
Tenbury ..	Fortnightly ..	8,125	750	12,500	6,250	27,625
Chepstow ..	,, ..	1,500	500	15,000	9,000	26,000
Bromyard ..	,, ..	5,000	750	12,500	7,500	25,750
Shipston - on - Stour ..	,, ..	5,500	500	14,500	5,000	25,500
Andoversford ..	,, ..	2,000	750	15,000	6,500	24,250
Hagley.. ..	Weekly ..	1,700	300	15,000	7,000	24,000
March ..	,, ..	2,250	350	1,000	20,000	23,600
Thame ..	,, ..	3,366	3,152	8,575	8,202	23,295
Eccleshall ..	Fortnightly ..	5,000	2,600	10,000	5,000	22,600
Spalding ..	Weekly ..	5,250	600	2,850	13,500	22,200
Tewkesbury ..	Fortnightly ..	3,009	1,415	9,584	7,794	21,802
Ashbourne ..	,, ..	7,800	4,000	8,000	2,000	21,800
Burton - on - Trent ..	Weekly ..	5,000	3,100	9,000	4,500	21,600
Bakewell ..	,, ..	10,000	5,500	6,000	100	21,600
Boston ..	,, ..	4,777	—	9,541	7,024	21,342
Bridgnorth ..	Fortnightly ..	2,996	650	7,320	10,116	21,082
Newport (Salop)	,, ..	4,251	1,577	11,949	3,179	20,956
Ullesthorpe ..	Weekly ..	4,000	750	15,000	1,200	20,950
Yate	Fortnightly ..	2,675	1,625	8,250	7,500	20,050
Bourne.. ..	Weekly ..	2,000	—	10,000	7,000	19,000
Leek	,, ..	12,500	4,000	2,200	300	19,000
Thrapston ..	,, ..	3,000	1,000	7,500	7,500	19,000
Chipping Sodbury	Fortnightly ..	2,625	2,250	11,250	2,750	18,875
Barnetby ..	,, ..	2,750	50	13,750	1,875	18,425
Luton	Weekly ..	1,833	708	7,659	8,160	18,360
Grimsby ..	,, ..	3,200	350	11,000	3,750	18,300
Stone	Fortnightly ..	5,200	2,600	7,800	2,600	18,200
Leamington Spa	,, ..	2,000	1,000	12,000	3,000	18,000
Knowle ..	,, ..	5,000	900	8,000	4,000	17,900
Cleobury Mortimer	,, ..	2,250	250	12,500	2,800	17,800

NOTE.—The figures for Bedford Market which would appear on this page have been withheld.

Market.	Frequency.	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Total.
Ashby-de-la-Zouch ..	Fortnightly ..	5,200	1,850	6,500	4,200	17,750
Ledbury ..	,, ..	3,250	500	10,000	4,000	17,750
Moreton-in-Marsh..	Monthly ..	2,520	240	10,800	3,600	17,160
Nuneaton ..	Fortnightly ..	3,900	1,560	5,200	6,000	16,660
Hampton-in-Arden ..	,, ..	4,500	1,750	6,000	4,000	16,250
Atherstone ..	,, ..	3,281	1,393	7,522	3,225	15,421
Wellingborough	Weekly ..	1,750	500	7,000	6,000	15,250
Upton-on-Severn ..	Fortnightly ..	2,800	6,600	5,200	600	15,200
Barnt Green ..	,, ..	3,000	1,000	5,000	6,000	15,000
Bishops Castle	,, ..	4,268	474	9,958	—	14,700
Coventry ..	Weekly ..	2,550	1,500	8,000	2,500	14,550
Newcastle-under-Lyme ..	,, ..	5,000	2,500	2,000	5,000	14,500
Severn Tunnel Junction ..	Fortnightly ..	1,250	500	8,500	4,000	14,250
Evesham ..	,, ..	2,727	—	5,529	5,857	14,113
Charfield ..	,, ..	2,500	3,000	1,500	7,000	14,000
Worksop ..	Weekly .	1,800	500	6,800	4,850	13,950
Spilsby.. ..	,, ..	1,784	50	6,525	5,423	13,782
Meir . ..	Fortnightly ..	3,900	1,820	5,200	2,600	13,520
Market Rasen..	Weekly ..	500	—	8,000	5,000	13,500
Malpas ..	Fortnightly ..	1,875	1,250	2,500	7,500	13,125
Cirencester .	Monthly ..	5,799	1,204	3,684	2,316	13,003
Loughborough	Weekly ..	2,000	2,000	4,000	5,000	13,000
Horncastle ..	Fortnightly ..	558	—	11,839	93	12,490
Bicester ..	,, ..	1,750	500	7,500	2,500	12,250
Wem	,, ..	2,000	2,600	2,500	5,000	12,100
Oakham .	Weekly ..	1,350	15	8,819	1,724	11,908
St. Neots ..	,, .	860	225	1,250	9,400	11,735
Ross	Fortnightly ..	2,875	700	5,000	3,120	11,695
Cannock ..	,, ..	2,000	—	3,000	6,500	11,500
Congleton ..	Weekly ..	1,500	2,000	5,000	3,000	11,500
Henley-in-Arden	Fortnightly ..	3,250	1,000	5,150	2,000	11,400
Stafford ..	Weekly ..	3,500	1,200	2,500	4,000	11,200
Bourton-on-the-Water ..	Monthly .	630	60	6,600	2,860	10,150
Leighton Buzzard .. .	Weekly ..	500	1,900	6,000	1,700	10,100
Chipping Campden	Monthly ..	2,000	315	5,100	2,600	10,015
Daventry ..	Weekly ..	4,100	400	5,350	150	10,000
Rugeley ..	Fortnightly ..	2,500	1,000	3,500	3,000	10,000
Shifnal ..	,, ..	1,726	534	6,309	1,249	9,818
Much Wenlock	,, ..	1,600	—	5,000	3,000	9,600
Witney ..	,, ..	400	—	8,000	1,000	9,400
Norton Bridge..	,,	2,600	780	5,200	780	9,360
Northwich ..	Weekly ..	750	2,500	3,750	2,250	9,250
Water Orton ..	Fortnightly ..	3,050	1,600	3,000	1,500	9,150
Alford	Weekly ..	1,698	200	5,602	1,500	9,000

Market.	Frequency.	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Total.
Hodnet ..	Weekly ..	1,500	1,500	5,000	1,000	9,000
Ewyas Harold..	Fortnightly ..	750	100	7,500	500	8,850
Hooton ..	Weekly ..	320	2,500	5,000	1,000	8,820
Blythe Bridge..	Fortnightly ..	3,750	1,250	2,500	1,250	8,750
Woofferton ..	Monthly ..	1,500	150	6,000	1,000	8,650
Great Barr ..	Fortnightly ..	1,700	500	4,300	1,800	8,300
Baschurch ..	„ ..	1,250	750	5,000	1,250	8,250
Honeybourne ..	Tri-annually ..	525	—	7,680	—	8,205
Aynho	Twice monthly	2,160	—	6,000	—	8,160
Brigg	Fortnightly (Fat) Weekly (Store).. ..	2,625	250	3,750	1,500	8,125
Moreton Pinkney	Fortnightly ..	1,110	870	5,062	1,029	8,071
Ely	Weekly ..	2,500	—	—	5,500	8,000
Kingham ..	Monthly ..	1,440	—	4,800	1,560	7,800
Wisbech ..	Twice weekly..	5,750	300	600	1,000	7,650
Dorrington ..	Fortnightly (every 3 w'ks. in July and Aug.) ..	2,000	—	5,000	600	7,600
Peterchurch ..	Fortnightly ..	1,000	—	6,350	250	7,600
Thornbury ..	„ ..	1,800	871	1,200	3,324	7,195
Chesterfield ..	Weekly ..	3,737	278	2,656	329	7,000
Market Bosworth ..	Fortnightly ..	2,000	—	3,000	2,000	7,000
Chipping Norton	Monthly ..	271	224	3,388	2,981	6,864
Wrenbury ..	Fortnightly ..	2,791	1,733	1,260	1,057	6,841
Bridgeyate ..	„ ..	1,250	750	1,250	3,375	6,625
Scunthorpe ..	Weekly ..	500	20	2,000	4,000	6,520
Skegness ..	„ ..	350	—	3,000	3,000	6,350
Tetbury ..	Monthly ..	938	905	3,000	1,200	6,043
Sutton Coldfield	Fortnightly ..	1,300	780	2,600	1,350	6,030
Macclesfield ..	Weekly ..	1,500	2,500	1,500	500	6,000
Lechlade ..	Monthly ..	1,100	—	4,000	700	5,800
Alfreton ..	Weekly ..	1,500	1,000	1,750	1,500	5,750
Donington ..	„ ..	3,250	—	1,000	1,500	5,750
Stourbridge ..	Fortnightly ..	1,250	250	3,750	500	5,750
Chelford ..	Weekly ..	1,308	1,702	958	1,708	5,676
Tilton-on-the-Hill	Periodically during Spring and Autumn	800	—	4,800	—	5,600
Newent ..	Twice weekly..	1,175	200	2,675	1,350	5,400
Burgh-le-Marsh	Weekly Apl. to Nov. M'thly remainder of year ..	3,413	—	1,662	—	5,075
Buxton ..	Fortnightly ..	338	84	4,354	169	4,945
Coalville ..	„ ..	775	500	625	3,000	4,900
Berkeley Road	Monthly ..	959	666	1,108	1,709	4,442
Great Witley ..	Tri-annually ..	1,302	—	2,958	98	4,358
Fairford ..	Monthly ..	250	500	2,500	1,000	4,250

Market.	Frequency.	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Total.
Marple ..	Weekly ..	1,800	2,300	—	50	4,150
Biggleswade ..	Weekly ..	750	100	1,250	2,000	4,100
Flyford Flavel	Tri-annually ..	900	40	3,000	—	3,940
Oundle ..	Weekly ..	1,000	50	2,650	100	3,800
Charlbury ..	Monthly (Sept. to Mar.)	360	—	2,400	950	3,710
Fenny Compton	Fortnightly (May to Dec.)	170	—	3,400	.. —	3,570
Chapel-en-le-Frith ..	Fortnightly ..	1,282	203	1,690	136	3,311
Winchcombe ..	Monthly ..	550	240	1,800	600	3,190
Littledean ..	Bi-annually ..	20	—	3,000	—	3,020
Altrincham ..	Weekly ..	1,000	800	500	700	3,000
Dunstable ..	,, ..	137	—	2,153	679	2,969
Marshfield (Mon.) .	Fortnightly ..	300	200	1,800	400	2,700
Nailsworth ..	Monthly ..	345	156	1,081	711	2,293
Hanbury ..	Tri-annually ..	700	20	1,400	—	2,120
Clun	Weekly (June, Sept., Oct.)..	11	—	2,069	—	2,080
Alcester .	Fortnightly ..	540	—	1,300	128	1,968
Lutterworth ..	Monthly ..	500	100	1,200	150	1,950
Uppingham ..	Weekly ..	300	100	1,550	—	1,950
Byfield.. ..	Fortnightly ..	220	25	1,680	12	1,937
Minsterley ..	Monthly ..	360	—	650	900	1,910
Beckford ..	,, ..	265	43	1,507	85	1,900
Shipton-under Wychwood ..	,, ..	140	—	1,000	720	1,860
Gnosall ..	Bi-annually ..	700	—	1,150	—	1,850
*Knutsford ..	Weekly ..	400	400	800	200	1,800
Woodstock ..	,, ..	110	—	1,500	100	1,710
Longville ..	Monthly ..	967	—	674	46	1,687
Greasby ..	Fortnightly ..	200	400	750	325	1,675
Lydney ..	Monthly ..	88	276	1,095	179	1,638
Huntingdon ..	Weekly ..	—	—	—	1,500	1,500
Pilning ..	Monthly ..	500	200	600	200	1,500
Raglan ..	Bi-annually ..	605	—	573	185	1,363
Soham ..	Weekly ..	—	—	—	1,359	1,359
Brackley .	Fortnightly ..	168	96	480	402	1,146
Rainow ..	,, ..	600	50	300	150	1,100
Somerton ..	Monthly (in Spring) ..	180	—	800	—	980
Crowle ..	Bi-annually ..	309	—	549	—	858
Coleford ..	Monthly ..	48	36	624	144	852
Ditton Priors	,, ..	240	50	480	70	840
Holmes Chapel	Fortnightly ..	100	220	400	100	820
Bettws-y-Crwyn	Bi-annually ..	87	—	716	—	803
Tuxford ..	Monthly ..	198	2	440	75	715
Longhope ..	Bi-annually ..	75	—	600	—	675
Clifton-on-Teme	,, ..	400	—	256	16	672

* Only 1 market held since June 7th, 1926.

Market.	Frequency.	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Total.
South Witham	Weekly during Spring and Autumn ..	400	—	200	—	600
Syston	Fortnightly ..	125	—	375	100	600
Frodsham ..	Weekly ..	150	150	200	50	550
Pensax ..	Bi-annually ..	500	—	—	—	500
Flash	Monthly ..	382	—	82	14	478
Wormelow ..	„ ..	173	—	204	88	465
Skenfrith ..	Bi-annually ..	215		100	100	415
Hinckley ..	Fortnightly ..	25	75	125	175	400
Wirksworth ..	Monthly ..	200	40	100	60	400
Henley-on-Thames ..	Weekly ..	5	100	60	200	365
Warslow ..	Periodically ..	294	—	6	—	300
Stottesden ..	3 or 4 times annually ..	58	—	173	—	231
*Pontypool ..	Weekly ..	2	9	86	27	124
Long Sutton ..	„ ..	3	3	4	90	100

* Market opened on November 24th, 1926.

Printed under the authority of His Majesty's Stationery Office
By Wyman & Sons, Limited, Fetter Lane, London, E.C. 4.



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MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES.

Markets and Fairs

in

England and Wales

(Part III. Northern Markets.)

LONDON:
PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.
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Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 120, George Street, Edinburgh;
York Street, Manchester; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff;
15, Donegall Square West, Belfast;
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1928.
Price 6d. Net.

14—40—19

— Distribution of Markets in the Northern Counties —



Fig. 1.

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(2262) Wt. 9779-2840/731. 3,000. 10/28. WY. & S., LTD. 6p. 2.

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MARKETS AND FAIRS IN ENGLAND AND WALES. PART III.—NORTHERN MARKETS.

INTRODUCTION.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, in connection with and complementary to its investigations into the marketing of agricultural produce in general, is undertaking a survey of the agricultural markets and fairs in England and Wales. The need for such a survey was emphasised by the Linlithgow Committee,* which drew attention to the lack of readily available information on the subject.

Arising out of this survey, a preliminary Report† dealing with the origin of markets, the acquisition of market rights, the administration of markets, and with market lay-outs and conditions generally, was published by the Ministry in April, 1927. This was followed in November of that year by a second Report‡ which reviewed, in some detail, the markets and fairs in the Midland Counties. The present Report is a corresponding review of the markets and fairs in the Northern Counties and will be followed by Reports in similar detail for (*a*) the Eastern and Southern Counties, and (*b*) Wales.

Part I of the present Report, taken with Appendix I, summarises the Northern markets as a whole. Section iv of Part I of the Report sets out the position regarding fairs, a list of which is given in Appendix III. Part II re-examines the market position, county by county, brief notes on one or two markets in each county being added. This should be read in conjunction with Appendix II, which is a list of markets by counties, showing, for each market, particulars such as ownership, method of sale and commodities sold. Part III of the Report describes, in some detail, a number of important markets in the area covered by the Report which have been selected for detailed description as illustrating points of special interest. Figure 1 (frontispiece) shows the geographical distribution of the Northern markets as a whole.

The reception§ accorded to the Report on the Midland Markets leads the Ministry to hope that the present Report, like its predecessor, will prove to be a valuable guide to the livestock and

* Cmd. 2008/1924.
† Economic Series No. 13.
‡ Economic Series No. 14.
§ N.F.U. Record, December, 1927.

produce markets in the area concerned and, as such, of assistance not only to producers and distributors, but to market owners and members of market committees both within and without the Northern counties.

The Ministry is glad to acknowledge the assistance rendered in connection with this Report by the Northern Markets Authorities' Association, by local authorities generally, and by individual auctioneers and market owners who have been good enough to furnish much of the information on which it is based.

PART I.—THE NORTHERN MARKETS AS A WHOLE.

(I) GENERAL.

Appendix I, page 130, classifies, by counties, the Northern markets according to ownership, *i.e.*, whether publicly or privately owned, and nature of business carried on, *i.e.*, whether retail only, wholesale only, or both wholesale and retail. It will be seen that there are 353 market authorities or market occupiers in the Northern area, compared with 414 in the Midland counties. An analysis of the Northern markets on the basis of market rights, if any, shows that 77 public and 26 private markets are carried on under Charters, 48 public markets are carried on under the Public Health Acts, 165, including 13 private markets, have been established by Local or Special Acts, while 182 markets, mainly livestock auction marts, appear not to be markets in the strictly legal sense.*

In all, there are 498 separate markets for the sale of agricultural produce and livestock in the Northern Counties, compared with 526 in the Midlands. Lancashire and the West Riding of Yorkshire head the list with 164 and 130 markets respectively. There are 165 retail markets and 66 wholesale produce markets; in addition, there are 70 produce markets where both wholesale and retail trade takes place. Of these, 131 retail markets, 45 wholesale markets and 59 wholesale and retail markets are controlled by local authorities. The total trade done in the produce markets controlled by local authorities far surpasses that done in the privately owned markets, if exchanges and produce auctions, which have more than local significance, are excluded. As in the Midlands, retail markets are mostly in public ownership, about 80 per cent. being owned by local authorities. Of the cattle markets and auctions, 43 are publicly owned and 154 are privately owned.

* *See* Economic Series No. 13, page 8.

(II) CLASSIFICATION BY COMMODITIES.

The following table gives a reclassification of the Northern markets according to commodities sold and method of sale, *i.e.*, whether by private treaty only, by auction only, or by both methods.

Commodity sold.	No. of PUBLIC Markets			No. of PRIVATE Markets.			Total number of of markets at which commodity is sold.
	Auction only.	Private Treaty only.	Both Auction and Private Treaty.	Auction only.	Private Treaty only.	Both Auction and Private Treaty	
RETAIL ONLY.							
Butter and Cheese	—	97	—	—	30	—	127
Eggs .. .	—	100	—	—	30	—	130
Fish .. .	—	98	—	—	28	—	126
Fruit and Vegetables	—	107	—	—	34	—	141
Meat . ..	—	111	—	—	32	—	143
Poultry .. .	—	87	—	—	18	—	105
WHOLESALE ONLY.							
Butter and Cheese	—	2	—	—	2	—	4
Corn	1	23	—	6	12	—	42*
Eggs	—	4	—	1	2	—	7
Fish	1	8	—	1	2	2	14
Fruit and Vegetables	2	14	—	14	4	1	35†
Livestock .. .	6	15	22	138	7	9	197‡
Meat ..	—	8	—	—	—	—	8
Poultry .. .	9	8	4	38	4	2	65
Wool .	—	2	—	3	3	—	8
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL.							
Butter and Cheese	—	21	1	—	6	—	28
Eggs .. .	—	20	1	—	6	—	27
Fish	—	11	—	1	2	—	14
Fruit and Vegetables	—	19	3	—	4	—	26
Meat . ..	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Poultry ..	—	19	2	—	2	—	23

* In addition, sales take place at 19 centres on other than market premises.
† Includes 12 markets for the sale of potatoes only, of which 9 are auctions.
‡ Includes 3 auctions for the sale of horses only.

(a) Retail.

The towns in the North, particularly in Lancashire and the West Riding of Yorkshire, are distinguished by the large number of well-equipped retail market halls. Although agricultural produce is on sale to a greater or less extent at all the retail markets, most of the retail markets in the towns handle only small quantities of home-grown produce. There are exceptions, however, such as in the retail markets at Carlisle and Preston, where home-grown produce is a prominent feature. In most centres, there appears

to be but a limited demand on the part of producers for space in retail markets from which to sell their own supplies. Although some local authorities give priority to demands for space from bona-fide producers, it is also true that, finding a more permanent and regular source of income from the rents paid by stallholders selling miscellaneous goods than from the tolls or weekly rents paid by stallholders selling irregular supplies of home-grown produce, other authorities are transforming their retail markets into arcades of stalls for the sale of general merchandise. In many of the larger towns, it is the practice to erect special stalls outside the market hall on certain days of the week for the sale of butter, eggs, dressed poultry and other farm produce. These stalls are usually on open spaces, and it is a matter for consideration whether covered accommodation ought not to be provided in growers' markets of this nature.*

(b) Wholesale.†

Butter and Cheese.—The types of cheese mostly made in the North are Lancashire cheese, in that part of the county north of the Ribble, and Wensleydale cheese, in the Yorkshire dales and parts of Durham. Cotherstone, Swaledale and Cleveland cheeses, made in Yorkshire and Durham, resemble Wensleydale.

Returns show that butter and cheese are sold wholesale in 32 markets in the northern counties. It is interesting to note that, unlike the Midlands, where sale by auction is common, sales of butter and cheese in northern markets are entirely by private treaty with the exception of a small auction at Cockermouth.

Cheese fairs, that is to say, markets for the sale of cheese only, are held at Preston and at Lancaster. Lancashire cheese is sold in these markets. In Yorkshire, the quantities of cheese on sale at local markets are small and are usually offered with other farm produce such as eggs, butter and dressed poultry. Purchasers are higglers, grocers and, owing to the small size of the cheeses, frequently consumers. Cheese is brought in for disposal in this way in nearly all the small market towns in proximity to cheesemaking districts. Barnard Castle, Richmond and Leyburn are examples of market towns where cheese is sold.

A fair amount of butter is made on the farms in Cumberland and is sold wholesale at Carlisle and Penrith and in small quantities at other local markets. Preston is an important centre for butter from North Lancashire.

Corn and Provender.—Taking the northern counties as a whole, there are 42 markets in which sales of corn are held; 7 of these are auctions. Of the corn markets, as such, 24 are under the control

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* *See* Economic Series No. 13, pages 79 and 80.

† Additional information regarding wholesale markets will be found in other Reports in the Economic Series, notably Nos. 1, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 15.

of public authorities. As in other parts of the country, there are centres where corn dealings take place on other than market premises : in the North, there are 19 such centres. The largest corn markets for farmers' business are situated at Berwick, Bridlington, Doncaster, Driffield, Goole, Malton, Selby and York. At Northallerton and Thirsk, which are of lesser importance, sales take place on market day in the market place or in local hotels. Leeds and Manchester are important factors' markets ; Leeds is important for home-grown barley, and Manchester for wheat. Hull has two corn exchanges, one where imported grain only is handled, and the other, a farmers' market, where home-grown grain, particularly wheat, is sold. Liverpool is an important centre for imported grain, and the trade in home-grown grain is relatively small. There are 30 markets in the North which report sales of hay and straw ; 10 of these are in Cumberland : the trade is done chiefly in the live-stock auction marts or by sample in the corn exchanges.

Eggs.—There are 4 public markets and 3 private markets in the northern counties in which eggs are sold wholesale only, and 27 in which both wholesale and retail sales take place. With two exceptions, the whole of the trade is by private treaty. This is in contrast to the Midlands, where eggs are sold wholesale by auction at 57 different markets. In Lancashire, which has by far the largest number of fowls per 100 acres of crops and grass of any county in England and Wales, eggs are sold wholesale in 7 markets only. Of the 27 markets in the northern counties which report both wholesale and retail sales of eggs, 21 are under public ownership. These include the general markets at towns situated in producing areas, such as Carlisle and Preston, where a considerable direct trade from producer to retailer and to consumer is carried on. Accommodation in these markets is set aside for producer-consumer transactions. In the market hall at Carlisle, provision is also made for the packing of eggs bought by trade buyers from distant centres. There are, however, no proper facilities for candling as are found in some markets in Northern Ireland and on the Continent. Covered accommodation for packing in markets where dealers buy extensively could, with advantage, be more generally provided. Of the large city wholesale markets, Leeds receives considerable supplies of home-produced eggs, but, at Liverpool and Manchester, which are favourably situated for arrivals from Ireland and North America, imported eggs appear to predominate.

Poultry.—Of the 65 markets at which poultry are sold wholesale, 12 report private treaty sales only. This is in contrast to the position regarding egg markets. Of the 53 markets at which auction selling of poultry takes place, no less than 40 are privately controlled auctions held mostly at cattle auction marts. The trade in poultry at these auction marts cannot, however, be described as important. Of the 23 markets where both wholesale and retail trade is carried on in poultry, 21 are exclusively private treaty markets ; the

majority do a substantial trade. Ripon and Northallerton private treaty markets are noteworthy in this connection. Poulton-le-Fylde and Lancaster are centres where a considerable trade is done by auction. Dressed poultry is sold in large quantities on the wholesale markets at Bradford, Leeds, Liverpool and Manchester. Liverpool and Manchester receive considerable supplies from the United States and the Continent, as well as from Ireland. In the producing areas of the North, particularly in Lancashire and Northumberland, considerable numbers of live poultry are collected from farms and sold direct to wholesalers in the large cities such as Manchester and Newcastle.

Fruit and Vegetables.—The production of potatoes and other vegetables in the North is considerable, but commercial fruit production is negligible. There are, therefore, no growers' fruit markets such as are common in the producing areas of the West Midlands. Small auction sales of vegetables take place in a few local markets in Cumberland and Northumberland. Growers' markets, mainly for the sale of vegetables, are also a feature of some towns, particularly in Lancashire. Both Blackburn and Wigan offer good examples of this type of market, which, with the development of organised collection, packing and consignment of vegetables, is likely to become of increasing importance. Of the potato markets in producing areas, special mention should be made of Ormskirk. There are also 12 private wholesale markets which report the sale of potatoes only, of which 9 are auctions. Small lots of potatoes are sold by auction in a few local produce markets, notably Malton, Sedbergh and Wigton. In producing areas throughout the northern counties, potatoes are sold at corn exchanges and general markets and in the streets. Of the wholesale potato markets in consuming centres, the most important are at Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester (Smithfield) and Sheffield (Castlefolds). At Oldham Road, Manchester, there is an important railhead potato market. In all these central markets, sales are by private treaty.

Altogether, there are 49 wholesale markets which report the sale of fruit and vegetables; of these, 38 are owned by public authorities. The most important wholesale fruit and vegetable markets in consuming centres are at Blackburn, Bradford, Halifax, Huddersfield, Hull, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle-on-Tyne and Sheffield. Whereas, up to about 40 years ago, such markets were concerned chiefly with the sale of locally grown produce and, for the remainder of their supplies, both home and imported, looked to Covent Garden, they now largely receive home-grown and Continental supplies direct from the source for sale on commission or by private treaty. Overseas supplies, other than Continental, are purchased from the port auctions at Hull, Liverpool, Manchester and Newcastle-on-Tyne. Manchester distributes fruit and vegetables over an area which comprises a population of 4,000,000. Liverpool includes in its distributing area a population exceeding 2,500,000, and also

sends supplies to North Wales, Ireland and the Isle of Man. With the development of motor transport, the radius served by these two markets is increasing and many of the smaller wholesale markets situated in towns some distance away now draw largely on Manchester and Liverpool markets, which even, at times, send supplies to all parts of the country. Leeds is the most important general trading centre in Yorkshire, and its wholesale fruit and vegetable market serves an area of about 40 miles to the north and north-west. The market at Sheffield serves a population of about 1,000,000, and that at Bradford about 750,000. The Newcastle market serves the adjoining industrial area extending from Morpeth to Darlington and some 25 miles inland. At a few of these centres, in particular at Leeds, both wholesale and retail trade is carried on under one roof. At some centres in the North, a considerable wholesale trade is carried on in areas which are not markets in the strict sense of the word; Humber Street in Hull and Queen's Square in Liverpool are examples. Fruit auctions, serving a wide radius, have been established for imported supplies, other than Continental, at Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle-on-Tyne and Hull. These port auctions are the chief sources whence the northern markets draw their supplies of case fruits from the Dominions and other distant parts. Hull, in addition to the fruit auction and what is, in effect, a wholesale market in Humber Street, has also a public wholesale market for the sale of home-grown produce.

In accommodation and efficiency, many of the northern markets are above the average of the country as a whole. So far as is known, no definite proposals are at present under consideration for the erection of new wholesale fruit and vegetable markets in the northern counties, or for the extension of existing markets, although at Blackburn and Bolton the need for improved accommodation is appreciated by the local authorities. Development of markets is in many cases held up through the difficulties of acquiring adjacent land. This has caused traders to secure premises in adjoining streets.

*Livestock**.—There are 197 livestock markets in the northern counties, of which 154 are privately owned. Of the latter, 147 are auction marts, although, at 9 of these, private treaty sales of store stock take place. Among the large and medium-sized markets controlled by local authorities, sales are entirely by private treaty at Salford—which is the largest market in the North—and at Leeds and Liverpool; at Newcastle, both private treaty and auction sales take place, while, at Hull, practically all the business is done by auction. There are auction sales in 28 local-authority markets; these are conducted by 12 auction mart companies and 82 firms of auctioneers, the latter figure including 25 firms operating in Hull market. In general, the large markets in consuming centres

* *See also* Economic Series No. 13, Chapters VI and VII.

are owned by local authorities. The pig market at Manchester and the general livestock market at Wakefield, which are private-treaty markets, are controlled, in the one case, by the railway company and, in the other, by an educational body.

In the producing areas, most of the market business is transacted in auction marts. Of the 147 private auction marts, the ownership or control of no less than 97 is vested in auction mart companies, the shareholders of which are largely farmers. The position, therefore, is different from that obtaining in the Midlands, where the majority of the private auction marts are controlled by individual auctioneers or firms of auctioneers. There are 3 examples in the North of auction mart companies controlling 4 or more private livestock auctions. One company, with headquarters at Carlisle, controls 8 auctions—7 in Cumberland and 1 in Northumberland (the same company controls 4 auction marts in Scotland); another, with offices in Penrith, controls 4 auctions in Cumberland and 1 in Westmorland; a third controls 4 auctions in the county of Durham.

The proportion of small livestock markets in the northern producing areas is fairly large, though the increasing use of motor transport for livestock* is extending the selling range of both farmers and dealers, and gradually bringing about the concentration of business on the larger markets, where, on the one hand, buyers may expect regular supplies in sufficient quantities to make it worth their while to attend, if necessary, from a distance, and, on the other, producers may expect a more stable demand at competitive prices. Progress in this direction must needs be slow, and, with a few notable exceptions—chiefly in the West Riding of Yorkshire—the area of collection of fat and store stock is returned by the livestock markets as being still within a radius of from 10 to 15 miles of the market centre.

Judged by the total head of cattle, calves, sheep and pigs handled in a recent typical year, the ten largest livestock markets in the North† are at Salford (388,870 head of stock), Carlisle (259,259), Newcastle-on-Tyne (246,429), York (243,300), Leeds (162,500), Preston (161,476), Hull (157,985), Skipton (155,620), Hexham (153,240) and Penrith (144,200). The most important market for cattle is York (82,000), followed by Carlisle (60,464) and Salford (50,573). The two largest calf markets are Preston (12,420) and Skipton (11,400). The private-treaty market at Manchester (76,000 pigs), although handling only half as many pigs as at Birmingham, is by far the largest pig market in the North. The largest sheep markets in England and Wales are all situated in the North; Salford (338,257) heads the list, followed by Carlisle (185,408), Newcastle-on-Tyne (172,389) and York (130,000). The following

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* *See* Economic Series No. 12, Fig. 22.

† For complete figures for Northern livestock markets as a whole, *see* Appendix IV, page 175.

table shows the 6 largest markets for cattle, sheep, calves and pigs in the North and Midlands, respectively :—

Kind of Stock.	Northern Area.		Midland Area.*	
	Market.	Number of animals sold in recent typical year.	Market.	Number of animals sold in recent typical year.
Cattle ..	York	82,000	Shrewsbury ..	53,228
	Carlisle ..	60,464	Northampton..	34,865
	Salford ..	50,573	Banbury ..	33,329
	Gateshead ..	45,000	Bristol ..	33,270
	Hexham ..	40,412	Derby	32,348
	Skipton ..	38,561	Rugby.. ..	31,515
Sheep ..	Salford ..	338,257	Rugby ..	81,066
	Carlisle ..	185,408	Hereford ..	78,229
	Newcastle-on-Tyne	172,389	Craven Arms . Oswestry ..	73,264 70,849
	York .. .	130,000	Abergavenny ..	70,000
	Leeds	125,000	Leicester ..	65,755
	Penrith ..	124,200		
Calves ..	Preston ..	12,420	Derby	13,909
	Skipton ..	11,400	Gloucester ..	13,369
	Kendal ..	8,845	Chester ..	10,243
	Otley	7,365	Beeston ..	9,926
	Huddersfield ..	5,000	Shrewsbury ..	9,857
	Clitheroe ..	2,784	Oswestry ..	9,765
Pigs.. ..	Manchester ..	76,000	Birmingham ..	159,000
	Newcastle-on-Tyne ..	39,992	Gloucester .. Wolverhampton	52,588 44,773
	York	30,000	Cambridge ..	41,317
	Hull	26,654	Shrewsbury ..	38,312
	Doncaster ..	25,000	Oswestry.. ..	34,966
	Preston ..	22,148		

The markets in producing areas mostly handle both fat and store stock. Among those which handle store cattle and store sheep only may be mentioned the auctions at Alston Moor, Bolton Fell and Roadhead in Cumberland, and Bellingham, Haltwhistle and Scotsgap in Northumberland. Seasonal sales of store stock are a feature of many markets, especially in the border counties ; these collecting and distributing centres for sheep and cattle coming from the North are notable for their efficiency and quick handling of large numbers of stock. Of the auction marts in producing areas which handle fat and store stock in about equal quantities, Carlisle, which is the

* *See* Appendix IV, Economic Series No. 14.

largest livestock auction centre in England and Wales, can be taken as a model for market accommodation and facilities. Darlington, Doncaster, Hellifield, Seamer, Ulverston and Wakefield are examples of markets in producing areas where fat stock predominate. Store cattle are more important than fat cattle at Berwick, Gateshead, Hexham and York. At Hexham, Rothbury, Wooler and York, store sheep outnumber fat sheep, and, at York and Preston, store pigs are more important than fat pigs. York and Carlisle are important centres for Irish store cattle. York is particularly noteworthy for the large area of covered market accommodation provided for all stock. In this respect, it resembles the cattle markets at Carlisle, Edinburgh and Glasgow. It is quite common in the North for the best dairy cows to be sold through markets. Examples of markets where dairy stock are an important feature are Carlisle, Hellifield, Penrith, Preston and Skipton.

With the exception of Hull market, practically only fat stock is handled in the livestock markets of the large consuming centres, and, with a few exceptions, business is showing a striking decline. Some of the larger towns have quite unimportant livestock markets ; Barrow-in-Furness, Bolton, Bradford, Halifax, Rochdale, Sheffield, Sunderland and Wigan are examples. These markets deal with less than 10,000 head of stock in the course of a year. It is not surprising, therefore, that, apart from Liverpool, there are no schemes for the erection of new cattle markets in the large consuming centres of the North. In general, the trade of the city livestock markets is either moving out to surrounding auction marts, which are attended by wholesale and retail butchers from the town, or local requirements are being increasingly met by dealers and wholesale butchers who cover a wide radius in search of supplies which they send direct to the city abattoirs. Wholesale meat markets (see later) are, however, an important feature of the larger towns, and it is noticeable that a number of schemes are in hand for reconstructing or building wholesale meat markets and abattoirs. It would seem, therefore, that, in the consuming centres, the future lies with the wholesale meat market rather than with the livestock market.

In regard to layout and accommodation, it may be observed that the ground plan favoured at some of the auction marts is rectangular, with receiving pens occupying about one-half the market area. The pens lead from two sides into a central roadway terminating in the collecting pens and the auction ring. On the other side of the ring are the pens for animals which have been sold and await dispatch. The northern markets are, in general, much better equipped for auction selling than those in the Midlands. The sale rings are usually built of brick or stone and have tiled or slated roofs with glazed lights. Electricity or gas is installed in most cases. Roughed concrete flooring is common, although stone setts are found in some districts.

Many of the larger markets have 2 or 3 sale rings ; the Botchergate

auction at Carlisle has 4 rings, each of which is used for a different class of stock, one being reserved for pigs. Similarly, at many other large markets, separate rings or, at least, separate selling times, are allocated to the various kinds of stock.

The diameter of the cattle rings in the North, excluding ring-side accommodation, averages about 35 feet, and varies from 15 feet at Hull to 66 feet in the Botchergate auction at Carlisle ; the latter ring has tiered accommodation for 400 persons ; the other Carlisle auction rings have varying accommodation for from 120 to 180 persons. Tiered seating or standing accommodation is provided around most of the rings in the North. The average rate of selling in the northern auctions is about 40 head of fat cattle in an hour, whilst at some markets, such as Preston and Carlisle, from 60 to 70 head can be sold in that time.

In some of the best auctions, the cattle are numbered and the facilities provided for inspection in the pens before sale make it unnecessary for buyers to enter the actual sale ring. This, of course, does not apply to auction sales of sheep—a practice which works well and is found only in Scotland and the north of England—where a certain amount of handling by buyers is inevitable. In contrast to the sale of store sheep through the ring in large bunches in producing-area markets, fat sheep are in some cases, *e.g.*, Darlington, put up in lots of two, which is a convenience for the smaller retail butchers who are important buyers in the auction markets which serve consuming centres. Although there is evidence of a general desire to keep the inner rings free of buyers, the practice in the large Scottish auctions of reserving the cattle rings for the seller, the drover and the stock, is by no means the rule in most of the northern auction marts.

Most of the livestock auction markets are now equipped with dial weighing machines (vide Appendix II, pages 131 to 169), and the advantages of speedy weighing and easy reading of weights seem to be fully realised. The machines most commonly used register up to 25 or 30 cwt., but there are instances where machines having a capacity of 3 or 4 tons are installed. The latter are used for bunches of store cattle and sheep. So far as is known, there are no northern markets where bidding is by the live cwt. ; selling is everywhere on a per-head basis. In the private-treaty markets, the weighing facilities are seldom used. It may be added that it is the common practice in the northern markets, when fat cattle and fat sheep are auctioned, to announce from the rostrum the name of the farmer concerned.

With comparatively few exceptions, all the markets of any importance in the North have covered accommodation for calves, pigs and dairy cattle, whilst at Carlisle, Gateshead, Longtown, Penrith, Preston and other markets, there is shedding for fat cattle.

Pens vary in size according to the class of trade for which the markets were built. At many markets, the system of penning each

beast separately is usual. The pens are generally enclosed with iron railings and have concrete or stone sett floors and multiple drainage. Double-acting gates are found in some of the larger markets, such as at Carlisle, Hull, Leeds and York.

Most of the auctions in Cumberland, Durham, Northumberland and Westmorland are situated adjoining the railway siding. This is of considerable advantage in the movement of supplies. The use of ramps in the markets for loading or unloading stock is becoming more common with the development of motor transport. Permanent ramps are installed in some markets, temporary or movable ramps in others. In some cases, as at Doncaster, both types are in use.

The great majority of the livestock markets in the northern counties commence their sales between 10 o'clock and noon, the most popular times, in order, being 11 a.m., 10.30 a.m., 10 a.m., and 11.30 a.m. A few important markets, such as Leeds (6 a.m.), Manchester pig market (6 a.m.), Preston (8.30 a.m.) and Darlington (9.45 a.m.), start earlier than 10 o'clock. An analysis of the days of the week on which the markets are held shows that Monday is the most popular day, when 50 weekly and 20 fortnightly markets are held; 33 weekly and 9 fortnightly markets are held on Tuesday, 21 weekly and 8 fortnightly markets on Wednesday, 19 weekly and 8 fortnightly markets on Thursday, 14 weekly and 10 fortnightly markets on Friday, and 19 weekly and 1 fortnightly market on Saturday.

Meat, etc.—There are 10 wholesale meat markets in the northern counties which are all situated in Lancashire and the West Riding of Yorkshire. Separate markets are provided in conjunction with or adjoining the public abattoirs at Blackburn, Bradford, Halifax, Huddersfield, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester and Sheffield; at Bury and Doncaster, the wholesale meat trade is carried on in the general market. Hull and Newcastle-on-Tyne, each with a population approaching 300,000, have no wholesale meat market. The provision of a wholesale meat market is now under consideration at Hull and at Bolton (population 178,678), in connection with new abattoir schemes. A new meat market will shortly be completed at Sheffield, and the Liverpool meat market is to be re-erected adjoining the Stanley Cattle Market. Extensions are being made at Leeds and at Manchester. Manchester and Liverpool are the most important distributing centres for meat and supply a large number of towns, chiefly in Lancashire, with both home-killed and imported supplies.

Public abattoirs are to be found in no less than 52 towns, 22 of which are in Lancashire, 15 in the West Riding of Yorkshire, 6 in Northumberland and 4 in Cumberland. Accommodation varies from the well-equipped abattoir at Manchester, which is described on page 114, to the small slaughter-houses in towns such as Accrington, Colne and Shipley. The new abattoirs at Halifax, Liverpool and Sheffield, described on pages 84, 100 and 126, will be model establish-

ments incorporating experience gathered in America and on the Continent. It seems to be generally agreed that an up-to-date abattoir establishment should include either a cattle market or cattle lairages, as well as a meat market and cold-storage accommodation. This arrangement is to be found in only a very few large towns in the North. In the smaller towns of from 50,000 to 250,000 inhabitants, where a wholesale meat market may not be necessary, it is, at any rate, desirable that the fat-stock market should adjoin the public abattoir. This is the case in a number of Lancashire towns, such as Barrow-in-Furness, Blackburn, Lancaster and Preston.

In many towns, in addition to the public abattoirs, there is a considerable number of privately owned slaughter-houses; Sheffield, for example, has 125, Newcastle-on-Tyne 101, and Leeds 65, but new licences are now rarely issued. Bury, which has public slaughtering accommodation, is an instance of a town where all the private slaughter-houses have been closed. At Bolton, where the bulk of the slaughtering is carried out in private slaughter-houses, the existing public slaughter-house is to be rebuilt. At Barnsley, Darlington, Hull and Wigan, which at present have no public slaughtering accommodation, schemes for the erection of abattoirs are under consideration. At Carlisle, which is a collecting centre for fat sheep from the North, supplies for local requirements are slaughtered in the Corporation slaughter-houses, but large numbers of sheep are purchased at certain times of the year by dealers and are killed at two railway slaughter-houses whence the carcases are consigned to London and Birmingham.

If existing facilities are inadequate or inconvenient, the provision of cold-stores in connection with wholesale meat markets is now generally accepted as the duty of the local authority. The following towns in the North already have accommodation for chilling and for storing frozen goods in connection with their abattoirs: Manchester, which has the largest publicly owned cold-stores in the country and was the first public authority to provide cold-storage accommodation, Bradford, Huddersfield and Burnley. At Hull and Leeds, the need for publicly owned cold-stores has not arisen, as adequate facilities are, at present, provided by private cold-storage firms. Provision has been made for the erection of chill rooms and cold-stores in connection with the new meat market and abattoir schemes at Liverpool and Bolton. In most cases, the cold-stores are also used for other commodities, such as fish, fruit and vegetables. At North Shields, public cold-stores are provided in connection with the wholesale fish market.

In the northern counties, there are 40 hide and skin "markets" registered by the Hide, Leather and Allied Trades Improvement Society, but of these, 9 are collecting depots only. In addition to these 31 "markets," there are 5 sales held in premises owned by local authorities. Of the 36 selling centres, 6 are in Liverpool and

4 in Newcastle-on-Tyne; 8 are owned by one firm. Sales in 27 instances are by auction.

Wool.—There are 8 centres only for the sale of wool in the northern area. Of these, 5 are private-treaty sales. The fact that in the northern counties, where the auction system is so strong a feature in connection with the selling of livestock, the system is not applied to the assembling and sale of local wool is probably explained by the proximity of the manufacturing industry. It would also support the view that, in the North, proportionately more wool is sold by farmers direct to merchants. without recourse to market facilities, than in the Midlands and the South. Bradford, which is the centre of the woollen industry, has important auctions for the sale of British wool, two of which are described on page 82.

Fish.—There are 28 markets in the northern area in which fish is sold wholesale; of these, 18, of which 9 are in Lancashire, are reserved solely for the sale of fish, poultry and game. Five of the markets are owned by railway companies and practically all the others by public authorities. The usual method of selling is by private treaty, but large auctions are held at the port markets which are on the quaysides.

The most important inland wholesale fish market in the North is at Manchester, which ranks next to Billingsgate Market, London, in regard to volume of trade. Fleetwood and Hull, on the west and east coasts respectively, are the principal port markets in the area; both are owned by the railway companies, as is also the market at Hartlepool. Other port markets are at Sunderland and Tynemouth.

All the wholesale fish markets in the northern counties have covered accommodation, which varies from 31,000 sq. yds. at Fleetwood to 1,000 sq. yds. at Sunderland, and from 4,226 sq. yds. at Manchester to 727 sq. yds. at Sheffield. Extensive additions are contemplated at Fleetwood and there are schemes under consideration at Bolton and Liverpool for the removal of the fish markets to other sites. At Bradford, Halifax, Huddersfield, Hull and St. Helens, a section of the wholesale fruit and vegetable market is allocated to the wholesale fish trade. A certain amount of wholesaling also takes place in a few general markets, such as at Rochdale and Wakefield.

(III) RENTS, STALLAGES AND TOLLS.*

Particulars of the charges made in each wholesale market for spaces, stalls or stands, and the tolls levied on farm produce and livestock, have been collected by the Ministry for each market included in the present Report. Information regarding the charges ruling in any market can be obtained by those interested on application to the Department.

* See also Economic Series No. 13, Chapter II.

The charges in covered wholesale fruit and vegetable markets vary considerably. At Manchester, from 1*s.* 3*d.* to 1*s.* 9*d.* per sq. yd. per week is charged for stands, whereas at Liverpool from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* 3*d.* and, in certain cases, 3*s.* per sq. yd., per week is the rate. At Leeds, the charges are from 8*d.* to 1*s.* 9*d.* per sq. yd. per week. The tolls charged in the wholesale meat markets vary from 1*s.* 6*d.* for a carcase of beef in Manchester and Bradford to 2*s.* at Halifax. The toll on mutton varies from 3*d.* a carcase at Manchester and Bradford to 6*d.* at Halifax; on pork, 6*d.* a carcase is charged at Liverpool and Bradford, and 6*d.* for bacon pig and 3*d.* for porket pig carcases at Manchester; tolls for butter, cheese and eggs are charged by the basket or box. In Northumberland, Durham and Cumberland, poultry are charged by the basket, and, in other parts, by the couple or by the basket. Tolls on fruit and vegetables are assessed or levied on loaded carts, wagons, or according to the package, *i.e.*, whether bag, sack, box, crate or basket. Tolls on hay and straw are charged on the cart or wagon. The great bulk of the produce trade in wholesale markets is, however, subjected to a rent charge; except in wholesale meat markets, tolls refer, in general, to the section of the markets set aside for growers' produce.

Tolls are charged in all the publicly controlled livestock markets. In the private auction marts, no tolls are leviable, but an inclusive auction charge is made which comprises other services, such as collection of proceeds and remittance of cash to sellers. The tolls in the public markets usually range from 3*d.* to 6*d.* per head for cattle, *i.e.*, cows, steers or heifers, from 3*d.* to 1*s.* for bulls, and from $\frac{3}{4}$*d.* to 4*d.* for calves where a separate charge is made for these two classes of stock. Fat sheep or lambs pay from 1*d.* to 2*d.* each; store sheep are usually charged for by the pen or score. Pigs average from 1*d.* to 2*d.* each.

(IV) FAIRS.

(a) General.

About 150 recognised fairs are still held at some 75 centres in the area covered by this Report. Particulars of these, their location, dates on which held and the commodities sold are given in Appendix III, pages 170 to 174. In over 40 instances, the agricultural business now done is practically negligible. Agricultural fairs were formerly held in more than 80 other centres, but these no longer exist as such; some are still proclaimed annually but continue solely as pleasure fairs.

The decline in the number of agricultural fairs is, of course, largely due to the march of industrialisation, coupled with the fact that, of recent years, the weekly or fortnightly auction marts have offered to the farmer a more satisfactory means of doing livestock business. There is evidence of the superior efficiency of auction marts compared with fairs in cases where these are held in the same

centre on the same day. At Ambleside, for example, at which 1,500 sheep were disposed of at the two October fairs in 1927, more than 5,500 sheep were sold on the same days at the local auction mart. Then again, in order to avoid traffic congestion, local authorities, in a number of instances, have been forced to suspend fairs that were customarily held on the public highway or in the main street of the town. Thus, at Barnsley, the street fairs once held in February and May have been suspended. Considerations of traffic also prompted the Corporation of Clitheroe to order, in 1923, that the 4 annual fairs, originally held in the streets of the town, should be transferred to the cattle market.

There are places, however, where the fair still finds favour. Tradition and sentiment play a part in some districts. In others, it is said that the farmers prefer to sell their stock by private treaty at the fairs than at the seasonal auction sales. At Carlisle, the August fair provides an additional source of revenue for the local authority. Here, under a Charter granted by Edward II, the Corporation maintain their right to charge double tolls on all merchandise passing through, into or out of the city during the period of the fair and for the following 15 days.

The general decline in importance of the fairs in the northern counties is, however, clear enough and may be instanced by the following typical cases. At Bury, the last available figures for the 3 annual fairs show that the livestock on offer consisted of 178 horses only, whereas, in 1896, approximately 1,000 head of cattle and 2,200 horses were sold at these fairs. Similarly, at the Ormskirk fairs established under Charter of Edward I, it was common, at one time, for hundreds of cattle to be brought in on fair days, whereas, at a recent fair, only 4 head of cattle were exposed for sale. The horse fairs held at Lee Gap in Yorkshire, which were established over 800 years ago and, in their day, attracted buyers from France and Germany, have now only a small trade in some 100 to 150 horses and pit ponies.

The 150 fairs still existing in the northern counties are almost entirely used for the disposal of livestock, although producers may also offer produce of various kinds and, similarly, the implement dealers may display their machines. In only a few cases, however, are farm produce or agricultural implements of sufficient importance to be specially noted. Cheese is mentioned as being sold at the three-day October fair, held under Charter of King John, at Yarm in the North Riding. The periodical cheese "fairs" held at places such as Preston and Lancaster have the character of regular markets, and have been so regarded in this Report. Wool fairs are held on the Border at Longtown and Bellingham and at Ripon, and quarterly fairs are held at Leeds for the disposal of leather by description or sample.

The majority of the fairs in the North originated under Royal Charters; others, known as customary usage fairs, were organised

as annual sales by lords of manors, leading farmers, or by licensees of inns having a field or yard suitable for the purpose. The days chosen for the fairs coincided with feast days in many cases. The Easter Fair at Darlington is said to have originated in horse dealing between gipsies and local farmers, whilst Skipton fair is said to have been started by farmers who, having finished hay harvest, had surplus horses for disposal. The fair at Romaldkirk is said to have been formed by dealers who had livestock left on their hands after the conclusion of the fair held at Brough Hill, and the fact that the official date of the Romaldkirk fair is given as " the Thursday after Brough Hill Fair " supports this view.

(b) Horse Fairs.

It is not surprising to find the continuance of a number of horse fairs in the northern counties, although the trade has naturally diminished. The survival of the fair system for the disposal of horses can be readily understood. Horses, unlike cattle, cannot be sold by weight ; each horse has its individuality, its good and bad points, and the fair ground provides the space for putting the horse through its paces so that its action may be closely observed by the prospective buyer. As will be seen from Appendix III, many of the fairs include horses amongst the livestock brought in for disposal, whilst, at about 20 centres, fairs solely for the sale of horses are still held. Amongst the centres which still hold horse fairs of some importance may be mentioned Bradford, Darlington, Halifax, Huddersfield, Hull and Wigton. Special fairs are held for the exhibition of stallions at Cockermouth and Stokesley. Stallions are also on view in many markets during the spring months. The fair held annually at Brough Hill since 1330, under a Charter granted by Edward III, is noteworthy for the sale of unbroken fell and dale ponies.

(c) Sheep Fairs.

Sheep are exposed for sale at about 60 fairs. Some 20 of these are held solely for the sale of sheep. In a few instances, the sales at the fairs are for special breeds or crosses ; the remainder are for commercial stock. At Keswick, for example, where there is no livestock market, the fair is held mainly for the disposal of Herdwick rams and sheep, and is controlled by the association of breeders, whilst at Orton, in Westmorland, which is also without a livestock market, Wensleydale and the Rough Fell type of black-faced mountain sheep are mainly in evidence. The two sheep fairs at Masham, in the North Riding, give prominence to the local Masham cross. Annual sheep sales resembling fairs are held at Muker and Reeth, in the North Riding, for the disposal of Swaledales. The former is a pedigree ram and ram lamb sale, controlled by the breeders' association, and handles some 600 head. At the latter, about 4,000

sheep are sold. At the annual store sheep sale held at Dent, about 1,000 head, chiefly Fell lambs, are disposed of.

Among the fairs for the sale of commercial sheep is an annual assembly of lambs and fat sheep at Kettlewell, which has been established for over a century. Although business at this fair has, of late years, decreased by about one-half, some 5,000 head are still disposed of annually. It is said that, but for this sale, the lambs would have to be taken some 16 to 20 miles to find another market. Similar sales of sheep, which by custom have come to be known as fairs, are held at Holme and Malsis on land attached to local inns and have been established for over 100 years and 40 years respectively. The two fairs at Hull are still of some importance for the disposal of rams, about 250 having been sold in a recent year; some 2,000 store sheep are also sold. Amongst other centres still holding sheep fairs may be mentioned Ambleside, Egton, Hawes, Ingleton, Long Preston, Malton and Ripon. Many of the old sheep fairs have become absorbed in the ordinary markets. A typical instance occurs at York, where, at the special sales held on the usual market days during September and October, and designated "fairs," about 70,000 sheep are sold annually. Special sheep sales, called fairs, are held at Pateley Bridge on every Saturday from the middle of September to the end of October under the control of the local farmers' auction mart company.

(d) Cattle Fairs.

In most cases, the business originally done at the old cattle fairs has been entirely absorbed by the regular livestock markets. In some instances, as at Carlisle, Helmsley and Penistone, the fairs have been superseded by special seasonal sales, still designated "fairs," held on market days which approximate to the old fair dates.

There is, in fact, no outstanding cattle fair remaining in the northern counties, the majority of the centres reporting that the business once done at the fairs is now negligible. Trade in cattle persists at the three fairs held at Huddersfield, some 900 head being disposed of annually, whilst at Berwick-on-Tweed, about 300 store cattle are stated to change hands through private-treaty sales at the annual fair. Irish cattle are exposed for sale at the fairs at Beverley, Carlisle, Garstang and Yarm.

PART II.—THE COUNTIES AND THEIR MARKETS.

CUMBERLAND.

(a) General.

The agriculture of Cumberland centres mainly round milk production and the breeding. rearing and fattening of sheep and cattle. Over one-third of the total area of the county is returned as rough grazings and one-third as being under permanent grass. A black, peaty earth is the prevalent soil in the mountainous districts. On the hill slopes themselves, a shaley soil is common, while, towards the coast and up the Eden Valley to Penrith, the soil is well suited to the growing of crops.

Turnips and swedes form the bulk of the green crops, while oats are grown on about one-third of the arable area, the output of wheat and barley being negligible. There are 9 corn markets in the county, of which the most important are at Carlisle and Penrith. Over 6,000 acres of potatoes are grown north of a line drawn east and west of Penrith ; a fair proportion is grown for seed and sold in local produce auctions, such as at Carlisle, Wigton and Aspatria.

The chief dairying districts are round Penrith, Wigton, Carlisle and Longtown. The county is famous for the class of Shorthorn dairy cow produced and is an exporting county for milk, supplies being sent to Newcastle and the Furness district of Lancashire. Over 40 per cent. of the milk produced is converted into butter, of which a substantial amount is sold retail in the markets, notably at Aspatria, Carlisle, Cockermouth, Keswick, Maryport, Penrith, Whitehaven, Wigton and Workington. Eggs, dead poultry, fruit and vegetables are also sold by private treaty and, in a few cases, by auction in local markets. Carlisle and Penrith are noteworthy for eggs. There is a market for live poultry at Carlisle ; live poultry is also sold at a number of auctions in the county and by private treaty in the general markets. Irish geese are landed at Silloth and are sold mainly at Carlisle for distribution throughout the county. Although the proportion of farm produce passing through local markets is probably larger in Cumberland than in most other counties, it is said to be decreasing as a result of the development of motor transport and the consequent tendency of wholesalers to collect supplies direct from farms.

Cumberland is an exporting county for fat, store and dairy cattle. The pig population of the county is small, but sheep are important, local supplies being supplemented, to a small extent,

by Isle of Man sheep, via Silloth, and, to a considerable extent, by Scotch sheep which are sent into the county in the late summer and early autumn. Large numbers of Irish store cattle are also received for sale, chiefly at Carlisle. The more important livestock markets have, therefore, to be equipped to handle a big volume of trade. It is estimated that from 80 to 90 per cent. of the livestock in the county are sold through the auction marts, all of which are privately owned with the exception of the public cattle markets at Carlisle and Cockermouth, which are mainly used for the sale of Irish store cattle. The chief livestock auction centre is at Carlisle, which ranks second in importance in England and Wales as a cattle market centre and as the second largest for sheep. Carlisle is followed in importance, as regards total head of stock, by Penrith, Wigton, Longtown, Lazonby and Cockermouth. No less than 860,000 head passed through these six market centres in a recent typical year, of which over 692,000 were sheep and lambs. There are smaller auctions in 19 other centres, the most important being at Southwaite, Whitehaven and Troutbeck. Although a case might be made out for the continuance of some of the seasonal sales of locally reared cattle and sheep in the smaller auction marts, it is important in a county such as Cumberland, which relies to a large extent on buyers from a distance, that sufficient stock should be on offer at the various markets to make it worth while for such buyers to attend. A noticeable feature of the Cumberland auctions is the increasing use of motor transport for the movement of sheep and, to a less extent, cattle.

In an average year, in the county as a whole, it can be said that about 1,093,000 head of stock pass through the livestock markets in the following proportions :—883,000 sheep and lambs, 174,000 cattle, 4,000 calves and 32,000 pigs.

There are no markets devoted exclusively to wholesale trade in fruit and vegetables, business being done largely at premises owned by wholesale merchants and in the general markets in the larger towns. For the disposal of locally grown produce, the farmer is well catered for by the facilities offered at the retail markets. Special attention should be drawn to Carlisle, which has one of the finest covered market halls in the country. There is no wholesale meat market in Cumberland, but a trade in sheep carcases is carried on between Carlisle and London and Carlisle and Birmingham. (*See* page 62.)

An annual wool sale is held at Longtown.

(b) Notes on particular markets.

Carlisle.—*See* page 59.

Lazonby.—This small town, situated some 15 miles south-east of Carlisle in the Eden Valley, supports an auction mart which ranks fourteenth in the northern counties from the point of view

of the number of stock handled. It is an important collecting centre for sheep. Sales are held on Thursday of each week, but a considerable proportion of the store trade is done at large special sales held on other days during certain seasons of the year. The mart adjoins the railway and occupies an area of 6,445 sq. yds., of which 1,410 sq. yds. are covered. The accommodation includes two covered sale rings, 24 ft. and 30 ft. in diameter, one of which is equipped with a 40-cwt. dial weighbridge. Supplies of fat stock, dairy and store cattle are drawn from the immediate neighbourhood. Large numbers of store lambs are sold each year from the Pennines and the Alston Moor district, and also from a wide area embracing parts of Northumberland, Durham, Yorkshire and Scotland. Practically all the fat stock goes to Lancashire and Yorkshire. Store sheep and lambs are largely sold for local feeding; considerable numbers are also sent to the Midlands. A proportion of the store cattle sold is consigned to the eastern counties of England and to Scotland.

Longtown.—Longtown, situated to the north of Carlisle and within five miles of the Scottish border, is surrounded by good rearing and grazing country. Up to 1926, there was only one auction mart in the town. This market is situated close to the railway and was built within recent years. It is one of the best laid-out marts in the county, with two covered sale rings for cattle and sheep respectively, a 30-cwt. dial weighbridge and covered accommodation for all classes of stock, except sheep, and covered lairage for 68 cattle. It occupies a ground space of some 5,700 sq. yds. During a recent complete year, 1,041 cattle, 98 calves and 10,638 sheep passed through this mart. The area of supply is chiefly local but approximately half the fat cattle is of Irish origin. Stock is also sent in for sale from Dumfriesshire. Store stock is bought for local needs. The fat stock is chiefly sent to Carlisle, Newcastle, to Lancashire and Yorkshire towns and to Birmingham; fat sheep are also bought for the London carcase trade. Pigs are not usually sold in this mart.

In 1926, a new mart (Fig. 2) was started within a hundred yards of the old one and on the Scottish side of the railway line. The equipment at the new mart includes two covered sale rings, one of which is used for the sale of fat and store sheep, and the other, fitted with a 30-cwt. dial weighbridge, for the sale of fat cattle, store and dairy cattle, calves and pigs. The sale rings are constructed of timber with concrete flooring, and are lit with electricity. Other accommodation includes covered pens for pigs, calves and dairy and fat cattle, a settling room and a movable ramp. In 1927, the mart sold 3,043 fat cattle, 2,941 store cattle, 590 calves, 71,903 fat sheep, 15,965 store sheep and 1,260 pigs. The stock is distributed over a wide radius, including Scotland, Lancashire, Yorkshire and the Midlands.

Sales of wool are held annually in June.



FIG. 2.—Longtown : Auction Mart. (Cumberland and Dumfriesshire Farmers' Mart, Ltd.)



FIG. 3.—Darlington : Covered Market, Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Market and Open Market.



FIG. 4.—Darlington : Open Market.



FIG. 5.—Darlington : **Livestock Market.**

Penrith.—*See* page 66.

Wigton.—The privately controlled auction mart at Wigton ranks third in importance in the county; in 1927, 5,015 fat cattle, 20,100 store cattle and dairy cows, 246 calves, 31,200 fat sheep, 48,000 store sheep and 7,000 fat and store pigs were sold. The mart is divided into three sections in different parts of the town. The store sheep and cattle section has recently been renovated and is well laid out with ample accommodation for handling big seasonal sales of store sheep and cattle. The fat-stock section is, for the most part, contained in a brick-built building just off the main street of the town, where the Company's offices are situated. All stock, except sheep, are housed under cover. The fat cattle, as at many other marts in the north of England, are all penned separately in standings. The sale ring is fitted with a dial weighbridge. The arrangement of the pens is not ideal but has been dictated by considerations of space. The third section consists of a brick-built byre, in which some 100 dairy cows can be accommodated, and a covered sale ring. There are six covered sale rings in the market as a whole. A proportion of the stock is drawn from the locality and comes in by road; stock is also drawn from Scotland, Lancashire, Yorkshire and Durham. Buyers are mainly local butchers and farmers, but a number come from Newcastle, Glasgow and from Lancashire; some sheep are purchased for slaughter in Carlisle and dispatch to London. The seasonal sales of store sheep and cattle serve a wide area. A few Irish cattle are exposed for sale on the Market Hill during the spring months.

The Urban District Council maintains (*a*) an open retail market in the streets where temporary stalls are erected weekly and are chiefly occupied by local greengrocers, and (*b*) a covered market hall, which is used largely by farmers' wives for the weekly sale of eggs and butter. A place is also set apart for the re-packing of eggs by wholesale buyers. Some of the stalls in the market hall are taken by smallholders for the retail sale of locally produced fruit and vegetables.

A private auction of corn and other produce is also held weekly in an open yard in the town; the trade in farm produce is chiefly in potatoes, live poultry, hay, straw and roots.

DURHAM.

(a) General.

Durham, which is about two-thirds the size of Cumberland, is densely populated, especially in the industrial areas of the north and along the sea-board. The south is mainly agricultural. On the east, potatoes are largely grown; in the centre of the county, mixed farming is the rule. The chief corn crop is oats, and there is a fair acreage under turnips. Durham is especially noted for

Dairy Shorthorns and for cattle and sheep rearing and feeding; the south-western upland district is an important breeding ground. More than a third of the total area of the county is under permanent grass, while one-fifth is returned as rough grazings. The fruit and vegetable producing areas are round Gateshead, Stockton and Bishop Auckland, but the output is relatively small.

For many agricultural commodities, Durham is an importing county. Very little butter and cheese is made although both appear on local markets, notably at Barnard Castle, Stockton and Darlington, where eggs and poultry are also offered. Sales of live poultry are also held at a few livestock auctions. The most important livestock markets are at Gateshead and Darlington. Others, in order of importance, are at Stockton, Tow Law, Haswell, Barnard Castle, Bishop Auckland, Wolsingham and Durham. There are also small auctions at 12 other centres. In fact, Durham appears to have an unduly large number of small livestock markets. All the livestock markets in the county are auctions, although private-treaty business is also done in one or two instances. The marts are privately owned, with the exception of those at Darlington and Stockton, which belong to the local authority and are partly leased to the auctioneers. There are no important annual sales of livestock in the county. As in Cumberland, motor transport is being increasingly used for the carriage of livestock to and from market centres. The figures show that in an average year in the county of Durham, about 411,000 head of stock enter the livestock markets in the following proportions :—253,000 sheep and lambs, 109,000 cattle, 4,000 calves and 45,000 pigs. There are corn exchanges at Stockton and Darlington. Wool, as in other northern counties, is largely sold by farmers direct to merchants. With the exception of the small fruit and vegetable market at Darlington, there are no distributing wholesale markets in the county for eggs and poultry, dairy produce, fruit and vegetables or meat, although there are towns, such as Sunderland and South Shields, with populations of over 100,000.

(b) Notes on particular markets.

Darlington.—Darlington, with a population of some 70,000, possesses a covered retail market (Fig. 3), an open general merchandise market (Fig. 4), a small growers' market, a wholesale fruit and vegetable market with separate accommodation for retail fish trade, a corn exchange and a cattle market, all of which are owned by the Corporation. There is no publicly owned slaughter-house in the town but a scheme for the erection of one on a portion of the cattle market site is under consideration.

The retail market hall is an imposing slate and glass-roofed building in the centre of the town and adjoining the main omnibus station. The stalls, of which there are 162, are permanent and

arranged in avenues ; so far as possible, meat, fruit, vegetables and other commodities are sold in separate parts of the hall. A considerable and increasing trade is done at this market, which, during the busy periods on Saturdays and Mondays, is overcrowded. Its reconstruction is under consideration.

Closely adjoining the retail market is a small wholesale fruit and vegetable market which occupies a space 4 yards deep parallel to the market place and consists of a slate and glass roof with open side and ends. In addition, about a dozen stands are available for local growers. The market supplies Darlington and the neighbourhood, including such places as Bedale, Billingham, Bishop Auckland, Catterick, Gainford, Richmond, Spennymoor, and Stockton. Imported supplies are drawn from Hull and Newcastle. The accommodation is inadequate and the erection of a larger market is contemplated.

A field of about 5 acres, adjoining the open market for general merchandise, is used as a fair ground and provides parking space for about 300 motor and horse vehicles on market days.

The Corn Exchange is a corrugated iron building which contains 59 merchants' stands, each let at a rental of 12*s.* 6*d.* per quarter. The majority of standholders come from Manchester, Hull, Liverpool, Newcastle, York, Sunderland and Alnwick. The market is held on Mondays and is attended on the average by about 150 farmers. In addition to feeding-stuffs and manures, some hay and straw are also bought and sold in the exchange. The trade is, however, chiefly in barley. There is a tendency for business to gravitate to the cattle market.

For many years, two cattle markets were held in the town, one controlled by a private company but held on land belonging to the Corporation, the other controlled by the Corporation. The former is now closed and the Corporation have remodelled and brought up to date their cattle market (Figs. 5 and 6), which is near one of the railway stations and the main roads, and have recently leased a portion of it to a farmers' auction mart company. Sections of the market are set aside for private treaty trade and for the sale of Irish cattle. There is accommodation in the remodelled market for 450 head of cattle, 1,000 sheep and 500 pigs ; in the store market, there is space for 1,700 cattle and 1,900 sheep. The market has three centrally situated covered sale rings, which are used for fat cattle. dairy cows and sheep respectively ; the fat-cattle ring is equipped with a 30-cwt. dial weighbridge. Open pens are provided for sheep. but covered penning accommodation is available for pigs, which are sold from the pens, and for calves ; in addition, 86 dairy cows can be housed in byres and 48 in roofed stalls with open end and front. Fifteen acres of land are available within a short distance of the market for use as lairage. The paved market roadways are 22 feet wide, thus allowing vehicles to unload direct into the pens ; a permanent unloading ramp is provided. Other accommodation in the

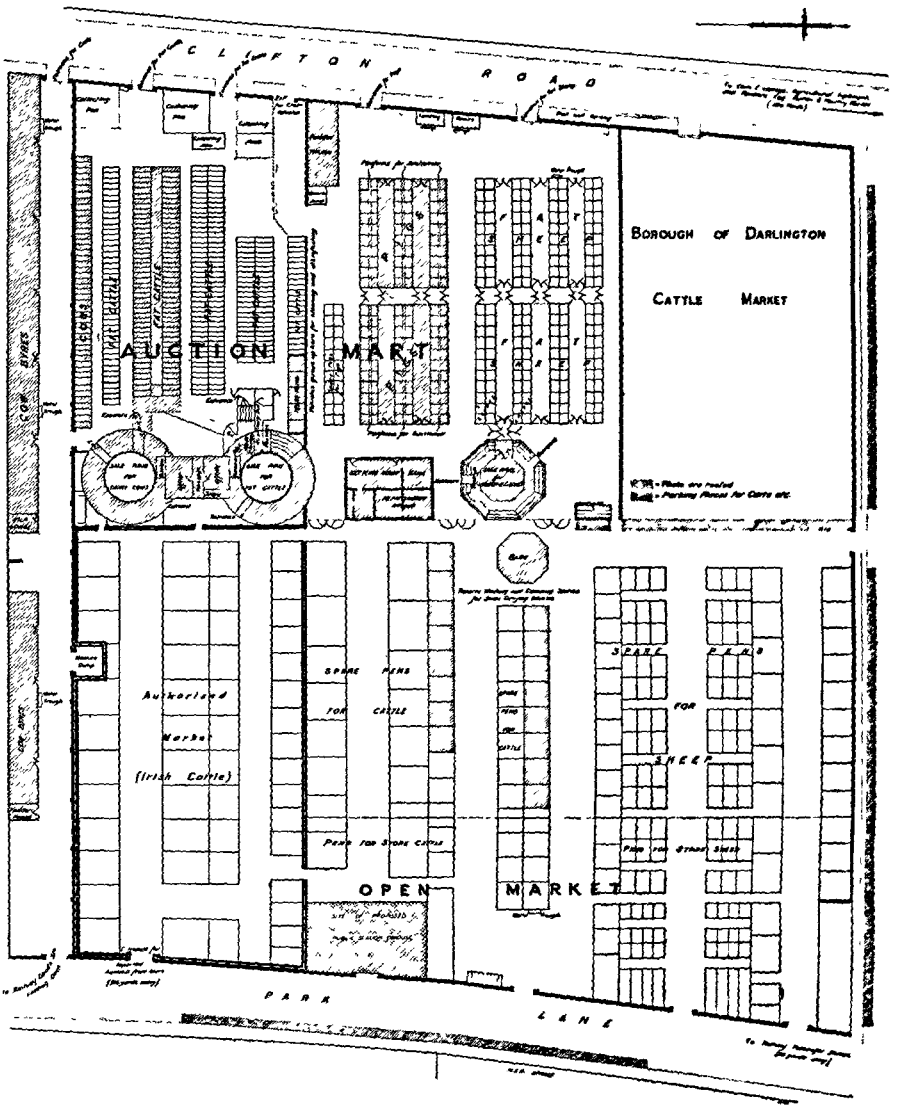


FIG. 6.—Darlington: Plan of Livestock Market.

market includes a refreshment room, banks, offices and parking space for 150 vehicles. Two firms of auctioneers operate in the market, one selling dairy cows and the other selling fat cattle, sheep and relatively large numbers of pigs. The stock is drawn chiefly from north Yorkshire and south Durham. Apart from a small but increasing local trade in store cattle, the bulk of the livestock sold goes to Stockton, Sunderland, Hartlepool, Bishop Auckland and other towns in Durham, as well as to Newcastle and to Bradford and other Yorkshire towns.

Gateshead.—Although Gateshead is a town with a population of well over 100,000, it has no public markets. It has, however, a private auction mart which is the most important livestock market in the county and the fourth largest market for cattle in the North. It is rectangular in lay-out and consists of corrugated iron byres in which cattle can be housed in separate wooden stalls. There are two sale rings which are equipped with dial weighbridges of 60 cwt. and 40 cwt. capacity, respectively, and provided with tiered seating accommodation. Of the 84,000 head of stock which passed through the market in 1927, approximately 30,000 were store cattle, 9,400 fat cattle and 42,500 fat sheep. Store cattle, fat cattle and dairy cows are sold on separate days of the week, and the two sale rings are used for all three classes of stock and for sheep. Buyers are allowed in the rings during sales of fat sheep only. Other accommodation in the market includes covered pens for pigs, sheep and calves. Movable ramps are available for unloading the increasing numbers of sheep brought to the mart by motor transport. An uncovered area of the market is reserved for store sales. Supplies are drawn from Northumberland, Durham and parts of Cumberland, and, at certain seasons of the year, from Scotland. Apart from local requirements, fat stock is bought for the consuming centres of Durham, south Northumberland and the manufacturing towns of Yorkshire. Supplies of Irish store cattle and of other store stock are distributed over Northumberland, Durham and parts of Yorkshire.

Stockton-on-Tees.—The markets at Stockton-on-Tees comprise a cattle market, a general market, an egg and butter market and a corn exchange.

The cattle market is owned by the Corporation and let to a firm of auctioneers. It is well laid out and there is ample accommodation for the stock exposed for sale, chiefly fat cattle, store sheep and fat pigs drawn from the Stockton, West Hartlepool and Middlesbrough districts. The pig and sheep pens are of iron, the former being covered with a corrugated iron roof. There are also covered sheds for some 50 dairy cows, which are tied up separately, and for calves. Three separate sale rings, two of 20-ft. diameter and one of 23 ft., constructed of wood, with corrugated iron roof and covered seats, are situated in this market. Two of the rings are used for the sale of dairy cows, store and fat cattle, one being fitted with a

25-cwt. dial weighbridge; the other ring is used for the sale of calves and sheep. Pigs, which are important in this market, are sold direct from the pens. The average number of fat cattle sold per hour in each ring is about 50, and the average attendance of buyers at a sale at each ring may be put at 50. A permanent, double unloading ramp is provided in the market, and there is a wide space set aside as a motor park. A large proportion of the stock, especially sheep, is brought in by road in specially adapted lorries.

Hides and skins are sold in two "markets," in one by private treaty and in the other by auction.

The public general market is held, under a charter granted in 1310, in the main street of the town; the area devoted to the market is 4½ acres. A small proportion of locally grown produce, such as potatoes, cabbages and cauliflowers, is sold by growers from their carts, and about 200 stalls are allocated to fruit, fish and miscellaneous goods.

Adjoining the general market is the covered market, which is fitted with permanent wooden stalls and used for the direct sale of poultry, butter, eggs and rabbits. There are 76 stands in the market which are occupied by retailers; the average size of each stand is 3 square yards. Sales of meat take place every Saturday.

The Corn Exchange is held in the Borough Public Hall or, if this is not available, in the Temperance Hall. There are 42 stands, 38 of which are occupied by feeding-stuff merchants, 2 by cake manufacturers and 2 by millers.

Sunderland.—Sunderland, with a population of approximately 188,000, has a covered retail market hall, used for the sale of cut flowers, fruit and vegetables, meat and general merchandise, and a small private auction mart at which 1,352 fat cattle, 3,706 fat sheep and 2,467 fat pigs were sold in 1927, mostly to local butchers. A small number of live poultry is also auctioned in the mart. A question for consideration is whether the town could not, with advantage, possess a public abattoir and a wholesale fruit and vegetable market.

The wholesale fish market, owned by the River Wear Commissioners, occupies a covered area on the quayside of 1,000 sq. yds. Sales are by auction, the fish being sent to London and consuming centres in the county of Durham. 1,450 tons of wet fish, 85,680 crabs and 21,037 lobsters were dealt with in 1927.

LANCASHIRE.

(a) General.

The popular impression that Lancashire is an agglomeration of industrial towns is, of course, erroneous. The southern half of the county is admittedly very densely populated, but the northern half is almost entirely devoted to agriculture and contains some of the

best farming land in the northern counties. This broad division of the county into consuming and producing moieties is reflected in the number and variety of agricultural markets. In the south, the large cities, such as Manchester and Liverpool, have almost complete market systems which, to a considerable extent, furnish supplies to markets in neighbouring towns, such as Bolton, Bury and Oldham. In contrast to these southern distributing markets, there are, in the north of the county, a number of small livestock markets which act as collecting centres from which the stock is either sent direct to the larger towns in the south, or is consigned to Lancaster or Preston (on the main line running north and south), whence it is reconsigned southwards. The movement of locally grown agricultural produce and stock is, in fact, almost entirely from north to south. Certain areas provide minor exceptions to this rule, notably the south-west part of the county, where intensive farming is carried on, and the Furness peninsula, in the extreme north-west, which is practically self-supporting, with Barrow as the chief consuming centre.

Of the total area of the county, about one-fifth is arable, one-half permanent grass and one-tenth rough grazings. The chief crops are oats, which account for over 30 per cent. of the arable area, and potatoes. Lancashire is also important for the production of cabbage, celery and rhubarb. A brief summary of the agriculture of the county, by districts, is as follows. The south-west corner is practically wholly arable, the principal crops being potatoes, oats and cabbage. The district immediately to the east is a mixed arable area in close proximity to the manufacturing centres: oats, potatoes, swedes and mangolds are the principal crops; some stock is kept, principally milking cows. In the area west of a line between Preston and Lancaster, known as the Fylde, mixed farming prevails, about 40 per cent. of the land being under the plough: oats, swedes, mangolds and potatoes are the chief crops; dairying and poultry keeping are important in this area; in the immediate vicinity of Blackpool, market gardening crops are extensively grown. The northern part of Lancashire, excluding Furness, is mostly a grass country and the farming is mixed; sheep and cattle breeding is carried on extensively; cows of good milking strain are kept and a fair amount of cheese is made, pig-feeding being carried on as an adjunct to cheese-making. The Furness district is hilly and geographically one with Westmorland. The north-east of Lancashire is a grass and moorland country, devoted to cattle and sheep farming, with farms few and far between. The agricultural part of the large, densely populated area in the south-east of the county is almost entirely under grass, the farms being used for milk production.

Lancashire has a somewhat less concentrated but larger cow population than Cheshire. A ready market is at hand for the output of milk and dairy produce, the latter accounting for about 13 per

cent. of the milk produced. Cheese of the Lancashire variety is made in considerable quantities, particularly in the north. There are regular monthly cheese fairs at Preston and Lancaster. A cheese fair was inaugurated at Manchester in 1926, but notwithstanding the assistance given by the Corporation, it was abandoned after six months' trial. Home-produced butter is sold wholesale in the markets of Bolton, Chorley, Manchester, Ormskirk and Preston.

Over one-tenth of the fowl population of the whole country is concentrated in Lancashire, which has the largest output of poultry produce of any county in England and Wales. In the northern half of Lancashire, *i e.*, round Preston, poultry are kept by large farmers, while, in the southern half, they are kept extensively by smallholders and allotment-holders. Owing to the extent to which collection and consignment are organised within the county, only a comparatively small proportion of the eggs produced finds its way on to wholesale markets. Both eggs and poultry are, however, offered for sale by the smaller producers on the numerous retail markets throughout the county. Live poultry are sold in the livestock auction marts at Cark-in-Cartmel, Chorley, Colne, Lancaster, Pilling, Poulton-le-Fylde, Preston, Ribchester, Turton and Warrington.

Fruit is grown chiefly in west Lancashire and in the Fylde district, but the output is small. The chief market-gardening districts are round Ormskirk, St. Helens and Southport, Warrington and, to a less extent, in the area round Manchester and Liverpool. The Ormskirk, Preston and Garstang districts are important for the production of early potatoes, while round Southport a flourishing celery industry has sprung up. Facilities for the sale of locally produced fruit and vegetables are, on the whole, good, and include, in addition to the distributing wholesale and retail markets, such markets as the growers' market at Wigan—particularly for early potatoes—and that at Blackburn. The most important potato markets are at Manchester, Ormskirk and Warrington. At Liverpool market, growers bring in their potatoes in 2-ton lots.

The chief wholesale fruit and vegetable distributing markets are at Manchester and Liverpool, where are also auctions for the sale of imported fruit. In the areas served generally by the Manchester and Liverpool markets, there are 8 towns with a population of about 100,000 or more, viz., Bolton (178,683), Oldham (144,983), Blackburn (129,400), Preston (119,900), Burnley (103,175), St. Helens (102,640), Rochdale (92,700), and Wigan (91,200). Bolton, Blackburn, St. Helens and Wigan have wholesale markets for fruit and vegetables; at Preston and Burnley, wholesale trade is done in the general market. In these smaller markets, locally grown supplies of fruit and vegetables are supplemented by supplies bought in Manchester and Liverpool markets as well as by supplies received for sale on commission directly from various producing areas at home and abroad. The dependence of these smaller markets on the "key" markets

of Manchester and Liverpool militates against their development; local traders tend to buy where the wider selection of produce is on offer. Other wholesale fruit and vegetable markets are at Barrow-in-Furness and Warrington, and there is accommodation for wholesale trade in the markets at Accrington and Garstang.

The most important livestock markets are at Salford, which is the largest market for sheep and the fifth largest market for cattle in England and Wales, and Manchester, which is the second largest pig market in the country. Preston is the second largest market in Lancashire and the largest calf market in the North. From the point of view of the total number of stock handled, the next largest markets are Lancaster, Clitheroe, Liverpool, Ulverston, Poulton-le-Fylde, Blackburn, Rawtenstall, Haslingden, Pilling, Broughton and Carnforth. There are, in addition, 19 auction marts, mostly in the producing parts of the county, which handle less than 10,000 head of stock in a year, and, of these, 8 receive less than 2,000 head. The sale of livestock by private treaty is practically confined to Salford and Liverpool, where there are no auctions, and to Preston. The other cattle markets, as is characteristic of the northern counties, are mostly owned or controlled by auction mart companies. Returns show that, in an average year, about 980,000 head of stock enter the Lancashire livestock markets in the following proportions:—679,000 sheep and lambs, 162,000 cattle, 29,000 calves, and 110,000 pigs. There are animal landing wharves at Manchester, Fleetwood, Preston and Heysham.* These act as distributing centres for Irish store cattle and Irish and Isle of Man sheep as well as for fat cattle and pigs from Ireland. Except at Manchester, sales do not take place at the landing wharves, which are, therefore, hardly to be included in the category of markets. Fat stock is consigned from the wharves to the consuming centres of Lancashire and store stock is sent over a wide area, including Lancashire, Yorkshire, Cumberland, Norfolk, Cheshire and Derbyshire.

The two most important wholesale meat markets in Lancashire are at Manchester and Liverpool. These supply a number of towns with both home-killed and imported meat. A feature of the city cattle markets is the number which have public slaughter-houses adjoining them.

There are no wool auctions in Lancashire. Private treaty or auction sales of hides and skins are held at Manchester (the most important market of this kind in the country), Barrow-in-Furness, Bolton, Burnley, Liverpool, Oldham, Preston and Ulverston.

Manchester has an important corn exchange—the fifth largest in the country for British wheat. Corn is also sold at Warrington, Preston, Garstang, Ormskirk, Pilling and Wigan. Liverpool is a centre of great importance for the sale of imported grain.

* The Birkenhead lairage, which is a source of supply for Liverpool and other parts of the county, is described in Economic Series No. 14, page 101.

The fish trade is well provided for. There are two wholesale fish markets at Blackburn (one publicly controlled and the other provided by the railway company), Bolton, Fleetwood (where auction and private-treaty sales are held at the landing wharves), Liverpool, Manchester, Preston, St. Helens, Warrington and Wigan. Wholesale trade is also done in the general markets at Darwen, Rochdale and Southport.

The retail market is probably seen at its best in Lancashire, where large sums have been expended by municipal authorities in providing suitable accommodation. There are 164 retail markets in the county, and in no other county is there a greater number or is a greater volume of business done at such centres. The retail markets vary in size from the large, covered market-hall, such as exists at Bolton, to the ordinary open street market. In most of them, the greater part of the trade is in other than agricultural produce, and they are encountering keen competition from multiple shops handling cheap miscellaneous goods. As a rule, the markets have long waiting lists for stalls and are well patronised by the public. Manchester is exceptional in that it has no large general retail market hall. Many of the retail markets in Lancashire depend for imported fruit and for vegetables on the wholesale markets at Liverpool and Manchester.

(b) Notes on particular markets.

Blackburn.—*See* page 75.

Bolton.—The markets at Bolton consist of a wholesale and retail fruit and vegetable market, an open market for miscellaneous goods, a retail market hall, a fish market and a small livestock market, which is leased to a farmers' auction mart company. The erection of a wholesale meat market is being considered as part of a scheme for the provision of a new abattoir with cooling-rooms and cold-stores. The existing public slaughter-houses are clean, but old, and are inadequate for a town of approximately 180,000 inhabitants. There are no facilities for hanging meat and no chilling rooms in connection with the present slaughter-houses. Only a very small proportion of the meat consumed in Bolton is killed in the public slaughter-houses, most of the killing being done in private establishments. Business in the small auction mart, which consists of a sale ring at the end of covered shippons. is chiefly in store and dairy cattle and calves. The average weekly sales are about 50 head of stock.

Hides and skins are sold by private treaty in the local hide and skin company's premises.

The present wholesale fruit and vegetable market is small and congested. About one-third of the total commodities passing through it is home-produced, the chief trade being in potatoes. Sales are mainly on commission. About one-third of the area of the

market consists of permanent and temporary premises occupied by merchants and commission salesmen. The open space in the centre of the market is occupied on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons by 160 stalls for retail trade in miscellaneous goods, and 60 tables on which fruit, flowers and produce grown in the county are sold, while on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays about two dozen lorries belonging to local growers come in; on Saturdays, after 10 a.m., the open space is used as a retail fruit and flower market. Surrounding the market is the usual overflow of merchants' warehouses, where potatoes, poultry, rabbits and other produce are sold. Of late years, the wholesale market has suffered from lack of adequate facilities and from the fact that a number of local traders prefer to buy at the neighbouring markets of Manchester and Liverpool. Distribution from this market is almost entirely local and is confined to a radius of about 7 miles. Supplies are drawn from Lancashire and from a wide radius outside the county.

In common with many other Lancashire towns, Bolton has a large and flourishing retail market which is centrally situated. The market hall, with span roof, was erected in 1854 at a cost of £80,000; the stalls, of which there are 216 in 36 blocks, are arranged in lines with wide avenues between, and are chiefly devoted to the sale of miscellaneous articles and groceries, only a few being used for the sale of fruit, vegetables and meat. Each stall in the covered market occupies an average of 10 sq. yds. with 4 yards frontage. On Saturday mornings, tables in the central avenue are used by neighbouring dairy farmers for the retail sale of eggs, butter, cheese and dressed poultry. The trade is stationary in the market hall but is increasing in the open retail market held in the centre of the wholesale market.

The fish market is situated close to the retail market and provides accommodation for both wholesale and retail trade. The total weight of fish handled in a recent complete year was estimated at nearly 2,300 tons. The market is a brick-built building with a stone-flag floor; the stalls—some 18 in number—are of wood, which is not entirely satisfactory in a fish market owing to cleansing difficulties.

A site has been obtained for a new wholesale fruit and vegetable market, adjoining which will be a new wholesale and retail fish market. These will be covered markets.

The Corporation cold-stores, which are leased to a private company, have a capacity of 60,000 cubic feet and are situated ¼-mile from the existing wholesale fruit and vegetable market.

Fleetwood.—Fleetwood is the premier fishing port on the west coast and now ranks third among the fishing ports of the United Kingdom. The wholesale fish market is held every weekday at Wyre Docks, which are owned by the London, Midland and Scottish Railway Company, over 60,000 tons of fish being dealt with in the course of a year. The area of the covered space for marketing

fish is approximately 2,000 ft. by 70 ft. The market occupies three sides of the fish dock and is served by rail throughout its length; it communicates with a main road used for the conveyance of fish to local curing-houses. There are no individual stands or frontages in the market. The market space is allotted, in the first instance, to the trawlers according to the size of their catches, and is subsequently used by the wholesale buyers for packing and dispatching, the space they each occupy being governed by the volume of their purchases. No tolls are charged on the fish landed.

Fish is discharged direct from vessels into the market, where it is sorted by the owners according to class and placed in boxes for sale by auction. It is afterwards re-sorted by the buyers, who re-pack it with ice into their own boxes, which are loaded by the railway company into vans and wagons standing at the back of the slades.

The market is a two-storey building with slate and glass roofing. The flooring is of concrete and slopes from the railway lines to the quay walls. The upper portion of the market building is used for the storage and repairing of empty boxes, which are transferred from the yard to the upper storey of the dock by means of an electrically operated conveyor (Fig. 7). Adjoining, or near the market, are numerous premises used for various purposes connected with the fishing industry, namely, an ice factory, a marine engineering works, fish-oil and fish-meal factories, and splitting and curing houses. The business requirements of the wholesalers are met by a special post-office and some half-a-dozen banks.

Prices realised at the markets are published through the Press. Private lists are also prepared by the Fishing Vessel Owners' Association and the local association of wholesale fish merchants.

About 30 per cent. of the fish discharged at the market is sent as far away as London, this traffic being carried by at least two special trains a day in order to ensure delivery at Billingsgate well in time for the following morning's market. There are also express train services to the Midlands and the South, as well as to Lancashire and Yorkshire towns. The number of wholesalers using the market is increasing and business is outgrowing the accommodation. The Railway Company will shortly make extensive additions to the market space, which, with other improvements, are calculated to increase the market facilities by 50 per cent. Land for further development schemes is available.

General retail produce is sold in the covered and open market controlled by the Local Authority. The supplies of vegetables, butter and eggs which are offered for sale are drawn from the surrounding district. In addition, meat, fish, provisions and manufactured goods are sold.

Lancaster.—See page 65.

Liverpool.—See page 95.

Manchester.—*See* page 107.

Ormskirk.—Ormskirk has an open-air general market comprising 160 stalls and stands. Eggs, butter and farm produce are sold retail by producers from the surrounding district. The area is important for potatoes, growers of which meet in the streets and inns of the town to arrange sales by description to the merchants interested. Large quantities of potatoes and other produce change hands in this way during the busy seasons. Corn is sold on sample at prices based on Liverpool quotations.

Preston.—*See* page 69.

Salford.—*See* page 122.

Warrington.—In addition to two small private cattle auctions, Warrington has, in the centre of the town, a collection of markets, including a covered general market and an adjacent small, half-covered, wholesale fruit and vegetable market. A short distance away are, on the one side, an open wholesale potato market, and, on the other, a covered retail meat and fish market. There are 322 stands in the covered general market, of which 106 are grouped together for the sale of agricultural produce and 216 for drapery, hardware and other goods. The wholesale fruit and vegetable market is a roofed-in continuation of the general market; sales are to stallholders in the retail market and to local shops. In front of this market, which has open sides, is a growers' market which is smaller than, but otherwise similar to, that at Wigan (*see* below). The space is occupied on certain days of the week by some 200 farmers' carts and lorries from the outlying districts, and a ready sale is found for cauliflowers, cabbages and other heavy green vegetables. A small trade in locally grown corn, chiefly wheat and oats, takes place at a local inn, and occasionally at one of the livestock auctions.

Wigan.—Wigan has an important growers' wholesale market, which is held twice a week on the 3 acres which constitute the open market square in the centre of the town and within a ¼-mile from the railway sidings. Over 100 carts and lorries, and, in a busy season, up to 200, are drawn up in lines on the market square in the early mornings in allotted positions (Fig. 8). There is ample room for vehicles to circulate in the market. A few years ago, many carts came overnight but the increasing use of motor transport has rendered this unnecessary. Charges for the use of the market vary from 6*d.* per cartload of vegetables to 1*s.* per cartload of fruit.

The market is well patronised by buyers, who are, in the main, local greengrocers, and supplies a large part of the local requirements of vegetables. It gives local producers an outlet for supplies almost at their back doors. A considerable quantity of produce is also bought at this market by hawkers for distribution in the outlying parts of Wigan and in the neighbouring towns. Both wholesaling and retailing are permitted in the market at the same time, but the

two classes of trade are carried on in separate parts of the marke The wholesale trade is carried on direct from vehicles and the reta trade from stands or stalls. It has been estimated that 70 per cen of the trade in the market is wholesale and 30 per cent. retail. Abou 75 per cent. of the total supplies passing through the market in a average year is home-produced. Imported supplies are receive from Manchester and Liverpool and are increasing appreciably.

Supplies of potatoes and other vegetables, such as cabbages an cauliflowers, are drawn chiefly from within a 20-mile radius, *i.e* from the Preston, Ormskirk, Southport and St. Helens district In a busy season, from 40 to 50 tons of damsons, tomatoes, apple pears and plums, produced within a 20-mile radius, are sold on thi market. The main source of supply of home-produced fruit i however, the west-midland, south-eastern and eastern counties.

In addition to the growers' market, Wigan has also a covered general, retail market, a small, covered, wholesale and retail fis market containing 6 stands, and a small open retail fish market.

The livestock auction mart is privately controlled. The numbe of stock shown is small, and supplies are drawn from within a 10-mil radius.

There is a general retail market, which is a brick building wit a slated and glazed roof. In a section of this market, an appreciabl quantity of home-produced butter, cheese and eggs is retailed Ten stands are reserved for this produce, which is brought in, chiefl by motor-vans, from within a radius of 30 miles of Wigan. Liv and dead poultry are sold in separate sections of the general reta market.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

(a) General.

Northumberland, the fifth largest county in England, ha approximately half its area under crops and grass and half unde rough grazings. Mixed farming is confined mainly to the easter and northern parts and to the Tyne and other river valleys. Th chief crops are oats, barley and roots. Extensive flocks of shee are bred and fed. The western side of the county is devoted almos entirely to sheep rearing and to grazing and hill farming generally South of the River Coquet, coal mining is important and there i a large consuming population in and around Newcastle an Tynemouth.

Although much of Northumberland may, therefore, be describe as a grazing and breeding country, the livestock industry can b roughly located in four distinct areas, which are given over to mil production, grazing, breeding and hill sheep-farming, respectively Milk production is chiefly carried out on the lower part of the Tyn valley and in the south-east of the county generally, where a read market is at hand. Northumberland is not, however, self-supportin



FIG. 7.—Fleetwood : Wholesale Fish Market (storage for empties).



FIG. 8.—Wigan : Growers' Wholesale Market.



FIG. 9.—Rothbury: Livestock Auction Mart.

in milk, but draws supplies from around Carlisle and Penrith and, at times, from Scotland. The centre, northern and north-eastern parts of the county are engaged chiefly in the grazing and fattening of Irish cattle and in the breeding and fattening of sheep. At certain seasons of the year, notably from June to October, fat cattle and sheep from these parts are exported to the Midlands. The main cattle breeding districts are in the upper parts of the North and South Tyne valleys and in the Allendale district. At Hexham, which is the chief market for these districts, large numbers of dairy cows, which have been bred and reared locally, are purchased by dairymen from the industrial centres. These cows are usually sold when about to calve for the second or third time. The hill sheep-farming area occupies by far the largest part of Northumberland, which, after Yorkshire, is the largest sheep-breeding county in Great Britain. The sheep are grazed on the hills and many thousands of them are distributed as stores to various parts of the country. Pig breeding is not important in Northumberland, although there are a number of piggeries near the industrial centres.

The chief livestock markets of Northumberland are at Newcastle-on-Tyne (*see* page 120), which is the third most important sheep market in England and Wales, Hexham, Rothbury, Morpeth, Berwick, Wooler, Alnwick, Scots Gap, Belford, Bellingham, Haltwhistle, Ponteland, Cornhill-upon-Tweed and Acklington. There are small auction markets at Wark-upon-Tyne, Whittingham and Allendale. Irish store cattle are sold at the Hexham, Berwick, Morpeth, Alnwick and Scots Gap markets. Rothbury, Wooler and Bellingham are important centres for the dispersal of Half-Bred, Crossdown, Cheviot and Black-Faced sheep, special sales of which are held in the summer and autumn. Haltwhistle is noted for its spring and autumn sales of Blue-grey cattle. The seasonal sales, which are a feature of the livestock industry in Northumberland, are very important for the distribution of store cattle, especially Irish, and store sheep. It is not uncommon at certain seasons of the year to find as many as 15,000 lambs and 20,000 sheep exposed for sale even at one of the smaller sales. The sales of fat cattle and fat sheep held at Wooler, Cornhill and Belford in the winter, and at Alnwick, Morpeth and Hexham in the summer, are of special note, since cattle and sheep are brought there for movement south into the industrial districts of Tyneside, Durham and Yorkshire, and to Manchester and London. Some fat stock is also sent from the north of Northumberland to Edinburgh and Glasgow markets.

In the county as a whole, returns show that about 908,000 head of stock may be said to pass through the livestock markets in a typical year, in the following proportions :—683,000 sheep and lambs, 179,000 cattle, 6,000 calves, and 40,000 pigs.

There are no wool auctions in the county itself. Auction sales for wool have been attempted at various times but have not been successful. Northumberland wool is sent either to Edinburgh

or Leith, where a small proportion is sold by auction, or it is sold by private treaty to wool brokers at the Berwick Corn Exchange and at Newcastle, Hexham, Darlington and Carlisle. Hides and skins are sold by auction at Newcastle. There is no wholesale meat market in Northumberland.

Sale of eggs by auction is not usual in Northumberland, and there are no recognised poultry markets apart from a small market held at Newcastle on Saturdays. Auction sales of live poultry are, however, held at 7 of the private cattle auctions. Producers sell small quantities of butter, eggs and live and dead poultry in local markets, such as Hexham and Morpeth, and much of this produce finds its way to the industrial centres. The fruit and vegetable output of the county is small; the wholesale fruit and vegetable market at Newcastle—the only one of its kind in the county—offers a ready demand for any Northumberland produce which is surplus to local requirements.

The most important corn market is at Berwick, which, in 1927, was the fifth largest centre in England and Wales for oats and the tenth for barley. Alnwick, Belford, Hexham, Morpeth, Newcastle and Ponteland are also centres for the sale of corn.

(b) Notes on particular markets.

Berwick.—The Corn Exchange at Berwick, which occupies an area of 672 sq. yds., is open every Saturday and is owned and controlled by a limited company. It was established about 80 years ago and consists of a large stone-built building with a glazed roof. There are 86 stands in the exchange occupied by about 100 merchants; in addition, about 50 merchants are without stands. The stands are allocated in rotation as applied for. The annual rental of each stand is from £4 to £5 per annum, or from £6 to £7 10*s.* when shared by two merchants. An entrance fee of 1*d.* per day is levied on farmers and 1*s.* per day, or £1 per annum, on merchants other than stand-holders. Apart from local grain merchants, who are the principal buyers, merchants attend from Newcastle-on-Tyne, Edinburgh, Leith and other centres. From the point of view of the amount of trade done, the Exchange is reputed to be one of the largest farmers' markets in the country and presents a very busy appearance between midday and 2 o'clock every Saturday. Some 20,000 cwt. of wheat, 300,000 cwt. of barley and 100,000 cwt. of oats are sold yearly, drawn chiefly from the counties of Northumberland and Berwick. Potatoes, hay and straw are also sold wholesale by sample in the Exchange, where wool merchants also have stands. Insurance companies and banks are represented in the Exchange.

Berwick ranks fifth in Northumberland as a livestock centre. It has a public cattle market for the sale of store cattle by private treaty, including sales on commission, and a private auction mart for the sale of fat cattle and sheep to local butchers and for con-

signment to Tyneside, Leeds, Halifax, and Glasgow. The number of livestock sold in the auction mart increased from 23,387 in 1926 to 41,900 in 1927. This increase is attributed to the change of the market day from Monday to Friday, which has enabled a number of dealers operating in Newcastle cattle market to attend the Berwick sales. A small monthly auction sale of horses is held at an inn yard in the town. There is a farmers' co-operative slaughter-house in Berwick which kills and sends to London large numbers of fat hoggs and lambs. In 1927, 32,691 sheep were slaughtered by this concern.

A public general market is held in the Town Hall buildings and on the street. Eggs, butter, cheese, live and dead poultry and fruit and vegetables are sold retail by small producers.

Hexham.—Hexham, situated in the Tyne valley on the line running from Newcastle to Carlisle, is an important centre for stock and supports two auction marts controlled by farmers' auction mart companies. The larger of the two is situated about ¼-mile from the railway. Sales of fat cattle and sheep take place every Tuesday at 2 p.m., but numerous sales of dairy, fat and store cattle and store sheep are held on various days of the week throughout the year; a complete list of the sales is published early in each year and distributed to buyers and sellers. The quality of the dairy cows exposed for sale is, on the average, much superior to that of the dairy cows sold in the markets in the Midlands and south of England. In addition to covering for pigs and calves, the accommodation includes a large brick-built lairage for 140 cows, each cow being tied up separately. There are two covered sale rings with seats for buyers and a 4-ton dial weighbridge. The numbers of stock passing through this mart in 1913 and 1927 were as follows :—

		1913.	1927.
Cattle :	dairy cows and heifers	2,000	4,800
	fat	1,000	1,320
	store	7,000	9,100
Calves :	veal	1,500	2,800
	for rearing		500
Sheep :	fat	6,000	4,500
	fat lambs		5,600
	store	35,000	39,100
Pigs :	fat	100	290
	store	500	3,100

The other (Tynedale Co.) auction mart was formed in July, 1926, and is within 250 yards of the railway station in proximity to the main road. No dairy cattle are handled at this mart, the chief trade being in store cattle (27,318 in 1927, including 19,726 Irish

cattle), store and fat sheep (19,433 and 11,417, respectively, in 1927). Two covered sale rings and a 25-cwt. dial weighbridge are available. Covered accommodation for stock consists of a corrugated-iron shed, equipped with two rows of 12 pens and two of 13 pens with wide alleyways between, which provides penning for over 600 head of stock. The mart is lit by electricity. Of the local supplies which were formerly received by rail, it is estimated that 75 per cent. now arrives by motor van.

The drawing area for both marts is chiefly local except for Irish store cattle. The destinations of the fat stock surplus to local requirements are Newcastle and, to a less extent, Carlisle. Store cattle are distributed locally and are also purchased for the south of Scotland, and the Midlands and south of England; large numbers of store sheep are consigned outside the county. The dairy cows are distributed over a wide area, large numbers being sent to Edinburgh, to neighbouring counties, to Yorkshire and to the Midlands.

A small wholesale and retail trade in butter, cheese, eggs and live and dead poultry and a retail trade in fruit and vegetables and fish are conducted in the covered general market. The greater part of the farm produce is sold to buyers from Newcastle and towns in the colliery districts.

Newcastle-on-Tyne.—*See* page 119.

Rothbury.—This is a typical, hill collecting centre for sheep and, from the point of view of head of stock sold, ranks third in the county. Of the 77,300 head of stock, which in a recent year passed through this auction, 73,265 were store sheep (Fig. 9).

The fat-stock auction is held fortnightly. The mart adjoins the railway and main road, the accommodation consisting mainly of open wooden sheep pens with concrete paving, two sale rings—one covered and one uncovered, and a 20-cwt. dial weighbridge. The drawing area of the mart is within a 40-mile radius. The chief destinations of the stock are Northumberland, Durham, the Midlands and the East Lothians generally; a certain amount of fat stock is consigned to Newcastle.

Scots Gap.—This is a village situated on the edge of the Cheviot Hills at the junction of the railway lines running from Bellingham and Rothbury. It supports an auction mart which, although eighth in importance in the county judged by the head of stock sold, is interesting in that it handles store cattle and store sheep only. The accommodation provided is, therefore, simple and consists of a covered sale ring and creosoted wooden pens for cattle and sheep, of which 10,846 and 32,527, respectively, passed through the market in 1927. In this store market, no onlookers or even buyers are allowed in the inner sale ring. Irish store cattle account for 75 per cent. of the total cattle shown, the drawing area for the rest of the supplies being the central part of the county. The distributing area is wide and embraces most of the north of England and parts

of the south of Scotland. Store sheep in fair quantities find their way south into such counties as Warwick, Oxford, Berkshire, Gloucester and Essex. Movement of stock presents no difficulties as the market gates open on to the railway loading bank and a main road bounds one side of the premises. Parking accommodation is provided at the mart for 200 motor vehicles.

WESTMORLAND.

(a) General.

Scarcely half of Westmorland is under cultivation, and, of this area, about five-sixths is permanent pasture. Sheep rearing and grazing and, to a less extent, cattle grazing are the chief agricultural features of the county; in common with Cumberland, the county is noted for Dairy Shorthorns. Only about half of the county is under crops and grass, oats being the only corn crop of importance. The best cultivated land is found in the broad river valleys of the Lune, Kent and Eden.

There are only 5 produce markets in Westmorland and one only is devoted exclusively to wholesale trade. The produce markets at Appleby, Kendal, and Kirkby Lonsdale are publicly owned; those at Tebay and Kirkby Stephen are private markets. These general produce markets are well patronised and are chiefly farmers' markets for the disposal of butter, cheese, eggs, poultry and vegetables. There are cattle marts at 5 centres in the county; these are all private marts and, except for one of the Kendal marts, are all auctions. The cattle marts at Kendal and Appleby are the most important, followed by those at Kirkby Stephen, Ambleside and Kirkby Lonsdale. Auction sales are also held thrice yearly at Tebay. In these markets, the bulk of the trade is in store stock drawn from the locality; relatively large store sheep sales take place in the autumn. Very few Irish cattle are fattened in the county. Store sheep are consigned to various parts of Cumberland and Lancashire and, in a few instances, to Cheshire, Warwickshire and Staffordshire. In many cases, stock is reconsigned to the larger auction marts in Cumberland. In south Westmorland, supplies are largely bought by dealers from north Lancashire, who buy dairy cattle, bullocks, fat lambs and, to a less extent, butter and eggs direct from farms; surplus fat stock from the auction marts in the south of the county is taken by butchers in the Lake district or sent to the industrial towns of Lancashire and west Yorkshire.

In the cattle markets of Westmorland, in an average year, returns show that about 179,000 head of stock are handled in the following proportions :—160,000 sheep and lambs, 17,000 cattle, 1,500 calves, and 500 pigs.

(b) Notes on particular markets.

Appleby.—The auction mart adjoins the railway station and opens on to the main road leading to the town. It is rectangular

in lay-out, held weekly and has approximately the same turnover of stock as the auction mart at Kendal. The accommodation includes one covered and one uncovered sale ring. The covered sale ring has tiered seats for buyers and is built of stone with slated roof and brick floor ; it is equipped with a 40-cwt. dial weighbridge. Covered accommodation is provided for pigs and calves but not for sheep. During a recent complete year, 66,400 head of stock were sold, of which about 60,000 were sheep and lambs. The area from which stock is drawn is almost entirely local, except for store lambs of which a number are brought from Yorkshire and Scotland. The fat stock sold is mainly sent to the industrial towns of Lancashire and Yorkshire. During the summer months, however, there is an appreciable demand for fat stock in the Lake district. Store stock is sold for local feeding but store sheep also find their way from this mart to the Midlands and store cattle to the eastern counties of England and Scotland. A horse fair is held annually in June.

In the town itself, and about half a mile from the railway, is the Corporation general market, which, under a charter of Henry II, is held partly in the open street and partly in a small stone-built market hall. The trade in farm produce is small and chiefly retail. A cheese fair is held annually during the third week in August.

Kendal.—The auction mart, situated within 500 yards of the railway docks, is held on Mondays ; special sales are held on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays during the spring and autumn. There is covered accommodation for about 100 fat cattle and for 80 dairy cows and 70 calves. Two covered sale rings are provided. The sheep pens are of iron with concrete floor. Additional sheep pens and covered pens for store cattle are in course of construction. At this mart, as at some other marts in the northern counties, the sheep are not sold in the pen but are driven through the sale ring, thus affording buyers a good view of the stock offered. In most cases, the sheep are brought down from the neighbouring hills by road. In addition to supplying local requirements, fat stock is sent to Preston, Bolton and Manchester ; store stock is distributed over Lancashire, Cheshire, Warwickshire, Yorkshire, Cumberland and Durham. Compared with pre-War days, the numbers of stock passing through the mart show a considerable increase, especially as regards sheep and lambs. Four bull sales are usually held in the year and horse sales in February, June, and November.

A private cattle market, which has been in existence for nearly a century, is also held weekly. Selling is by private treaty on a commission basis only. The market adjoins the railway station and is uncovered except for four cattle pens. The trade is chiefly in store cattle, buyers being, in the main, dealers from the south of England and from Scotland. Sheep sales are held in the autumn only.

A general market is held in the Market Hall and in the streets.

Sales of farm produce include butter, eggs, fruit and vegetables and young pigs. Very little wholesale business is done. Sales of corn are held in the Market Hall. No charges are made for selling in these markets.

YORKSHIRE, EAST RIDING.

(a) General.

Nearly nine-tenths of the East Riding is under cultivation, distributed in the rough proportions of one-third permanent grass and two-thirds ploughland. The arable acreage in the East Riding of Yorkshire is greater than in either the North or West Riding. There are three fairly distinct agricultural areas, characterised, broadly, by different types of soil—the western, the north-eastern, or Wold, area and the south and south-eastern, or Holderness, area. In the western area, the farming is largely of the mixed type, although a good proportion of the land is devoted to main-crop potatoes.* The Wold area is chiefly arable, the principal crops being oats, wheat, barley, turnips and swedes. As in other light soil districts, a large number of sheep are folded on the roots. The Holderness area includes much good grassland. A large number of first-class bullocks, chiefly Lincoln Reds, and sheep are fed-off both in winter and summer.

The production of fruit and vegetables is confined almost entirely to a small area round Hull and Cottingham; the latter is noted for strawberries, which are chiefly disposed of in the Corporation Field Market at Hull. The Pocklington and Market Weighton districts are famous for carrots. Chicory growing has been revived to a certain extent in the Dunnington area in the west. In the alluvial area round the district known as Sunk Island, near the mouth of the Humber, mustard and other seed crops are grown to a limited extent. The production of eggs and poultry is carried on in all parts of the East Riding.

In the districts more remote from the towns, any small surpluses of milk in the summer time are made into butter, which is consumed locally, small quantities being sold at Beverley, Howden and Market Weighton markets. Practically no cheese is produced locally. Milk is consigned chiefly to Hull and Bridlington, but the quantities produced in the Riding are insufficient to meet the demand and milk for the consuming areas has to be obtained at nearly all seasons from the West Riding.

There are only 7 market centres in the East Riding. The largest corn exchange is at Hull, which is the most important market in England and Wales for home-grown wheat. Driffield is a considerable centre for the sale of wheat, barley and oats. Other centres for the marketing of locally produced corn are Beverley, Bridlington, Howden, Market Weighton and Pocklington.

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* *See* Economic Series No. 9.

The small, mainly uncovered, Corporation Field Market at Hull is the only wholesale fruit and vegetable market in the county; in addition, auction sales of imported fruit and vegetables take place at Hull on quayside premises owned by the London and North Eastern Railway Company, which also controls a large fish market at the landing wharves. A small wholesale trade in local produce is carried on at Market Weighton general market.

A ready outlet for poultry produce is available at Hull and, during certain seasons, at the coastal towns such as Bridlington and Scarborough; large supplies are also consigned direct to wholesale markets in the consuming centres of the West Riding. Live poultry are sold in the livestock auction marts at Beverley, Bridlington, Driffield and Pocklington, and eggs in the general markets at Beverley, Bridlington, Howden and Market Weighton.

The most important cattle market is at Hull (*see* page 87) which, owing to good railway communications, draws on the entire county for its supplies. Driffield is next in importance but handles only about half the head of stock disposed of at Hull. Beverley and Bridlington are smaller markets handling a local trade. At Pocklington, there are two small weekly auctions and there is a small auction at Market Weighton. Supplies from the north-western and western parts of the county are largely marketed at York in the West Riding. It is interesting to note that no cattle markets in the East Riding are held on any day of the week after Wednesday. The total number of stock passing through the livestock markets in the East Riding in the course of a year is about 256,000, the proportions being roughly as follows:—165,300 sheep and lambs, 37,200 cattle, 200 calves and 53,300 pigs. There is no wholesale meat market in the East Riding. Wool sales are held at Bridlington. Auction and private treaty sales of hides and skins take place weekly at Hull.

(b) Notes on particular markets.

Driffield.—Driffield stands at the head of an alluvial valley running northward from Hull, a district famous for its stock-raising and light-horse breeding. The cattle market is owned by a private company and is an example of a fairly large collecting mart in a producing area. The accommodation includes facilities for both private treaty and auction selling. There are two covered sale rings with dial weighbridges for fat cattle. The average number sold in an hour in each ring is from 40 to 45. Five firms of auctioneers operate in the market and sell in rotation. They pay tolls to the company on all stock sold and charge an inclusive commission to vendors. Dairy cows and store cattle are sold by auction from open pens. Covered pens are provided for pigs. Practically all the stock arrives by road. Sales are chiefly to Hull, Bridlington and the West Riding. Store stock, which is an important trade, is sold to local farmers, largely by private treaty. Special sales of

breeding sheep are held in September and October. Live poultry are sold by auction, buyers attending from Hull and the surrounding district.

A weekly retail market is held in the market place and at Cross Hill, where fruit, vegetables and dead poultry are sold by local producers. Tolls are collected by the Driffield and District Branch of the National Farmers' Union, the Branch having acquired the manorial market rights.

Corn merchants have stands and reserved rooms at two inns in the town; they also sell in the adjoining market place. In 1927, 139,913 cwt. of locally produced wheat, 130,056 cwt. of barley and 99,222 cwt. of oats were sold at these informal markets and in the market place.

Hull.—See page 86

YORKSHIRE, NORTH RIDING.

(a) General.

The North Riding of Yorkshire has a larger proportion of hill pasture than either the East or the West Riding; about two-thirds of the area is under permanent grass and rough grazings. Dairying is general, particularly around the large towns, supplies of milk over and above local requirements being sent to Middlesbrough and Stockton in the north, to York and Leeds in the south and, from Wensleydale farms, to Newcastle-on-Tyne. Formerly, a good deal of cheese was made, especially in Wensleydale. Sheep and cattle raising are the chief industries in the dales; otherwise, the farming may generally be described as mixed. The most productive parts of the county are in the Vale of York, running due south from Darlington through Northallerton and Thirsk, and the broad valley running west from Scarborough through New Malton. The remainder of the county is hill and moorland devoted to sheep and cattle raising.

Turnips and swedes are the important root crops. The chief potato districts are round Northallerton and Thirsk. The potatoes are mostly sold through corn and agricultural merchants, but supplies grown in the east of the county are also disposed of to some extent at 4 of the livestock marts. Only a negligible quantity of fruit and market garden produce is grown and that mainly in the neighbourhood of the larger towns. There are no wholesale fruit and vegetable markets in the North Riding, although a small wholesale trade is done in the general markets at Middlesbrough, Northallerton and Thirsk. Of the corn crops, oats and barley are grown more commonly than wheat. Business in corn takes place at Malton, an important barley centre, and, to a less extent, at Easingwold, Northallerton, Scarborough, Thirsk and 8 other centres. Darlington, although in Durham, should be considered with the North Riding market towns and is an important barley market for the northern part of the North Riding; in the same way, Stockton, for wheat and barley, also serves the Cleveland area.

The North Riding ranks second to Northumberland as a sheep-producing area, the chief sheep farming districts being in the Swaledale, Wensleydale, Teesdale, Ryedale, West Gilling and West Hang districts. The most important markets for sheep are Seamer and Hawes. Pigs are sold at most of the auction marts. Northallerton is the largest market for cattle, but the chief market serving the North Riding is York (in the West Riding), which draws on a wide area for its supplies and is an important centre for the distribution of Irish store cattle and Scotch sheep, especially during the annual Michaelmas sales which last three or four weeks. The livestock auctions at Seamer, Northallerton—where there are three marts—Hawes, Stokesley, Malton, Leyburn, Easingwold, Masham, Guisborough, Thirsk, Ruswarp, Holwick, Yarm and Helmsley, do a medium trade. In addition, there are 8 small auctions, 3 of which have a very small turnover. The majority of the auction marts are situated in the two main valleys of the Riding and are useful as collecting centres for the stock coming down from the higher ground, which is bought at these auction marts either for consumption in the North Riding itself, notably in the coast towns of Whitby and Scarborough, or for the industrial district round Stockton and Middlesbrough. In some cases, fat stock is reconsigned southwards to industrial towns such as Leeds and Wakefield. As is the case further north, ownership of the marts is chiefly in the hands of auction mart companies, the only publicly controlled cattle market being at Pickering. The equipment of the auctions is on the whole adequate and they are not burdened with heavy capital expenditure. Covered sale rings, with dial weighbridges, and covered accommodation for all animals except sheep are usual. Most of the marts are held on Mondays. Fortnightly auction sales are usual where two auction mart companies own premises in the same centre and neither handles sufficient trade to warrant weekly sales. In the North Riding, about 362,000 head of stock pass through the markets in an average year, the proportion being, roughly, 234,000 sheep and lambs, 73,000 cattle, 2,000 calves, and 53,000 pigs. There are no wholesale meat or fish markets in the North Riding. Private treaty sales of wool are held at Seamer.

Live poultry are sold in 11 livestock auction marts. Eggs are not sold by auction; a proportion of the supplies is, however, brought in to the retail markets by producers in the ordinary way.

In the small towns, there are usually open-air retail markets where local farm produce, including butter, is sold by producers. At these markets, provisions, drapery, hardware and other general merchandise are sold by stallholders from the industrial towns. Middlesbrough, Northallerton, Richmond, Scarborough and Whitby have both covered and open general markets. The Scarborough market is owned by a private company.

There are 26 market centres, in all, in the North Riding.

(b) Notes on particular markets.

Northallerton.—With the exception of York, Northallerton is the most important marketing centre for the North Riding At the present time, there are three private auction marts in the town and a general market owned by the urban district council. There is no corn exchange building, but transactions in locally grown corn take place at the " Black Bull " hotel each week.

The general market is held partly in the open and partly in a building which forms the basement of the Town Hall. Local producers attending the market do not occupy stalls but stand with their goods for sale. The sales of eggs, butter, poultry and vegetables are mainly retail, but business is also done with wholesale buyers, notably from Darlington, Leeds, York, Thirsk and Ripon.

The three auction marts are known as the Applegarth, Malpas and Station Marts. The Applegarth Mart is held every Wednesday and handles store stock and cows only. The other two marts are held on alternate Tuesdays and handle all classes of fat stock as well as store pigs.

The Applegarth Mart (Fig. 10), which is situated about half a mile from the railway, occupies an area of approximately 12,000 sq. yds., one-fifth of which is covered. Store cattle and sheep are sold in the mart, the accommodation of which includes one covered and one uncovered sale ring. Sellers and buyers do not enter the inner ring while selling is in progress. A 120-cwt. dial weighbridge is provided for weighing store cattle. Other accommodation in this mart comprises byres for 100 cows and stabling for 60 horses, with trial paddock attached. About three-quarters of the store cattle passing through this mart are Irish. Other store stock is drawn from parts of Yorkshire and from Cumberland and is sold for Yorkshire and Durham.

The Malpas Mart is equipped with two covered sale rings, one used for sheep and the other, which is fitted with a 25-cwt. dial weighbridge, for cattle. Covered accommodation is available for pigs and calves but not for sheep. The drawing area is local; supplies are distributed locally and to Durham, Bradford, Leeds and Sheffield, as well as to the centres served by supplies from the Station Mart.

The total area of the Station Mart is 7,000 sq. yds., about half of which is covered. The mart is situated on the main road and, as its name suggests, is close to the L.N.E.R. unloading docks. There are two sale rings, with covered accommodation for buyers; one of the rings is used for fat cattle and the other for fat sheep. The cattle ring is equipped with a dial weighbridge weighing up to 30 cwt. Other equipment in the mart includes cattle and pig pens which are all covered, calf houses, uncovered pens for sheep, and a permanent unloading ramp. Practically all supplies for this mart are drawn from within a radius of 10 miles. Supplies are distributed to Middlesbrough, Stockton, Darlington, Hartlepool, Sunderland, Newcastle, Bradford and Leeds.

YORKSHIRE, WEST RIDING.

(a) General.

The West Riding covers a greater area than any other county in England and Wales and there is great variety of farming on its approximately 1¾ million acres. Only about one-fifth of the Riding is given over to arable cultivation, one-half is permanent pasture and the remainder is mountain and heath land. Agriculturally, it may be divided into three areas,—the eastern, the central and the western. The eastern area is the most productive and consists almost entirely of good mixed farming, the chief crops being oats, wheat, barley, turnips, swedes and potatoes. Stock feeding, including the feeding of Irish cattle, is important, the markets at Ripon, Wetherby and Tadcaster drawing on this area for supplies. The south-east of the Riding can be included in this area. Here, a large proportion of the light land round Doncaster and Selby is used for potato growing, while between Doncaster and Goole and along the Ouse valley there is good warp land, where potatoes are also an important feature and corn and sugar-beet growing and also stock feeding are general. Between Wetherby and Doncaster, lies a belt of limestone land on which the best quality limestone potatoes are produced. The central area is almost entirely industrial, agriculture being confined to small holdings producing, chiefly, milk which is either sold direct to consumers or supplied to retailers in the cities and towns. The western area, which stretches into the Pennines, is mainly grass or mountain and heath land. The farming in this area consists of stock raising, especially sheep (chiefly Swaledales and Wensleydales and their crosses), and the production of milk. Butter and cheese were, at one time, made extensively in the river valleys, but little is made now. The Craven area, the centre of which is Skipton, is noted for its cattle, and the southern part of the area—near Keighley —for poultry breeding with a specialised trade in day-old chicks.

The area under potatoes in the West Riding is slightly greater than in the other two Ridings combined. Selby and Doncaster, in the midst of the potato growing area,* are important markets for potatoes, large quantities of which are also consigned direct to Manchester. Over 6,000 acres in the West Riding are under peas which are picked green. An important market-garden crop is forced rhubarb, over 1,000 acres of which are grown within a 10-mile radius of Leeds. This industry has been extensively developed of late years and large quantities of forced rhubarb are now sent to various wholesale markets all over the country, the main trade extending from December to April. The London and North Eastern Railway Company caters for this seasonal trade by running a special train to King's Cross, which ensures that rhubarb loaded in Yorkshire in the evening is delivered to the various London markets in the early

* *See* Economic Series No. 9.

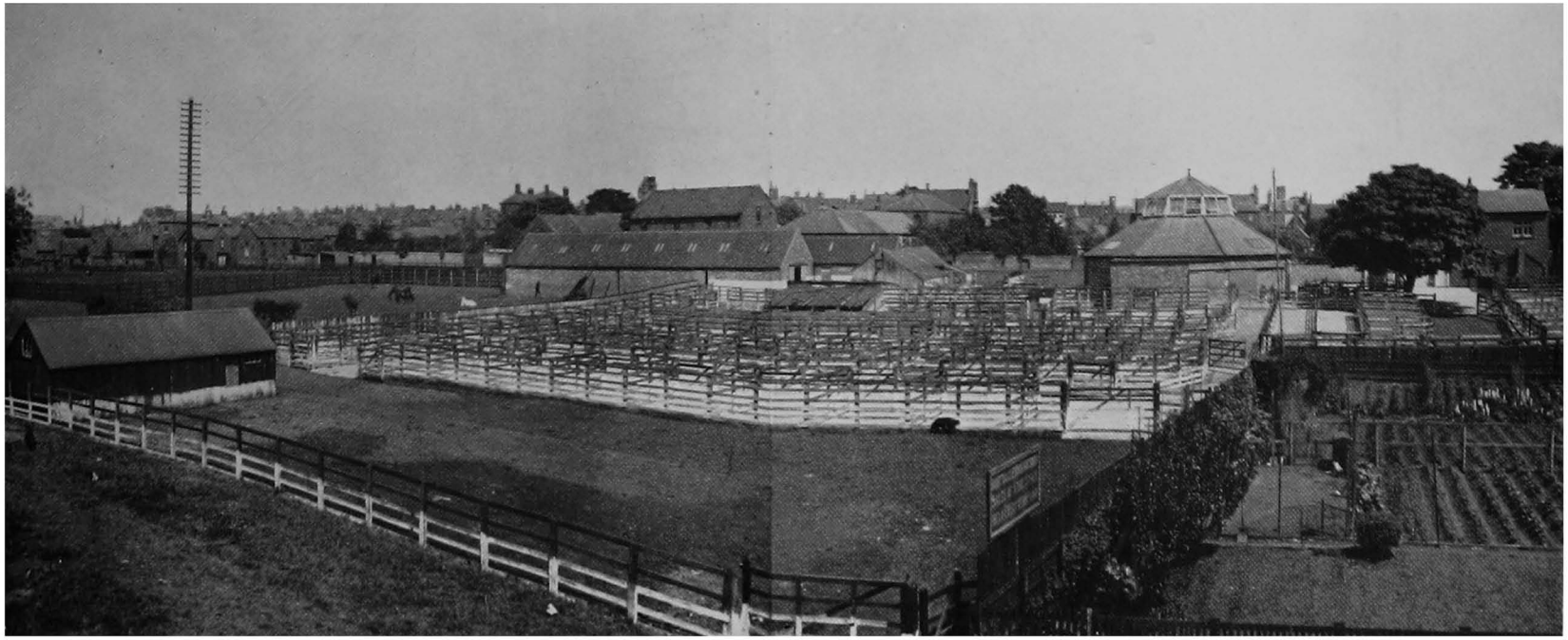


FIG. 10.—Northallerton : Applegarth Livestock Auction Mart.

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FIG. 11.—Doncaster: Livestock Market.

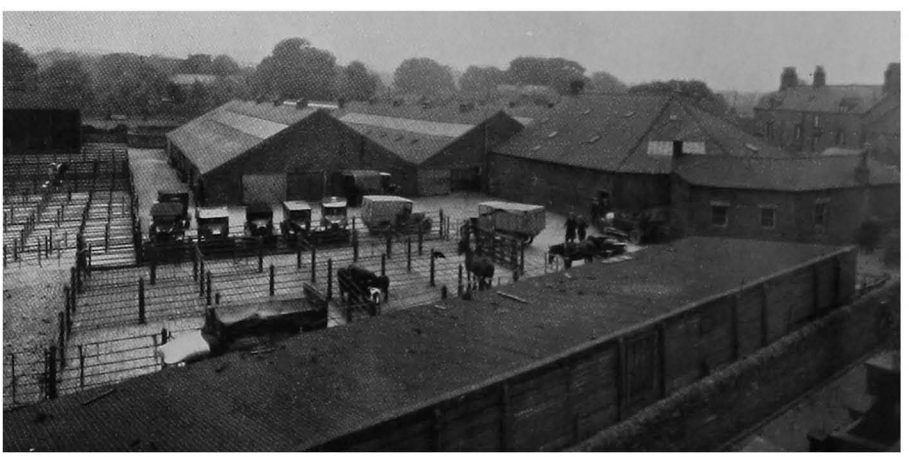


FIG. 12.—Hellifield: Livestock Auction Mart.

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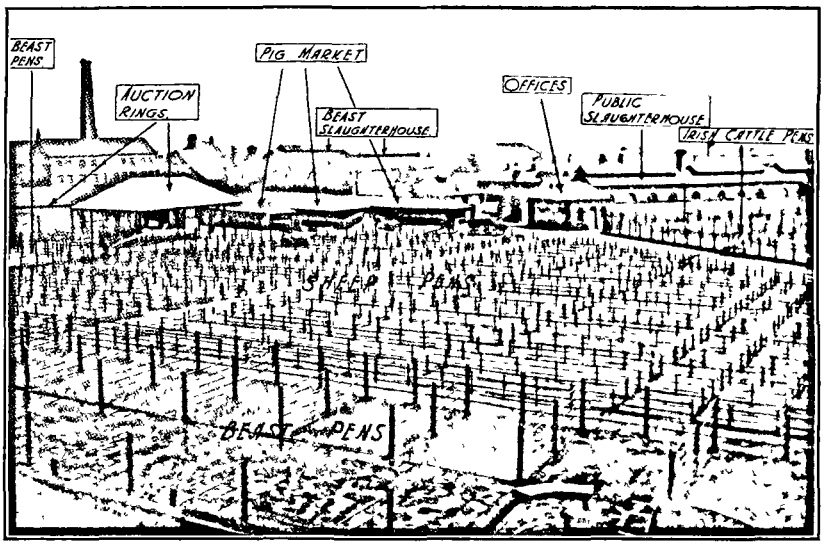


FIG. 11.—Doncaster. Livestock Market.

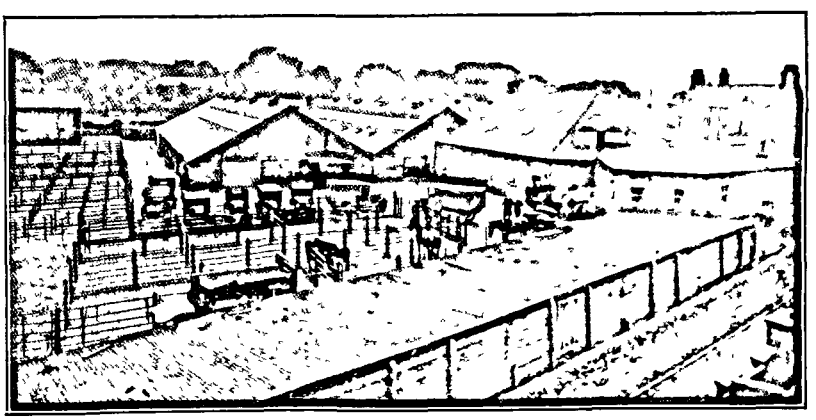


FIG.. 12.—Hellifield: Livestock Auction Mart.

hours of the following morning. There is very little fruit farming in the West Riding.

At the general markets in one or two places in the producing areas, quantities of locally grown produce—chiefly potatoes and other heavy vegetables—change hands on description. These markets, of which Doncaster is a good example, are found chiefly in the potato-growing districts and have grown up by custom round an already existing retail market or, as in the case of Selby, in or around the Corn Exchange and the general market. Very often, no special market building is provided for this trade and no tolls are taken, the business being usually transacted either in the street or in hotels. There are wholesale distributing fruit and vegetable markets at Leeds, Bradford, Sheffield, Barnsley, Halifax and Huddersfield. In addition, some towns, Dewsbury, Doncaster, Selby and Wakefield, for example, have what may be termed secondary wholesale markets, where trade is carried on in the general market in space specially set aside for that purpose; supplies for these markets are drawn chiefly from the nearest large wholesale market. Facilities for the sale of locally grown produce in the consuming centres of the West Riding are good. At the wholesale markets of Leeds, Bradford and Halifax, standing space is set aside for the use of the local producer; that good use is made of the space is evidenced by the demand by producers for increased facilities.

Corn markets are held at Leeds (which for sales of British barley is only exceeded by Norwich and London and, occasionally, Lincoln), Doncaster, York, Goole, Selby, Ripon, Knaresborough, Pontefract and Sheffield. Smaller quantities are sold at Bentham and Holmfirth. In some of the above centres, corn is largely marketed on the streets or in inns.

Markets in producing areas where butter is sold wholesale and retail are Bentham, Ripon and Selby. Much of the poultry and egg production in the West Riding is carried on, as in Lancashire, by small-holders and back-yard poultry-keepers in the neighbourhood of the big industrial towns, where any surplus produce is readily absorbed. Eggs produced on general farms are largely bought by egg merchants who collect direct from the producers' premises. Such supplies do not pass through markets. At many of the general markets in towns such as Doncaster, Ripon, Selby, Wakefield and York, for example, and at general markets in the country districts, such as at Otley, near Leeds, varying quantities of locally produced eggs and poultry are, however, offered for sale; these are either purchased by local shopkeepers or are bought up by wholesale merchants for resale in the larger towns. A few of the livestock auctioneers run egg and live-poultry auctions in conjunction with their cattle auctions, but this only represents a small proportion of the trade done. Home-produced poultry and eggs, drawn sometimes from a wide radius, are, of course, sold

in the wholesale markets of the large towns, such as Bradford, Leeds and Sheffield, where there is also a big trade in imported eggs.

The largest livestock market is at York, which, for cattle, is the most important in England and Wales. After York, the chief livestock markets in the West Riding are, in order, Leeds, a private-treaty market for fat cattle and fat sheep, Skipton, important for all classes of stock, but chiefly sheep, dairy cows and calves, Hellifield, also important for sheep and cows, Doncaster, the second largest pig market in the West Riding, and Wakefield, solely a private treaty market for fat cattle and fat sheep. All these markets are largely attended by dealers. Otley is a farmers' auction mart handling a good class of stock, especially cows and pigs. The medium-sized markets are, in order, Gisburn, noteworthy for store sheep, Huddersfield, Bingley, Whitkirk, Knaresborough, Apperley Bridge, Boroughbridge, Ripon, Tadcaster, Sedbergh, Barnsley, Wetherby, Bentham, Pontefract and Pateley Bridge. There are 8 smaller markets with an average sale of between 100 and 200 head of stock a week; in this category, fall the markets in Bradford, Rotherham, Selby, Halifax and 4 auction marts in producing areas. Eight still smaller markets follow, including Goole (which is considering the erection of a new cattle market and slaughter-house) and Sheffield. In addition to the sales in the weekly and fortnightly auction marts, most of which are held on Mondays, periodical store cattle and sheep sales and fairs are held in the western area of the Riding. Some of the auction marts in the western valleys are noteworthy for the number and quality of the dairy stock exposed for sale; the markets at Skipton and Hellifield are of special note in that a large trade is done yearly in "laying-off" cows and heifers brought from the surrounding districts, as well as in young heifers and geld cattle. These two markets act as a valuable exchange centre between breeders in the western dales and milk producers in the industrial areas. With the exception of Doncaster—see page 56—the livestock markets in the eastern part of the Riding handle mostly a local trade. The large cattle markets in the consuming centres of the West Riding are described in another section of this Report. In general, the West Riding is well equipped both in auction marts in the producing areas and in public cattle markets in the consuming centres. In an average year, about 1,296,000 stock pass through the West Riding livestock markets in the following rough proportions:—789,000 sheep and lambs, 338,000 cattle, 38,000 calves and 131,000 pigs. There are publicly controlled wholesale meat markets at Bradford, Halifax, Huddersfield, Leeds and Sheffield; a wholesale trade in meat also takes place in the Doncaster general market.

In the populous areas, the retail market halls at Bradford, Halifax, Harrogate, Huddersfield, Leeds and Sheffield are among the finest in the country. Castleford, Dewsbury, Doncaster, Goole, Mexborough, Pontefract, Rotherham, Todmorden, Wakefield, Wetherby and Wombwell have both covered and uncovered public

retail markets. At Goldthorpe, Keighley and Morley, where both types of markets also exist, ownership is in private hands, as also is that of the small covered market at Normanton. In addition, 19 local authorities, including those of large towns such as Barnsley and York, have uncovered retail markets and there are 13 private uncovered markets in small towns.

Sheffield alone has a separate public wholesale fish market, but fish is sold wholesale in the markets at Bradford, Dewsbury, Halifax, Heckmondwike, Huddersfield and Leeds. Castleford is the only example of a town with a separate retail fish market.

Bradford has two important private wool auctions. Wool sales also take place at Bentham and Ripon.

Hay and straw are sold by auction at Huddersfield and by private treaty in the markets at Bentham, Doncaster, Holmfirth, Leeds, Ripon, Selby and Sheffield. The trade done in some of these centres is unimportant. Doncaster is a centre for the trade in hops.

Bradford, Dewsbury, Leeds, Sheffield and York are auction centres for hides and skins, sales of which are also held at Doncaster, Halifax, Heckmondwike and Ripon.

Altogether, there are over 70 market centres in the West Riding for agricultural produce.

(b) Notes on particular markets.

Barnsley.—Barnsley, which is about the same size as Rotherham (*see* later), has general retail and butchers' retail markets, a small wholesale fruit and vegetable market and a small cattle market. All these markets are controlled by the Corporation and are uncovered.

The open-air general retail market, held on Wednesdays and Saturdays in the centre of the town, consists of some 340 temporary stalls erected on the public square and in an adjacent street; the stalls are mainly taken up by dealers in drapery and old clothes. The retail butchers' market is composed of some 106 stalls and is held on "Market Hill" every Saturday. Near these retail markets is the wholesale fruit and vegetable market with warehouses adjoining which are owned by the Corporation and let to merchants. The largest trade is in potatoes. Immediately adjacent to these warehouses is the cattle market, the equipment of which consists simply of a few iron and movable wooden pens erected on an open space. It is proposed in the near future to move the cattle market to a site outside the town; this will enable the Corporation to utilise the space which is now occupied by the cattle market for an extension of the rather inadequate premises now used for the wholesale fruit and vegetable trade. In the new cattle market, accommodation is to be provided for 350 fat and store cattle, 600 sheep and 300 pigs; there will also be space for future extensions. An unusual, but desirable, feature of the new market will be the provision of a railway

siding right inside the market premises. At present. a good proportion of the supplies for Barnsley is drawn through Wakefield market; it is anticipated that the new market will attract supplies direct.

Bradford.—See page 77.

Doncaster.—Doncaster, situated in a producing area, has an important fat-stock market (Fig. 11), which is owned by the Corporation and is situated within ½-mile from the two railway stations. The market is open on two days a week—on Tuesdays for the sale of fat stock and on Saturdays for the sale of store stock. Accommodation is provided for both private treaty and auction selling; the five auctioneers who operate in the market draw lots half-yearly for the times at which to sell. In addition to penning accommodation for 1,000 cattle, 4,000 sheep and 600 pigs, there are two large covered sale rings equipped with tiered seats and with a 20-cwt. and 25-cwt. dial weighbridge respectively. Covered lairages are provided for cattle arriving or detained overnight. The accommodation for pigs is good and includes covered pens for over 300; an unloading ramp—essential to all livestock markets—is provided at the end of the pig shed. An outstanding feature of the market is the tar macadam roadways, which are wide enough to allow carts and lorries to unload or collect both sheep and pigs direct from the pens. A separate portion of the market is set aside for the use of Irish cattle. In 1927, 19,672 fat cattle, 15,889 store cattle, 2,147 milking cows, 1,609 calves, 33,820 fat sheep, 6,678 store sheep, 13,706 fat pigs and 15,606 store pigs passed through the market. As compared with 1913, numbers show a decrease of over 11,000 in the case of sheep and an increase of over 17,000 in the case of pigs. Adjoining the market are public slaughter-houses, where there is accommodation for 130 beasts, 250 sheep and 200 pigs.

Stock is mainly received from within a 20-mile radius but a quantity of sheep and cattle from North Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire is also handled. It is estimated that nearly 75 per cent. of the fat stock exposed for sale is bought by dealers for reconsignment to other districts, such as Sheffield, Rotherham and Selby. The remainder supplies the needs of Doncaster itself and the immediately surrounding towns and villages. Store stock is distributed over the West Riding of Yorkshire and over Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire. The removal of the cattle market to another site and the building of a new abattoir adjoining it are under consideration.

An important market for West Riding corn is held at the Corn Exchange at which there are 80 stands. In 1927, 97,811 cwt. of wheat, 51,543 cwt. of barley and 32,857 cwt. of oats were sold.

The Doncaster general market is held on Tuesdays and Saturdays, partly in the market hall and partly in the surrounding square. The produce is chiefly received from within a 20-mile radius and is sold both wholesale and retail.

Halifax.—*See* page 83.

Hellifield.—The Hellifield auction mart (Fig. 12), which is owned and controlled by an auction mart company, is situated in the hills at the junction of the railway lines from Gisburn and Skipton. The mart is within 400 yards of the unloading docks and is near the main roads. It is open on alternate Tuesdays for the sale of store stock, on each Thursday for the sale of dairy cattle and on each Saturday for the sale of fat cattle and sheep. The accommodation provided includes a covered sale ring with a 30-cwt. dial weighbridge (Fig. 13), covered pens for sheep, a permanent ramp and a lairage capable of holding approximately 500 cattle (Fig. 14). In 1927, 126,020 head of stock passed through the mart; of this total, 107,582 were sheep and lambs and 18,438 were cattle. Stock is consigned to the market from the northern counties and from the south of Scotland. Like the neighbouring mart at Skipton, a number of good class in-calf heifers drawn off the hills are exposed for sale. The average weekly supply of dairy cows is over 400 from August to December, and from 250 to 350 during the remainder of the year. Buyers attend from a wide area. Trade in fat stock commenced in this market in 1920, supplies being distributed to Blackburn, Bradford, Dewsbury, Halifax, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Sheffield and other towns in the industrial areas of Lancashire and West Yorkshire.

Huddersfield.—*See* page 85.

Leeds.—*See* page 90.

Rotherham.—Owing to its proximity to Sheffield, the town of Rotherham has no wholesale fruit and vegetable or fish markets. Its retail markets are held partly in two covered buildings, which are centrally situated and open daily, and partly in the adjoining streets. Business is practically confined to Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays. Of the 290 stalls in the retail markets, 10 only are devoted to agricultural produce and, of these, 3 are let to market gardeners who offer their own produce on the week-end markets.

The Corporation cattle market is new and replaces an old market on another site which formerly had a considerable trade. The new market is small but has iron penning accommodation, a covered sale ring with tiered standing room and a 30-cwt. dial weighbridge. Covered pens are provided for pigs, sheep and calves. About 20 to 30 fat cattle, 150 fat sheep and 20 fat pigs are dealt with weekly. Three firms of auctioneers sell in rotation and a few dealers dispose of stock by private treaty. Senders are principally local farmers; buyers are mainly local butchers. Adjoining the market is an abattoir which consists of 3 slaughtering halls for cattle, sheep and pigs respectively, and is equipped with cooling, chilling and freezing rooms and with ice-making plant. Plant for utilising waste offal has recently been installed.

Sheffield.—*See* page 124.

Skipton.—*See* page 71.

Wakefield.—Wakefield, with a population of about 52,000, has a cattle market (Fig. 15) controlled by an educational body. Sales are entirely by private treaty. With the exception of a calf and clipped-sheep shed capable of holding about 1,200 sheep, there is no other covered accommodation in the market. In addition to the usual open iron pens for cattle and sheep, occupying in all about 4 acres, a permanent loading bank for sheep and two branch Banks are on the market premises. About 6 acres of adjacent fields are used for lairage purposes. There is also a number of private cattle sheds near the market.

The trade of the market is in fat cattle and fat sheep; no calves or pigs are sold and store cattle only very occasionally. As the market is situated in an industrial area, local supplies are limited and only average from 50 to 60 cattle a week. The main supplies of fat cattle are drawn from Scotland, Ireland and from the North and East Ridings; fat sheep are received from the North and East Ridings and from Lincolnshire. Buyers are mostly retail butchers from Wakefield, Sheffield, Barnsley, Huddersfield, Dewsbury, Castleford, Pontefract and other neighbouring towns.

About 15,000 fat cattle, a large proportion of which was fat cows, and 54,000 fat sheep were sold in this market in 1927, but the numbers exposed for sale were less than half of those offered in 1913. The market thus affords another instance of the decline of livestock markets in the large consuming centres. The falling-off in business is attributed partly to the competition of the auction marts in the producing areas and partly to the tendency of butchers to visit farms and buy direct.

The Corporation owns public slaughter-houses in which, during a recent complete year, 3,985 cattle, 292 calves, 7,277 sheep and 2,422 pigs were slaughtered.

There is a general market, which is owned by the Corporation About one-quarter of this market is covered. Fruit, vegetables, flowers, live poultry and fish are sold both wholesale and retail in this market; meat, dairy produce, eggs and dressed poultry are sold retail. Wakefield is an important corn centre during the barley season, when brewers and maltsters buy from factors. Farmers' corn business is done in the "Woolpacks" Hotel.

York.—*See* page 73.

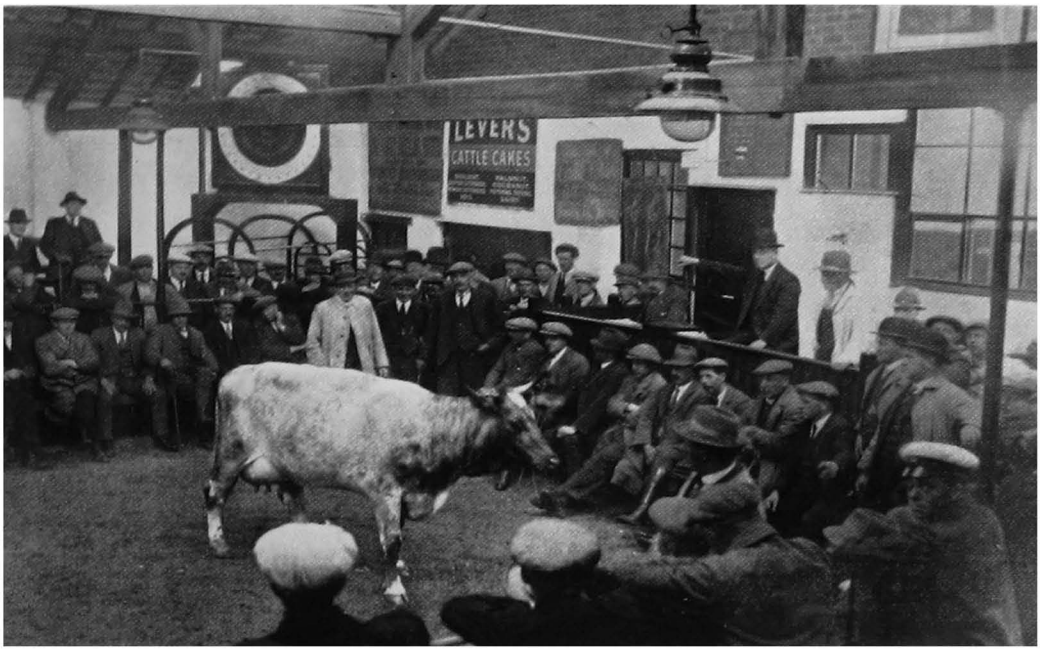


FIG. 13.—Hellifield : Covered Sale Ring in Livestock Auction Mart.

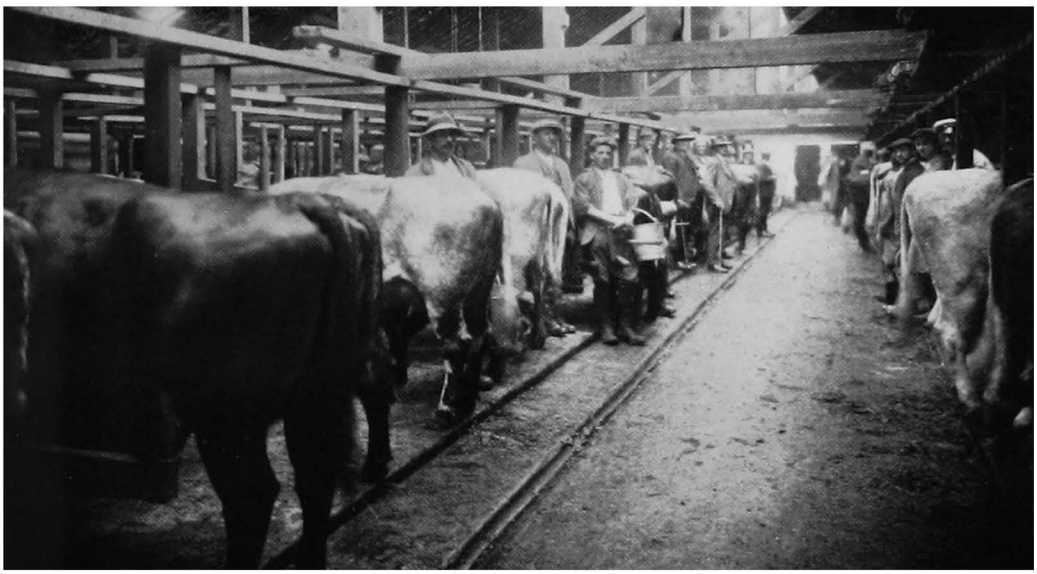


FIG. 14.—Hellifield : Cattle Lairage in Livestock Auction Mart.



FIG. 15.—Wakefield : **Livestock Market.**



FIG. 16.—Carlisle : "Sands" **Cattle Market.**

PART III.—SOME NORTHERN MARKETS DESCRIBED.

(I) MARKETS IN PRODUCING AREAS.

In this section, a number of markets of different types have been selected for detailed description as presenting certain features of interest.

Carlisle.

Cattle Markets.—The public cattle market, or " Sands " market, as it is called (Fig. 16) is owned and managed by the Corporation. Situated adjoining the main road on a level piece of ground on the outskirts of the town, approximately a mile from the railway station, it is well laid out, provided with iron pens and concrete floor, and has wide market roadways convenient for the circulation of stock. A sale ring is provided which, with a few adjacent pens, is let to a firm of auctioneers which also owns the private auction marts described below ; this is the only firm of auctioneers which is licensed to operate in the " Sands " market. The market is primarily for the sale of Irish store cattle ; sales are chiefly by private treaty, some of the pens being let to dealers for their exclusive use at a fixed yearly rental. An attempt to sell Irish stores by auction was not successful and was abandoned. Supplies reach the market from Ireland via Glasgow, Ayr, Stranraer, Silloth, Fleetwood and Holyhead, and are distributed over the whole of the north of England, consignments being also sent to the South and Midlands. In 1927, over 34,000 Irish store cattle were sold in this market. The animals are graded before sale, the lots being made up according to weight, size and colour and readily catch the eye of intending purchasers. The Irish dealers prefer to make up one bad bunch rather than ruin the look of many by offering mixed lots.

There are two large private livestock auction marts in Carlisle. These are situated at Earl Street and Botchergate, respectively, and are owned by a firm of auctioneers. Together, they are the largest and among the most efficiently organised private auction marts in the country.

The Earl Street mart is in the centre of the town and is worthy of special mention in that it provides accommodation for a large number of stock on the very limited ground space of 3,300 sq. yds. The buildings are of brick, with slate roof and glass lights, and occupy a ground space of only about 2,614 sq. yds., the remainder being uncovered. There is, however, extensive first-floor accommodation and, in one part of the building, even second-floor accommodation also, the floors and sale rings communicating by sloping gangways. The pens hold approximately 1,100 store cattle or 4,500 sheep, while about 220 cattle can be tied up or stalled singly. There are two large sale rings—one on the ground floor and one on the first floor, the latter fitted with a 30-cwt. dial weighbridge —and there is

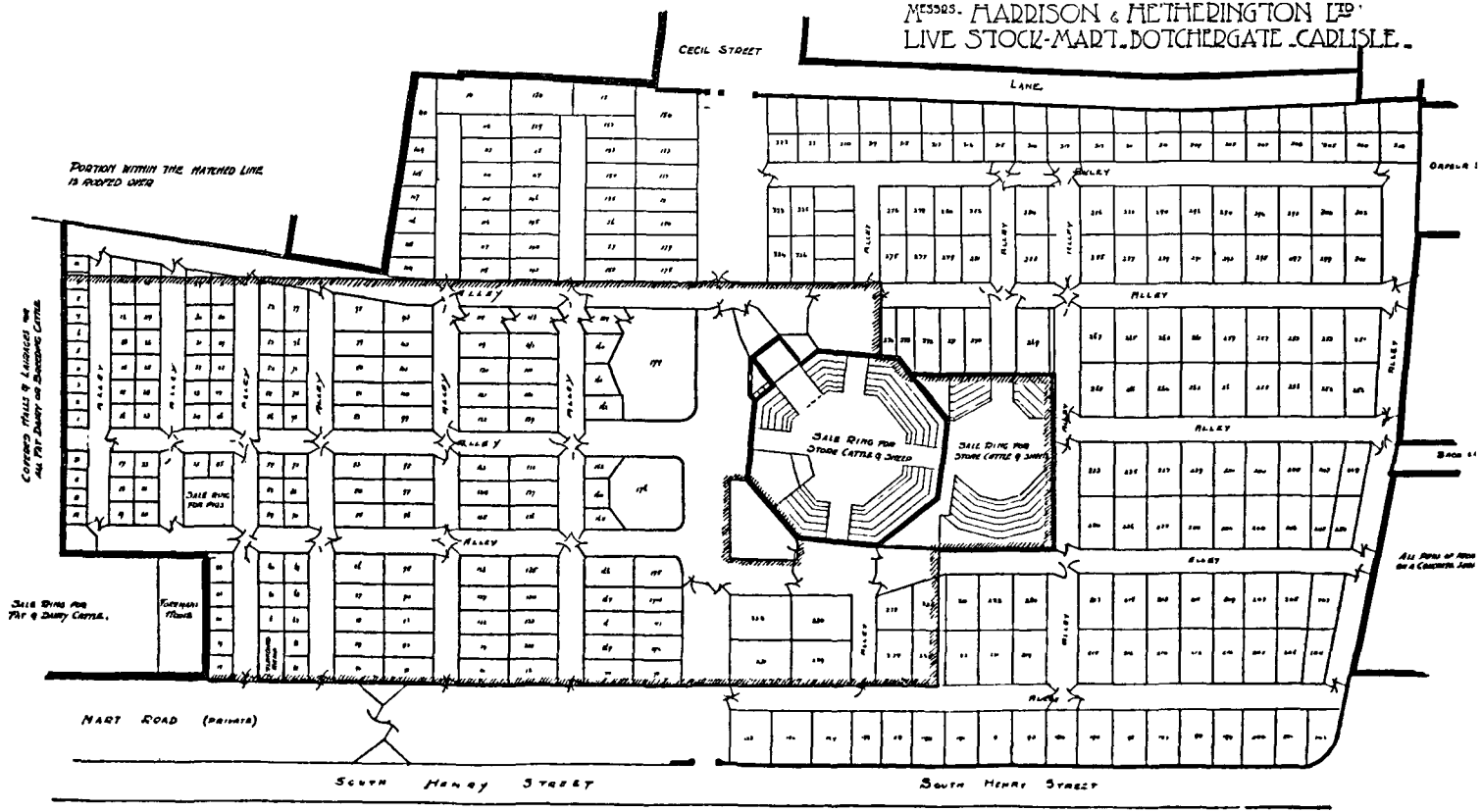


Fig. 17.—Carlisle: Botchergate Livestock Mart



FIG. 18.—Carlisle: Botchergate Livestock Auction Mart (Sale Ring).

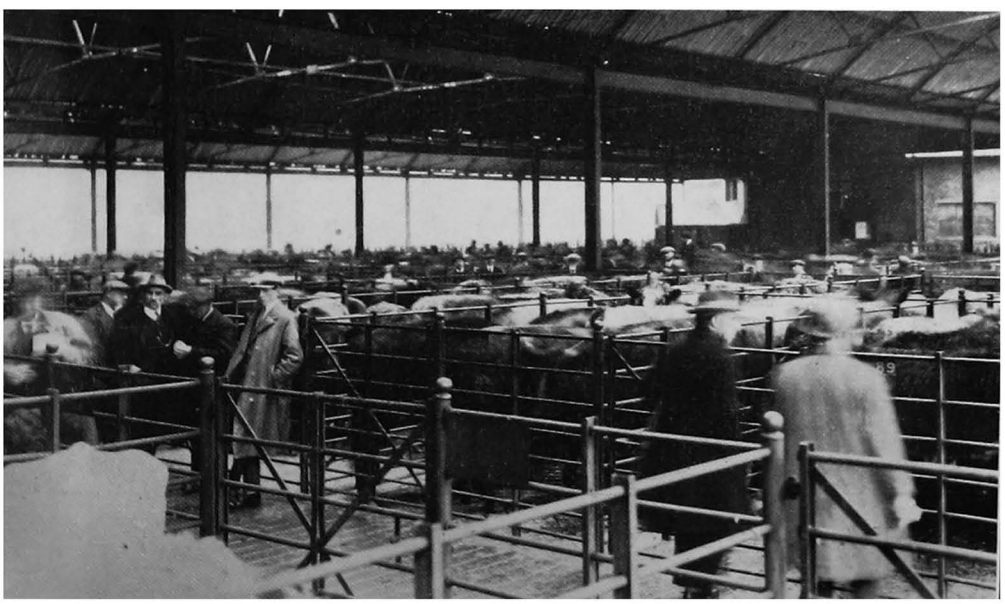


FIG. 19.—Carlisle: Botchergate Livestock Auction Mart (Cattle Pens).



FIG. 20.—Carlisle: General Market, Fruit, Flowers and Vegetables Section and Butchers' Stalls.



FIG. 21.—Carlisle: General Market, Farm Produce Section.

a smaller sale ring for pigs. The same class of stock is never sold simultaneously in the two large rings. The mart is run in conjunction with the Botchergate mart and is used chiefly for the sale of fat and store sheep and of dairy cows of excellent quality. In 1927, 41,426 fat sheep and lambs and 24,905 store sheep, 1,420 fat cattle, of which about 30 per cent. were Irish, 9,748 dairy cows and store cattle and 57 calves were sold in this mart. In the same year, over 1,400 horses were also offered for sale on the premises, a 66-stall stable as well as loose-box accommodation for a further 300 horses being provided.

The Botchergate mart (Figs. 17, 18 and 19) is centrally situated at from ½ to ¾ mile, on the average, from each of the 7 main-line loading stations. In 1927, 7,924 fat cattle, 8,892 dairy cows and store cattle, 217 calves, 43,822 fat sheep, 44,541 store sheep, 10,761 fat pigs and 8,006 store pigs were sold in this mart. The selling arrangements are good. The weight of each fat beast, as recorded on the weighbridge, is separately chalked up on a blackboard before bidding for it begins. Further, the order of selling the various lots is determined by ballot each week. All stock arriving after the ballot takes place is sold last. This arrangement eliminates disputes. A list is kept of all buyers who attend the mart, together with particulars of the class of stock bought. These buyers are notified by post of all sales about to take place; sales are also advertised in the press. The mart occupies a ground space of 16,648 sq. yds., of which 7,100 sq. yds. are covered. The lay-out of the mart is excellent. It has a concrete surface and iron penning accommodation, under cover, for over 1,000 head of store cattle, as well as uncovered accommodation for about the same number. The accommodation, if used for sheep, will hold from 17,000 to 18,000 head. In adjoining byres, accommodation is provided for some 260 cattle, each animal being stalled separately; thus, dairy cows, fat cattle or young stock-bulls can be handled with equal facility. The pens are so arranged that sheep or cattle can be moved in and out of the various rings expeditiously. There are 3 large sale rings of 66 ft. 6 ins., 44 ft. 6 ins. and 62 ft. diameter, respectively, with tiered seating. The fat-cattle ring is equipped with a 25-cwt. dial weighbridge. In the store-cattle ring, a weighbridge is provided which is large enough for a wagon-load; this and the third ring are inter-communicating and are frequently in use simultaneously at the larger sales of both cattle and sheep. There is, in addition, a smaller sale ring for pigs. All the rings are covered; the three largest seat 400, 180 and 160 persons respectively, exclusive of ringside accommodation. The average attendance of buyers, as taken recently over a sequence of weekly fat-cattle sales, is approximately 50 for this class of stock alone. The number of fat cattle sold per hour is from 65 to70. In addition to livestock, small quantities of hay, straw, turnips and potatoes are sold in carts by auction; an up-to-date weighing machine has been installed for this trade.

Although there are, in the country, a number of schemes of insurance of fat cattle against condemnation of carcases, mention should be made of the scheme in operation at the Carlisle auction marts which is managed by a Committee of farmers and butchers. The auctioneers have one representative on this Committee but otherwise take no part in the scheme. Cattle for insurance are inspected before sale, those which are obviously unfit for insurance being rejected by a sub-Committee of two—a farmer and a butcher. The income of the insurance scheme is derived from the premiums payable by both the farmers and the butchers at the rate of 1*s.* a head for bulls, bullocks and heifers, and 2*s.* 6*d.* a head for cows. The premium is adjusted from time to time to changes in the risk as determined by experience. In order to ensure identification, hides are not detached from carcases until after the Meat Inspector's examination.

The Earl Street and Botchergate Marts, as collecting and distributing centres, serve the whole of the north of England. The large numbers of stock exposed for sale attract buyers from long distances, consignments of all classes of stock, but especially of Blue Grey store cattle, for which this district is well known, and of store sheep, are sent to the Midlands and the south of England. Large seasonal sales, in addition to the ordinary weekly sales, are also held at the marts, as, for example, in the autumn, when numbers of Scotch sheep are sent down from the Scotch sales.

The following information regarding the origin and destination of supplies handled at these two marts is of interest :—

Origin, other than local.

FAT CATTLE.—From Northumberland, Westmorland, Dumfriesshire and Roxburghshire.

DAIRY CATTLE.—As for fat cattle, and occasionally from Lancashire.

STORE CATTLE.—As for fat cattle, and occasionally from Kirkcudbrightshire.

FAT SHEEP.—As for fat cattle.

STORE SHEEP.—From Northumberland and from the whole of southern Scotland.

PIGS.—As for fat cattle.

Note.—The calves sold in these marts are all locally produced.

Destination, other than local.

FAT CATTLE.—To Glasgow, Edinburgh, Hexham, Newcastle, Leeds, Wakefield, Salford, Whitehaven, Workington, Maryport, Barrow-in-Furness, and West Cumberland Coast generally.

DAIRY CATTLE.—To Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Kilmarnock, Hawick, and Lancashire and Cheshire.

STORE CATTLE.—To counties throughout Great Britain.

FAT SHEEP.—After killing in adjoining slaughter-houses, to London and Birmingham; alive to Liverpool, Salford, Preston, Blackpool, Burnley, Nelson and other towns in Lancashire; also to Leeds.

STORE SHEEP.—To counties throughout England.

FAT PIGS.—To Newcastle, Hexham, and to Whitehaven, Workington and other West Cumberland towns.

YOUNG PIGS.—To Newcastle.

EARL STREET AND BOTCHERGATE LIVESTOCK AUCTION MARTS, CARLISLE.

Classification of Supplies according to Radius of Assembly and Distribution and Types of Sellers and Buyers.

Class of Stock.	Assembly.				Distribution.					
	Local supplies received from—		Supplies from outside a 10-mile radius sent in by—		Bought for local needs by—			Bought for outside a 10-mile radius by—		
	Farmers.	Dealers.	Farmers.	Dealers.	Farmers.	Butchers.	Dealers.	Farmers.	Butchers.	Dealers.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Cattle · Fat.. ..	84	3	10	3	—	45	10	—	20	25
Store ..	58	17	15	10	35	—	5	35	—	25
Dairy ..	53	7	4	36	20	—	—	10	—	70
Calves ..	95	—	5	—	5	5	—	—	—	90
Sheep · Fat ..	75	—	22	3	—	25	—	—	10	65
Store ..	15	5	15	65	35	—	5	15	—	45
Lambs ..	32	3	12	53	25	10	*15	15	15	20
Pigs : Fat ..	80	—	10	10	—	40	—	—	30	30
Store ..	95	—	3	2	90	—	—	—	—	10
Horses	48	2	47	3	42	—	3	20	—	35

* Fat lambs purchased by dealers for killing in Carlisle are included in this figure ; 10 per cent. of these go to Birmingham and 90 per cent. to Smithfield, London.

Produce Auctions.—In addition to the sale by auction of hay, straw, turnips and potatoes in the Botchergate livestock mart, there is a private auction in the town where hay, straw, potatoes, turnips, carrots and beet are sold on Mondays throughout the year. The average quantity of produce sold is about 150 loads weekly, except in the middle of summer. The buyers are chiefly local and from the south of Scotland. Seed corn, seed potatoes, live poultry and miscellaneous goods are sold on Saturdays. Some 25,000 day-old chicks passed through the auction in the spring of 1920. The auctioneer pays toll to the Corporation on all produce brought in to be sold.

There is also a private auction mart in Carlisle for the sale of hides and skins.

General Market.—The covered market hall, which was erected in 1889 in the centre of the city, is built of stone and cost £60,000. It has a three-arch span, with glass lighting and a row of fixed louvres for ventilation, and is, in fact, one of the finest market halls in the country. The market is open daily but the chief market days are Wednesdays and Saturdays; on other days, only that part of the market is used which is occupied by permanent stalls. Vehicles enter the market by a traffic avenue 18 ft. wide. In two bays of the market are 48 large fixed stalls for florists, fruiterers and market-gardeners, 148 small stalls for producers and 25 stalls for vendors of miscellaneous articles. These are arranged in avenues 8 ft. wide, the various commodities being kept separate as far as possible. There are 35 lock-up butchers' stalls, which are situated along the south and west walls and are built of white glazed brick (Fig. 20). The average size of the butchers' stalls is about 4 sq. yds. and the average rent paid is 12*s.* per week. The remaining permanent stalls are of wood and are let on a weekly, quarterly, half-yearly or yearly rental, according to size and position; in each case the rent is collected weekly. A number of these stalls have lock-up cupboards underneath. The Carlisle Corporation appreciate that the main object of their market is the sale of home-produced agricultural commodities and preference is therefore given to all applicants for stalls who wish to sell home-grown supplies. This is reflected in the number of stalls which are occupied by local smallholders and market gardeners who sell their own supplies of cabbages, cauliflowers, cut flowers, poultry and eggs. It is unusual to find a market of this description with such a small proportion of stalls devoted to the sale of other than agricultural commodities. The market is entirely for home-grown produce, with the exception of certain imported fruits and vegetables, such as bananas, oranges and new potatoes.

The third bay of the market, covering one-third of the space in the market hall, is occupied by lines of wooden forms which are so divided that from 600 to 700 farmers' wives and cottagers can display their baskets of eggs, poultry, butter, honey or fruit (Fig. 21). This part of the market is only in use on Saturdays, when it is packed with

buyers and sellers. Vendors pay a toll of 2*d.* per basket; if they wish to have the same space reserved for them each week a yearly charge of 22*s.* is made. The fact that all the available forms are taken each week and that many of the sellers have to content themselves with spaces on the ground, shows how popular is this method of direct marketing by producer to consumer. Every variety of locally grown fruit, vegetables and flowers is on sale in small lots in this portion of the market, and, in the aggregate, a large trade is done each week. It has been estimated that 75,000 eggs alone change hands on a Saturday, any surplus over local requirements being bought by dealers for reconsignment to Glasgow and Newcastle, as well as to Leeds, Manchester and other Yorkshire and Lancashire towns. A separate portion of the market is reserved for wholesale butter and egg packers.*

Adjoining the market hall at one end is an annexe of glazed brick specially set aside for the retailing of fish. A corresponding annexe at the other end is used for the sale of live poultry; a fair trade with wholesalers from the larger towns is done in this part of the market, especially round about Christmas time.

There is no wholesale fruit and vegetable market in Carlisle, the local retailers being supplied either direct by the producers at the retail market or by one or two wholesale fruit merchants who own warehouses in the city. So far as potatoes are concerned, however, it is the practice for farmers to sell supplies from carts in certain streets of the town. This trade is carried on at four points on Wednesdays and Saturdays, the carts being so arranged that they do not interfere with the normal traffic of the town. The spaces reserved for this trade are called "potato markets." The corn market is also a street market, but the trade, which is mainly in locally grown oats, is small.

Lancaster.

Cattle Market.—Lancaster cattle market, situated on a main road and about half-a-mile from the railway, is a good example of a medium-sized cattle market in a producing area. The features found in this market, such as the ample provision of covered accommodation and the sale of sheep through the ring, may be noted by way of contrast with livestock markets of equal importance in the south of England. The Market is owned by the Corporation and part is leased to a farmers' auction mart company, the only auctioneers operating in the market, for the sale on Mondays of fat stock, on Tuesdays of dairy stock and on alternate Fridays of store stock. Store stock, chiefly Irish, is also sold by private treaty on Saturdays. Seasonal sales of store stock are held during the year. All sales commence at 10 a.m. There are 74 sheep pens and 104 covered cattle stalls. There are two large stone buildings with stone

* See also Economic Series No. 10, Chapter XVIII.

sett flooring, one for housing dairy cows and the other for fat cattle, each equipped with covered sale rings with tiered seating accommodation; one of the sale rings is fitted with a 30-cwt. dial weigh-bridge and is used for fat cattle, the other being used for dairy cattle. Single or double stalls are provided for cows and fat cattle. The store cattle pens are roofed over. The sheep pens are uncovered. Moveable ramps are provided for unloading stock arriving by road. There is no official parking place in the market but users generally park on an open space outside the market gates. The Corporation slaughterhouse, which includes a cold-store, adjoins the auction mart. There are separate halls for pigs and for cattle and sheep, and walled-off hanging accommodation for all carcases. There are no private butchers' slaughterhouses in the town.

The market is similar in character to that at Preston (*see* page 69), but smaller. The rail facilities are convenient for stock coming down from the north as well as for buyers coming from the industrial area which lies to the south; the movement of stock through this market is, in fact, largely from north to south. Fat and store cattle, apart from Irish cattle, are drawn chiefly from within a radius of 15 miles: some store cattle are also received from Yorkshire. About 3,000 Irish store cattle enter the market in a year; considerable numbers of Scotch store sheep are also handled. In 1927, 2,157 fat cattle, 6,319 store cattle, 1,844 calves, 24,506 fat sheep, 10,013 store sheep and 1,357 pigs were sold in the market. A good many fat cows pass through this market for consumption in Lancashire and Yorkshire towns.

Retail Market.—Live poultry are sold by auction in the market. Special cheese fairs are also held in the covered retail market on the second Tuesday in each month, but the trade is small.

Poultry, both live and dressed. eggs, butter and other produce are sold on Saturdays in the covered retail market; fruit and vegetables are sold mainly in the open retail market. Supplies are drawn very largely from the Lune Valley and are mostly brought in by producers and sold direct to consumers. Both markets are controlled by the Corporation and are held under a Charter granted by Edward III.

Penrith.

Cattle Market.—The Penrith cattle auction mart (Fig. 22) has been in existence for over 50 years. It is owned by an auction mart company, the shares in which are mostly held by farmers. The Board of Directors consists of 12 farmers and a banker. The Company pays a lump sum yearly to the local authority in lieu of tolls, and has spent large sums in advertising and developing the business. Fat stock is sold on Mondays, and store and dairy stock on Tuesdays. Well over half of the area of the mart is covered; about 1,500 beasts can be accommodated in the covered portion. There are two large, stone-built, sale rings containing ample, tiered seating accom-

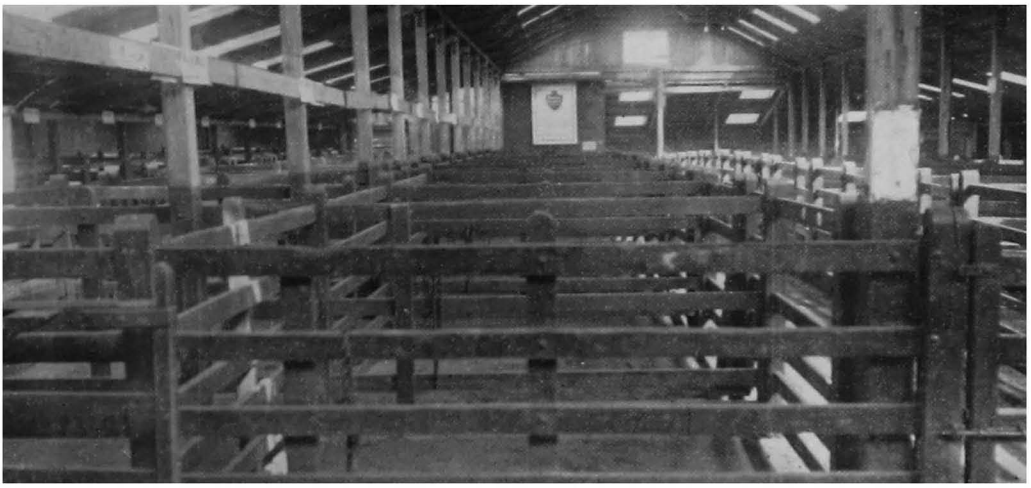


FIG. 22.—Penrith : Livestock Auction Mart.



FIG. 23.—Preston ; Livestock Market, Railway Unloading Docks.

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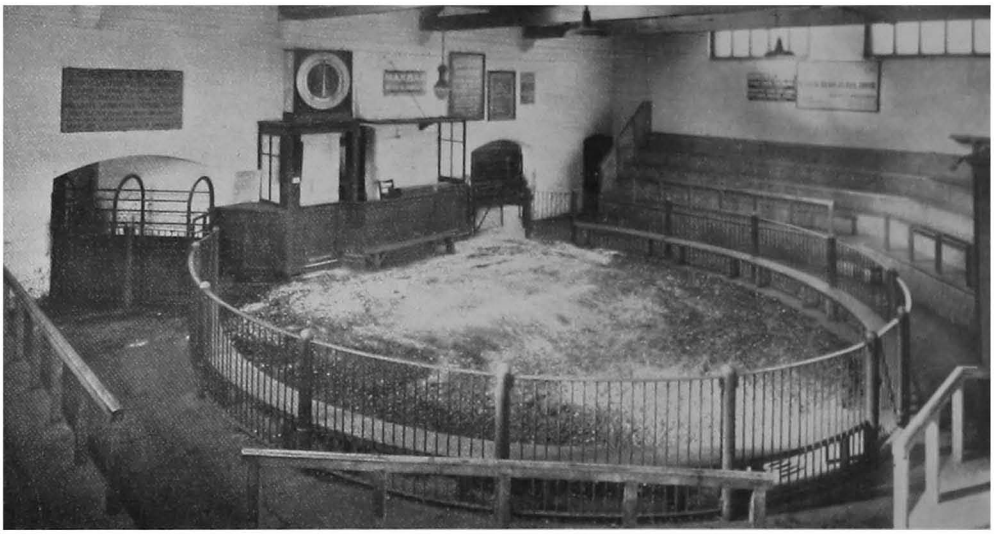


FIG. 24.—Preston: Livestock Market, Cattle Auction Sale Ring.

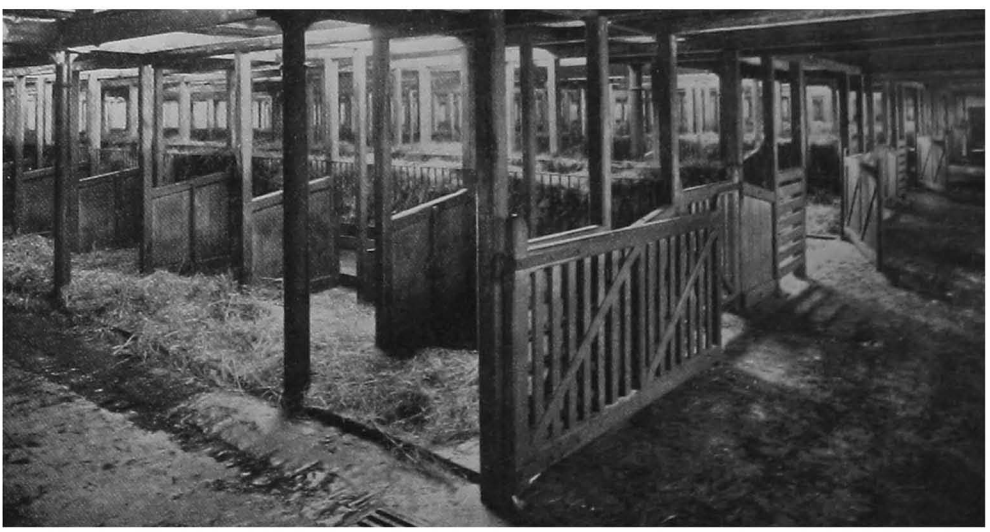


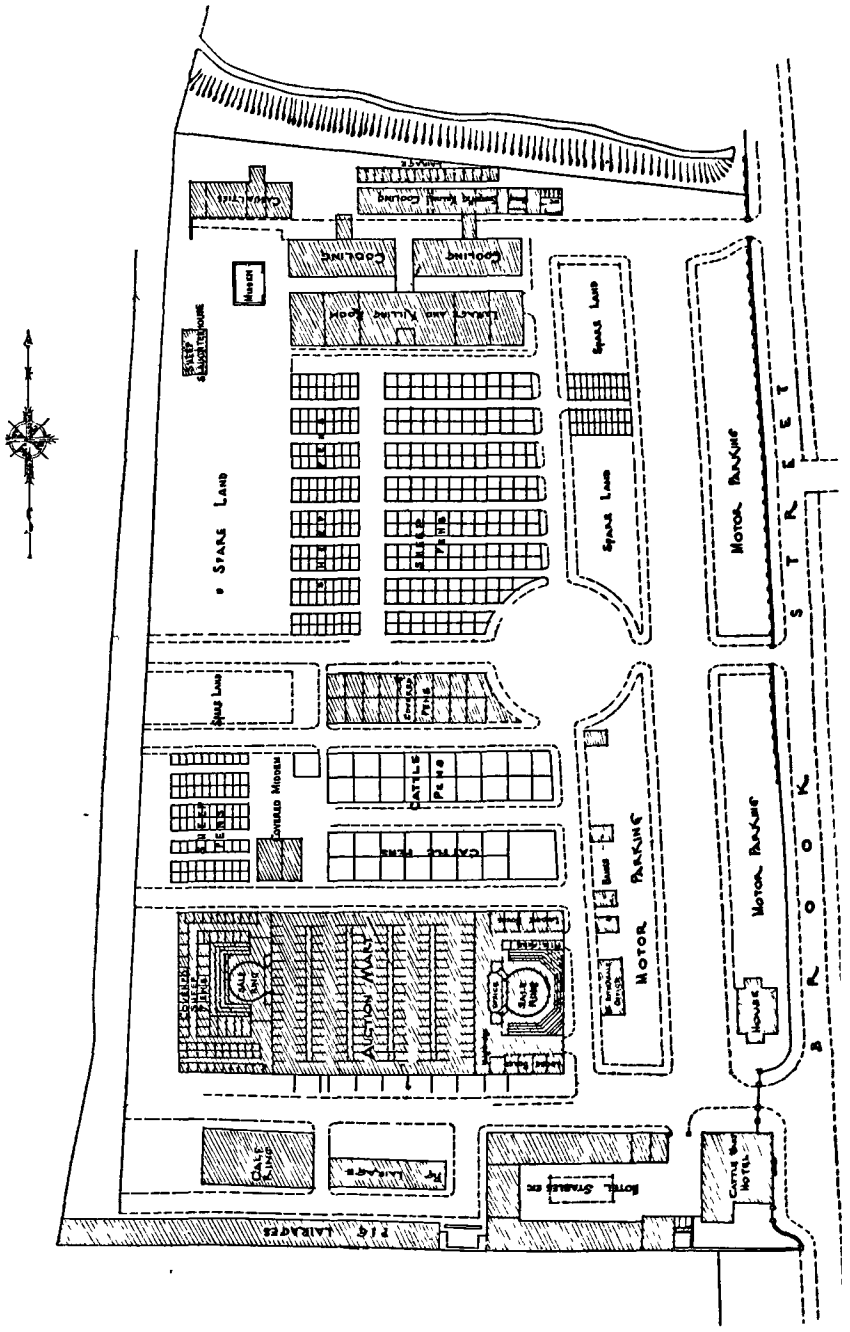
FIG. 25.—Preston: Livestock Market, Cattle Lairage.

modation for buyers. One ring, fitted with a 50-cwt. dial weigh-bridge, is used for selling fat cattle and the other for selling sheep, both fat and store. Arrangements are made to avoid selling the same classes of stock in both rings simultaneously. The weight of each bullock is announced by the auctioneer before sale and the same system of balloting for first in the ring obtains here as at Carlisle. Between 40 and 50 fat cattle are sold through the ring in an hour. The facilities also include two settling rooms; two branch Banks adjoin the market. Near the mart are 5 slaughter-houses which are owned by the Company but let out to local butchers. The Company runs an insurance fund; each farmer pays into the fund 1*s.* per head on bullocks and heifers and 2*s.* on cows and bulls sold; out of this fund, butchers are compensated to the extent of half their loss on carcases condemned on account of tuberculosis. Butchers are able to secure compensation in full by payment of the same premium as the farmers.

Fat stock is drawn from within a 10-mile radius of the market. Dairy cows, for which the market is famed, and store cattle—over 7,100 in 1927—are brought from a wider area comprising the whole of Cumberland, Westmorland and north Lancashire. The Company encourages quality as well as quantity by offering weekly prizes for the best cows and heifers sent in, with the result that the mart has built up a high reputation for non-pedigree Dairy Shorthorn cows and heifers. Over 7,500 cows were sold in 1927 and distributed over various parts of England and Scotland, a large number finding their way down to Lancashire to augment the town dairies in the industrial districts. Very few calves are sold in the mart, either with their dams or separately. Store cattle are sent to the Midlands, the east coast and to the eastern counties of Scotland. The market is important for sheep, over 80,000 fat and 44,000 store sheep being handled in 1927. Store sheep are received from Cumberland, Westmorland, Yorkshire and Scotland. Fat stock is sold chiefly to Salford, Preston and other towns in Lancashire as well as to Yorkshire towns and to London. Relatively few pigs pass through the weekly mart. Pedigree stock sales of both cattle and sheep are held periodically in the mart in conjunction with breed societies.

Hay and straw are sold by auction in the livestock auction mart. Owing to the decrease in the number of horses in the town, the trade is now small.

General Market.—In the covered general market, butter, eggs, poultry and other farm produce are sold by producers direct to retailers and consumers. A sum of £2,000 was borrowed by the Local Authority in 1927 for the purpose of improving the Market Hall. The open retail market adjoining the covered market is confined to sales of general merchandise. Locally grown corn is sold by sample in the streets and in inns near the market.


Spare Land
Spare Land
Spare Land
Motor Parking
Motor Parking
Motor Parking
Cooling
Cooling
Cooling
Cattle Pens
Cattle Pens
Auction Mart
Sale Ring
Office
Pay Office
Cattle Pens
Cattle Pens
Cattle Pens

Preston.

Cattle Market.—The cattle market is owned by the Corporation and is the chief livestock market in the producing areas of Lancashire. It is situated at the northern end of the town in close proximity to unloading docks on the main railway line (Figs. 23 and 26); public slaughter-houses adjoin the market. Store stock is sold on alternate Mondays, fat stock and pigs on Wednesday of each week and dairy cattle weekly on Fridays. Part of the market is set aside for private-treaty business only; this is well-equipped with pens to accommodate some hundreds of cattle and sheep and is chiefly used on store stock days. Irish cattle landed at Preston and at Fleetwood and Silloth are sold in this section of the market and are distributed over Lancashire and the north of England. The remainder of the market is let on lease to a firm of auctioneers, who handle a considerable trade each week in fat stock, dairy cows and calves and are alone permitted to sell by auction in the market. The accommodation and buildings provided in both sections of the market are good. In the auction section, there are two brick-built, covered sale rings for cattle (Fig. 24). These have ample, tiered seating accommodation, but they are so large that buyers congregate in the inner rings. Other facilities include a 20-cwt. dial weigh-bridge, a pig and calf sale ring, covered accommodation for pigs, dairy cattle and fat beasts, and uncovered pens for sheep; 50 additional sheep pens have recently been erected. In the fat-cattle shed there is room for some 400 head of cattle to be tied up separately (Fig. 25). A settling room and 3 Bank offices are also included in the market accommodation. Motor floats for stock are in general use and a moveable unloading ramp is provided. A separate horse repository, which is owned by the auctioneers and in which about 2,000 horses are sold in a year, adjoins the cattle market. Live poultry sales are held occasionally.

Preston market acts as a bottle neck for livestock coming down from the north of Lancashire and from the Furness district, as well as from Westmorland, Cumberland and from Scotland. In addition to prime bullocks and heifers, numbers of fat cows and pigs are passed through the market for consumption in the industrial towns in the south of the county. Owing to good rail facilities and to the large number of stock on offer, buyers attend this market from Manchester, Liverpool, Bolton, Burnley and the Midland Counties. From 10,000 to 12,000 calves, from the dairying districts of the county, are sold annually at Preston for veal or rearing. Of the 18,000 to 20,000 store cattle passing through the market in a year, it is estimated that about 40 per cent. are Irish. There is a steady trade in good-quality cows going south into the town dairies to be milked out and fattened off. In 1927, 14,853 fat cattle, 25,089 store cattle and dairy cows, 11,440 calves, 113,639 sheep and 30,457 pigs entered the market.

There is no wholesale meat market at Preston, and the Council have not, so far, considered the question of establishing one. There are two hide and skin markets, where sales are by auction and private treaty. These sales are held at premises which are some distance from the cattle market and public slaughter-house.

Animals Landing Wharf.—The Preston Lairage, administered by the Ribble Committee of the Preston Corporation, is built at the entrance to the Albert Edward Dock on the north bank of the River Ribble. The present buildings were erected in 1922 and can accommodate 600 cattle and from 1,200 to 1,500 sheep ; they include a slaughter-house and sheep-dipping tank, as well as office accommodation for owners and agents. Animals are landed each Friday, the stock having been bought on the previous day in Dublin market. At the reception lairs the animals are fed, watered and bedded, and remain 10 hours under observation. Large doors open from the lairs directly into the railway loading pens, the floors of the lairs, pens and wagons being on the same level. The principal trade is in fat cattle and sheep, which are sent to abattoirs in the industrial areas of Lancashire and Yorkshire, and in milch cows, which are sent to farms in these counties. During 1927, 16,594 cattle (including calves), 28,447 sheep and 64 pigs were landed ; a few consignments of fat pigs also passed through the lairages. Through trains from the Port to inland centres and through rates from Dublin to destination are available.

A lairage charge of 1*s.* 4*d.* per head for cattle and 3*d.* per head for sheep is levied for the first 24 hours. Fodder is supplied, upon request, every 12 hours, the charges being 1*s.* per head for cattle and 2*d.* per head for sheep. The slaughtering charges are, for cattle 10*s.* per head, and for sheep 2*s.* per head , for the use of the slaughter-house, the charges are, cattle 3*s.* 6*d.*, and sheep 4*d.* The Dock dues are 4*d.* per head for cattle and calves and 2*d.* per head for sheep and lambs.

Produce Markets.—In addition to the cattle market and animal landing wharf described above, Preston has an egg and butter market, a live poultry market, a general produce and merchandise market, in which a monthly cheese fair is also held, and a corn exchange.

The egg and butter market* and poultry market are held in the centre of the town in a section of and around the Public Hall. Temporary wooden stalls are erected on market days ; of these stalls, about 100 are allotted to the sale of eggs, 100 to butter and 40 to poultry. The trade done is about half retail and half wholesale. Supplies arrive chiefly by motor vans from Lancashire and Westmorland. A number of buyers from the industrial districts of south and west Lancashire attend this market.

The general market, which is spacious and situated in the centre of the town close to bus and tramway services, consists of a high

* *See* Economic Series No. 10, Fig. 26.

span roof with open sides. The market is divided according to the commodities sold; of the 778 moveable wooden stalls, 327 are for general merchandise, 253 for fruit and vegetables, both home-grown and imported, and for fish. About 200 stand spaces are let to growers for wagons and lorries containing cauliflowers, cabbages and potatoes; these vehicles are admitted on Wednesday and Saturday mornings, sales being made direct to consumers, to the wholesale merchants who occupy the stalls on one side of the market, or to the wholesale merchants and commission agents whose warehouses surround the market (Fig. 27).

The covered general market is used for private-treaty cheese fairs on the last Tuesday in each month, except December (Fig. 28). No stands are erected but ground space is allotted to sellers. The farmer stands by his lot of cheese (which has been weighed in) and, on the ringing of the bell announcing that the fair is open, is visited by factors or retailers who are interested in his lot. On a price being agreed, the sale of any lot is indicated by a wisp of straw being thrown on the cheese or by the purchaser's card being placed on the produce. Lots are sold complete and seldom divided for sale. Settlement is usually effected on the day of the fair. Prices are published in the local press, a distinction between "cutters'" prices and factors' prices being usually made. 420 tons of cheese were sold in the market in 1927.

A wholesale fish market, which is owned by the London Midland and Scottish Railway Company, is held daily, where fish and rabbits are sold to retailers within a radius of 15 miles.

The Corn Exchange is held in the Public Hall. Trade in home-produced wheat, barley and oats is carried on each Saturday.

Skipton.

The town of Skipton has a livestock auction mart, with public slaughter-house within a short distance, as well as a cattle market where supplies are sold by private treaty.

Auction Mart.—The auction mart is owned by a company and is held on Mondays for the sale of fat and dairy stock and on Wednesdays for the sale of store stock. It is adjacent to the railway station and about half a mile from the sidings. The mart is equipped with 3 covered brick-built sale rings. The two larger are for the sale of fat stock and store stock respectively; the smaller for pigs. Staging and tiered seating are provided around the fat and store stock rings and are adequate to accommodate the number of buyers attending the larger sales. On an average, about 200 buyers attend each sale. A 6-ton dial weighbridge and a 25-cwt. steelyard weighbridge are provided. The roadways of the mart are of tar macadam and stone setts and are wide enough to allow direct unloading into the pens. Covered accommodation is provided for pigs and calves but not for sheep; dairy cattle are also housed under cover in a well-built lairage capable of holding some 400 head. Grazing land of 120

acres is provided for cattle and sheep arriving prior to sale. Other accommodation includes a moveable ramp, two settling rooms, a Bank, and a park for cars and for motor vehicles used for the conveyance of stock.

The mart is one of the most important in the producing areas of the West Riding. It is especially noted for the number of locally reared dairy cattle which are sold annually. Of the 13,000 dairy cattle sold in 1927, about 5,500 were newly calved and the remainder were in calf. Fat and store sheep, calves and fat pigs are also sold in considerable numbers. The numbers of livestock passing through the mart in the years 1913, 1922 and 1927 were as follows :—

		1913.	1922.	1927.
Cattle :	Fat	5,000	5,800	5,500
	Store	8,100	11,800	7,400
	Dairy	8,400	8,200	13,000
Calves		10,500	10,800	12,700
Sheep :	Fat	42,000	60,000	55,600
	Store	—	37,000	36,500
Pigs.	Fat	3,000	4,000	8,600
	Store	800	1,900	7,250
Total		77,800	139,500	146,550

Supplies of calves and pigs are chiefly obtained from within a radius of 20 miles. The same also applies to fat cattle and sheep during the summer and autumn but, during the winter and spring, most of the supplies are brought from Westmorland, Cumberland, Dumfriesshire, Roxburghshire, Fifeshire and Aberdeenshire. Store and dairy cattle are mainly drawn from within a radius of 40 miles and store sheep from within a radius of 30 miles. The mart is licensed for the sale of Irish fat cattle but these are only about 5 per cent. of the total supplies of fat cattle sold. The distributing area of the mart is wide, especially for store and dairy stock, which go to the East Riding and as far afield as Leicestershire, Shropshire, Kent, Essex, Norfolk, and Lincolnshire. Fat stock is sent to Birmingham and to such Lancashire and Yorkshire towns as Accrington, Bradford, Burnley, Colne, Keighley, Leeds and Nelson.

Cattle Market.—The Skipton Cattle Market, as distinct from the auction mart described above, is also controlled by a private company. The market occupies about 3 acres and is situated about ½-mile from the railway. It was formed about 22 years ago, when the street market was closed, and is used entirely as a private-treaty market by farmers and dealers. It has room for 3,000 head of stock. The accommodation provided is simple and consists of iron pens for cattle and a weighbridge. Very few sheep and no pigs



Fig. 27.—Preston : General Market, Growers' Sales.



Fig. 28.—Preston : General Market, Monthly Cheese Fair.

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FIG. 29.—York: Livestock Market.

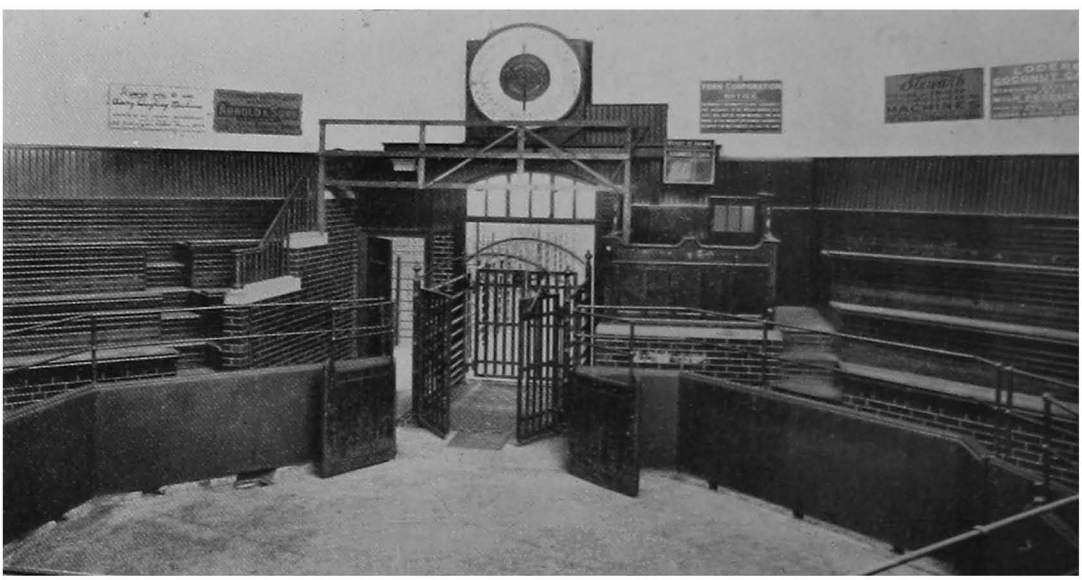


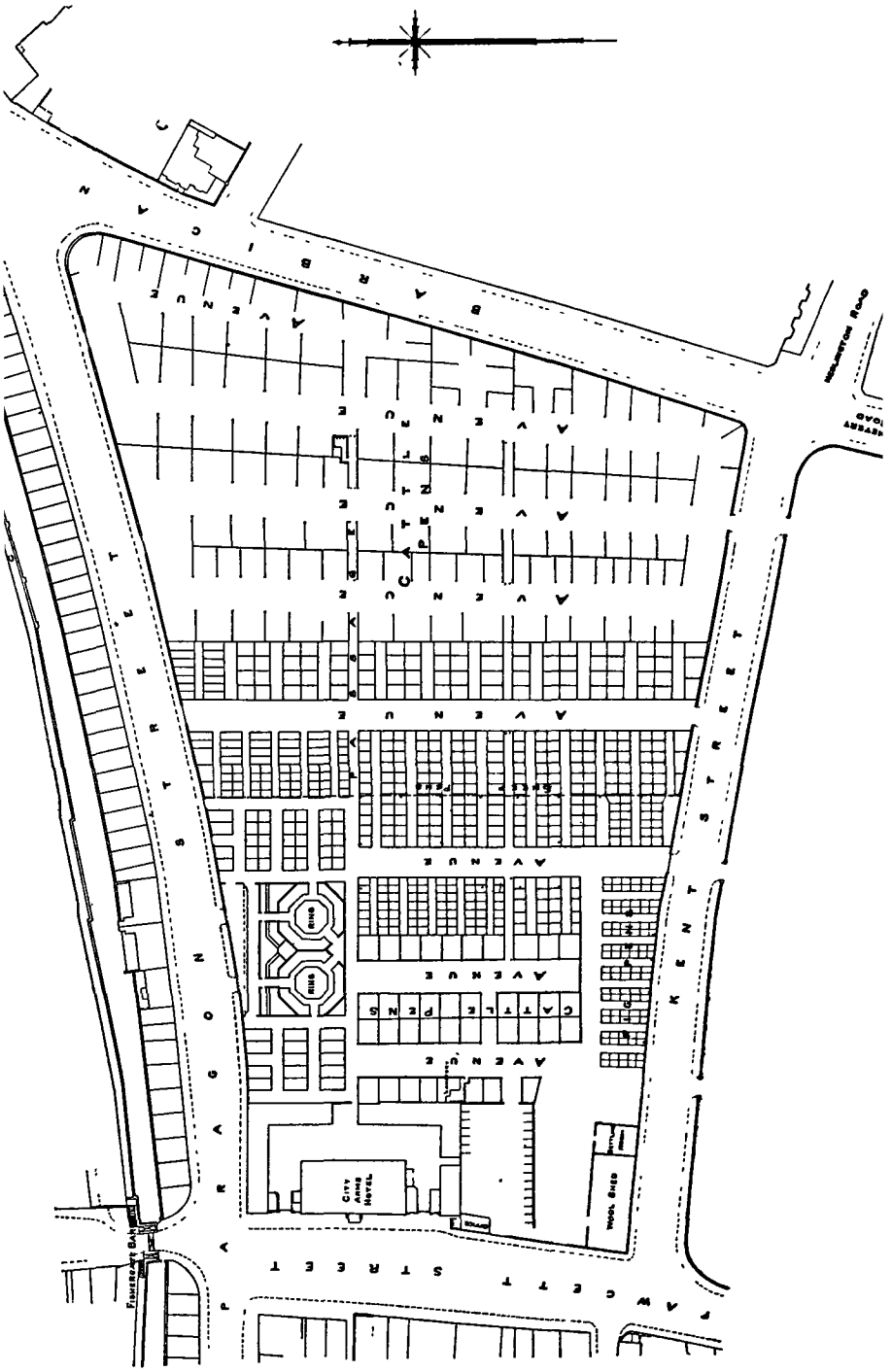
FIG. 30.—York: Livestock Market, **Cattle Sale Ring.**

are sold. The number of cattle sold is decreasing, due, it is said, to the competition of the neighbouring auction mart. Some 12,500 head of stock, included in which are a considerable number of Irish dairy cows brought in by dealers, are still exposed for sale each year. The distribution of fat cattle is similar to that at the auction mart. The erection of an auction sale ring in this market is under consideration.

York.

Cattle Market.—York possesses one of the best public live stock markets in the north of England and handles more cattle than any other centre in England and Wales. The market (Fig. 31) has been built just outside the walls of the city. It adjoins the railway sidings and is easily accessible to road traffic coming from the east; stock coming in by road from the west side have to be driven through the main streets of the town. The market was reconstructed in 1855 and again in 1904, when an additional part was opened for auction selling. No less than two acres of the market are covered (Fig. 29), thus enabling all pigs, fat cattle and dairy cattle received at the market to be housed in suitable pens. Two large, brick-built, covered sale rings with tiered seats for buyers are provided. Both rings are equipped with a 30-cwt. dial weighbridge (Fig. 30) and a blackboard on which the weight of each beast is chalked before sale; the rings are used for the sale of fat cattle on Mondays and for store cattle and dairy cows on Thursdays when required. Eight firms of auctioneers operate in the market and sell in rotation; each auctioneer is required to handle a minimum of 40 cattle per hour. The attendance of buyers at each fat-cattle auction ring is from 100 to 150. Almost all the fat stock is sold by auction and store stock by private treaty. An uncovered part of the market, about 3 acres in extent, is set aside for private-treaty business, as also are the pens immediately underneath the adjacent city wall; in this part of the market, as many as 3,000 head of store cattle—almost entirely Irish—are exposed for sale on Thursdays, in addition to many thousands of sheep. The market has wide roadways. Seven acres of land adjoining the market are used for parking motor floats, which are extensively used for carrying stock to and from the market, and other vehicles. Moveable ramps are available. Other facilities include 8 settling rooms and 3 branch Banks.

Situated in a producing district, with good railway and road communication at its command, the market draws on an area of some 30 to 40 miles radius for its supplies of stock, as well as being an important centre for Irish cattle. Apart from local needs, fat stock is bought for consumption in various towns in the three Ridings of Yorkshire, including Halifax, Leeds, Selby and Sheffield. Irish store cattle are distributed over a wide area which embraces the north of England, also Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire and other counties in the Midlands; at certain times of the year, supplies


AVENUE
AVENUE
AVENUE
AVENUE
AVENUE
AVENUE
AVENUE
AVENUE
CARTTLE PENS
RING
RING
City Arms Hotel
Wool Shed
Wool Shed
STREET
STREET
STREET

are bought for Norfolk. Store sheep are consigned chiefly to centres in the three Ridings of Yorkshire and to the north Midlands; store pigs are also distributed throughout Yorkshire.

The numbers of animals which passed through the market in 1913, 1922 and 1927 were as follows:—

	1913.	1922.	1927.
Cattle: Fat	64,012	10,865	15,113
Store		66,276	65,385
Dairy		—	2,425
Calves	1,200	1,119	1,343
Sheep: Fat	123,034	18,495	40,813
Store		76,257	102,275
Pigs: Fat	12,405	13,801	12,103
Store	—	—	18,144
Total	200,651	186,813	257,601

A few live poultry are sold by auction in the market but most of this trade is carried on in the general market.

There is no wholesale meat market in York and no public abattoir. Auction and private-treaty sales of hides and skins are held at two private premises in the city. There are 51 privately controlled slaughter-houses in York; 3 of these only are in the neighbourhood of the hides and skins sales.

Retail Market.—The provision of a covered retail market at York for the sale of butter and eggs and farm produce is being considered by the York Corporation. About 250 producers at present attend the open street market—known as the Provision Market—but the accommodation is inadequate. In addition to fruit, vegetables and other farm produce, there is a trade in meat, fish and miscellaneous goods in this retail market.

Corn Market.—A covered corn market has recently been erected for sales of locally produced corn.

(II) MARKETS IN CONSUMING CENTRES.

Blackburn.

Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Market.—This public market (Fig. 32) situated on a corner of the market square, is about ¼-mile from the railway and has good road communication. It is an open market, but the wooden stalls, which vary in size from 18 to 74 sq. yds. and belong to the tenants, are permanent and built to a prescribed specification. In most cases, they are lighted by electricity. Tenancy is subject to 3 months' notice on either side,

but the tenant has a right, subject to veto by the Corporation, to nominate a successor. The rent charged is approximately 1*d.* per square foot. The market is the third largest fruit and vegetable market in Lancashire; 43 merchants have stalls in it.

Home-grown fruit, e g., plums and apples, is received chiefly from Cambridgeshire, Kent, Norfolk and Worcestershire. Imported supplies, which constitute a large proportion of the fruit sold in the market, arrive via Liverpool, London, Glasgow, Hull, Southampton and Grimsby; large supplies are also consigned direct to the market from the Continent. Extensive banana stores adjoin the market premises. Potatoes, tomatoes, onions, carrots and parsnips are received from the Preston and Fylde districts; supplies are also received from Cheshire and Lincolnshire. Potatoes are an important trade in the market. The market not only supplies Blackburn itself, with a population of 127,000, but it also supplies east Lancashire towns, such as Accrington, Burnley, Chorley, Clitheroe, Darwen and Nelson, as well as the west coast towns of Barrow-in-Furness, Blackpool, Fleetwood, Lytham St. Annes, Morecambe and Southport. Although Blackpool is nearer to the Lancashire producing area, growers prefer to attend Blackburn market where the trade is more regular throughout the year and buyers have a greater choice. Supplies for the Blackpool seasonal trade are, therefore, largely bought at Blackburn.

Both wholesaling and retailing take place in the market; wholesaling takes place daily, retailing only on Wednesdays and Saturdays. About 80 per cent. of the trade done in the market is wholesale and 20 per cent. retail. A bye-law defines wholesale and retail trade respectively, i.e., borderline quantities are prescribed for all fruits and vegetables sold in the market, transactions in larger quantities being deemed to be wholesale, transactions in smaller quantities being regarded as retail. This bye-law is found in one or two of the Lancashire towns but it is not commonly met with elsewhere.

Adjoining the wholesale fruit and vegetable market is a growers' market, which is held on the open Market Place on certain days of the week, notably Tuesdays and Fridays, when about 60 market-gardeners, mainly from the Preston and Fylde districts, bring produce in their carts and lorries for direct sale to consumers. The same pitches are reserved for them each week. There is an increasing tendency for the market-gardeners to use motor vans, which enable them to attend the market and return home on the same day. On Wednesdays and Saturdays, a general retail market is held on this space (Fig. 33).

Other Markets.—Blackburn has also the following public markets:—a cattle market, with abattoir and dead-meat market adjoining, two retail market halls, mainly for the sale of dry goods, and a covered fish market. In addition, there is a wholesale fish market, owned by the London Midland and Scottish Railway Company, in which live and dressed poultry are also sold.



FIG. 32.—Blackburn : Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Market.

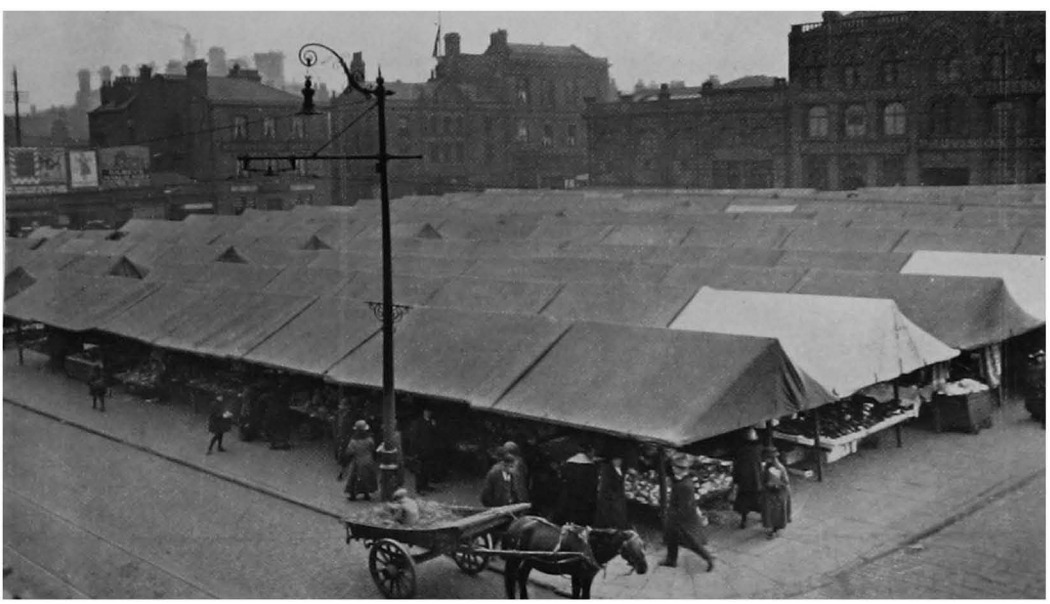


FIG. 33.—Blackburn : General Retail Market.



FIG. 34.—Bradford: Wholesale **Fruit and Vegetable Market.**



FIG. 35.—Bradford: Wholesale **Markets, Railway Siding.**

The cattle market is medium-sized with covered sale ring and dial weighbridge. Part of the market is let on a 3-year lease as an auction mart. Fat cattle are received from the surrounding district as well as direct from Ireland through Birkenhead, Preston, Heysham and Holyhead; fat sheep come from Scotland and Lancashire. At the municipal abattoir 10,441 cattle, 79,745 sheep, 1,903 calves and 6,318 pigs were slaughtered in 1927 for consumption in Blackburn and neighbouring towns. The wholesale meat market is a collection of small hanging-halls which communicate with the slaughter-halls.

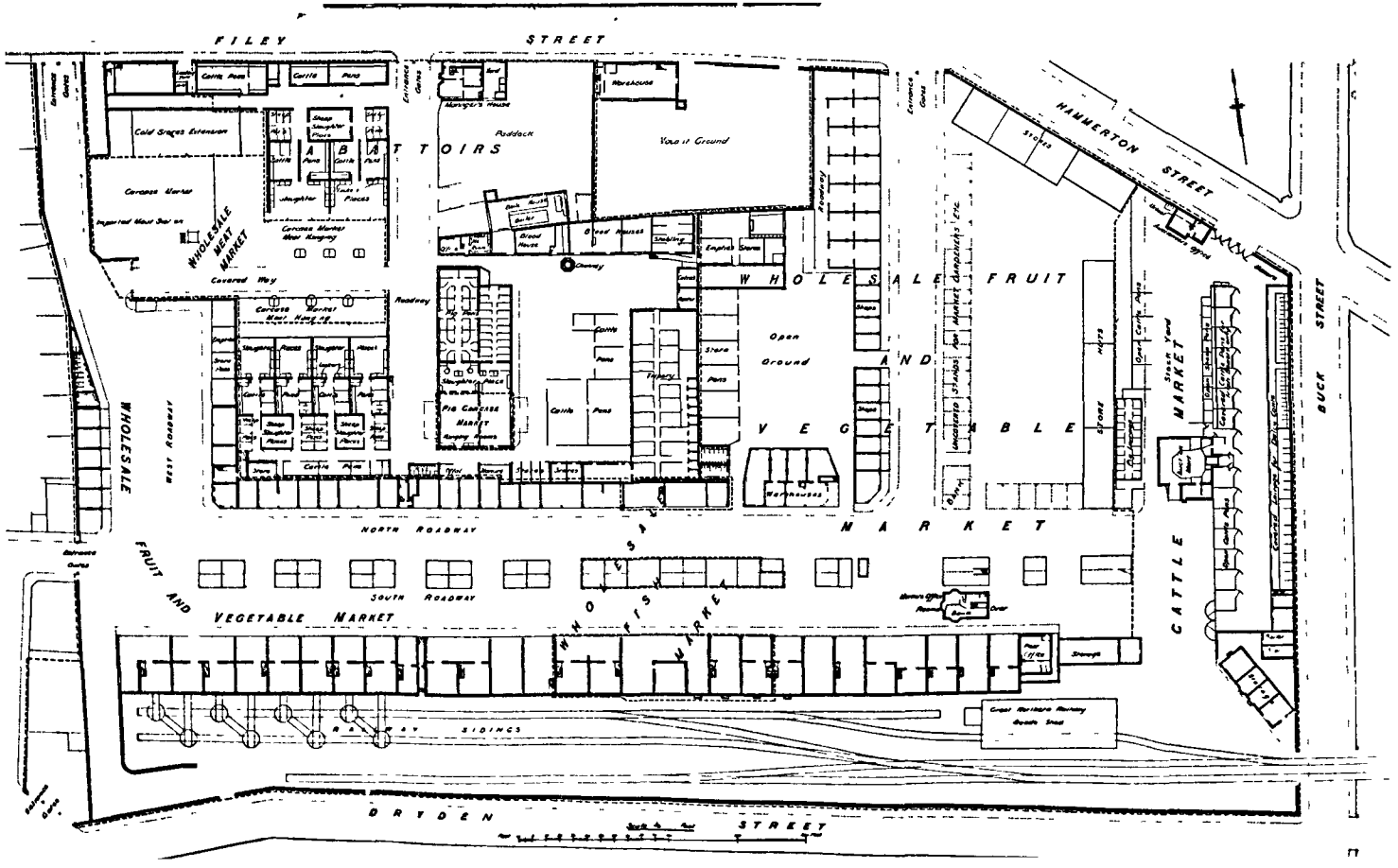
Bradford.

Bradford, with a population of nearly 300,000, has a comprehensive market system. From the standpoint of capacity and capital invested, the markets at Liverpool and Manchester are, of course, more important, but Market Committees in towns of average size will find this description of the Bradford markets not without interest.

The Bradford markets had their origin in a Charter granted by Henry III to Edmund de Lacy, the Lord of the Manor, in the year 1250. The market was first held in Westgate and continued to be held there for several centuries. With the growth of Bradford from a small country town to a busy industrial centre, the market in Westgate became inadequate to local requirements, and, after two attempts by private enterprise to erect a new market, the Corporation, in 1866, acquired on lease for 999 years the markets, fairs and market places within the Manor of Bradford at an annual charge of £5,000. Since 1866, the whole of the market properties have been reconstructed and extended to cover a total area of 23 acres, the capital outlay to date being approximately £350,000. The properties controlled by the Corporation consist of (1) St. James's Wholesale Fruit, Vegetable and Fish Market, (2) St. James's Cattle Market, (3) St. James's Wholesale Meat Market and Public Abattoir, (4) St. James's Cold Air Stores, (5) Kirkgate Retail Market, (6) Rawson Place Retail Market and (7) James Street Casual Retail Market. In addition, the Corporation have acquired extensive properties, covering some 5 acres, adjacent to both the wholesale and retail markets, on which it is the intention to erect additional market accommodation as and when necessary.

The markets at Bradford are divided into two separate and distinct blocks some ¾-mile apart; in one block, are the wholesale markets, including also the cattle market, abattoir and cold-air stores (Fig. 36), and, in the other, the three retail markets. This segregation of wholesale and retail markets is desirable though unusual.

Wholesale Produce Markets.—The St. James's Wholesale Market (Figs. 34, 35 and 36) was opened in 1874 for the daily sale


FILEY STREET
HAMMERTON STREET
BUCK STREET
DRYDEN STREET
WHOLESALE MEAT MARKET
Cold Stages Extension
Carcase Market
Imperial Meat Stores
Carcase Market Meat Hanging
Covered Way
Paddock
Manager's House
Workhouse
Yard
Glass Houses
Stabling
English Stores
Chimney
Open Ground
Stores
Warehouses
WHOLESALE FRUIT AND VEGETABLE MARKET
Lavatories for Market Carpenters' Etc.
Stone Yard
CATTLE MARKET
Pig Carcase Market
Fishery
WEST ROADWAY
NORTH ROADWAY
SOUTH ROADWAY
FRUIT AND VEGETABLE MARKET
WHOLESALE FISH MARKET
RAILWAY SIDINGS
Goods Station

of home-produced and imported fruit, vegetables, flowers, fish, eggs, game and poultry. It extends over 4 acres in the heart of the city and is the only important provincial fruit and vegetable market which has a railway siding within the market enclosure. This siding runs direct on to the back of the merchants' premises; it is owned by the Corporation but leased to the railway company. In addition to the merchants' stands, which are all fitted with roller shutters, there are two Banks and two railway offices in the market; ample provision is also made for the storage of empties on the upper floor of the tenants' premises and in huts. Other facilities include an open space on which market gardeners may sell from their wagons; some 25 growers take advantage of this facility each morning. A weigh-bridge and a weighhouse containing weighing machines are provided but are rarely used. Two uncovered portions of this market are used as parking grounds for vehicles.

Access to the market is provided at six points, the one-way traffic system being enforced in order to minimise congestion. The market roadways are uncovered. The four main roadways on which the sales premises abut are wide enough to enable vehicles to unload or collect produce direct. The merchants' premises consist of 52 two-storey shops, 23 two-storey stone-built ware-houses and 31 covered stands which are let on weekly rentals, those becoming vacant being relet by tender; no additional package tolls are charged. At present, these sales premises fill only a portion of the available space and there is ample room for expansion of the market when required. The market is strictly wholesale, no retailing being allowed. Growers selling from their own wagons pay a daily or weekly toll in the nature of a rent for the uncovered space occupied.

Rhubarb, sufficient for the needs of the area, is grown locally and there is a fair supply of locally-grown vegetables. Vegetables are also received from the East Riding of Yorkshire and from the counties of Bedford, Cambridge, Lancaster, Lincoln, Norfolk and Worcester. No fruit is sold in the growers' part of the market, as there are no local supplies available. The chief sources of supply for home-grown fruit are, for strawberries, the counties of Hamp-shire, Cambridge, Norfolk and also Scotland; for plums, Cambridge and Worcester; for currants, Norfolk; for apples, Cambridge, Norfolk, Kent, Worcester and Gloucester, and, for potatoes, York and south Lincoln. Home-grown supplies are mainly received direct from the producing areas for sale on commission; purchases at Covent Garden and other markets are comparatively small. The market serves a population of about 750,000, the area of distribution being chiefly local and including the neighbouring towns of Shipley, Bingley, Keighley, Batley and Dewsbury; consign-ments are also sent to Blackburn, Morecambe and other Lancashire towns.

Large quantities of imported fruits from the Continent reach Bradford directly via Hull and Goole and through the Hull auctions. For " case " fruits, the Liverpool, Manchester and Hull auctions are the principal sources of supply, merchants from Bradford attending these auctions regularly. London, and even Newcastle, auctions are also attended when conditions of supply and demand seem favourable. Limited quantities of butter, cheese, eggs and poultry are also sold wholesale in this market.

The wholesale fish market is in the same enclosure as the wholesale fruit and vegetable market and consists of 6 two-storey warehouses backing on to the railway siding, 4 shops and 11 covered stands. The premises are let at weekly rents.

Cattle Market.—The cattle market is situated in a corner of the block of wholesale markets and, therefore, has easy access by rail and road. It was opened in 1871, an auction mart being added in 1920. Dairy and store stock are sold on Tuesdays and fat stock on Saturdays. Horses are sold chiefly by private treaty in the open market on Thursdays. At the present time, part of the market is let on lease to a livestock auction company, and part is reserved for private-treaty dealing. The market is small and does little more than supply a limited proportion of the requirements of Bradford in home-killed meat; 3,369 cattle, 334 calves, 743 sheep and lambs, 566 pigs and 1,075 horses passed through the market in the year ended August 31st, 1927. Supplies are obtained locally and from north-west Yorkshire.

The equipment of the mart consists of lairage accommodation for 250 cattle and 350 other stock, covered and uncovered pens for a limited number of animals, a brick-built, covered sale ring, 24 ft. in diameter, with tiered seating, also a 25-cwt. dial weighing-machine and three settling rooms. Live poultry are sold occasionally in the market by auction and private treaty.

Wholesale Meat Market and Abattoir.—The St. James's abattoir and wholesale meat market (Fig. 37) opened in 1871 were extended in 1901. They are contained in one-storey, stone buildings with slate and glass roof, louvre ventilation and concrete and stone paving. Hot and cold water are laid on to all compartments. In the abattoir, the walls of the slaughtering and hanging halls are faced with glazed brick to a height of about 6 feet. There are 6 compartments for slaughtering cattle, 3 sheep and calf slaughter-halls and 2 pig slaughter-halls, with 2 sets of lairages, a tripery occupied by 12 wholesale dealers, and premises for blood drying which are occupied by a firm of contractors. Tolls are charged in respect of the animals killed. The butchers do their own slaughtering. There is also a small public abattoir in Bolton Lane. Some 94,000 head of stock were slaughtered in the two abattoirs in 1927. In addition, there are 34 private slaughter-houses in the city.

The wholesale meat market forms part of the abattoir and communicates with each slaughter-house and with the cold-stores

by a system of overhead rails. The market is divided into two parts, one for the sale of home-killed meat and the other for the sale of imported meat. Down the centre of the two sections runs a wide roadway which enables the carcases to be loaded direct on to carts from the wholesalers' stands. Forty wholesale firms carry on business in the market, 30 of whom have accommodation in proximity to the overhead rails where the meat is hung. These traders occupy the same spaces weekly, but no measured space is allocated to any person or firm. The floor of the market is raised slightly above the level of the roadway. A machine for weighing sides of beef is fixed on the overhead rails ; machines are also provided for weighing quarters of beef and sheep carcases. Dial scales are available for weighing offals. During the year 1927, the carcases of 17,565 cattle, 52,129 sheep and lambs, 5,899 calves and 19,015 pigs were exposed for sale in the home-killed section of the market ; in the same year, the number of imported carcases sold were :— 5,579 beef, 25,742 mutton and lamb, 17 veal and 157 pork. Imported chilled and frozen meat is received from Liverpool by motor van. The chief areas supplying home-produced meat to this market are Yorkshire, Norfolk, Lancashire and Ireland. Supplies are distributed locally and over a wide area, including Bradford, Huddersfield and the Colne Valley, Shipley, Bingley, Keighley and Dewsbury. A small quantity of imported dressed poultry is sold in the market. Two private firms hold auction sales of hides and skins on premises near the abattoir.

A scheme for the reconstruction and enlargement of the wholesale meat market and abattoirs at a cost of about £150,000 is under consideration, property immediately adjacent to the markets having been acquired some time ago for this purpose.

Cold-Air Stores.—The Corporation of Bradford is one of the few local authorities in the country which maintain extensive cold-stores in conjunction with a market system. The Bradford cold-stores were opened in 1901, extended in 1925, and are situated immediately underneath and at the rear of the wholesale meat market and abattoir, with which communication is maintained by lifts. As all the wholesale markets are in one block, the cold-air stores are also conveniently situated for the storage of fruits and vegetables, fish, game and poultry produce.

The stores consist of 10 rooms—8 for freezing and 2 for chilling. The system of refrigeration is ammonia compression and, for the fish room, brine circulation ; the machinery is in duplicate in order to reduce the risk of a breakdown. Recently, 10 long-distance thermometers have been installed by means of which the temperature in any of the rooms can be read off at a central point and so obviate the necessity of opening the store doors.

The capacity for freezing is 116,650 cubic feet and the capacity for chilling is 18,140 cubic feet. That the stores are appreciated by users of the market is shown by the fact that, in the year ended

August 31st, 1927, 136,695 packages were handled; the total for the previous year was 130,311. Sides and quarters of beef, carcases of mutton, lamb, veal and pork, as well as packages of offal, accounted for a large percentage of the total number of packages handled; rabbits, game and poultry, however, both in packages and loose, numbered 9,289, fruit and vegetables 9,299 and fish 8,132. Other commodities stored included cream, butter, eggs, both in shell and liquid, and flowers. Specimen storage rates are as follows:—for fresh or chilled sides of beef, 1*s.* 6*d.* for one day and $\frac{1}{2}$*d.* per lb. for the succeeding 7 days or less; fowls 2*d.* each for 7 days or less; butter 28*s.* per ton and eggs in shell 40*s.* per ton for 28 days or less.

Retail Markets.—The Kirkgate Market Hall is the chief retail market of the City. It is open daily for the sale of miscellaneous goods, such as drapery, boots and shoes, hardware, confectionery and toys. The interior arrangements are much the same as those obtaining in other retail market halls of this description. Inside the market, there are 50 shops and 134 stalls, which are held on a weekly tenancy. Included in the market building are basement store rooms, a free library and two hotels. On the outside of the Market Hall, there are 49 shops fronting on to some of the busiest streets in the City; these shops are held on a quarterly rental.

The Rawson Place Market Hall, closely adjoining the Kirkgate Market, is open daily for the sale of fruit, flowers and vegetables, fish, meat, poultry and provisions. There are 27 shops and 62 stalls inside this market and 13 exterior shops on the market premises. Separate sections of the market are allocated to separate commodities, or commodity groups, and attention is given to the effective display of the goods on offer. Store rooms in the basement communicate with the ground floor by means of an electric lift.

Adjoining the Rawson Place Market is the James Street Casual Market, which was opened in 1905. The stalls in this covered market are of a smaller type than those in the other retail markets described. The market is open on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. In addition to miscellaneous merchandise, eggs and flowers are sold and, rather unusual in a covered retail market, live poultry, pigeons and rabbits; the small livestock is penned in cages provided by the Corporation and represents a relatively important trade.

Adjoining the block of retail markets is what is known as the Coppy Quarry estate, which is an open space acquired by the Corporation in 1920 with a view to the extension of the existing retail markets.

Wool Sales.—Auction sales of British wool are held in Bradford by two firms of wool brokers. One firm holds auctions in each month on the local market day (Thursday). This firm has a 7-storied warehouse, 5 floors being used for showing the lots and the other 2 for storage. The approximate floor space is 8,500 sq. yds. The yearly

turnover is 12,000 bales, about 25 per cent. being British raw wool, 25 per cent. Dominion, 10 per cent. foreign and 40 per cent. textile wastes. The other firm has two warehouses for storing and displaying the wool. These cover about 6,000 sq. yds. About 4,000 to 5,000 bales of wool, of which about 75 per cent. would be British, is the usual quantity entered in the catalogue in a year. Sales are held by this firm every 6 or 7 weeks.

Both firms auction the wool on catalogue description at the Mechanics' Institute, which has seating accommodation for 400 persons. The attendance of buyers is usually about 150. Entries for these sales are invited by the auctioneers, who charge a commission of ½*d.* per lb. with a minimum charge of 5*s.* per lot. If the wool is not sold, ¼*d.* per lb. is charged, with the option of having the wool re-offered in the following sale. The commissions cover classing, insurance, rent and warehouse charges for 3 months, after which period 1*s.* 6*d.* per ton per week is charged. Advances at 5 per cent. interest are made by the auctioneers, if desired, up to three-fourths of the value of the wool, but, in these cases, no charge less than ½*d.* per lb. is made. Accounts are rendered and payment made within 14 days from the date of sale.

Halifax.

Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Market.—The wholesale fruit and vegetable market (Fig. 38) is held daily on a rectangular open space of about 2 acres which is enclosed on all sides by two and three-storied stone buildings, the upper floors of which are used for the storage of empties. The buildings, called the Piece Hall, were erected in 1779 as a market for the cloth produced by the hand-loom weavers. The introduction of power-weaving rendered the cloth market redundant and the space was then taken over by the Corporation. Wholesalers' premises have been erected on one-half of the open area, the remaining half being reserved for growers' and buyers' vehicles. Twelve open spaces are normally occupied by local growers but many more spaces are available if required. Shops and stands, of which there are 143, are let to salesmen and merchants on quarterly rentals ; there are no package tolls. Electric lighting is installed throughout the market. The area available is not large for the present volume of trade, but, as there are entrances on 3 sides and as the roadways are capable of taking two loaded vehicles abreast, no excessive congestion occurs. The market is in the centre of the town about ½-mile from the railway goods station and about ¼-mile from the passenger station. No cold-storage is available, but consideration is being given to the installation of a refrigerating plant in the new public abattoir, which immediately adjoins the market ; this would be available for the storage of all classes of foodstuffs.

A proportion of the vegetables sold in the market is produced locally ; potatoes are received from the Selby district and from

Lincolnshire, tomatoes from Lincolnshire, Lancashire and the Channel Islands, apples from Cambridgeshire, Somerset and Kent and soft fruit from Cambridgeshire and Worcestershire. Most of the home-grown supplies are received for sale on commission but an appreciable quantity is re-sold in the market from Covent Garden and other wholesale markets.

Imported case fruits are obtained from the Liverpool, Manchester and Hull auctions; Continental fruits are received directly via Hull and Goole or purchased at the Hull auctions.

The area supplied by this market includes Halifax itself, with an estimated population of over 100,000, and surrounding towns such as Brighouse, Hebden Bridge, Sowerby Bridge and Elland, but is limited by the nearness of the wholesale fruit and vegetable markets at Bradford and Huddersfield.

In addition to the wholesale fruit and vegetable market, Halifax possesses a cattle market and an abattoir, the cooling hall of which is at present used as a wholesale meat market, and two covered retail markets.

Cattle Market and Abattoir.—The cattle market is small, and the accommodation, which includes a covered lairage and sale ring, is only sufficient for a small trade. An auction was started at this market in June, 1926. The fat stock shown in the market is bought for local consumption and is supplemented from the markets at Huddersfield and Wakefield. A new abattoir scheme is being carried out at an estimated cost of £60,000; the scheme provides lairage for 400 beasts, 250 pigs, 770 sheep and calves and separate slaughter-halls for cattle, sheep, pigs and calves. The accommodation also includes a cooling hall, with a floor area of 10,000 sq. ft., and separate blocks for (1) the preparation of tripe, (2) the treatment of blood and guts, (3) the storage of hides and skins, (4) the lairage and slaughter of condemned animals and (5) the detention of condemned meat. The buildings are to be fitted throughout with hanging rails and with the "twin-bar" system of overhead transit and lifting gear.

Retail Markets.—The retail market hall is conveniently situated on an island site and contains 206 permanent stalls which are in blocks of four. In addition, there are 46 lock-up shops. No less than 187 stalls are allocated to general merchandise, and only 18 sell agricultural produce; one stall is let to a local grower. Adjacent to the hall is the Lower (or week-end) Market. This is a covered market, half of which is fitted with permanent wooden stalls and the other half with removable trestle tables. The trade is in general merchandise on Friday afternoons and Saturdays. On other days, the market is at present used as a lairage and meat dispatching depot in connection with the abattoir. When the new abattoir is completed, the market will be available for daily retail trade.



FIG. 37.—Bradford : Wholesale Meat Market.



FIG. 38.—Halifax : Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Market.

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FIG. 39.—Hull: Livestock Market, Sheep Pens on Upper Floor.



FIG. 40.—Hull: Livestock Market, Cattle Sale Rings on Ground Floor.

Huddersfield.

Wholesale Fruit, Vegetable and Fish Market.—Huddersfield, an important manufacturing town with a population of 110,000, possesses a well-equipped wholesale fruit and vegetable market which is conveniently situated in relation to road and rail and occupies an area of about ¾-acre. The market is owned by the Corporation and is covered by a high, slated roof glazed on the north side. The stands, which number 40, are divided by wooden partitions and arranged in avenues. They average in size about 40 sq. yds. with a frontage of 5 yds., and are raised about 6 ins. above the level of the roadways. Entrances and exits are provided at each end of the market. The roadways accommodate two vehicles abreast. Although tolls are authorised, the actual charges for accommodation are by weekly or quarterly rents based on 1*d.* per foot per day. Accommodation in the market is rather limited and several salesmen occupy premises outside. Local producers, on payment of toll, are allowed to sell from their carts in the streets surrounding the market. The market receives little or no locally grown fruit and only small quantities of local vegetables. Home-grown fruits are obtained mainly from the eastern counties, but the Midland and Southern areas also contribute. As at Bradford and Sheffield, imported fruit is received directly via Hull and Goole. Case fruits are drawn mainly from the Manchester and Liverpool auctions. Supplies of home-grown vegetables and potatoes are received from Brighouse and Elland in the vicinity of Huddersfield. The market supplies an area which includes an estimated population of 250,000 and embraces several small towns situated in the valleys which converge on Huddersfield itself.

Cattle Market.—At the cattle market, both private treaty and auction selling takes place. The accommodation provided includes a covered sale ring with dial weighbridge, covered lairage accommodation for 35 dairy cows and covered accommodation for pigs. The pig pens are of iron, with solid sides and front as a protection against windy weather and with a 2 in. gap between the bottom of the sides and the floor to permit of flushing. Supplies of livestock are received from the East Riding and from Scotland and Ireland. The slaughter-houses, with cold-stores and chilling rooms, are close to the cattle market and consist of 4 killing bays with hall for hanging carcases of cattle, calves and sheep. A separate slaughter-house is provided for pigs. 7,937 beasts, 2,289 calves, 22,444 sheep and 7,485 pigs were slaughtered in a recent complete year. Part of the slaughter-house is used as a wholesale meat market. Except in regard to sheep, the needs of the town are met by the cattle market, where supplies are also bought for neighbouring towns such as Halifax. As is usual in the case of cattle markets in consuming centres, the main supplies on offer are forwarded by dealers. Live poultry, hay and straw are sold by

auction in the market. The Corporation own an ice-making plant which is leased to a private company.

Other Markets.—The Corporation own and control an extensive retail market hall, which is open daily, and an open retail market, which is held on Mondays. The retail market hall is typical of the covered retail markets of the West Riding and is similar in construction and design to others already described.

Hull.

Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Markets.—Hull is an important fruit and vegetable distributing centre for the North and Midlands. There is no covered wholesale market of the usual type, but the wholesale fruit and vegetable merchants and salesmen have congregated in Humber Street,* and on Riverside Quay (owned by the London and North Eastern Railway) and the neighbourhood, and, in the one case, in the absence of a large public wholesale market hall, have created a market consisting of a wide street of wholesalers' premises near the docks, and, in the other, have taken advantage of the facilities afforded by the railway company at the quays for selling fruit and vegetables which are landed from the ships and loaded direct into trucks. Both of these trading centres are conveniently situated within easy reach of rail and water, and, at both centres, business is done by auction and private treaty. At Humber Street, in addition to the warehouses of salesmen and merchants who do business by private treaty, there are two large auction rooms for the sale of imported fruit and vegetables from Continental and more distant sources. These are sold on sample, a large proportion of the bulk being transferred directly from ship to rail for transport to final destination. At the Riverside Quay, steamers arrive from Boulogne, Rotterdam, Hamburg, Antwerp, Ghent and other ports on two or three days a week. As many as ten steamers can be accommodated at one time. A well lighted shed is provided in which auction sales take place. Fixed times are arranged for selling produce according to country of origin. The total number of packages of fruit landed at Hull in 1927 was 6,225,910, a considerable proportion of which was handled at the Hull auctions. These auctions of imported fruit and vegetables at the port of arrival are, in a sense, comparable with the West Midlands' method of selling home-produced fruit and vegetables at the point of production.†

A large square, known as the "Corporation Field," conveniently situated away from the centre of the town, on the landward side, is used as a market for the wholesale sale of vegetables, chiefly potatoes and carrots, and a small amount of fruit.

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* *See* Economic Series No. 15, Fig. 48.

† *See* Economic Series No. 14.

Sellers are mainly local growers. Of the total supplies received in this market, 75 per cent. are produced in the East Riding. The market is held in the early morning hours of Tuesdays and Fridays. On one side of the market is a large open-sided shed, covering 3,450 sq. yds., into which carts can be driven, thus providing cover for some of the growers. The remainder of the market comprises an uncovered asphalted area of 9,740 sq. yds. A charge varying from 1*s.* 3*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* per standing is collected each market day. The trade in the Corporation Field market is decreasing, as growers are tending to supply retailers direct without recourse to market facilities. Wholesale trade in fish, principally cured and shell fish, and in game, takes place in this market each morning.

Cattle Market, etc.—Hull cattle market, owned and controlled by the Corporation and held under a Charter granted in 1299, is unique both in situation and layout. The Humber divides the natural area of supply, and, although a quantity of stock is consigned from north Lincolnshire, the absence of bridges and the expense and trouble incurred* in ferrying stock across, limit the number of animals which would otherwise be received from that area. Railway services to Hull are good. Special loading and unloading docks exist at the railway, some 200 yds. from the market. Moveable ramps are provided in the market. The market is enclosed within a brick wall, some 15 feet in height, entrance to the various sections being obtained through gates fixed at regular intervals. Store cattle enter at one gate and fat cattle and sheep at another. Pigs have a special entrance to the market.

The market is held on Mondays for fat and store cattle, sheep and pigs, and on Tuesdays for store and dairy stock. Seasonal sales of store stock are held in the spring and autumn. Fat stock is chiefly sold by auction; store stock is sold both by private treaty and auction. The market is cement paved. The accommodation provided is on two floors communicating by sloping gangways. The bullock pens occupy the ground floor and are mostly covered; most of the sheep pens and some fat-pig pens are on the upper floor, which is uncovered (Fig. 39). Covered accommodation is also available for pigs and calves on the ground floor. The pens are of iron with double-acting gates, and afford easy access to the drawing pens. The facilities provided include 3 covered sale rings, 15 ft. by 12 ft. each equipped with a 25-cwt. dial weighbridge (Fig. 40); all 3 rings are used for fat cattle. Dairy cattle and store cattle are sold from their pens. The market is lit throughout by electricity. A large settling-room has accommodation for 30 auctioneers. A store-pig market (Fig. 41), separated by a public road from the main livestock market, is built and equipped in a similar manner.

* The charges for stock crossing the Humber are, in the case of beasts, 1*s.* 6*d.* per head, and, in the case of sheep, 2*d.* per head, in addition to 6*d.* per head for each man in charge of the stock.

Presumably with a view to quick selling and of attracting stock from a wide area, the Cattle Markets Committee have favoured allowing as many auctioneers to operate in the market as is compatible with the accommodation and available space.* At the present time, there are no less than 25 firms of auctioneers operating in the market, each of which pays an annual licence fee of £25 to the Corporation. Three firms of auctioneers are allowed to sell the same class of stock at the same time : in the case of fat cattle, selling must be at the minimum rate of 30 beasts an hour.

Hull has a population of some 296,000 and there are no other large towns in the immediate vicinity. The radius of supply for cattle is 40 miles, sheep 30 miles and pigs 20 miles. Store cattle are received from Doncaster and York and store sheep from Lincolnshire. Irish store cattle are handled in the spring. The quality of the stock exposed for sale in this market is good, a number of the bullocks being high-class Lincoln Reds. The market has also a good reputation for the quality and number of pigs sold and ranks as the fourth largest pig market in the North, supplies being drawn mainly from the East and West Ridings and from Lincolnshire. Considerable numbers of local pigs and sheep are received by motor transport. Annual cattle and sheep fairs are held on the second Tuesday in April and on the 11th October.

Judged by total number of stock of all kinds sold, the market ranks as the seventh largest in the northern counties.

The following are the numbers of stock passing through the market in 1913, 1922 and 1927 :—

—	1913.	1922.	1927.
Cattle : Fat	20,654	13,356	20,919
Store	5,989	3,125	4,248
Dairy Cows ..	—	—	1,000
Calves	300	—	200
Sheep : Fat	105,165	40,285	100,428
Store	26,670	14,019	16,638
Pigs : Fat	28,621	16,414	24,945
Store	—	—	11,644
Horses	347	393	—
Total	187,746	87,592†	180,022

Private slaughter-houses in Hull account for about one-half of the fat cattle and sheep and one-quarter of the fat pigs bought

* The question of the multiplicity of auctioneering firms in a public market is discussed in Economic Series No. 13, p. 57.

† The market suffered as a result of foot-and-mouth restrictions in this year

in the market. The remainder of the stock is bought for reconsignment to other markets, in the case of cattle mostly to Leeds, Wakefield and Sheffield, in the case of sheep, to London, Newcastle and Scarborough, and, in the case of pigs, to London, Manchester, Wakefield, Leeds, Bradford, Huddersfield and Newcastle.

There is no wholesale meat market in the town, but many of the bigger meat importers own premises in the vicinity of the "Shambles" (*see* below). All slaughtering is done in private establishments, but the provision of public facilities for the slaughtering of animals and for the wholesale handling of the meat is being considered by the Markets and Abattoirs Committee of the Corporation. If steps are taken in this direction, it would be an advantage if the cattle market, abattoir and meat market could be in close proximity to each other.

Hides and skins are sold by private treaty and by auction at two privately owned "markets" in the city.

Retail Markets.—The Church Side covered market, a substantial brick-built building owned by the Corporation, is the main retail market of Hull; it is open each week-day and is devoted chiefly to the sale of fruit and flowers. The 74 stalls are let at a weekly rental.

Close by these premises is an open square, which, on certain days of the week, is used as a miscellaneous market, chiefly for drapery; the uncovered stalls (134 in number), for which a daily rent is charged, are temporary and are cleared away after each market.

Another retail market in the town goes by the name of the "Shambles" and consists of a covered market hall with 109 stalls and 20 shops. The greater part of the building is devoted to the retail sale of meat and bacon. Holders of stalls pay a weekly, and shops an annual, rent. During the latter part of the week one avenue is allotted to producers who sell eggs, butter, poultry, etc., from baskets. On Saturday nights, meat is sold retail in the market by "Dutch auction."

Corn Exchange.—The Corn Exchange, in the same building as the covered fruit market, is a high, well-lit room where farmers and corn merchants meet once a week. Included in the accommodation are the usual desks, which are let to the merchants by the Corporation at a yearly rental of £4 4*s.*; bona-fide farmers pay 5*s.* per annum entrance fee and all others 1*d.* per visit. Only home-grown cereals, feeding-cakes, etc., are dealt with on this Exchange. Hull is the most important market for home-produced wheat in England and Wales; in 1927, 504,607 cwt. of wheat, 75,152 cwt. of barley and 70,108 cwt. of oats, chiefly from the Holderness and East Howden areas, were sold in and outside the Exchange. All foreign corn landed at the docks is dealt with on the "Pacific," a foreign corn exchange controlled by the Corn Trades Association.

Wholesale Fish Market.—Corresponding to Fleetwood on the west coast is the wholesale fish market at Hull on the east coast. This market, which is open every week-day, is owned by the London and North Eastern Railway Company and occupies an area of 22,000 sq. yds., all of which is covered. It goes by the name of St. Andrew's Dock and, as at Fleetwood, is more in the nature of a quay than what is generally understood by a " market " ; the layout is, therefore, simple but adequate to the purpose and consists of a quayside which is covered over and divided into merchants' stands, the whole communicating direct with the main railway line by means of sidings. Seven privately owned ice factories are situated on the dock estate in close proximity to the fish market ; these have a combined capacity of about 600 tons per day. Fish curing is also a considerable business. Selling at the market is done by the trawler owners to wholesale merchants, who send away to customers or to commission agents on order or commission. The actual method of sale is mainly by " Dutch auction " ; only a small proportion of business is done by private treaty. Trawl fish is sorted into 10-stone " kits," the full quantity being exposed to the view of the buyer ; imported Norwegian herrings and mackerel, on the other hand, are sold by sample. Salmon, soles and other prime fish are sold per lb. and mackerel and herrings per case of approximately 1 cwt. and 2 cwt. respectively. The position of Hull in relation to the fishing grounds on the one hand, and the chief inland markets on the other, has been an important factor in its development as a fish distributing centre. It is claimed that one-quarter of the fish requirements of the country is met by this port. The amount of fish passing through the market in 1927 was 161,140 tons. The distributing area from this market is country-wide ; it is estimated that only 5 per cent. of the fish landed is consumed within a radius of 10 miles of Hull. Owing chiefly to good railway facilities, large supplies for London are obtained from this market. Wholesale prices realised at this market are published in the daily Press and in the weekly fish trade journals. The railway company has approved a scheme for enlarging the quay at the Fish Dock.

Leeds.

With a population of nearly ½ million and with good rail and road connections, Leeds is probably the most important general trading centre in Yorkshire.

Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Market.—The Fruit and Vegetable Market was formerly held in Briggate but was moved to Vicars Croft, a short distance away, in 1822. In the following year, a site of about 2½ acres was purchased to improve the market accommodation. It was not until 1857, however, that a covered market was erected. This market occupied a site of about an acre and



FIG. 41.—Hull: Store Pig Market.



FIG. 42.—Leeds: Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Market.



FIG. 43.—Leeds: Livestock Market.

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FIG. 44.—Leeds: Wholesale Meat Market.



FIG. 45.—Leeds: Corn Exchange.

was mainly used for retail trade; it was demolished in 1902 and replaced by the present spacious and imposing building which accommodates the group of markets known as the Kirkgate General Markets. (*See* Fig. 42). This building was opened in 1904 and is within ¼-mile of the centre of the city. The total area covered by the Kirkgate Markets is a little over 4½ acres; of this area, nearly 3½ acres, of which over 15,000 sq. yds. are covered, are devoted to the fruit and vegetable trade. For the accommodation of salesmen and merchants, shops, divided by brick walls and with rooms above, are built against the walls of the wholesale fruit and vegetable market, and, in blocks of 6, in part of the interior space. The remainder of the space is divided into stands separated by wooden divisions. The stands and stalls number 120 and have, on the average, an area of 50 sq. yds. with a frontage of 8 yds. A number of merchants carry on business in premises in adjoining streets, but some of these premises are leased from the Corporation, which proposes in time to extend the market to include them. Shop rents in the market vary from £50 to £170 per annum, according to size; stand rents vary from 3*s*. 10*d*. to 10*s*. per super foot per annum. Adjoining the market is an open space of ¼-acre known as the Growers' Market. This is available for growers' wagons, which are charged for at the rate of 3*s*. or 5*s*. a day, according to capacity, or from £20 to £35 per annum for regular stands. Rhubarb and other produce pitched by growers on the open space are charged at the rate of 6*d*. per box.

The market is accessible to vehicles at several points and the in-and-out traffic is regulated. Inside the market only two loaded vehicles can pass on the roadways with satisfactory clearance. A local by-law gives a limit of 20 minutes for loading and unloading. Merchants and salesmen employ their own porters, but, in order to provide for casual porterage, an official scale of charges is included in the Market Regulations. Privately owned cold-storage, with a capacity of 180,500 cubic feet, is available near the market.

Home-grown produce accounts for about two-thirds of the total supplies passing through the market, and, in the case of potatoes, is drawn chiefly from the counties of York and Lincoln, and, in the case of other vegetables, from York, Bedford, Lincoln, Cambridge, Worcester and Chester. Supplies of home-grown fruit are drawn chiefly from Kent, Somerset, Cambridge, Worcester and Hereford. Fair quantities of produce, particularly of tomatoes and Kentish produce, are reconsigned to the market from Covent Garden. Leeds is in an area of forced-rhubarb production and supplies are sent all over the country (*see* p. 52). Supplies of imported produce from the Continent are obtained to a considerable extent through Hull, Goole and Grimsby; imported case fruits come through the auctions at Liverpool, Manchester and Hull and occasionally through London, Newcastle and Bristol.

In addition to the city itself, the market supplies an extensive

area which includes that portion of Yorkshire situated within a radius of about 40 miles to the north and north-west and embraces such towns as York, Harrogate, Ripon, Ilkley, Barnsley, Wakefield, Castleford, Morley and Pontefract.

In the covered area occupied by the wholesale fruit and vegetable market, about 1,000 sq. yds. are devoted, after the early morning wholesale trade, to retail sales of fruit and vegetables, poultry and eggs, which amount to about 25 per cent. of the business in the market as a whole. A retail trade in fruit and vegetables and miscellaneous goods takes place on Tuesdays and Saturdays in the Growers' Market after the wholesale sales are over.

Forming part of the Kirkgate General Markets is a separate covered market for wholesale trade in fish. The market comprises 24 stands with overhead offices. There is also a small covered market, known as the " Poultry Market," for wholesale and retail trade in live poultry and eggs.

The Cattle Market.—The cattle market was originally held at Kirkgate Market. It was removed first to North Street and later, in 1886, to the present site at Copley Hill, which is about ¼-mile from the railway sidings where 95 per cent. of the animals arrive. The market (Fig. 43) covers an area of nearly 6 acres and has accommodation for 2,000 beasts and 8,000 sheep, in addition to facilities for the sale of horses, vehicles, agricultural implements, hay and straw. Lairages are provided for beasts arriving or detained overnight. As the trade of the market is solely by private treaty, the accommodation is of the simplest and consists of iron pens for stock, concrete roadways and a permanent unloading ramp. A feature not usually found at private-treaty markets is the excellent covering over the main roadways of the market, which is a convenience to buyers and sellers in bad weather. There are two branch Banks in the market.

Supplies are drawn chiefly from Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and Durham, but Scotch cattle and sheep, sent down from auctions further north, are sold in large numbers from January to June, followed by Irish cattle from August to December. Like other cattle markets in large consuming centres, the chief sellers are dealers who offer consignments made up at various small markets scattered throughout the surrounding producing areas. A small proportion of the sellers are, however, local farmers who bring in their own stock. No store stock is sold in the market. The market supplies fat stock to butchers not only in Leeds but in the surrounding area, including such towns as Dewsbury and Batley. Buyers also attend from Sheffield, Birmingham, London and Leicester. Bradford is supplied with large quantities of fat stock. The market is one of the very few solely private-treaty markets in a large consuming centre which shows no considerable decrease in the numbers of stock exposed for sale. For the year ended March 31st, 1928, 27,663 cattle, 62 calves, 122,624 sheep and 273 pigs

were sold, as compared with 27,403 cattle, 484 calves, 106,760 sheep and 1,346 pigs in 1913. Good railway facilities and a ready outlet for home-killed meat no doubt play a part in maintaining this trade, but the same advantages are enjoyed by other markets of the same type, as, for example, Salford Market, where the numbers of animals exposed for sale have diminished considerably compared with pre-War days. Small amenities sometimes affect the prosperity of a market to a considerable extent, and the opinion held in some quarters that the steadiness of the trade at Leeds Market is due, in part, to the covered facilities provided for buyers and sellers in the main avenues, may not be wide of the mark. The adequate lairage accommodation in the market which enables butchers to leave their purchases until such time as they can be conveniently moved direct to the slaughter-house, is another factor which helps to keep up the trade.

Wholesale Meat Market and Abattoir.—The wholesale meat market and abattoir, opened in 1899, adjoin the Kirkgate Market but are not conveniently situated in relation to the cattle market, which is 1½ miles away. The buildings are of glazed brickwork with glazed and slated roof and cover about ¾ acre.

In the market hall (Fig. 44), which is the most important building on the site, there are 22 raised stands, each covering an area of 32 sq. yds. with 17 ft. frontage, occupied by 19 firms, of which 14 deal in home-killed, and 5 in imported, meat. The salesmen's offices are placed over the central avenue at each end of the market, thus taking up none of the floor space. The offices are approached by staircases from each end of the market. Vehicles do not enter the market, but access for loading and unloading is available from doors at the sides of the building. The meat market is separated from the abattoir by a covered roadway for carts and wagons.

The market is held daily and the trade is solely wholesale and by private treaty. No record is kept of the amount of meat handled at the market but it is said to be increasing considerably in accordance with the needs of the town and its environs. The following figures have been estimated as representing the trade done at the market in a recent complete year :—

	Home produced. Tons.	*Imported.* Tons.
Beef	4,944	3,250
Mutton	1,559	2,209
Veal	218	—
Pork	34	30
Total ..	6,755	5,489

Imported eggs and poultry are sold to a small extent in the market.

The remaining accommodation on this site comprises the abattoir, covered lairages for 140 beasts and 400 sheep, calves or pigs, as well as triping and gut rooms and basement. Tolls are charged per head for the use of the abattoir; the tolls include payment for services, such as cleansing, lighting and the supply of hot and cold water which is laid on to each slaughtering bay. The tolls charged are 2*s.* 6*d.* per beast, 4*d.* per sheep, lamb and calf, and 1*s.* per pig. The charges for lairage are, beasts 3*d.*, sheep and calves 1*d.*, and pigs 2*d.*, per night. The abattoir consists of open slaughter halls; the main slaughter-hall is two-storied, with openings for ventilation along each side and is lit by electric light. After slaughter, the carcases are carried by overhead rails to any part of the meat market. The number of animals slaughtered in the abattoir for the year ended March 31st, 1928, was 21,291 cattle, 64,960 sheep and lambs, 8,891 calves and 2,769 pigs, as compared with 9,234 cattle, 31,138 sheep and lambs, 3,116 calves and 1,564 pigs in 1913. In addition to the abattoir there are 65 private slaughter-houses in the city.

For some years the accommodation, both in the wholesale meat market and in the abattoir, has been taxed to the utmost. Extensions were put in hand in 1914 but were stopped owing to the War. Recently the work has been resumed at an estimated cost of approximately £40,000. Eleven additional stands in the wholesale meat market are being erected, the slaughtering and lairage accommodation is being extended and a pig slaughter-house is being built.

Leeds is an important centre for hides and skins. Auction sales of hides and skins are held at 3 centres in the town.

Retail Markets.—Retail sales of fruit and vegetables take place in the wholesale section of the Kirkgate Market, as stated, but the main retail market occupies the west side of the market building where the majority of the stalls are devoted to the retailing of non-agricultural commodities. An attempt is, however, made to keep the food trades separate and, further, to devote each main avenue to the sale of particular commodities; thus, one avenue or section in the covered market is for the sale of meat—in specially constructed stalls of glazed brick—another for the sale of fruit and vegetables and a third for the sale of fish or game and poultry. In the construction of the stalls, and in other respects, the market is similar to other retail markets already described. The display of the various goods on the stalls is above the average, but the arrangement by which both wholesale and retail business in fruit, flowers, vegetables, fish, game and poultry is carried on under one roof is not entirely satisfactory. A large number of consumers visit the market and a vast trade is done, especially on Tuesday and Saturday afternoons and evenings. At present, there are 170 weekly tenants in the retail market, of whom 42 sell agricultural produce; on Tuesdays and Saturdays, about 400 more occupy stands in an open retail market which is held in the Market Square and pay daily tollage charges according to the ground space occupied;

agricultural produce is sold from about 50 of these stands, half of which have temporary covers. To accommodate as many as possible of the applicants for tenancies, an extension of the market is contemplated in the near future.

Fish is sold retail in a separate covered fish market. There are 14 stands in this market.

Corn Exchange.—Leeds Corn Exchange (Fig. 45), which is owned and controlled by the Corporation, is architecturally one of the finest exchanges in the country. Covering an area of 2,420 sq. yds., it is situated in the centre of the city and is in close proximity to the Kirkgate Market. The present building, which is oval in shape, was opened in 1863. It comprises 12 outside offices, 24 balcony offices inside, 23 ground-floor offices, a basement and 177 merchants' stands situated on the ground floor space which is known as the factors' market; the whole building is covered by a high, well-lit, domed roof. No entrance fee is charged; the rents charged for stands taken yearly are £10 10*s.* for a full stand, or £5 5*s.* for a half-stand. No special qualifications are necessary to become a standholder except that applicants must be bona-fide merchants in cereals, feeding stuffs, including hay and straw, manures, etc. The majority of standholders attend the market from a distance, particularly from London, Hull, Manchester, Liverpool, Newcastle, and other centres in Yorkshire. All sales are on sample.

The Exchange is the principal one in the West Riding. It has been estimated that about 1,000 buyers, chiefly millers and brewers, attend each Tuesday. From 550,000 to 700,000 cwt. of barley are sold annually. At the present time the Exchange is entirely a factors' market. Formerly, a portion of the floor space was allocated to farmers selling their own produce and the Exchange was virtually in two parts—a farmers' part and a factors' part: such farmers as now sell their own produce do so on the steps of the Exchange or in the inns opposite. A quarterly leather fair is held on the premises.

Liverpool.

Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Market.—The market rights of Liverpool were confirmed by Charter granted by Queen Anne in 1709, but it was not until 1866 that the present spacious North Wholesale Market, covering an area of a little under 5 acres, was completed. The market area is divided into two sections known as the Wholesale Fruit Market and the Wholesale Potato and Vegetable Market, although wholesale sales of both commodities are, in fact, held in both sections. The markets are held daily and are conveniently situated in relation to the docks and railways. Two-thirds of the market area, i.e., one-half of the vegetable market and the whole of the fruit market, are covered.

The fruit market (Figs. 46 and 47) is set aside for some 100 permanent tenants, who occupy 226 stands of an average area

of 20 sq. yds. with from 3 to 4 yards frontage, and who pay a rental of from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* 3*d.*, and, in certain cases, 3*s.* per sq. yd. per week, letting being by tender. The stands, which are not raised above the level of the market roadway, are arranged in 7 self-contained avenues, each having an entrance from Cazneau Street and an exit leading to the vegetable market. It would be an improvement if the stands were arranged in two long avenues instead of in seven short avenues leading into a congested main thoroughfare. Further, it would economise space, afford more accommodation and enable the avenues to be left clear for buyers and transport, if the stands were provided with a second storey for use as offices and possibly for storage, or, better still, if basement and lift accommodation were provided. A small part of the market is used for the sale of flowers and plants; this part is not set out in stands.

Small supplies of strawberries come from Cheshire and a certain amount of glass-house fruit from the Wirral Peninsula, but the bulk of home-grown fruit is drawn from the producing areas of the Midland, Eastern and Southern counties, chiefly for sale on commission. Overseas fruits from distant sources reach the market directly by sea, but Continental fruits are received via Hull, Southampton and Plymouth. Much of this is consigned for sale by private treaty on commission. Apart from the Fruit Exchange, referred to later, a substantial part of the wholesale fruit trade of the city is done on the premises of the salesmen and merchants congregated around Queen's Square. At one time, Queen's Square was one of the markets under the control of the Corporation and produce was pitched there for sale. Its function as a market ceased when the North Market was opened, but it has remained an important centre for the fruit trade.

The remainder of the covered area, consisting of a high roof with open sides, and the adjoining paved open space are used for growers' vehicles and together constitute the important Potato and Vegetable market.* Proposals have been made to cover the open part of this market; this would be welcomed by growers, but for reasons of finance the work has not yet been put in hand. Stallages based on the area occupied are charged for standings in this part. The charges vary according to the size of the vehicle and the nature of the contents, and range from 2*s.* for a wagon or cart containing loose potatoes to 8*s.* for a motor wagon containing vegetables (other than potatoes) or fruit. There are no package tolls in addition to the stallages but tolls are charged on small packages of fruit placed on the ground. It is interesting to note that under the provisions of 59 Geo. 3, Ch. 9, Sect. 6, farmers in Altcar and Prescot are exempt from the payment of tolls or stallages on produce brought into the wholesale market. The number of

* *See* Economic Series No. 9, Fig. 16.



FIG. 46.—Liverpool: Wholesale Fruit Market.

[Facing page 96.



FIG. 47.—Liverpool: Fruit Market.

farmers who are entitled to the privilege is 58, and, in practice, [28 avail themselves of it. About 3,000 tons of produce are sold toll and stallage-free. Two neighbouring streets accommodate the overflow of the vegetable market during the heavy seasons. The principal market days are Tuesdays and Fridays, when the whole market is packed with vehicles of every description. It is estimated that in the year 1927–8 over 101,000 tons of green vegetables and potatoes were handled, as against 92,692 tons in 1923–4 and 60,234 tons in 1913. The chief sources of supply for this market are the Wirral Peninsula, Lancashire, the Midland and Southern Counties, Ireland, Scotland and the Isle of Man; Lancashire contributes most. The Wirral growers, who are regular users, have a portion of the market set aside expressly for their use; they chiefly supply spring cabbages, cauliflowers, new potatoes, lettuces, radishes, leeks and large quantities of flowers. Owing to the protected position of their gardens, the Wirral growers are able to market their produce earlier in the season than growers less favourably situated. With the aid of mechanical transport, farmers bring loads of produce for the daily early vegetable market and return for loads of hay and straw for the hay market held later in the day. The demand for accommodation in the wholesale hay market is steadily declining, due to the fewer horses in commercial use. In 1923–4, 6,880 tons of hay were sold in this market, as against only 2,678 tons in 1927–8. As in the case of the fruit trade, merchants and commission salesmen dealing in vegetables and potatoes have opened up premises in the adjoining streets.

One-way traffic regulations are in force inside both the wholesale fruit market and the wholesale potato and vegetable market. Special arrangements have been made for all laden motor vehicles to approach the potato and vegetable market and the hay market by one street only; horse-drawn vehicles approach by another. This greatly expedites the setting up of the market.

Various projects for extension or removal of both the fruit and vegetable sections of the market are being considered, but the problems involved are not easy of solution.

The area supplied by the Liverpool fruit and vegetable market is as extensive as that of Manchester although not so densely populated; it is estimated to contain a population of 2½ millions. Locally grown heavy and green vegetables are disposed of within a comparatively short radius. Owing to the magnitude of the available supplies of home-grown and imported fruits and to the convenience of transport, both wholesalers and retailers come in to buy from towns as far north as Lancaster, from industrial towns eastward towards Manchester and from towns as far south as Crewe and Oswestry, while, for buyers in North Wales, Ireland and the Isle of Man, Liverpool is an important market. In addition to buyers coming in, wholesale merchants regularly take out supplies to the towns along the coast and carry on a system of wholesale hawking;

this is apart from the 2,000 odd hawkers who are an important factor in retail distribution in Liverpool itself.

The Fruit Exchange *—In addition to the markets confined to private-treaty selling, Liverpool possesses the largest and most highly organised auction mart for imported fruit in Great Britain. This is the Fruit Exchange in Victoria Street, where fruit and vegetables from all parts of the world are auctioned on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays The sales are conducted by the Liverpool Fruit Brokers' Association, which owns and controls the Exchange. The main sale-room provides for an attendance of over 300 buyers and is usually filled to capacity on sale days. The sale-room is reserved for brokers and members of the Buyers' Association, the election of new members is controlled by a joint committee of brokers and buyers. Adjoining this is a smaller sale-room for use when supplies exceed the capacity of the main room. On these occasions, the sales are held simultaneously, but, in order that buyers may keep in touch with both, each room is provided with an electrical indicator which shows the name of the broker operating in the next room. Imported fruit is examined and classified at the Docks, where intending buyers are at liberty to examine the bulk. Additional to this, samples of certain fruits are exhibited in a sample room adjoining the sale-room both before and at the time of sale. It is stated that an average of over £50,000 worth of fruit is sold on each auction day. Buyers are drawn from the principal towns within a radius of 150 miles; at times, supplies go even further afield. During the year ended 30th June, 1927, over 7,000,000 packages of fruit arrived in Liverpool, the great bulk of which was handled at the Victoria Street Exchange.

Wholesale Fish Market.—The wholesale fish, poultry and rabbit trade is provided for by a covered wholesale fish market. The market is held daily and handled 20,229 tons of fish, 7,758 packages of poultry and 7,815 packages of rabbits in 1927–8. The market comprises one avenue, the accommodation being admittedly inadequate for the trade carried on.

Stanley Cattle Market.—Liverpool cattle market was originally held in Chapel Street After two removals, the Stanley cattle market was established, in 1832, on its present site and was acquired by the Corporation in 1901. Various improvements have since been carried out, including the provision of a lairage to accommodate about 700 cattle. At the present time, the market occupies an area of 37,000 sq. yds.; it is uncovered and laid out to accommodate both cattle and sheep for sale by auction or by private treaty. With the slaughtering of overseas cattle at the place of landing and with the landing of Irish cattle at Birkenhead, the market has largely fallen out of use. At the present time, the pens and stalls are unused with the exception of that portion which is

* *See* Economic Series No. 15, Fig. 44.

set aside for the sale by private treaty of a limited number of cattle and sheep brought from Scotland or sent in from the immediate neighbourhood of the city. In 1927-8, only 1,339 cattle and 32,754 sheep and lambs were sold in the market. In the same period, 16,780 cattle, 233,616 sheep and lambs and 24,966 pigs reached Liverpool by rail and did not pass through the cattle market at all. The fact that the market is some distance from the present abattoir is undoubtedly a disadvantage.

The site of this market is to be used, in part, for a new abattoir and meat market (*see* below), the cattle market itself being reconstructed as part of the scheme.

Abattoir and Meat Markets.—The present public abattoir is situated about 1½ miles from the cattle market and ½ mile from the railway. It is in two blocks, each containing a series of slaughter-houses, 23 for beasts and 28 for sheep and calves. Pigs are killed in two separate slaughter-rooms. Tolls are charged for animals slaughtered. Overhead rails carry the carcases to the adjoining meat market. Lairage accommodation and pig pens are provided. In addition to the abattoir, there are 12 private slaughter-houses in the city, in which comparatively little slaughter is done.

The sources of supply of livestock killed at the abattoir are given as follows :—

Cattle.—Cheshire, Cumberland, Devon, Dumfries, Gloucestershire, Ireland, Isle of Man, Lancashire, Lowlands of Scotland, Norfolk, North Wales, Shropshire, Wiltshire, Yorkshire.

Sheep and Lambs.—Cheshire, Cornwall, Cumberland, Ireland, Isle of Man, Lancashire, Lowlands of Scotland, North Wales, Shropshire, Yorkshire.

Calves.—Cheshire, Preston, and local.

Pigs.—Cheshire, Ireland, Lancashire, Norfolk, North Wales, Shropshire, Yorkshire.

Note.—Irish supplies arrive at the Stanley Market via Birkenhead and Holyhead.

The present fresh-meat market adjoins the abattoir and, with it, was originally established by private enterprise. Both were taken over by the Corporation in January, 1914. The combined area of the meat market and abattoir, exclusive of that occupied by the piggery, lairages and hide market, is 11,104 sq. yds., all of which is covered. There are 35 stands in the meat market, of an average size of about 112 sq. yds., with a frontage of about 12 yards ; business is wholesale only. Supplies handled at this meat market in 1927–8 were as follows :—78,848 sides of beef, 391,025 carcases of sheep and lambs, 28,811 veal carcases, 73,313 pork carcases, 5,584 boxes of meat offal, 19,273 hides, 262,237 skins and 358,940 lb. of fat. Apart from supplies killed in the abattoir, fresh beef, mutton

and lamb are also received from Birkenhead, Wexford and Belfast. Veal comes down from Scotland and pork from Ireland. Apart from local needs, supplies are sent to London and the Isle of Man and distributed over an area bounded by Lancaster, Rochdale, Manchester, Stockport, Warrington, Crewe, Whitchurch and North Wales.

The Gill Street imported meat market, which is also owned by the Corporation, has a covered area of 2,562 sq. yds. and is used exclusively for the sale, by private treaty, of imported meat; 15 firms in this market handled 112,288 sides of beef, 520,047 carcases of sheep and lambs and a few calf and pig carcases in 1927–8.

The quantities of meat handled in the fresh and imported meat markets in 1913 and 1927–8, respectively, were as follows :—

—	1913.		1927–8.	
	Home-killed.	Imported.	Home-killed.	Imported.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Beef	6,235	13,626	10,560	17,544
Mutton and Lamb	3,778	7,842	5,741	9,286
Veal	724	7	1,029	1
Pork	802	34	2,618	4
Meat Offal in boxes	80	498	124	1,331

N.B.—For the purpose of the above table, the following carcase weights have been taken :—home-killed beef 600 lb., imported 700 lb.; home-killed mutton 50 lb., imported 40 lb.; lamb 30 lb.; veal 80 lb.; home-killed pork 80 lb., imported 100 lb.

Auction sales of hides and skins are held on Thursdays and Fridays by five firms who occupy premises leased from the Corporation and adjoining the abattoir. Another firm holds auction and private-treaty sales on the same days in its own premises.

Proposed New Cattle Market, Abattoir and Meat Market.—The fresh-meat market and abattoir, described above, are at present established in buildings, formerly used as a rope walk, which have been in existence for over a century, and, apart from their unsuitability, maintenance charges are very heavy. Since 1920, the roofing has been almost entirely renewed and portions of the flooring have been rendered more sanitary. Parts of the market hitherto unused have been fitted up for the slaughter of sheep and cattle and for the reception of imported meat and fresh meat not killed at the abattoir, but the business carried on, both in regard to the slaughtering of animals and the sale of meat, has increased to such an extent that it is now impossible to provide on the present site

the accommodation required. The position is serious, both from the point of view of the Corporation and the tenants.

The need for providing a new abattoir and meat market has been before the City Council for a period of 30 years, but, owing to difficulties in regard to unexpired leases and to divergence of opinion in the trade, no agreement could be reached. In 1921, following the passing of the Liverpool Corporation Act, the City Council, with the support of the trade interests, decided on the development of a comprehensive scheme on and adjoining the site of the Stanley Market.* The imported meat trade gave an undertaking that when a new scheme was established at Stanley the firms of importers would transfer their business to the new market. The allied trades of hides, skins, offal and blood agreed to the scheme and the co-operation of the railway company was secured.

The Stanley site is about 3 miles east of the Liverpool Town Hall and comprises an area of approximately 15 acres with a further 4 acres to be acquired. The main frontage is Prescot Road, running east and west. On the north and west are railway sidings and premises. The intention of the scheme, described in detail below, is to bring the live cattle from the railway, on the north side of the site, through market, lairage, slaughter-houses, cooling rooms and, finally, into a dead-meat market which will face the main road and be set back approximately 135 ft. The open space for transport vehicles between the dead-meat market and the boundary of the site will be controlled by two small offices near the entrance gates. The roads and drives throughout the site will be constructed with 6 in. concrete, reinforced with rods and set on a 12-in. bed of good, hard, dry filling. A duct will be formed in the roadways, where required, to carry all water, gas, steam and electric mains. On the east side of the site, the railway siding will be brought in from the north with an "inward" and "outward" platform extending to the frontage of the dead-meat market, thus providing rail facilities for the export and import of dead meat.

Cattle Market.—The portion of the present cattle market to be dealt with will have covered accommodation for 1,212 cattle, 4,000 sheep (including accommodation in lairages), and 1,500 pigs. The sheep market section will be arranged with dual purpose pens for sheep or cattle and will accommodate 4,000 sheep or 600 cattle. The ground area of the covered market (see Fig. 48) will be approximately 526 ft. by 210 ft. The building is to be constructed of steel framework with brick walls and facings, concrete floors, north light, pitched and glazed roof, trusses and slated roofing.

Lairages.—The cattle and sheep lairages will comprise 2 blocks, each covering a ground area of approximately 200 ft. by 105 ft. and separated by a 35-ft. roadway. The roadway will contain 2

* *See* Economic Series No. 13, Diagram B, for original scheme.

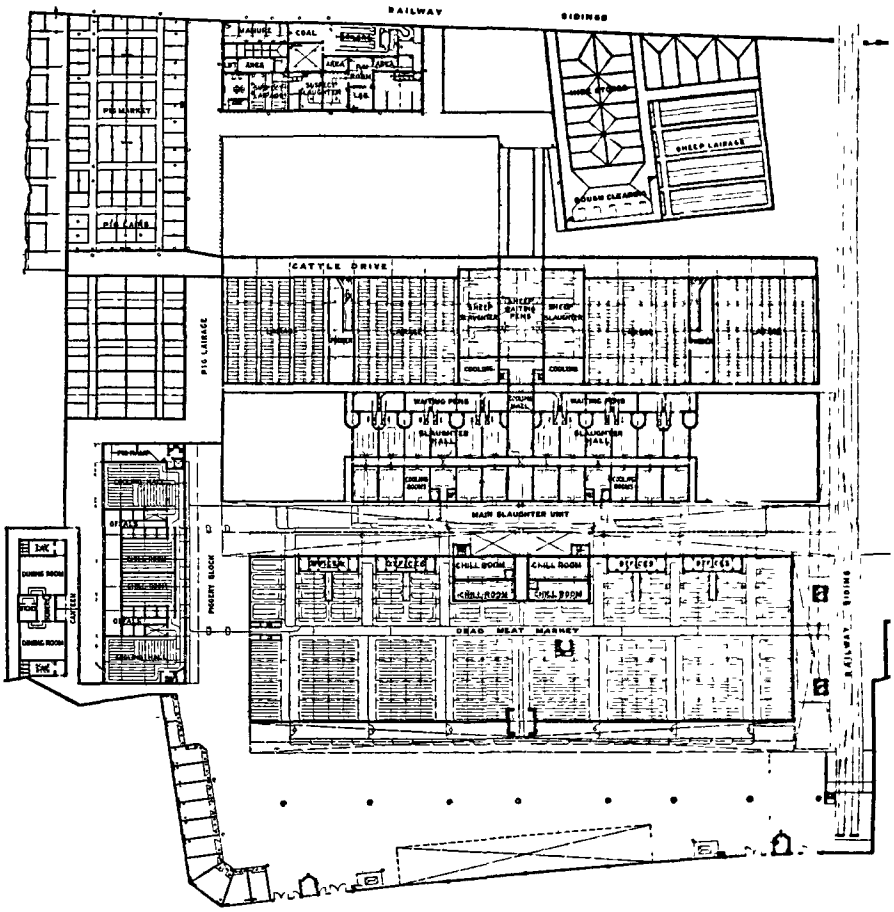


FIG. 48.—Liverpool: New Cattle Market, Abattoir and Wholesale Meat Market.
(The cattle pens are at the top left hand of the diagram.)

ramps leading down to the offal department in the basement of the main slaughter block, also staircases leading to a sanitary annexe. A 20-ft. open road will divide the lairages from the main slaughter block. The lairages have been designed for long-period use and full arrangements have been made, on modern principles, for feeding and watering the animals. The capacity of the lairage unit and waiting pens will be equal to 1,000 cattle and 940 sheep. The pig lairage will be situated to the west of the cattle and sheep lairages and will cover a ground area of approximately 118 ft. by 98 ft. Its capacity will be equal to 1,000 pigs.

Main Slaughter Block.—The main slaughter block (*see* Fig. 48) will cover a ground area of approximately 270 ft. by 72 ft. and comprise waiting pens, slaughter booths, dressing stations and cooling space. Slaughtering facilities are to be provided on both ground and first floors, the waiting and slaughter units on the first floor being supplied with animals by means of two ramps, each ascending from the centre of the two cattle and sheep lairages. The ground floor will be divided into 13 dressing stations arranged in pairs, each pair being fed from 1 stunning pen and each pair having an area of over 1,500 sq. ft. The first floor is planned for 12 small stations, each having 1 set of dressing rails ; there will be 1 stunning pen to every 3 dressing stations. The small stations on the first floor will each have an area of slightly over 400 sq. ft. Each stunning pen on both floors will have a separate electric hoist to deliver stunned beasts to the bleeding rail. Each dressing station will be equipped with an electric dropping device for delivering slaughtered beasts from the bleeding rail to the dressing floor, and an electric traversing hoist for dressing purposes. The blood from the beasts will be taken by gush pits, placed under the bleeding rail, and delivered in glazed earthenware drains to the blood-collecting tanks in the offal department. The various dressing stations will be equipped with offal rails for the edible offal; all other offal will be dispatched to the offal-collecting department on the basement floor by means of shutes placed in convenient positions, thus leaving the whole of the dressing floor for dressing purposes only. Hot and cold water will be available in each dressing station. Immediately adjoining the dressing station will be cooling rooms (atmospheric) equal in capacity to a full day's kill (10 hours) of each station. The total daily slaughter capacity, based on 10 hours' rating, will be equal to 540 cattle, 450 calves, 3,750 sheep and 1,000 pigs. The probable average weekly killings, according to estimates supplied by the trade, will necessitate the abattoir being in full use three days a week for cattle and sheep and slightly less for calves and pigs. The peak load or maximum daily kill, as estimated by the trade, would necessitate the operation of the abattoir for a period of between 14 to 20 hours, the capacity under such conditions being equal to 1,080 cattle, 900 calves, 7,500 sheep and 2,000 pigs.

Pig Slaughter Block.—A separate piggery block is reserved for the lairage (*see* above) and slaughter of pigs. The slaughter building will cover a ground area of approximately 180 ft. by 70 ft. and contain a basement floor, covering half this area, and a first floor covering the same area as the ground floor. A glazed canopy will overhang by 15 ft. the entire length of this building—facing the meat market (*see* below). The materials to be used in the construction of this and the main slaughter block buildings are steel framework, common and pressed brickwork, concrete floors and concrete flat roof, with top lights and slates.

Meat Market.—The dead-meat market will cover a ground area of approximately 440 ft. by 135 ft. and have a basement area of approximately 244 ft. by 135 ft. and a depth of 9 ft. 3 ins. below the ground floor level. The market building will be constructed of steel framework in conjunction with common brick walls, the main facade being faced with a small proportion of red, pressed bricks, and stone dressings. A central tower will dominate the main front and rise to a height of 92 ft. from floor level to cornice. The floors will be of granolithic concrete, graded and laid to falls. The roof will be pitched in 4 spans, containing north lights in each span and slated on the south pitch. An efficient system of overhead meat rails, leading from the cooling rooms to each stall, with weighing points at intervals, and from the stands to the loading banks, will be provided by the City Council. It is proposed to let all stalls at a rent of 2*s.* 6*d.* per sq. yd. per week and to charge importers, in addition, tolls of 1½*d.* per quarter of beef, 1*d.* per carcase of sheep or lamb and 3*d.* per pig. A gallery at a height of 15 ft. 3 ins. from the ground floor level will be carried round the east, west and south sides outside the building. This gallery will be the approach to the offices required by the various meat traders. The offices will also be approached by spiral staircases placed conveniently to the stalls. A portion of the ground floor space will be allocated to chambers for chilled meat; a floor above this space will contain the compressors and mechanical equipment. The remainder will be laid out with stalls and roads. There will be one longitudinal road and 6 cross roads, the latter being approached from beneath a glazed, overhanging, covered way running across the frontage of the market. No motor or horse traffic will be allowed inside the meat market. A 30 ft. glazed, covered roadway running the full length of the building will connect with the main slaughter units. By this roadway, meat can, if desired, be either put into vehicles or conveyed by meat rails to the railway platform direct from the cooling room without passing into the dead-meat market. Chill-room accommodation has been designed on the ground floor of the meat market for 1,000 sides; cold-storage, equal to a load of 500 tons net, will be installed in the basement at the end of the building adjacent to the railway. If circumstances required, the capacity could be increased to 2,000 sides and 1,200 tons net, respectively.

The chill-rooms are in direct communication with the cooling rooms and with the meat market on a continuous overhead rail system connecting up to all stalls in the market and to the railway sidings. The cold-stores will be regarded as part of the market for toll purposes.

Offal Clearing Station, Boiler House, etc.—On the north boundary of the site and adjoining the railway, an existing building, which has been hitherto used as a lairage and covers a ground area of 175 ft. by 150 ft., will be utilised as an offal clearing station, where offal from the basement of the main slaughter block will be dealt with. On the same boundary will stand the boiler house block, covering, on ground and first floors, an area of approximately 173 ft. by 73 ft. The accommodation will comprise a boiler-house, manure bay, destructor, suspect cattle accommodation, collecting facilities for the allied trades and general office accommodation for medical officers and market officials. This building will be constructed with brick walls, steel joists and stanchions, concrete floors and concrete flat roof.

It is estimated by the trade that the following numbers of animals will be slaughtered annually in the new abattoir :—66,500 cattle, 586,300 sheep, 47,200 calves and 108,200 pigs. This represents an increase over the animals and fresh dead meat dealt with in the existing abattoir and meat market of 69 per cent. in the case of cattle, and 49 per cent. in the case of sheep.

Retail Markets.—The St. John's covered market (Fig. 49), which is situated in the centre of the City at a point where tram routes converge, is an excellent example of a retail market in a large city. It was established over 100 years ago and maintains a reputation for cheapness. The market tenants display a keen interest in the appearance of their shops and stalls and vie with one another in efforts to attract the public. Many of the butchers' stalls are tiled throughout. It should be emphasised that many of the improvements made from time to time in the market are carried out at the tenants' own expense, notwithstanding that all tenancies are weekly. Collection of rent for the various shops, stalls, etc., is made weekly.

The market is open every week-day and is divided into 5 main avenues and 5 cross avenues, the whole being lit by electric light; at times, congestion is acute, as the market is patronised by consumers from a wide area and the trade is increasing. The prices ruling at this market, as at the other markets of Liverpool, are published by the Corporation every Friday. The accommodation in the market includes 12 shops on the highway, 49 lock-up shops within the market, 360 stalls of an average area of 12 sq. yds., each divided by partitions, and table space for 182 growers to display their produce. Of the shops and stalls, no less than 114 are devoted to the sale of home-grown farm produce and 99 to home-produced and imported meat; fruit and vegetables account for a further 99,

while between 70 and 80 are devoted to the sale of poultry, game and rabbits. In the basement of the market are cellars let to 22 tenants, chiefly for storage purposes. A small wholesale trade in fruit, poultry and eggs takes place in the market.

Other public retail markets in Liverpool are the Retail Fish Market, the St. Martin's Market, the Garston Market and the North General Market. The retail fish market has shops on 4 sides, with fish slabs in the centre. The slabs are arranged to form 3 main and 3 cross avenues The business is mainly retail but semi-wholesale trade is also done ; in the latter category may be included sales to restaurants, shipping firms, fish-and-chip shops and hawkers. The St. Martin's Market is held daily for the sale of general merchandise and second-hand clothes. There are 135 stalls and about 300 spaces in this market. The Garston Market is held on Fridays for the sale of foodstuffs and, in a separate part of the market, manufactured goods. There are 100 shops and stalls in the covered portion of this market and numerous pitches in the open air. The North General Market is held from 2 p m. to 9 p.m. on Saturdays, on the site of the Wholesale Vegetable Market, for the sale of general merchandise and second-hand clothes. There are 50 pitches and 200 stalls in the covered portion of this market.

Corn Exchange —The Corn Exchange at Liverpool is owned and controlled by the Liverpool Corn Trade Association, Ltd. The present Association was incorporated in 1897 and, on March 31st, 1928, had 283 members representing 143 firms. The premises comprise a block of buildings in Brunswick Street, on the site of the former corn market, and cost £228,000. They consist of a large " Spot " Market, the " Atlantic Newsroom " and of offices occupied by the Association and members. The " Spot " Market, which is open twice a week (Tuesdays and Fridays), is a sample market, and the standholders are merchants, millers, dealers and brokers ; the general public are admitted, as buyers, free of charge on market days. The " Atlantic Newsroom " is open daily only to those members of the Association who are subscribers to the " Room." The latest cable information with reference to the international grain trade in all its aspects is posted regularly in this room. It is used as a trading room for imported grain contracts on c.i f , shipment-and-delivery, " spot " and future-delivery terms. Transactions for future delivery, either in wheat (Liverpool grade) or maize, are made in the Exchange at " The Ring " and the contracts registered at the clearing house on the premises of the Exchange. Other features of the Exchange include a board room, committee room, arbitration room and sample room.

Practically all the grain handled on this Exchange is imported. Occasional transactions in English grain take place on the market, but the quantities are negligible. All foreign countries, whether exporting or importing, look on the Liverpool " futures " market

as a guide to the world's price of wheat. This market is the only one of its kind in Great Britain and is used extensively by British and Continental millers and merchants for "hedging" purposes. The number of "futures" contracts registered in the clearing house during the year 1926 covered 26,969,000 quarters of wheat; during 1927 the figure was 26,018,000 quarters. The actual imports of grain into Liverpool for the year 1927 were :—

Wheat	5,361,300	quarters of	480 lb.
Maize	2,017,300	,,	480 ,,
Oats	128,700	,,	320 ,,
Barley	148,800	,,	400 ,,

Produce Exchange.—The Liverpool Produce Exchange is the property of the Liverpool Provision Trade Association, Ltd., which is an association formed for the purpose of fostering trade in imported bacon, hams, lard, cheese and butter, of formulating rules for the regulation of trade in these products and of maintaining an Exchange where members may meet and transact business. The rules of the Exchange provide for the admission, on reduced terms, of persons engaged in the trade whose places of business are not less than 12 miles from Liverpool. An active "futures" market for refined lard is conducted in the Exchange.

Manchester.

There is evidence that Manchester was a recognised market place as far back as the 9th century.* The market rights and properties were, however, held by private owners until their purchase by the Corporation in 1846 for the sum of £200,000, to be paid in annual instalments of £4,000; the last payment was made in 1894. One of the main reasons why the Corporation decided to purchase the Markets was that the Lord of the Manor had the right to hold his markets in such parts of the town as he pleased. He could remove them, at will, from one part to another, and he had a right to use, for market purposes, the most frequented thoroughfares of the town. Obviously, if these powers were fully exercised, great obstruction would be caused in the streets. Further, it was felt to be incumbent upon the Corporation to provide more suitable accommodation.

Since the purchase, the market properties have been considerably extended; they are at present valued at £1,200,000 and cover a total area of about 27 acres. The bulk of the property is freehold and free from chief rent. The income for the first complete year after the acquisition of the manorial rights amounted to £11,382, and for the year ended 31st March, 1928, £146,624. Since the year 1868, the Markets Department of the City has contributed

* *See* Economic Series No. 13, Fig. 1, for Market Place a century ago.

annually towards the relief of the City rates; from that year to the year ended 31st March, 1928, the total amount thus handed over to the City Fund exceeded £900,000.

It has been the policy of the Corporation to concentrate the businesses formerly carried on in a number of small markets. Instead of having, as formerly, a number of miscellaneous retail markets, the City now possesses (in addition to other undertakings which will be later referred to) 3 wholesale markets of outstanding importance, viz., the Smithfield Fruit and Vegetable Market, the Smithfield Fish Markets and the Meat Market. There are also in Manchester a potato market, a pig market and a corn and produce exchange which are privately owned and administered. It may be added that the geographical situation of Manchester as a distributing centre is somewhat unique. On the one hand, it is an inland port and vessels from all parts of the world convey produce almost to the heart of the City; it is a converging point for the principal railways and is well favoured by local rail and road communications. On the other hand, it is the centre of industrial activity in Lancashire and is surrounded by a densely populated industrial area. Within a radius of 25 miles, there is a population of nearly 4½ millions; within a radius of 50 miles, there are upwards of 10 million people. The wholesale markets of the City serve, in fact, not only the City itself and the immediately surrounding neighbourhood, but several large northern towns of about 100,000 population or more, some of which have their own wholesale markets. These, to a great extent, depend upon Manchester or Liverpool to supplement the supplies received directly from the various fruit and vegetable producing areas; in this way, both Manchester and Liverpool act as "key" markets for an extensive area (*see* p. 34).

*Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Market.**—At the time of the purchase of the manorial rights, the Smithfield Market, popularly known as the "Shudehill" Market, was an open space, but, immediately after purchase, the Corporation erected an extensive roof which has been increased from time to time until an area of about 6 acres is now covered. It is the largest fruit and vegetable market outside London. There are 280 regular tenants in addition to growers and others who occupy a reserved space for the sale of produce on payment of toll. Between 2,000 and 3,000 people are directly or indirectly engaged in selling the large quantities of fruit, vegetables and flowers which arrive daily. The trade transacted in fruit is probably greater than that in vegetables, and, of the fruit, apples—70 per cent. imported and 30 per cent. home-grown—form the largest item. Butter, cheese and eggs are sold to a limited extent in the market but the main business in these commodities is now transacted at the Produce Exchange (*see* later). The

* *See* Economic Series No. 13, Fig. 9.

market is situated centrally in relation to the 6 railway termini, all of which are within a mile of it, and it is accessible by road at many points. Within the market, wide avenues enable buyers' vehicles to pick up supplies at the stands; practically every stand has two frontages either to a roadway or foot passage. Regulations are in force controlling the movement of delivering and collecting traffic. Horse and motor vehicles are permitted to circulate in the market on the one-way principle only; during very busy hours, a time limit is imposed for loading and off-loading. The chief roadways are capable of accommodating 3 loaded vehicles abreast; the roadways are paved. The floor of the market is of natural flags, raised slightly above the level of the roadways. The roads and passages are lighted by gas at the expense of the Corporation, but the tenants may provide such lights as they desire on their own stalls. Practically the whole of the area occupied by the market is covered with a 4-span, slate roof, which has patent glazing on the north and south sides and louvre ventilation.

In spite of its large size, the market is taxed to its full extent by the volume of trade now passing, and whenever a stall becomes vacant there are always a number of applications for it. The rents for stands range from 1*s*. 4*d*. to 1*s*. 10*d*. per sq. yd. per week. Various projects for extension on land acquired for that purpose are being considered by the Corporation. Commodious cold-storage accommodation, first opened in 1904, has been erected by the Corporation adjacent to the Market; this is capable of holding 1,300 tons of produce. Manchester was the first municipality in the country to provide cold-storage accommodation.

The market is mainly occupied by commission salesmen and merchants who rent stands on a weekly tenancy. The business of the majority of the stallholders is purely wholesale, but a few stalls, which are localised, carry on a retail trade and others carry on a semi-wholesale trade. Some indication of the proportions in which wholesale, semi-wholesale and retail trade is done in the market can be gathered from the space occupied by the respective classes of traders; purely wholesale trade occupies about 75 per cent. of the total area of the market, semi-wholesale 16 per cent. and purely retail 9 per cent. Certain privately owned premises in the neighbourhood of the market are used for the sale of produce wholesale, but these are comparatively few. Several of the market tenants have, however, acquired storage accommodation in warehouses outside the market, as there is no basement or other accommodation for the storage of empties on the market premises.

In addition to the space which is reserved for growers, accommodation is also provided for the sale of produce from vehicles, or otherwise, on payment of toll, which approximates to 1*d*. per cwt. for fruit and heavy vegetables and ½*d*. per bushel for green vegetables, with a minimum of ½*d*. per package. This section of

the market is usually comparatively small but, during the busy seasons, the tollpayers number about 200 per day; the space occupied by them varies with the quantity of produce which they have on offer. Local produce is confined almost entirely to vegetables and flowers.

Porters plying for hire in the market must obtain a licence from the Corporation but there is no standard scale of charges in operation. The amount of porterage required is comparatively small because of the accessibility of the market for buyers' vehicles. A weighbridge has been installed for vehicles and smaller weighing machines are kept for weighing packages, but the facilities are little used. A weighing charge is made.

The bulk of the space in this market is let on rent irrespective of the quantity of supplies dealt with on the stalls. There is thus no necessity to calculate tollage on the supplies handled by stallholders and consequently no accurate information is available as to the total annual tonnage of fruit and vegetables handled in the market. Home-produced supplies are received from all parts of the kingdom, the chief counties supplying vegetables to the market being Lancaster, Chester, Lincoln, York and Norfolk, and, for fruit, Worcester, Cambridge, Hereford, Norfolk and Kent. Supplies of imported fruits from distant overseas sources are landed directly at Manchester and are also received from Liverpool, Southampton and London. Supplies from near Continental countries are brought mainly via Hull and Goole, French shipments coming via Southampton and Plymouth. Supplies are dispatched from the market over a very wide area which includes such towns as Bolton, Blackburn, Rochdale, Warrington, St. Helens, Barrow-in-Furness, Blackpool, Preston, Huddersfield, Halifax, Leeds, Bradford, Sheffield, Derby, Llandudno, Shrewsbury, Stoke-on-Trent and Macclesfield.

A plan of the Smithfield Markets is shown on p. 111, and indicates the actual market as well as the properties adjoining the market which are owned by the Corporation and available for extension purposes, some being at present used for market business.

Fruit Auction Saleroom.—In addition to the Fruit and Vegetable Market, there is a fruit auction, known as the "Commercial Sale Room," which forms part of the Campfield Market property and was established by the Corporation in 1895 for the sale, by auction, of imported fruit, chiefly apples, oranges, lemons and grapes, and vegetables landed at the Manchester Docks. Representative samples are exhibited at the Saleroom and delivery taken from the docks. In a recent year, over 2,500,000 packages were sold here. Wholesale buyers from all parts of the north of England and the Midlands attend the sale twice weekly.

Wholesale Fish Market.—The Wholesale Fish Market at Manchester was built in 1872 and extended in 1879. It covers an area of approximately 4,200 sq. yds. in the centre of the City and



FIG. 49.—Liverpool: St. John's Retail Market.

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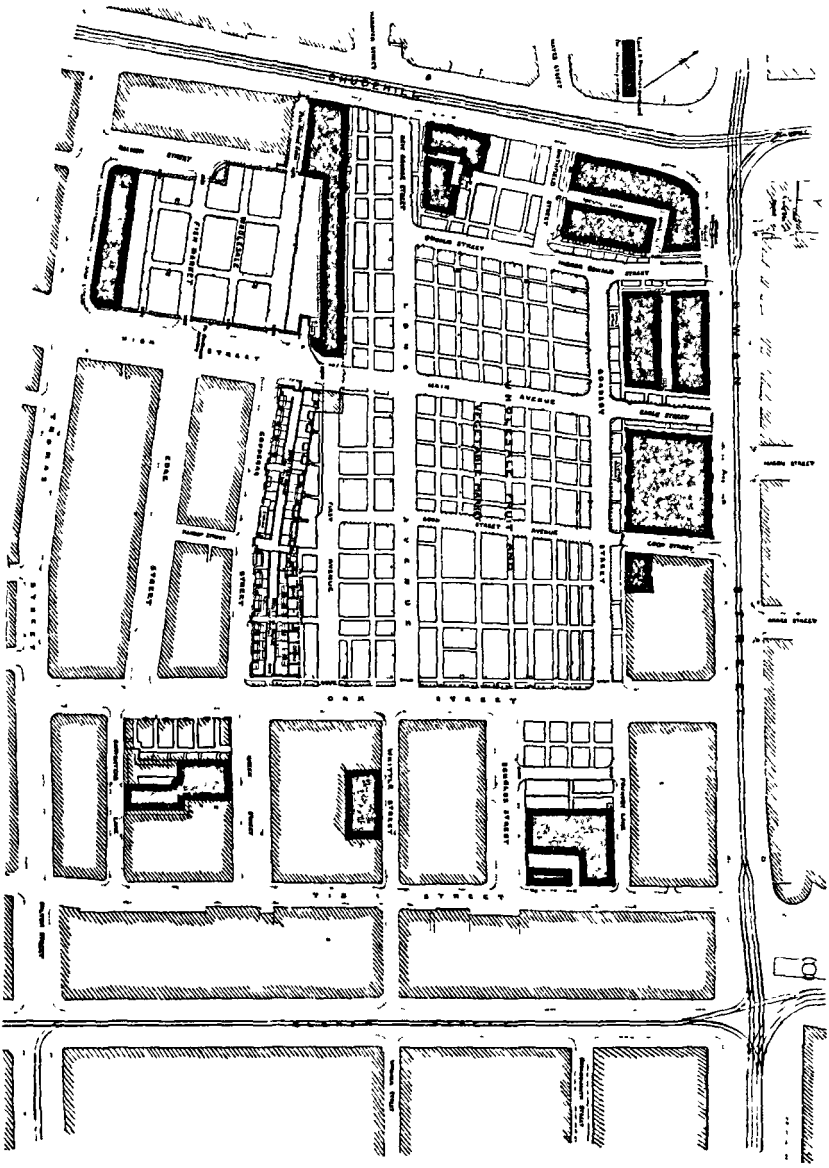


FIG. 50.—Manchester: Smithfield Markets.

adjoins, but is separate from, the Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Market. It is also in close proximity to the Retail Fish Market (*see* later). The London, Midland and Scottish Railway Company have a special railway siding within ½ mile for the handling of fish intended for sale in the market. The approaches to the market communicate with main roads. Accommodation is available for extension.

The market is entirely covered with a 4-span roof which is glazed on the north and south sides and provided with louvre ventilation. There are 55 tenants of stalls let at rentals varying from 1*s.* 8*d.* to 2*s.* per sq. yd. per week. In the majority of cases, office accommodation is provided in the form of elevated wooden structures for which an additional weekly rent is charged. The size of the frontages varies from a minimum of 13 ft. The stands are raised about 2 or 3 inches above the level of the roadways and are composed of natural flags which are swilled down each day after the close of business. The fish boxes are removed daily.

As in the other Manchester Markets, there is keen competition for stalls and it is interesting to note that no tenancy in this market has been voluntarily relinquished for 10 years. There are 4 roadways or avenues in the market, which are connected by cross roadways to facilitate the transport of fish from one part of the market to another. Vehicular traffic is permitted in two of the roadways, which are capable of accommodating 3 loaded vehicles abreast. One-way traffic regulations are in force inside the market. By arrangement with the police, owners of motor and horse vehicles are allowed, in this as in the other markets in the City, to park in streets adjacent to the Market.

Municipal cold-storage accommodation is available in close proximity to the market; some of the cold-storage chambers are actually under the Wholesale Fish Market and there is ample accommodation for the storage of all classes of wet and dry fish.

All sales are by private treaty, principally on commission. There is no selling by auction and the trade carried on is purely wholesale. In addition to the sale of wet and dry fish, considerable quantities of game, poultry, rabbits and eggs are disposed of; in some cases, the stallholders confine their trade to this class of business. No official records of the volume of business are kept, but the following figures supplied to the Corporation by the London, Midland and Scottish Railway Company show the nett weight of fish brought to the market from the various ports during the 12 months ended March 31st, 1923 :—

	Tons.
West Coast	15,986
East Coast	12,918
Scottish	6,363
Irish	600
Total ..	35,867

The amount of trade done probably places this market next in importance to Billingsgate Market, London. The area served by it, though not so wide as that served by the various port markets, is extensive and includes the whole of Manchester and some 50 towns of various size within a radius of from 60 to 80 miles.

A ground plan of this market is included on the plan of the Smithfield Markets shown on page 111.

*The Potato Market.**—The Manchester Potato Market in Oldham Road is owned and controlled by the London Midland and Scottish Railway Company, who pay an agreed sum to the Corporation; a charge of 4*d.* per ton is paid to the railway company by the wholesale merchants who use the market. The area of the market is approximately 4,300 sq. yds., all of which is covered by a series of high valley roofs; at intervals in the roof, sheets of glass have been let in to provide sufficient light. The market communicates directly with the railway, the trucks of potatoes being run straight into the market and placed in position on the salesmen's stands. Owing to the ease with which the trucks can be drawn in and out there is very little congestion, and large quantities of potatoes can be handled in a short space of time. Supplies of potatoes are drawn chiefly from Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Lancashire, Scotland and Ireland and are practically all disposed of by commission agents and salesmen to retailers situated in Manchester and its suburbs. The quantity of potatoes dealt with during 1927 was 13,200 tons.

Pig Market.†—The Manchester Pig Market (Fig. 51), is owned and controlled by the London Midland and Scottish Railway Company, who pay an agreed sum to the Corporation. It occupies an area of some 5,000 sq. yds., of which over 3,600 sq. yds. are covered; the uncovered portion includes a slipway and landing dock, communicating directly with the railway, which facilitate loading and unloading. The market, which is open daily from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m., is for live pigs only; supplies are consigned to the market chiefly from Ireland, Norfolk, Lincolnshire, Cheshire, Cambridgeshire, Wales and the south of England. Approximately, 76,000 fat pigs are handled at this market in the course of a year and distributed chiefly in and around Manchester and, at times, to Bolton, Blackburn, Rochdale, Littleborough, and other Lancashire towns. The trade is by private treaty; the users of the market, who are mainly commission salesmen, pay a toll of 2*d.* per pig consigned to the market by rail and 6*d.* per pig not consigned by rail, in addition to a lairage and detention fee of 1*d.*

Animals Landing Wharf.—Reference should be made to the Animals Landing Wharf (Fig. 52), provided by the Corporation in 1895 on the banks of the Ship Canal and now managed by the Man-

* *See also* Economic Series No. 9, page 53 and Figs. 8, 9, 10 and 18.
† *See also* Economic Series No. 12, page 71.

chester Ship Canal Company. The wharf has been extensively used in connection with the importation of Canadian and foreign cattle and is now used for the reception of Irish and, to a lesser extent, Canadian animals. The premises have a frontage of 800 ft to the Canal with a landing stage and 3 jetties. The railway runs directly into the premises, which are also conveniently approached by road and within 3 miles of the Manchester city abattoir and wholesale meat market. Covered accommodation is provided for 1,860 cattle and about 1,000 sheep. There are 5 separate slaughter-houses with waiting pens adjoining and a commodious cooling room. Refrigerating plant is installed and 4 chillrooms are available, each capable of chilling 190 sides of beef at one time. Overhead rails and runners are fixed in the slaughter-houses and continue into the cooling rooms and along a covered way to the chillrooms. Weighing machines are attached to these overhead rails in many places. There are premises for the treatment of by-products, and offices for importers and other users.

In the year ended 31st March, 1928, 82 store and 125 fat cattle were landed from Canada and 21,695 cattle and 19,755 sheep and lambs from Ireland. Irish cattle are sent chiefly to Manchester. Oldham, Bury, Sheffield, Salford, Stockport and Rochdale. The Canadian store cattle are sent to Lancashire and surrounding counties and to the Midlands, Norfolk and Lanarkshire.

There is ample land within the present site, which extends over an area of about 12 acres, for further extensions when necessary.

City Abattoir.—The city abattoir is adjacent to the wholesale meat market (*see* later), these, together with the adjoining cold-store, which is capable of accommodating 3,700 tons of meat, form a self-contained block of market property which is owned and administered by the Corporation and situated about a mile from Salford cattle market. The abattoir comprises about 40 separate slaughter-houses, each with lair attached. The majority of the slaughter-houses are let exclusively, on annual rental, to individual tenants, who are not restricted as to the number of animals killed. Other slaughter-houses are reserved for casual users on payment of a head-rate toll. The tolls charged are 1*s.* 6*d.* per beast, 2*d.* per sheep or lamb, 4*d.* per calf and 9*d.* per pig, which include free lairage for two nights in each case. Subsequent lairage is charged at the rate of :—beasts 4*d*, pigs 1½*d.*, sheep 1*d.* and calves 1*d.* Tenants of rented slaughter-houses making use of the general lairs are not allowed the two nights' free lairage. A separate slaughter-house is reserved for pigs on a toll basis. Slaughter-house refuse is removed free of charge to the users.

The slaughter-houses lie in 3 lines behind the meat market, to which the principal line is connected by overhead runner rails. They are on one floor and divided into two portions—slaughter-house and lair—each of which faces on to a separate roadway. A system of high pressure gas is installed throughout but the

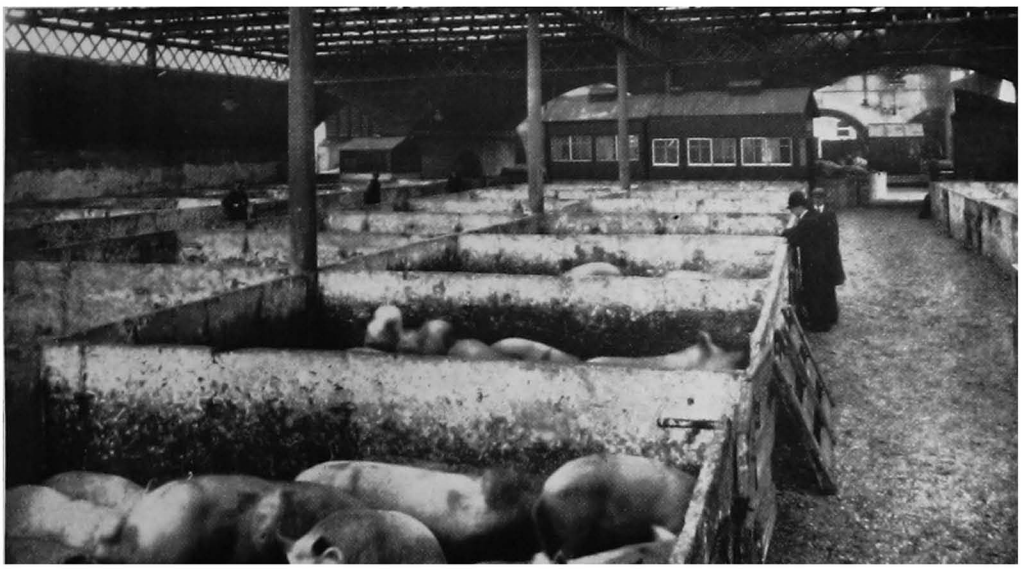


FIG. 51.—Manchester: Pig Market.



FIG. 52.—Manchester: Animals' Landing Wharf (lairage).

Facing page 115.]



FIG. 53.—Newcastle: Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Market.



FIG. 54.—Newcastle: Livestock Market.

slaughter-houses are now being fitted with electric light. There is louvre ventilation in each slaughter-house and also a cold-water supply. Hot-water taps are fixed at convenient positions. The slaughter-houses are fitted with hoists, runner rails, beef chains and hooks. Accommodation is provided for certain by-product trades, but users of the abattoir make their own arrangements as to the disposal of offal and blood. As a general rule, carcases are conveyed from the slaughter-houses to the respective stalls in the meat market soon after the animals have been slaughtered and dressed. Pig carcases are allowed to hang in a room adjoining the pig slaughter-house. Traders, if they so desire, can hang their meat in the chillrooms of the adjoining municipal cold-store.

The lairage accommodation has recently been increased by the provision of a large three-floor building, capable of accommodating 367 beasts on the ground and first floors and 895 sheep on the top floor. The total covered lairage accommodation in the premises is equivalent to 900 beasts and 4,275 sheep.

There are 3 privately owned hide and skin markets in the immediate neighbourhood of the abattoir. Auction and private treaty sales are held, the hides and skins being consigned chiefly to tanners and fellmongers in Lancashire and Yorkshire. Manchester is one of the most important hide and skin centres in the country.

The chief areas whence supplies for the abattoir are drawn are. in the case of cattle, Ireland, North Wales, Anglesey, Norfolk, Cheshire, Staffordshire, Wiltshire, Somerset, and Derbyshire ; in the case of sheep, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Shropshire, Dorset, Cumberland, Westmorland, Yorkshire and Lincolnshire ; in the case of calves, Cheshire, Somerset, Wales and Shropshire, and, in the case of pigs, Ireland, Cheshire, Wales, Shropshire, Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and Lancashire. The extent to which the abattoir is used may be gauged by the fact that, on the average, over 1,000 animals are slaughtered daily within the premises and that 90 per cent. of the total number of animals killed within the City are slaughtered at the abattoir. There are still about 30 privately-controlled slaughter-houses in the City, but the number is decreasing year by year and it is seldom that a new licence is granted. In addition to the City abattoir, there are two municipal abattoirs in districts which have been added to the City through amalgamation.

Wholesale Meat Market.—The Wholesale Meat Market was opened in 1872, when the Carcase Market in another part of the town was discontinued. Expansion of trade led to extensions which were carried out in 1894 and 1902. The meat market building has a frontage on a main road ; it is close to one of the large railway goods stations and within 1½ miles of all the principal railway stations in the City. The market and abattoir at present cover an area of over 3 acres ; like the other wholesale markets, the meat market is a centre of distribution not only for the City and neighbourhood but also for a large area outside the City.

The whole market is covered by a single-span, slated and glazed roof. The interior walls are of red brick, the lower courses being glazed, and the floors of the stalls are faced with asphalt. Louvre ventilation is provided and natural light is obtained from the roof. A system of high-pressure gas, made on the premises, is used for providing artificial light for the roadway, passages and some of the stalls in the market. The principal stallholders light their stalls by electricity; they are entirely responsible for the installation, maintenance and the quantity of electricity consumed. The market is cleansed daily by the Cleansing Department of the Corporation.

There are about 50 stalls in the market, of various sizes, the average being 80 sq. yds. with 2 frontages each of 18 ft. The stands are raised slightly above the level of the market roadway.* There is a constant demand for accommodation and whenever a stall becomes vacant there are numerous applications for it. The regular stallholders provide their own weighing machines according to choice; some are dial machines. Portable, platform weighing machines, specially designed for weighing meat up to 1,000 lb., are provided by the Corporation for use by the "casual" stallholders. No rents are charged for the stands in the wholesale meat market, the payments being entirely in the nature of tolls on the carcases exposed for sale, as follows:—Beef 1*s.* 6*d.*, mutton and lamb, 3*d.*, bacon-pigs and veal, 6*d.*, pork 3*d.*

Overhead runner rails connect the abattoir with the stalls in the meat market and also with the loading stages into and out of the cold-stores, but there are no loading banks, the meat being carried by porters to the waiting butchers' vans and vehicles in the surrounding streets.

During market hours, very little vehicular traffic is permitted in the market; outside market hours, horse-drawn vehicles only are allowed under supervision to enter for the purpose of loading and unloading meat. Motor vans are not allowed to enter the market.

The Markets Committee of the Corporation are considering a comprehensive scheme for improving the general arrangements of both the abattoir and meat market and for facilitating the regulation of motor traffic attending the market. A parking ground for all classes of traders' vehicles is provided and connected to the market by a recently constructed roadway. Motor transport is extensively used for the delivery of meat to the market, as the following statement shows:—

Year ended 31st March.	*Delivered by Railway Companies.*	*Delivered by Motor Transport.*
	Tons.	Tons.
1923	9,095	6,465
1926	8,476	11,409
1927	7,567	14,306
1928	8,619	11,695

* *See* Economic Series No. 13, Fig. 13.

The business of the market is strictly wholesale and all sales take place from the market stalls. Both imported and home-produced meat are handled in large quantities. The volume of trade now done probably entitles the market to rank next in importance to Smithfield Market, London. The distributing area of the market is wide and, in addition to Manchester itself, embraces all the industrial towns within a radius of 20 miles of the City.

The following Table shows, for the years ended 31st March, 1913, 1922 and 1928, the estimated total weight of meat of various kinds, including boxed meats, handled on the meat market, distinguishing, for 1922 and 1928, home-produced from imported.

—	Year.	Home-killed.	Imported.	Total.
		Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
BEEF..	1913	—	—	28,900
(reckoned at 600 lb.	1922	17,427	9,783	27,210
home-killed and	1928	19,555	14,509	34,064
700 lb. imported per carcase)				
MUTTON	1913	—	—	9,576
(reckoned at 50 lb.	1922	5,716	8,207	13,923
home-killed and	1928	7,724	6,076	13,800
40 lb. imported per carcase).				
LAMB	1913	—	—	2,011
(reckoned at 30 lb.	1922	851	1,967	2,818
per carcase).	1928	1,554	1,845	3,399
VEAL..	1913	—	—	847
(reckoned at 80 lb.	1922	1,082	8	1,090
per carcase).	1928	1,122	9	1,131
PORK	1913	—	—	781
(reckoned at 80 lb.	1922	857	346	1,203
home-killed and	1928	1,212	29	1,241
100 lb. imported per carcase).				
MEAT IN BOXES ..	1913	—	—	677
(reckoned at 50 lb.	1922	13	471	484
per box).	1928	96	1,167	1,263
TOTALS	1913	—	—	42,792
	1922	25,946	20,782	46,728
	1928	31,263	23,635	54,898

On the above basis, it will be seen that, in 1928, about 57 per cent. of the meat handled in the market was home-killed and 43 per cent. imported.

Corporation Retail Markets.—The Retail Fish Market, on the opposite side of the street to the wholesale fish market, was opened in 1872 and extended in 1902. It is used for the sale of fish, poultry

and game. The building is of brick with a glass roof. The stalls, of which there are 40, are arranged on each side of a wide passageway running through the centre of the market, with main entrances in High Street and Oak Street. The stalls are let at weekly rentals and office accommodation is provided in connection with the majority. A ground plan of this Market is included on the plan of the Smithfield Markets (Fig 50)

The Victoria Fish Market is a small covered market in the centre of the City, and consists of shops and stalls used principally for the sale of fish, game, poultry and fruit.

The Poultry Market, Shudehill, is used for the sale of live poultry, geese and ducks. Some wholesale trade is done here.

The Clothes Market in Swan Street is open daily during specified hours

An open miscellaneous market is held on Saturday afternoons and evenings in the streets adjoining the Smithfield Markets; covered stalls are temporarily erected.

The Higher Campfield Market was formerly used as a hay market and for the holding of fairs, but was enclosed and covered with a roof in 1880. It is now used as a miscellaneous retail market. The Lower Campfield Market was also used for the holding of fairs and was roofed in 1880. It is now leased as an Exhibition Hall.

Corn and Provision Exchange.—This Exchange is owned and controlled by the Manchester Corn, Grocery and Produce Exchange, Ltd. It is open for the grocery and produce market on Tuesday of each week from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and for the corn and produce market on Thursday of each week from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The annual rates of subscription for stands are £21 for the corn market and from £13 13*s.* to £15 15*s.* for the grocery market. The Exchange was founded in 1837 as a Corn Exchange, the Grocery and Produce Exchange being instituted in 1854. From time to time, the Exchange has been added to until it now occupies an island block of building and includes 600 offices, shops and warehouses. The Exchange Hall itself, which is filled with stands, has a glazed roof and is surmounted by a central dome 450 firms have stands in the Grocery Market and over 200 firms have stands in the Corn Market in the Exchange building. Round the hall on the ground floor and for three floors above are offices and showrooms, communicating by means of lifts. The basement floors, with openings on to the surrounding streets, are occupied by cheese factors, butter merchants and other traders. Other accommodation in the Hall includes a reading and news room, telephone exchange, two banks and a post office. Buyers are allowed free entry; they attend from practically every town in the industrial areas of Lancashire, Yorkshire and Staffordshire, as well as from distant towns such as Glasgow, Bristol, Birmingham, Liverpool and London. On a market day, as many as 6,000 people have been estimated to enter the Exchange. The corn market for imported grain is of growing importance, influenced largely by the

steadily increasing use which is made of the Ship Canal for the import of grain. In 1927, 197,274 cwt. of British wheat were sold at Manchester as compared with 449,583 cwt. in 1926.

Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Market.—The Newcastle covered wholesale fruit and vegetable market (Fig. 53), better known as the "Green Market," is conveniently situated in relation to the City but is about ¾ mile from the main goods station and some 2 miles from the wharves where imported fruit is landed.

The market is built in the form of two parallel avenues, one permitting 3 vehicles and the other 2 vehicles to move abreast, with stalls on either side of both the inside and outside walls. One-way traffic is the rule. There are 36 shops and 48 stalls in the market, each averaging in size about 25 sq. yds. The stalls average 5½ yards in width and allow a good display of the produce. There is room for storage and office accommodation above the stalls. The trade done has outgrown the market and overflowed into the neighbouring streets; there are now too many private warehouses around the market for the idea of moving it to be popular. In the market itself there are both wholesale and retail stalls; in some cases, wholesalers occupy stalls for both methods of trade. It is estimated that, of the total trade done in the market, 70 per cent. is wholesale and 30 per cent. retail. The advantages of segregating wholesale and retail dealing would be secured and congestion reduced if the retail stalls could be removed to the Grainger retail market close by. Business in the Green market is by auction, commission and private treaty. About 25 per cent. of the total business is done by auction.

In the market, there are no firms which deal in home-grown produce only and it may be estimated that 80 per cent. of the produce handled in the market is imported; this proportion is increasing. The explanation given is that it is quicker, easier and cheaper for the merchants at Newcastle, situated as they are at the port of entry, to import foreign fruit or vegetables from, say, Holland, than it is for them to obtain the same class of goods from producing areas in England. Of the home-grown produce sold in the market, a small part is grown in Northumberland and Durham; the remainder comes from around Wisbech and from other districts in the eastern counties as well as from the midland and southern counties of England and from Ayrshire.

The area served by this market includes Newcastle itself, with 300,000 inhabitants, Gateshead, South Shields, Sunderland, Middlesbrough and Stockton, as well as the thinly populated mountainous region which largely surrounds the industrial area. For imported fruit, buyers are drawn from the large towns within a 60-mile radius, including such places as Berwick, Hawick and Carlisle. Some of the larger towns in the area served by this market, such as

Middlesbrough, Sunderland and South Shields, are supplied, to a certain extent, by their own wholesale dealers who obtain the bulk of their supplies direct.

Adjacent to the wholesale fruit and vegetable market is what is known as the "Growers' Market." This consists of a collection of ground spaces some of which are let to local growers. Situated on either side of the street, it represents the only market facilities provided for local growers who wish to dispose of their own produce, mainly heavy vegetables Selling is done by private treaty in the street. The market is well patronised by both buyers and sellers.

A paved, open space, some 2,716 sq. yds. in extent, at the north end of the town, which was used as a hay market up to 1916, is now used on three days a week by local carriers as a free stand where their lorries can be loaded up. Produce and other goods bought in the town or at the wholesale market are conveyed to this place—which is known as the "Carriers' Market" or "Haymarket"—for distribution to the towns and villages to the north. A similar space is set apart at the south end of the town for lorries going southwards. The practice is excellent as it greatly relieves the congestion in the centre of the town, especially in the neighbourhood of the wholesale fruit and vegetable market.

*Imported Fruit Auction.**—Close by the wholesale fruit and vegetable market, a firm of brokers has built an auction room which is equipped on up-to-date lines. Imported fruit is sold here on sample and, as delivery is taken from the docks, further congestion of the market area is avoided.

Cattle Market.—Newcastle cattle market (Fig. 54) is situated adjoining the railway station and is exceeded in importance among the live-stock markets in the north by those at Salford and Carlisle only. The train services are good, but there is some congestion and delay on market days. Only a small proportion of the stock arrives by road, although motor floats are being increasingly used for sheep.

The market is well laid out with iron or wooden pens for cattle and sheep, cemented roadways 15 ft. wide, concrete-paved flooring, 3 permanent unloading ramps for sheep and 2 covered sale rings equipped with tiered seating and a 30-cwt. and a 60-cwt. dial weigh-bridge, respectively. For a northern market, it is deficient in covered accommodation, which is confined to 12 covered pens for calves and small lairage accommodation for dairy cows. The market is also rather overcrowded, especially in the sheep section. Additional accommodation was provided in 1927 for 1,000 sheep, but further extensions to cope even with the present trade will be difficult as the market is bounded on its four sides by public thoroughfares. Nine firms of auctioneers, including representatives of the Northern Agricultural Co-operative Society, operate in the market.

* *See* Economic Series No. 15, Fig. 43.

Auction selling of cattle and sheep does not usually start until 11.30, before which sales are by private treaty. The auctioneers ballot each week for the order of selling. No auctioneer is allowed to sell less than 30 cattle per hour; the average rate of selling in each ring is about 40 an hour. All but about 5 per cent. of the pigs received at the market are sold by private treaty in a separate section.

The market is within ½ mile of Gateshead cattle auction mart, across the river; should a bad trade be experienced at Newcastle, it is not uncommon for dealers to move their cattle across the bridge to the market at Gateshead. A suggestion has been made that this market should amalgamate with Gateshead auction mart in order to avoid overlapping. The whole question of the provision of a new market and public abattoir at Newcastle is, however, under consideration. Another question is that of market days. The market is at present held on Mondays for fat stock, but this day clashes with a number of other markets both in Northumberland and Durham, including Gateshead market, and there is a suggestion to change the day to Tuesday, the day on which the market was previously held and on which sheep and pigs are at present sold; dairy cattle are sold on Fridays in both markets.

Newcastle cattle market is an example of a fat-cattle market situated in a large consuming centre and supplying a large population. About half of the fat stock sold in the market is consumed locally, the remainder being consigned to Sunderland, Durham, Stockton, and occasionally to Sheffield. Stock is received chiefly from Northumberland and Durham, very little being brought up from the South. No Irish cattle are shown. A good percentage of the sellers of fat stock are dealers, who make up consignments from the outlying smaller marts and, in the case of pigs, from as far north as Scotland. In addition to a large trade in fat bullocks, there is usually a good trade in fat cows to supply a demand for cheap meat in Newcastle, Gateshead and the other Tyneside towns as well as in Sunderland, Stockton and the colliery towns in Durham.

The total number of cattle and sheep exposed for sale at this market has decreased in the last 15 years although the figures in 1927 showed some improvement. In 1927 246,429 head of live-stock, including 32,701 fat cattle, 1,347 calves, 172,389 sheep and lambs and 39,992 pigs, passed through the market. The reason for the decline in business is generally assigned to the tendency of butchers to buy at auction sales in the producing areas of Northumberland rather than attend Newcastle market and buy, from dealers, beasts which may have been exposed for sale at the smaller auction marts a week previously.

Public slaughter-houses are included with the cattle market premises. In addition, there are 17 private slaughter-houses adjoining the market which are let to individual butchers; there are also some 80 private slaughter-houses scattered about the

City Four hide and skin markets are reported in Newcastle, at two of which business is done both by auction and private treaty; of the remaining two, business appears to be by auction only in one case and by private treaty only in the other.

Retail Markets.—The "Grainger Market," the chief retail market of Newcastle, presents a striking contrast to the retail market at, say, Carlisle, where a large part of the market is reserved for producers and special arrangements are made to facilitate marketing of their supplies direct to the consumer The Grainger Market is a covered market in the centre of the town and consists of some 183 shops, with an additional 62 shops and stalls in the Grainger Arcade The shops and stalls, which vary in size from 6 to 38 sq. yds., are let at schedule rents on weekly, quarterly or yearly tenancies This may account for the market losing its original character as a selling place for agricultural produce. With the exception of 35 stalls in the Grainger Arcade section of the market, which are let for the sale of fruit and flowers, and of the stalls allocated to the retail meat trade, the Grainger retail market is now nothing more or less than an arcade of shops selling general merchandise every day of the week. High rents are charged for stalls, some of which are used by local shopkeepers as branch premises. It would seem worth consideration whether a part of this market could not be set apart on reasonable terms to enable those growers who at present use the Growers' Market on the streets to display their produce to better advantage under cover. Practically the only facilities afforded to local producers, apart from the Growers' Market for vegetables, is a small poultry, egg and butter market which is held in the Grainger Market on Saturday mornings, temporary trestle stalls being erected in one of the main avenues.

A small retail fish market occupies a separate building near the Green Market. The upper floor of this market is known as the "Bird Market" and is used for the sale of poultry on Saturdays, and occasional sales of imported case fruits. A small uncovered space, known as the "Bigg Market," is used on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays for the retail sale of miscellaneous articles.

Corn Exchange.—At the Corn Exchange, which is controlled by the Local Authority and held on Saturdays, some 100,000 cwt. of home-grown corn, drawn chiefly from Northumberland and Durham, are sold annually, mainly for local requirements.

Imported grain from Canada and the Argentine is sold on sample; business is also done in seed grain from Norway and Sweden.

Salford.

Cattle Market.—The Salford Corporation are the owners of the largest market in England and Wales for sheep and the fifth largest for cattle. The market (Fig. 55) is, in effect, the livestock market for Manchester and surrounding towns. At Salford Station, there

are excellent loading and unloading docks within 300 yds. of the market, which is on the main road. All sales are by private treaty.

The site extends over an area of about 8 acres, of which 7 acres are laid out in open pens with granite "sett" floors to accommodate 2,000 cattle and 15,000 sheep; canvas covers are provided for clipped sheep. Brick-built lairage accommodation covering about 1 acre makes it possible to house some 800 cattle, 150 dairy cows and 1,000 sheep under cover; the cattle lairages are generally full in the stall-fed season but not in the grass-fed season. Dealers who attend the market regularly occupy the same pens each week. The tolls charged in the market are 8*d*. per head for bulls, 6*d*. for other cattle, 4*d*. for calves and 2*d*. for sheep. There are 6 branch Banks in the market. Closely adjoining the market are 6 slaughter-houses, of which 2 are let to private butchers and 4, including a horse slaughter-house, are public.

The present average weekly supply is about 800 fat cattle and 7,500 fat sheep, all of which are forwarded by dealers. Supplies are mainly drawn from North Wales, Cumberland, Westmorland, Cheshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, North Yorkshire and from Ireland. Irish cattle account for about half of the total cattle shown. The market serves a large industrial population both in Salford and Manchester. It is estimated that at least 200 fat cattle and 3,000 fat sheep are consigned direct from the market to the Manchester public abattoir each week. Supplies are also sent to neighbouring towns, such as Bolton and Blackpool, and to parts of Cheshire and Derbyshire within a 50-mile radius of Salford. About 100 Irish dairy cows are sold each week to dairies in the neighbouring towns.

This market, like other large cattle markets in consuming centres—notably Birmingham—has experienced a steady decline in the number of animals exposed for sale during recent years, although at Salford a good recovery was shown in 1927. For many years past the market is said to have made an annual loss. The following Table shows the course of trade :—

—	1875.	1885.	1895.	1905.	1915.	1925.	1926.	1927.
Bulls ..	1,605	3,519	2,546	1,257	—	—	—	—
Fat Cattle	166,201	161,158	134,444	95,392	80,493	44,081	31,092	63,428
Fat Sheep	682,930	587,776	612,785	505,758	494,144	300,430	244,287	400,416
Calves	15,120	12,017	11,058	8,337	2,141	96	120	78
Fat Pigs	1,789	2,709	2,530	1,133	32	—	—	—
Total ..	867,645	767,179	763,363	611,877	576,810	344,607	275,499	463,922

The reasons given for this decrease in business are, briefly, (*a*) foot-and-mouth disease regulations have necessitated the market being shut for long periods—an average of three months in every year for the last six years—and have thus interrupted and, in some cases, diverted, the normal supply of the market, and (*b*) the growing practice of sending animals direct to the abattoir and thus "short-circuiting" the market; that is to say, butchers now prefer to go to a meat market and buy the dead meat there, rather than do their own killing either in a private slaughter-house or in a public abattoir.

The Corporation have had under consideration a scheme for using the site for some more remunerative purpose, such as, for example, a trade exhibition. In support of this it was argued that (*a*) livestock would then be consigned direct from the seller to the buyer in the same manner as when the market is closed owing to foot-and-mouth disease regulations; (*b*) there is no demand by the Salford butchers for a livestock market as, although there are many meat retailers in the city, there are only 7 slaughter-houses (in this latter connection, however, it must be borne in mind that the market supplies Manchester and other places in addition to Salford); and, (*c*) in order to comply with the Market Sales and Lairs Order, 1925, nearly £3,000 must be spent on repaving the floor of the market; it was felt that in view of the steady decrease in trade this expenditure would not be warranted.

The proposal to close the market has been opposed on the ground that it would mean that more butchers than at present would rely on the dead-meat markets for their requirements and that this might lead to the handling of imported, at the expense of home-produced, supplies.

Retail Market.—Adjoining the livestock market is a public retail market covering 2½ acres and consisting of 285 wooden stalls with tarred felt roofs. The trade on most of the stalls is in miscellaneous goods, 32 only being occupied by sellers of produce, such as fruit, vegetables, eggs and fish. The market is held on Mondays and Saturdays.

Sheffield.

Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Market.—The present Castlefolds fruit and vegetable market (Figs. 56 and 57), which stands on the original site of the market, was rebuilt in 1878. It is entirely covered, extends over a little more than an acre and includes a small space in the adjacent "Sheaf Market." It is open to the surrounding streets on all sides and is easy of access. This publicly-controlled market is favourably placed in relation to distribution within the city, and is situated within 100 yds. of one goods station, ½ a mile from a second and within one mile of a third. The roof of the market, which is of glass supported on iron columns, has 7 ven-



FIG. 55.—Salford : Livestock Market.



FIG. 56.—Sheffield : Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Market.

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FIG. 57.—Sheffield :. Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Market.

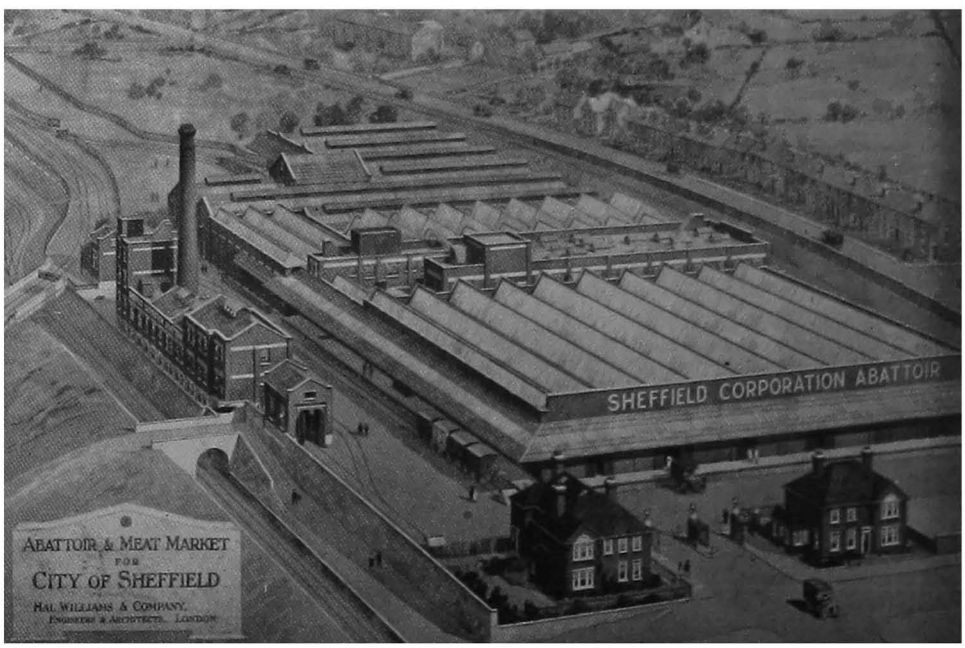


FIG. 58.—Sheffield : Proposed New Abattoir and Wholesale Meat Market.

tilated ridges. The total stand area for wholesale purposes is approximately 3,540 sq. yds. The 90 stands, which are raised about 3 ins. above the level of the asphalt roadways, are partitioned by the tenants, many of whom have also erected a storage platform over their ground space on which they store empty packages and bags ; owing to the dust, the storing of bags in this way should be avoided, if possible, in a fruit and vegetable market. The cellars under part of the market are let to tenants for storage purposes.

There are 3 roadways in the market, each 23 ft. wide and capable of accommodating 3 vehicles abreast. Both horse and motor traffic is permitted in the market. One-way traffic regulations are in force. Accommodation in the streets surrounding the markets is utilised for parking; at a recent census, over 350 vehicles were parked at one time.

The trade is steadily increasing, and has already reached the full capacity of the present market; no room for extension is available but schemes for transferring the market are under consideration. As in other markets, there is a tendency for wholesalers who cannot obtain premises in the market to take private premises outside.

Both wholesale and retail trade is carried on in the market and no particular portion of the market or times of day are set apart for either class of business ; the separation of the two trades is contemplated when the markets are re-arranged. The retail trade represents, however, only about 4 per cent. of the total amount of business done in the market. Sales from vehicles are not allowed but a space for local growers is provided near the market.

The chief trade of the market is in potatoes, of which it is estimated that about 600 tons are handled per week, drawn chiefly from Lincolnshire.* Vegetables are received also from Lincolnshire and Bedfordshire and new potatoes and broccoli from Cornwall. Home-grown fruit arrives from Norfolk, Nottinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Worcestershire and Somerset ; tomatoes, grapes and melons come from the Channel Islands. Large quantities of Continental fruits reach Sheffield directly from Hull and Goole. For imported case fruits, the London, Liverpool, Manchester and Hull auctions are the principal sources of supply.

The main outlet for produce is Sheffield itself, with a population of 520,000, and the towns and villages within a 20 to 30-mile radius—an area estimated to contain a population of approximately 1,000,000 and including the towns of Barnsley, Chesterfield, Doncaster, Mansfield, Retford, Rotherham and Worksop.

It is interesting to note that, in a recent complete year, the cleansing department of the Corporation contributed approximately £2,500 to the rates by the sale of meals and fertilisers made out of the market waste, including condemned meat and fish

* *See* Economic Series No. 9, Figs. 12, 13, 14 and 15, for railway storage facilities for potatoes.

from the markets and vegetable refuse from retail shops, which it was, at one time, the practice to destroy.

Wholesale Fish Market.—Near the wholesale fruit and vegetable market is the public wholesale fish market for the sale by private treaty of fish, hares and rabbits. The market is held daily in a fair-sized hall which has been adapted to the purpose but was not originally constructed as a market. Trade in the market is exclusively wholesale and the supplies are locally consumed. A rent of 1*s.* 6*d.* per sq. yd. per week is charged for the stands, which number 25 and are occupied by 19 tenants. The market does not provide enough room and several tenants of the Corporation have been accommodated in neighbouring premises.

Cattle Market and Slaughter-houses.—The City cattle market covers a large area, but a very small trade, and that only in calves and sheep, takes place. The existing public slaughter-houses consist of a range of buildings covering 3,070 sq. yds., which are let to individual tenants for slaughter-houses and lairs and for wholesale sales of meat. The tolls charged on beef are 1*s.* 6*d.* for slaughtering and 1*s.* for hanging. Auction sales of hides and skins are held weekly in private premises near the slaughter-houses. At present, there are some 155 public and private slaughtering establishments in the city, many of which will be closed when the new abattoir is opened.

New Abattoir, Meat Market and Cold-Storage.—The new abattoir and wholesale meat market (*see* Figs. 58 and 59) will be opened in January, 1929. It is the first public abattoir to be constructed in this country in which the animals will be laired and slaughtered on meat-works principles and the carcases hung in a temperature which is artificially controlled all the year round. The site has an area of about 10 acres with its own railway sidings. The total number of animals now killed in a year in Sheffield is approximately 35,000 cattle, 18,000 calves, 80,000 sheep and 45,000 pigs. The abattoir is designed to be capable of dealing with these numbers and provision has been made for extension. The lairage has two rail sidings with unloading platforms and road approaches, and provides accommodation, under cover, for upwards of 300 cattle and 2,000 calves, sheep and pigs. There are 8 double slaughter-divisions for cattle and sheep, and space for 4 more. The pig slaughter-house has 5 killing lines, 2 of which are equipped for large, and 3 for smaller, users. Hides and inedible offal are to be dropped through chutes in the floor of the slaughter-houses to a series of rooms below. The hanging room is divided into compartments for individual butchers and is provided with refrigerating machinery and special air-conditioning plant to enable the temperature to be controlled at will. There is also a separate large hanging room for pig carcases. For the Veterinary Staff, an office, laboratory and detention room are provided to which any suspect meat can be

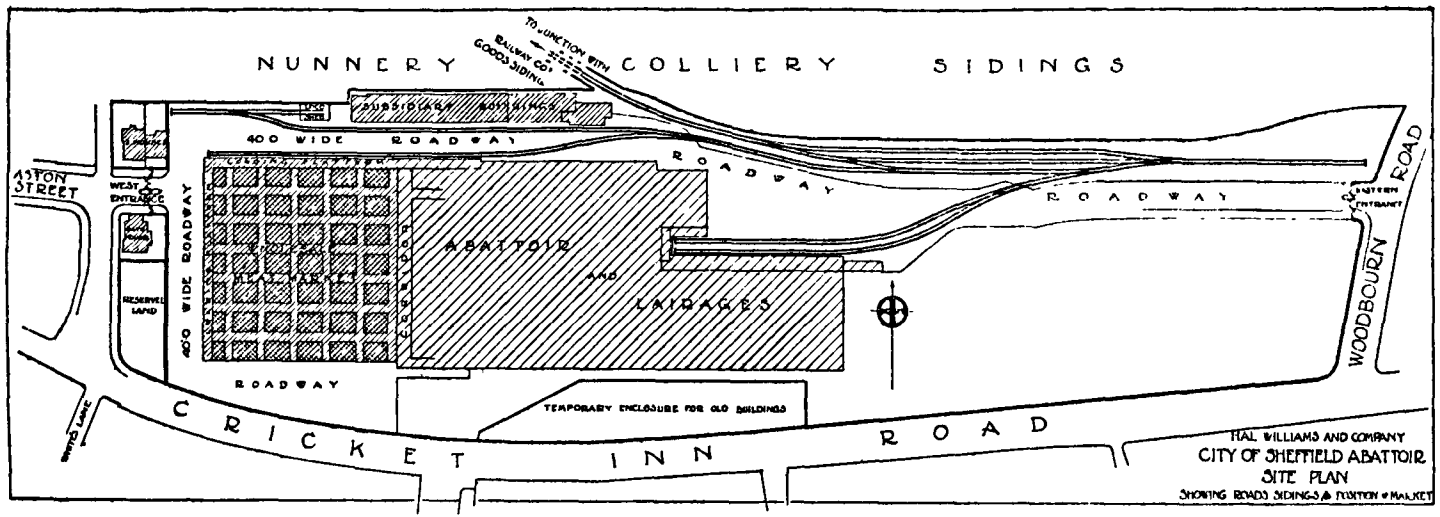


FIG. 59.—Sheffield: Site Plan of New Abattoir and Wholesale Meat Market.

taken direct from the slaughter-houses. General offices, mess-rooms, recreation and lecture rooms, bath rooms, general lavatories and locker rooms are also provided on the premises.

The meat market is immediately adjacent to the hanging rooms and is divided into a number of island stands, which are arranged for the best possible display. It has three large loading platforms at tail-board level, one for rail, and two for road, transport. Space is provided under a portion of the market, with direct access by lifts, for cold-storage for the use of the tenants. It is proposed to charge rents and not carcase tolls in the new market. The rents will be 3*d.* per sq. ft. per week; the average size of the stands will be 308 sq. ft.

There is a separate range of miscellaneous buildings, including a boiler house, tripery and laundry, and premises containing apparatus for pressing and drying the manure to enable it to be handled in a sanitary and cleanly manner. A separate small slaughter-house is provided for killing suspect or diseased animals. There is a gate-house and also houses for the assistant manager and engineer.

The general arrangement is that the animals come into the lairage at one end and the meat is taken away from the market at the other, the throughput working continuously in one direction. The utmost privacy, consistent with efficient facilities for inspection, has been provided for individual butchers.

The slaughter-houses, hanging rooms, and market are to be provided with a very extensive and complete set of runways. The equipment of the slaughter-houses is on the lines of the most up-to-date meat works overseas. Owing to local conditions, the ventilation of the whole of the buildings, with the exception of the lairages, is carried out with specially washed and filtered air.

The Retail Markets.—The public retail markets are in the centre of the city and are unusually large. The Fitzalan covered market is a retail market chiefly for the sale of meat, fish, game and poultry, and has 42 fish and poultry stalls, let at from 24*s.* to 28*s.* a week, and 38 butchers' shops. It is proposed to release the site of the Fitzalan Market for other purposes and to build a new covered retail market at a cost of about £46,000 at Castle Hill. The new market, with an area of approximately 5,700 sq. yds., is to have 56 stalls in the interior, 45 shops around the market and also parking accommodation. The Norfolk covered retail market, with 39 shops and 343 yds. of stalling 5 ft. 3 in. wide, is mainly for the sale of general merchandise, but there are a number of stalls devoted to the sale of fruit, vegetables, flowers and dairy produce. Both these covered markets, built some 75 years ago, are of brick and stone and have glazed roofs, ventilation being obtained by wooden louvres in the roof and by windows at the top of the walls. The floors are flagged. The fish stalls in the Fitzalan Market are in pairs, back to back. The stalls for miscellaneous dry goods

in the Norfolk Market, which are in long lengths, are let in sections to various tenants. Weekly rents are charged.

The Sheaf Market is a large open-air general market consisting of stalls with canvas awnings. The principal market days are Tuesdays and Saturdays, although the market is open daily. Rows of shops surround the market. About 26 stands are reserved for market-gardeners; stalls and stands from which general merchandise is sold number 253. The majority of the market-gardeners have finished business by 11.0 a.m. and the space is then let to ordinary stall-holders. Local producers bring in nursery stock, cabbages and green-stuff; in the spring, the market is crowded with plants and flowers which find a ready sale among suburban residents and allotment gardeners. Close to this market is a small hall, containing 12 stands, which is used for the sale of live poultry and other small livestock and dogs.

Corn Exchange.—Across the road from the wholesale fruit and vegetable market is the Corn Exchange, where, on Tuesday afternoons, a corn market is still held, although the business is declining. The Exchange is the property of the Corporation and contains 30 merchants' stands and 7 factors' walks; these are let on a quarterly tenancy, the former at £4 4*s.* and the latter at £2 2*s.* per annum. The bulk of the corn sold is consumed locally. Hay and straw are sold by sample on the Exchange.

Markets and Co-operation Branch,
Economics Division,
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries,
October, 1928.

APPENDIX I.

Summary of Market Authorities or Occupiers of Markets in the Northern Counties, Classified according to kinds of Markets under their Control in each Market Centre.

County.	Number of Authorities controlling Public Markets.			Number of Occupiers of Private Markets.			Total.
	Retail Markets only.	Wholesale Markets only.	Both Retail and Wholesale Markets.	Retail Markets only.	Wholesale Markets only.	Both Retail and Wholesale Markets.	
Cumberland ..	4	1	8	2	30	—	45
Durham ..	3	—	3	1	20	1	28
Lancashire ..	35	1	21	11	34	1	103
Northumberland	1	2	4	—	20	—	27
Westmorland ..	1	—	2	—	9	1	13
Yorkshire :							
East Riding ..	—	—	3	1	7	2	13
North Riding	4	2	2	3	25	4	40
West Riding..	17	2	19	16	28	2	84
Total ..	65	8	62	34	173	11	353

Note.—Cattle markets are included as wholesale markets in this Table.

APPENDIX II.

Markets in the Northern Counties.

(This statement is compiled from information furnished by the owners or lessees of the markets and sales enumerated. The commodities included under the heading "Character of market" are sold wholesale by private treaty unless otherwise indicated.)

Abbreviations used throughout this Appendix:—

c=Covered area. *u*=Uncovered area.
(*a.l.*)=Auctioneer selling livestock in public markets.
(*a.p.*)=Auctioneer selling produce in public markets.
(*d.w.*)=Dial weighbridge, installed or about to be installed.
†Wholesale corn business carried on elsewhere than on the market premises.

Number of cattle, sheep and pigs passing through the market in a recent typical year:—*over 60,000; **10,000 to 60,000; ***under 10,000.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
CUMBERLAND			
Alston Moor			
***Auction 200 *c* 2420 *u*	Alston Moor Auction Mart, Ltd.	Alt. Wed.	Store cattle and sheep; poultry.
Aspatria			
Market 2420 *u*	Aspatria U.D.C. ... (1 *a.p.*)	Wed. ...	Auction sales of fruit and veg., corn, hay, straw and poultry.
**Auction 2420 *c* (*d.w.*) 2420 *u*	Hope's Auction Co., Ltd., Wigton	Wed. ...	Livestock.
Market 90 *c* Hall 70 *u*	T. Ostle, Outgang, Aspatria	Wed., Sat.	Retail produce.
Beckermet			
***Auction *u*	Whitehaven & West Cumberland Auctioneering Co., Ltd., Whitehaven	Periodically in Spring and Autumn	Store cattle and sheep.
Bolton Fell			
***Auction 1600 *u*	Harrison & Hetherington's Auction Marts, Ltd., Carlisle	Periodically	Store cattle and sheep.
Bootle			
***Auction *u*	J. R. Mitchell & Sons, Cockermouth	Periodically in Spring and Autumn	Store cattle and sheep.
Brampton			
***Auction 1550 *u*	Harrison & Hetherington's Auction Marts, Ltd., Carlisle	Periodically	Cattle and sheep.
General Market 50 *c* 400 *u*	Brampton Parish Council	Wed. ...	Retail produce.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Carlisle			
Corn Market 800 *u*	Carlisle Corpn. ...	Sat. ...	Corn.
Fish Market 260*c*	,, ,, ..	Daily ...	Retail fish.
General Market 6814 *c*	,, ,, ...	Daily (chiefly Wed. and Sat.)	General retail produce. Butter and eggs.
Potato Markets *u*	,, ,, .	Wed., Sat.	Retail potatoes.
Poultry Market 474 *c*	,, ,,	Daily ..	Retail poultry.
**Sands Cattle Market 175 *c* 5987 *u* (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	,, ,, .	Sat. ...	Irish store cattle, chiefly private treaty.
*Auction (Botchergate) 7100 *c* 9548 *u* (*d.w.*)	Harrison & Hetherington's Auction Marts Ltd., Carlisle	Sat., Mon. Special sales on Wed. & Fri.	Livestock. Hay, straw, potatoes and turnips.
*Auction (Earl Street) 5396 *c* (*d.w.*) 796 *u*	,, ,,	,,	Livestock.
Auction 1000 *c* 1500 *u*	R. Dalton & Son, Carlisle	Mon. ...	Hay, straw, potatoes and other root crops.
		Sat. ...	Corn, seed potatoes poultry and misc. articles.
Hide and Skin Market	W. D. Mark & Son, Ltd., Carlisle	Thurs. ...	Auction sales of hides and skins.
Cleator Moor			
Market 1210 *c* 4840 *u*	Cleator Moor U.D.C.	Wed., Sat.	General retail produce.
Cockermouth			
General 1500 *c* Market 150 *u*	Cockermouth U.D.C. (1 *a.p.*)	Mon. ...	General retail produce. Auction and private treaty sales of dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg. and poultry. Corn.
**Cattle Market 4840 *u* (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	,, ,,	Mon. ...	Irish cattle.
*Auction 5000 *c* (*d.w.*)	Mitchell's Auction Co., Ltd., Cockermouth	Mon. ...	Livestock. Hay and straw (occasional sales).
Egremont			
Market 400 *c* 3100 *u*	Egremont U.D.C.	Sat. ...	Retail produce.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Gilsland			
**Auction 100 *c* 2000 *u*	Cumberland & Dumfriesshire Farmers' Mart, Ltd., Longtown	Fri. (periodically)	Store cattle and sheep.
Hesket Newmarket			
***Auction *u*	J. R. Armstrong, Penrith	Wed. (occasionally)	Livestock.
Holmrook			
***Auction *u*	J. R. Mitchell & Sons, Cockermouth	Occas'l sales in Spring & Autumn	Store cattle and sheep.
How Mill			
**Auction 1000 *u*	Cumberland & Dumfriesshire Farmers' Mart, Ltd., Longtown	Mon. ...	Livestock.
Keswick			
Market 65 *c* 170 *u*	Keswick U.D.C. ...	Sat. ...	Retail produce. Auction sales of poultry and occasional private treaty sales of hay and straw.
Kirkcambeck			
***Auction 100 *c* 1000 *u*	Cumberland & Dumfriesshire Farmers' Mart, Ltd., Longtown	Periodically during Spring & Autumn	Store cattle.
Lamplugh			
***Auction 2420 *u*	J. Jackson, Heather Lea, Frizington	Occas'l sales in Spring & Autumn	Store cattle and sheep.
Lazonby			
*Auction (*d.w.*) 1410 *c* 5035 *u*	Penrith Farmers' & Kidd's Auction Co., Ltd., Penrith	Thurs. ...	Livestock.
Longtown			
**Auction (*d.w.*) 2212 *c* 3524 *u*	Harrison & Hetherington's Auction Marts, Ltd., Carlisle	Thurs. ...	Livestock.
*Auction (*d.w.*) 1000 *c* 1500 *u*	Cumberland & Dumfriesshire Farmers' Mart Ltd., Longtown	Fat: Thurs. Store: Alt. Thurs.	Livestock.
Wool Auction	W. Maxwell, Carlisle	Thurs. nearest June 20th	Wool.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Maryport			
Market 391 *c* 2352 *u* (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	Maryport U.D.C. ...	Fri., Sat.	General retail produce. Fruit, veg., dairy produce, eggs and poultry.
Millom			
General Market 520 *c* 1630 *u*	Millom U.D.C. ..	Sat. ...	General retail produce.
**Auction 1300 *c* 300 *u*	Millom Auction Mart Co., Ltd.	Mon. ...	Livestock and poultry.
Penrith			
Market 1065 *c* 3450 *u*	Penrith U.D.C. ...	Tues., Sat.	General retail produce. Dairy produce, eggs, poultry and corn.
*Auction 5000 *c* (*d.w.*) 4000 *u*	Penrith Farmers & Kidd's Auction Co. Ltd., Penrith	Fat: Mon. Store & Dairy: Tues.	Livestock, hay and straw.
Penton			
***Auction 249 *c* 1500 *u*	Harrison & Hetherington's Auction Marts, Ltd., Carlisle.	Periodically	Store cattle and sheep.
Roadhead			
***Auction 1800 *u*	,, ,,	Periodically	Cattle and sheep.
Silloth			
Auction *u*	D. & T. J. Osborn, Silloth	Thurs. (Oct. to Mar.)	Fruit, veg., corn, hay and straw.
Southwaite			
**Auction 200 *c* 4840 *u*	Penrith Farmers' & Kidd's Auction Co., Ltd., Penrith	Fri. ...	Livestock.
Troutbeck			
**Auction 300 *c* 3000 *u*	,, ,,	Sat. ...	Livestock.
Whitehaven			
Market 345 *c* 5609 *u*	Whitehaven Corpn.	Tues., Thurs., Sat.	General retail produce. Fruit, veg., and poultry.
**Auction 3630 *c* (*d.w.*) 1210 *u*	Whitehaven & West Cumberland Auctioneering Co., Ltd.	Thurs.; occasional sales on Tues.	Livestock, hay and poultry. Private treaty sales of Irish cattle.
Wigton			
General Market 625 *c* 860 *u*	Wigton U.D.C. ...	Tues. ...	General retail produce. Dairy produce, eggs, poultry and corn.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Wigton—*cont.*			
***Cattle Market *u*	Wigton U.D.C.	Tues. (periodically)	Irish cattle.
*Auction 745 *c* (*d.w.*) 300 *u*	Hope's Auction Co., Ltd., Wigton	Tues.; special sales on Thurs. during Spring & Autumn	Livestock.
Auction 2420 *u*	T. Smith, Wigton ...	Tues. ...	Corn, hay, straw, potatoes & poultry.
Workington			
General Market 4550 *u* (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	Workington Corpn.	Wed., Sat.	General retail produce. Hay and straw.
**Auction 1700 *c* (*d.w.*) 2850 *u*	J. Mossop, Workington	Wed. ...	Livestock. Corn, hay, straw and poultry.
Market Hall 600 *c*	Workington Covered Market Co., Ltd.	Wed., Sat.	Retail produce.
DURHAM			
Barnard Castle			
***Market 134 *c* 8616 *u*	Barnard Castle U.D.C.	Wed. ...	General retail produce, Dairy produce, eggs and poultry. Occasional sales of pigs.
**Auction 5000 *c* (*d.w.*) 5000 *u*	Barnard Castle & Teesdale Farmers' Auction Mart Co. Ltd.	Fat: Mon. Dairy and store cattle, sheep: Wed.	Livestock.
Bishop Auckland			
**Auction 360 *c* (*d.w.*) 2000 *u*	B. Richardson, Holdforth Farm, Bishop Auckland	Fat: Wed. Store and Dairy: Thurs.	Livestock. Corn.†
Blackhill			
***Auction 800 *c* (*d.w.*) 800 *u*	Blackhill Farmers' Mart Co., Ltd.	Mon. ...	Livestock and poultry.
Castle Eden			
***Auction 2420 *u* (*d.w.*)	T. Murray, Ltd., Haswell	Alt. Mon....	Livestock.
Chester-le-Street			
***Auction 4840 *c* (*d.w.*)	J. Turnbull & Son, Chester-le-Street	Alt. Mon.... 1st Wed in Oct. Dec. ...	Livestock. Horse sale. Poultry.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Darlington			
*Cattle Market (*d.w.*) 2663 *c*	Darlington Corpn.	Mon. ...	Auction sales of livestock.
18536 *u*	(Lessees of part of market: Darlington Farmers' Auction Mart Co.) (2 *a.l.*)	Mon., Sat.	Private treaty sales of cattle.
Corn Exchange 444 *c*	Darlington Corpn.	Mon. ...	Corn, hay, straw, feeding stuffs, etc.
Covered Market 2037 *c*	,, ,,	Mon., Thurs., Fri., Sat.	General retail produce.
		Mon. ...	Wholesale and retail sales of poultry, etc.
Fruit and Vegetable Market 385 *c*	,, ,,	Mon. ...	Fruit and veg., chiefly wholesale.
		Mon., Sat.	Retail fish.
Gardeners' Market 432 *c*	,, ,,	Mon. ...	Retail garden produce, plants, etc.
Open Market 4071 *u*	,, ,,	Mon., Sat.	Miscellaneous merchandise.
Durham			
**Auction 4840 *c* (*d.w.*)	J. W. Wood, Durham	Mon. ... Horses: last Thurs. each month.	Livestock.
General Market 2132 *c*	Durham Markets Co.	Sat. ...	General retail produce.
Fence Houses			
***Auction	Durham County Auction Marts, Ltd., Durham	Alt. Mon....	Livestock.
Ferryhill			
***Auction	,, ,,	Alt. Mon....	Livestock.
Gateshead			
*Auction 3897 *c* (2 *d.w.*) 1859 *u* (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	T. & I. Maughan & Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne	Fat.: Mon. Store: Tues. Dairy: Fri. Horses: 2nd Thurs. each month.	Livestock.
Hamsterley			
***Auction 2420 *u*	Tow Law Auction Mart Co., Ltd.	Alt. Tues....	Livestock.
Hartlepool			
Fish Quay 9000 *c*	L. & N.E. Railway Co.	Daily ...	Wholesale and retail auction sales of fish.
Haswell			
**Auction 9680 *u* (*d.w.*)	T. Murray, Ltd., Haswell	Alt. Mon....	Livestock.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Lanchester			
***Auction 200 *c* (*d.w.*) 300 *u*	C. Thompson, Dyke Nook, Consett	Wed. ...	Livestock and poultry.
Middleton-in-Teesdale			
Auction. (*See under* Holwick, Yorks, N.R.)			
Rowlands Gill			
***Auction	Derwent Farmers' Auction Mart, Ltd., Rowlands Gill	Thurs. ...	Livestock.
Ryhope			
***Auction 4840 *c* (*d.w.*)	B. Richardson, Bishop Auckland	Tues. ... Dec. ...	Livestock. Poultry.
St. John's Chapel			
***Auction 560 *c* 2000 *u*	Tow Law Auction Mart Co., Ltd., Tow Law	Fri. ..	Livestock.
Sedgefield			
***Auction 3630 *u*	Holmes & Moor, Lazenby	Alt. Tues.... Horses: annually.	Livestock.
South Shields			
Market 3600 *u* (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	South Shields Corpn.	Sat., Mon.	General retail produce.
Spennymoor			
Market 620 *c* 3170 *u*	Spennymoor U.D.C.	Sat. ...	General retail produce.
Stockton-on-Tees			
**Cattle Market (*d.w.*) 829 *c* 8136 *u*	Stockton-on-Tees Corpn. (Lessees of Auction Mart: T. Murray, Ltd., Haswell)	Wed. ...	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock.
Corn Exchange 600 *c*	Stockton-on-Tees Corpn.	Wed. ...	Corn, hay and straw.
General Market 21780 *u*	,, ,,	Wed., Sat.	General retail produce. Fruit and veg.
Covered Market 590 *c*	,, ,,	Wed. ...	Retail dairy produce, eggs and poultry.
		Sat. ...	Retail meat.
Hide and Skin Market	(1) Co-operative Wholesale Society, Ltd., Stockton-on-Tees.	Fri. ...	Private treaty sales of hides and skins.
	(2) W. D. Mark & Sons, Stockton-on-Tees	Thurs.	Auction sales of hides and skins.
Sunderland			
Market 5852 *c*	Sunderland Corpn....	Sat. ...	General retail produce.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Sunderland—*cont.*			
***Auction 1400 *c* (*d.w.*) 780 *u*	A. T. & E. A. Crow, Sunderland	Fat: Mon. Dairy: Thurs. Horses: Wed. (monthly)	Livestock and poultry.
Fish Market 1000 *c*	River Wear Commissioners, Sunderland	Daily ...	Auction sales of fish.
Tow Law			
**Auction 1110 *c* (*d.w.*) 4000 *u*	Tow Law Auction Mart Co., Ltd., Tow Law	Dairy cattle, calves, pigs Mon. Fat stock: Alt. Tues. Store stock. Alt. Thurs in Spring & each Thurs Aug. to Nov.	Livestock.
Wolsingham			
**Auction 980 *c* (*d.w.*) 2000 *u*	,, ,,	Alt. Tues.	Livestock.
LANCASHIRE			
Accrington			
Market 2485 *c* 3976 *u*	Accrington Corpn. ...	Tues., Fri., Sat.	General retail produce.
(*Public Slaughterhouse*)		Daily ...	Fruit and veg.
Ashton-in-Makerfield			
Market 7437 *u*	Ashton-in-Makerfield U.D.C.	Sat. ...	General retail produce.
Ashton-under-Lyne			
Covered Market 4534 *c*	Ashton-under-Lyne Corpn	Daily ..	Retail meat and fish.
Open Market 7280 *u*	,, ,,	Mon., Fri., Sat.	General retail produce.
Atherton			
Market 1567 *u*	Atherton U.D.C. ...	Fri. ..	General retail produce.
Bacup			
Market 1171 *c* 2923 *u*	Bacup Corpn. ...	Wed., Sat.	General retail produce.
Barnacre			
***Auction 140 *c* 500 *u*	Bleasdale & District Farmers' Auction Mart Co., Ltd.	Alt. Thurs.	Livestock.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Barrow-in-Furness			
***Cattle Market 120 *c* (*d.w.*) 360 *u* (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	Barrow-in-Furness Corpn. (Lessees Lowden & Postlethwaite, Barrow-in-Furness)	Wed. ...	Auction sales of livestock.
Butter Market 320 *c*	Barrow-in-Furness Corpn.	Wed., Sat., Farmers' Market Sat.	Retail dairy produce, eggs and poultry.
Fruit Market 195 *c*	,, ,,	Wed., Sat.	Fruit and veg.
Market Hall 3760 *c*	,, ,,	Wed., Fri., Sat.	General retail produce.
Open Market 5000 *u*	,, ,,	Wed., Sat.	General retail produce.
Hide & Skin Market	Barrow & District Hide & Skin Co., Ltd.	Fri. ...	Auction sales of hides and skins.
Blackburn			
**Cattle Market (*d.w.*) 1121 *c* 3430 *u*	Blackburn Corpn. ... (Part leased to Blackburn & District Farmers' Auction Mart, Ltd.)	Fat: Mon. Dairy: Wed. Store: Alt. Tues.	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock.
Fish Market 976 *c*	Blackburn Corpn. ...	Daily ...	Wholesale and retail fish.
Fruit and Veg. Market 2585 *u*	,, ,, ...	,,	Fruit and veg., chiefly wholesale.
General Market } 7443 *u*	,, ,, ...	Wed., Sat.	General retail produce.
Growers' Market }	,, ,, ...	Chiefly Tues. & Fri.	Fruit and veg.
Market Halls 2850 *c*	,, ,, ...	Daily ...	Chiefly dry goods, retail.
Wholesale Meat Market and Abattoirs 7589 *c*	,, ,, ...	,,	Meat.
Fish Market 596 *c* 1298 *u*	L.M.S. Rly. Co. ...	,,	Fish, poultry and game.
Blackpool			
Market 1332 *c* (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	Blackpool Corpn. ...	,,	General retail produce.
Market 1380 *c*	A. Hall, South Shore, Blackpool	,,	Retail fruit and veg., and general.
Bolton			
Fish Market 498 *c*	Bolton Corpn. ...	,,	Wholesale and retail fish and poultry.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Bolton—*cont.*			
Fruit and Veg. Market 2040 *c* 5154 *u*	Bolton Corpn. ...	Wholesale: Daily Retail: Tues., Thurs, Sat	Wholesale and retail fruit and veg., dairy produce and eggs.
		Tues., Thurs	Retail misc. goods.
Market Hall 7188 *c*	,, ,, ...	Daily ...	Retail produce.
***Cattle Market 758 *u* (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	,, ,, ... (Lessees: Bolton Farmers' Auction Mart, Ltd.)	Wed. ...	Auction sales of livestock.
Hide & Skin Market	Bolton Hide, Skin & Fat Co., Ltd.	Daily ...	Hides and skins.
Brierfield			
Market 2000 *u*	Brierfield U.D.C. ...	Fri. ...	Retail produce.
Broughton-in-Furness			
**Auction 9264 *c* 5000 *u*	Broughton Auction Co., Ltd.	Tues. ...	Livestock.
Burnley			
Market 2600 *c* 5320 *u*	Burnley Corpn. ..	Mon., Sat	General retail produce.
(*Public Slaughterhouse*)		Daily ..	Fruit and veg.
Hide and Skin Market	Samuel Smith & Sons (Colne), Ltd.	Daily .	Hides and skins.
Bury			
Market Hall 2900 *c*	Bury Corpn. ..	Daily ..	General retail produce. Meat.
Open Market 5340 *u* (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	,, ,, .	Sat. .	General retail produce.
Cadishead			
Market 1256 *u*	F. Taylor, 92, Liverpool Road, Cadishead	Fri. ...	Retail fruit, veg., meat and misc. articles.
Cark-in-Cartmel			
***Auction 2420 *u* (*d.w.*)	Cark Auction Mart Co., Ltd.	Mon. ...	Livestock and poultry.
Carnforth			
**Auction 300 *c* 600 *u* (*d.w.*)	Kendal & District Auction Mart Co., Ltd., Kendal	Tues.	Livestock.
Chorley			
General 584 *c* Market 75 *u*	Chorley Corpn. ..	Tues., Sat.	Retail fruit. veg, fish and poultry.
Butter and Egg Market 225 *c*	,, ,, ..	Tues. ...	Butter, cheese and eggs.
***Cattle 108 *c* Market 108 *u* (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	(Lessee of part of market: J. S. Lee, 20, Newmarket St., Chorley)	Tues. ...	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock. Auction sales of poultry.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Claughton			
***Auction (*d.w.*) 800 *u*	Brockholes Arms Auction Mart, Ltd., Carnforth	Tues. ...	Livestock.
Clitheroe			
General Market 7830 *u*	Clitheroe Corpn. ...	Tues., Sat.	General retail produce.
**Cattle Market (*d.w.*) 1469 *c* 1155 *u* (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	Clitheroe Corpn. (Lessees of part of market: Clitheroe Auction Mart Co., Ltd.)	Mon., Tues., Alt. Fri.	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock.
Colne			
Market Hall 2000 *c*	Colne Corpn. ...	Wed., Fri., Sat.	General retail produce.
Open Market 6455 *u*	,, ,, ...	Wed. ...	General retail produce.
***Cattle Market (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	Colne Corpn. (Lessee: H. Jackson, Colne)	Fri., Sat. ...	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock and poultry.
Crompton			
Market 1500 *u*	Crompton U.D.C. ...	Thurs. ...	Retail produce.
Darwen			
Market Hall 1600 *c*	Darwen Corpn. ...	Mon., Fri., Sat.	Retail produce. Fruit, veg. and fish.
Open Market 3000 *u* (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	,, ,, ...	Mon., Fri., Sat.	Retail produce.
Denton.			
Market 2100 *u*	Denton U.D.C.	Fri. ...	General retail produce.
Eccles			
General Market 1895 *u*	Eccles Corpn. ...	Sat. ...	General retail produce.
General Market	Matthew Owen, 15, Eldon Place, Patricroft	Fri. ...	General retail produce.
Failsworth			
Market 2000 *u*	Mrs. C. Seller, 12, East Road, Gorton, Manchester	Thurs. ...	Retail dairy produce, eggs, fruit and veg.
Farnworth			
Market 12070 *u*	Farnworth U.D.C.	Mon., Sat.	General retail produce.
Fleetwood			
General Market 3011 *c* 942 *u* (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	Fleetwood U.D.C. ...	Daily ...	General retail produce.
Fish Market 31000 *c*	L.M.S. Rly. Co. ...	Daily ...	Auction and private treaty sales of fish.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Garstang			
***Market 300 *u*	Garstang Town Trustees	Thurs. ...	Retail produce. Corn, hay, straw, fruit, veg, dairy produce, poultry & occasionally pigs.
Great Harwood			
Market 1250 *u* (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	Great Harwood U.D.C.	Fri. ...	General retail produce.
Haslingden			
General Market *u*	Haslingden Corpn....	Tues., Sat.	General retail produce.
**Auction 1200 *c* 1200 *u*	Haslingden Auction Mart Co., Ltd.	Thurs.	Livestock.
Heywood			
Market 1240 *c* 2710 *u*	Heywood Corpn. ...	Fri. ..	General retail produce.
Hindley			
Market 3915 *u*	Hindley U.D.C. ...	Fri. . .	General retail produce.
Horwich			
Market 900 *c* 1665 *u*	Horwich U.D.C. ...	Mon., Fri.	Retail produce.
Kellet			
***Auction 7260 *u*	R. Turner, Bentham	Bi-annually — April & Sept.	Store cattle and sheep.
Kirkham			
***Auction 1500 *c* (*d.w.*) 4800 *u*	E. G. Hothersall & Sons, Ltd., Preston	Tues. (periodically)	Livestock.
Lancaster			
Covered Market 4840 *c*	Lancaster Corpn. ...	Sat. ...	General retail produce.
		Cheese Fair: 2nd Tues. each month	Cheese.
Open Market 750 *u*	,, ,, ...	Wed., Sat.	Retail produce.
**Cattle Market 2728 *c* & *u* (*d.w.*) (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	Lancaster Corpn. Lessees: Lancaster Farmers' Auction Mart Co., Ltd.	Fat: Mon. Dairy: Tues. Store: Alt. Fri. ...	Livestock and poultry auction.
		Sat. ...	Private treaty sales of Irish store cattle.
Lees			
Market 2200 *u*	Lees U.D.C. ...	Wed. ...	Retail fruit, veg., bacon and general.
Leigh			
Market 2420 *u*	Leigh Corpn. ...	Fri., Sat....	General retail produce.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Littleborough			
Market 600 *u*	W. Cryer, Falcon Hotel, Littleborough.	Fri. ...	General retail produce.
Little Lever			
Market 626 *u*	Little Lever U.D.C.	Tues., Fri.	Retail produce.
Liverpool			
Wholesale Fruit Market 8100 *c*	Liverpool Corpn. ...	Daily ...	Fruit and veg.
Wholesale Vege-Market 7000 *c* 7050 *u*	,, ,, ...	Daily ...	Fruit, veg., hay and straw.
Wholesale Fish Market 2285 *c*	,, ,, ...	Daily ..	Fish and poultry.
Retail Fish Market 2200 *c*	,, ,, ...	Daily ...	Retail fish.
**Stanley Cattle Market37000 *u*	,, ,, ...	Daily ...	Private treaty sales of livestock.
Abattoir and Meat Market 11104 *c*	,, ,, ...	Daily ...	Meat.
Hide and Skin Market 1000 *c*	Liverpool Corpn. ... (Lessees:— 1. City of Liverpool & Dist. Hide, Skin & Fat Co., Ltd. 2. T. & H. Banks. 3. H. S. Gillespie & Co. 4. Huxley & Postlethwaite Ltd. 5. John Taylor.)	Hides: Thurs. Skins: Fri.	Auction sales of hides and skins.
Gill Street Imported Meat Market 2562 *c*	Liverpool Corpn. ...	Daily ...	Meat (imported).
St John's Market 8024 *c*	,, ,, ...	,, ...	General retail produce. Wholesale fruit, eggs, and poultry.
Garston Retail 800 *c* Market 2200 *u*	,, ,, ...	Fri., Sat.	General retail produce.
St Martin's Market 4088 *c*	,, ,, ...	Daily ...	General retail (Hardware).
North General Market 7000 *c* 7050 *u*	,, ,, ...	Sat. ...	General retail (Hardware).
Corn Exchange Spot Market 1078 *c*	Liverpool Corn Trade Association Ltd.	Tues., Fri.	Grain (by sample).

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Liverpool—*cont*			
Atlantic Newsroom 646 *c*	Liverpool Corn Trade Association, Ltd.	Daily ..	Imported grain on c.i.f., shipment and delivery, future-delivery & "spot" terms.
Fruit Exchange *c*	Liverpool Fruit Brokers Association Ltd.	Mon., Wed. Fri.	Auction sales of fruit.
Produce Exchange 400 *c*	Liverpool Provision Trade Association, Ltd.	Daily ..	Imported provisions (by sample).
Hide and Skin Market	Whinyates, Webster, McNaught & Co., Ltd.	Thurs., Fri.	Auction and private treaty sales of hides and skins.
Longridge			
***Auction 900 *c* 1500 *u*	E. G. Hothersall & Sons, Ltd., Preston	Mon. (Monthly during Summer and Dec.)	Livestock.
Lytham			
Market 500 *c* (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	Lytham St. Annes Corpn.	Daily ...	General retail produce.
Manchester			
Smithfield Fruit & Vegetable Market 28117 *c* 159 *u*	Manchester Corpn. ...	Daily ..	Fruit, veg., dairy produce and eggs, chiefly wholesale.
Wholesale Fish Market 4226 *c*	,, ,,	,, ..	Fish, eggs, poultry and game.
Retail Fish Market 1334 *c*	,, ,,	,,	Retail fish, poultry and game.
Victoria Fish Market 989 *c*	,, ,,	,,	Retail fish, fruit and poultry.
Shudehill Poultry Market 297 *u*	,, ,,	,,	Wholesale and retail poultry.
Wholesale Meat Market and Abattoir 17090 *c*	,, ,, ...	,,	Meat.
Campfield Market *c* & *u*	,, ,, ...	Mon., Sat.	General retail (Hardware, etc.)
		Tues., Thurs.	Auction sales of imported fruit and veg.
Smithfield Gen. Market *u*	,, ,, ...	Sat. ...	General retail (Hardware, etc.)
Animals Landing Wharf	,, ,, ...	Usually Mon.	Irish and imported cattle and sheep.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Manchester—*cont.*			
Corn Exchange 2308 *c*	Manchester Corn, Grocery & Produce Exchange, Ltd., Manchester.	Tues. ... Thurs. ...	Grocery. Corn.
Hide and Skin Market	R. Markendale & Co. Ltd.	Tues., Fri.	Auction and private treaty sales of hides and skins.
Hide and Skin Market	Lancashire Butchers Hide & Skin Co., Ltd.	Fri. ...	Auction sales of hides and skins.
Hide and Skin Market	Co-operative Wholesale Society Ltd., Manchester	Periodically	Private treaty sales of hides and skins.
Potato Market 4340 *c*	L.M. & S. Rly. Co.	Daily ...	Potatoes.
*Pig Market 3620 *c* 1290 *u*	,, ,, ...	,,	Pigs.
Middleton			
Market 1529 *u*	Middleton Corpn. ...	Fri. ...	General retail produce.
Milnrow			
***Auction 165 *c*	Rochdale, Milnrow & District Farmers' Auction Mart Co., Ltd., Milnrow	Thurs. ...	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock.
Morecambe			
Market 1237 *u*	Morecambe Corpn. ...	Wed., Thurs.	Retail produce.
Mossley			
Market 5000 *u*	Mossley Corpn. ...	Thurs. ...	Retail produce.
Nelson			
Market Hall 2180 *c*	Nelson Corpn. ...	Mon., Wed. Fri., Sat.	General retail produce.
Open Market 1200 *c* 1000 *u*	Exors. of the late W. Lambert, Spring Bank, Nelson	Wed., Fri., Sat.	Retail produce.
Newton-in-Makerfield			
Market 8000 *u* (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	Newton-in-Makerfield U.D.C.	Fri. ...	General retail produce.
Oldham			
Victoria Markets			
General Market Hall 4042 *c*	Oldham Corpn. ...	Daily ...	General retail produce.
Fish Market Hall 355 *c*	,, ,, ...	,, ...	Retail fish and poultry.
Open Market 14113 *u*	,, ,, ...	Mon., Fri., Sat.	General retail produce.
Godwick Market 9210 *u*	Oldham Corpn. ...	Thurs. ...	General retail produce.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Oldham—*cont.*			
Hollinwood Market 5659 *u*	Oldham Corpn. ...	Thurs. ...	General retail produce.
Hide and Skin Market	Oldham Hide, Skin and Fat Co., Ltd.	Thurs. ...	Auction sales of hides and skins.
Ormskirk			
Market 1200 *u*	Ormskirk U.D.C. ...	Retail: Thurs., Sat. Wholesale: Thurs.	Wholesale and retail dairy produce, fruit, veg. and eggs. Retail fish, meat and poultry. Corn.†
Padiham			
Market 834 *c* 723 *u*	Padiham U.D.C. ...	Fri. ..	General retail produce.
Pendlebury			
Market 8055 *u*	Swinton & Pendlebury U.D.C.	Fri. ...	General retail produce.
Pilling			
**Auction 600 *c* (*d.w.*) 4240 *u*	Pilling and District Farmers' Auction Mart Co., Ltd.	Tues. Horses: Annual Sale.	Livestock, poultry, corn and eggs.
Poulton-le-Fylde			
**Auction 1500 *c* (*d.w.*) 2993 *u*	Poulton-le-Fylde Auction Mart Co., Ltd.	Fat: Mon. Dairy: Sat Store: Alt. Thurs.	Livestock and poultry.
Preston			
Corn Exchange 426 *c*	Preston Corpn. . .	Sat. ...	Corn.
Egg and Butter Market 634 *c*	,, ,, ...	Sat. ...	Wholesale and retail butter and eggs. Retail poultry (dead) and fruit.
Poultry Market 242 *u*	,, ,, ...	Sat. ...	Retail poultry (live)
General Market 5320 *c* 1310 *u*	,, ,, ...	Produce: Wed., Sat. General: Mon. Wed. Sat. Cheese Fair: last Tues. each month except Dec.	General retail produce. Wholesale cheese, fruit, veg., hay and straw.
*Cattle Market 5902 *c* 26983 *u* (*d.w.*) (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	Preston Corpn. (Lessees of Auction Mart: E. G. Hothersall & Sons, Ltd., Preston)	Store: Alt. Mon. Fat Stock & Pigs: Wed. Dairy: Fri.	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock. Auction sales of poultry (occasionally).

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Preston—*cont.*			
Horse Repository 2445 *c* 3990 *u*	E. G. Hothersall & Sons, Ltd., Preston	Tues. (monthly), also on Mon. occas'ly	Auction sales of horses.
Wholesale Fish Market 305 *c* 382 *u*	L.M. & S. Rly. Co.	Daily ...	Fish.
Hide and Skin Market	W. D. Mark & Sons, Preston	Daily ...	Private treaty sales of hides.
		Fri. ...	Auction sales of skins.
Hide and Skin Market	Preston & District Hide, Skin, Fat and Wool Market Co., Ltd.	—	Private treaty sales of hides and skins.
Radcliffe			
Market 460 *c* 1500 *u*	Radcliffe U.D.C. ...	Fri. ...	General retail produce.
Ramsbottom			
Market 1500 *u*	Sir Peter Grant Lawson, Bt.	Daily, chiefly Sat.	Retail produce.
Rawtenstall			
Central Market 2512 *c* 777 *u*	Rawtenstall Corpn.	Thurs., Sat.	General retail produce.
Waterfoot Market 688 *c* 1090 *u*	,, ,,	Fri. ...	General retail produce.
***Auction (*d.w.*) 1000 *c* 1500 *u*	E. Ashworth, Cloughfold, Rawtenstall.	Fat: Mon. Store and Dairy: Tues.	Livestock.
***Sale-yard 170 *c* 80 *u*	W. W. Chadwick, Rawtenstall	Mon., Sat.	Private treaty sales of livestock (chiefly Irish).
Ribchester			
***Auction 800 *c* 1000 *u*	Ribble Valley Farmers' Auction Mart, Ltd., Ribchester	Thurs. (monthly)	Livestock and poultry.
Rochdale			
***Cattle Market 2734 *u*	Rochdale Corpn. ...	Wed. ...	Private treaty sales of cattle.
New Market 4657 *c* 1707 *u*	The Proprietors of Rochdale New Market Place.	Daily ...	General retail produce. Wholesale fish.
Royton			
Market 720 *c* 1190 *u*	Royton U.D.C. ...	Thurs. ...	General retail produce.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
St. Helens			
General Market 3475 *c*	St. Helens Corpn. ...	Daily ...	General retail produce.
Wholesale Market 1322 *u* (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	,, ,,	Daily ...	Fish, fruit and veg.
***Auction 191 *c* 35 *u*	Birchall & Son, St. Helens	Tues. ...	Livestock.
Salford			
*Cattle Market 4840 *c* 33880 *u* (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	Salford Corpn. ...	Tues. ...	Private treaty sales of cattle and sheep.
General Market 12100 *u*	,, ,,	Mon., Sat.	General retail produce.
Silverdale			
***Auction 7260 *u*	T. B. Jackson, Carnforth	Bi-annually: Spring & Autumn.	Livestock and poultry.
Southport			
Covered Market 1317 *c*	Southport Corpn. ...	Daily	Retail produce.
Open Market 2254 *u* (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	,, ,, ...	Wed., Sat.	Wholesale fish.
Stretford			
Market 2000 *c*	Stretford Central Market Co., Ltd.	Tues., Fri., Sat.	General retail produce.
Turton			
***Auction ...	Turton and District Auction Mart, Ltd.	Alt. Fri. ...	Livestock and poultry.
Tyldesley			
Market 746 *u*	Tyldesley - with Shakerley U.D.C.	Fri. ...	General retail produce.
Ulverston			
General Market 2457 *c*	Ulverston U.D.C.	Gen. Market: Daily. Poultry, eggs, etc.: Thurs.	Retail produce.
***Cattle Market 400 *u*	,, ,, ...	Thurs. ...	Pigs and Irish cattle (stores).
Fish Market 144 *c*	,, ,, ...	Daily ...	Retail fish.
Hide and Skin Market *c*	,, ,, ...	Fri. ...	Auction sales of skins.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Ulverston—*cont.*			
**Auction (*d.w.*) 2450 *c* 1620 *u*	Ulverston and North Lonsdale Auction Mart Co., Ltd.	Thurs. ...	Livestock.
Auction 2000 *c*	Lowden & Postlethwaite, Barrow-in-Furness	4 Sales annually Jan., Apl., July, Oct.	Horses.
Urmston			
Market 3000 *u*	T. & J. Royle Higginson, Urmston	Tues., Fri.	General retail produce.
Market 684 *c* 114 *u*	J. R. Lillycrap, Urmston	Tues., Fri., Sat.	General retail produce.
Walkden			
Market 3000 *u*	C. F. Hukin, 31, Hughes St., Bolton	Fri. ...	General retail produce.
Warrington			
Fish Market 722 *c*	Warrington Corpn.	Wed., Sat.	Fish, chiefly retail also general retail produce.
General Market 5324 *c*	,, ,,	,,	General retail produce.
Meat Market 766 *c*	,, ,,	,,	Retail meat and farm produce.
Fruit and Veg. Market 320 *c* 394 *u*	,, ,,	,,	Fruit and veg.
Potato Market 3432 *u*	,, ,,	,,	Potatoes and veg.
***Auction (*d.w.*) 880 *c* 327 *u*	J. Mainwaring Stafford & Co., Warrington	Mon. ...	Livestock. Corn, hay, straw, potatoes and poultry.
***Auction 220 *c* 60 *u*	Warrington & Dist. Farmers' Auction Co., Ltd.	Mon. ...	Livestock and poultry.
Corn Market *c* & *u*	The Tenant, Blue Bell Hotel, Warrington	Wed. ...	Corn.
Westhoughton			
Market 1538 *c*	Westhoughton U.D.C.	Thurs. ...	General retail produce.
Widnes			
Market 4482 *c*	Widnes Corpn. ...	Mon., Sat.	General retail produce.
Wigan			
General Market 3983 *c*	Wigan Corpn. ...	Daily ...	General retail produce.
Farm Produce Market 15364 *u*	,, ,, ...	Tues. ...	Fruit and veg., chiefly wholesale.
		Fri. ...	Corn.†
Covered Fish Market 130 *c*	,, ,, ...	Tues. to Sat.	Wholesale and retail fish.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Wigan—*cont*			
Open Fish Market 722 *u*	Wigan Corpn ..	Tues. to Fri.	Retail fish.
***Auction 500 *c* 200 *u*	John Trickett & Sons, King Street, Wigan.	Mon. ..	Livestock.
NORTHUMBERLAND			
Acklington			
**Auction 5474 *u* (*d.w.*)	T. & I. Maughan & Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne	Alt. Thurs.	Livestock.
Allendale			
***Auction 2420 *u*	Allendale Farmers, Ltd., Allendale	Periodically during Spring and Autumn	Livestock (stores).
Alnwick			
**Cattle Market (*d.w.*) 80 *c* 14164 *u* (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	Alnwick U.D.C. (1 *a.l.*)	Fat and Dairy: Mon. Store Fri.	Livestock auction and occasional poultry auction. Corn.†
Belford			
**Auction 400 *c* 2420 *u*	Belford & District Farmers' Auction Co., Ltd.	Thurs. ...	Livestock and poultry. Corn.†
Bellingham			
**Auction 14520*u*	W. & T. T. Iveson, Hexham	Periodically May to Nov	Store cattle and sheep.
Berwick-on-Tweed			
**Castlegate Cattle Market 125 *c* 4456 *u*	Berwick-on-Tweed Corpn.	Sat. ...	Private treaty sales of store cattle.
General Market 200 *c* (Street) *u*	,, ,,	Sat. ..	Retail fruit, veg., dairy produce, eggs and poultry.
Corn Market 672 *c*	Berwick Corn Exchange Co., Ltd.	Sat. ..	Corn, hay, straw, potatoes, wool.
**North Road Auction 334 *c* 3150 *u*	Berwick Auction Mart Co., Ltd. ...	Fri.	Livestock.
Bridge Street Auction 1210 *u*	— Young, Sandgate, Berwick-on-Tweed	1st Sat. each month	Horses.
Blyth Market 3630 *u* (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	Blyth Corpn. ..	Fri., Sat.	General retail produce.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Cornhill-on-Tweed			
**Auction 290 *c* 3580 *u*	Wooler Live Stock Auction Mart Co., Ltd., Wooler	Alt. Fri. also Wed. occas'ly	Livestock and poultry.
Haltwhistle			
**Auction 468 *c* 2758 *u*	Harrison & Hetherington's Auction Marts, Ltd., Carlisle	Periodically	Store cattle and sheep.
Hexham			
Market 220 *c* (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	Hexham U.D.C. ...	Tues. ...	General retail produce. Dairy produce, eggs and poultry. Corn.†
*Auction (*d.w.*) 1651 *c* 17709 *u*	Hexham Auction Mart Co., Ltd.	Tues. Special sales on Wed. and Fri.	Livestock, poultry, potatoes.
*Auction (*d.w.*) 2420 *c* 3630 *u*	Tynedale Live Stock Auction Marts Co., Ltd., Hexham	Tues. ...	Livestock.
Morpeth			
**Cattle Market (*d.w.*) 6400 *u* (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	Morpeth Corpn. (3 *a.l.*)	Wed. ...	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock.
General Market 111 *c* 6844 *u*	,, ,,	Wed. ...	General retail produce. Auction sales of fruit and veg. Private treaty sales of corn, dairy produce and eggs.
**Auction (*d.w.*) 20 *c* 12,100 *u*	Northumberland Farmers' Auction Mart Co., Ltd., Morpeth	Mon. ...	Livestock and poultry.
**Auction (*d.w.*) 350 *c* 9680 *u*	Wansbeck Farmers' Auction Mart Co., Ltd., Morpeth	Mon. ...	Livestock.
Newcastle-on-Tyne			
Bigg Market 355 *u*	Newcastle-on-Tyne Corpn.	Tues., Thurs., Sat.	Retail misc. articles.
Bird Market 147 *c*	,, ,,	Sat. ...	Poultry.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Newcastle-on-Tyne—*cont.*			
*Cattle Market and Abattoir (2 *d.w.*) 1915 *c* 17,263 *u*	Newcastle-on-Tyne Corpn. (9 *a.l.*)	Fat cattle: Mon. Dairy: Fri. Other Stock: Tues.	Auction and private treaty sales of cattle, sheep and horses. Private treaty sales of pigs.
Corn Market 635 *c*	Newcastle-on-Tyne Corpn.	Sat. ...	Corn.
Fish Market 147 *c*	,, ,,	Daily ...	Fish (chiefly retail).
Grainger Market 8933 *c*	,, ,,	Daily ...	Retail meat and general.
		Sat. ...	Retail dairy produce eggs and poultry.
Hay Market 2716 *u*	,, ,, ...	Tues., Thurs., Sat.	Used by local carriers as a distribution centre for produce.
Vegetable Market 4803 *c* 1542 *u*	,, ,, (4 *a.p.*)	Daily ...	Fruit and veg. by auction and private treaty, chiefly wholesale.
Auction 450 *c*	Naylor, Hewitt, Ltd., Nelson Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne	Irregular ...	Imported fruit auction.
Hide and Skin Market	Co-operative Wholesale Society, Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne	Fri. .	Private treaty sales of hides and skins.
,, ,,	W. D. Mark & Sons, Newcastle-on-Tyne	,,	Auction and private treaty sales of hides and skins.
,, ,,	J. B. Waggott, Newcastle-on-Tyne	,,	Auction and private treaty sales of hides and skins.
,, ,,	James Wilson & Sons, Newcastle-on-Tyne	,,	Auction sales of hides and skins.
North Shields			
Fish Quay 7172 *c* 9549 *u*	Tynemouth Corpn. (8 *a.p.*)	Daily ...	Auction sales of fish.
Ponteland			
**Auction (*d.w.*) 400 *c* 10000 *u*	Ponteland Auction Mart Co., Ltd.	Thurs. .	Livestock and poultry. Corn †
Rothbury			
*Auction (*d.w.*) 180 *c* 9500 *u*	R. Donkin, Ltd., Rothbury	Alt. Thurs.	Livestock.
Scots Gap			
**Auction (*d.w.*) 400 *c* 2420 *u*	Scots Gap Auction Mart Co., Ltd.	Alt. Thurs.	Store cattle (chiefly Irish) and store sheep.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Wark-on-Tyne			
***Auction 142 *c* (*d.w.*) 2380 *u*	Wark Farmers' Auction Mart Co., Ltd.	Wed. (monthly)	Livestock and poultry.
Whittingham			
***Auction 140 *c* 4700 *u*	Alnwick Auction Mart Co., Ltd., Alnwick	Alt. Thurs.	Livestock.
Wooler			
*Auction 499 *c* 8344 *u* (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	Wooler Live Stock Auction Mart Co., Ltd.	Alt. Fri. & periodically on Wed. from May to Dec.	Livestock and poultry.
WESTMORLAND			
Ambleside			
***Auction 300 *u*	Kendal & District Auction Mart Co., Ltd., Kendal	1st Tues. each month Dec. to June. Alt. Tues. July to Nov.	Livestock.
Appleby			
General Market 500 *c* 1000 *u*	Appleby Corpn. ...	Sat. Cheese Fair 3rd week in Aug.	Dairy produce, eggs and poultry. Retail produce.
*Auction 840 *c* (*d.w.*) 4000 *u*	Penrith Farmers' and Kidds' Auction Co., Ltd., Penrith	Fri. ...	Livestock.
Kendal			
Market Hall 1050 *c*	Kendal Corpn. ...	Sat., also Wed. from June to Sept.	Dairy produce, eggs, corn. Retail produce.
Market Place 1126 *c* 391 *u*	,, ,, ...	Wed. (June to Sept.) Sat.	Wholesale and retail veg. Retail imported fruit and fish.
New Road Market 590 *u*	,, ,,	Sat. (except at Fair times).	Wholesale and retail home-grown fruit, veg. and misc. articles.
Stramongate Market 355 *u*	,, ,, ...	Sat. (during Fair times)	Wholesale and retail home-grown fruit and veg.
***Sands Area Market 28 *u* (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	,, ,, ...	Sat. ...	Pigs.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Kendal—*cont.*			
*Auction 1600 *c* 7266 *u*	Kendal and District Auction Mart Co., Ltd.	Mon. Special sales on Wed., Thurs. & Sat. during Spring and Autumn	Livestock.
***Cattle Market 2480 *u*	C. Johnson & Sons, Kendal	Mon. ...	Private treaty sales of cattle (chiefly stores) and sheep.
Kirkby Lonsdale			
General Market 1350 *u*	Kirkby Lonsdale U.D C.	Thurs. . .	General retail produce.
***Auction 1210 *c* 605 *u*	Kirkby Lonsdale Auction Mart Co., Ltd.	Thurs. ...	Livestock. Private treaty sales of Irish cattle.
***Auction 7260 *u*	R Turner, Bentham, Yorks, W.R.	Four sales annually	Cattle and sheep.
Kirkby Stephen			
**Auction 4840 *c* & *u* (*d.w.*)	Kirkby Stephen Farmers' Auction Co., Ltd.	Mon. (also Fri occasionally)	Livestock, hay and straw.
***Market *u*	Tolls Lessees, Kirkby Stephen	Mon. .	Dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg , poultry and pigs
Tebay			
Butter Market 200 *c*	J. Capstick, Tebay..	Wed. .	Butter and eggs, chiefly wholesale.
***Auction 2420 *u*	A J Sisson, 2, Castlegate, Penrith	Three sales annually during Sept & Oct.	Cattle and sheep.
YORKSHIRE EAST RIDING **Beverley**			
**Cattle Market 585 *c* 10146 *u*	Beverley Corpn. (9 *a.l.*)	Alt. Wed....	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock. Auction sales of poultry.
Corn Exchange 321 *c*	,, ,,	Sat. ...	Corn.
General Market 5387 *u*	,, ,,	Sat. ...	General retail produce. Butter, eggs.
Bridlington			
***Cattle Market (*d.w.*) 1112 *u*	Bridlington Corpn. (2 *a.l.*)	Mon. ...	Livestock and poultry auction.
General Market 800 *u*	,, ,,	Wed., Sat.	General retail produce.
***Market 235 *c* 50 *u*	The Tenant, Black Lion Hotel, Bridlington	Sat. ...	Corn and wool. Occasional sales of cattle, sheep and horses.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Driffield			
*Cattle Market (2 *d.w.*) 733 *c* 6467 *u*	Driffield Cattle Market Co., Ltd.	Tues. ...	Auction and private treaty sales of live-stock; auction sales of poultry.
Produce Market 1758 *u*	Driffield & District Branch of National Farmers' Union	Thurs. ...	Retail fruit, veg., and poultry. Corn.†
Howden			
Market 400 *c* 800 *u*	Howden Market Hall Co., Ltd.	Sat. ...	General retail produce. Wholesale butter, eggs, corn, hay, straw, potatoes.
Hull			
*Cattle and Pig Markets (3 *d.w.*) 1000 *c* 7888 *u*	Hull Corpn. (25 *a.l.*)	Fat: Mon. Store and Dairy: Tues.	Auction (chiefly) & private treaty sales of livestock.
Corn Exchange 312 *c*	,, ,,	Tues. ...	Corn.
Corporation Field Market 3450 *c* 9740 *u*	,, ,,	Tues., Fri.	Fruit, veg, and fish.
Covered Market (Church Side) 1173 *c*	,, ,,	Daily ...	Retail fruit, veg. and misc articles.
Market Hall (The Shambles) 2564 *c*	,, ,,	Daily ...	General retail produce.
Open Market 2065 *u*	,, ,,	Tues., Fri., Sat.	General retail (chiefly) and fish.
Hide and Skin Market	Hull Hide, Skin and Fat Co., Ltd.	Tues. ...	Auction and private treaty sales of hides and skins.
,, ,,	W. D. Mark & Sons, Newcastle-on-Tyne	Tues. ...	Auction and private treaty sales of hides and skins.
Fish Market 22000 *c*	L. & N.E. Rly. ...	Daily ...	Auction and private treaty sales of fish.
Fruit Market (Riverside Quay) 2000 *c*	,, ,, ...	Mon., Wed., Thurs. (May to Sept.) Other days as required during soft fruit season	Auction and private treaty sales of fruit and veg.
Humber Street Fruit Market	(Wholesalers' private premises)	Daily ...	Auction and private treaty sales of fruit.
Market Weighton			
***Auction 800 *u*	Storr and Hornsey, Market Weighton	Alt. Wed....	Livestock.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Market Weighton —*cont.*			
General Market *u*	Earl of Londesborough (Lord of the Manor)	Wed. ...	Fruit, veg., dairy produce and eggs, chiefly wholesale. Corn.†
Pocklington			
***Auction 2000 *u*	R. M. English & Son, Pocklington	Tues. ...	Livestock, fruit, veg. and poultry. Private treaty sales of corn, hay and straw.
***Auction 100 *u*	T. Scaife, Pocklington	Tues. ...	Pigs.
NORTH RIDING			
Bedale			
***Auction 150 *c* (*d.w.*) 120 *u*	Northallerton Live Stock Mart Co., Ltd.	Tues. ...	Livestock. Corn.†
Catterick			
***Auction 130 *c* (*d.w.*) 350 *u*	Catterick Station Farmers' Auction Mart Co., Ltd.	Alt. Mon....	Livestock.
Easingwold			
Corn Market *u*	Easingwold Parish Council	Fri. ...	Corn, hay and produce.
**Auction 750 *c* (*d.w.*) 600 *u*	K. H. Burton, Pannal	Fat: Alt. Mon. Store sales during Autumn	Livestock.
Egton			
***Market 2420 *u*	Egton & District Farmers' Auction Mart Co., Ltd.	Tues. (fortnightly May to July; monthly Aug. to Apr.)	Auction and private treaty sales of store cattle and sheep and poultry; also potatoes, occasionally.
Guisborough			
**Auction 2420 *c* (*d.w.*) 7260 *u*	Cleveland Auction Mart Co., Ltd., Guisborough.	Tues. ...	Livestock. Poultry and bacon.
Hawes			
**Auction 1199 *c* 10355 *u*	Hawes Farmers' Auction Mart Co., Ltd.	Tues., Occas'l special sales in Autumn	Store cattle and sheep.
***Market 9000 *u*	Trustees of Hawes Market Tolls. (Lessee: Edward Moore, Hawes)	Tues. ...	Auction and private treaty sales of cattle, sheep and poultry. General retail produce.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Helmsley			
**Auction 500 *c* (*d.w.*) 1500 *u*	Seth Kirby & Sons, Helmsley	Alt. Fri. ...	Livestock and poultry. Corn.†
Market 2500 *u*	Earl of Faversham (Lord of the Manor)	Fri. ...	General retail produce.
Holwick			
**Auction 1210 *c* 10890 *u*	Middleton-in-Teesdale Farmers' Mart, Ltd., Middleton-in-Teesdale, Co. Durham.	Tues. ...	Livestock.
Ingleby Greenhow			
***Auction 9680 *u*	H. A. Richardson, Stokesley	Bi-annually during Autumn	Store cattle and sheep.
Kirbymoorside			
***Auction 133 *c* (*d.w.*) 1682 *u*	Kirbymoorside and District Farmers' Auction Mart Co., Ltd.	Alt. Wed.	Livestock.
Market *c* *u*	Trustees of War Memorial Hall, Kirbymoorside	Wed. ...	Retail fish and meat. Dairy produce, eggs, poultry and corn.
Leyburn			
**Auction 144 *c* (*d.w.*) 11956 *u*	Leyburn Live Stock Auction Mart Co., Ltd.	Fri. ...	Livestock (except horses).
General Market 3000 *u*	Lord Bolton... ...	Fri. ...	Wholesale and retail dairy produce, eggs and poultry. Corn.†
Lythe			
***Auction 350 *u*	Whitby District Farmers' and Butchers' Auction Mart Co., Ltd.	Alt. Mon....	Livestock, poultry and potatoes.
Malton			
**Cattle Market 350 *c* (2 *d.w.*) 3300 *u* (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	Earl Fitzwilliam (Lessees:— (*a*) Boulton and Cooper. (*b*) Cook and Dee. (*c*) J. Cundall & Sons.)	Fat: Fri. Store and Dairy: Sat.	Auction sales of livestock, poultry and potatoes. Private treaty sales of Irish store cattle. Corn.†
Produce Market 1200 *u*	Earl Fitzwilliam ...	Sat. ...	General retail produce.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Masham			
**Auction 80 *c* 9600 *u*	Masham Farmers' Live Stock Mart Co., Ltd.	Alt. Wed. (Sept. to June)	Livestock.
Middlesbrough			
Market 2500 *c* 17780 *u* (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	Middlesbrough Corpn.	Sat. ...	General retail produce. Fruit and veg.
Northallerton			
General Market 200 *c* 4250 *u*	Northallerton U.D.C.	Wed. ...	General retail produce. Dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg., poultry, corn.
**Applegarth Mart (*d.w.*) 2420 *c* 9680 *u*	Northallerton Auctions, Ltd.	Wed. ...	Store cattle and sheep auction.
**Malpas Mart (*d.w.*) 2420 *c* 3600 *u*	North Yorkshire Farmers' Stock Mart Co., Ltd., Northallerton	Alt. Tues.	Fat stock and store pig auction.
**Station Mart (*d.w.*) 3000 *c* 4000 *u*	Northallerton Live Stock Mart Co., Ltd.	Alt. Tues.	Fat stock and store pig auction.
Pickering			
***Market 300 *c* 3700 *u*	Pickering U.D.C. (2 *a.l.*)	Alt. Mon..	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock. Corn.†
Redcar			
Market 9680 *u*	Redcar Corpn. ...	Sat. ...	General retail produce.
Richmond			
General Market 4140 *c* 5350 *u*	Richmond Corpn.	Sat. ...	Retail produce. Corn.†
***Cattle Market 593 *c* 4840 *u*	Richmond (Yorks.) Farmers' Mart, Ltd.	Sat. ...	Auction sales of store stock.
Ruswarp			
**Auction 217 *c* 2556 *u*	Whitby District Farmers' and Butchers' Auction Mart Co., Ltd.	Fat: Alt. Mon. Store: Wed. periodically	Livestock, poultry and potatoes.
Scarborough			
General Market 2288 *c* 280 *u*	Scarborough Public Market Company	Thurs., Sat.	General retail produce.
Corn Market	The Tenant; George Hotel, Scarborough	Thurs. ...	Corn.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Seamer			
**Market 950 *c* (*d.w.*) 10000 *u*	Boulton & Cooper, Malton.	Mon. ...	Auction sales of livestock and poultry. Wool, corn.
South Bank			
Market 2856 *u*	Eston U.D.C. ...	Fri. ...	General retail produce.
Stokesley			
**Auction 2420 *c* (*d.w.*) 1210 *u*	Stokesley Station Farmers' & Butchers' Auction Mart, Ltd.	Alt. Mon.	Livestock and poultry. Corn.†
**Auction 1000 *c* (*d.w.*) 800 *u*	Stokesley & District Farmers' Auction Mart Co., Ltd.	Alt. Mon ...	Livestock and poultry. Corn.†
Thirsk			
**Cattle Market (*d.w.*) 2420 *c* 2420 *u*	Thirsk Farmers' Auction Mart Co., Ltd.	Alt. Mon.	Livestock auction.
General Market 14520 *u*	John Bell, The Hall, Thirsk	Mon., Sat.	Wholesale and retail general produce. Corn.
Whitby			
Market 701 *c* 174 *u*	Whitby U.D.C. ...	Sat. ...	General retail produce.
Yarm			
**Auction 2000 *u* (*d.w.*)	R. & W. Hedley, Yarm	Mon. (Sat. occasionally).	Livestock and poultry.
WEST RIDING			
Apperley Bridge			
**Auction 1500 *c* 200 *u*	Apperley Bridge Auction Mart Ltd.	Mon., Fri.	Livestock.
Askern			
Market 400 *u*	Mappin's Masbro' Old Brewery Ltd., Rotherham	Fri. ...	General retail produce.
Barnsley			
**Cattle Market (*d.w.*) 2210 *u*	Barnsley Corpn. (4 *a.l.*)	Mon. ...	Livestock (chiefly auction). Auction sales of poultry.
General Market 6367 *u*	,, ,, ...	Wed., Sat.	General retail produce.
Meat Market 1008 *u*	,, ,, ...	Sat. ...	Retail meat.
Wholesale Market 1791 *u*	,, ,, ...	Wed., Sat.	Fruit and veg.
Batley			
Market 4886 *u*	Batley Corpn. ...	Fri., Sat.	General retail produce.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Bentham			
General Market 30 *c* 1000 *u*	Bentham Parish Council	Wed. ...	Corn, hay, straw, butter, eggs, poultry and wool. Retail produce.
**Auction 340 *c*	Bentham and District Farmers' Auction Mart Co., Ltd.	Wed. ...	Cattle and sheep.
Bingley			
General Market 4250 *u*	Bingley U.D.C. ...	Fri., Sat. ...	Retail fruit, veg., fish and misc. articles.
**Auction 1210 (*d.w.*) *c* & *u*	Bingley Live Stock Auction Mart Co., Ltd.	Fat: Mon. Store: Alt. Wed.	Livestock and poultry.
Boroughbridge			
**Auction 2420 *c* (*d.w.*) 2420 *u*	Boroughbridge Farmers' Auction Mart Ltd.	Alt. Mon.	Livestock.
Bradford			
***Cattle Market (*d.w.*) 800 *c* 3840 *u*	Bradford Corpn. (Lessees: Bradford & Dist. Live Stock Auction Mart Co., Ltd.)	Dairy & Store: Tues. Fat: Sat. Horses: Thurs.	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock, also poultry occasionally.
James Street Market 200 *c*	Bradford Corpn. ...	Thurs., Fri. Sat.	Retail eggs, poultry (live) and misc. articles.
Kirkgate Market 9794 *c*	,, ,, ...	Daily ...	General retail.
Rawson Place Market 2759 *c*	,, ,, ...	,,	Retail produce.
St. James's Wholesale Fruit Veg. and Fish Market 20010 *c* 1195 *u*	,, ,, ...	,, ...	Fruit, veg., fish, eggs and poultry.
St. James's Wholesale Meat Market and Abattoir 13988 *c*	,, ,, ...	,, ...	Meat, hides and skins; poultry (imported).
Hide and Skin Market	W. D. Mark & Sons, Bradford	Thurs. ..	Auction sales of skins.
Hide and Skin Market	Northern Butchers' Hide and Skin Co., Ltd., Bradford	Wed., Thurs.	Auction sales of hides and skins.
Wool Auction 8500 *c*	Roose & Ruthven, Ltd., Bradford	Thurs. (monthly)	Wool.
Wool Auction 6000 *c*	T. A. Firth & Co., Ltd., Bradford	Thurs. at intervals of 6 weeks	Wool.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Brighouse			
Market 3500 *u*	Brighouse Corpn. ...	Sat. ..	General retail produce.
Carcroft			
Market 1500 *u*	Adwick-le-Street U.D.C.	Fri. ..	General retail produce.
Castleford			
General Market 2980 *c* 3605 *u*	Castleford U.D.C. ...	Mon., Sat.	General retail produce.
Fish Market 700 *u*	,, ,, ...		Retail fish.
Chapeltown			
Market 2655 *u*	Chapeltown Market Co., Ltd.	Fri. ...	General retail produce.
Cleckheaton			
Market 2787 *u* (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	Spenborough U.D.C.	Sat. ...	General retail produce.
Dewsbury			
General Market 1841 *c* 5354 *u*	Dewsbury Corpn. ...	Tues., Fri. Wed., Sat.	Fruit and veg. General retail produce.
Fish Market 435 *u*	,, ,, ...	Wholesale: Tues., Fri. Retail: , Wed.. Sat.	Wholesale and retail fish.
Hide and Skin Market	Northern Butchers' Hide & Skin Co., Ltd., Bradford	Wed., Thurs.	Auction sales of hides and skins.
Doncaster			
*Cattle Market (2*d.w.*) 3817 *c* 7989 *u* (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	Doncaster Corpn. (5*a.l.*)	Fat: Tues. Store: Sat.	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock.
Corn Exchange 550 *c*	,, ,,	Tues., Sat.	Corn, hay, straw, and hops.
General Market 5505 *c* 5752 *u*	,, ,,	Tues., Sat.	Wholesale and retail farm produce and meat. Retail fish.
Hide and Skin Market	,, ,,	,,	Hides and Skins.
Featherstone			
Market 2420 *u*	Edward Edwards, Oxford Street, Featherstone	Mon., Sat.	General retail produce.
Gisburn			
**Auction 3000 *c* 4000 *u*	Gisburn Auction Mart Co., Ltd.	Fat: Mon. Store: Alt. Wed.	Livestock.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Goldthorpe			
Market 250 *c* 3200 *u*	Goldthorpe Market Co., Ltd	Sat.	Retail produce.
Goole			
General Market 833 *c* 730 *u*	Goole U.D.C.	Wed., Sat.	General retail produce.
***Cattle Market (*d.w.*) 290 *u* (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	,, ,, (2 *a.l.*)	Mon.	Auction sales of livestock. Corn†
Halifax			
Borough Market 8500 *c*	Halifax Corpn.	Daily	General retail produce.
***Cattle Market (*d.w.*) 2500 *c* & *u*	,, ,, (1 *a.l.*)	Fri.	Auction sales of cattle.
		Sat.	Private treaty sales of cattle.
Lower Market 1500 *c*	,, ,,	Fri., Sat.	General retail produce.
Wholesale Market 9500 *c* & *u*	,, ,,	Daily	Fruit, veg., fish and poultry.
Wholesale Meat Market and Slaughterhouse 10372 *c*	,, ,,	,,	Meat Hides and skins.
Harrogate			
Market 2413 *c*	Harrogate Corpn.	Daily	General retail produce.
Hebden Bridge			
Market 4000 *u*	A. Buck, 44, Grasmere Road, Blackpool	Thurs., Sat.	General retail produce.
Heckmondwike			
General Market 2010 *u*	Heckmondwike U.D.C.	Tues., Sat.	General retail produce.
Fish Market 350 *u*	,, ,,	Tues., Sat.	Wholesale and retail fish.
Hide and Skin Market	John Wilson's Hide and Skin Co., Ltd., Heckmondwike.	Thurs.	Hides and Skins.
Hellifield			
*Auction 3000 *c* (*d.w.*) 3000 *u*	Hellifield Auction Mart Co., Ltd.	Store. Alt. Tues. Dairy: Thurs. Fat: Sat.	Livestock.
Hemsworth			
Market 4975 *u*	Hemsworth U.D.C.	Mon., Sat.	General retail produce.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Holmfirth			
***Market 758 *u*	Holmfirth U.D.C. (1 *a.l.*)	Tues. ...	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock and poultry. Corn, hay and straw (occas'ly).
Horton-in-Ribblesdale			
***Auction 7260 *u*	R. Turner, Bentham	Bi-annually —Spring & Autumn	Cattle and sheep.
Hoyland Common			
Market 1080 *u*	Hoyland Common Market Co., Ltd.	Fri. ...	General retail produce.
Hoyland Nether			
Market 700 *u*	Hoyland Market Co., Ltd.	Tues., Sat.	General retail produce.
Huddersfield			
**Cattle Market (*d.w.*) 6375 *c* & *u*	Huddersfield Corpn. (3 *a.l.*)	Mon., Sat.	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock and poultry. Auction sales of hay and straw.
Market Hall 3030 *c*	,, ,,	Daily ...	General retail produce.
Open Market 3420 *u*	,, ,,	Mon. ...	General retail.
Wholesale Market 3619 *c*	,, ,,	Daily ...	Fruit, veg. and fish.
Wholesale Meat Market and Abattoir 8450 *c*	,, ,,	,,	Meat.
Keighley			
Market 1900 *c* 350 *u* (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	Keighley Market Co., Ltd.	Wed., Sat.	Fruit, veg., fish. Retail produce.
Knaresborough			
General Market 5500 *u*	Knaresborough U.D.C.	Wed. ...	Retail produce. Corn (occas'ly.)
**Auction 2420 *c* (*d.w.*) 7260 *u*	Thornton and Linley, Knaresborough	Alt. Mon. Sheep sales each Sat. during Oct.	Livestock.
Leeds			
Corn Exchange 2420 *c*	Leeds Corpn. ...	Tues. ...	Corn, hay, straw, feeding stuffs, etc.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Leeds—*cont.*			
*Cattle Market 2000 *c* 26300 *u*	Leeds Corpn. ...	Tues. ...	Livestock.
Kirkgate General Markets.			
Wholesale Fish Market 2420 *c*	,, ,, ...	Daily ...	Fish.
Retail Fish Market 440 *c*	,, ,, ...	,, ...	Retail fish.
Wholesale Fruit & Veg Market 15045 *c* with adjoining	,, ,, ...	,, ...	Fruit, veg., eggs and poultry (chiefly wholesale).
Growers' Market 1210 *u* also used as	,, ,, ...	,, ...	Fruit and veg.
Open Retail Market	,, ,, ...	Tues., Sat.	General retail produce.
Poultry Market 160 *c*	,, ,, ..	Daily ...	Wholesale and retail poultry (live) and eggs.
Retail Market Hall 2731 *c*	,, ,, ...	,, ...	General retail produce.
Wholesale Meat Market and Abattoir 3327 *c*	,, ,, ..	,, ...	Meat, also imported eggs and poultry.
Hide and Skin Market	Co-operative Wholesale Society, Ltd, Leeds	Wed. ..	Hides and skins.
,, ,,	W. D. Mark & Sons, Leeds	Wed. .	Auction sales of hides.
		Thurs. ...	Auction sales of skins.
,, ,,	Northern Butchers' Hide & Skin Co., Ltd., Leeds	Wed.,	Auction sales of hides.
		Thurs.	Auction sales of skins.
Long Preston			
***Auction 3500 *u*	Robert N. Preston, Long Preston	Alt. Fri. (July to Nov.)	Livestock.
Maltby			
Market *u*	A. Clayton, Maltby	Fri. ..	General retail produce.
Mexborough			
Market 590 *c* 2596 *u*	Mexborough U.D.C.	Mon., Sat.	General retail produce.
Mirfield			
Market *u*	The Tenant, Black Bull Hotel, Mirfield	Fri. ...	General retail produce.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Morley			
Market 1278 *c* 199 *u*	A. H. Jowett, Cragg Vale House, Morley	Fri., Sat.	General retail produce.
Normanton			
Market 650 *c*	F. Denison, 4, Talbot Street, Normanton	Mon., Sat.	General retail produce.
Ossett			
Market 2500 *u*	S. Don, Baguley Brow Farm, Rhodes	Fri. . .	Retail fish, meat & misc. articles.
Otley			
General Market 2000 *u*	Otley U.D.C. ...	Fri., Sat.	General retail produce.
***Cattle Market 7000 *u* (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	,, .	Fri. .	Private treaty sales of dairy cattle.
*Auction 7260 *u* (*d.w.*)	Wharfedale Farmers' Auction Mart, Ltd., Otley.	Mon. ...	Livestock and poultry.
Pannal			
***Auction 800 *c* (*d.w.*) 9680 *u*	Pannal Farmers' Auction Mart Co., Ltd.	Alt. Mon. Alt. Fri. ...	Livestock. Private treaty sales Irish store cattle
Pateley Bridge			
**Auction 200 *c* 1000 *u*	Pateley Bridge Farmers' Auction Mart Co., Ltd.	Sat. ...	Store cattle and sheep.
Penistone			
***Market 240 *c* 2000 *u*	Penistone U.D.C. (4 *a.l.*)	Thurs. ...	Livestock (chiefly auction).
Pontefract			
**Cattle Market 7260 *u*	Pontefract Corpn. (1 *a.l.*)	Tues. Horses: 1st Mon. each Quarter	Live stock auction. Corn.†
Market Hall 678 *c*	,, ,, ...	Daily ...	Retail meat and general.
Market Place 1870 *u*	,, ,, ...	Sat. ...	Retail fruit, veg., fish and misc. articles.
Butter Cross 106 *c*	,, ,, ...	Sat. ...	Retail dairy produce, eggs an poultry.
Pudsey			
Market 1220 *u*	Pudsey Corpn. ...	Sat. ...	Retail produce.
Ripon			
General Market 10100 *u*	Ripon Corpn. ...	Thurs., Sat. Thurs. ...	Dairy produce, eggs and poultry. Retail produce. Corn, hay and straw

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Ripon—*cont*			
Wool Sale	Ripon Corpn ...	First week in June	Wool.
Hide and Skin Market 30 *u*	,, ,, ...	Thurs. ...	Hides and skins
**Cattle Market 1200 *c* 2000 *u*	Ripon Farmers' Live Stock Mart Co., Ltd.	Alt. Mon.	Livestock auction.
Rossington			
Market 700 *u*	Rossington Main Colliery Co., Ltd., Chesterfield	Fri. ...	General retail produce.
Rotherham			
***Cattle Market (*d.w.*) 367 *c* 1753 *u* (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	Rotherham Corpn. (3 *a.l.*)	Mon. ...	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock.
General Market 1880 *c* 3294 *u*	,, ,,	Chiefly Mon. Fri., Sat.	Retail produce.
Sedbergh			
General Market 66 *u*	Sedbergh R.D.C. ...	Wed. ...	Retail produce.
***Auction 200 *u*	Harpers' Auction Mart Co., Ltd., Sedbergh	Wed.	Livestock (stores).
**Auction 522 *c* (*d.w.*) 703 *u*	Sedbergh Farmers' Auction Mart Co., Ltd.	Wed.	Livestock and potatoes.
Selby			
***Cattle Market 800 *c* 630 *u*	Richardson & Son, Selby	Mon. .	Livestock auction.
General Market 3000 *u*	Earl of Londesborough (Lord of Manor)	Mon. . .	Fruit, veg., dairy produce, eggs, corn, hay, straw. General retail produce.
Settle			
Market 500 *u*	Settle Parish Council	Tues. ...	Retail produce.
Sheffield			
Castlefolds Market 5040 *c*	Sheffield Corpn. . .	Daily ...	Fruit and veg., chiefly wholesale.
Corn Exchange 3936 *c*	,, ,, ...	Tues. ...	Corn, hay and straw.
Fitzalan Market 2970 *c*	,, ,, ...	Daily . .	Retail dairy produce, fish, meat and poultry.
Norfolk Market 3679 *c*	,, ...	Daily ...	Retail dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg. and misc. articles.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Sheffield—*cont.*			
Sheaf Market 221 *c* 5836 *u*	Sheffield Corpn. ...	Daily (chiefly Tues. & Sat.)	Wholesale and retail fruit, veg., dairy produce, eggs and live poultry. General retail.
***Smithfield Market 13600 *u*	,, ,, ...	Thurs ..	Private treaty sales of calves, sheep, poultry, hay and straw.
Wholesale Fish Market 727 *c*	,, ,, ...	Daily ...	Fish, game.
Wholesale Meat Market and Abattoirs 3070 *c*	,, ,,	,, ..	Meat.
Hide and Skin Market	Sheffield Butchers' Hide and Skin Co., Ltd.	Fri. ...	Hides and skins (chiefly auction).
Shipley			
Market 1150 *u* (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	Shipley U.D.C. ..	Fri., Sat.	General retail produce.
Skelmanthorpe			
Market 200 *u*	H. & F. Shaw, Skelmanthorpe	Thurs. ..	Retail fruit, veg. and misc. articles.
Skipton			
**Cattle Market 14520 *u*	Skipton Cattle Market Co., Ltd.	Mon. ..	Private treaty sales of livestock.
*Auction 3100 *c* (*d.w.*) 3500 *u* (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	Skipton Auction Mart Co. (1921), Ltd.	Fat & Dairy: Mon. Store: Wed.	Livestock.
Slaidburn			
***Auction 4840 *u*	R. Hitchen, West Bradford, Clitheroe	About 6 sales annually	Store cattle and sheep
South Elmsall			
Market 6340 *u*	Hemsworth R.D.C.	Tues., Sat.	General retail produce.
Sowerby Bridge			
***Market 2530 *u* (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	Halifax & Calder Valley Farmers' Auction Mart Co., Ltd., Sowerby Bridge	Tues. ...	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock. Private treaty sales of poultry.
Tadcaster			
**Auction 1000 *c* 2000 *u*	(*a*) Stephenson & Son, York (*b*) M. Thomlinson & Son, Easedyke, Tadcaster	Alt. Mon.	Livestock.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Thurcroft			
Market 2500 *u*	J. C. Jennings, Thurcroft	Fri.	Retail fruit, veg., meat and general.
Thurnscoe			
Market 1500 *u*	C. Potts, Royal Hotel, Edlington.	Fri.	Retail produce.
Todmorden			
***Cattle Market 700 *u*	Todmorden Corpn.	1st Fri. each month	Livestock.
General Market 1070 *c* 3100 *u*	,, ,,	Daily (Chiefly Wed., Fri & Sat).	General retail produce.
Uppermill			
Market 2250 *u*	Saddleworth U.D.C.	Wed.	General retail produce.
Wadsley Bridge (Sheffield)			
***Auction 1500 *u*	Ecclesfield & Bradfield Farmers' Market (Wadsley Bridge), Ltd.	Mon. ...	Livestock.
Wakefield			
*Cattle Market 19360 *c* & *u*	Governors of the Wakefield Grammar School Foundation	Wed.	Private treaty sales of livestock. Corn †
General Market 1355 *c* 4660 *u* (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	Wakefield Corpn.	Mon., Fri., Sat.	Fruit, veg., fish, poultry. Retail produce.
Wetherby			
General Market 259 *c* 600 *u*	Wetherby Market Committee	Thurs.	General retail produce.
**Cattle Market (*d.w.*) 1000 *c* 2000 *u*	M. Thomlinson & Son, Easedyke, Tadcaster	Alt. Mon.	Livestock auction.
Whitewell			
***Market 2420 *u*	Whitewell & Dist. Farmers' Ltd.	About 8 sales annually	Auction sales of store cattle and sheep.
Whitkirk			
**Auction (*d.w.*) 1850 *c* 2990 *u*	Bartle & Son, Garforth, Leeds.	Mon. Horses: Alt. Wed.	Livestock and poultry.
Wombwell			
Market 111 *c* 3590 *u*	Wombwell U.D.C.	Mon., Sat.	General retail produce.
Woodlands			
Market 1500 *u*	Adwick - le - Street U.D.C.	Fri. ...	General retail produce.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
York			
*Cattle Market 9680 *c* (2 *d.w.*) 14520 *u*	York Corpn. (8 *a.l.*) ...	Fat stock & store pigs: Mon. Store and dairy cattle: Thurs.	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock.
Corn Market 180 *c*	,, ...	Sat. ...	Corn, potatoes (by sample).
General Market 8120 *u*	,, ...	Sat. ...	General retail produce. Poultry.
		Tues., Thurs. & Sat. during Summer	Fruit and veg.
Hide and Skin Market	Norman Green & Sons, Ltd., York	Thurs. ...	Auction sales of hides and skins.
,, ,,	W. D. Mark & Sons, York	Thurs. ...	Auction and private treaty sales of hides and skins.

APPENDIX III.

Agricultural Fairs in the Northern Counties.

* Held on same day as usual market.
** No other markets or sales of the same character held.
† Fair practically extinct, or business decreasing to a marked extent.

(This table is compiled from information furnished to the Ministry from various sources regarding the fairs enumerated.)

Location.	Approximate Date.	Type.
Cumberland		
†Carlisle	*Aug. 26th... ...	Cattle, Sheep.
	*Sept. 19th ...	
Cockermouth ...	In Feb. . .	Horses.
	In Oct. . .	
	3rd Mon. in Apr. ...	Stallions.
**Keswick	3rd Thurs. in May	Sheep, Cattle.
	1st Sat. in Oct. .	
	Sat. after Oct. 29th ...	Rams.
†Longtown	Thurs. nearest June 20th	Wool.
†**Rosley Hill	Whit Mon.	Horses.
†Whitehaven ...	Aug 12th (or following day if date falls on a Sunday)	Livestock, Produce.
Wigton	Feb. 20th .	Horses.
	Apr. 5th	Cattle, Sheep.
Durham		
Darlington ...	†*1st Mon. in Mar.	Horses.
	*Easter Mon. ...	
	*Whit. Mon.	Cattle, Horses.
	†Nov. 10th (Neat Fair) ..	Store Cattle, Sheep.
	†*2nd Mon. after Nov. 23rd (Martinmas Fair)	Cattle, Horses.
†Durham	Last Fri. in Mar.	Horses.
	May 13th if a Friday, otherwise, preceding Friday .	
	Sept. 15th ditto	
	Nov. 23rd ditto	
Lancashire		
†Blackburn	Easter Mon. . .	Cattle.
	May 12th .	
	Oct. 17th ...	
	In Dec. (date fixed by Council) ...	
	2nd Mon. in June	Horses.
	2nd Mon. in Oct.	
	(The Council have power to specify additional dates.)	
†Bury	Mar. 5th	Livestock, Produce.
	May 3rd	
	Sept. 18th ...	

Location.	Approximate Date.	Type.
†Clitheroe	Mar. 24th ...	Livestock.
	3rd Thurs. in May	
	Oct. 20th	
	Dec. 7th	Cattle, Sheep.
†Garstang	Nov. 22nd and 23rd ...	Cattle, Horses.
†**Great Ecclestone ...	Mar. 14th ...	Cattle.
	Apr. 14th ...	
	Nov. 4th	
†Great Harwood ...	Aug. 21st (or following day if date falls on a Sunday)	Livestock.
†**Holme	Sept. 28th	Sheep.
†Longridge	1st Tues. in May	Cattle, Sheep.
	Feb. 16th .	
	Mar. 16th ...	
	Apr. 16th ...	
	Nov. 5th	
†Ormskirk	Whit. Mon. and Tues.	Cattle, Horses.
	2nd Mon. and Tues. in Sept.	
†Turton	Sept. 4th	Livestock.
†**Weeton	Mon. after Trinity ...	Cattle.
†Wigan	Last Wed. in June (Scholes Fair)	Horses.
	Holy Thurs. ...	
	3rd Thurs. in Oct.	
Northumberland		
†Bellingham ...	Sat. after July 20th ...	Wool.
Berwick-on-Tweed	*Last Fri. in May ...	Store Cattle
†Morpeth	*1st Wed. in Mar.	Horses.
	Penult. Mon. in Oct.	
Newcastle-on-Tyne	2nd Wed. in Aug. (Lammas Fair)	Horses, Cattle.
	Last Wed. in Oct. (St. Luke's Fair)	
	LastWed. in Mar. | Stones	
	,, ,, Nov. / Fair	
Westmorland		
†Ambleside	Whit Wed.	Cattle.
	Oct. 13th	Sheep.
	Oct. 29th	Sheep, Cattle.
†Appleby	2nd Tues. and Wed. in June	Horses.
†**Brough Hill ...	Sept. 30th and Oct. 1st	Horses (mainly unbroken fell ponies), a few Cattle and Sheep.
Kendal	3rd Wed. in Feb.	Horses.
	1st Wed. in Nov.	
†Kirkby Stephen ...	Sept. 29th (Cowper Fair)	Horses.
	Oct. 27th (St. Luke's Fair)	Sheep, Cattle
†**Milnthorpe ...	May 12th	Cattle, Sheep.
	Oct. 17th	Sheep.
†**Orton	2nd Fri. after Oct. 11th	Sheep, Cattle, a few foals.

Location.	Approximate Date.	Type.
Yorks. (East Riding)		
Beverley	Nov. 5th	Sheep, Cattle (mainly Irish).
Hull	*2nd Tues. in April	Breeding Sheep, Store
	Oct. 11th	Cattle, Horses.
†Market Weighton ..	May 14th	Cattle.
	Sept. 25th ..	Sheep.
Yorks. (North Riding)		
†**Askrigg	July 1st	Horses.
Egton	2nd Tues. in Feb. (Candlemas Fair)	
	Tues. before Palm Sun. (Palmsun. Fair)	Cattle, Sheep, Horses.
	2nd Tues. in May (Mayday Fair)	
	1st Tues. in Sept. ...	Horses, Foals.
	2nd Tues in Oct (Michaelmas Fair)	Sheep.
†Hawes	Sept. 28th and 29th ..	Livestock.
	*Tues. after Oct. 10th ...	Rams.
†Helmsley	May 19th	
	*Fri. nearest Oct. 1st	Livestock.
	Fri. nearest Nov. 5th	
**Kildale .	1st Thurs. in Oct. . .	Sheep.
†Leyburn .. .	*2nd Fri. in Oct	Livestock, Produce.
†Malton . .	Oct. 11th & 12th. (When Oct. 11th falls on a Sun., fair held on Mon. and Tues. following)	Livestock, mainly Horses.
Masham	Sept. 18th ...	Sheep, Lambs.
	Easter Wed. ...	
†**Middleham Moor ...	Nov. 6th (day after if date falls on Sunday)	Livestock.
**Muker	Oct. 19th . .	Rams, Ram lambs.
**Reeth . .	2nd Thurs. in Oct. .	Sheep.
Richmond	Nov. 2nd and 3rd ...	Cattle, Sheep.
†**Romaldkirk (Startforth)	1st Thurs. after Oct. 1st (the Thurs. following Brough Hill Fair)	Cattle, Horses, Sheep.
†Seamer	July 15th	Horses.
Stokesley . . .	Sat. before Palm Sunday	Stallions.
†Thirsk	Shrove Mon.	
	April 4th and 5th	
	Last Mon. in May	Livestock.
	Aug. 4th and 5th	
	Oct. 28th and 29th	
	Tues. before Dec. 11th	
†Yarm .	Oct. 18th, 19th, 20th .	Livestock, Cheese, Produce.

Location.	Approximate Date.	Type.
Yorks. (West Riding)		
†Barnsley	*Wed. before Michaelmas Oct. 11th	Livestock, Produce.
†Bentham	Good Fri. and Easter Sat. June 22nd. (When this date falls on a Sunday Council fix the date.)	Cattle.
†Boroughbridge ...	Mon., Tues. and Wed. nearest June 22nd (Barnaby Horse Fair)	Horses.
Bradford	Mar. 3rd .. ... June 17th .. Dec. 9th ... ... or following day when dates fall on Sun. (Corpn. have power to alter dates)	Livestock, mainly Horses, Implements.
**Dent	During 1st week in Sept.	Store sheep (mainly fell lambs).
Halifax	June 24th ... 1st Sat. in Nov. ...	Livestock, Implements.
†Heckmondwike ...	1st Mon. in May... 1st Mon. in Nov.	Livestock.
†Holmfirth	Sat. before Mar. 31st Sat. after May 4th Last Sat. in Oct.	Cattle, Sheep.
Huddersfield ...	Mar. 31st ... ... May 14th ... ... Oct. 4th	Livestock.
†**Ingleton	Nov. 17th	Sheep, Cattle.
†Keighley	May 8th ... ... Nov. 7th ... ... (or following day if date of fair falls on a Sunday.)	Cattle.
†**Kettlewell	Sept. 2nd	Lambs, Fat Sheep.
Leeds	In Jan. ... ... In April ... ... In July ... ... In Oct.	Leather.
†**Lee Gap	Aug. 24th ... Sept. 17th ...	Livestock, mainly Horses.
Long Preston ...	*Fri. before 2nd Tues. in Oct.	Sheep (mainly), Cattle.
†**Malsis	Sept. 24th	Sheep, Lambs.
**Marsden	April 25th ... July 11th ... ... Sept. 25th ...	Cattle, Sheep.
†Penistone	*Thurs. before Feb. 28th *Last Thurs. in Mar. *Last Thurs. before May 12th	Livestock.
	*1st Thurs. after Oct. 11th	Livestock, mainly Sheep.

Location.	Approximate Date.	Type.
Yorks. (West Riding) *—cont.*		
Ripon	*Last Thurs in Jan	
	May 13th & 14th	Cattle, Sheep.
	1st Thurs. & Fri. in June	
	*1st Thurs. in Oct.	
	*1st Thurs. in Nov.	Sheep.
	Nov. 23rd	
	Last week in June	Wool.
†Settle	April 26th ..	
	*Tues. after Oct. 27th	Sheep, a few Cattle.
†Sheffield	Tues. after Whit Mon.	
	Tues. after Xmas. Day	
	(When Xmas. Day falls on Tues. or Wed. fair held on following day.	Horses.
**Shipley	Easter Tues. ...	
	Mon. after Oct. 18	Horses.
†Skipton	Aug. 23rd (or following day if this date falls on a Sunday.	Horses.
†**Thorne	Tues. after June 11th	Cattle, Horses,
	Tues. after Oct. 11th	Sheep.
York	*Each Thurs. in Sept. .	Horses.

APPENDIX IV.

Statement showing the Live Stock Markets and Auctions in the Northern Counties arranged according to the total number of Cattle, Calves, Sheep and Pigs passing through each during a recent typical year. Where there are two or more Live Stock Markets or Auctions in a town, the total number of the various classes of Live Stock passing through all the Markets is given.

Market.	Frequency.	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Total.
Salford ..	Weekly ..	50,573	40	338,257	—	388,870
Carlisle ..	Two to four times weekly	60,464	251	185,408	13,136	259,259
Newcastle - on - Tyne	Thrice weekly	32,701	1,347	172,389	39,992	246,429
York	Twice weekly.	82,000	1,300	130,000	30,000	243,300
Leeds . ..	Weekly ..	35,000	750	125,000	1,750	162,500
Preston ..	Weekly (Fat & Dairy); fortnightly(Store)	36,185	12,420	90,723	22,148	161,476
Hull	Twice weekly ..	24,953	—	106,378	26,654	157,985
Skipton ..	,, ,,	38,561	11,400	95,459	10,200	155,620
Hexham ..	Weekly to twice weekly	40,412	1,874	107,266	3,688	153,240
Penrith ..	Twice weekly ..	17,999	298	124,200	1,703	144,200
Hellifield ..	Weekly (Fat & Dairy); fortnightly(Store)	18,438	—	107,582	—	126,020
Wigton ..	Weekly ..	28,770	250	87,000	5,000	121,020
Longtown ..	Twice weekly ..	8,041	698	110,638	1,000	120,377
Lazonby ..	Weekly ..	5,375	—	110,000	—	115,375
Cockermouth	,, ..	22,250	750	75,000	2,000	100,000
Gateshead ..	Thrice weekly	45,000	250	52,500	1,000	98,750
Doncaster ..	,, ,,	35,500	550	37,500	25,000	98,550
Rothbury ..	Fortnightly ..	3,000	—	80,000	—	83,000
Manchester ..	Daily	—	—	—	76,000	76,000
Morpeth ..	Weekly ..	22,950	1,850	45,600	2,100	72,500
Kendal ..	Twice weekly ..	5,071	8,845	57,251	500	71,667
Wakefield ..	Weekly ..	15,000	—	55,000	—	70,000
Driffield ..	,, ..	8,470	70	45,600	13,000	67,140
Appleby ..	,, ..	6,400	—	60,000	—	66,400
Berwick-on-Tweed	Twice weekly ..	30,001	150	35,341	552	66,044
Wooler ..	Fortnightly ..	4,010	125	60,032	1,033	65,200
Otley	Twice weekly ..	12,411	7,365	23,066	19,694	62,536
Darlington ..	,, ,,	15,302	454	31,116	15,239	62,111
Seamer ..	Weekly ..	8,000	1,000	38,000	8,000	55,000
Lancaster ..	Three to four times weekly	9,409	2,360	40,520	1,018	53,307
Alnwick ..	Twice weekly ..	13,213	504	34,286	1,407	49,410
Northallerton ..	,, ,,	17,206	624	17,927	10,446	46,203
Stockton-on-Tees	Weekly ..	6,500	920	26,011	12,408	45,839
Clitheroe ..	Two to three times weekly	8,980	2,784	33,245	317	45,326
Southwaite ..	Weekly ..	1,825	—	43,500	—	45,325

Market.	Frequency.	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Total.
Whitehaven ..	Weekly .	6,240	780	35,800	2,500	45,320
Liverpool	Daily .. .	1,989	—	41,854	44	43,887
Ulverston ..	Weekly .	6,119	1,596	32,687	1,509	41,911
Scots Gap	Periodically ..	10,625	—	30,925	—	41,550
Gisburn .	Weekly (Fat); fortnightly (Store)	8,500	600	30,000	400	39,500
Tow Law ..	Two to three times weekly	7,000	400	30,000	750	38,150
Hawes .. .	Weekly	3,500	—	34,000	—	37,500
Belford ..	,,	3,900	250	30,500	1,150	35,800
Stokesley .	,,	5,553	—	17,409	11,665	34,627
Huddersfield	Twice weekly .	12,500	5,000	9,000	7,500	34,000
Malton .	,, ,,	10,000	—	20,000	2,000	32,000
Poulton-le-Fylde	Weekly (Fat & Dairy); fortnightly (Store)	2,800	1,720	24,886	2,500	31,906
Bellingham ..	Periodically .. (May to Nov.)	500	—	30,000	—	30,500
Troutbeck .	Weekly .	503	—	29,829	—	30,332
Kirkby Stephen	,, ..	4,600	300	25,000	—	29,900
Haltwhistle ..	Periodically ..	3,744	—	24,924	—	28,668
Bingley .	Weekly (Fat); fortnightly (Store)	9,500	1,500	16,500	1,000	28,500
Ponteland	Weekly ..	7,100	350	18,500	2,200	28,150
Whitkirk .	,, .	6,000	500	10,000	10,000	26,500
Knaresborough	Fortnightly ..	4,000	1,560	14,400	5,200	25,160
Haswell .	,, .	2,350	260	20,200	1,500	24,310
Apperley Bridge	Twice weekly ..	5,500	250	18,000	500	24,250
Boroughbridge	Fortnightly ..	4,898	220	14,372	3,310	22,800
Barnard Castle	Twice weekly ..	5,828	—	15,791	609	22,228
Blackburn ..	Weekly (Fat & Dairy) ;fortnightly(Store)	9,210	2,511	8,734	1,058	21,513
Cornhill-on-Tweed	Fortnightly .	3,115	—	17,719	610	21,444
Bishop Auckland	Twice weekly ..	8,500	500	9,750	2,500	21,250
Ripon .. .	Fortnightly	3,000	550	12,000	5,000	20,550
Leyburn .	Weekly ..	3,477	78	16,126	22	19,703
Tadcaster	Fortnightly ..	6,985	250	9,592	1,801	18,628
Beverley	,, ..	2,350	150	4,200	11,000	17,700
Easingwold .	,, ..	3,200	—	12,000	2,500	17,700
Gilsland .	Periodically ..	122	—	16,710	—	16,832
Sedbergh .	Weekly ..	1,125	275	15,000	30	16,430
Acklington ..	Fortnightly ..	5,000	100	11,000	200	16,300
Workington ..	Weekly ..	3,000	500	10,000	2,750	16,250
Masham ..	Fortnightly ..	2,163	27	13,452	65	15,707
Aspatria ..	Weekly ..	2,300	300	10,000	3,000	15,600
Rawtenstall ..	Thrice weekly	4,870	50	10,000	200	15,120
Barnsley ..	Weekly ..	4,326	1,118	5,700	3,950	15,094
Guisborough .	,, ..	3,174	—	9,028	2,619	14,821

Market.	Frequency.	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Total.
Wetherby ..	Fortnightly ..	4,183	200	9,250	1,128	14,761
How Mill ..	Weekly ..	1,231	3	12,970	189	14,393
Thirsk	Fortnightly ..	1,900	78	7,582	4,695	14,255
Wolsingham ..	,,	800	30	13,000	—	13,830
Millom ..	Weekly ..	900	300	12,000	500	13,700
Bentham ..	,, ..	1,876	—	10,744	—	12,620
Haslingden ..	,,	9,267	—	3,252	—	12,519
Ruswarp ..	Fortnightly (Fat); periodically (Store)	2,716	143	6,304	3,000	12,163
Durham ..	Weekly ..	3,000	100	7,000	2,000	12,100
Pontefract ..	,, ..	3,100	585	3,409	4,967	12,061
Pilling	,, ..	2,000	712	7,987	1,073	11,772
Broughton-in-Furness	,, ..	900	300	10,200	100	11,500
Holwick .	,, ..	1,229	—	10,124	64	11,417
Yarm	,, ..	3,649	90	5,446	1,734	10,919
Helmsley ..	Fortnightly ..	1,000	—	7,500	2,000	10,500
Pateley Bridge	Weekly ..	954	171	9,268	—	10,393
Carnforth ..	,, ..	1,250	300	8,750	—	10,300
Bedale ..	,, ..	2,720	221	3,919	2,884	9,744
Blackhill ..	,, ..	1,500	100	7,500	500	9,600
Pannal ..	,, ..	3,194	—	4,247	2,038	9,479
Bridlington ..	,, ..	1,133	27	7,449	761	9,370
St. John's Chapel	Weekly ..	905	35	8,300	—	9,240
Alston Moor ..	Fortnightly ..	500	—	8,400	—	8,900
Ambleside ..	Monthly (Dec. to June); fortnightly (July to Nov.)	97	18	8,409	9	8,533
Chester-le-Street	Fortnightly ..	1,630	100	4,600	2,000	8,330
Kirkby Lonsdale	Weekly ..	1,097	47	7,162	—	8,306
Bradford ..	Twice weekly ..	4,250	750	1,250	2,000	8,250
Ryhope ..	Weekly ..	1,250	250	5,000	1,750	8,250
Rotherham ..	,, ..	2,100	150	5,000	300	7,550
Lamplugh ..	Periodically .	1,500	—	6,000	—	7,500
Barrow-in-Furness	Weekly ..	1,357	358	3,667	1,881	7,263
Whitewell ..	About 8 times annually	60	—	7,000	—	7,060
Selby	Weekly ..	4,151	—	372	2,405	6,928
Colne	Twice weekly	5,700	—	1,200	—	6,900
Cark-in-Cartmel	Weekly ..	251	64	6,461	32	6,808
Long Preston ..	Fortnightly (July to Nov.)	130	2	6,600	—	6,732
Sunderland ..	Twice weekly ..	1,500	150	3,500	1,500	6,650
Claughton ..	Weekly ..	300	—	6,250	—	6,550
Warrington ..	,, ..	2,150	1,700	1,600	1,050	6,500

Market.	Frequency.	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Total.
Wark-upon-Tyne	Weekly ..	439	—	5,758	30	6,227
Holmrook	Periodically ..	1,000	—	5,000	—	6,000
Pickering .	Fortnightly ..	850	52	3,650	1,170	5,722
Rowlands Gill ..	Weekly ..	1,900	100	2,500	1,200	5,700
Slaidburn .	About 6 times annually	90	—	5,500	—	5,590
Whittingham .	Fortnightly ..	1,969	32	3,467	57	5,525
Castle Eden	,, ,, ..	1,200	150	3,120	960	5,430
Kirbymoorside	,, ,, ..	750	—	4,500	150	5,400
Fence Houses ..	Fortnightly .	1,250	—	3,750	50	5,050
Halifax ..	Twice weekly ..	5,000	—	—	—	5,000
Ferryhill .	Fortnightly ..	875	50	3,750	250	4,925
Barnacre	,, ,, ..	513	—	4,202	—	4,715
Richmond ..	Weekly ..	1,055	—	3,030	26	4,111
Sedgefield .	Fortnightly ..	1,000	50	2,500	300	3,850
Lanchester .	Weekly ..	1,130	200	2,000	170	3,500
Sowerby Bridge	,, ..	3,000	—	—	500	3,500
Roadhead ..	Periodically ..	1,561	—	1,898	—	3,459
Holmfirth ..	Weekly ..	2,107	571	27	463	3,168
Brampton ..	Periodically ..	1,275	—	1,879	—	3,154
Longridge ..	Monthly during Summer and Dec.	300	70	2,700	65	3,135
Wigan	Weekly ..	1,500	1,000	100	500	3,100
Wadsley Bridge	,, ..	750	250	500	1,500	3,000
Bolton .	,, ..	1,425	1,178	18	218	2,839
Penton ..	Periodically ..	1,049	—	1,712	—	2,761
Pocklington ..	Weekly ..	100	—	1,200	1,450	2,750
Lythe	Fortnightly ..	305	—	2,211	—	2,516
Goole .. .	Weekly ..	1,286	29	357	764	2,436
Rochdale ..	,, ..	2,200	—	—	—	2,200
Tebay .. .	Tri-annually ..	120	—	2,000	—	2,120
Bolton Fell .	Periodically ..	1,123	—	986	—	2,109
Beckermet ..	,, ..	163	—	1,748	—	1,911
Sheffield ..	Weekly ..	—	1,500	400	—	1,900
Ingleby Greenhow	Bi-annually ..	30	—	1,820	—	1,850
Hamsterley .	Fortnightly ..	280	—	1,456	28	1,764
Turton ..	Fortnightly ..	1,750	—	—	—	1,750
Egton .. .	Fortnightly to monthly	225	60	1,350	15	1,650
Catterick ..	Fortnightly ..	325	25	1,000	200	1,550
Milnrow ..	Weekly ..	1,500	—	—	—	1,500
Kirkcambeck ..	Periodically ..	1,400	—	—	—	1,400
Penistone ..	Weekly ..	1,000	50	350	—	1,400
Market Weighton	Fortnightly ..	170	—	482	510	1,162
Bootle	Periodically ..	250	—	1,000	—	1,250
Kirkham ..	Periodically ..	500	50	500	—	1,050
Ribchester ..	Monthly ..	313	—	680	23	1,016
Chorley ..	Weekly ..	350	200	—	400	950

Market.	Frequency.	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Total.
Hesket Newmarket	Periodically ..	580	—	100	12	692
St. Helens ..	Weekly ..	361	194	10	—	565
Allendale ..	Periodically ..	300	—	120	30	450
Silverdale ..	Bi-annually ..	117	—	130	16	263
Horton-in-Ribblesdale	,, ..	60	—	200	—	260
*Todmorden ..	Monthly ..	200	—	—	20	220
Garstang ..	Periodically ..	—	—	—	200	200
Kellet	Bi-annually ..	20	—	50	—	70

* Market opened 4th May, 1928.

Printed under the authority of His Majesty's Stationery Office,
By Wyman & Sons, Limited, Fetter Lane, London, E.C. 4.

Economic Series No. 23.
(For List of other Reports in this Series, see inside of cover).



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

Markets and Fairs

in

England and Wales

(Part IV : Eastern and Southern Markets)

LONDON:
PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.
To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:
Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 120, George Street, Edinburgh;
York Street, Manchester; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff;
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1929.
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24—40—23

DISTRIBUTION OF MARKETS IN THE EAST & SOUTH EAST COUNTIES



FIG. 1.

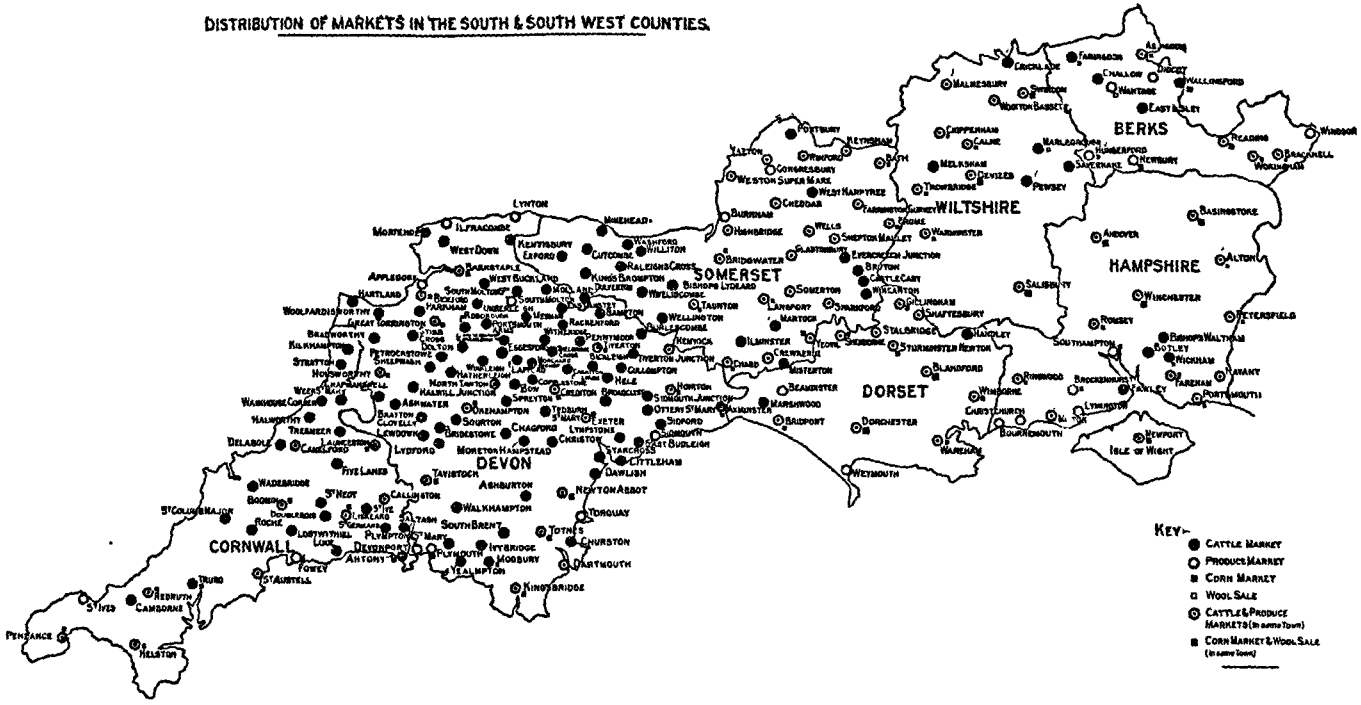

DISTRIBUTION OF MARKETS IN THE SOUTH & SOUTH WEST COUNTIES.
BERKS
WILTSHIRE
SOMERSET
HAMPSHIRE
DORSET
DEVON
CORNWALL
Key:-
Cattle Market
Produce Market
Corn Market
Wool Sale
Cattle & Produce Markets (In same Town)
Corn Market & Wool Sale (In same Town)

FIG. 2.

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The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries accepts no responsibility for the advertisements appearing in this publication.

The cost of this Survey and of the issue of this Report is defrayed out of funds placed at the disposal of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries by the Empire Marketing Board.

MARKETS AND FAIRS IN ENGLAND AND WALES. PART IV.—EASTERN AND SOUTHERN MARKETS.

INTRODUCTION.

The present Report is the fourth of a series of Reports devoted to the markets and fairs of England and Wales. These reports are based on a comprehensive survey which is being undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in connection with its investigations into the marketing of agricultural produce. The need for the survey was emphasised by the Linlithgow Committee in its final Report.*

The first report on markets and fairs† was in the nature of a general review and dealt with market origins, market rights, market administration, market charges and finance and also with facilities, lay-outs and market practice generally. The second and third reports‡ reviewed in detail the markets and fairs of the midland and northern counties respectively. The present Report is a corresponding review of the markets and fairs of the eastern and southern counties, and the survey will be completed by similar Reports on the London markets and on those of Wales.

The first Part of the present Report, taken in conjunction with Appendices I, III and IV, summarises the eastern and southern markets and fairs as a whole. The second Part examines the markets of each county separately in broad relation to local agricultural conditions, brief notes being added on a few markets in each county, distinguished by their relative importance or by features of special interest. This Part should be read with Appendix II, which is a list of the markets of each county with details as to ownership, market days, method of sale and commodities sold. The third Part of the Report describes in detail a number of the most important markets in the area covered by the Report. Figs. 1 and 2 show the geographical distribution of the eastern and southern markets as a whole.

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* Cmd. 2008/1924.

† Economic Series No. 13.

‡ Economic Series Nos. 14 and 19.

Although this Report covers an area which may be described as one of small markets, the Ministry hopes that, like its predecessors, it will not only prove to be a useful guide to producers, distributors, market owners and members of market committees concerned with markets in the eastern and southern counties, but that it will merit careful study by all interested in the improvement of market facilities and in the efficient administration of markets generally throughout the country.

The Ministry is glad to acknowledge the assistance rendered in connection with this Report by local authorities and by individual auctioneers and market owners who have furnished much of the information on which it is based.

PART I.—THE EASTERN AND SOUTHERN MARKETS AS A WHOLE.*

(I) GENERAL.

Appendix I, page 149, gives a numerical summary of the market authorities or occupiers of markets classified according to the types of markets under their control in each market centre. There are 133 public authorities controlling markets, and 405 private occupiers of markets, making, in all, 538 market authorities or occupiers, compared with 353 in the northern counties and 414 in the Midlands. According to market rights, 128 public markets and 73 private markets are carried on under Charters ; 57 public markets are held under the Public Health Acts ; 77, including 13 private markets, have been established under Local or Special Acts, while 335 privately controlled markets, mainly livestock auctions, appear not to be markets in the strictly legal sense.†

In all, there are 670 separate markets for the sale of livestock and agricultural produce, compared with 526 in the Midlands and 498 in the North. Devonshire and Somersetshire head the list with 120 and 68 respectively. There are 107 retail markets and 113 wholesale produce markets ; in addition, there are 49 produce markets where both wholesale and retail trade is carried on. Of these, 86 retail markets, 45 wholesale markets and 36 wholesale and retail markets are controlled by public authorities. Public ownership of retail markets is the general rule as in the Midlands and North ; on the whole, the retail markets have little significance from the standpoint of agricultural marketing. About 60 per cent. of the southern and eastern markets are livestock markets, of which 82 are publicly owned and 319 privately owned.

(II) CLASSIFICATION BY COMMODITIES.

The following Table gives a re-classification of the eastern and southern markets according to commodities sold and methods of sale, *i.e.*, whether by private treaty only, by auction only, or by both methods.

---

* Excluding the markets in the administrative county of London which will be dealt with in a subsequent report.

† *See* Economic Series No. 13, page 8.

Commodity Sold.	No. of Public Markets.			No. of Private Markets.			Total No. of Markets at which Commodity is sold.
	Auction only.	Private Treaty only.	Both Auction and Private Treaty	Auction only.	Private Treaty only.	Both Auction and Private Treaty.	
			Retail only.				
Butter and cheese	1	63	—	4	17	—	85
Eggs	1	62	1	4	17	—	85
Fish	—	79	—	—	18	—	97
Fruit & vegetables	—	83	1	9	25	—	118
Meat	—	84	—	—	23	—	107
Poultry	1	59	—	1	13	—	74
			Wholesale only.				
Butter and cheese	17	1	2	96	1	1	118
Corn	—	50	—	6	52	—	108*
Eggs . ..	26	2	2	111	—	—	141
Fish . ..	—	4	2	3	—	—	9
Fruit & vegetables	20	2	2	77	1	—	102†
Livestock ..	39	3	40	304	1	14	401‡
Meat	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Poultry . ..	44	3	5	180	—	3	235
Wool	10	1	—	13	—	1	25
			Wholesale and Retail.				
Butter and cheese	2	15	3	12	4	3	39
Eggs . ..	2	16	4	12	4	2	40
Fish	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
Fruit & vegetables	1	19	3	15	1	2	41
Meat	—	1	—	—	—	1	2
Poultry .. .	2	12	6	12	4	2	38

* In addition, sales take place at 43 centres on other than market premises.

† Includes 9 auctions for the sale of potatoes only, 2 for fruit only and 3 for vegetables only.

‡ Includes 2 auctions for the sale of horses only.

It may be added that the agriculture of the area covered by the present Report is divided roughly into two main types by the chalk ridge running north-eastwards into East Anglia. The counties to the west of the ridge, Cornwall, Devon, Somerset and much of Dorset, Wiltshire and Buckingham, are primarily grassland counties devoted largely to livestock production and particularly to dairying. The rest of the area has a larger proportion of arable land and includes some of the chief corn growing counties in England.

(a) Retail.

The retail markets are generally small and are, for the most part, held in open market-places. Although foodstuffs are usually sold in these markets, the quantities of home-grown produce on

offer are relatively small. In most counties, there are only a few markets where it is the practice for local producers to retail their own supplies. Devonshire and Cornwall, however, are exceptions; there, the ancient pannier market-halls, where producers retail direct to consumers, still play an important part in local marketing, but, even in these markets, wholesale transactions between producers and dealers are gradually replacing the retail trade.

(b) Wholesale.*

Butter and Cheese.—Devonshire and Cornwall are the chief butter-producing counties, while the manufacture of cheese on farms is prominent in Somersetshire and Dorsetshire, and, to a less extent, in Wiltshire. Cheddar is the type of cheese chiefly made; Caerphilly, in Somersetshire, and small quantities of Dorset Blue, in Dorsetshire, are also produced.

Butter and cheese are sold wholesale in 157 markets, of which 50 are in the 4 counties of Cornwall, Devon, Dorset and Somerset. Sales of butter and cheese in markets are mainly associated with egg and poultry auctions; in 127 markets, sales are by auction only, and in 21 markets, by private treaty only. The quantities passing through most markets are but an insignificant proportion of the local production. The Devonshire and Cornwall pannier markets, however, dispose of large quantities of butter as well as a certain amount of cheese and scalded cream. King's Lynn and Dorchester are centres where moderately large butter auctions are held. The only cheese fair or, more strictly, cheese market, is held weekly at Highbridge, Somerset, where Caerphilly predominates, although Cheddar and Cheddar Loaf are also sold. At Dorchester and, to a less extent, at Bridport, cheese, mainly Dorset Blue, is sold by auction.

Corn and Provender.—There are 108 markets in which sales of corn are held; in 6, corn is sold by auction, sales being confined to feed corn. Sales of corn also take place at 43 centres on other than market premises, usually in the cattle markets, in inns or in the streets. Of the 108 corn markets, 31 are in the eastern counties of Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and Hertford. Five out of the six largest corn markets in the east and south of England, including Norwich, the largest exchange for home-grown corn in the country, are in East Anglia. The corn exchanges in the South have a small volume of corn trade and are chiefly concerned in selling feeding-stuffs and fertilisers. The following Table shows the turnover of the 6 largest corn markets for home-grown wheat, barley and oats, compared with the 6 largest in the Midlands and the North, respectively. The large exchanges in the East and South may all be said

* Additional information regarding wholesale markets will be found in other reports in the Economic Series, notably Nos. 1, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15 and 18.

to be farmers' markets; there are no definitely factors' markets. The corn disposed of is grown within a radius of, generally, not more than 20 miles.

Kind of Grain.	East and South.		Midlands		North.	
	Market.	Sales in 1927.	Market.	Sales in 1927.	Market.	Sales in 1927.
		Cwt		Cwt.		Cwt
	Norwich ..	342,000	Lincoln ..	408,000	Hull ..	505,000
	(*London* .	*319,000*)	Peterborough	368,000	Leeds ..	207,000
	Chelmsford	277,000	Boston ..	285,000	Manchester	197,000
Wheat ..	Ipswich ..	233,000	Cambridge ..	240,000	Driffield ..	140,000
	Bury St Edmund's	173,000	Spalding ..	221,000	Doncaster ..	98,000
			Banbury ..	170,000	Goole ..	76,000
	Colchester..	172,000				
	Sudbury ..	149,000				
	Norwich ..	1,323,000	Lincoln ..	596,000	Leeds ..	576,000
	(*London* ..	*923,000*)	Burton-on-Trent ..	301,000	Berwick ..	260,000
	Bury St. Edmund's	434,000	Driffield ..	130,000		
			Newark ..	267,000	Wakefield ..	122,000
Barley ..	King's Lynn	377,000	Cambridge ..	210,000	Malton ..	90,000
	Ipswich ..	314,000	Peterborough	190,000	Darlington ..	78,000
	Fakenham	195,000	Brigg ..	171,000		
	Bishop's Stortford	154,000				
	Norwich ..	213,000	Lincoln ..	131,000	Leeds ..	105,000
	(*London* ..	*175,000*)	Spalding ..	63,000	Berwick ..	104,000
	Chichester..	76,000	Nottingham	55,000	Driffield ..	99,000
Oats ..	Salisbury .	65,000	Newark ..	48,000	Hull ..	70,000
	Reading ..	57,000	Peterborough	47,000	Manchester..	66,000
	King's Lynn	48,000	Boston ..	41,000	York ..	43,000
	Newbury ..	41,000				
	Norwich ..	1,878,000	Lincoln ..	1,135,000	Leeds ..	887,000
	(*London* .	*1,417,000*)	Peterborough	604,000	Hull ..	657,000
	Bury St. ..		Cambridge ..	474,000	Berwick ..	385,000
All Grain	Edmund's	632,000	Newark ..	455,000	Driffield ..	369,000
	Ipswich ..	583,000	Boston ..	409,000	Manchester..	281,000
	King's Lynn	535,000	Spalding ..	354,000	Doncaster ..	182,000
	Chelmsford	410,000				
	Salisbury ..	339,000				

Of the corn markets, 50 are under the control of public authorities, the most important of these being Bury St. Edmund's, Ipswich and King's Lynn. Norwich is privately controlled. There are 56 markets in the East and South which report sales of hay and straw. The trade is chiefly done at the corn exchanges.

Eggs.—There are no less than 181 markets where wholesale sales of eggs are reported. In 141 of these, the trade is wholesale only, while at 40, both wholesale and retail sales take place. In 159 markets, eggs are sold wholesale by auction. In Devonshire,

eggs are sold by auction in only two markets and in Cornwall in none. The auction system is most highly developed in Essex. In the counties of Buckingham and Norfolk, the turnover of the auctions is comparatively small. The egg auction centres with the largest trade are at :—

	Approximate Annual Turnover. Millions.
Colchester (Essex)	6
Basingstoke (Hants.)	4
Wickford (Essex)	4
Braintree (Essex)	3
Dorchester (Dorset)..	3
Salisbury (Wilts.)	3
Bracknell (Berks.)	2¼
Alton (Hants.)	2½
Ashford (Kent)	2½
Chelmsford (Essex)	2½
Guildford (Surrey)	2½

Eggs are generally sold ungraded in the markets of the West, but grading, of a kind, increases eastwards and is practised by the majority of vendors in the larger Essex auctions. Only in a few of the larger markets, however, have uniform standards been adopted. In the East, but not generally in the West, it is the practice for eggs to be sold under guarantee of seven days maximum age. A number of egg auctions, especially in the West, are held fortnightly, a practice which does not assist in ensuring fresh supplies. Although covered accommodation in the auctions is, in general, adequate, facilities for candling or grading on the premises are usually absent, and, in most cases, packing facilities are restricted. The fact that buyers usually inspect each lot as it is sold results in congestion. Sale by catalogue has been instituted in some of the larger auctions, while, in the eastern egg markets, but much less frequently in the West, the vendor's name is announced as each lot is sold. In several centres, more than one egg auction sale is held on the same day and at the same time by different firms. Egg packing under the National Mark scheme has been taken up by a number of auctioneers. The large number of egg auctions accounts for the private ownership of 129 of the markets in which eggs are sold wholesale.

Poultry.—Of the 273 markets at which poultry are sold wholesale, auction sales are held in 254, and these, with few exceptions, handle live poultry only. As with eggs, private treaty is the normal method of sale in Devonshire and Cornwall, where poultry are usually sold dressed, both wholesale and retail, in the pannier markets. It is the universal practice to sell live poultry direct from the cages in which they are penned, and, with very few exceptions, congestion at the time of sale is acute. Live poultry auctions are generally held in connection with cattle markets and are especially important

in Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex. Among the chief auctions, with their approximate annual turnover in head of poultry, may be mentioned Bury St. Edmund's (200,000), Colchester (200,000), Guildford (160,000), Ipswich (157,000), Stowmarket (150,000), Wickford (150,000), King's Lynn (140,000), Ashford (120,000), Acle (100,000), Braintree (100,000) and Norwich (100,000). There is a specialised trade in turkeys and geese in Norfolk, and at Attleborough an annual market is held in the autumn for store turkeys.

Fruit and Vegetables.—In all, there are 102 markets where a purely wholesale trade and 41 where both wholesale and retail trade in fruit and vegetables is transacted. The large number of markets suggests a greater volume of trade than is actually the case ; in fact, 120 of the 143 markets reporting wholesale trade are mostly small auction sales, held often in connection with livestock markets, where small quantities of local produce are disposed of. Some private treaty wholesale trade is carried on in the Devonshire pannier markets. In areas, such as Kent, where fruit or vegetable production is important, there are no large specialised growers' markets similar to those of the west Midlands. From such areas of intensive production, supplies are consigned for sale direct to the large wholesale markets in distant consuming centres.

Apart from the London area, which includes Brentford and Stratford markets, there are only 5 important consuming centres in the East and South, namely, Brighton, Norwich, Plymouth, Portsmouth and Southampton. These all have wholesale markets, but they are inadequate to supply any great proportion of the local needs and they are not well equipped. The Norwich and Portsmouth wholesale markets are held in the open, and the latter, which has a considerable turnover, is still held in the streets. The wholesale markets at Norwich, Plymouth and Portsmouth have chiefly a " producer to retailer " trade. The market at Brighton is also largely used by growers for direct trade with retailers.

At Southampton, an auction for imported fruit is held at the Docks.

Livestock.—There are no less than 401 livestock markets, of which 319 are privately owned. With one exception, the latter are all auction marts, although private treaty sales also take place in 14 of them. Most of the larger markets are publicly owned, but among the privately owned markets, 1 handles over 100,000 head of stock in a year and 5 others over 40,000 head. In 39 of the 82 publicly owned markets, business is by auction only, while only 3 small markets are devoted exclusively to private treaty sales. Of the privately owned marts, 26 are owned by market companies and 284 by firms of auctioneers. Many firms of auctioneers own 4 or more marts, and there are 3 instances in Devonshire and Cornwall of single firms owning 8 or more marts, and one case of a firm owning, entirely or jointly, as many as 12. In such cases, the marts are generally small. Often the same firms

also operate in publicly owned markets. There are 16 public markets in which 3 different firms of auctioneers sell livestock (other than poultry), 5 markets with 4 firms, 1 with 5 firms, 1 with 6 firms and 2 with as many as 7 firms.

Where several firms of auctioneers operate in a market, it is usual for selling times for similar kinds of stock to be so arranged as not to clash, but there are instances where this is not done. Further, there are few, if any, markets in the South and East where the number of fat cattle handled on any single market day, even at the peak period, is large enough to require the services of more than one auctioneer. At Norwich, for example, a single auctioneer conducts the fat cattle sales, although in the heavy season as many as 870 beasts are handled on a market day. It has been found possible, in many public markets, to restrict the number of auctioneers selling cattle by granting the sole use of the sale ring or rings to certain firms, but it is more difficult with sheep, pigs and calves, as sale rings for stock, other than cattle, are quite exceptional in the South. Important markets where there is no overlapping in the sales of similar kinds of stock include Exeter and Newton Abbot, in each of which only one firm of auctioneers operates, and Chichester, Ipswich and King's Lynn, where the various firms of auctioneers specialise on different classes of stock. Among the important markets in which there is a large number of auctioneers and where overlapping is apt to occur, are Guildford (4), Chelmsford (5), Ashford (6), Truro (6), Canterbury (7), and Sandwich (7). There are many instances where two or even more livestock markets are held in the same town, often a public and private market together, and although arrangements are usually made to avoid a clash of selling times, and there may even be specialisation in the several marts on certain kinds of stock, this duplication of markets is not always free from objection. In one important centre, namely, Yeovil, where there are two livestock markets, there is a clash of selling times.

The total numbers of livestock passing through the markets and fairs in an average year are shown in the following Table :—

Kind of Stock.	Sold in markets.	Sold at fairs held at market centres and otherwise.	Total stock sold in markets and and fairs.
Cattle	741,030	38,080	779,110
Calves	463,770	1,865	465,635
Sheep and Lambs ..	2,081,870	469,475	2,551,345
Pigs	1,342,430	6,795	1,349,225
Total	4,629,100	516,215	5,145,315

The average number of stock of all kinds handled per market day is 450, as compared with 790 per market day in the northern counties, and 660 in the Midlands. The eastern and southern counties, as a whole, would seem to have too many livestock markets. There are as many as 213 centres where less than 10,000 head of stock are handled per annum and 143 which handle less than 5,000 in the markets. Approximately 16 per cent. of the livestock sold in markets in the East and South change hands in these 213 small market centres, while as much as 36 per cent. passes through those handling under 20,000 head of stock per annum. The tendency to concentrate on larger markets is much less marked than in the North and Midlands. In the North, only 14 per cent. of the market business goes through the marts handling under 20,000 head per annum, and only 6 per cent. through those with under 10,000 ; in the Midlands, the corresponding figures are 21 per cent. and 8 per cent. The larger the average supplies passing through a market, the greater are the possibilities of attracting buyers and ensuring competitive prices. Small markets are a feature of Cornwall, Devonshire, Somersetshire and Hertfordshire. In Devonshire and Cornwall, however, many of the small markets are held monthly and, in consequence, the average supply on each market day is not inconsiderable. Nevertheless, greater concentration on larger marts, with their power of attracting buyers and of increasing the efficiency of marketing, could be effected in many southern and eastern centres. In the south-west, in particular, one or more large and efficiently managed collecting marts for stock going east would seem likely to be advantageous, in the long run, to producers in that area. Many of the disadvantages of the small markets also apply, but to a lesser degree, to the medium-sized markets. It would be an improvement if vendors could be persuaded to enter their stock sufficiently in advance of sale to enable auctioneers to notify potential buyers of the supplies expected on each market day. Only one or two medium-sized markets have been found in the East and South where this is done.

Judged by the total head of stock handled in a recent typical year, the 10 largest livestock markets in the South and East are at Norwich (168,000), Ashford (143,000), King's Lynn (140,000), Ipswich (128,000), Bury St. Edmund's (104,000), Exeter (89,000) Salisbury (89,000), Maidstone (86,000), Dorchester (84,000) and Bridgwater (78,000). The following Table shows the 6 largest markets in (*a*) the East and South, (*b*) the Midlands and (*c*) the North, for cattle, sheep, calves and pigs respectively.

Eastern and Southern Area.		Midland Area.*		Northern Area.†	
Market.	No. of animals sold in recent typical year.	Market.	No. of animals sold in recent typical year.	Market.	No. of animals sold in recent typical year.
		Cattle.			
Norwich ..	80,410	Shrewsbury ..	53,228	York	82,000
Reading ..	30,000	Northampton	34,865	Carlisle ..	60,464
King's Lynn..	29,130	Banbury ..	33,329	Salford ..	50,573
Ipswich ..	26,690	Bristol ..	33,270	Gateshead ..	45,000
Exeter ..	23,350	Derby ..	32,348	Hexham ..	40,412
(*Islington (London)*)	(*16,990*)	Rugby ..	31,515	Skipton ..	38,561
Chichester ..	15,040				
		Sheep.			
Ashford ..	99,840	Rugby ..	81,066	Salford ..	338,257
(*Islington (London)*)	(*92,860*)	Hereford ..	78,229	Carlisle ..	185,408
King's Lynn..	71,580	Craven Arms	73,264	Newcastle-on-Tyne ..	172,389
Maidstone ..	56,660	Oswestry ..	70,849	York	130,000
Bury St. Edmund's	55,760	Abergavenny	70,000	Leeds ..	125,000
Exeter ..	55,760	Leicester ..	65,755	Penrith ..	124,200
Ipswich ..	52,180				
		Calves.			
Dorchester ..	12,120	Derby ..	13,909	Preston ..	12,420
Salisbury ..	11,780	Gloucester ..	13,369	Skipton ..	11,400
Swindon ..	11,200	Chester ..	10,243	Kendal ..	8,845
Wimborne ..	8,650	Beeston ..	9,926	Otley ..	7,365
Farrington Gurney	8,500	Shrewsbury ..	9,857	Huddersfield	5,000
Frome ..	8,450	Oswestry ..	9,765	Clitheroe ..	2,784
		Pigs.			
Stowmarket ..	47,300	Birmingham ..	159,000	Manchester ..	76,000
Ipswich ..	44,660	Gloucester ..	52,588	Newcastle-on-Tyne ..	39,992
King's Lynn..	37,000	Wolverhampton	44,773	York	30,000
Bury St. Edmund's	36,000	Cambridge ..	41,317	Hull	26,654
Norwich ..	32,030	Shrewsbury ..	38,312	Doncaster ..	25,000
Ashford ..	31,930	Oswestry ..	34,966	Preston ..	22,148

* *See* Appendix IV, Economic Series No. 14.
† *See* Appendix IV, Economic Series No. 19.

The markets in the East and South mainly handle both fat and store stock; some 18 of the smaller markets in Kent and West Sussex handle store cattle and store sheep only. Except in the case of stores, it is unusual to find markets drawing stock from

beyond a radius of 20 miles ; where this occurs, the animals are nearly always sent in by dealers. From the larger and even from the medium-sized markets, fat stock is sent to distant consuming centres, particularly London and the Midlands, and there is an eastward movement of store stock, particularly in the autumn.

Cattle are sent to market in largest numbers in three groups of counties—viz., Norfolk and Suffolk, Sussex and Kent, and Devon, Somerset and Cornwall. The most important fat cattle markets are chiefly found in Norfolk and Suffolk, where winter feeding of bullocks results in heavy supplies in the first half of the year. The Midlands and London take most of the stock surplus to local requirements. Fat cattle are not so numerous in the markets in counties near London or in the south-western counties owing to the emphasis given to dairying and, in the south-west, also to store cattle raising. The first five markets in order of importance for fat cattle are Norwich, King's Lynn, Ipswich, Bury St. Edmund's and Exeter. The bulk of the cattle sold at Acle, Aylesbury, Barnham, Great Yarmouth, North Walsham and Shepton Mallet are fat. Store cattle, chiefly from Ireland and the north of England, are brought to the East Anglian markets in large numbers by dealers. Store cattle in the markets of the south-western counties are generally bought up by dealers for consignment to feeding districts further east. Norwich and Reading are the chief markets in the area for Irish stores ; at these two markets, and at Canterbury, Chelmsford, Chichester, Dorchester and Romford, store stock are predominant. Dairy cows are a noteworthy feature at Ashford, Basingstoke, Chelmsford, Dorchester, Helston, Ipswich, Newton Abbot, Norwich and Salisbury. As a rule, the best dairy cows are not offered in the markets. Calves are naturally offered in large numbers in the markets of the grass-land dairy counties, particularly Dorset, Somerset and Wiltshire. The six principal calf markets (see Table on page 17) are all in these three counties. Calves are also numerous in some of the Sussex markets—e.g., Lewes and, to a less extent, Chichester. A consider-able veal carcase trade with the Midlands and London is carried on by dealers buying in the southern markets.

Sheep appear in the markets in largest numbers in Kent and Sussex, from which many store sheep are exported for grazing in the Midlands and the South. Sheep are also particularly numerous in the Devonshire and Somersetshire markets ; large numbers of stores are offered from the rough grazings of these counties, many of which are bought for feeding on the lower lands in the district ; fat sheep are bought in the markets by dealer-slaughtermen for the carcase trade with London and the Midlands. A feature of the Dorsetshire, Wiltshire and Hampshire markets is the number of early lambs on offer from the end of March to June. At Ashford, Diss and Lyminge, store sheep largely predominate over fat ; the reverse is the case in such markets as Abingdon, Barnham,

Hitchin, Newton Abbot, Wimborne and Yeovil. Large numbers of store sheep both for breeding and feeding are dispersed at periodical sales or fairs held in various parts of the East and South, generally between May and October, the chief of which are mentioned on pages 25 and 26.

Pigs are most prominent in the markets of Suffolk; large numbers are also offered in the markets of Kent, Norfolk and Essex. The six largest pig markets in the area are all in East Anglia or Kent. In the Cornish markets, the trade in store pigs and small porkers is important, comparatively few bacon pigs or large porkers being offered. As a means of marketing fat pigs, the markets are used to a greater extent in the counties nearer London than in those further distant such as Cornwall and Devon. This appears to be due to the production of a larger proportion of bacon pigs in the West, which, to an increasing extent, are being consigned direct to factories, and to the presence in those counties of a class of dealer-slaughtermen who buy direct from farms for consignment in carcase form to London and the Midlands. The number of pigs passing through the markets has generally risen considerably in all parts of the East and South since 1913.

Within a radius of 20 miles of London, there are few livestock markets of any importance. The larger provincial towns in the South—e.g., Plymouth, Portsmouth, Southampton and Brighton, have either no livestock markets or, as at Portsmouth and Southampton, very small marts. Supplies are sent in from surrounding auction marts by dealers and wholesale butchers.

The markets of the South and East, as a whole, compare unfavourably in layout and accommodation with those of the Midlands and the North. This is particularly true of the smaller markets, but many of the larger marts, such as Bridgwater, Canterbury, Exeter, Newton Abbot, Salisbury, Truro and Yeovil, are overcrowded. Covered shelter for stock and buyers is frequently lacking, particularly in the South-West; the markets of Suffolk and Sussex are, however, exceptions in this respect. Covered sale rings are found in most of the larger cattle markets; exceptions are Bridgwater, Romford and Launceston. In the medium-sized markets, a large number have open sale rings. Sale rings are generally small, varying from 13 ft. diameter at Truro to 30 ft. at Guildford, a common size being about 20 ft. as compared with 35 ft. in the North. The practice of allowing buyers to enter the ring in order to handle the cattle is usual. This hinders the progress of selling. Inspection prior to sale in the ring would be assisted by the provision of facilities for tying up all fat cattle and cows, or for penning them singly as is the common practice in East Anglia.

Most of the larger markets have two or three rings devoted to various classes of cattle. At Exeter and some markets in Sussex and Kent, cattle are sold without passing through a ring, the

auctioneer passing along the row of beasts which are generally tied up after weighing and ticketing. There are a few markets such as Ashford, Bridgwater, Launceston and Taunton, where, in the absence of a sale ring, cows and store cattle are driven with difficulty into a ring improvised by buyers. Most of the livestock auction markets where any appreciable number of fat cattle are handled are now fitted with dial weighing machines, generally of 30-cwt. or 2-ton capacity. There are one or two instances where 4 or 5-ton machines intended for weighing bunches of store cattle are installed; the weights of store cattle are, however, rarely noted. Cornwall is the only county in the area where fat cattle are bid for by the live-cwt. and here the practice is universal. Stock sold by private treaty are seldom weighed. Pigs are not weighed in any markets in the South—not even in Suffolk, where large numbers are sold in the markets. Sheep and pigs are almost always sold direct from the pens. In Devonshire, however, pigs are often sold from the carts in which they are brought to market; the carts are pitched in the market, thereby increasing congestion. At Salisbury, sheep and pigs, and, at Hitchin, pigs, are passed through a sale ring. Calves are sold, in most markets, either in the pens or before a rostrum with no sale ring, amid a crowd of buyers; they are sold in a sale ring at a few centres such as Newbury. Vendors of livestock in most markets are allowed at least one bid for their own stock. No attempt is made to bulk or grade stock before sale, although farmers who send in more than one pen of sheep or pigs often endeavour to pen them in groups of approximately even-sized animals. At Reading, there is a rough classification of store cattle into two groups on a quality basis. Most markets are reasonably well situated in respect to railway loading facilities, but few have sidings leading direct into the market. Motor transport is extensively used, except in Devonshire and Cornwall, for taking stock to and from markets, and is increasing the range from which the larger marts draw supplies.

Market days in adjacent centres in the southern and eastern counties are generally arranged to avoid clashing, although there are important exceptions such as Ashford, Maidstone, Rochester, and Tonbridge in Kent, all of which are held on Tuesday. Of the 401 livestock markets, 155 are held weekly, 91 are held fortnightly, or twice or three times a month, and 89 are held monthly, the remainder being held at longer intervals. The prevalence of fortnightly or monthly markets in the South-West—in Devonshire, Cornwall and Somersetshire, there are 40 fortnightly and 78 monthly markets—enables clashing of sales to be avoided even among the numerous marts in that region. If many of the smaller weekly markets were held at less frequent intervals, there would presumably be a larger entry at each sale, which would probably be an advantage. Monday is the most favoured market day, when 111 markets are held, followed by Tuesday (71) and Wednesday (63).

The times of commencement of markets vary from 9 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. the commonest times being 11 a.m. (91 markets), 12 noon (48) and 10.30 a.m. (42). The markets are generally held earlier in the West than in the East.

Meat, etc.—Excluding London, meat is sold wholesale at 4 markets in the East and South, but only Plymouth has a wholesale meat market in the true sense of the term. In the other 3 markets, the wholesale trade in meat is small. There are public abattoirs or slaughter-houses in 16 centres, of which 9 are in Devon, mostly in small towns. The abattoir at Weston-super-Mare, although small, is a model of satisfactory equipment. On the other hand, there are instances, Plymouth in particular, where the public abattoirs are totally inadequate. At Plymouth, the abattoir is also some distance from the wholesale meat market. Private slaughter-houses, with a few exceptions, continue in the towns where public abattoirs are provided. There are no public cold-stores in connection with any of the public abattoirs. At Portsmouth, Southampton, Bournemouth and Norwich—all towns of over 100,000 population—no public slaughtering facilities are provided. In Devonshire, the railway companies own 9 slaughter-houses at their stations, 6 of which are let to dealer-slaughtermen and 3 to farmers' companies. They are used chiefly for slaughtering sheep for consignment out of the county.

There are only 12 hide and skin " markets " registered by the Hide, Leather and Allied Trades Improvement Society. Sales are by private treaty only in all but three instances where two sales are by auction and one by auction and private treaty.

Wool.—There are 25 annual sales of wool held at 23 centres, excluding London; 24 sales are by auction. Wool auctions are held at 4 centres in Wiltshire, 4 in Berkshire, 4 in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, 2 each in Dorsetshire and Suffolk, and one each in Buckinghamshire, Essex, Kent, Norfolk, Surrey and Sussex. The principal sales are at Dorchester (100,000 fleeces), Blandford (60,000), Salisbury (60,000), and Winchester (50,000). These are the 4 largest provincial sales in England. At 8 auctions, less than 20,000 fleeces per annum are handled; the amalgamation of some of the sales would probably be of advantage to the producer.* Wool auctions are conducted on similar lines in all centres, and the description of the Dorchester Auction on page 111 may be taken as representative. The basic conditions under which sales are conducted have been standardised by joint agreement between auctioneers, buyers and farmers, while the dates of the southern sales are so arranged that the auctions in neighbouring towns are held on successive days. In spite of the large sheep population, there are no wool auctions in Devonshire; a large proportion of the wool

* *See* Economic Series No. 7, page 30.

in these and other counties is bought by merchants who visit the farms.

Fish.—Excluding London, there are 11 markets in the East and South where fish is sold wholesale ; at 6 of these, auction sales are held, including the large port auctions at Lowestoft, Plymouth and Great Yarmouth. Great Yarmouth and Plymouth markets are owned by the Harbour Authorities and Lowestoft market by the Railway Company ; the remaining 8 markets are publicly owned. From the large fishing ports at Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft, herrings and trawl fish are dispatched to all parts of England and Wales, while herrings are also sent to Baltic and Mediterranean countries.

(III) RENTS, STALLAGES AND TOLLS.*

Particulars of the charges made in each wholesale market for spaces, stalls or stands, and the tolls levied on farm produce and livestock, have been collected by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for each market included in the present Report. Information regarding the charges ruling in any market can be obtained on application to the Department.

In the 3 eastern and southern wholesale fruit and vegetable markets where covered accommodation is provided, stand rents vary from 5½*d.* to 7*d.* per sq. yd. per week at Brentford, to from 6*d.* to 1*s.* per sq. yd. at Stratford, and 1*s.* per stand per day, equal to 3*d.* per sq. yd. per week, at Brighton. Tolls are charged in some of the pannier markets of Devonshire and Cornwall on produce brought in by vendors who do not occupy regular pitches ; much of the produce sold wholesale to dealers in the market thus bears a toll. These tolls are usually payable at so much per basket or other package, owing to the miscellaneous nature of the commodities marketed. They vary from ½*d.* to 2*d.* per basket. In a few towns, such as Dartmouth, Exeter and Truro, tolls are payable on farm produce brought to the town for sale in the market or elsewhere.

Tolls are charged in all publicly controlled livestock markets ; on stock sold by auction in public markets, the tolls are generally collected by the auctioneer ; in some cases, auctioneers have compounded the tolls by a fixed annual sum. In private marts, no tolls are charged, the auctioneer's commission covering all services, including the use of market facilities, the actual selling, the collection of proceeds and the payment of cash to sellers. The tolls in the public markets usually range from 3*d.* to 6*d.* per head of cattle—i.e., cows, steers or heifers, from 6*d.* to 1*s.* for bulls and from 2*d.* to 3*d.* for calves. Fat sheep or lambs usually pay 1*d.* each, store sheep are usually charged for by the pen or score and pigs average 1*d.* each. Although these charges are similar to

* *See also* Economic Series No. 13, Chapter II.

those paid in the North and the Midlands, the facilities and accommodation are not equivalent.

(IV) FAIRS.

(a) General.

No less than 268 recognised fairs are held at 173 centres in the area covered by this Report. Particulars of these fairs, their type, location and the dates on which held are given in Appendix III, pages 202 to 209. Most of the fairs exist for the disposal of livestock, principally sheep. Special wool sales, designated fairs, are held at several centres, but take the form of auction sales and are included in this Report under the general head of markets. In common with the rest of the country, many of the old established fairs in the eastern and southern counties are rapidly ceasing to be of any business significance owing, among other things, to the development of properly appointed markets and the improvement in railway and road transport facilities. In many centres, considerations of traffic convenience have caused the fairs, once held on the streets, to be absorbed into the usual markets. Some fairs, such as Chichester, Colchester, Hertford and Tiverton although proclaimed annually, exist merely as pleasure fairs. Some are maintained to preserve Charter rights, as, for instance, Kingston-on-Thames, where the weekly market could handle all the livestock business, but the annual fair—originally granted by Henry III and extending over 8 days, but now a small one-day horse fair—is held to preserve the Corporation's rights over the old fair field which is used as a recreation ground.

Although fairs are generally declining in importance, some are still useful for marketing store cattle, and there are fairs in the southern downlands and in the remoter hill districts, such as north Somerset, which continue to fill an important place in the marketing of store sheep. In many places where regular markets or auction marts have superseded the fairs—e.g. Aylesbury, Cullompton, Frome, Hatherleigh and King's Lynn, it is the practice to describe as fairs the markets held on days nearest the old fair days. At other centres, as at Lewes and Steyning in Sussex, special sales are held on the old fair dates. In some cases, such as at Ashburton and Yeovil, the fairs have been continued as sales held on dates coincident with or approximating to the original fair dates by auctioneers or local authorities who have purchased the fair rights and tolls from the owners. The fairs held at over 70 centres are entirely controlled by auctioneers, whilst, at most of the others, sale by auction has almost entirely superseded the old style of private treaty dealing, except for horses.

Fairs were formerly a prominent feature of country life but only tradition and sentiment have kept them alive in some districts.

The centuries-old fair day at Ingham (Norfolk) is still celebrated as a holiday, often to the exclusion of Whit Monday. In several instances, proposals for the abolition of fairs have been resisted by the citizens or parishioners concerned; in others, it is known that suggestions to merge them into the usual markets would be strenuously opposed. Typical instances of fairs which have existed for centuries and still transact a considerable amount of business occur at Bampton (Devon), Barnet, Barnstaple, Glastonbury and Weyhill (Hants).

As in the rest of the country, there are no pig fairs in the east and south, but at a few of the livestock fairs, pigs are sold in appreciable numbers. Ipswich, where some 1,700 pigs are offered annually, and Newport, Isle of Wight, where about 1,000 are sold, are the two chief examples. There are also several fairs in Devonshire and one in Dorsetshire where some hundreds of pigs are offered.

(b) Horse Fairs.

There are 147 fairs where horses may be offered for sale, but only 15 are held solely for the sale of horses, and at most of these the business now done is negligible. Such fairs, for example, as Backwell (Somerset), Barnstaple and Priddy (Somerset), where formerly hundreds of horses were sold, now receive considerably less than 100 per annum, and even at the 800-year old Barnet fair, where as many as 2,000 horses used to be sold, the entry in 1928 was only 570. This fair, however, to which horses are sent from as far as Wales, still provides horses and ponies for London tradesmen, and good class hunters for foreign buyers. The fairs held at Bridgwater, Glastonbury, Ipswich, Maidstone, Norwich and Totnes still do a considerable trade in horses, whilst, at several places, periodical sales of horses are held in livestock markets (*see* Appendix II). In some centres—e.g., Bampton, Bridgwater and Totnes, although most of the livestock business done at fairs has been transferred to market places, horses are still sold on the streets and there paraded before prospective buyers.

Fairs still exist for the disposal of ponies from the New Forest, Exmoor, Dartmoor and the Cornish moors. The business done has greatly declined with the introduction of mechanical haulage in the coal mines. Lyndhurst and Ringwood are the chief fairs for New Forest ponies. Of the fairs for Exmoor ponies, Bampton, now reduced to about 300 head, is still the chief. Dartmoor ponies are sold at the fairs at Okehampton, Princetown and South Brent. Cornish moor ponies are rapidly disappearing; the numbers on offer at Marazion and St. Lawrence's (Bodmin) fairs in a recent year were only about 50 and 20, respectively. The pony fairs have been further reduced in importance by the practice of dealers buying many of the best animals direct from the moorland farms.

(c) Sheep Fairs.

Sheep are on offer at some 218 fairs and annual sales held at about 147 centres, and although only about 40 of these exist solely for the disposal of sheep, at many of the others, sheep by far outnumber any other class of stock.

The marketing of store and breeding sheep being essentially seasonal—occurring particularly in the late summer and early autumn—the accommodation of the average market would be severely taxed if it were required to handle on an ordinary market day the abnormally large numbers of sheep disposed of at these seasons. At Bridgwater, for example, six times as many sheep are on offer at the September fair as are entered on an average weekly market day; at several other market centres where sheep fairs are held, such as Blandford, Dorchester and Maidstone, the usual market places are inadequate for the fairs, which are, therefore, held in a separate place. There are many instances of once important sheep fairs that have greatly declined. At Overton (Hampshire), for example, only some 2,500 sheep are now penned, whereas 60 years ago some 100,000 are said to have been on offer; among other examples are the fairs at Alresford (Hants), East Ilsley (Berks.) and Westbury (Wilts.). Even those fairs which are still important, such as Wilton (Wilts.) and Weyhill (Hants), have mostly suffered from the decline in sheep population in the South and from changes such as the greater use of Scotch-bred stores.

While the majority of the fairs are for commercial stock, sales of pedigree sheep, controlled by associations of breeders, are held at many. Examples are Exmoor Horns at South Molton, Devon Close Wools at Bratton Fleming, Dorset Horns and Dorset Downs at Dorchester and Blandford, Hampshire Down ram lambs at Alresford, Stockbridge and Weyhill, Romney Marsh at New Romney, and Suffolks at Newmarket and Ipswich.

The fairs of outstanding importance are almost all to be found in the chalk region of Dorset, Wiltshire, Hampshire and Sussex, or near the marshy grazing lands of Kent and Sussex. In the former region, for instance, are held the fairs at Wilton, Dorchester, Marlborough and Weyhill, in order of importance, each handling 20,000 sheep or more per annum; and those at Findon (West Sussex) (Fig. 3), Blandford and Alresford, which annually dispose of 10,000 to 20,000 sheep each; fairs of moderate importance, handling from 5,000 to 10,000 head, are held at Poundbury (Dorset), Britford (Wilts.) Tan Hill (Wilts.) and Westbury. At these fairs, the sheep are mainly of various Down breeds. The periodical sheep sales at Lewes (18,000), Salisbury (14,000) and Chichester (6,000), which are not statutory fairs, should also be mentioned. Sheep of the Kent (Romney Marsh) breed are a prominent feature at such important Kentish fairs as Tenterden, Maidstone, Horsmonden,

Ham Street and New Romney, each handling 10,000 to 20,000 head per annum, and at Northiam (7,000) and Biddenden (4,000). Besides the statutory fairs, periodical seasonal sales for the disposal, chiefly, of Kent sheep, are held at Sittingbourne, Lyminge and Rye. A number of so-called markets in Kent—e.g., Ham Street, Hythe and Lydden, consist chiefly of periodical store sheep sales. Sheep offered in the fairs in these counties consist largely of breeding stock or lambs which are surplus to the requirements of the vendors. These are bought for breeding or feeding, usually by other farmers in the South. In the Kentish sales, a large proportion of the sheep entered come off the marshes : many are bought to go on the higher ground for the winter, while buyers from the midland and eastern counties also purchase a considerable number. There are several important sheep fairs in Norfolk and Suffolk, as well as annual sales which resemble fairs. Generally, the numbers disposed of are not so large as in the South, although the two annual lamb sales at Diss, which together handle 28,000 head, are an exception. The principal fairs and annual sales in these two counties, in order of importance, are at Barnham, Ipswich, Melton, Stowmarket, Halesworth, Bury St. Edmund's and Haverhill in Suffolk, each handling 5,000 to 10,000 sheep per annum, and at King's Lynn, Melton Constable and Hempton in Norfolk. Fairs in Norfolk and Suffolk handle locally bred stock which pass from the breeding to the feeding districts within these counties.

Sheep fairs are numerous in Devonshire and Somersetshire, although the numbers handled do not exceed 5,000 per annum at most of the centres. The most important fairs in the south-west are at South Molton, Cutcombe (Somerset) and Bridgwater, where from 5,000 to 8,000 sheep are disposed of annually, and there are others of importance at Bratton Fleming, Simonsbath (Somerset), Chard, Ilminster, Barnstaple and Kingsbridge, handling from 2,500 to 5,000 head per annum. Sheep on offer at these fairs consist chiefly of stores off the rough grazing land of Exmoor, Dartmoor and the Brendon and Quantock Hills, which are bought for feeding on the richer grass in the south-western counties. Sheep fairs in Cornwall, Berkshire, Surrey, Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire and Essex are of little importance. At Buckingham fair, about 3,500, and at East Ilsley fair in Berkshire, some 3,000 sheep are disposed of. An annual lamb fair at Great Bentley, Essex, has an entry of about 1,700 per annum, chiefly Suffolks. The penning facilities at the sheep fairs, where they are not held in markets, generally consist of temporary pens of various sizes erected on a field or down, selling taking place from the pens. Store sheep are often sold in large lots consisting of as many as 100 head. It is usual, even at the large fairs, for sheep to be brought in by road on the morning of the sale, and they are generally dispatched from the fair on the same day, special trains usually being provided by the railways for this traffic.

(d) Cattle Fairs.

Although only 6 fairs exist at which cattle are the only stock sold, 137 centres hold fairs at which cattle, mainly stores, may be offered. The numbers entered at many are, however, almost negligible. As a means of dispersing store cattle, the seasonal fairs still fulfil a useful function in some districts, particularly in Kent, Sussex and Devonshire, but, in general, the regular markets have absorbed most of the cattle trade and the fairs are dying out. The once important Mitchell fair in Cornwall, for example, has been almost entirely superseded by the sales at Truro market. The principal cattle fairs, in order of importance, include those at Maidstone, Ipswich, Ashburton and Biddenden, where from 2,000 to 3,000 head are sold annually, and those at Hatherleigh (Devon), Tenterden, Grove Ferry (Kent), and Devizes, at each of which approximately 1,000 head are sold. The cattle sold in the fairs in Devonshire and Cornwall are chiefly locally bred and many are bought by dealers to be taken into other counties in the South and Midlands: in the South-East and East, on the other hand, the fairs contain a larger proportion of stock brought in by dealers from other counties for feeding or for use as dairy stock.

PART II.—THE COUNTIES AND THEIR MARKETS.*

BERKSHIRE.

(a) General.

Although Berkshire is among the smallest of English counties, its physical features and, consequently, its agriculture are very varied. The principal farming types are arable sheep farming on the Downs—from the Thames to the Wiltshire border, and dairy farming in the Vale of White Horse, on the London clay between Reading and Windsor, and, to a less extent, in the Kennet Valley, where the farming is very mixed. The south-east of the county, on the Bagshot Sands, is so poor as to be almost unfit for cultivation. A small, specialised, fruit-growing area exists at the eastern end of the Vale of White Horse. About half the cultivated area of the county is under arable crops, of which about half are cereals. The density of population of livestock of all types is below the average for England and Wales. There is little fattening of cattle and the output of meat does not provide an appreciable surplus. Proximity to London has led to a wide extension of milk production; hardly any butter or cheese is made. Eggs and poultry are bought by dealers at several markets for the western side of London.

Berkshire has five corn exchanges which, in order of importance, are at Reading, Newbury, Abingdon, Wallingford and Hungerford. The total quantity of grain sold through these markets in 1927 was 546,838 cwt., including 237,601 cwt. of wheat, 186,281 cwt. of barley and 122,956 cwt. of oats. Sales of corn at, or in the vicinity of, cattle markets are reported at Bracknell, Faringdon and Wokingham. The production of fruit and vegetables is small, although sales of this produce are held at auctions at four centres. The county has no public wholesale fruit and vegetable markets.

There are 8 livestock markets in Berkshire, while periodical livestock sales also take place at East Ilsley. The chief market is at Reading, which is of considerably more than local importance and acts as a clearing centre for dairy and store stock, both pedigree and non-pedigree, for a very wide area; large numbers of Irish stores are handled. Markets of medium size are situated at Abingdon, Newbury and Bracknell. All these are weekly markets. There are small markets at Faringdon, Wallingford, Wokingham and Challow, none of which handles as much as 5,000 head of stock per annum. Store sheep are dispersed at periodical sales. The total number of stock passing through Berkshire markets in a typical year

* *See also* Appendix II, pages 150–201.

is estimated at approximately 130,000, consisting of 38,000 cattle, 16,000 calves, 38,000 sheep and 38,000 pigs. The smaller markets are tending to die out, owing, partly, to the competition of large centres such as Reading and Banbury. Only 10 per cent. of the stock sold at markets passes through those dealing with less than 10,000 head per annum. The larger markets are, on the whole, fairly well-equipped, although, at Reading and Abingdon, increased accommodation would be of advantage. There are dial weigh-bridges for cattle in four markets and covered accommodation for calves is fairly general, while covered byres are provided for cows in two markets. At Newbury, calves are sold in a sale ring. Road transport for livestock is used to a considerable extent. Public slaughter-houses exist at Reading and Newbury, but there are no wholesale meat markets in the county.

Auction sales of eggs take place at Bracknell, Newbury, Hungerford, Wokingham, Reading, Didcot and Wantage; at Bracknell, about 2¾ million, and at Newbury and Hungerford, from 1 to 2 million, eggs per annum are handled. Live poultry also are sold by auction at these centres, as well as at Abingdon, Challow and Faringdon. With the exception of Bracknell auction, the facilities provided for the display and packing of eggs are, on the whole, poor. Some grading is practised by vendors, but there is no market where a uniform system is in force.

Auction sales of wool, in order of importance, are held, annually, at Reading, Newbury, Wallingford and Wantage. About 10,000 fleeces per annum are sold at each of the two first; the other sales are smaller.

There are two hide and skin "markets" in Berkshire, both at Reading and both under private ownership. Abingdon, Newbury, Reading, Windsor and Wokingham have retail markets, but they do not meet any appreciable proportion of the local needs. Except at Reading, they consist entirely of stalls in the open air.

(b) Notes on particular markets.

Abingdon.—The markets—livestock market, corn exchange and open retail market—are owned by the Corporation and are grouped together in the centre of the town about ¼-mile from the station. Sheds for calves and dairy cows are the only covered accommodation in the cattle market. There are open pens for about 100 cattle, from 400 to 500 pigs and 400 sheep, and two uncovered sale rings, one with a 5-ton dial weighbridge. Temporary hurdle pens have frequently to be erected for pigs and lambs. The Corporation lease the market to a firm of auctioneers, on condition that private treaty selling is allowed on payment of toll. Live poultry are sold by auction. There is little room for vehicular traffic in the market; in fact, the market suffers from lack of space generally and will need extending if business continues to grow.

The market is second in importance in the county for livestock. In 1928, 29,425 head of stock were entered, including 1,176 fat cattle, 555 store cattle, 160 cows, 1,536 veal calves, 1,901 rearing calves, 10,853 fat sheep, 435 store sheep, 7,854 fat pigs and 4,955 store pigs. Fat sheep and lambs are largely

drawn from the downland situated to the south; both sheep and pigs are sent from distances of up to 20 miles. The sheep trade is seasonal, as many as 40 per cent. of the year's supply coming in during April, May and June, when the fat lambs are put on the market. Supplies of pigs have increased by over 100 per cent., of sheep by over 80 per cent., and of calves by about 45 per cent., since 1922. In addition to local buyers, there are usually several big buyers of pigs, sheep and cattle from Reading and London, and of pigs from Calne.

In the corn exchange, 23 merchants, principally local, occupy stands. In 1927, 35,000 cwt. of wheat, 31,000 cwt. of barley and 13,000 cwt. of oats were sold.

A small retail market, consisting of a few stalls for the sale of fruit, fish and miscellaneous goods, is held in the open market place on Mondays.

Bracknell.—Bracknell, in east Berkshire, possesses a medium-sized cattle, poultry and egg market, owned and controlled by a firm of auctioneers. The accommodation includes an uncovered sale ring with a 30-cwt. dial weighbridge, an open-fronted shed for cattle and calves, and uncovered pig and sheep pens. Bracknell is the second market in Berkshire for fat pigs, which are mostly purchased by local and London buyers. In 1928, 5,763 fat pigs and 5,059 store pigs entered the market.

The egg and poultry sections are large, well equipped and well organised. The accommodation in the poultry section consists of wire cages, under cover, with capacity for 2,000 birds. The egg auction, which was started on its present lines in 1922, is held in a corrugated iron shed, three sides of which are covered with shelves in tiers of 6 or 7. (Fig. 4). A wooden packing table runs round the shed close to the egg shelves. The eggs are well displayed in uniform wicker baskets, owned by the auctioneers. During selling, the public remain outside the narrow gangway between the eggs and the packing tables, thus minimising the congestion usually occurring in egg auctions at the time of sale. In 1928, some 2,700,000 eggs and 86,000 head of poultry were sold. Vendors must be producers only and are liable to have their farms visited for comparing the head of poultry kept with the average weekly supplies sent in. Grading for size into two grades specified by the auctioneers is practised by many vendors. Eggs offered as "New Laid" are guaranteed by the vendor to be not more than 7 days old. Supplies for this auction are drawn mainly from within 12 miles, but eggs are also sent from Hampshire, Wiltshire, and, at times, even from Norfolk and Staffordshire. Buyers attend from London.

Reading.—See page 132.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

(a) General.

The agriculture of Buckinghamshire is influenced both by the variety of soils in the county and by its proximity to London. Of the area of crops and grass, less than one-third is under arable cultivation; the proportion of grassland is higher than in any county in the south and east of England, except Somerset. The country to the north of the Chilterns is predominantly grassland of varying quality, much being suitable for dairying and for cattle and sheep feeding, while there is also poorer grass devoted to store raising. On the Chiltern ridge, there is a larger proportion of arable land. Arable sheep farming, formerly characteristic of the district, has given way largely to grassland and sheep feeding and



FIG. 3.—Findon Sheep Fair.



FIG 4.—Bracknell Egg Auction.



"*Farmer and Stockbreeder.*"

FIG. 5.—Aylesbury: **Cattle Market.**

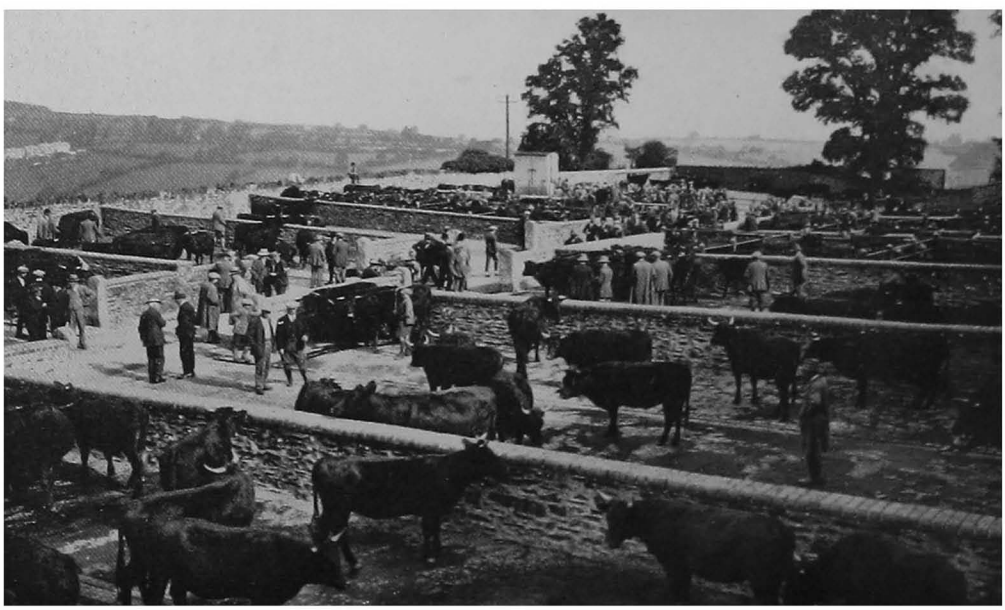


FIG. 6.—Launceston: **Livestock Market—Bullock Section.**

dairying. The area to the south-east of the Chilterns, in the neighbourhood of Slough and Uxbridge, is devoted largely to market garden crops—chiefly cabbage and Brussels sprouts—the produce in many cases being taken direct to the London markets from the farms. Small quantities of potatoes are sold by auction in the cattle market at Buckingham.

Fruit growing is carried on in localised areas, cherries being grown on the Chilterns and prune damsons on a strip of land at the foot of the Chilterns east of Aylesbury, while, east of Slough, apple orchards are fairly common. No appreciable quantity of this produce enters markets in the county.

Grain occupies about half the arable acreage, the chief crops being wheat and oats. There are only two corn exchanges in the county, at Aylesbury and High Wycombe, and these are practically disused. Corn sales are reported as taking place in or around cattle markets at Newport Pagnell and Winslow.

Dairying is the principal livestock industry, London taking a large proportion of the milk in liquid form. Fat cattle and sheep are produced on the grassland north of the Chilterns, the supply being concentrated chiefly in the months from August to November, inclusive. Fat lambs and tegs come off the arable land of the Chilterns to a limited extent in the winter and spring, but the supply is considerably smaller than that of the grass sheep. The density of pig population of the county is somewhat below the average for England and Wales. The surplus output of livestock goes chiefly to London and its western suburbs.

There are 10 market centres for livestock in the county. The most important is Aylesbury, which handled 48,000 head of stock in 1928. There are no other markets of more than secondary importance. Buckingham, Slough and Bletchley markets each handle from 10,000 to 20,000 head of stock per annum, and there are small markets at 6 other centres. The total head of stock passing through the Buckinghamshire markets in a typical year is approximately 129,000, comprising 20,000 cattle, 11,000 calves, 72,000 sheep and 26,000 pigs. There is a tendency for farmers to give up using the small markets in favour of the larger collecting marts such as Aylesbury, or Banbury and Northampton in the adjoining counties. Aylesbury is the chief market in the county for all stock except pigs and calves. Slough is the largest pig market. With the exception of these two markets and Bletchley, accommodation in the livestock markets is, on the whole, poor. At Buckingham, the market is still held in the middle of the main street. Dial weighbridges are provided at four centres. Motor transport is extensively used for livestock, but parking facilities at the markets are, in general, somewhat deficient.

Poultry and eggs are sold by auction at, or in connection with, four livestock markets, and poultry alone at three markets. Bletchley, Slough and Aylesbury are the three chief centres in

order of importance, but at none of these do the sales of eggs reach ½-million per annum. The Aylesbury duck, though originating in the county, is no longer fattened to any great extent.

An annual wool sale is held at Aylesbury in June. There are no hide and skin markets in the county.

Buckinghamshire has small general retail markets at four towns which are insignificant as outlets for agricultural produce.

(b) Notes on particular markets.

Aylesbury.—The cattle market was formerly held on the open market square. In 1927, however, the Corporation erected a new cattle market on a site near the central square of the town and conveniently situated for the two railway stations (Fig. 5). Fat stock, store pigs and calves, poultry and eggs are sold on Wednesdays, when the market is let to two firms of auctioneers who occupy half the market each. On Saturdays, store cattle, cows and store sheep are sold by private treaty, from 10 to 15 per cent. of the total entries of stock in a year being disposed of by this method. The market occupies a little over 1¼ acres and includes two brick-built, covered and enclosed cattle sale buildings (35 ft. wide) lit by electric light and equipped with automatic dial weighbridges, each building being rented by one firm of auctioneers. One weighbridge of 50-cwt. capacity weighs single beasts, and the other, of 4-ton capacity, is large enough to weigh four or five. It is not usual, however, for store cattle to be weighed before sale. In addition to a settling room and toll collector's office, accommodation includes 111 pens for pigs and calves, ranged under two long open-fronted sheds, 205 uncovered sheep pens capable of holding 820 sheep and 27 uncovered cattle pens capable of holding 450 cattle in lots of 10 or more. No covered dairy cow accommodation is provided. The accommodation also includes a small covered egg and poultry auction. Sales of eggs amount to only about 200,000 per annum and of poultry to about 15,000.

Supplies of livestock for the market are drawn from practically the whole of Buckinghamshire and from parts of the neighbouring counties of Hertford and Oxford. Improved market facilities have kept pace with the expansion in the area of supply. The volume of trade handled is increasing, as the following entries show:—

		1913.	1922.	1928.
Cattle:	Fat	1,512	4,685	8,062
	Store	5,271	4,227	3,095
	Dairy Cows			2,306
Calves		535	839	25,504
Sheep	Fat	25,559	16,531	1,300
	Store			4,779
Pigs.	Fat	9,224	3,589	2,604
	Store			
Total		42,101	29,871	47,650

The supplies of fat cattle and sheep, coming mainly off the grass, are heaviest in late summer and autumn. In the 6 months from June to November, about two-thirds of the fat cattle and three-quarters of the fat sheep handled in a year, enter the market. There is some trade in early lambs off

the arable land in spring. In the busy season, the best surplus fat stock is taken by buyers from London, Watford, Reading and Slough. A considerable number of fat cows pass through this market; these are bought chiefly for midland or northern industrial centres.

The corn exchange is insignificant from the point of view of corn sales, which amounted in 1927 to only 19,000 cwt. Most of the corn business is transacted in the open Market Square. An annual wool auction sale is held in the Town Hall in June by two firms of auctioneers acting jointly. Some 10,000 fleeces are sold, mainly unwashed.

An open-air retail market of from 50 to 60 stalls is held on Wednesdays and Saturdays in the market square, where general merchandise and produce are sold. A small hall near the cattle market, owned by the Corporation, is known as the meat market and is used for the sale of bacon and meat by two or three retailers.

CORNWALL.

(a) General.

Cornwall is a somewhat hilly county. It has an equable climate and generous rainfall, and is predominantly under grass, 76 per cent. of the area under crops and grass being either in permanent or temporary grasses. Rough grazings account for 13 per cent. of the total area of the county. Oats and dredge corn for stock feeding are the chief cereals grown; wheat and barley are more frequently seen in the Wadebridge area, which has the highest percentage of arable land. Farms are small, on the whole, particularly in the west; the smaller farms have a tendency towards dairying and pig keeping. Dairying and store cattle and sheep raising are fairly general all over the county. Dairying is, however, most prominent west of Falmouth, particularly round Penzance, and store cattle and sheep raising in the north and east. Summer and winter fattening of cattle is common in the Truro, Wadebridge and Lostwithiel districts. The stock of both pigs and poultry in the county is heavy, notably in the west. There is a specialised market-gardening area around Mount's Bay, the chief products of which are broccoli, spring cabbage, early potatoes and spring flowers. In the Tamar valley, on the Devonshire border, a considerable area is devoted to flowers and fruit.

Apart from the mining area around Redruth and Camborne, the St. Austell china clay district and Plymouth and Devonport, there is no important local demand for Cornish produce except that provided by visitors in the summer.

There are corn exchanges at Truro, Bodmin, Launceston and Helston, in order of importance, but only moderate business is done at any. Corn dealings also take place at Antony, Liskeard, Penzance and Redruth. There are no large wholesale collecting markets for fruit and vegetables, and although the Plymouth wholesale market takes part, the bulk of the surplus produce is marketed on commission in distant centres of population, particu-

larly London. Eggs, poultry and dairy produce are sold both wholesale and retail in the "pannier markets" which exist in many of the towns, notably Callington, Penzance and Redruth, and are similar to those in Devonshire (see page 39). As in Devonshire markets, the wholesale trade generally takes the form of weekly sales by producers direct to dealers. Retailing by producers, although still an appreciable factor in the local markets, is decreasing. Poultry are sold at some of the livestock auction markets.

Apart from the trade passing through markets, eggs and dairy produce are collected direct from farms by merchants and higglers or brought direct to shops by producers. Large quantities of dairy and poultry produce are consumed in the county in summer, the surplus being consigned to London and various centres in the south of England. A large proportion of the fluid milk disposed of as such is consumed within the county or in Plymouth. Owing to the distance from large consuming centres, milk is largely converted locally into dairy products, particularly in the west.

While the livestock markets deal with much of the stock offered for sale, a considerable proportion is marketed direct from the farmer to the butcher or dealer. Almost all the fat pigs produced in the county, especially those of bacon size, are sold in this way, local or distant bacon factories buying them through dealers acting as their agents, while many are consigned by dealers direct to Plymouth wholesale meat market. A considerable sheep carcase trade is carried on with London and other centres by dealers who buy direct from farms.

Returns show that in an average year about 265,000 head of stock enter the markets in Cornwall, comprising about 63,000 cattle, 23,000 calves, 100,000 sheep, and 79,000 pigs. Almost all the pigs in the markets are stores or small porkers. Practically all the livestock entering the markets is bred in the county. Some store cattle are consigned from the eastern end of the county to counties further east. Surplus fat cattle are bought for Bristol, Plymouth and South Wales.

There are 31 livestock markets in the county, of which the most important is at Truro. Helston and Launceston are medium-sized markets, the former being an important store pig market. Smaller markets exist at Redruth, Callington, St. Columb Major and Wadebridge. In addition, there are 24 smaller markets (17 are held at intervals of not less than a month), each handling under 10,000 head of stock per annum, of which Liskeard, Penzance, Lostwithiel, Saltash, Stratton, St. Austell, Bodmin and Halworthy may be mentioned as the largest. At 16 of these markets, less than 5,000 head of stock per annum are handled. Some are held in a field, sales taking place in an adjacent lane. In many cases, stock sold in these small markets are bought by dealers for resale in other markets. Competition between auctioneers, combined with transport difficulties, seems to have been responsible for the establishment

of so many small marts, most of which are situated in the north and east of the county where one or two large collecting marts would probably be an improvement. The chief fat stock markets are Truro, Wadebridge, Launceston and Helston. Fat cattle of high quality are offered at Wadebridge but, generally, there is a tendency to market cattle in an unfinished condition. Callington, Liskeard and Saltash are in the ring of markets supplying Plymouth. Redruth and Penzance are good markets for cows. At the former, cows and store pigs are largely bought up by dealers. Store cattle are prominent at Truro, Launceston, Stratton and Camelford.

Accommodation, even at the larger markets, is only moderately good. There is, generally, little covered accommodation even for dairy cows and calves. This may be explained by the mild climate. Some of the larger auctions have covered sale rings, while, at many, a covered shed is provided for pigs. Dial weighbridges are installed at 12 centres. It is the general practice to sell fat cattle in the auction ring by live cwt., bids usually rising by a shilling or sixpence at a time. The practice of selling store pigs direct from the cart or lorry in which they are brought to market, so prevalent in Devonshire, is followed to a less extent in Cornwall and is prohibited in some markets. Private treaty sales are still common in most of the publicly controlled markets, particularly for store cattle, but they are said to be diminishing. Four of the livestock auctions are owned by market companies and, at these, the equipment is reasonably good. No public abattoirs exist in the county. There are two registered hide and skin "markets"—at Truro and Camborne; these are depots which collect and send hides to the midland and northern counties, and sheep, lamb and calf skins to London. Motor transport is commonly used for dairy and poultry produce, and more generally for livestock than in Devonshire.

The majority of the old fairs have either been absorbed by local markets or have practically died out.

(b) Notes on particular markets.

Helston.—The livestock market ranks second in the county for entries of stock. It is situated on the Helston-Penzance road and is in two sections, cattle being sold on one side of the road and pigs and poultry on the other. The cattle section is a long narrow enclosure, neither well laid out nor large enough to meet requirements. Accommodation includes uncovered pens for fat cattle, cows and sheep, open bays for store cattle, and a very limited amount of covered shelter for cows and calves. There are two sale rings, one covered, with a 30-cwt. dial weighbridge for fat cattle, and an uncovered ring for cows. Thirty to forty buyers is an average attendance at a fat stock sale. The pig market on the other side of the road has much better accommodation, consisting of two blocks of well built iron pens under corrugated iron roofs, with capacity for about 1,000 pigs, and permanent and temporary unloading ramps. Live poultry are sold by auction in a small shed. Calf pens for 250 head have recently been erected in this section. There is ample space for the circulation and parking of vehicles in this part of the market, and room for expansion. The railway station is about $\frac{3}{4}$-mile

distant. The large number of pigs offered is a noteworthy feature. In 1928, 20,978 pigs, chiefly stores or small porkers, 6,957 calves, 4,769 fat cattle, 2,313 store cattle, 1,482 dairy cows and 319 store sheep entered the market. Store cattle are brought by dealers from as far as Devonshire to Helston, which is in a grazing district, and are mainly sold by private treaty. Most of the stock is brought from within a radius of about 15 miles and supplies local needs; there are few buyers from beyond a 25-mile radius. Occasionally, buyers from Plymouth and South Wales attend when the holiday season is over. Good milking cows are offered and many of them are taken by dealers as far as Devonshire.

A butter and egg market in the centre of the town is now practically disused. A small corn exchange is held at the Guildhall, but very little business is done.

Launceston.—The livestock market is the third largest in the county, judged by turnover. In 1928, 21,158 head of stock entered the market, comprising 2,865 fat cattle, 2,019 store cattle, 1,191 cows, 1,799 calves, 9,219 sheep and 4,065 pigs. Trade has shown a downward trend since 1913, especially in sheep, which have fallen by 60 per cent. The market is situated about ¼-mile from the two railway stations and near the centre of the town on the side of a steep hill; the approaches are somewhat narrow. Owing to the steep slope on which it is built, the arrangement of the market is unusual. It is constructed in three terraces, the lower one for cows, calves and pigs, the middle one for bullocks (Fig. 6), and the upper one for sheep. The lower section includes covered and uncovered accommodation for cows and calves and a small shed for pigs. Cows are sold in an improvised ring formed by buyers—a common method in this part of the country (Fig. 7). The middle section is divided by walls into large bays, about half of which are reserved for private treaty sales, chiefly of store cattle; the rest are used by the auctioneers and are fitted with iron pens. In two of the bays, there are uncovered sale rings for store and fat cattle respectively, the latter ring having a 30-cwt. dial weigh-bridge. The accommodation for fat cattle, which are not tied singly, is apt to become congested. Bidding is by live cwt. The upper section of the market is laid out with iron sheep pens sufficient to accommodate about 1,500 sheep. Three firms of auctioneers operate in the market and sell in rotation, thus avoiding a clash of selling times. An average attendance of buyers at a cattle sale is from 50 to 60.

While most of the stock offered comes from within a 10-mile radius, only about 25 per cent. is bought for local use or consumption. Launceston is in a largely grassland district where large numbers of store cattle and sheep are reared, and, on the Devonshire side, stock are fattened on grass. The stock coming to this market thus includes a fair proportion of all classes except fat pigs. Besides satisfying local requirements, fat stock supplies are sent to Plymouth, Exeter and as far as London. Store cattle not only go into Devonshire and the grazing districts of Cornwall, but also, in good seasons, into the Midlands and south-eastern counties.

There is a pannier market near the centre of the town, held weekly, in a large stone building, on a different day from the cattle market. Some 20 local producers sell poultry, eggs and farm produce retail, and about 14 dealers occupy stands for the purchase of such produce wholesale, chiefly for Plymouth, Exeter and London. Meat and general merchandise are also retailed and a little business is done in corn in an adjoining room.

Truro.—The cattle market at Truro (Fig. 8) is the most important in Cornwall. While it is probably the best equipped mart in the county, it has some disadvantages, such as restricted space, lack of room for expansion and a rather small amount of covered shelter for stock. Further, no less than 6 firms of auctioneers, each with their own offices, operate in the market, and in spite of working arrangements between some of the firms, this still leads to clashing in the selling times of the same classes of stock. Accommodation includes uncovered pens for sheep and a small shed for calves, pens for about



FIG. 7.—Launceston : Livestock Market—Sale of Cows.



FIG. 8.—Truro : Cattle Market.



FIG. 9.—Newton Abbot: Cattle Market.

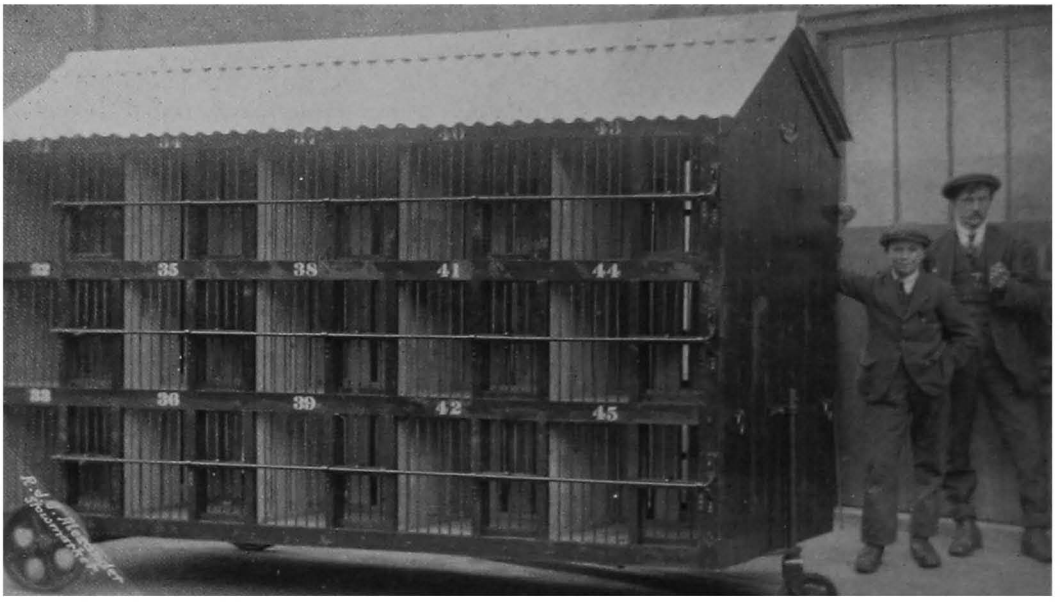


FIG. 10.—Braintree: Lock-up Poultry Pens.

300 pigs, and two extremely small covered cattle sale rings, each equipped with a dial weighbridge (one 30-cwt., the other 25-cwt.), surrounded by two groups of uncovered cattle pens. There is also a small covered shelter and a separate uncovered sale ring for dairy cows. The Market Committee have under consideration schemes for relieving the congestion and increasing the amount of covered accommodation. The market is about ¼-mile from the centre of the town, and a railway siding for the loading of stock adjoins.

Bidding for fat cattle is by the live cwt. and selling takes place at the rate of about 40 per hour. The total numbers of stock of each class entered in 1913, 1922 and 1928 were as follows :—

		1913.	1922.	1928.
Cattle :	Fat	9,607	8,442	7,833
	Store	8,638	5,951	4,788
	Dairy Cows	1,555	1,682	1,666
Calves	.. ..	3,266	4,415	4,437
Sheep :	Fat	18,421	14,396	18,428
	Store	6,600	6,417	4,315
Pigs :	Chiefly Store	9,628	11,303	12,454
Total ..	.. .. ..	57,715	52,606	53,921

About 90 per cent. of the store cattle are sold by private treaty, and are brought by dealers from considerable distances, some from outside the county.

Truro is the main centre of supply of fat and store stock for much of Cornwall, while some fat stock is also sent to Plymouth, Bristol and South Wales. The market suffers, however, from a lack of long-distance buyers—a fact which suggests the need for moving the surplus stock in the west to a large collecting market further east. An annual sale of pedigree South Devon rams is held in the market in September. The supply of fat cattle is fairly regular throughout the year ; there is a fair entry of fat sheep at all seasons, the heaviest supplies coming in during the months from May to September. There is a considerable rise in the number of store cattle offered in the spring, over 200 per week appearing from March to May. Practically all the store sheep sold at Truro are marketed in August, September and October. The supply of dairy cows and calves is fairly regular.

In addition to the livestock market, there is a registered hide and skin "market" in the town, which is owned by a branch of a London firm of hide and skin merchants and fellmongers and used by them as a collecting and grading depot from which are consigned hides to the midland and northern counties, and skins (sheep, lamb and calf) to London. There is also a corn exchange, in which from 25 to 30 merchants, largely local, occupy stands at a yearly rent of £5. In 1927, 32,000 cwt. of corn were sold there.

There is no general retail market, but a few farmers' wives sell farm produce from door to door on Wednesdays and Saturdays, and on such produce tolls are collected where possible.

Wadebridge.—Although the livestock market at Wadebridge had a turnover of only 12,566 head of stock in 1928, it affords an example of co-operation between independent firms of auctioneers which might well be copied at many larger markets. The four firms operating in the market have amalgamated for market purposes and now act as one firm, even to the extent of sending out accounts jointly. This arrangement has avoided clashing in selling times and has increased the efficiency of the market.

Wadebridge is situated in one of the best agricultural districts where farming is of a mixed type ; there is a considerable proportion of arable land

and many bullocks are winter fed. The North Devons commonly appearing in Wadebridge market have the reputation of being the best beef cattle in Cornwall. Fat lambs are a speciality in spring. Practically all stock is supplied by local producers. For fat stock, there are usually about ten buyers from a distance, including Plymouth and Exeter wholesalers and agents for South Wales. In the spring, buyers of store cattle for grazing come from Devonshire and the midland counties. Fat pigs are rarely offered. A few live poultry are sold.

The mart, held twice monthly, is owned by a market company, and is conveniently situated within ¼-mile of the railway station. Accommodation includes a large covered sale ring with 30-cwt. dial weighbridge. In addition to cattle, some 200 pigs and 1,000 sheep can be accommodated. There are no other markets in the town.

DEVONSHIRE.

(a) General.

Climatic conditions, its geological formation and general physical configuration combine to give Devonshire great variety in its agriculture. The climate is mild and the rainfall generous; there is much fertile land and much rough natural grazing, as on Dartmoor and Exmoor; the county is very hilly. The two main types of country are, in fact, the high moorlands with their surrounding foothills, and the rich river valleys with their undulating surroundings.

About seven-tenths of the total area is under crops and grass, of which over three-quarters is under permanent or temporary grasses. About one-fifth of the total area consists of rough grazing. Over much of the county, mixed farming is general, and dairying is carried on to some extent in most parts. The Honiton and Axminster area in East Devon is mainly grassland devoted to milk production. Between Exeter and Tiverton, there is some of the best land in the county, producing a great variety of commodities, such as malting barley, beef, mutton, butter and cream. In South Devon, also, the farming is very mixed. North Devon, including part of Exmoor, is largely given up to sheep, dairying, the raising of store cattle and also to beef production and butter making. The chief belt of good arable land lies around Braunton, Barnstaple and Bideford. West Devon, which includes the Forest of Dartmoor, is largely a dairying and store stock area. The sheep population of the county, as a whole, is heavy; next to Kent, it is the densest of any county in the South. Pigs are also numerous. Market-gardening and fruit growing are carried on extensively in the Tamar valley, around the estuary of the Exe and in the vicinity of Exeter. Cider orchards are common on the farms all over the county. A large proportion of the liquid milk supply is sold within the county, particularly in the holiday season, although some supplies from the east are railed to London. Distance from large consuming centres has led to the extensive production of butter and cream.

There are corn exchanges at Exeter, Tiverton, Plymouth and Barnstaple, of which Exeter is the chief; corn sales are reported from other centres, such as Totnes, Okehampton, Kingsbridge and Newton Abbot. There are no purely wholesale fruit and vegetable markets in the county, nor any specialized auction sales of such produce as in the Midlands. Fruit and vegetables are sold direct by producers to wholesalers and retailers for local consumption, apples are bought direct by cider manufacturers, while surplus fruit from the Exeter district and the Tamar and Combe Martin valleys is marketed on commission in consuming centres outside the county.

There are no large auction sales of eggs or poultry as in Dorsetshire, Somersetshire and counties further east, although poultry are sold in small quantities by auction in 12 of the livestock markets. These commodities, as well as dairy produce, are largely sold direct to dealers, shop-keepers or consumers, the first exporting large quantities to other parts of the country. Local demand increases substantially during the holiday season. In the marketing of eggs, poultry, dairy produce, fruit and vegetables, the old pannier markets still play an important part. In these markets, which exist at 17 towns, including Barnstaple, Bideford, Devonport, Exeter, Great Torrington, Okehampton, Plymouth, Tiverton and Totnes, the producer is brought into direct touch with the consumer, but at most of them, wholesalers also buy extensively and pack on the premises. Although producer-consumer trade is still considerable at many of these markets, notably at Barnstaple, it is declining. At Exeter and Totnes, farm produce is sold by auction in the pannier markets.

The total number of livestock passing through the markets in a recent typical year was approximately 598,000, of which 113,000 were cattle, 36,000 calves, 365,000 sheep, and 84,000 pigs. The most striking feature of the livestock markets in Devonshire is the large number of small markets. There are, in all, no less than 84 centres where auction sales of livestock take place. Although Devon is the third largest county in England and there are special geographical and other considerations to be taken into account, producers would do well to consider the advisability of greater concentration of markets in certain areas which would induce buyers to attend from a wider radius. At 69 of these auctions, for instance, less than 10,000 head of stock, and at 50, less than 5,000 head of stock, are sold annually. Although the majority of the smaller auctions are not held more frequently than once a month, there can rarely be sufficient stock of any single class at a sale to attract a considerable number of buyers. The cattle offered in these small markets are very largely stores and milch cows; there are, however, in most cases, considerable numbers of both fat and store sheep and pigs; buyers are generally a few dealers who buy for re-sale in larger markets. Owing to the difficulty of transporting

stock long distances by road—which is reflected in the limited use of motor transport for this purpose in Devonshire—markets scattered at frequent intervals meet a real need, but it is doubtful whether the advantage is not more than offset by the lack of competition in the small markets. Many of the small markets have been set up adjoining stations, and the initial road journey to the station having been made, it would appear to be fairly simple to consign stock further along the line to a larger market. Concentration of markets should be facilitated by the fact that, in several cases, a large number of markets—as many as 12 in one instance—is owned by a single firm of auctioneers. Of the larger livestock markets, the most important is at Exeter: Newton Abbot is the second largest and is increasing in importance. These two markets are held weekly. Others of moderate size are, in order of importance, Tavistock, Totnes, Kingsbridge, Honiton, Axminster, South Molton, Holsworthy, Barnstaple, Great Torrington and Ottery St. Mary, of which Barnstaple and Honiton are held weekly, the others at longer periods. In terms of total stock handled, the markets at Blackmoor Gate (Kentisbury), East Anstey, Molland and Chagford are important, but supplies consist mainly of store sheep disposed of at autumn sales. These sheep come off the moors and the surrounding hills for feeding on the richer pastures. Of the smaller marts, those at Hemyock, South Molton Road, Tiverton, Thelbridge Cross, Plympton St. Mary, Sidmouth Junction, Umberleigh, Bow, Hatherleigh, Stibb Cross, Ashburton and Bideford may be mentioned as being among the more important. Those at Hemyock and Tiverton are held twice a month, the others, once a month. Plymouth, the largest town in Devonshire, has no livestock market but draws on a group of country markets within a radius of from 15 to 20 miles.

On the whole, the accommodation in the livestock markets is poor, and some of the most important, including Exeter, Newton Abbot and Axminster, are very congested. Covered accommodation for buyers and for stock is scanty, and, even in the larger marts, covered sale rings are the exception: in some, there are no railed-off sale rings, all classes of stock being sold from the pens or from improvised rings formed by the buyers. Dial weighbridges are installed at only 7 centres. At no markets are store cattle weighed. At many of the smaller markets, the layout is primitive, some being simply held in a field with light temporary pens. A street market persists at Modbury. It is customary all over the county for pigs to be sold from the farmers' carts or wagons, although in the larger marts it is now more usual to pen them. A considerable amount of private treaty dealing takes place, chiefly in the publicly controlled markets, but there are none in which this method now predominates: it is, however, a feature at Exeter and Holsworthy.

Plymouth and the coastal resorts absorb a considerable proportion of the output of fat stock. Fat stock in considerable

numbers are also bought in the markets by buyers from Bristol, South Wales and the vicinity of London, while many sheep are bought, both direct and through markets, by dealer-slaughtermen who consign the carcases to the metropolis. This carcase trade is carried on, in part, from a number of railway-owned slaughter-houses adjoining stations. A considerable proportion of the stock so dealt with has not previously passed through the markets. There is also an important consignment trade in fresh pork. Dairy cows are offered at most markets, but the only markets with entries of over 1,000 in a year are Exeter, Newton Abbot, Honiton and Tavistock. Considerable numbers of store cattle and sheep bred in the county are bought in the markets by dealers for resale at markets in the southern counties, particularly Chichester.

There is an important wholesale meat market at Plymouth. Public slaughter-houses are to be found in 9 towns, but their equipment is not up to date ; they are, however, usually adequate in size, Plymouth being an exception. Hide and skin "markets" exist at Plymouth and Exeter. There are no auction sales of wool.

(b) Notes on particular markets.

Barnstaple.—Barnstaple has a cattle market with a public slaughter-house adjoining, a meat market and a pannier market.

In the cattle market, the only covered shelter is a small shed for calves and a larger corrugated iron-roofed space for dairy cows. The two sale rings, one of which has a 30-cwt. dial weighbridge and is in more general use, are uncovered. There is direct communication between the market and the public slaughter-house adjoining. The market derives its supplies almost entirely from the surrounding district within a radius of about 12 miles, and satisfies mainly local needs. It is held weekly and there is also a special fat stock sale every month. The weekly livestock market is very small. Some live poultry are sold by auction. The public slaughter-house has been in existence for many years and the equipment is out-of-date. There are several private slaughter-houses in the town. A slaughter-house at the Southern Railway Station is let to North Devon Farmers, Ltd., and used for sheep which are sent away to Smithfield Market, London. A considerable amount of slaughtering is also done for dealers.

The pannier market* is one of the largest of its kind in the country. About 500 vendors, of whom about 90 per cent. are producers, occupy space in the large, centrally situated market hall, a building covering almost ½-acre. In addition to a few large stalls, the market is laid out in rows of wooden tables, on which are displayed, in large baskets, the produce brought in by farmers' and cottagers' wives, each vendor being allowed 5 ft. of frontage. Forms are provided to seat the vendors, who may rent reserved seats if desired. The hall has entrances at each end and doors the whole length of one side for unloading produce. Tolls are payable on all produce brought into the market. The produce sold includes eggs, dead poultry, butter, cream, cheese, honey, fruit, vegetables and rabbits. The business done is largely retail and all is by private treaty ; buyers include consumers from Barnstaple and the surrounding district, and also hotels and boarding houses in North Devon seaside resorts. Some wholesale trade is done by producers with shop-keepers and wholesale merchants ; the latter occupy stands for the purpose

* *See* Economic Series No. 11, Fig. 57.

of packing eggs and poultry for consignment to Exeter, London and various south-coast towns. The market is held twice weekly, Friday being the principal market day.

A portion of the pannier market building is used as a corn exchange, but little corn business is done.

The meat market adjoining consists of a row of 33 retail shops owned by the Corporation.

The annual fair held in September is chiefly a pleasure fair, although large numbers of store sheep are disposed of, over 2,000 being sold in a recent year.

Exeter.—See page 112.

Holsworthy.—The market tolls in Holsworthy, including those of the cattle market, are leased by the local authority to lessees who collect them and are responsible for the control and management of the markets. The cattle market, which adjoins the railway station, is well laid out and spacious, the accommodation including pens for about 200 cattle—at times, filled to the utmost—and about 1,500 sheep, and covered sheds for about 70 cows and also for calves and pigs; there is also a partly covered sale ring. No pens are reserved for cattle sold by private treaty, the bunches of stock being kept in position by the drovers in the central open space. Prices of sheep in this market are influenced by the West Devon and North Cornwall Farmers, Ltd., which rents the railway slaughter-house at the station and gives a weekly quotation for carcases. Farmers consign direct to the slaughter-house, but about 90 per cent. of the sheep slaughtered are sent by dealers who buy in the market or off farms in the vicinity and consign away in carcase form.

The livestock market is of considerable importance as a centre for store cattle. In a recent year, the stock passing through the market numbered 227 fat cattle, 2,630 store cattle, 1,209 dairy cows—many with calves, 683 calves (singly), 6,219 sheep and 1,100 pigs, nearly all from 6 to 8 weeks old. Most of this stock comes from within a radius of from 5 to 6 miles. The Holsworthy district is an instance of a region where market concentration would seem to be feasible. As compared with the numbers given above of stock actually entering the market, the following numbers of stock were consigned away from the railway station in 1927:—

Live cattle	8,077	
Calves	656	
Sheep	5,558	—sent away alive.
	31,822	—killed at the slaughter-house.
Porkers	4,028	
Bacon pigs	2,302	

A large proportion of the stock railed from Holsworthy is collected by dealers, either direct from farms or from the 9 other livestock markets which are to be found within a radius of 10 miles of the town.

In the pannier market, held in the centre of the town, there is no retail producer-consumer trade. Meat is retailed by butchers, and a wholesale trade is carried on in farm produce between producers and dealers, butter, eggs and poultry being sent away weekly to Exeter and Plymouth.

Honiton.—The livestock market, leased to a firm of auctioneers, is better planned than many others in the county. It is about ¼-mile from the Southern Railway main line station. There is adequate space for circulation of stock and vehicles in the market. Accommodation includes uncovered pens for about 800 sheep and 300 pigs, those for pigs being equipped with a permanent unloading bank, a long, railed slipway giving direct access to each pig pen; there are also open pens for store cattle and dairy cows, and covered shedding for dairy cows and calves, giving convenient access to two uncovered sale rings.

The market is chiefly a store stock market and is noted for good quality dairy stock. In 1928, 16,265 stock were entered, of which 2,080 were store cattle, 1,560 cows, 625 veal calves, 2,250 rearing calves, 3,750 store sheep and 6,000 pigs. Most of the stock in the market is locally supplied. Dairy stock is bought, in about equal proportions, by local farmers and dairymen and by dealers for sale outside the locality; fat pigs are bought by agents for local and distant bacon factories. The prominence of store pigs reflects the importance of dairying in this area.

A small retail stall market is held in the main street on Saturdays. An example of the restrictive effect of Charters on markets is provided by Honiton. To alter the market day from Saturday to Wednesday, as has been proposed, would necessitate an amending Charter, as the market rights are owned by the Lord of the Manor.

Newton Abbot.—The markets in this town are owned by the Urban District Council. The cattle market (Fig. 9), the second largest in the county, is centrally situated; it is fairly well planned and has somewhat more covered accommodation than most Devonshire markets, but it is hardly large enough for the numbers of stock passing through, the total area being rather less than ½-acre. Accommodation includes uncovered pens for fat and store cattle and sheep, covered shedding for dairy cows and calves and for pigs, and two sale rings, one for cows and stores and one for fat stock. Neither of these rings is definitely railed off to form a separate enclosure for stock as distinct from buyers: the cow ring has covered shelter for buyers but not for stock: the fat stock ring, which is provided with a 30-cwt. dial weighbridge, has no cover. Until recently, most of the pigs were sold direct from carts in the market enclosure, but, more pens and a slipway for unloading having been erected, it is now compulsory to unload if there are sufficient pens; congestion is thus relieved. Live poultry are sold by auction in the market.

In 1928, 47,041 head of stock were entered, of which 2,781 were fat cattle, 2,131 stores, 1,975 cows, 3,628 veal calves, 1,089 store calves, 19,408 fat sheep, 4,980 store sheep, 2,762 fat pigs and 8,287 store pigs. Some 100 horses are sold annually. Stock is drawn from a radius of about 15 miles; the head of stock handled, particularly of pigs, has increased considerably since 1922. Fat stock is mainly sent to South Devon, with its numerous seaside resorts, and to Plymouth: store cattle are sent to the Midlands and south-eastern counties. Many cows are bought by local dairy farmers who retail milk in the coastal resorts. About 10 per cent. of the stock in the market is sold by private treaty; the rest is auctioned by one firm of auctioneers.

The public abattoir consists of a single slaughter-hall for all classes of stock, which is also used as a cooling room. Lairage for stock is limited. There are no private slaughter-houses in the town.

Adjacent to the cattle market are the butter market shown in Fig. 9 and the vegetable market, the former being a covered "pannier" market of the usual type, in which from 200 to 300 local producers sell dairy produce, eggs and poultry, both retail and to grocers and dealers supplying the numerous seaside towns in the district—Dawlish, Teignmouth, Exmouth, Torquay and Paignton. A number of retail butchers and fishmongers also sell in the market. The market is congested and trade is said to be on the increase. The vegetable market is a smaller building used by retailers of general merchandise and produce and for wholesale private treaty sales of potatoes and other vegetables and fruit by growers to dealers. The business done is small. A few corn merchants occupy stands in the vegetable market.

Plymouth.—*See* page 143.

Tavistock.—The Urban District Council owns the cattle market, the pannier market and the public abattoir. The pannier market is held every Friday and the cattle market twice monthly, on Wednesdays. The cattle market, which is the fifth in importance in the county, adjoins the Great Western

Railway station. The market covers about 2 acres and appears to be large enough at all seasons. Accommodation includes pens for sheep, walled bays for various classes of cattle, with 3 uncovered sale rings, one of which has a 30-cwt. dial weighbridge, and covered shedding for cows, calves and pigs. A separate portion of the market is used for private treaty sales, chiefly of store cattle. Bidding by live cwt. for fat cattle is not practised, although over the Cornish border, 6 miles away, this is universal. Store cattle and sheep, chiefly derived from the moors and poor grazing to the east, predominate in this market, which obtains most of its supplies from within 15 miles. Store cattle come in largely in the spring, when buyers come from as far as the Midland counties; breeding ewes are prominent in the autumn, coming down from the poorer uplands to replenish flocks on the better type of land, while some are bought for other western counties and for the Midlands. Plymouth buyers take a large proportion of the fat stock, the balance going to south Devon, Exeter or, in the case of sheep, in carcase form to Smithfield.

The pannier market consists of a central hall surrounded by other buildings, including 20 shops occupied chiefly by retail butchers. The central hall is partly occupied by retail stalls for the sale of general merchandise; about 50 growers sell dairy and poultry produce retail: approximately 15 dealers, mainly from Plymouth, occupy stands for the packing of eggs, poultry and butter bought wholesale by private treaty from growers attending the market. In 1927, toll was paid on 12,000 ½-peck and peck baskets of produce of all kinds sold wholesale. The Cornwall Farmers' Egg Marketing Society occupies a stand here as a collecting depot for eggs. Lower stall rents are charged in this market to vendors of agricultural produce than to those selling general merchandise. The accommodation in the public abattoir, which adjoins the pannier market, is scattered, but includes separate slaughtering facilities for each class of stock, and also cooling rooms and lairage.

Corn dealing takes place in the pannier market.

Tiverton.—The livestock and adjoining pannier markets are owned by the Tiverton Market Trustees—an ancient Trust now consisting of 12 members—and occupy a space of a little under an acre behind the main streets. The cattle market is small and has practically no covered accommodation. The amount of trade done at this market has of late years fallen off greatly, partly owing to the increasing number of direct sales from farmer to butcher, and partly, no doubt, to the increase in the number of small livestock auctions in the neighbourhood.

From the point of view of wholesale trade, the pannier market is said to be one of the busiest in the county. There is a central hall with a surrounding market road lined with 25 shops or stores. About two-thirds of the space in the central hall is occupied by the stalls of retailers of general merchandise, fruit and vegetables: only about 40 growers retail produce—butter, eggs, poultry, fruit and vegetables—most of the retail trade having been replaced by wholesale transactions with some 15 firms of dealers who occupy some of the surrounding market shops. Several of the packing firms have retail shops in Exeter or Taunton; others consign produce to London.

Hides and skins are collected in the market by a London firm. A small corn exchange is held at a hotel near the market.

The Great Western Railway own a slaughter-house at their goods station, which is within ½-mile of the market; this is leased to two dealer-slaughtermen who consign sheep in carcase form to Smithfield Market, London, for sale on commission.

DORSETSHIRE.

(a) General.

Dorsetshire has about 70 per cent. of its area under crops and grass, and, in addition, about 60,000 acres of rough grazing. About one-third of the cultivated area is arable land.

There are two main types of farming. Arable sheep farming prevails on the belt of chalk which extends from the south-west to the borders of Wiltshire and Hampshire in the north-east: the rest is mainly concerned with milk production, chiefly for sale as whole milk, although, in some parts of the north, particularly in the Blackmore Vale, much Cheddar cheese is made, whilst in the district between Dorchester, Lyme Regis and Sherborne in the west, both butter and cheese are produced and large numbers of pigs are fattened. In the south-east, around Wimborne and in the neighbourhood of Bournemouth, a considerable area is devoted to market-garden crops and to the production of soft fruits.

The county has convenient outlets for its produce; there is a good demand in summer from the holiday resorts along the south coast, Bournemouth especially; Portsmouth and Southampton are not far distant and London takes a considerable proportion of the fat lambs, calves, poultry and eggs, liquid milk and cheese.

Most of the corn produced is sold by private treaty at the various corn exchanges in the county, chiefly Dorchester, Wimborne and Blandford. There are also corn exchanges at Bridport, Sturminster Newton and Wareham. The corn exchanges are utilised, however, as much for the purchase of feeding-stuffs, manures and other agricultural requirements as for the sale and purchase of corn. Corn business is also transacted in the livestock markets at Gillingham and Sherborne.

Fruit and vegetables are generally marketed direct from grower to wholesaler or retailer and do not pass through the markets in any large quantities. There are, however, auction sales of this kind of produce at Blandford, Bridport, Dorchester, Gillingham, Sherborne, Stalbridge, Sturminster Newton, Wareham and Wimborne.

There are 12 livestock market centres in the county, the most important being Dorchester, Wimborne, Sturminster Newton and Bridport. There are also smaller auction sales at Blandford, Wareham, Gillingham, Handley, Sherborne, Shaftesbury, Stalbridge and Marshwood, some of which may be of doubtful utility. In particular, there is a group of small auctions for both livestock and produce centred round Sturminster Newton. These auctions are mostly controlled by two firms of auctioneers, which should facilitate concentration of business on one or two markets. Yeovil, in Somersetshire, attracts a considerable volume of trade from the neighbouring parts of Dorsetshire.

The total number of livestock entered in the Dorsetshire markets in a typical year is returned as about 230,000, consisting of 25,000 cattle, 46,000 calves, 100,000 sheep and 59,000 pigs. These entries include the periodical store sheep sales at Dorchester and Blandford. Dairy cattle are prominent in all the bigger markets, but fat cattle are not offered in very large numbers. A feature of the markets is the large number of calves sold, chiefly for veal. These

are a by-product of the dairy industry and are largely bought by local dealers for consignment in carcase form to London and the Midlands. Dorchester, Wimborne, Sturminster Newton and Gillingham are the chief calf markets. At the last centre, there are two competing calf auctions. The principal markets for sheep are at Dorchester, Wimborne and Blandford. About 40,000 breeding ewes and lambs for feeding are dispersed at important special sales or fairs at Dorchester in May, July, August, September and October of each year, and at Blandford in March, July, August, September, October and November. Many of the sheep go into Somersetshire, Hampshire, Wiltshire, Sussex and counties even further afield. A feature of the sales at Dorchester and Wimborne from the middle of February to the end of March is the disposal of early fat lambs. The lambs sold at these markets are the earliest in the country, buyers attending from the Midlands and from London.

The cattle markets are, on the whole, adequate in size, and the accommodation is fairly good, with shelter generally for calves and, in the larger markets, for cows, but not usually for pigs. Dial weighbridges are provided in four markets. Auction selling takes place in all the markets ; private treaty sales are uncommon.

Auction sales of eggs, poultry, and butter are important features of the markets at Dorchester, Wimborne, Sturminster Newton and Bridport, as well as at smaller markets in the county. Grading of eggs is rare in the auction sales except at Sturminster Newton ; such as is done is generally carried out by producers according to their own ideas. Cheese is sold by auction in small quantities in a few markets but the larger proportion is sold on the farms to cheese factors.

Large auction sales of wool are held at Dorchester and Blandford in July. Dorchester is the largest auction of this kind in the country.

There are general retail markets at 6 centres. The number of stalls is in all cases small, and many are devoted to the sale of non-agricultural produce.

The railway facilities for dispatch from markets are good, but the facilities from the countryside to the markets cannot be so described as large tracts of the county are somewhat remote from railways. This deficiency, however, is remedied by the increasing use of motor transport, which is utilised to bring in produce, livestock and the farmers themselves.

(b) Notes on particular markets.

Blandford.—The regular markets at Blandford are relatively unimportant as the area is served by Wimborne and Sturminster Newton. The markets comprise a small fortnightly livestock market, a weekly corn exchange where about 50,000 cwt. of grain are sold per annum, a weekly egg, poultry, fruit and vegetable auction and a small, open air, retail market consisting of about 20 stalls.

As a livestock centre, Blandford is noted chiefly for the periodical store sheep sales or fairs. These are held 6 times in a year, the most important being in July when about 7,000 sheep are disposed of. At these sales, draft Dorset and Hampshire Down ewes from the best flocks from within a 10-mile radius, as well as ewe lambs and wether lambs for feeding, are sold by auction in lots of from 10 to 100 head to buyers from other parts of Dorsetshire and from Wiltshire, Hampshire, Sussex and other counties. These sales take place on a Fair field, on the outskirts of the town and fairly near the station, where temporary pens of wooden hurdles are erected. An average of from 13,000 to 14,000 sheep are dispersed annually at these sales.

The annual wool auction, at which approximately 60,000 fleeces are disposed of annually, is the second largest provincial sale in England. It is held early in July, a day or two before that at Dorchester, in large marquees pitched in a field on the outskirts of the town. Supplies are drawn chiefly from within 20 miles of Blandford and consist mainly of Down wool, with a little Dorset Horn and Crossbred wool, from 50 to 75 per cent. being washed. The arrangements are very similar to those at the Dorchester auction described on page 111. The accommodation is, however, less scattered, the bulk and the samples being stored together and the selling taking place in the same marquees. Wool is weighed in and out, but payment is based on the weight out.

Dorchester.—*See* page 108.

Sturminster Newton.—In this small town situated in the Blackmore Vale, there are 3 distinct auction marts, one for livestock only, one for both livestock and produce, and one for poultry and produce only. The two livestock markets are held fortnightly. Although the town is somewhat isolated and has poor railway communications, a considerable business is done at the three markets, not only in dairy and store cattle—which are largely a local trade—but also in fat stock, eggs and poultry. The following Table shows the total numbers of stock of all kinds handled at the two livestock markets in 1922 and 1928:—

——	1922.	1928.
Cattle: Fat	4,367	3,651
Store		1,687
Dairy Cows		
Calves	7,880	7,076
Sheep	3,617	4,214
Pigs	10,456	13,488
Total	26,320	30,116

All the markets are grouped within a few yards of the railway station. The livestock auction is a small yard with covered sale ring but no covered accommodation for stock. Fat cattle only are sold. The livestock and produce auction is about 3½ acres in extent. A long, open-fronted shed, 3 smaller ones for about 600 calves, and a small shed for about 20 cows, comprise the covered accommodation for stock. There are 3 groups of open pens, for 350 cattle tied singly, for sheep and for 1,000 pigs, respectively. Spaces, indicated by notice boards, are allotted on each market day to vendors who have notified the number of cattle they propose to send in. This simplifies penning and also indicates to whom the stock belongs. Fat pigs are penned in a separate section from stores. A long timber building, centrally situated and with ample roof lighting, is divided into two sale rings,

one, with a 30-cwt. dial weighbridge, for fat stock, the other for dairy and store cattle. Although the pens are close to the rings, there is no direct communication by railed gangways, and this creates some difficulty in getting stock forward. The market, which is not expensively built, has points of advantage over many of the auctions in the south-west, and probably serves its purpose as a small assembling mart satisfactorily, although more cover for stock and better facilities for getting cattle in and out of the rings would be an improvement. A glass-roofed, wooden building at one end of the market serves as an egg and produce auction. Grading of eggs is not practised to any extent. A few lots of vegetables are also sold in this building. Live poultry are sold from tiers of wire cages.

A large wooden shed near the main entrance of the market is used as a corn exchange; this is, however, unimportant from the point of view of corn sales as the district is a grazing one.

The third auction, which deals only with poultry, eggs and produce, has recently been converted by the auctioneer for use as a registered egg packing station. Eggs are collected from farms, tested, graded and packed under the National Mark and sold by private treaty. Ordinary eggs, live poultry, fruit and vegetables are auctioned.

Fat-stock buyers attend the Sturminster Newton marts from Bournemouth, Bath, Bristol, Dorchester and other towns. Veal calves are sent to London and the Midlands in carcase form; rearing calves also go to the Midlands. Fat pigs are bought by agents on behalf of various bacon factories in the south of England. It is estimated that at least 100,000 dozen eggs per annum are sold in the two egg markets. Large quantities are consigned to London and to Bournemouth and other south-coast towns.

A small, open-air stall market, chiefly for general merchandise, is held in the centre of the town.

Wimborne.—The cattle and produce market at Wimborne adjoins the railway, from which a siding, with facilities for loading and unloading cattle, runs almost into the market. The site is leased by a local firm of auctioneers, and occupies 3 acres. The general layout of the market is that of an open square of about ½-acre surrounded by buildings, beyond which are uncovered pens for sheep and pigs. A considerable proportion of the accommodation for livestock is covered, and there is a large covered sale ring building (equipped with a 30-cwt. dial weighbridge), a corn exchange and two separate buildings for the sale of eggs, fruit and dairy produce, and vegetables, respectively. The livestock accommodation includes a covered calf auction with tying-up space for 150 calves, several open-fronted sheds for dairy and fat cattle, and open pens and tying up space for stores. Poultry cages are provided in the open for from 2,000 to 3,000 birds. Calves, fat sheep and fat and store pigs constitute the major portion of the livestock trade. The actual numbers of stock handled in 1928 were 868 fat cattle, 1,669 store cattle, 746 cows, 8,451 calves, 22,184 fat sheep, 79 store sheep, 8,785 fat pigs and 10,926 store pigs. Supplies are drawn from within 20 miles. Wimborne is favourably situated as regards consuming centres, Bournemouth and other coastal resorts being within a few miles, and Southampton and Portsmouth easily accessible by rail.

A very considerable egg and poultry business is done, mainly supplying the needs of the adjacent south-coast towns. Over 200,000 dozen eggs and over 90,000 head of poultry were disposed of in 1927, the egg trade having increased by about 75 per cent. since 1922. The egg grading can hardly be described as effective: all eggs are sold from the auctioneer's boxes, special boxes being provided for "Grade I" and "Grade II" eggs. These grades are not, however, defined; consequently, all sorts and sizes are often found in the Grade I boxes. Eggs sold as "new laid" are required to be guaranteed not more than 14 days old. About 150 lb. of butter per week, and large quantities of fruit in season are also sold in this building. In a

similar, but somewhat smaller, building, as well as in the open, vegetables from the surrounding districts, in which market-garden crops are extensively grown, are sold by auction. Prices of produce, including eggs, are said to be somewhat higher than at other markets in the county, as Wimborne is near enough to Bournemouth to attract many small buyers. An adjacent field provides ample room for car parking and for expansion, if necessary, and enables livestock to be turned out for a day or two when required.

The cattle-sale building is also used for sales of corn and agricultural requisites. The latter business is extensive, but corn sales amounted to only about 53,000 cwt. in 1927.

ESSEX.

(a) General.

Essex may be roughly divided, agriculturally, according to soil. There are the boulder clay, alluvium and brick earth areas, which are largely under arable cultivation and produce good crops of cereals, beans, peas, roots and potatoes, and there is the London clay, chiefly in the south, which is mainly under grass and devoted to dairy farming and sheep grazing. Four-fifths of the total area of Essex is under cultivation, and about 40 per cent. of the cultivated area is under grass.

Essex is one of the chief grain-growing counties in England and Wales, the most important corn crop being wheat. It is also one of the chief seed-corn producing counties. The largest corn exchanges are at Chelmsford and Colchester. The Braintree exchange is noteworthy for wheat. There are smaller exchanges at Saffron Walden and Romford. In these 5 centres, about 612,000 cwt. of wheat, 301,000 cwt. of barley and 43,000 cwt. of oats were sold in 1927. Feed-corn is sold by auction at Thorpe-le-Soken and there is a little business in corn, hay and straw at Stratford market.

A considerable area of potatoes is grown, and market-gardening is important in the neighbourhood of London and at Rochford in the Southend district. The chief market-garden crops are cabbages, onions, peas and beans, all largely grown for the London market. There is a small but increasing area under tree and bush fruit, notably between Brentwood and Southend and north-east of Chelmsford. The most important glasshouse industry in the country is concentrated in the Lea Valley and there are small glasshouse growers also in the neighbourhood of Romford, Chelmsford and Colchester. The only market in the county devoted almost exclusively to wholesale trade in vegetables is Stratford market, owned by the London and North Eastern Railway Company. The produce of the market-garden and glasshouse areas does not enter the other markets of the county to any appreciable extent, but much is sent to the London markets or marketed direct in London's eastern suburbs or in the Essex coastal towns. The county is, indeed, exceedingly well situated for outlets for its produce ; further, its own population is about 1½ million.

The numbers of cattle and sheep in the county are comparatively low. Dairying, for the supply of fluid milk to London and the coastal resorts, is prominent both on grass and arable farms. Some yard-fed beef is produced. Store cattle for feeding are brought into the county from Ireland, Wales, Norfolk and Lincolnshire, while North-country sheep are brought in for crossing with Suffolks or Southdowns. The number of pigs is considerable. There are livestock markets at 18 centres in Essex, two of which possess two markets each. The chief livestock market is at Chelmsford, which is important for store cattle, milking cows and store sheep. Colchester, Romford and Braintree are medium-sized markets, with pigs predominating at Colchester and Braintree, and sheep at Romford. Epping, Saffron Walden, Stanford-le-Hope and Thorpe-le-Soken have markets in which from 10,000 to 20,000 head of stock are dealt with per annum, and there are smaller markets at 10 other centres. 5 of the livestock markets are publicly, and 15 privately, owned. As many as five auctioneers sell livestock at Chelmsford, but in the other public markets the number in no case exceeds three.

The accommodation provided in the livestock markets is, on the whole, only moderately good. The markets at Chelmsford and Colchester are well-equipped and have ample covered accommodation for stock, but the smaller markets are, in general, deficient in covered accommodation both for stock and for the public, and little provision is made for loading or parking motor vehicles. Dial weighbridges are installed at 5 markets. At Romford and Epping, the livestock market is held on an unenclosed space beside the main road. This arrangement has most of the disadvantages of street markets. Romford market is one of the largest of this type in England.

The bulk of the stock produced in the county passes through the markets; in an average year, about 273,000 head are entered, in the following proportions: 40,000 cattle, 25,000 calves, 94,000 sheep and lambs and 114,000 pigs. There are no wholesale meat markets. Southend-on-Sea, with a population, in 1921, of 106,000, has no system of markets. There is a small public slaughterhouse at Rochford.

Poultry keeping has increased in recent years and is particularly prominent in the north-east. There are no less than 16 market centres with poultry and egg auctions. Most of the auctioneers have attempted to improve the condition in which eggs are marketed, particularly as regards freshness. In many auctions, a guarantee as to maximum age of eggs (7 days as a rule) is required; vendors must also give an undertaking that all eggs offered are produced by their own poultry. In the larger auctions, grading of a kind is practised by a large proportion of the vendors. The chief egg and poultry auctions are at Colchester, Wickford, Chelmsford, Braintree, Saffron Walden and Thorpe-le-Soken. The bulk of

the egg supplies are bought for London, Southend and Ilford, although Thorpe-le-Soken relies on the demand from Clacton. It is estimated that, at these 6 markets, some 18 million eggs and 650,000 poultry were handled in 1928. Other markets with a medium-sized trade in poultry and eggs are Great Dunmow, Romford and Brentwood. At Colchester, Saffron Walden, Braintree and Thorpe-le-Soken, two egg and poultry markets are held in the same town. Small quantities of butter are sold by auction at most of the egg and poultry centres.

An annual auction sale of wool is held in June at Colchester. There are no hide and skin markets in the county.

Rail and road transport facilities are good; motor transport is being increasingly used for moving livestock and farm produce.

There are 9 general retail markets in the county, of which 7 are open-air markets under public control. Most of these markets are insignificant from an agricultural standpoint.

(b) Notes on particular markets.

Braintree.—The markets at Braintree, held every Wednesday, consist of a livestock auction, two egg and poultry auctions and a corn exchange, all privately owned, and a public, open-air, retail market.

The livestock auction mart is mainly of local importance. In 1928, 23,925 head of stock entered the market, comprising 1,361 fat cattle, 499 store cattle, 235 cows, 2,468 calves, 6,953 fat sheep, 1,627 store sheep, 5,182 fat pigs and 5,600 store pigs. The accommodation, which is somewhat limited, includes a covered sale ring, with 25-cwt. dial weighbridge, in which calves as well as cattle are sold, covered pens for cows and calves, and pig pens, some of which are uncovered and some covered with temporary sheeting. There are single standings for about 50 cattle, and pens for about 40 more. Sheep are penned in the open. Supplies are mostly received from within a radius of 12 miles and are bought by local butchers or, occasionally, for London and Southend.

The larger of the 2 egg and poultry auctions was established in 1911. It is ½-mile from the railway station and has 300 poultry pens arranged in 4 tiers in the open. In the egg auction shed, the display of eggs is moderately good, but the use of numbered cards by buyers for noting, before sale, the quality of each lot does not, as in some auctions, prevent congestion round the egg boxes during sale. About 75 per cent. of the produce is brought to the auction in producers' own vehicles, 20 per cent. in carriers' vans and 5 per cent. only by rail. The other auction is controlled by the firm of auctioneers owning the adjoining livestock auction mart. The accommodation includes 210 lock-up poultry pens (Fig. 10), special pens for 750 turkeys and a covered egg auction shed. At both auctions, some grading is done by vendors and a guarantee of freshness is given. Dealers' eggs are excluded from both auctions. An aggregate of about 3,000,000 eggs and 100,000 poultry are sold in the two auctions in a year. Large numbers of rabbits and small quantities of butter, fruit and other farm produce are also sold. About 90 per cent. of the eggs go to London except during the summer months, when the proportion is 50 per cent. to London and 50 per cent. to Southend.

In the corn exchange, which is owned by a private company, sales in 1927 were 104,162 cwt. of wheat, 37,046 cwt. of barley and 3,276 cwt. of oats.

The small general retail market is held at the side of the street and is devoted mainly to general merchandise.

Chelmsford.—The livestock market, which is owned by the Corporation, is situated in the centre of the town and near the railway station. It is one of the two best equipped livestock markets in the county. It comprises a main livestock section, which is largely rented by 4 firms of auctioneers, and a much smaller poultry section, which is let to another firm.

The auctioneers' accommodation in the market includes uncovered pens and open, concreted, railed bays for cattle; an excellent range of pig and calf pens (Fig. 11), mainly roofed with timber, which makes for coolness in summer; a horse sale yard, with stabling and a sale ring and run equipped with cover for buyers; and a large central brick building, with louvre ventilation, which is used for housing dairy cows. There are also three covered sale rings with open sides. Two are used for cattle sales, while the other is used for sales of dead stock. One has a 6-ton dial weighbridge, available for weighing bunches of stores, if required. The dairy cow building (Fig. 12) contains 6 rows of standings, providing accommodation for from 80 to 90 cows tied singly; it has a concrete, well-drained floor, while a covered sale ring, equipped with tiered seating for about 150 people, is built on to the end of the main building. It is available for lairage, if required, and is also used for private treaty sales. In addition, the market accommodation includes lairage boxes, uncovered pens for sheep sold by auction and private treaty, and also a large concreted space for private treaty sales of cattle. Shade for beasts in summer is furnished by an avenue of trees in the market. The market has ample parking space for motor vehicles.

In 1928, 67,154 head of stock passed through the market, comprising 2,707 fat cattle, 10,212 store cattle, 2,194 cows, 4,280 calves, 3,322 fat sheep, 14,771 store sheep, 13,853 fat pigs, 15,038 store pigs and 777 horses. Except for pigs, the market is, therefore, primarily concerned with store and dairy stock, the latter being often of high quality. Store cattle are received chiefly from Ireland and Wales, while store sheep are drawn from the county itself and from Kent and Scotland. North-country sheep are offered and are bought largely for crossing with Suffolks. Store cattle are entered chiefly from April to June and from September to November. The average entry per week in November, 1928, was over 600 head. August to October, inclusive, are the chief months for dairy cows, and September and October for store sheep. In September, 1928, an average of about 1,000 head of store sheep were sold per week. About 80 per cent. of the pigs sold in this market come from within a radius of 10 miles. Fat pigs are sold mostly to London, Birmingham and Yorkshire. Two special sales of pedigree Essex pigs are held annually.

The egg and poultry auction has separate sections for eggs and poultry respectively, the former open to the street and containing racks for eggs, which are displayed in boxes belonging to the auctioneer or in vendors' 30-dozen cases. There is little room for re-packing in this building. About 2½ million eggs per annum are sold; these are brought in chiefly by motor van from within a radius of 10 miles. Grading, into two or three grades, is practised by quite three-fourths of the vendors, but no uniform standards are enforced. Eggs are guaranteed new-laid, but without any specified age limit. The chief destinations are Southend, east London and Ilford; London buyers take most of the poultry.

The corn exchange, in the centre of the town, is owned by a limited company and is the most important in the county. It comprises 24 small offices, rented at £9, £10 and £15 per annum, and 77 stands, which are let at annual rents of from £5 to £6 10s. Stand occupiers are chiefly Essex firms. In 1927, approximately 277,000 cwt. of wheat, 120,000 cwt. of barley and 14,000 cwt. of oats were sold. Traders are charged £2 per annum, and a charge of 2*d.* is made for daily entries.

The public retail market, adjoining the cattle market, consists of some 60 to 70 stalls from which little agricultural produce is sold.

Colchester.—*See* page 106.



FIG. 11.—Chelmsford: Covered Pig Pens.



FIG. 12.—Chelmsford: Dairy Cow Building.



FIG. 13.—Ashford : Unloading Sheep from Motor-float.

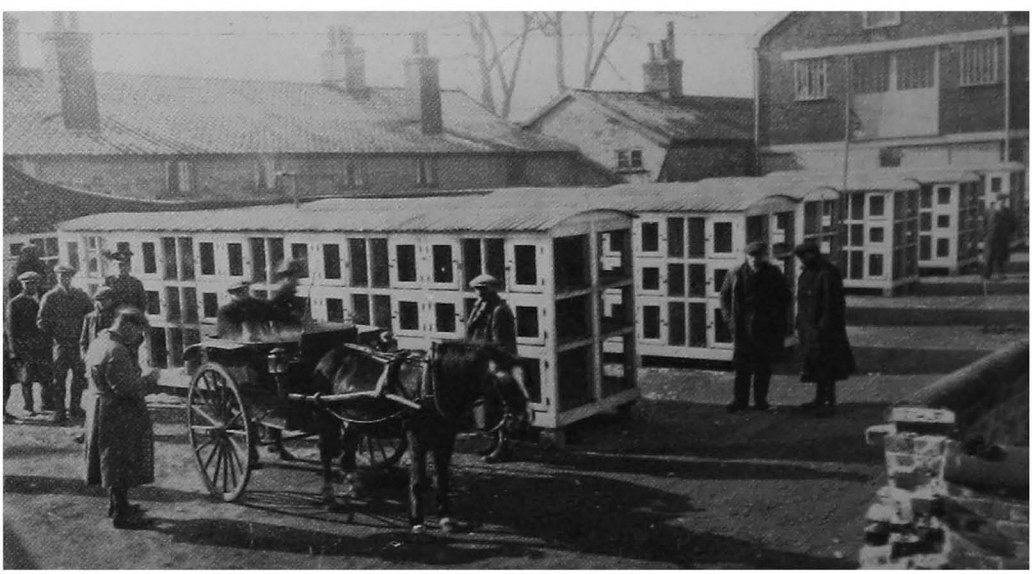


FIG. 14.—Diss: Poultry Auction (T. W. Gaze & Son).

Romford.—The Romford livestock and general markets, owned by the Urban District Council, are unenclosed markets held on paved market "Plains" extending for about 300 yards on each side of the main road through the town. The livestock market occupies about 2 acres, and comprises a long, narrow, sloped stretch of paving on one side of the road with standing accommodation for cattle tied up to an iron rail, and a wider strip of land on the other side of the road which constitutes the main portion of the market. This latter section has a central block of permanent iron pens for about 700 medium-sized pigs, and, at each end of the market, an open space, without permanent pens, for cattle and sheep respectively. This part of the market is let to three firms of auctioneers, one selling fat bullocks, fat cows, calves and sheep, another selling pigs, and a third, bullocks, sheep and calves. A good class of dairy cows and a large number of bullocks are regularly sold by private treaty. The cattle section of the market includes two uncovered sale rings, one of which is equipped with a 30-cwt. dial weighbridge. There is also a 10-ton lever weighbridge for general use. In the absence of enclosed pens, cattle are tied to the surrounding rails. Some difficulty is experienced in getting cattle into the ring, as this involves driving them across the open market space. Sheep and calves are accommodated in pens of hurdles erected for the purpose each week. There is no covered accommodation in the market; none can be erected owing to its situation in front of houses.

The market is still the third in the county, some 40,500 head of stock passing through it in a recent year, comprising 7,500 fat and dairy cattle, 500 store cattle, 3,000 calves, 16,000 sheep and 13,500 pigs.

The question of providing a new market on another site has been raised from time to time, but, owing to the continual decrease in the supplies of stock sent to the market—due to the extension of the urban area towards Romford from the West, the expenditure which would be involved is considered unjustifiable by the local authority.

A small auction sale of eggs, poultry and small quantities of butter is held in covered premises owned by a firm of auctioneers near the cattle market. About 30,000 head of poultry and ¼ million eggs are sold annually.

The corn exchange, in the centre of the town, is owned by a private syndicate; it handles only about 15,000 cwt. of grain per annum but is used to a considerable extent for other agricultural business, some 60 firms occupying space.

A very large, open-air retail market, comprising 215 stalls for the sale of produce and general merchandise, is also held on the paved "plains" on each side of the public highway on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Stalls are occupied by 7 growers of farm produce.

Stratford.—*See* page 146.

Wickford.—The markets at Wickford adjoin the railway station and include a livestock market, an egg and poultry auction and a small general retail market, all privately owned.

The livestock market is of merely local importance, handling only 9,000 head of stock per annum.

Adjoining the livestock market is the poultry and egg auction, conducted by the auctioneer operating at Chelmsford. The auction layout consists of two lines of covered poultry cages, with accommodation for from 3,000 to 4,000 birds, and a long egg auction building. A very large percentage of the poultry sold, which is received from a 20-mile radius, is purchased by London dealers. The system of "cards" described in the notes on Colchester (page 107), is in vogue at this auction, both for poultry and eggs. In the season, an extensive trade in day-old chicks is done. The egg auction is held in a large shed, which is electrically lighted. Eggs are displayed either in 30-dozen cases as sent in by vendors, or in auctioneers' boxes or baskets of the shallow wicker type used at Bracknell (*see* page 30). Buyers inspect the eggs before sale; when selling begins, the space occupied by eggs is cleared

of people and bidding takes place in a railed-off portion of the room, away from the eggs, buyers being guided by their marked cards as to the value of each lot, as well as by the repute of the vendor whose name is announced. About 90 per cent. of the vendors grade their eggs; the auctioneer recommends the statutory weight grades laid down for the National Mark Egg Scheme. All eggs are guaranteed "new laid," but the term is not defined. Dealers' supplies are rigidly excluded, and to assist in the maintenance of supplies of reliable produce, eggs are not accepted from outside Essex. Eggs are drawn from a radius of 20 miles or more, about 4 million being sold in a recent year. The number of buyers rises to as many as 90 at times but averages about 60. London, Ilford and Southend take most of the supplies of eggs. A small quantity of butter and other farm produce and a number of rabbits are sold at the auction.

HAMPSHIRE AND THE ISLE OF WIGHT.

(a) General.

The centre and north of Hampshire are occupied by the Hampshire Downs, over which arable sheep farming is the typical system of agriculture, although there is also a considerable and increasing area laid down to grass and devoted to dairying and sheep grazing. The agriculture of the rest of the county is somewhat varied. In the south-west, in the New Forest area, a certain amount of grazing of store cattle, pigs and ponies is carried on. In the south, near Southampton and Portsmouth, a considerable area is devoted to market-garden crops and to strawberries and other soft fruit, the area under strawberries amounting to over 2,700 acres. Market-garden crops are also grown in the neighbourhood of Bournemouth. In the east, there is some fattening of North Devon cattle. In the extreme north, where there is much poor land, dairying prevails. The agriculture of the Isle of Wight is varied, including arable sheep farms and dairy farms, while certain parts of the island are suited to the growth of early vegetables. Pigs and poultry are numerous, the pig population of the island being more dense than in any county in England and Wales. Local demand for produce is considerable in the holiday season. Rough grazing occupies some 12 per cent. of the combined area of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight; over 50 per cent. of the cultivated area is arable, but the proportion in the Isle of Wight is less than in the mainland county.

Hampshire is favourably situated as regards consuming centres. Not only is the county very conveniently placed for the London market, but within its boundaries is an urban population of about ½-million in the three towns of Portsmouth, Southampton and Bournemouth, which is considerably augmented in summer.

There are 7 corn exchanges in the county and corn is sold in the cattle markets at 6 other centres. The chief corn markets are at Basingstoke, Andover, Newport (I.W.), Winchester, Fareham and Southampton. The total quantity of corn sold in 1927 at these centres was about 330,000 cwt., comprising 139,000 cwt. of wheat, 98,000 cwt. of barley and 93,000 cwt. of oats.

There are no large, covered, wholesale markets for the sale of home-grown fruit or vegetables. Much of the fruit and vegetable produce grown in the county is marketed either direct to retailers or through the London wholesale markets. The bulk of the strawberry crop grown in the Southampton Water area is consigned direct to wholesale markets all over the country. Some 4,000 tons of strawberries are marketed annually. At Southampton docks, there is an auction market for imported fruit. At Portsmouth, a growers' wholesale market is held in one of the main streets of the town, sales taking place from carts and wagons lining the street. Small quantities of fruit and vegetables are sold by auction in some of the livestock markets.

There is little export of fat stock from the county. There are cattle markets at 17 centres in Hampshire and 1 in the Isle of Wight. The most important markets are at Newport (I.W.) and Basingstoke. Basingstoke is especially good for dairy stock. There are markets of medium size at Winchester, Fareham, Petersfield, Southampton and Ringwood. Fat stock predominate at Southampton. Pigs are very prominent in the larger markets, particularly Newport. Fareham, Winchester and Basingstoke are the principal sheep markets. Smaller markets worthy of mention, handling under 10,000 head of stock per annum, are Alton, Cosham and Havant. Some of the smaller markets in the county could well be dispensed with. Out of the total of 18 markets, at only 7 are over 10,000 head of stock sold in a year, and there are 8 which deal with less than 5,000 head. The total number of stock entering the markets of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight in an average year is about 202,000, including 18,000 cattle, 40,000 calves, 58,000 sheep and 86,000 pigs. The high proportion of pigs and calves is a noteworthy feature. The number of fat cattle offered is comparatively small. In fact, 3 of the markets in the county might well be developed to take the total livestock trade, especially as there are neighbouring collecting markets at Salisbury, Chichester, Guildford and Reading to which livestock is even now sent from Hampshire. Accommodation in the cattle markets still leaves much room for improvement. Covered accommodation for stock is deficient in most markets, and only one—Newport—has a dial weighbridge. The market at Petersfield is a street market. In some instances, the market days in adjoining towns clash—e.g., Winchester, Fareham and Cosham markets are all held on Monday. Store sheep for breeding purposes are largely sold in periodical fairs, such as are held at Alresford, Weyhill, Overton, Stockbridge, Andover and Winchester, of which the first two are the most important. Annual sales of New Forest ponies are held at Lyndhurst and Ringwood. There are annual auction sales of wool at Winchester, Basingstoke, Andover and Newport (I.W.). That at Winchester is the fourth provincial sale in importance in England, handling in a recent year about 50,000 fleeces—chiefly of Hampshire, Southdown and

Crossbred wool. Auction sales of hides and skins are held at Portsmouth weekly. There are no public slaughter-houses in Hampshire or the Isle of Wight. Road and rail transport facilities are fair, but those for loading, unloading and parking vehicles at most of the markets are inadequate.

Auction sales of eggs and poultry are held at 15 centres, of which the most important are at Alton, Basingstoke, Fareham, Petersfield, Winchester and Newport (I.W.). These auctions are one of the chief means of marketing eggs and poultry in the county. At the larger auctions, eggs are well displayed, but grading is not general. It is usual for eggs to be sold under a guarantee of 7 days' maximum age. There are small general retail markets at 7 centres, including Bournemouth and Southampton. Except at Bournemouth, these are all held in the open air.

(b) Notes on particular Markets.

Alton.—The weekly livestock market at Alton, held on an uncovered and partly unenclosed space, is only of local importance and handles little more than 8,000 head of stock per annum.

The poultry, egg and produce auction, which is leased by the local authority to a firm of auctioneers, is of more than average efficiency. A large, well lighted wooden shed is used for the egg and produce sales. Eggs are displayed in uniform shallow wicker baskets, which exhibit the produce to great advantage, on sloped shelves around the wall. A packing counter is provided adjoining the shelves. All eggs entered are guaranteed new laid, although the latter term is not defined. Special sections of shelves are reserved for various grades of eggs, the grades used being those prescribed for the National Mark Egg Scheme. Grading by vendors is by no means general. In 1927, over 2¼ million locally produced eggs were sold. Practically all the eggs are sent out of the district to London and such towns as Portsmouth and Aldershot. The quantity of dairy and fruit and vegetable produce sold is small. Poultry are sold by auction from wire cages of the usual type in a yard near by. In the small corn exchange building in the market square, about 20 merchants occupy stands.

Basingstoke.—Basingstoke has one auction market for livestock only and two egg, poultry and produce auctions at which some livestock is sold. A small, open retail market is held on the central market square. The number of markets is a weak point, particularly in the case of egg and poultry auctions, where sales overlap to some extent. All three auction marts are privately owned.

The larger livestock auction, at which all the cattle and sheep and about 30 per cent. of the pigs and calves are handled, adjoins the railway station. This is a good market for dairy and store cattle. The covered accommodation is considerable and includes :—covered sheds for all cattle, comprising lairage for 35 cows and covered pens for about 200 fat and store cattle ; two covered sale rings, one for cows, the other for fat and store stock ; a small shed for calves ; and uncovered pens for sheep and pigs. The market has a lever weighbridge of 30-cwt. capacity. About 30 buyers of fat stock attend this market from the district and from such centres as London, Reading, Southampton and Guildford. Cows and store cattle are distributed within a radius of from 30 to 40 miles of the market. The bulk of supplies are sent from distances of under 20 miles. In 1927, 30,914 head of stock were sold in the Basingstoke markets, comprising 1,274 fat cattle, 3,947 store cattle

and cows, 5,579 calves, 5,825 fat sheep, 1,520 store sheep, 7,545 fat pigs, and 5,224 store pigs. Trade has dropped considerably since pre-War days, particularly in sheep, where the falling off no doubt reflects the great reduction in the numbers of fat sheep produced in the county.

The two poultry, egg and produce auction marts are situated about ¼-mile from the station. One consists of a large, corrugated-iron shed devoted to eggs, poultry and vegetable produce and calves, with uncovered pig pens in the adjoining yard. Calves are sold in a small ring in the market shed. About two-thirds of the pigs and calves sold in the town go through this market. Eggs are displayed in miscellaneous boxes on sloped shelves. Grading is practised by not more than 10 per cent. of the vendors and the guarantee of 7 days maximum age is not universally given. No definite grade standards are laid down by the auctioneers. Close inspection of the eggs by buyers before the sale enables selling to be conducted without the congestion round the boxes which is common at such auctions. From 15 to 20 buyers attend each sale. About 2 million eggs were handled in a recent year. Some 60,000 head of live poultry per annum, as well as fruit and vegetables, butter, dead poultry in small quantities and rabbits are also sold in this auction.

The other egg, poultry and produce auction was opened in 1927, and consists of a corrugated-iron auction shed, a market yard containing pens for about 200 pigs, also covered and uncovered cages from which poultry are sold by auction. In the auction shed, which is well lighted and roomy, eggs are well displayed in standard boxes on three tiers of shelves. Grading is practised by the larger producers; the guarantee of seven days maximum age is not given by all vendors. The average number of buyers at a sale is about 17. About 2 million eggs per annum passed through this auction in 1928. Butter, vegetables, fruit and rabbits are also sold, but very little livestock is handled.

The total number of eggs sold by auction in Basingstoke in a year has increased from 600,000 in 1913, and 1½ million in 1922, to about 4 million in 1928. A radius of about 15 miles is drawn upon for supplies. Apart from local needs, the produce is consigned to London, Reading, Aldershot, Southampton, and Portsmouth. Buyers from London take most of the live poultry.

Corn business is transacted in a building in the cattle market. In 1927, 43,000 cwt. of wheat, 24,000 cwt. of barley and 34,000 cwt. of oats were disposed of.

An annual wool sale is held in the cattle market, at which about 7,000 fleeces are sold. It would seem to be worth considering whether this sale might not, with advantage to both vendors and buyers, be amalgamated with one of the neighbouring large auctions—e.g., Andover or Winchester.

Portsmouth.—This town, with a population of ¼-million, has no market accommodation except a wholesale and retail produce market held entirely in a main street, a hide and skin "market" and a small livestock and produce auction market held at the village of Cosham, which is within the borough boundary. For supplies of fat stock, Portsmouth butchers rely chiefly on Newport, Petersfield, Chichester, Barnham and Salisbury markets. There is no public abattoir.

The open-air wholesale and retail produce market is held in Commercial Road, one of the busiest streets in the town, on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, between 5 a.m. and 10 a.m., under a charter of Richard I, dated 1194. 10-ft. and 15-ft. wagon pitches to the number of 325 are marked out along both sides of this road for a distance of over-½ mile. These are rented by market-gardeners and other producers from Fareham, Titchfield, Portchester, Emsworth, Swanwick and other places within a radius of about 15 miles, as well as by wholesale merchants, at a rent of 5*s.* per month for 10-ft. and 7*s.* for 15-ft. pitches. Space is reserved for casual traders, who pay 6*d.* a day per vehicle, 4*d.* per hand truck and 2*d.* per basket. Business

is transacted direct from the market vehicles. Fruit and vegetables are the principal commodities dealt in, although eggs and poultry are also sold. Wholesale trade predominates, retail trade amounting to about 20 per cent. of the total business. Retailers from Portsmouth and the surrounding districts up to 25 miles attend the market. Imported fruits and vegetables are handled to the extent of about one-third of the whole trade. The invasion of the street by over 300 vendors' vehicles, in addition to those of buyers, naturally causes great traffic congestion. Difficulties in the way of removing the market to another place arise from the establishment of many wholesale fruit and vegetable merchants' premises in this street as a consequence of the absence of a covered market. There is also a tendency for direct delivery to retailers' shops to replace a considerable amount of the market business. Nevertheless, the need for proper market accommodation is so apparent that it would seem to be incumbent on all parties concerned to seek a solution comparable with that found by the Midland towns of Derby and Nottingham.*

A hide and skin "market" is held every Friday by a local firm. Hides and skins are collected, graded and sold on commission by auction.

Southampton.—Southampton, with its population of over 170,000, possesses a cattle market, a corn exchange, a wholesale fish market and a very small open-air retail market, all of which are owned and controlled by the Corporation. A privately owned auction for imported fruit is held at the docks. There is no wholesale market for the sale of home-grown produce.

The cattle market, situated close to a railway siding, is let to 3 firms of auctioneers, each using a separate sale ring; it is mainly a fat stock market for local butchers. The accommodation provided is adequate in size, with good lairages for stock detained overnight, but there is no covered shelter for stock exposed in the market. Only about 14,400 head of stock are handled in a typical year. A farmers' abattoir company in the town draws supplies of livestock from its shareholders and others in all parts of the county and supplies butchers in Southampton and the surrounding district.

The business done at the corn exchange, wholesale fish market and retail market is comparatively insignificant. The latter is not held near the main shopping centre.

The imported fruit auction† at Southampton Docks is leased to a firm of auctioneers by the Southern Railway, who own the sale room, offices, sidings, warehouses, etc. It was opened in 1920. From the ship's side, supplies are sent, after sale, to the London markets and to practically all the main provincial centres. The sale room is open to all bonâ-fide buyers, no distinction being drawn between wholesalers and retailers, although lots are usually too big for the latter. During 1928, 647,455 packages were offered and sold; this total included 244,833 cases and half-cases of oranges, 18,908 cases of onions, 74,483 barrels and boxes of grapes, 5,656 cases and half-cases of lemons, 244,691 barrels and boxes of apples, and 43,895 barrels and boxes of pears and plums. The balance of the total was made up of South African deciduous fruits, Spanish mandarines and pomegranates, Lisbon fruit and American plums and grape fruit. Sample boxes of fruit are stored on the ground floor of the building and are open to inspection before sale, the various grades of the different fruits being arranged, so far as possible, in distinct groups. Sales are conducted by means of printed catalogues, and a sample of each lot as sold is brought up in front of the auctioneer's rostrum by means of a lift. There are no porterage charges or tolls in connection with the auction.

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* *See* Economic Series No. 14, pages 91 and 98.

† *See* Economic Series No. 15.—"Fruit Marketing in England and Wales," pages 78 and 79 and Fig. 42.

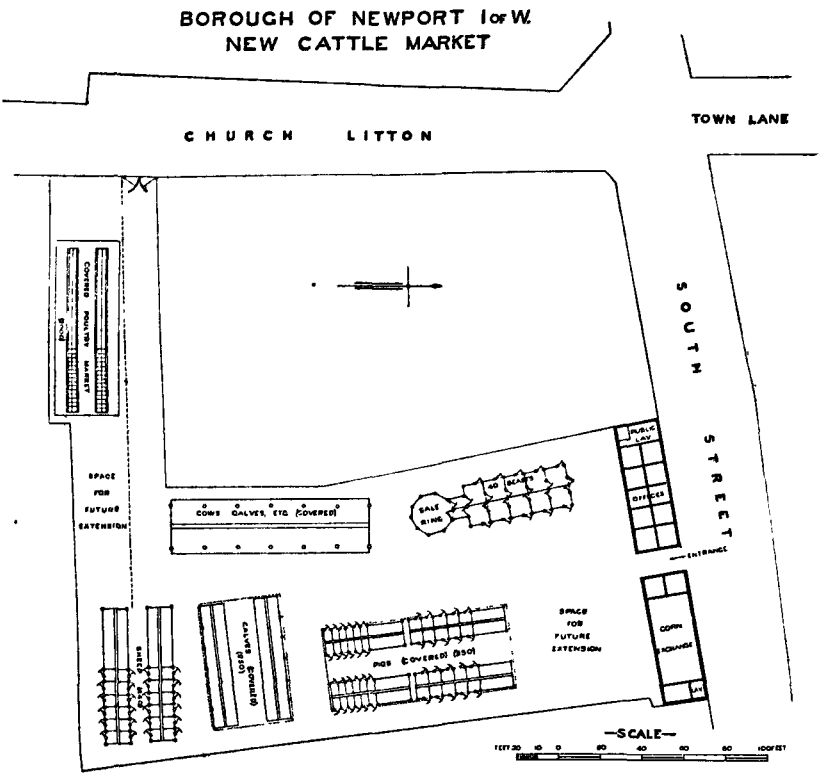


FIG 15.

Newport (*Isle of Wight*).—To replace the old street markets, a new live-stock market has recently been built by the Corporation about ¼-mile from the station, at a cost of about £8,000 (Fig. 15). The corn exchange is held on the new site, so that all the public markets are now centralised.

The livestock accommodation includes four blocks of covered pens for some 500 pigs, 250 calves, 130 cattle and 2,500 poultry, and open pens for 440 sheep and for 50 beasts. Fat cattle are sold from an uncovered 20-ft. sale ring fitted with a 30-cwt. dial weighbridge. Sheep, pigs, calves and cows are sold from their pens. Two firms of auctioneers operate in the market. The accommodation provided is better than is usual in markets of similar importance in the southern counties. Land adjoining the market has been purchased by the Corporation and will provide room for extension if needed.

Newport is the only market town in the island. In 1928, approximately 35,000 head of stock were sold, of which 23,370 were pigs, reflecting the density of the pig population of the island. About 60,000 head of poultry and a large number of calves are also disposed of. The fat cattle offered consist mainly of barreners. Guernsey cows or Guernsey Shorthorn crosses are in plentiful supply. The island is not self-supporting in home-produced beef, and supplies have to be brought in from Southampton and other markets. Sheep are usually a short entry except in the early lamb season in spring. Besides satisfying local demand, which is very heavy in summer, fat pigs, calves and sheep are shipped over to Portsmouth. Usually, about

a third of the poultry is bought by London dealers. No eggs are sold in the market. A butter and egg auction sale was, however, started in 1928 by a local firm of auctioneers in private sale rooms, at which about 150 lb. of butter and 3,500 eggs are sold weekly. Sales of corn in the corn exchange are small, amounting to about 56,000 cwt. of grain in 1927. An annual wool auction sale is held at which about 20,000 fleeces are sold by 2 firms of auctioneers. Bradford, London, Scottish and other buyers attend.

There is no retail market in the town, but a few persons hawk produce in the streets, and on this tolls are charged. The old Market House has fallen into disuse.

HERTFORDSHIRE.

(a) General.

Hertfordshire is among the smallest of the English counties and is less than half the size of the neighbouring county of Essex. As in the case of Essex, about 60 per cent. of the area under crops and grass is arable land. The grassland of the county is concentrated chiefly in the west, middle and south. The north and north-east form the principal corn growing areas, wheat and oats being the chief crops, although barley is commonly grown around Bishop's Stortford. Potatoes are a familiar crop on a belt of land between Watford and Hitchin. Part of the Lea Valley glasshouse area falls in the east of the county. Very little orchard fruit is grown. Brussels sprouts are grown in the north, and watercress in the valley of the Colne and its tributaries. These crops do not enter the markets of the county to any extent.

There are 3 corn exchanges in the county, at Bishop's Stortford, Hitchin and Hertford. Corn sales also take place in the livestock markets at Royston, St. Albans, Hemel Hempstead and Tring. The total weight of grain returned as sold at the first four of these centres in 1927 was approximately 738,000 cwt. Hitchin is the chief centre for wheat (123,000 cwt. in 1927) and Bishop's Stortford for barley (154,000 cwt. in 1927).

The livestock population is comparatively low. Milk production is practised all over the county, particularly on the grassland of the south, middle and west. Practically the entire supply is either marketed as fluid milk locally or in London and its northern suburbs, or converted into milk products at factories in the county. Stall-feeding of bullocks and the folding of sheep are practised to some extent in the north and east, and grass-fed cattle and sheep are produced in the west. A certain number of fat sheep and pigs are sent to London, but fat cattle are imported at certain seasons from Norfolk and Suffolk to augment local supplies. Pig keeping is fairly general.

There are 12 market centres for livestock, at one of which (Hemel Hempstead) there are 2 markets, but there is no market of outstanding importance, supplies being offered in comparatively small numbers, chiefly for local needs. The approximate number of stock handled in the Hertfordshire markets in a typical year is only 116,000, comprising 14,000 cattle, 10,000 calves, 52,000 sheep and 40,000 pigs. Hitchin is the most important centre, but, even

here, the market is only of medium size, handling under 30,000 head of stock per annum. There are markets handling between 10,000 and 20,000 stock per annum at Barnet, Watford, Bishop's Stortford, St. Albans and Tring, and smaller markets at Buntingford, Hertford, Hemel Hempstead and 3 other centres. These small markets mainly supply local needs. On the whole, the accommodation provided in the larger markets is reasonably adequate for the amount of stock handled. Barnet and St. Albans are two examples of well laid-out small markets; the former is almost entirely covered in. Dial weighbridges are provided in 4 markets in the county.

Egg and poultry auction sales are held at Bishop's Stortford, Hitchin, Hertford and Royston; at Bishop's Stortford and Royston there are 2 such auctions. Sales of eggs at these 4 centres are estimated at about 6 million per annum. Eggs and poultry are sold in the livestock markets at Barnet, Buntingford, Hoddesdon and St. Albans, and poultry at Baldock, Hemel Hempstead and Tring. Grading to size is not general in the egg auctions; one firm owning auctions at Bishop's Stortford, Hitchin and Hertford requires a guarantee from consignors that all eggs offered are the produce of the vendors' own birds and are not more than 7 days old. A considerable surplus of eggs and poultry is consigned to London. There are no auction sales of wool in the county, no hide and skin markets, no wholesale meat or fruit and vegetable markets and no publicly controlled slaughter-houses. The nearby London wholesale meat and produce markets take any surplus there may be from the county and supply imported produce to the Hertfordshire retail trade. There are retail markets at 10 centres, which are insignificant from the point of view of agricultural produce.

(b) Notes on particular markets.

Bishop's Stortford.—Bishop's Stortford has a livestock market, two egg and poultry auctions, a corn exchange, and a general retail market. The cattle market is owned by a firm of auctioneers. All the accommodation is uncovered with the exception of a small calf shed and a covered sale ring with 30-cwt. dial weighbridge. Bullocks and cows are tied up singly.

In a recent year, 1,470 fat cattle, 442 store cattle, 307 cows, 1,968 calves, 5,898 fat sheep, 574 store sheep, 3,113 fat pigs and 1,134 store pigs were sold in this market, which is, thus, primarily a fat stock market. Fat cattle are brought in from Norfolk, chiefly by dealers in the early part of the year. Usually, a few fat cattle are taken on to London.

Of the egg and poultry markets, one is owned by the same firm of auctioneers as that which operates at Hitchin and Hertford and at 3 centres in Essex. This mart has tiers of poultry cages, an egg auction shed and a small shed in which are sold small quantities of potatoes and greenstuffs. Two million eggs were sold at this auction in 1928, as well as about 30,000 head of poultry. The bulk of the supplies are bought by wholesale and retail distributors from the northern London area.

The other egg, poultry and produce auction, which is owned by another firm of auctioneers, is held in a disused brewery near by. Here again, eggs are

graded in comparatively few instances, and the method of display scarcely exhibits them to the best advantage. A guarantee of freshness is given. Sales of similar produce in the two auctions appear to clash.

The corn exchange, which is owned by a market company, is the most important in Hertfordshire. It comprises 53 small and 23 large stands for merchants, the occupiers being chiefly local firms. In 1927, 100,000 cwt. of wheat, 154,000 cwt. of barley, and 9,000 cwt. of oats were sold.

An open-air, general retail market with about 50 temporary stalls is held in the streets twice weekly.

Hitchin.—Facilities for the weekly sale of livestock at Hitchin consist of 3 sale-yards adjoining each other, which are all under the control of one firm of auctioneers, and a public cattle market which, however, is rarely used for livestock. The private sale-yards are used for cattle, sheep and pigs respectively. The only covered accommodation in the first yard is a small calf shed and a covered cattle sale ring with a 50-cwt. dial weighbridge. There is no covered accommodation in the sheep market. The pig market, which is the best equipped, has pens for from 300 to 350 pigs under wooden shelters, and a wood-roofed sale ring in which pigs are sold. The market is the most important for livestock in the county. Local supplies of all classes of stock are drawn from north Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and parts of Cambridgeshire. At certain seasons, fat cattle and tegs are drawn from the eastern counties and east midlands. The numbers of stock entered in 1913, 1922 and 1928 were as follows :—

——	1913.	1922.	1928.
Cattle : Fat	3,356	2,589	3,491
Store .. .. / Dairy Cows ..	692	886	575
Calves	1,592	1,542	1,788
Sheep · Fat .. .. / Store	20,342	6,181	10,352 / 2,965
Pigs · Fat .. .. / Store	10,740	7,685	6,466 / 3,038
Total	36,722	18,883	28,675

Almost all the fat stock goes for local consumption in Hitchin, Luton and other towns and villages within a radius of 10 miles. Slaughtering is done at 11 private slaughter-houses at Hitchin. There is no public abattoir. At Letchworth, 1½ miles away, there is a small, privately owned, model abattoir.*

The egg and poultry auction is controlled by the firm of auctioneers which owns those at Bishop's Stortford and Hertford. The auction is entirely covered and equipped with cages for about 1,500 poultry and with benches for displaying eggs. The eggs are exhibited in miscellaneous vendors' packages. From 1½ to 2 million eggs were sold in 1928, a large proportion going to London and Luton. Some 15,000 head of poultry of all descriptions are sold annually, largely to buyers from London.

The corn exchange, in the centre of the town, contains about 65 stands. In 1927, some 123,000 cwt. of wheat, 36,000 cwt. of barley, and 13,000 cwt. of oats were sold. Adjoining, is the retail market, consisting of about 50

* *See* Economic Series No. 13, page 63.

stalls, which are erected on the open market square on Tuesdays and Saturdays. This market is controlled by the Urban District Council, who own the market rights of the town.

KENT.

(a) General.

The agriculture of Kent is remarkably varied. Of the area under crops and grass, about 43 per cent. is arable land. Fruit, hops and sheep may be said to be the characteristic products The principal districts for hops and fruit are the northern slopes of the North Downs running from east to west, the lower ridge of Greensand hills further south, and the western end of the Weald plain still further to the south. Kent is easily the leading county for these two products, almost 15,000 acres of hops and about 75,000 acres of fruit having been grown in 1928. Apples are the principal fruit crop ; 60 per cent. of the cherry output of the country is also produced in Kent. The markets of the county do not deal with any appreciable proportion of this produce. Hops are almost entirely sold through English Hop Growers, Ltd., while fruit goes into the markets of London, the Midlands and the North, or is sent direct to retailers or wholesalers in the county. The small proportion passing through local markets is generally the poorer qualities and is bought up by local retailers. There are no large auction sales of fruit such as are found in the producing areas of the Midlands.

Market-garden crops, particularly cabbages and cauliflowers, are widely grown in the north-west around Dartford, Bromley and Rochester, as well as in Thanet, and are marketed direct to local buyers or sold on the London markets. Kent has no large, wholesale fruit and vegetable private treaty markets ; there is no market on the Kentish fringe of London corresponding to Stratford on the north-east or Brentford on the west, although the Borough market, in London itself, handles a large quantity of Kentish produce.

The sheep population of Kent in number and density is only exceeded by 3 other counties in England and Wales. Sheep, particularly the Kent or Romney Marsh breed, are grazed in most parts, the chief areas being the rather wet but rich grazing of Romney Marsh in the south-east, and the grazing lands of similar type between the North Downs and the Thames Estuary. There is a considerable migration of lambs from the marshes in autumn for wintering on the dry uplands and return to the marshes in spring for finishing. Dairying is prominent in Thanet and in the west, for the supply of milk to the coastal resorts and London, respectively.

Cereals are grown to the extent of about one-third of the arable area and are particularly prominent to the east of Canterbury. There are corn exchanges at Canterbury, Maidstone, Ashford, Rochester and Tonbridge. Sales at the first four amounted to

approximately 320,000 cwt. of grain in 1927, chiefly wheat and barley. In addition, corn sales in livestock markets are reported from Edenbridge, Lyminge, Sandwich and Staplehurst. Hop factors attend some of the corn exchanges, notably Maidstone and Tonbridge.

There are 18 livestock markets in Kent held at regular intervals throughout the year, and, in addition, 13 centres at which periodical sales of livestock are held varying from 2 to 5 or more sales per annum. The chief market is at Ashford, where over 140,000 head of stock are handled in an average year. There are also important markets handling over 60,000 head of stock per annum at Maidstone and Canterbury. Sandwich, Lyminge, Tonbridge, Rochester, and Sittingbourne are markets with a trade of from 20,000 to 40,000 head per annum. Those at Sandwich and Sittingbourne are held fortnightly, the rest weekly. Smaller marts are situated at Sevenoaks, Staplehurst and Edenbridge and at 6 other centres. The periodical livestock sales, which mainly handle sheep, include those at Ham Street, Hythe and Headcorn, and 10 others. The total number of stock passing through the Kent markets and periodical sales in a typical year is approximately 638,000, consisting of 45,000 cattle, 26,000 calves, 421,000 sheep and 146,000 pigs. The predominance of sheep in the county is reflected in the high proportion of sheep to total stock entering the markets. In addition to fat sheep, large numbers of store sheep are sent out of the county for grazing to many parts of the Midlands, South and East. These are principally disposed of at fairs or periodical sales, which are held, in some cases, in regular market towns, including Ashford, Maidstone, Rochester, Lyminge and Sittingbourne, and, in others, at non-market centres such as Tenterden, Horsmonden, New Romney and Biddenden. Large numbers of pigs are offered in the markets, rather more than 50 per cent. being fat. A high proportion of the pigs raised in the county, particularly of fat pigs, is sold through the markets. Fat cattle and dairy cows are not offered in large numbers; the most important market for fat cattle is Canterbury, handling almost 3,000 per annum; for cows, the most important markets are Ashford, Edenbridge and Sevenoaks. Private ownership of cattle markets is general, only 4 being owned by public authorities. Four are owned by market companies and the rest by firms of auctioneers. The facilities at the majority of the cattle markets, especially in regard to covered accommodation for livestock and covered sale rings, are inadequate. Canterbury and Sandwich are notably deficient; Ashford, Sevenoaks and Lyminge are among the best equipped The method of selling cattle as they stand tied to the rails is practised in many cases. There are cases where, although a sale ring is provided, it is not used. There are dial weighbridges at 8 markets. All but one of the 18 regular markets are held on either Monday or Tuesday. This, however, does not lead

to as much clashing as might be expected, as neighbouring fortnightly markets usually arrange their market days so as to alternate with each other. There are no wholesale meat markets. In the majority of the cattle markets, considerable quantities of eggs and poultry, and lesser quantities of dairy produce, fruit and vegetables, are sold by auction. The chief centres for eggs and poultry are Maidstone and Ashford. The arrangements for display and for re-packing in the egg auction marts are, on the whole, only moderately good, some sales even taking place in the open. Grading by vendors is not uncommon. At Maidstone and Ashford are auctioneers who pack eggs under the National Mark Egg Scheme and sell both by auction and private treaty. Buyers of eggs and poultry attend the large marts from London and the Kent coast towns.

There are no regular annual wool sales, supplies being largely marketed through the Kent Wool Growers' Association or sold directly to staplers. There is a registered hide and skin "market" at Canterbury. Small general retail markets exist at 9 towns. Some wholesale trade is done in the general markets at Dover, Margate and Ramsgate. There is a small wholesale-retail fish market at Folkestone.

Kent is well placed in relation to consuming centres. London is within easy reach, and, in summer, the seaside towns of Kent and Sussex provide a useful demand. Railway and road communications are good. Motor transport is very extensively used for both livestock and produce. (Fig. 13). Loading banks and parking facilities are, however, deficient at some markets.

(b) Notes on particular markets.

Ashford.—*See* page 95.

Canterbury.—Third in importance in Kent, the cattle market at Canterbury is generally recognised as being inadequately equipped. It is owned by the Corporation, and is open on Saturdays for the sale of store stock and on every other Monday for fat stock, alternating with Sandwich market; these two markets, together, serve the chalk plain to the north-east and east of the North Downs, including Thanet. The market is difficult of access, owing to its situation by a narrow road near the main street of the town, and is overcrowded. There is no covered accommodation and, apart from a 30-cwt. dial weighbridge and a small uncovered sale ring, the only permanent equipment consists of iron rails to which cattle are tied. Only a small proportion of the cattle are sold through the ring, most of them being weighed before tying and sold as they stand. The question of providing shelter for cattle is under consideration. For sheep and pigs, temporary hurdles are erected to form pens to meet the auctioneers' requirements, but little regard is had to keeping clear passageways, thus hindering movement of stock within the market. A recent proposal to move the market to a more convenient site was rejected owing to the unwillingness of market users to agree to any consequent increase in tolls, which are, at present, practically the same as those at Ashford, where better accommodation is provided. No less than seven firms of auctioneers sell livestock in this market. Supplies are drawn

is not extensively practised. A packing table is provided. In 1927, about ½ million eggs and 10,000 head of poultry were sold. The quantities of vegetables and dairy produce offered are small. Supplies of eggs are bought for the coast towns. Buyers of eggs and poultry also attend from London.

Maidstone.—The Corporation livestock market and the Agricultural Hall—a large brick building erected in 1914 and used for the sale of poultry, eggs and agricultural produce—are situated about ½-mile from the centre of the town, adjoining the Maidstone West Station. The accommodation consists of well-built pens, for about 1,000 fat and 700 store pigs and for 300-400 sheep, and a small concreted area with iron rails for tying up cattle in two rows with a selling gangway between. The only covered accommodation in the livestock market is a small calf shed. There is no sale ring. Two auctioneers do the selling and there appears to be some overlapping in the times at which pigs are sold. Sheep and pigs are the two classes of livestock chiefly sent in, the total numbers of stock entered in the weekly markets in 1913–4, 1922–3 and in 1928 being as follows :—

——	1913–4. (Apl.–Mch.)	1922–3. (Apl.-Mch.)	1928.
Cattle: Fat	6,584	4,643	1,996
Store			2,257
Dairy Cows ..			
Calves	1,852	1,995	2,660
Sheep	44,263	36,036	39,306
Pigs: Fat	13,702	17,897	16,063
Store			9,805
Total	66,401	60,571	72,087

Some 1,000–2,000 horses are sold annually. In addition, about 18,000 store sheep and 2,500 store cattle are sold at the 4 fairs held in February, May, June and October, when stock are sold chiefly by auction to buyers from all parts of Kent and from distant counties. There are also special sales of store cattle and sheep in March, April, August and September. Supplies of livestock in the weekly market are chiefly local, although store sheep are sent from all parts of the county. Buyers of fat pigs and sheep attend from London and from the populous districts around Chatham, Rochester and Gillingham ; many pigs are bought for bacon factories outside the county.

The Agricultural Hall, adjoining the livestock market, is now largely used for the sale by auction of poultry and, to a less extent, eggs and also fruit and vegetables. A few retailers of general merchandise also have stalls in this market. The hall is a large, roof-lighted, brick building, occupying 1,300 sq. yds., and has an external covered walk along one side which is used for the sale of potatoes and other heavy vegetables. Within, rows of poultry cages, to accommodate about 2,000 head, occupy the centre. In 1927, over 60,000 head of poultry were handled. A large proportion of the supplies are taken by London buyers. Although the trade in fruit and vegetables hardly touches the fringe of the output of the district, it is more extensive than is usual in many general auction marts, and the produce is of better quality. In the fruit season, about £300 worth of fruit per week is sold, a large proportion being taken by retailers from Chatham, Gillingham and Rochester. This trade is chiefly confined to the produce of small growers, although a few larger men send in graded apples in non-returnable packages. Although an

egg auction, as such, is still carried on, the auctioneer has registered as a packer under the National Mark Egg Scheme and uses, as his packing station, a wooden building of 1,150 sq. ft. which he has leased for the purpose. Producers now have the choice of sending their eggs through the packing station before sale or of adhering to the old system and having them sold by auction as sent in to the market. Those who elect to use the packing station are paid on grading-out results, receiving the average price realised for each grade less 1*d.* per dozen for material and labour and less also the auctioneer's commission. National Mark supplies are sold by auction, weekly, and by private treaty, daily, during the ensuing week at the previous auction prices. Since the registration of this station under the National Mark Scheme, business has increased with great rapidity and the new system has almost entirely replaced the old.

The corn exchange, in the centre of the town, has stands for 80 merchants, but corn sales are not large, amounting in 1927 to only about 97,000 cwt. About 12 hop factors attend the exchange.

Sandwich.—The fortnightly cattle market at Sandwich, which alternates with that at Canterbury, is held in the open market square. No enclosed pens are provided for cattle or calves, which are sold by auction direct from the rails to which they are tied. Fat beasts are weighed on the 30-cwt. dial weighbridge before being tied up; a sale ring is provided but it is not used. Most of the sheep offered are penned with temporary hurdles, as the permanent pens are inadequate, while the pig pens, which are situated on a raised platform to facilitate loading, are hardly sufficient in number. Six firms of auctioneers operate in the market and there is some clashing in selling times. There is no covered accommodation, even poultry, eggs and sundry produce being sold in the open. Lack of accommodation and facilities for weekly sales does not conduce to the success of the egg section of the market. The Corporation have accepted tenders for the erection of a large, covered, auction sale building for livestock, poultry, and produce on ground adjoining the present site.

Sandwich is mainly a fat stock market for locally produced stock and supplies the surrounding seaside towns. The pig trade covers a wider area, some local dealers consigning fat pigs to London and sometimes to Birmingham from this market. In 1928, 2,359 cattle (chiefly fat), 1,978 calves, 13,858 fat sheep, 12,237 fat pigs and 7,616 store pigs were sold in the public market. Monthly store sheep and cattle sales are held from March to December by a local firm of auctioneers in two fields near the town, where about 7,500 store sheep and 1,200 store cattle are disposed of in an average year, chiefly to Kent buyers. The quantity of poultry, eggs and produce sold is small.

MIDDLESEX.

(a) General.

Although primarily an industrial and residential county, Middlesex still has some 60,000 acres under crops and grass, much of which is farmed intensively. The county falls, agriculturally, into two main divisions. North of a line between Brentford and Slough, it overlies the London clay and is almost entirely under grass with the exception of a little arable in the extreme north. The grassland is utilised chiefly for milk production for local sale. South of this line, the land is lighter, and market-gardening and fruit growing, with poultry and pig keeping, are common. A small portion of the Lea valley glasshouse area falls in the extreme

north-eastern part of Middlesex. Over 30 per cent. of the agricultural holdings of the county are devoted mainly to fruit and vegetables. The pig population per acre of crops and grass is high.

The markets are few; a very large proportion of the agricultural produce of all kinds is marketed direct to wholesalers, retailers or consumers in London and its suburbs. There are no corn exchanges. There is one wholesale fruit and vegetable market, at Brentford, which handles large quantities of produce from the county as well as from other parts of England and from abroad. Fruit and vegetables are also sent for sale in the London wholesale markets.

There is only one livestock and poultry market, at Southall, which handles about 12,000 head of stock per annum, chiefly pigs, and appears to be adequately equipped for the volume of its trade. The livestock markets at High Barnet, in Hertfordshire, and at Slough, in Buckinghamshire, draw part of their supplies from Middlesex. There are no special markets for eggs or dairy produce, no public slaughter-houses and no hide and skin markets. There are 5 covered, and 4 open-air, retail markets in the county, but these do not handle any appreciable quantities of local produce and mostly deal in general merchandise.

(b) Notes on particular markets.

Brentford.—*See* page 139.

NORFOLK.

(a) General.

Norfolk is the second largest county in the area covered by the present Report. The county, which, on the whole, is flat, is one of large farms with about three-quarters of the farmed area under arable cultivation. Grassland would be a relatively unimportant feature but for the rich grazing marshes bordering the sea coast near Great Yarmouth, where large numbers of cattle are fattened during the summer. The typical farming system is bullock-feeding combined with arable cultivation, the Norfolk four-course rotation, or some modification of it, being still largely practised. Of the cereal crops, which occupy a little over one-third of the area under crops and grass—a larger proportion than in any other county in England or Wales, except two—barley is especially prominent, particularly in the north-west. The chief wheat areas are in the middle and south of the county. Of the root crops, turnips, swedes, mangolds and sugar beet are important. Sugar beet now constitutes a high proportion of the root-break, over 50,000 acres being grown in the county in 1928. Potatoes are noteworthy on the fen soils in the neighbourhood of Downham Market. The market-garden area is largely concentrated around Norwich and Great Yarmouth, where a considerable trade is done in produce grown under glass,

particularly tomatoes. On the eastern side, fruit growing, with specialisation in black currants, is a feature, while, in the west, there has been considerable development in recent years in the growing of strawberries, gooseberries, raspberries and apples.

The fruit crop of Norfolk does not pass through the local markets to any great extent but is sent to distributors in northern and midland towns and in London or to jam manufacturers. The East Norfolk Fruit Growers' Association and its subsidiary company, Norfolk Fruit Growers Ltd., which are affiliated to the Norfolk Branch of the National Farmers' Union, deal with a fair proportion. A proposal has been considered by these organisations to establish a co-operative auction sale of apples at Norwich. There is some wholesale trade in fruit and vegetables in Norwich Market, and small quantities are sold by auction at 14 of the livestock markets.

The chief corn exchange, and the largest for home-grown grain in England and Wales, is Norwich, which is the leading centre in the country for barley and the fourth for home-grown wheat. In all, nearly 1,900,000 cwt. of grain were handled in 1927. The other exchanges in Norfolk are at King's Lynn and Fakenham, both noteworthy for barley, and at Great Yarmouth and Diss. In all these centres, corn is also sold in the street and in inns and, at Norwich, around the cattle market; corn transactions are also reported as taking place, either around the cattle markets or in the streets or inns, at Attleborough, Downham Market, East Dereham, Harleston, Holt, North Walsham and Watton. Returns from the ten most important corn centres show that, in 1927, sales amounted to approximately 713,000 cwt. of wheat, 2,264,000 cwt. of barley, and 345,000 cwt. of oats. A large proportion of the corn passing through the exchanges is sold to local merchants who consign it out of the county. Representatives of some of the large Burton brewers attend Norwich, King's Lynn and Fakenham.

Winter fattening of bullocks in yards or boxes is general, while on the marshes, near the coast, cattle are grazed during the summer. Store beasts for feeding are imported from Ireland, the north and west of England and from Suffolk. From January to June, large numbers of fat beasts are sent out of the county, chiefly to the Midlands and North, though there is an extensive trade with London and the South. From August to November, fat cattle from the Midland pastures are offered in Norfolk markets to meet local needs. Dairying is carried on in parts but is less prominent than in most of the counties covered by this Report. Considerable flocks of sheep are kept in the west of the county and sheep come on the markets in fair numbers in the first half of the year, but, on the whole, the sheep population is comparatively low in proportion to the size of the county. Pigs are kept extensively, and large numbers are exported—bacon pigs to all parts of the country, porkers very largely to London. The breeding of heavy horses has recently revived.

Livestock markets are held at 25 centres and are an important factor, but direct transactions on the farms also account for a considerable number of sales. The chief livestock markets are at Norwich (168,000 head of stock per annum), which ranks after York as the most important market for cattle in England and Wales, and King's Lynn (140,000 head per annum), which, besides handling a large number of fat cattle, is the chief market in the county for sheep and pigs. These two markets far exceed in turnover any other in Norfolk. Diss is a market of considerable importance, particularly for store sheep. Medium-sized markets, handling in the neighbourhood of 20,000 stock per annum, are Watton, Acle, Reepham, Swaffham, East Dereham, Fakenham and Harleston, and there are small markets, judged by annual turnover, at North Walsham, Great Yarmouth, Stalham, Loddon and 11 other centres. Sheep sales, mainly of stores, are held at Swaffham twice yearly. Abundance of small marts is not so conspicuous a feature as in many of the southern counties ; in several of the small marts, the total annual turnover gives no indication of the weekly entries of stock, for the cattle trade is seasonal and, in the season, the numbers on offer are sufficient to attract large buyers as well as being fairly regular from week to week. Norwich and King's Lynn markets are held weekly. Of the lesser markets, 17 are held weekly and 10 fortnightly. The only publicly controlled livestock markets in the county are at Norwich, King's Lynn and East Dereham ; the rest are owned by firms of auctioneers.

The total number of livestock handled in the Norfolk markets in an average year is approximately 572,000, including 158,000 fat cattle, 16,000 calves, 222,000 sheep and 176,000 pigs. Of the total stock, over 50 per cent. are dealt with at Norwich and King's Lynn, while only 5 per cent. pass through markets handling less than 10,000 head of stock in a year. The chief fat cattle markets are Norwich and King's Lynn. Of the smaller markets, Acle, North Walsham, Great Yarmouth, Reepham, Stalham and Diss handle from 2,000 to 6,000 fat cattle per annum, and, in the heavy season (January to June), Midland and London buyers take the bulk. Sales of fat cattle take place from January to June at Aylsham, North Walsham and Stalham. At Acle and Great Yarmouth, the fat cattle trade is less seasonal owing to the supplies coming off the marshes in late summer and autumn. Norwich is the chief market for Irish and home-bred store cattle. King's Lynn is the principal sheep market, followed by Norwich and Diss. At all three centres, store sheep, mostly store lambs for wintering on roots, are sold in large numbers. At Diss, East Harling, Watton and Swaffham markets, and Briston and Hempton Fairs, special annual lamb or hogget sales are held. The Diss sale in June is one of the largest in the southern and eastern counties. Fat and store pigs are abundant in the large and medium-sized markets. King's Lynn is the largest pig market, followed by Norwich, Acle, East Dereham and Diss.

The layout and equipment of the larger marts are reasonably good. Covered accommodation for pigs is provided in practically all the large and medium-sized markets. Comparatively few cows enter the markets and covered shelter for cattle is, therefore, less necessary than in the dairying counties. Covered cattle sale rings are the rule and dial weighbridges are fitted in 12 markets. While auction selling is almost universal for fat stock, private treaty sale is resorted to in a few markets for store cattle and sheep. The method of penning fat cattle singly, which facilitates " handling " by buyers, is common in the Norfolk markets.

Poultry are widely kept in Norfolk, the number of ducks and turkeys in particular being higher than in any other county in England and Wales. Large numbers of high-class English table ducks are produced in Norfolk around Attleborough, Wymondham and Diss, while Norfolk turkeys are recognised as birds of special quality.* Important auction sales of live poultry are held in conjunction with all the livestock markets as well as at 2 centres where livestock are not sold. The principal centres are King's Lynn, Norwich, Acle, Diss, Long Stratton, East Dereham, Watton and Attleborough. Much of this produce is bought by country wholesalers for consignment to London, while buyers from London take many of the fat hens. At Attleborough, an annual sale of store turkeys for fattening is held in October, when about 5,000 birds are disposed of. The chief auction sales of eggs are at King's Lynn, Norwich, Watton and Hingham. A considerable and increasing number of eggs are marketed through the packing station of Norfolk Egg Producers, Ltd., at Norwich, which was recently formed by the Norfolk Branch of the National Farmers' Union to sell its members' eggs under the National Mark scheme. Wool is largely marketed direct from farmer to wool buyer. There is only one auction sale of wool in the county—at Diss ; a proportion of the Norfolk clip is sent to the auction sale at Bury St. Edmund's. Norwich has a registered hide and skin " market."

The port fish market at Great Yarmouth and the small inland fish market at Norwich are the only purely wholesale produce markets in the county. From the Great Yarmouth fish market, herrings are sent all over the country and to the Continent. Norwich has a wholesale and retail produce market, while there are smaller retail markets at 9 other towns. In only one case is any cover provided.

A good rail service exists between Norfolk and London, and with the Midlands and North. Motor transport in connection with the markets is developing but does not appear to be used so largely as in Suffolk or some of the southern counties.

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* Economic Series No. 11, pages 29 and 31.

(b) Notes on particular markets.

Acle.—There are two weekly livestock and poultry auction markets at Acle, each owned by a separate firm of auctioneers. At one of these, eggs, fruit and vegetables are also sold by auction.

The accommodation at both markets is good. The older-established auction mart has covered pens for dairy cows, calves and pigs, a covered, roof-lighted sale ring with 30-cwt. dial weighbridge and tiered seating, and a set of 140 pens for single bullocks in addition to loose boxes for another 150 cattle. The other market has covered pig pens, uncovered cattle pens, and a sale ring equipped with covered stands for buyers and a 30-cwt. dial weighbridge. Both markets are within ¼-mile of the station. The existence of two markets in one town, both operating on the same day for the same classes of stock, has, of course, a tendency to split the buyers. Acle, in fact, affords another illustration of the need for some kind of working arrangement between producers' and auctioneers' organisations to prevent what would seem to be unnecessary duplication of sales. In 1928, 6,424 fat cattle, 1,079 store cattle, 178 cows, 746 calves, 17 sheep, 9,111 fat pigs and 6,732 store pigs were sold in the two markets combined. A large proportion of the fat cattle sold come off the marshes around Great Yarmouth, and as these come out in summer, the supply is more evenly spread over the year than in many Norfolk markets. October to December are the least busy months: in 1927, 60 per cent. of the total supply was entered in the 6 months from April to September, with May as the peak month. During the spring months, fat cattle are bought for the Midlands, the North and for London; in late summer, local demand is sufficient to absorb the supply. Altogether, about 75 per cent. of the fat cattle sold are consigned beyond a radius of 10 miles. Fat pigs go throughout the year to London and the Midlands. Few eggs are sold at the marts, but the sales of live poultry amount to over 100,000 head per annum.

Diss.—Diss has two privately controlled fortnightly livestock auction marts, with a third in course of erection, a poultry auction held in one of the livestock markets, a separate butter, egg and poultry auction, a corn exchange controlled by the Corn Hall Trustees, and a public general market. A wool auction is held annually in June. Up to the present, there has been no clash in selling, as the two livestock marts and the poultry sales held in connection with them take place in alternate weeks. It is to be hoped that the opening of the third livestock mart will not lead to overlapping.

The larger livestock mart is in two sections, one for pigs and poultry, the other for cattle and sheep. The former (Fig. 14) is in the form of a square, with covered pig pens on the outside and some 700 or 800 uncovered poultry cages arranged in 3 tiers in the middle. The cattle and sheep section (Fig. 16), on the other side of the road, consists of bullock standings for 100 fat cattle, pens for store cattle, 3 covered calf pens to hold about 100 calves, and a covered sale ring of 16 ft. diameter in which fat cattle, followed by dairy and store cattle, are sold. The rest of the site is used for the 2 annual sheep sales, for which temporary hurdle pens are erected covering about 4 acres (Fig. 17). About 25 to 30 buyers attend the fortnightly cattle sales, and a light class of bullock, usually under 10 cwt., is sold regularly at this market. Bullocks are weighed on an index weighing machine before penning.

Alternating with the above market, fortnightly auction sales are held in an adjoining mart by another firm of auctioneers. Some 5,000 stock are sold annually, of which about 3,500 are pigs and 600 calves. The accommodation includes an uncovered cattle ring with dial weighbridge, covered pig and calf pens and uncovered pens for about 100 cattle. Poultry are also sold and, by arrangement between the firms, the cages in both marts are on occasions used by one firm.

In a typical year, some 45,000 stock are handled in the 2 marts, including about 3,500 cattle, 1,500 calves, 28,500 sheep and 11,500 pigs. All stock are raised locally. From February to August, fat cattle are sent to London

and to the midland and southern counties. Fat pigs are bought mostly for the Midlands and for Suffolk bacon factories. An annual horse sale is held in the cattle ring at Michaelmas, when about 60 horses are sold.

Practically all the sheep sold at Diss are disposed of at the annual sheep sales held in June and August, of which the former is the largest annual sale in the eastern counties, some 28,000 sheep being sold annually in the two sales in lots of from 20 to 100. Supplies are mostly stores which are bought for surrounding feeding districts in Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and Cambridge. Supply is mainly local—from within a radius of about 15 miles. Poultry are received from an area of about 15 miles and are mostly consigned to London. The numbers sold were 31,000 in 1913, 72,000 in 1922 and 198,000 in1928. A small private auction of eggs, butter and poultry is held in a shed in a back-yard in the town and is attended by about 6 buyers. The Corn Hall is one of the smaller Norfolk exchanges, about 22,000 cwt. of wheat, 84,000 cwt. of barley and 4,000 cwt. of oats having been sold in 1927, in addition to hay and straw and feeding-stuffs. An annual auction sale of wool, established in 1912, and the only one in Norfolk, is held in June in some disused maltings. In 1928, 16,000 fleeces, chiefly from Norfolk and Suffolk, were sold. Catalogues are published on the evening prior to the sale and the lots can be inspected from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the day of the sale. The usual conditions of sale are in force. Buyers attend chiefly from Bradford and from Peebles, Halifax and other manufacturing centres.

The open-air retail market, over which the Lord of the Manor has manorial rights, is held weekly on Fridays in the market place and other parts of the town. Vegetables and miscellaneous goods are sold.

Great Yarmouth.—See page 117.

King's Lynn.—See page 123.

Norwich.—See page 126.

SOMERSETSHIRE.

(a) General.

Somerset is essentially a grassland county and consists, in the main, of a low-lying, alluvial grassy plain, marshy in parts, rising in the north-east to the Mendip Hills, where the soil is sufficiently good to support pasture of fair quality, and, in the west, to the Quantock and Brendon Hills and Exmoor, the latter sour and boggy and carrying very poor grazing; in the extreme south, on the Dorset border, there is also some rather hilly country.

Cereal crops are not prominent, except in the south and on the western coastal strip. There are corn exchanges at Bridgwater, Taunton and Yeovil. Business at the last two is practically negligible, while the total weight of grain sold in the three exchanges in a recent year was only 147,000 cwt. Corn sales take place in and around the cattle markets at five other centres.

There are some 20,000 acres of orchards which are largely devoted to cider apples; the fruit is sold often on the trees direct to manufacturers. A few orchards are sold by auction at Taunton. Market-garden crops are produced in considerable quantities in two small areas, one south of Bridgwater, where early peas and cabbages, Brussels sprouts and cauliflowers predominate, and the

other, east of Weston-super-Mare, where early potatoes and peas and small fruit are prominent. These crops do not enter the markets in the county to any appreciable extent, going direct to local wholesalers or retailers or, in the case of the early pea crop, direct to Birmingham and London. The limited quantities of fruit and vegetables found in a few markets—e.g., Bridgwater, are usually the produce of small growers.

Dairying, the chief agricultural industry of Somerset, is carried on all over the county, although to a much less extent in the west than elsewhere. A large proportion of the milk produced, especially in summer, is manufactured into cheese, dried and condensed milk and butter. Farm-made cheese of Cheddar and Caerphilly types is mostly sold direct to cheese factors, who buy on the farm. An important cheese fair is, however, held at Highbridge, where Caerphilly and Cheddar are sold chiefly by auction. From the east of the county, much liquid milk is railed to London; from the north of the county, Bristol draws a large proportion of its supplies mainly by road. Cattle grazing is usual in summer all over the lower parts of Somerset, especially on the Pawlett Hams near Highbridge and on low-lying grassland around Bridgwater. On the Quantock and Brendon Hills and Exmoor, considerable numbers of store cattle and sheep are raised, and sheep are also fattened on the better grass in these districts and in other parts. Pig keeping is carried on in conjunction with dairying.

Somerset has no lack of cattle markets. There are 41 market centres for livestock; in 5 cases, there are 2 auctions in the same centre. In 23 of these centres, less than 10,000 head of stock and, in 14, less than 5,000, are sold annually. Some of these small auctions might well be held at less frequent intervals than at present or closed altogether, in order to secure that stock is offered in sufficient numbers to attract long distance buyers and encourage free competition. The two chief livestock markets are at Bridgwater and Yeovil; at the former, over 70,000 head of stock per annum are disposed of. Markets of medium importance are at Sparkford, Farrington Gurney, Taunton, Highbridge, Winford, Shepton Mallet, and Glastonbury, and there are small markets at Frome, Wiveliscombe, Bath, Keynsham, Chard, Cutcombe, Yatton, Washford, Ilminster and 23 other centres. Calves are a prominent feature in many markets, particularly Farrington Gurney, Sparkford, and Highbridge. Pigs are entered in large numbers in many markets, but especially at Yeovil, Bridgwater and Sparkford. The biggest markets for sheep are at Bridgwater, Yeovil, Taunton and Wiveliscombe. Among the best fat cattle markets are Yeovil, which is also a good market for cows, Bridgwater and Shepton Mallet. The county has a considerable surplus of livestock and many of the fat cattle and sheep are sent away to Bristol, South Wales, Birmingham, London, Portsmouth, Southampton and Plymouth, while fat pigs are bought by agents for bacon factories

in the county and in Wiltshire and Gloucestershire. Calves are chiefly bought by local dealer-slaughtermen for consignment to London and the Midlands. The best fat cattle go to London and the southern towns, the Midlands and South Wales taking the lower qualities. Most of the store cattle and sheep which are reared are kept for feeding in the county. The total number of livestock entering the markets of Somersetshire in a typical year is approximately 516,000, made up of 72,000 cattle, 90,000 calves, 252,000 sheep, and 102,000 pigs.

Many livestock markets are deficient in covered shelter for stock and covered sale rings. In some cases, there are no cattle pens, and beasts are either tied up to rings in the wall or kept in position by drovers. Yeovil, Taunton and Bridgwater are examples of congested markets. At Bridgwater, the sheep market is still held on the sides of a public street. Dial weighbridges are fitted in 13 marts. In the north-east of the county, there are a number of Monday and Tuesday markets, with consequent clashing of market days. There are no wholesale meat markets in the county. There are two public abattoirs, at Weston-super-Mare and Minehead.

Live poultry and eggs in large numbers, as well as some dairy produce, fruit and vegetables, are sold by auction in 17 livestock markets, and poultry alone in 7 others. At Burnham, Glastonbury, Highbridge and Wells, there are separate auctions for poultry and dairy produce. At Bridgwater and Taunton, this type of produce is sold by auction in the general retail markets. There is no attempt at systematic grading of produce in these auctions, and generally, the facilities offered for display and for packing and grading by purchasers are poor. Many eggs do not pass through the auctions but are collected from the farms by dealers or higglers or are delivered to the premises of dealers and retailers by farmers.

Wool is sold chiefly by direct negotiation between farmers and merchants. There are no wool auctions but some wool from the south-east is sent to Dorchester annual wool sale. There is a hide and skin "market" at Bath. The 10 retail markets in the county play a less important part in the distribution of agricultural produce than in Devonshire and Cornwall. At 5 centres, they are held in the open.

Railway communications in the county are poor in many parts. The county is, however, adapted for motor transport, which is extensively used and is increasing rapidly.

(b) Notes on particular markets.

Bridgwater.—The markets include a cattle and pig market, with a sheep market held in an adjacent street, a retail market and a corn exchange, all owned by the Corporation.

Although the livestock market is the first in the county, the accommodation is, in some respects, primitive. Sheep are sold by auction or private treaty in a street (West Street) leading directly off the main road through the town (Fig. 18); temporary hurdle pens are erected on an asphalted space



FIG. 16.—Diss: Livestock Auction (T. W. Gaze & Son).



"Farmer and Stockbreeder."

FIG. 17.—Diss: Annual Lamb Sale.



FIG. 18.—Bridgwater: Sheep Market.



FIG. 19.—Bridgwater: Cattle Market.

between the pavement and the roadway on each side of the road, an arrangement which vendors appear to favour. The cattle market proper is situated directly on the main Minehead road, and is walled off into a larger cattle section and a smaller calf and pig section; the latter has recently been entirely roofed over but is not large enough to cope with heavy entries. In the cattle section (Fig. 19), there are no definite pens and no covered accommodation; the space, of which part is set apart for private treaty dealing and part allotted to 2 firms of auctioneers, is divided up by iron rails into bays in which cattle are either tied up or kept in position by drovers. There is a sale ring with a 30-cwt. dial weighbridge for fat cattle; other cattle are sold, amid great congestion, in rings improvised by buyers. From 80 to 90 per cent. of the livestock entering the markets is received from within an area of 10 miles radius. Large numbers of fat cattle and sheep are received, while store sheep come from the Quantock Hills district on the west. The numbers of livestock of each class entering the market in 1913, 1922 and 1928 were as follows:—

	1913.	1922.	1928.
Cattle: Fat	3,831	3,493	3,760
Store	6,852	3,355	4,055
Dairy Cows ..	960	861	952
Calves: Fat	2,955	4,563	4,713
Store	1,288	1,368	1,735
Sheep: Fat	26,999	21,172	26,359
Store	36,176	11,328	22,316
Pigs: Fat	130	1,389	8,694
Store	600	3,243	10,807
Total	79,791	50,772	83,391

Fat cattle come in fairly regularly throughout the year, but fat sheep are markedly seasonal, supplies being lowest from October to December and rising rapidly until May, when they reach as many as 800 or more per week, after which they fall again. Fat pigs show the usual decline in supply in summer. Store cattle are most numerous from March to May for grazing in the neighbourhood, while August, September and October are the principal months for store sheep, the September fair attracting about 5,600 head. An average attendance of buyers at a fat stock sale is about 40. It is estimated that about half the fat cattle and sheep and most of the calves are bought for destinations beyond a 10-mile radius of the market. Towns supplied with fat cattle and sheep by Bridgwater include Weston-super-Mare, Clevedon, Bath, Wells and Bristol. Some stores are bought by dealers from Reading and Guildford, but store cattle and sheep are mainly purchased locally for feeding on the rich grazing districts in the county. Calves are chiefly consigned in carcase form to London and the Midlands.

The retail and produce market in the centre of the town consists of a few retailers' stalls, chiefly occupied by butchers, and an auction for locally produced eggs, live and dead poultry and produce. In a recent year, 2,088,000 eggs were sold, most of which were bought by local dealers for consignment to such centres as Bristol, Weston-super-Mare, Birmingham and London. As in most of the Somerset egg auctions, considerable congestion of buyers occurs during sale, and eggs are displayed in packages of all sorts and sizes which do not improve appearance (*see* Fig. 20). Small quantities of fruit and vegetables are sold. A room in the market building is used as a corn

exchange, local and Bristol merchants occupying stands. In a recent year, 31,000 cwt. of wheat, 34,000 cwt. of barley and 9,000 cwt. of oats were sold

Highbridge.—There are two livestock markets at Highbridge, one for cattle and sheep, the other for pigs and calves only. The former is held twice monthly, the latter weekly. The weekly cheese fair controlled by a firm of auctioneers is the only one of the kind in the south of England. In addition to these markets, there is a weekly auction sale of butter, eggs and poultry, and a very small, open-air, general retail market.

The cattle and sheep auction provides ample room for all stock but there is no covered accommodation apart from the sale ring, which is equipped with a 30-cwt. dial weighbridge. Most of the cattle and sheep sent in are fattened on the neighbouring Pawlett marshes.

The pig and calf auction, which is near the railway station and adjoining the cheese repository, comprises covered pens for about 300 calves and uncovered pig pens for about 500 pigs. Calves are sold weekly, pigs fortnightly. Between 7,000 and 8,000 calves were sold in a recent year, 80 per cent. of which were fat. They are purchased by local dealer-slaughtermen for consignment in carcase form to distant consuming centres.

The weekly auction sale of cheese (Fig 21) was established at the beginning of the century by the firm of auctioneers at present in control. Caerphilly, Cheddar and Cheddar loaf are the only varieties offered; Caerphilly predominates and is on the increase. Supplies are chiefly drawn from a radius of about 20 miles, although a few producers send in from greater distances, including South Wales and the counties of Dorset, Devon, Cornwall and Gloucester. There are usually about 20 buyers at a weekly sale. The majority are factors who remove the cheese after purchase to their own premises. A few retailers from Weston-super-Mare sometimes attend, but most of the lots are too big for them. South Wales is the chief consuming centre for cheese sold at Highbridge, Caerphilly, in particular, being in great demand by the miners. A considerable proportion of the Cheddar is sent to London. As much as 30 tons of cheese per week are disposed of in the heavy season. The auction premises consist of a large, brick building, divided into two halls, with roof lighting and good ventilation. One hall is allocated to the sale of Caerphilly cheese and the other to Cheddar and Cheddar loaf. All lots are weighed into the mart on a beam weighbridge at the entrance, ticketed with the number of cheeses and total weight and stacked in avenues on the scrupulously clean concrete floor. Lots are of all sizes—some being as much as 7 cwt.—and are sold by auction as sent in by vendors. Bidding takes place for the whole lot by the cwt., buyers sampling as selling proceeds. The commission charged is 1*s.* 6*d.* per cwt. A small proportion of the Cheddar is sold by private treaty.

A privately controlled weekly auction sale of eggs and live poultry, and of butter and vegetables in small quantities, is held in a room at the Town Hall. Eggs—about 1,000 dozen per week on the average—are sold in vendors' packages placed in disorderly array on trestle tables.

Shepton Mallet.—The livestock market at Shepton Mallet, which is controlled by a firm of auctioneers, is the second in the county for fat cattle. Although the market is held every Friday, the sales of cattle and sheep and those of pigs are held in alternate weeks, which has the effect of securing a larger entry at each sale and probably of attracting more buyers from a distance. The only covered accommodation in the market is a small shed for bulls, and a large timber building containing a cattle sale ring fitted with tiered seating and a 30-cwt. dial weighbridge. There are uncovered pens for cows, store cattle, sheep and pigs, and iron-railed bays for fat cattle tied up singly. Selling of cattle is very rapid, reaching as many as 90 per hour. A separate yard adjoining the railway station is used for a calf auction on alternate Mondays. An auction sale of eggs and poultry is held in a shed in the market.

In 1928, approximately 21,070 head of stock passed through the market, made up of 5,900 fat cattle, 1,650 store cattle, 400 cows, 2,600 calves, 3,950 fat sheep, 470 store sheep, 2,850 fat pigs and 3,250 store pigs. The town is situated in an almost entirely grassland district, and, while dairying predominates in the vicinity, there is much grazing of cattle within a radius of 15 miles. Many fat cattle are also brought from beyond this distance by dealers. Supplies of livestock other than cattle are mainly locally produced. About 12 special sales of store cattle, chiefly dairy stock, are held in the year. For fat cattle and pigs, wholesale butchers attend from a wide area, including Bristol, Bath, South Wales, Birmingham, Plymouth and Portsmouth. Very little fat stock is bought by dealers. An average attendance of buyers at a sale is from 75 to 100.

The railway service to and from this market is excellent.

A small, open-air, general retail market is held in the centre of the town.

Sparkford.—A fortnightly market, which is the third in the county as regards numbers of livestock sold, has been built up by a firm of auctioneers in the small village of Sparkford, about 9 miles from Yeovil on the Great Western Railway main line. Pigs and calves, with a fair sprinkling of fat cattle, constitute the bulk of the trade.

The market has more covered accommodation than is usual in the county. The pig pens are roofed with corrugated iron ; an open-fronted shed is provided for about 800 calves and there is a covered cattle sale ring with a 30-cwt. dial weighbridge. No covered accommodation is provided for dairy cows ; fat cattle and sheep are placed in open pens. A large, open-sided shed is used as an egg and poultry auction. Eggs are displayed practically all ungraded, in vendors' packages. No special packing facilities are provided for buyers. From the point of view of the quality of the eggs marketed, it is likely to be a disadvantage that sales are only fortnightly. From ¾ to 1 million eggs and from 20,000 to 25,000 poultry are sold annually. Local dealers buy most of the eggs for consignment to London, Plymouth and other south-coast towns, while buyers from London take the poultry. A long wooden building on the main road opposite to the market is occupied, in part, by several branch banks. In 1928, approximately 35,300 head of stock were sold at Sparkford, including 2,100 fat and 900 store cattle, 200 cows, 8,100 calves—of which 90 per cent. were classed as fat, 6,500 fat sheep, 2,500 store sheep, 10,000 fat pigs and 5,000 store pigs. Although the market is in a dairying district, cows do not appear in the market in any great number ; the large numbers of pigs and veal calves marketed are, however, subsidiary products of the dairy industry. The market obtains most of its supplies locally. Local buyers slaughter and consign veal calves to London and the Midlands. Buyers acting as agents for various bacon factories take the majority of the fat pigs. Fat cattle and sheep are sent to Bristol, Bath, Weymouth, Bournemouth and the Midlands.

Taunton.—The cattle market at Taunton, which is held weekly on Saturdays, suffers from congestion of traffic and of livestock within the market, as well as from deficiency of covered shelter for stock. It is situated in the centre of the town, about 1 mile from the Great Western Railway main line station, and can only be approached by a single narrow road leading off the main street. The market comprises a walled enclosure for cattle and pigs and an unenclosed block of pens for about 800 sheep. The walled market is composed of stone-walled bays, without pens, for cattle, and a corrugated iron-roofed shelter containing iron pens for about 100 pigs and space for tying up 80 calves. A 2-ton index lever weighbridge is provided. There are no sale rings, cattle being sold amid great congestion in " rings " improvised by buyers and onlookers ; the weight of each fat beast is chalked on a board as it is sold. Two auctioneers conduct sales which are so arranged as not to clash. The Town Council took over the market rights, properties and

liabilities in 1926 from the Taunton Markets Trust and have obtained borrowing powers for the erection of a new market on a site of 5 acres nearer to the station.

A considerable decline since pre-War is shown in the trade passing through the market. In 1928, approximately 25,500 head of stock were sold, of which over 50 per cent. were sheep, compared with 35,000 in 1913. Of the cattle sent in, about 35 per cent. are fat and about 25 per cent. cows, whereas the sheep offered are mainly fat. Taunton acts to some extent as an "exporting" market for fat stock to such centres as Bristol and South Wales. Practically all stock in the market is produced within a 10-mile radius. The town is in a position where it might develop as a collecting mart for stock coming up from the west.

The public, covered, retail market in the centre of the town, open daily, is occupied chiefly by retail meat, fruit and vegetable stalls. A small side hall is used as a poultry, egg and dairy produce market, where, in addition to about 10 retailers, an auctioneer sells eggs and live and dead poultry once a week. There is also an open-air stall market devoted to fish and general merchandise.

The corn exchange, adjoining the market hall, handled only 63,000 cwt. of grain in 1927. It is used to a considerable extent for other agricultural business.

Weston-super-Mare.—The markets in this seaside town have a local importance only. They include a small livestock market, leased by the railway company to the local authority and handling less than 7,000 head of stock in a recent year, and a public retail market, comprising only 14 stalls and not utilised by producers. Neither of these markets has points of special interest. The town owns, however, a public abattoir which, though small, is well designed and equipped. The permanent population is only about 32,000, but the abattoir has a capacity sufficient for a town of 100,000 in order to allow for the summer influx of visitors and for future expansion of trade. The abattoir, built at a cost of £10,000 and opened in 1916, is situated well away from the centre of the town and about a ½-mile from the Great Western Railway goods yard. There are two main blocks of buildings, one containing the lairage, slaughter-hall and cooling room for sheep and cattle, and the other containing similar facilities for pigs as well as the boiler-house and superintendent's office and a store for condemned meat. Lairage in the two buildings accommodates 50 cattle, 160 sheep and 150 pigs, and is so constructed as to prevent waiting animals being aware of the slaughtering process. The cattle and sheep slaughter-hall is semi-divided by partitions into 4 bays for cattle, each served direct from the lairage, and a single large bay for sheep with room for 12 slaughtermen to work. This semi-division prevents the animals seeing the slaughtering and cutting up of other cattle. The humane slaughterer is compulsory for cattle and pigs but not for sheep. Both buildings are louvre-ventilated and roof-lighted from the north; they are paved and walled with non-absorbent and easily cleaned materials, have an ample hot-water supply, and, in the cattle and sheep sections, an efficient overhead rail system to eliminate man-handling. In the cattle and sheep building, the cooling hall, which is walled off from the slaughter-hall, has hanging accommodation for 75 beef and 120 sheep carcases. The pig section has three separate slaughter pens, scalding tanks and scraping tables, so constructed as to reduce handling to the minimum. The cooling hall has space for 100 pig carcases. It is not separately walled off, but the roof of the slaughter-hall is higher than that of the cooling hall and is louvred to carry off steam. Besides the two main buildings, there is a small block for dealing with by-products, also a destructor and a washing floor for wagons. Another building has a mess-room, cartshed and a hide store which is let to a private firm. The Council intend to build a new cattle market adjoining the abattoir. There is no municipal cold-store, but a private cold-storage firm has premises within a short distance. The

approximate number of animals slaughtered in a recent year was 1,280 beasts, 890 calves, 10,730 sheep, and 3,670 pigs. Slaughtering charges are 3*s.* per beast, 1*s.* 3*d.* per pig or calf and 9*d.* per sheep, and include lairage for 24 hours. The slaughtermen are employed and paid by butchers. No private slaughter-houses are allowed in the urban district.

Yeovil.—See page 136.

SUFFOLK.

(a) General.

Suffolk, divided for administrative purposes into two areas, East and West, is about three-fourths of the size of Norfolk and comprises some 740,000 acres under crops and grass, nearly 75 per cent. of which is devoted to arable agriculture, the principal grassland areas being the marshes in the river valleys in East Suffolk or near the sea. The growing of cereals and roots in conjunction with cattle feeding or sheep folding is a common type of farming. The north-west of the county is low-lying fen land devoted to wheat, sugar beet, celery, potatoes and, in certain parts, to fruit, vegetables and flowers. There are no specialised produce auctions for the sale of fruit or vegetables, although small quantities are offered in the numerous retail markets or sold by auction in some of the cattle markets. Corn production is important and corn exchanges are in use at 11 centres. Corn sales also take place at 4 centres where no exchange exists. The most important centres are, in order, Bury St. Edmund's, Ipswich, Sudbury, Framlingham, Beccles, Haverhill, Bungay, Halesworth and Stowmarket. At Bury St. Edmund's and Ipswich, the total sales of corn in 1927 amounted to 632,000 and 583,000 cwt., respectively. Local merchants buy most of the grain, but a large proportion is eventually sent out of the county. In 1927, the total quantity of grain sold at the 13 principal centres was 1,990,000 cwt., comprising 790,000 cwt. of wheat, 1,110,000 cwt. of barley and 90,000 cwt. of oats.

As in Norfolk, the wintering of bullocks in yards brings the output of beef cattle mainly into the first half of the year. Dairying is general throughout the county, more especially near the towns and seaside resorts. Milk in excess of the county's requirements goes chiefly to London. The sheep population, as in Norfolk, is far below the average for the country in density, although Suffolk has an indigenous breed of which annual sales of lambs are held at many centres, the largest being at Bury St. Edmund's and Ipswich. On the other hand, pigs are more concentrated than in any other county in England and Wales.

Considerable numbers of beef cattle in the season (February-June), are consigned out of the county from the principal markets, about one-half to London and the South and one-half to the Midlands and the North. Most of the pigs sold in the markets are sent

out of the county, bacon pigs going to factories in the South and Midlands, cutters largely to Birmingham and other Midland towns, and porkers to London.

There are livestock markets in 16 centres—9 in East Suffolk and 7 in West Suffolk. The two principal markets are at Ipswich and Bury St. Edmund's. Stowmarket and Halesworth follow in importance. There are medium-sized markets at Beccles, Saxmundham, Haverhill, Wickham Market, Sudbury and Hadleigh, and small markets, handling under 10,000 head of stock per annum, at 6 other centres. The total number of livestock passing through the Suffolk markets in a typical year is about 451,000, comprising 56,000 cattle, 14,000 calves, 155,000 sheep and 226,000 pigs. More pigs are sold in the markets of Suffolk than in any other county included in this Report. As in Norfolk, there is a healthy tendency to concentrate on the larger markets ; over 50 per cent. of the stock passing through markets enter those handling over 60,000 head per annum, and only 5 per cent. enter those handling less than 10,000. Ipswich and Bury St. Edmund's are important fat and store cattle and sheep markets ; Beccles, Halesworth and Lavenham are useful fat cattle markets, and Stowmarket has a fair trade in cows and store cattle. Comparatively few cattle are sold in any other market. Very few sheep are sold at any of the markets outside Ipswich and Bury St. Edmund's. There are important annual lamb sales, however, at Ipswich, Barnham, Halesworth, Melton, Stowmarket, Bury St. Edmund's and Saxmundham. Stowmarket, Ipswich and Bury St. Edmund's markets are all noteworthy for pigs, Stowmarket and Ipswich being the second and third largest pig markets, respectively, in producing districts in England and Wales ; large numbers of pigs are also entered at Halesworth and Wickham Market. The accommodation and equipment at the larger markets are superior to most in the eastern or southern counties, especially as regards covered shelter for fat cattle, dairy cows and pigs, and covered sale rings. There are dial weighbridges at only 3 centres, but there are few markets in which fat cattle appear in considerable numbers. At Halesworth, a catalogue showing entries for the next market is prepared by the auctioneers as a guide to buyers.

Poultry are very extensively kept in the county. Turkeys and ducks are particularly numerous. Live poultry are sold in or in connection with all the livestock markets in the county, while a special weekly auction for the sale of poultry and eggs is held at Botesdale. Egg auction sales are held in conjunction with livestock markets at Bury St. Edmund's, Hadleigh, Haverhill, Ipswich, Newmarket, Stowmarket, Sudbury and Wickham Market, while eggs from the county are also consigned to some of the better equipped auctions in Essex, particularly Colchester. Ipswich and Stowmarket are examples of successful auctions of quite recent origin. In the larger egg auctions, grading to standards fixed by the auctioneers is practised by many vendors, while the rule

that all eggs must be guaranteed laid by the vendors' hens and not more than 7 days old is in force. Large quantities of eggs are sold through the Framlingham and the Eastern Counties Co-operative Egg and Poultry Society, which has registered two of its depots—at Ipswich and Framlingham—as packing stations under the National Mark Egg Scheme. London takes most of the surplus eggs and poultry. Butter is fairly extensively made in West Suffolk; small quantities are offered at 8 auctions, but supplies are chiefly sold direct to retail shops and consumers. Wool auction sales are held annually at Ipswich and Bury St. Edmund's. Much of the county's wool is sold on the London Market through the agency of the Eastern Wool Growers, Ltd. There is a registered hide and skin "market" at Ipswich. There are no public abattoirs.

The only wholesale produce market is the fish market at Lowestoft, the fourth in importance in the United Kingdom.

There are retail markets at 9 towns. Apart from Ipswich, these markets have little importance as an outlet for local agricultural produce.

(b) Notes on particular markets.

Bury St. Edmund's.—*See* page 100.

Halesworth.—The only market at Halesworth is a privately owned, fortnightly livestock market alternating with that at Harleston, in Norfolk, about 11 miles distant, which is owned by a different firm of auctioneers. In an average year, 32,000 head of stock are handled at the fortnightly market in the proportion indicated in Appendix IV, page 211, as well as about 60,000 head of poultry. In addition, about 7,000 store sheep are disposed of at an annual sale in July. The market site covers about 6 acres, but not all of it is occupied by pens. All pens are of wood and there is little covered accommodation for livestock. About 50 per cent. of the cattle sold are fat. There is some trade in cows, as dairying is increasing in the district. Fat cattle are mainly yard-fed and of high quality, and are in heaviest supply from March to June, with a few grass-fed animals at the end of summer. During the months March to June, about 40 cattle per week are bought by Midland and London buyers in about equal proportions. Pigs are the chief class of stock handled, over 19,000 having been sold in a recent year; as from other Suffolk markets, they go largely to London and to bacon factories in the Midlands and South. There is some demand from Lowestoft. The auctioneers owning the mart endeavour to give buyers some indication of the supplies expected each market day by publishing in advance, in the local press and in printed catalogues, the anticipated entries of stock based on notifications received from vendors. Some difficulty is experienced, however, in inducing vendors to notify their entries.

Ipswich.—*See* page 121.

Lowestoft.—Lowestoft is the fourth most important fishing port in the United Kingdom, and, from the point of view of herrings alone, is second only to Great Yarmouth. The wholesale fish market is held every weekday at the docks owned by the London and North Eastern Railway. Over 70,000 tons of fish, to the value of over £1,000,000, are dealt with in a year; of this quantity, 80 per cent. are herrings, the remaining 20 per cent. consisting of trawl fish, Lowestoft being especially famed for prime fish and plaice.

The total area of the covered space for marketing is approximately 13,000 sq. yds.; the length of quays for fish trade purposes is about 4,500 feet. The docks are served by rail throughout their length. Trawl fish are sold by auction on the quay and are consigned principally to Billingsgate, although a big trade is also done with Midland centres and with other parts of the country. Herrings are sold by auction, on sample, in a circular auction mart. Nine or ten auctioneers operate. The attendance of buyers varies from 150 to 200 at times of keen demand, to from 5 to 10 at slack seasons, the average being about 60. During the main part of the herring season (October–November), 90 per cent. of the supplies are bought by Scottish curers or by "Klondykers"—i.e., English and German exporters of fresh herrings. Curing yards and houses adjoin the market.

Stowmarket.—Stowmarket, about 13 miles from Ipswich and Bury St. Edmund's, has two privately owned weekly livestock markets, a corn exchange, owned by a company, and a publicly controlled, open-air retail market.

At one of the livestock auction marts, occupying about ¾ of an acre, within a few yards of the station, the whole of the livestock accommodation is under cover; it includes iron pens for about 1,500 pigs under corrugated iron-roofed shelters and a few wooden pens for cattle, with a sale ring, which are also covered. Live poultry are sold in a separate sale-yard not far distant. The other auction mart, near the Market Place, is about ¼ mile distant from the station. One part of this market has covered and uncovered pens for about 1,200 pigs and a few sheep. Adjacent, are covered and uncovered cattle pens, an uncovered sale ring and a small calf shed. In another part of the market is a large, covered horse repository and poultry mart. Horses are sold monthly. A recently started egg auction is held in an adjoining small corrugated iron building. Eggs are exhibited on shelves in uniform chip baskets or in sectioned egg cases belonging to the auctioneer. Lots are brought forward on to the selling counter for inspection as sold. Grading by vendors is encouraged and a guarantee as to freshness and vendors' production is required. Small quantities of butter are sold.

Stowmarket is one of the most important market centres for pigs in the eastern and southern counties, and is, in fact, the fourth pig market in England and Wales, or, omitting markets in large consuming centres, the second. Notwithstanding the relative proximity of Ipswich and Bury St. Edmund's, which together handle almost 80,000 pigs per annum, and of the bacon factories at Ipswich and Elmswell (5 miles), which purchase direct from farmers, about 47,000 pigs enter the markets in an average year. Only about 6,000 head of other livestock are received at the weekly markets. An approximately equal proportion of the pig trade is done at each mart; most of the cattle and calves are, however, handled at the Market Place mart. It is estimated that 90 per cent. of the pigs sold go outside a 10-mile radius; fat pigs are largely bought up by dealers; bacon pigs and cutters are sent chiefly to the Midlands, porkers are sent chiefly to London and the south. There is some trade in half-fat store pigs for finishing in the vicinity of London. Approximately, 25 per cent. of the pigs sold are small stores, many being bought by dealers for distribution to farmers in Suffolk and neighbouring counties. Poultry, of which about 3,000 head per week are disposed of, are sent largely to London and, in summer, to Suffolk coastal resorts.

At the weekly corn exchange, 56,000 cwt. of grain were sold in 1927. The open-air retail market, consisting of about 30 stalls for general merchandise, is held in the open market square on Thursdays and Saturdays. The market rights were granted in 1349.

An annual sale of lambs and ewes is held in July, in a field near Stowmarket, by an Ipswich firm of auctioneers, when about 7,000 head are disposed of.

SURREY.

(a) General.

Surrey is one of the smaller counties of England, and, owing to the extensive urban area in the eastern portion, only about 45 per cent. of its area is under cultivation. The proximity of London accounts for the prevalence of dairy farming, which is widespread, and for the prominence of market-gardening in the north-east.

On the chalk ridge running from east to west—the most marked physical feature—arable sheep farming and sheep grazing are common. Mixed farming and dairying, with some particular attention to potato growing, are found to the south of this ridge. The Bagshot beds in the north-west yield light soils almost unfit for agriculture. Dairying is prominent on the heavy clay and lighter soils in the north, with market-gardening and potato growing on the lighter soils and on the alluvial soils, particularly those on the outskirts of Greater London. There is another small, specialised, market-garden area in the Farnham district, supplying Aldershot and its adjacent camps. Market-garden produce and potatoes are disposed of either through the London wholesale markets or direct to local distributors. There are no wholesale fruit and vegetable markets in the county. Brentford market handles a considerable quantity of Surrey produce.

Of the land under crops and grass, one-third only is arable, of which only about 40 per cent. is under cereals. There are corn exchanges at Guildford and Redhill, but the total quantity of grain sold in the two exchanges amounted to less than 34,000 cwt. in 1927. Corn sales also take place at Farnham, Dorking and Kingston-on-Thames in connection with the livestock markets.

Of the cattle in the county, 60 per cent. are cows or in-calf heifers. Practically all milk produced is sold in liquid form, hardly any butter or cheese being made. The number of sheep is less than in any other county in England and Wales except Middlesex, but pig keeping, particularly for small pork for the London market, is a marked feature. Poultry are kept in comparatively large numbers, the density of poultry population per acre of crops and grass being exceeded by only 3 counties in England and Wales. A large proportion of the fat stock, poultry and eggs produced in the county are disposed of without passing through markets owing to the proximity of London and the large towns to the south and west.

Of the 9 livestock markets, by far the most important is that at Guildford, where over 50 per cent. of the stock entering the Surrey markets is sold. Kingston-on-Thames market ranks next, and there are smaller markets, all handling less than 10,000 head of stock per annum, at 7 other centres. The total number of stock entering the Surrey markets in a typical year is estimated at about

101,000, including 10,000 cattle, 14,000 calves, 29,000 sheep and 48,000 pigs. Fat stock predominates in all the smaller markets. Guildford is a good market for dairy cows. Kingston-on-Thames and Dorking markets have recently been removed from the streets. Farnham market is better supplied with covered accommodation than the other smaller markets. There are dial weighbridges at Guildford, Kingston-on-Thames and Dorking.

Auction sales of poultry and eggs are held in 5 livestock markets and of poultry in 3. Only a small trade is done at these auctions, except at Guildford, where a firm of auctioneers has registered a packing station under the National Mark Egg Scheme. Small quantities of butter, fruit and vegetables are sold in some of the produce auctions.

There are retail markets at 5 towns. Except at Croydon and Kingston-on-Thames, these are held in the open.

(b) Notes on particular markets.

Guildford—*See* page 118.

SUSSEX.

(a) General.

For administrative purposes, Sussex is divided into two parts, East and West. Of its total area of 929,000 acres, only about 60 per cent. is under crops and grass, of which about one-third is arable land. Taking the county as a whole, there are three main physical features; the chalk ridge of the South Downs running from west to east across the south of the county, the central plain of the Weald, and the range of wooded hills occupying most of the northern portion of the county. The characteristic farming of the South Downs is arable sheep farming and sheep grazing; the Southdown breed of sheep is prevalent in this region. The central plain of the Weald, consisting largely of heavy clay, and the northern hills are mainly under grass and devoted chiefly to milk production and cattle raising. At its eastern end, the Weald plain merges into the flat and marshy Pevensey levels, devoted almost entirely to cattle grazing. It is common for farmers on the Downs and in the Weald to rent land on the levels, on which they graze cattle in summer for sale, generally, in Hailsham or Pevensey markets. In the valleys in the north, a little hop growing is carried on. Besides these three main regions, a narrow plain between the South Downs and the coast carries the best arable land in the county, on which corn is extensively grown and sheep and cattle fattened. Early lambs are a speciality.

In the Worthing area, market-gardening and flower growing are carried on intensively and there is a large glasshouse industry, with early grapes, tomatoes, cucumbers and strawberries as the

chief crops. The early glasshouse produce of this area is marketed in London, but, as the season advances, the seaside resorts all along the south coast provide a ready local market. Much of the produce disposed of locally is sold by producers direct to retailers; a considerable trade is also carried on through the wholesale fruit and vegetable market at Brighton.

There is no lack of consuming centres for agricultural produce within easy reach of Sussex. The county itself has a permanent population of ¾ million, fully half of which is located in the seaside towns where the population is largely increased in summer, while London is within easy reach of most parts of the county.

There are six corn exchanges—at Chichester, Lewes, Haywards Heath, Hailsham, Barnham and Hastings. Chichester, the only important exchange, is the sixth provincial market in importance in England and Wales for home-grown oats. In addition, corn business is transacted in cattle markets at 9 other centres. Corn sales in 1927 at the 4 most important centres, however, amounted to only 113,000 cwt. of wheat, 28,000 cwt. of barley and 88,000 cwt. of oats.

The county carries a comparatively small head of livestock. Milk production is universal, supplies being chiefly marketed in liquid form in London and the coast towns. In East Sussex, poultry are intensively kept, the head of poultry per 1,000 acres of crops and grass in this division, although less than half that of Lancashire, ranking second in the country. There is a specialised poultry fattening industry around Heathfield.

There are regular livestock markets in 18 centres and, in addition, periodical sales, varying from two to five in a year, are held at 4 centres. The two most important markets are at Chichester and Lewes; the former is held fortnightly, the latter weekly. Others of considerable importance are at Rye and Barnham. Steyning, Northiam, East Grinstead, Haywards Heath, Battle and Hailsham are markets with a medium trade. There are 12 market centres at which less than 10,000 head of stock per annum are handled. The total number of stock entered at the Sussex markets in a recent year was approximately 351,000, consisting of 50,000 cattle, 41,000 calves, 192,000 sheep and 68,000 pigs. Of these, approximately two-thirds were handled at the four largest markets, Chichester, Lewes, Rye and Barnham. Lewes and Barnham are the most important fat cattle markets. Chichester is very largely a collecting and distributing centre for store cattle from the west of England. The biggest sheep market is at Rye, where both fat and store animals are sold in large numbers. Barnham, Lewes and Chichester are also important centres for sheep. There is a tendency for sheep to be taken to the larger marts. The number of pigs passing through the markets is high in proportion to the total pig population of the county. Lewes

market is a notable centre for fat pigs and calves. A large proportion of the fat stock offered is consumed within the county, although buyers from London of fat pigs, calves and, at certain seasons, sheep, attend the markets, while fat pigs and fat cows are often sent to the Midlands. Considerable numbers of store cattle, including many Irish, are brought into the county for grazing purposes as well as many store sheep for both breeding and feeding. Much store stock is bought in markets in other counties—e.g., Dorset, Hants, Kent, Devon, Cornwall, or at Bristol Irish cattle market. Sussex has a number of periodical fairs for the disposal of store sheep and cattle, but they are not comparable in importance with the seasonal sales in Kent. The biggest fair is at Findon, near Worthing, where about 10,000 sheep are disposed of annually, in September, while periodical sales of store sheep are held at Lewes and Chichester. The sheep disposed of at these sales consist chiefly of draft ewes and store ewe and wether lambs.

The largest Sussex livestock markets are, on the whole, better equipped than in many counties south of the Thames. There is a considerable amount of covered accommodation for cattle and calves, while covered sale rings are also common. In general, pigs and sheep are penned and sold in the open. Dial weighbridges are found in only four markets in the county. Of the larger markets, Rye and Hailsham are below the average in equipment. Chichester market is the only publicly owned livestock market ; five markets are controlled by market companies and the rest by firms of auctioneers.

Poultry and egg auction sales, which are generally small, are held in conjunction with practically all the livestock markets ; in many, small quantities of butter, fruit and vegetables and rabbits are also sold. A produce auction is held at Crawley. At Heathfield market, the trade in poultry and produce is more important than in livestock. A large proportion of the eggs and poultry is marketed direct to retailers in the seaside towns. London buyers attend the produce markets in the north of the county.

There is an annual wool auction at Lewes, where some 30,000 fleeces are disposed of annually. An increasing amount of wool is sent to the depot of the Southern Wool Growers' Association at Chichester, where it is graded and sold on the London Wool Exchange. There are no wholesale meat markets in the county. Brighton, which has a public abattoir, is near enough to London by rail and road to make use of Smithfield market. Brighton, Eastbourne and Hastings have small wholesale fish markets supplying their immediate neighbourhood ; these markets handle fish consigned from the large fishing ports on the east coast as well as locally landed supplies. Retail produce markets exist in a few towns, including Brighton, Lewes and Chichester. The two latter are quite small. The Lewes market is leased by the local Women's Institute.



FIG. 20.—Bridgwater: Egg Auction.



FIG. 21.—Highbridge: Cheese Auction.



FIG. 22.—Barnham; Cattle Shed.



FIG. 23.—Ashford: Covered Pig Pens.

(b) Notes on particular markets.

Barnham.—Barnham auction, situated 5 miles outside Chichester, is owned by the same firm of auctioneers that handles the bulk of the cattle at Chichester. In 1928, 46,937 head of stock were entered, including 4,133 fat cattle, 4,043 calves, 28,816 sheep (principally fat), 7,329 fat pigs and 2,616 store pigs. The market is one of the first two in Sussex for fat cattle. No store cattle are sold. The auction covers an area of 2½ acres immediately adjacent to the station, which, however, has poor loading facilities. The cattle auction consists of an excellent, large, corrugated-iron building, 190 ft. x 80 ft., capable of holding 240 beasts tied singly in two double rows, each with a gangway at the heads of the cattle (Fig. 22). Cattle are weighed as they enter on a 30-cwt. dial weighbridge and then tied up with their weights posted up against them. They are sold as they stand as there is no sale ring. A small section of the building is used for the auction sale of vegetable produce in small quantities. The market also includes uncovered pig and sheep pens accommodating about 1,500 head, and a narrow shed, 200 ft. long, for the housing and sale of store pigs, calves, and poultry. Calves are sold as they stand, which causes congestion. The position of the poultry cages in the same narrow shed as the pigs and calves, and the consequent crowding of buyers, does not contribute to efficient selling. A small shed, used as an egg, butter and dressed poultry auction, and a corn exchange complete the accommodation provided. The trade in the market has increased considerably since pre-War days, except that in sheep, which has remained about level. The drawing area of the market has approximately a 20-mile radius except on the west side, where it is curtailed by Chichester market, although not seriously, since Barnham is a fat stock market and stores are chiefly handled at Chichester. The chief buyers are butchers from the towns and villages lying along or near the coast from Portsmouth in the west to Eastbourne in the east. Occasionally, buyers of pigs attend from London and Birmingham. The egg trade does not exceed 1,000 dozen per week in the spring. The eggs are not well displayed and little grading is done. About 20,000 head of poultry per annum are sold. Eggs and poultry are largely bought for the south-coast towns. Little business is done in the corn exchange, only 6 merchants occupying stands.

Brighton.—*See* page 141.

Chichester.—*See* page 102.

Heathfield.—An important egg and poultry market is controlled by a firm of auctioneers at Heathfield in conjunction with a small livestock auction handling some 4,500 head of stock per annum.

The poultry accommodation is in two sections, one for hens, the other for cockerels, and provides room in all for some 3,000 to 4,000 birds penned in three-divisioned wooden crates in three tiers in open-fronted sheds.* A considerable time is allowed for inspection by buyers before the sale, which takes place in the sheds. In the egg auction, locally produced eggs are displayed very attractively in wooden trays of several sizes, built in sets in two or three tiers. Many vendors grade into "firsts" and "seconds," the minimum for first grade being understood to be 2 oz. All eggs are sold under the vendors' names as "new laid," under guarantee, but no definition of this term is laid down. The auctioneers distribute to buyers printed sheets bearing the lot numbers. These sheets are marked by buyers as they inspect the eggs before sale. When selling commences, the egg room is closed and selling takes place outside the shed, bidding being based on the buyers' marked catalogue. By this method, not only is adequate inspection prior to sale of goods ensured, but selling is more rapid, as many as 500 lots per hour being sold. In this auction, small quantities of butter, fruit, vegetables, dead poultry and rabbits are sold by the same method.

* *See* Economic Series No. 11, Fig. 59.

A considerable trade is done in store chickens which are bought for fattening in the Heathfield district, where poultry cramming is a specialised industry. Store chickens are received mostly from within a radius of about 25 miles, although some arrive from much greater distances. The finished table birds produced in the locality do not pass through the local market but are consigned mostly to London. Hens are largely bought up by London dealers. Buyers of eggs supply London, Brighton, Eastbourne and Hastings. In 1927, approximately 94,000 head of poultry and 1¼ million eggs were sold. The sales of poultry have increased by nearly 100 per cent. since 1925. A packing station under the National Mark Egg Scheme has recently been opened in connection with this auction.

Lewes.—The cattle market is owned by a market company and leased to a firm of auctioneers. The site occupies about 1¼ acres and includes some covered accommodation for calves and store pigs and uncovered pens for all other stock. There are two cattle sale rings ; one, for fat cattle, which has covered seating for buyers, is electrically lit and equipped with a 30-cwt. dial weighbridge ; the other, for cows and store cattle, is uncovered. Calves are sold in a small ring under cover of the calf shed. The livestock accommodation is hardly sufficient but the erection of more pig and cattle pens is under consideration. The market accommodation includes a building for corn sales and a wood and corrugated iron shed which is used as a poultry and produce auction.

Lewes market has the second largest entry of stock in Sussex and ranks first for pigs. The following are the numbers of livestock passing through the weekly market in 1913, 1922 and 1928 :—

		1913.	1922.	1928.
Cattle :	Fat	3,703	3,313	5,242
	Store	671	707	433
	Dairy Cows ..			
Calves	.. .. ..	3,564	5,822	7,982
Sheep :	Fat	14,480	7,491	10,329
	Store	164	295	93
Pigs :	Fat	5,599	11,194	12,392
	Store	2,190	3,927	4,490
Total	.. ..	30,371	32,749	40,961

Most of the livestock sent in to Lewes market is from East Sussex. Brighton and Eastbourne and the intervening towns take a large proportion of the supplies, while buyers also attend from London and its southern suburbs and from Portsmouth. Pigs on occasion are sent as far as Birmingham. The store stock trade in the weekly market is local, but the auctioneer leasing the cattle market holds four special sales of sheep annually in late summer on the Old Fair Ground, at which about 18,000 store sheep and lambs, chiefly Southdowns, are dispersed. These sales are attended by buyers from counties outside Sussex. An annual spring sale, known as the May Fair, at which store and dairy cattle are sold, is held in the market, and a sale of pedigree Southdown rams and ram lambs is held in the Fair Ground in September.

In July, an auction sale of wool, the only one in Sussex, is held in the corn exchange. About 30,000 fleeces are sold. The wool, most of which is brought in by road, chiefly in small lots of less than 100 fleeces, is stored in a disused brewery in Malling Street. Sample sheets are open for inspection by buyers for a day and a half previous to the sale. All wool is weighed after sale and

payments are based on this weight. The auctioneer supplies sheets at a charge of 6*d.* to the farmer and 9*d.* to the buyer. The auctioneer's commission is 2½ per cent. and the conditions of sale are those applying generally in English wool auctions. The wool offered, about one-third of which is washed, is chiefly Southdown and is all Sussex produced. About 20 buyers from Yorkshire, Scotland and the Midlands usually attend.

The corn exchange, which is owned by the Corporation, is held on Tuesday of each week, whereas the cattle market-day is Monday. A small trade in corn (17,000 cwt. in 1927) is done both at the exchange and at the cattle market.

The small, covered, retail produce market is organised voluntarily by the East Sussex Federation of Women's Institutes for the benefit of small growers; garden produce, poultry, eggs and other foodstuffs are sold.

Rye.—Rye is on the southern side of Romney Marsh and, in consequence, large numbers of both store and fat sheep pass through the market, the sales of sheep in an average year amounting to about 51,000. Comparatively little other stock is offered.

While no less than 5 firms of auctioneers sell in this market, the majority of the auction selling is done by two firms. About two-thirds of the fat and store sheep and cattle are sold by private treaty, auction selling of sheep being chiefly confined to the more busy periods. Cows and pigs are mostly sold by auction. Sales begin exceptionally early—at 9 a.m.

The market accommodation is of the simplest, the only cover for stock being a small shed for calves. Ample pens, both permanent and temporary, are provided for sheep, and permanent pens for cows and pigs. Fat beasts are tied to long cattle rails after being weighed at the entrance to the market, and are sold as they stand. There are no permanent sale rings but temporary rings of hurdles are used for calves and store sheep. Cows and store cattle are sold in the open market space in a ring improvised by buyers.

Store sheep are bought by local farmers and exported to neighbouring counties. Buyers of fat sheep attend from the coast towns of Brighton, Eastbourne and Hastings and from London. Approximately 70 per cent. of the total stock sold is consigned to destinations beyond a 10-mile radius. The seasonal nature of the output of Romney Marsh, on which the market largely depends, is reflected in the fluctuations in the numbers of sheep entering from month to month. The average number per fortnightly market for each month from February, 1927, to January, 1928, was as follows:—

1927—

Feb.	758	June	1,851	Oct.,	4,996
Mar.	598	July	2,260	Nov.	2,282
Apr.,	563	Aug.	4,293	Dec.	961
				1928—	
May	1,269	Sept.	3,269	Jan.	1,228

From August to October, both fat and store sheep are sold off the marshes.

The market adjoins the railway line and a loading bank leads directly into the market by a number of parallel slipways which enable stock to be cleared rapidly. A building in the centre of the market is used as a corn exchange and for auction sales of eggs, fruit and vegetables, but the trade is small. Live poultry are sold in the cattle market.

WILTSHIRE.

(a) General.

Wiltshire is about one-third larger than the neighbouring county of Dorset, and the agriculture of the two counties is similar in many respects. In each case, roughly one-third of the area

of crops and grass is under arable cultivation. Like Dorset, Wiltshire may be divided, agriculturally, into two main areas. In the south and east, there are Salisbury Plain and the Marlborough Downs, a wide chalk area laid out in large arable farms with extensive open downs; this area is devoted largely to sheep and corn farming, with dairying in the valleys and, to an increasing extent, on the downlands. In the north and north-west, the clay vale lands are, for the most part, under grass, with milk production as the main industry. Besides these two main areas, mixed farming with dairying is practised in the Pewsey Vale, in the centre of the county, while market-garden crops and soft fruits are grown in the districts around Bromham, near Devizes, and in the neighbourhood of Bratton and Market Lavington. The produce of these areas is marketed direct from growers to retailers in towns such as Bath, or is sent to jam factories. There are no specialised wholesale fruit and vegetable markets in the county, although small quantities of fruit and vegetables are sold by auction at a few centres.

There are corn exchanges at Salisbury, Devizes, Swindon, Chippenham and Calne; through the first three, 256,000 cwt. of wheat, 158,000 cwt. of barley and 101,000 cwt. of oats were sold in 1927. The exchange at Salisbury is the largest south of the Thames for sales of corn. At Warminster and Trowbridge, small exchange buildings have recently been erected in the cattle markets, in the latter case, by a company formed for the purpose by the National Farmers' Union.

The cow population of Wiltshire is only exceeded in seven other counties in England and Wales. Practically all the milk produced is sent in liquid form to London or to factories or depots in the county. Little dairy produce is made on the farms. Cattle feeding is not important, a considerable proportion of the fat cattle on offer in Salisbury Market being brought from counties farther west. Fat sheep and lambs are fairly plentiful in spring. Pig keeping is not very general but is intensive in the Calne district. A feature of the Wiltshire markets is the large number of calves on offer. There are, in all, 14 livestock market centres in Wiltshire, at 2 of which there is more than one mart. The markets are numerous in the northern dairy district, and fewer on the sheep grazing downlands of the south and east, where the trade is largely seasonal and, so far as store stock is concerned, carried on by means of periodical fairs. The chief centre for livestock is Salisbury, which has 4 marts and serves as a collecting point for a large part of the county and attracts buyers from a distance. There are others of moderate importance at Devizes (2), Swindon, Chippenham, Trowbridge and Warminster, of which those at the first two towns are weekly, the others fortnightly. At Marlborough, there is no regular market, but periodical sales are held in spring and autumn, at which some 22,000 stock are sold. There are 7

smaller livestock markets handling under 10,000 head of stock per annum. Street markets still exist at Cricklade, Wootton Bassett, Melksham and Devizes; even at Salisbury, the open market place is used for sheep, calves and pigs. The markets are, on the whole, not well equipped; covered accommodation is not general, and, in some of the larger marts, space is limited. Dial weigh-bridges are installed in 5 markets. At very few is it possible for cattle to be tied up singly; consequently, buyers cannot easily inspect the stock until they enter the ring. The new markets at Warminster and Calne, although small, are, on the whole, well laid out. Salisbury and, to a less extent, Trowbridge, attract supplies of fat cattle, but the markets generally are more important for dairy stock and stores. Most of the sheep offered are fat, store sheep being chiefly disposed of at spring and autumn fairs, such as Wilton, Britford, Marlborough, Devizes and Salisbury. There is a definite movement in the spring of barren cows out of the county to grazing districts such as Somerset. The small surplus of fat stock goes to London, Bristol, Southampton, Portsmouth and Bournemouth. There is a demand in the west of the county for cow-beef for South Wales. The large numbers of calves sold in the markets are chiefly bought by local dealer-slaughtermen for consignment in carcase form to London and other southern towns and the Midlands. The principal calf markets are Salisbury, Swindon, Melksham and Devizes. The total number of livestock passing through the markets of Wiltshire in an average year is approximately 221,000, of which 26,500 are cattle, 56,500 calves, 92,000 sheep and 46,000 pigs. There are no publicly controlled abattoirs or wholesale meat markets.

Live poultry are sold by auction in considerable quantities at most livestock market centres, and eggs at Salisbury, Swindon, Devizes, Chippenham, Trowbridge and Warminster. Salisbury is the largest market for poultry produce, and about 3 million eggs and 50,000 head of poultry are sold annually. Surplus poultry and eggs are exported to Bristol, Bath, Southampton and London. No organised grading schemes are, as yet, in operation in any of the larger egg markets, and facilities for display and repacking are generally poor. At Trowbridge and Warminster, the egg sales are fortnightly.

Annual wool auctions are held at Salisbury, Marlborough, Devizes and Swindon. The first, handling 60,000 fleeces per annum, is one of the four most important provincial sales in England. At Marlborough and Devizes, about 30,000 fleeces are dealt with in each case. Swindon handles only about 2,500. There is a hide and skin "market" at Salisbury.

Small, publicly controlled, retail markets exist in 8 towns; only three of these markets are covered. A large proportion of

the stalls display general merchandise, and only Swindon and Salisbury markets are of any significance for agricultural produce.

Rail facilities are, on the whole, satisfactory. Motor transport is on the increase for taking livestock and produce to and from the markets.

(b) Notes on particular markets.

Salisbury.—*See* page 134.

PART III.—SOME EASTERN AND SOUTHERN MARKETS DESCRIBED.

(I) MARKETS IN PRODUCING AREAS.

In this section, the markets in a number of important centres have been selected for detailed description as presenting certain features of interest.

Ashford.

The markets at Ashford, in Kent, comprise a corn exchange and a livestock market in which also a retail market is held.

Livestock Market.—The livestock market, owned by the Ashford Cattle Market Co., which charges tolls on all livestock and produce entered, occupies an area of approximately 8½ acres, about ¼-mile from the centre of the town and adjoining the railway, from which a siding runs into one side of the market. The whole of this side has been built up to form an efficient loading dock. The market has a much larger turnover than any other market in Kent, and ranks among the first half-dozen in the southern counties. It is open one day a week, Tuesday, for both fat and store stock; in addition, special sales of store cattle and sheep are held on alternate Fridays from March to June and from August to December, inclusive, while sales of pedigree stock also take place from time to time. Both rail and road facilities are good.

The market accommodation is somewhat scattered. Pens for sheep, which constitute about 70 per cent. of the stock sold, occupy an area of over 2 acres; the pens for fat sheep are in a separate part of the market from those for store sheep; the former are of the usual type—i.e., iron rails on a concrete or brick floor, but the store-sheep pens are made up of wooden hurdles attached to permanent iron corner posts, which are so arranged that the pens can be made any size. The accommodation for fat cattle is somewhat scanty, but there is spare space for increasing the number of pens if required. The pens lead up to an uncovered, wooden railed sale ring which is equipped with a 30-cwt. dial weighbridge but has no seating accommodation; it is proposed to cover in this sale ring. Store cattle are accommodated in open pens which may be used for private treaty business when required. Cows and calves are housed in a long wooden building, with a corrugated iron and glazed roof, capable of holding about 60 cows and a larger number of calves. In the absence of a dairy-cow ring, selling takes place just outside the barn, the crowd forming the ring, but plans are in preparation for erecting a covered ring adjoining the cow byre, as well as for increasing the amount of covered accommodation for cows. Calves are also sold in improvised rings either inside or outside the cow byre. The accommodation for pigs is ample and good, a large area of iron pens, tarmac paved, being roofed over with corrugated iron (Fig. 23). Five permanent

unloading banks lead directly into this covered space. Facilities are also available for the sale of horses and for the stabling of the horses of market users. The roadways within the market are wide and enable vehicular traffic to move about with little obstruction.

In addition to 3 firms handling poultry and produce, as many as 6 firms of auctioneers sell livestock. The Company imposes no restriction on the number of firms selling in the market and only a nominal fee is charged, except to those firms using the covered accommodation. The auctioneers themselves have appointed a time-keeper, who allots a proportion of the selling time to each firm and sees that the time-table is adhered to ; but some clashing is inevitable and is pronounced in the case of pigs, so much so, that some of the larger purchasers send two pig buyers. The Table on page 98 shows the areas of collection and distribution of stock and the proportions marketed and purchased by farmers, dealers and butchers. Supplies of livestock for this market are drawn chiefly from the good agricultural district which lies within a 20-mile circle round the town ; sheep, both fat and store, are drawn from the Romney Marsh. Store sheep make up over two-thirds of the total sheep offered. Owing to good railway facilities, an appreciable quantity of cattle at times comes from outside the 20-mile radius, fat cattle arriving from Sussex and Norfolk. Some Irish stores are sold in this market. Fat pigs, sheep and calves surplus to local consumption are bought mainly for London and such coast towns as Hastings, Folkestone, Ramsgate and Margate ; during the summer, when supplies are large, fat sheep are distributed over a wider area, and fat pigs are sent away as far as Bristol and Birmingham. The trade in store sheep, which includes both breeding-ewes and rams, as well as lambs and tegs for feeding, is by no means local. At the special store sales in spring and autumn, buyers attend from distant counties. As many as 65 per cent. of the store lambs offered go outside a 20-mile radius.

The numbers of stock passing through the market in 1913, 1922 and 1928 were as follows :—

	1913.	1922.	1928.
Cattle : Fat	2,623	2,186	2,710
Store	1,172	1,729	2,309
Dairy Cows ..	1,147	891	1,655
Calves	3,942	3,733	7,977
Sheep : Fat	104,185	83,228	35,489
Store			75,070
Pigs : Fat	22,340	30,170	19,990
Store			16,057
Total	135,409	121,937	161,257

The livestock trade in Ashford market at different seasons of the year is illustrated by the following Table, which gives the average weekly numbers of the different kinds of stock entered in the market for each month during 1928 :—

Month.	Cattle.			Calves.	Sheep.			Pigs.	
	Fat.	Store.	Dairy Cows.		Fat.	Store.	Lambs.	Fat.	Store.
January ..	39	3	27	128	618	—	2	502	234
February	46	9	25	117	542	157	—	453	277
March ..	44	11	26	166	637	180	—	429	334
April ..	40	21	24	155	535	1,478	75	372	384
May ..	46	131	21	120	612	1,609	134	257	444
June ..	49	56	23	150	756	138	169	263	338
July ..	60	27	36	163	549	—	125	177	229
August ..	57	6	39	167	611	—	5,842	314	237
September	51	8	38	156	876	1,273	2,416	451	307
October ..	52	117	44	176	580	2,334	558	473	381
November	64	92	46	214	489	644	200	497	318
December	79	77	33	135	408	111	52	474	203

The most noticeable fluctuation occurs in the case of sheep, both fat and store sheep and lambs, but particularly stores, being offered in much greater numbers in late summer, while there is also an increase in the number of store sheep marketed in spring. Fat pigs show the usual fall in numbers in summer, while store pigs are most abundant from March to June. The numbers of fat cattle and cows offered show a decided increase in the late summer and autumn. On the whole, the market is at its busiest in August and September.

Egg and Poultry Auctions.—Eggs and poultry are handled by 3 firms of auctioneers in premises situated in different parts of the livestock market. One firm, handling at present more than half the egg trade, has registered as a packer under the National Mark Scheme and has recently erected a building in the market where eggs are candled, graded and packed, afterwards being sold either by private treaty, daily, or by auction, weekly, in the produce auction building adjoining. This latter is an excellent corrugated iron shed,* in which ordinary eggs and a large quantity of game, dressed poultry, butter, honey, rabbits and fruit and vegetables, according to season, are sold weekly. A very considerable live poultry trade is also done in the market. The poultry cages are of the usual wire-fronted type, covered over and extending in avenues along one side of the market and giving accommodation for about

* *See* Economic Series No. 10, Fig. 29.

ASHFORD MARKET.

Classification of Supplies according to Radius of Assembly and Distribution and Types of Sellers and Buyers.

Class of Stock.	Assembly.				Distribution.					
	Local supplies received from—		Supplies from outside a 20-mile radius received from—		Bought for local needs by—			Bought for outside a 20-mile radius by—		
	Farmers.	Dealers.	Farmers.	Dealers.	Farmers.	Butchers.	Dealers.	Farmers.	Butchers.	Dealers.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Cattle : Fat ..	90	—	—	10	—	95	—	—	—	5
Store ..	85	—	—	15	100	—	—	—	—	—
Dairy ..	99	1	—	—	75	—	10	15	—	—
Calves	100	—	—	—	40	20	2	—	28	10
Sheep : Fat ..	90	10	—	—	—	40	—	—	60	—
Store ..	90	10	—	—	75	—	10	15	—	—
Store Lambs	95	5	—	—	25	—	10	65	—	—
Pigs : Fat ..	100	—	—	—	—	25	—	—	75	—
Store ..	100	—	—	—	98	—	2	—	—	—

4,500 birds. The other two auctions of eggs and produce are each held in lean-to sheds; standard boxes are in use. Owing to lack of space, it is not possible for the eggs in these two auctions to be displayed to the best advantage. The supply of eggs in Ashford market is chiefly local. A large proportion is sent to the Kent coastal towns and to Chatham, and both poultry and eggs are consigned in considerable numbers to London. The approximate number of poultry sold in this market in a recent year was 120,000, and that of eggs 2,480,000. Accommodation is provided for producers to sell by private treaty, but is seldom used.

Corn Exchange.—The Corn Exchange, owned by a company distinct from the Cattle Market Co., has stands for 54 merchants, mainly local firms. Corn sales are small, amounting to only 41,000 cwt. of grain in 1927.

Retail Market.—An open-air, general, retail stall market, devoted largely to general merchandise, is held on the livestock market premises each week; much of the market space is taken up by stands and huts let to agricultural implement dealers, corn, cake and fertiliser firms, animal medicine firms, and so on.

Bury St. Edmund's.

The markets at Bury St. Edmund's, in Suffolk, comprise a livestock market, a publicly controlled corn exchange and 2 public general markets. The livestock market is partly owned by the Corporation and partly owned by, or leased to, firms of auctioneers. Tolls on all stock sold in any part of the market are payable to the Corporation.

Livestock Market.—The livestock market, half a mile from the railway station and within 200 yards of the centre of the town, is the second largest in Suffolk. Although concentrated in one area, covering in all about 3½ acres, it is under 3 ownerships and divided as follows :—

(i) Two auction marts controlled by local firms of auctioneers are situated on each side of the public market (*see* ii below). One of these marts, which is on land partly the freehold of the auctioneers and partly leased to them by the Corporation, has uncovered wooden pens of various sizes for about 2,000 sheep, and wooden pens for about 300 cattle, surrounding a central sale ring which is equipped with tiered standing accommodation and a 30-cwt. dial weighbridge. The sale ring and most of the cattle pens are covered by a large Dutch-barn type of roof. A set of stables for about 40 horses, with a covered ring and a " run " used for monthly horse sales, and an enclosure surrounded by pens for about 150 store cattle and cows with an uncovered sale ring, complete the accommodation in this mart. Over 80 per cent. of the fat cattle and the majority of the sheep passing through Bury St. Edmund's market are handled by the auctioneer controlling this mart. No pigs are sold. In the other private mart (Fig. 25), practically all the livestock accommodation is under cover. It has a two-span, corrugated iron-roofed shelter covering a central sale ring equipped with a 5-ton dial weighbridge and surrounded by iron railed cattle pens of various sizes. The pens can accommodate 200 head of store cattle and include single standings for some fat cattle. The dial weighbridge is available for weighing bunches of store cattle as they enter the ring. Adjoining the cattle pens are two sets of corrugated iron roofed pens capable of holding about 500 pigs, with open pens for a further 150, and uncovered pens for a few sheep. There is also a brick building with poultry cages, in sets of 30, for about 700 birds. About 40 per cent. of the pigs sold at Bury St. Edmund's are handled by the auctioneers owning this mart.

(ii) The central site of about 2 acres belongs to the Corporation and is occupied by covered and uncovered pig pens, poultry cages, two wooden buildings used as egg and produce auctions, also uncovered pens for private treaty sales of livestock, which, however, are seldom used for that purpose.

The pig pens have a capacity for about 600 head under a corrugated iron roof, and another 300 in the open. Three firms of auctioneers sell poultry in the public market. The cages, for 6,000 birds, are of a type common in the Suffolk markets. They are built in wheeled sets of 30, in 3 double-sided tiers of 5 with a corrugated iron roof. Each row of 5 cages can be locked by a single iron bar running the whole length of the cages. Separate sections of cages are allotted to hens, cockerels, ducks and geese, respectively. There are two wooden buildings in the market devoted to the auction sale of eggs and farm produce. The bulk of the business is done in one of these auctions. Buyers complete their inspection of the eggs before sale. The egg shed is cleared of people during sale, buyers standing outside, under cover; each lot for sale is brought on to a platform before the rostrum. This avoids the usual congestion around the eggs during the sale. Eggs are sold under the vendor's name with a guarantee that all eggs offered have been laid within 7 days of sale and by the vendor's own hens. Grading is extensively practised by vendors, and a "Baker" grader and candling apparatus are kept on the premises both for demonstration and to enable buyers to test any suspects. About 150 lb. of butter per week are also auctioned.

Although 5 auctioneers operate in the Bury St. Edmund's market, there is sufficient specialisation to prevent clashing in selling times. The market has good road approaches, wide market roads and ample room for parking vehicles, while the site permits of extension of the market when necessary. Motor transport is largely used for livestock.

The number of stock entering the market in an average year is approximately 104,500, including 5,000 fat cattle, 7,000 store cattle and cows, 500 calves, 27,000 fat sheep, 29,000 store sheep, 18,000 fat pigs and 18,000 store pigs. These figures include about 7,000 store sheep which are disposed of at the fair held in the market on the first Tuesday in September.

Fat stock are mostly received from within a radius of 20 miles; from August to November, however, about 40 fat cattle per week are sent in from counties further west—e.g., Northampton, to make good deficiencies in local supply. The variations in average weekly supplies of fat cattle in each month of 1927 are shown by the following figures which cover over 80 per cent. of the entries :—

Month.	*Number of fat cattle.*	*Month.*	*Number of fat cattle.*
January	59	July	85
February	76	August	68
March	87	September	79
April	95	October	78
May	110	November	86
June	132	December	73

While supplies are more even than in, say, Norfolk markets, there is a peak period from April to June. At this season, buyers of fat cattle and sheep attend from London and other southern towns and the Midlands, a rather higher percentage probably going to the Midlands than to other centres. Only about 30 per cent. of the fat cattle sold in this market are sent outside the county or to the adjacent parts of neighbouring counties. The heaviest supplies of store cattle appear in April and May, and in the autumn, when north-country and Irish stores (" free ") are sold in the market by dealers for wintering in yards. Many are re-sold in spring, in forward condition, by farmers to dealers who take them into Norfolk and other counties for finishing on grass. Fat pigs surplus to local consumption requirements are sent to many distant centres, bacon pigs and cutters to the Midlands and North, and porkers to London. A relatively small surplus of store pigs has a wide radius of distribution.

About 4,000 head of poultry and, in the heavy season, 3,000 score of eggs are handled per week. The trade in poultry and eggs is increasing rapidly. The majority of the poultry are consigned to London, the hens being taken by Jewish buyers and young birds by the Norfolk dealers. Many eggs are also consigned to London, although there is a good demand from local coastal resorts in summer and from Newmarket and Cambridge at certain seasons.

*Corn Exchange.**—The Corn Exchange, in the centre of the town, is the most important in the county for corn sales ; 632,000 cwt. of grain, comprising 173,000 cwt. of wheat, 434,000 cwt. of barley and 25,000 cwt. of oats were sold in 1927. This is the sixth exchange in importance for British corn in England and Wales and the fifth for barley. It has 185 merchants' stands, the rents for which are from £2 10*s.* to £6 per annum. The majority of the stand-holders are Suffolk firms. Corn is bought largely for consignment out of the county.

Wool Sale.—An annual wool sale conducted on the usual lines is held on the third Saturday in June in the cattle market, on the premises of a firm of auctioneers. In 1927, about 16,000 fleeces were sold, or 4,000 less than the average annual sale. The fleeces are of local, Norfolk and Essex production. About 20 buyers from London, Bradford and other centres attend the sale.

Retail Market.—An open-air, retail market, consisting of about 50 stalls, is held in the Butter Market on Wednesdays and Saturdays. This is not a producers' market.

Chichester.

The markets at Chichester comprise a livestock market and covered retail market, both of which are publicly owned, and also a privately owned corn exchange.

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* *See also* Economic Series No. 18, page 133.

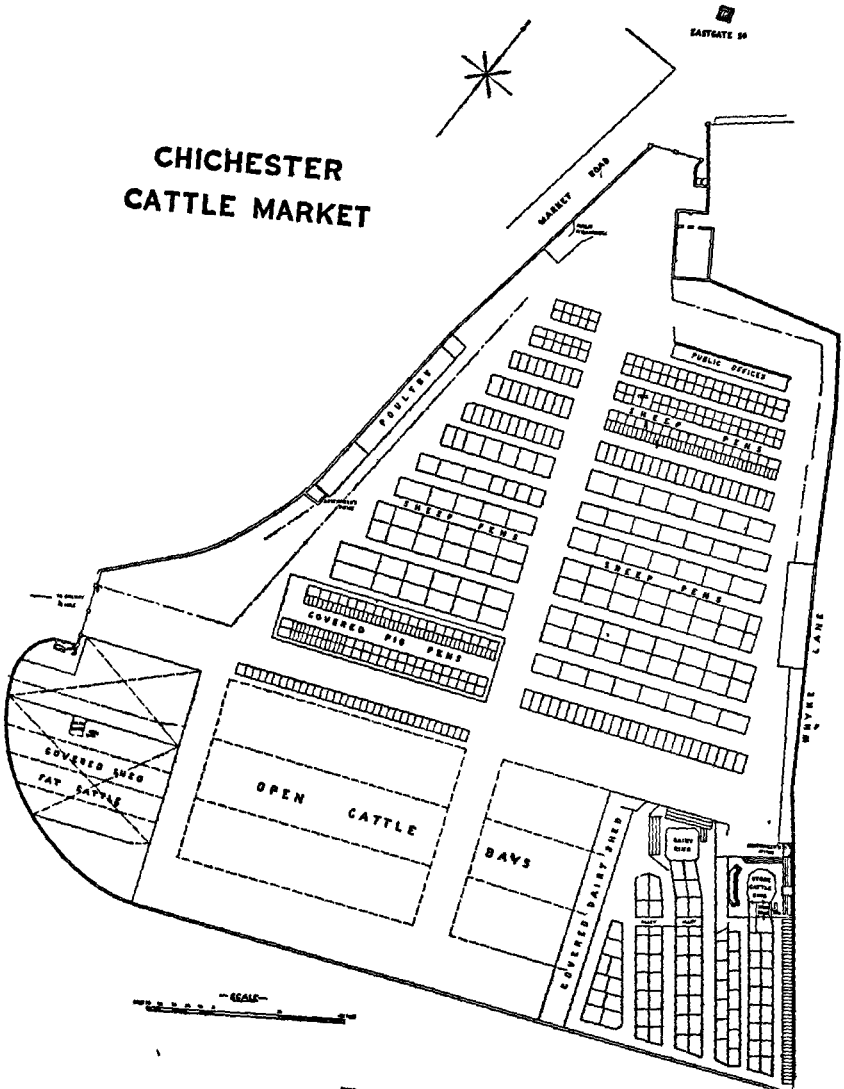

CHICHESTER
CATTLE MARKET
EASTGATE
MARKET ROAD
POULTRY
PUBLIC OFFICES
SHEEP PENS
SHEEP PENS
SHEEP PENS
COVERED PIG PENS
COVERED SHED FAT CATTLE
OPEN CATTLE
BAYS
COVERED DAIRY SHED
SALES OFFICE
WEIGHT LANE
SCALE

FIG. 24.

Livestock Market.—The livestock market, held on alternate Wednesdays, has the largest entry of stock in Sussex and is one of the best laid-out markets south of the Thames (Fig. 24). It occupies about 5½ acres and is situated near the main shopping centre but about ½-mile from the railway station. About one-fifth of the market is covered. The covered accommodation comprises, at one end of the market, a large, 3-span, corrugated iron shed, rather badly lighted, with a 30-cwt. dial weighbridge and tying-up room for about 300 fat cattle; and, at the other end, a long, corrugated iron, open-fronted cow byre and two large sale rings with adjoining uncovered pens for 1,000 store cattle (Fig. 26). The inner ring for dairy cows is open but has covered seating accommodation for about 200 people. The store cattle ring is completely covered, has ample tiered seating and a 4-ton dial weighbridge. Between the two groups of covered accommodation for cattle is a large, well-paved, private treaty cattle market (Fig. 27) consisting of open railed bays, the cattle being kept in position by drovers. Centrally situated is a large expanse of pig pens, corrugated iron-roofed, accommodating 1,000 head, with a wide road for vehicles running its whole length. On the west side of the market is a poultry and produce auction held in an open-fronted shed. Sales of eggs amounted to only 65,000 and of poultry to about 9,000 in 1928. On the north side of the market are open sheep pens to accommodate 7,000 head. The method of selling fat cattle is to weigh and number them as they pass from the collecting to the selling shed, where they are tied up in rows and sold in the standings, the auctioneer walking along a plank at the heads of the beasts and announcing the weight of each. Although the store cattle pass over the weighbridge as they enter the 24-ft. ring, it is not common for the weight of a bunch of stores to be noted, except at the request of buyers or vendors. Cattle sales are conducted under the conditions of the Sussex Cattle Market Auctioneers' Association. Two firms of auctioneers operate in the market, one selling fat and store cattle, cows, calves and sheep, the other selling fat and store pigs, poultry, eggs and produce. There is thus no overlapping in the times of selling similar stock. The firm of auctioneers selling cattle issues a printed catalogue of entries for each sale. This is a feature of few markets and is to be recommended. Unfortunately, some vendors do not notify their entries, so that the sales lists are not usually complete. A considerable proportion—about 50 per cent.—of the store cattle, including many Devon cattle, entering the market are sold by private treaty. Motor transport is used largely for moving stock, including cattle, to and from the market, which is spacious and well provided with wide roads. Sales start at 10 a.m.

The market is the third largest for cattle south of the Thames. Store cattle and sheep predominate, Barnham being the principal fat stock market for the area. The fat cattle trade consists largely

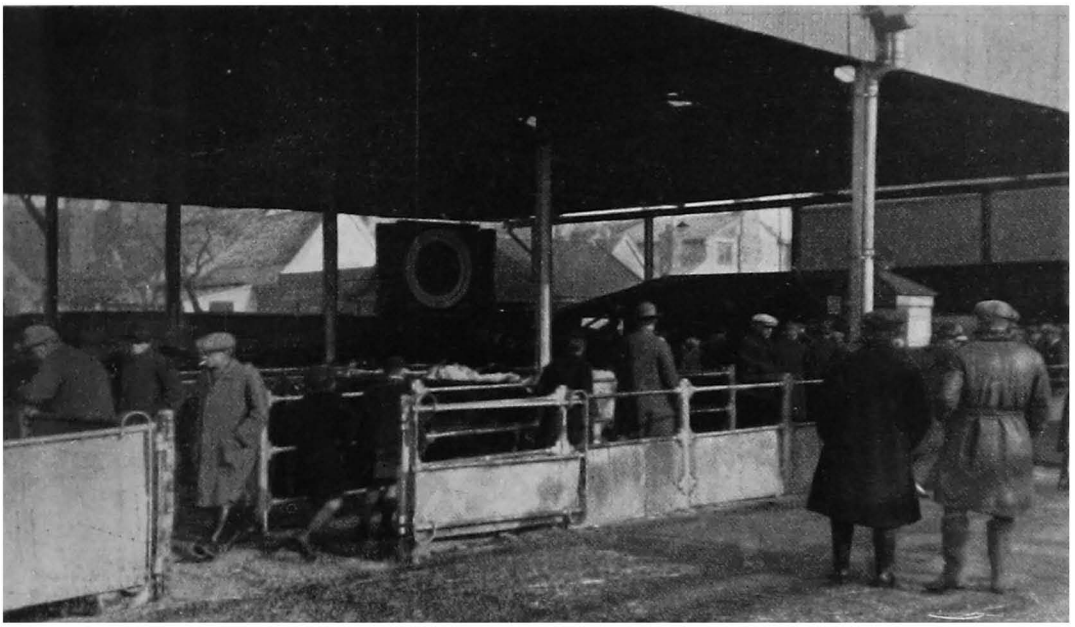


FIG. 25.—Bury St. Edmunds : Cattle and Pig Auction.

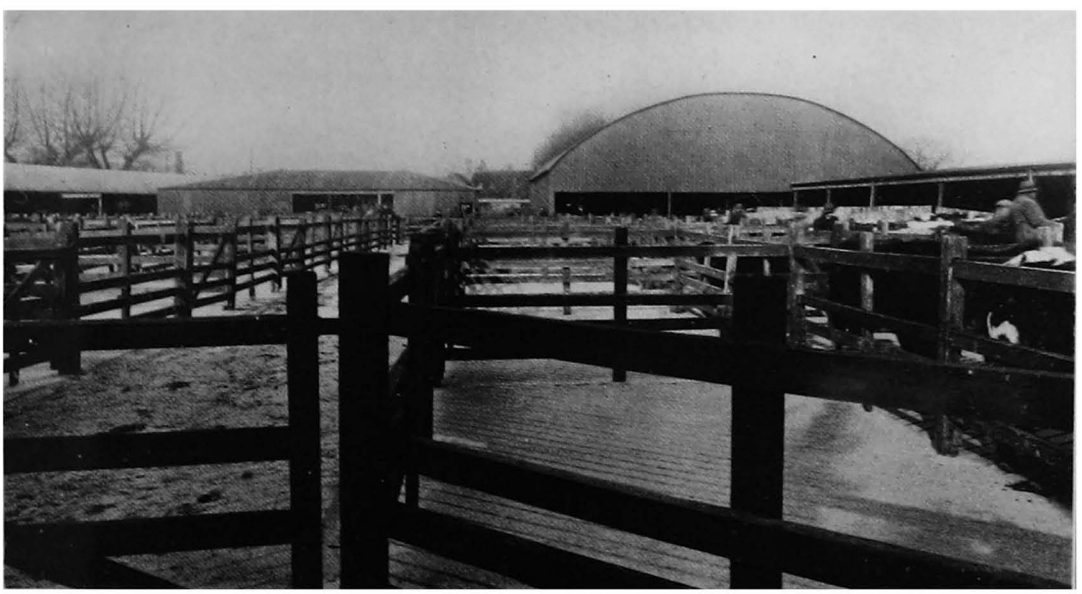


FIG. 26.—Chichester : Livestock Market and Sale-ring.



FIG. 27.—Chichester: Livestock Market—Private Treaty Section.



FIG. 28.—Colchester: Cattle Market—Poultry Auction.

of fat cows and barreners with a sprinkling of better class beasts. Store cattle are brought up-country to Chichester, largely by dealers, from the south-western counties, including Devon, Somerset and Dorset, while, particularly in the spring, locally bred stores and stores from Hampshire and Kent are also offered. Some Irish store cattle from Bristol are sold in the market. Stores, both for feeding and dairy purposes, are sent from Chichester to various southern and eastern counties, including Sussex, Kent, Essex, Hampshire and Wiltshire, as well as to midland counties such as Northampton and Gloucester. In the spring, locally bred stores are taken, for grazing or dairy purposes, to Dorset and Devon. In addition to the periodical sales of store sheep, mainly of local origin, two special sales of pedigree Southdowns, chiefly ewes and rams or ram lambs, are held in the market in August and September, when some 6,000 sheep in all are disposed of. Fat cattle and sheep go chiefly to the Sussex coast-towns and to Portsmouth, Southampton and Guildford. The total numbers of stock sold in Chichester market in 1913, 1922 and 1928 were :—

——	1913.	1922.	1928.
Cattle : Fat	3,170	2,424	1,881
Store	21,450	15,389	10,263
Dairy Cows ..			1,833
Calves	2,800	2,425	5,052
Sheep : Fat	7,241	6,442	5,313
Store	28,964	22,398	19,752
Pigs : Fat	6,101	5,814	3,468
Store	3,970	3,845	4,931
Total	73,696	58,737	52,493

About 100 horses per annum are also sold.

Retail Market.—A publicly owned retail market, consisting of some 10 to 15 stalls, open daily, is held under cover in the old Butter Market in North Street. It has lost its original character as a venue of direct sales by producers to consumers.

Corn Exchange.—The Corn Exchange, owned by a limited company, is within 200 yards of the livestock market and is held weekly on Wednesdays. It is the only exchange of importance for corn sales in Sussex. Some 192,000 cwt. of grain were sold in 1927, including 91,000 cwt. of wheat, 25,000 cwt. of barley and 76,000 cwt. of oats. This is the sixth provincial exchange in importance in England and Wales for home-grown oats.

Colchester.

The franchise of the Colchester markets is vested in the Corporation. A Charter of 1189 forbids "that the market of Colchester may be impeded by any extraneous market," and it is probable that the market was in existence for many years before this date. The present markets system consists of a cattle market and general retail market, controlled by the Corporation, and a corn market and poultry market, licensed in one case to a public company and in the other to a firm of auctioneers. The cattle market includes, also, a poultry and egg market conducted by a firm of auctioneers.

Livestock Market.—The cattle market, situated about ½-mile from the railway station, is compact and well laid out, the majority of the livestock being under cover. Three firms of auctioneers operate in the market and pay to the Corporation not only tolls and rent, but interest on the money invested in the covered buildings. Tolls on poultry and eggs are commuted by payment of an annual sum. The market consists, in effect, of 3 self-contained auction marts as well as space for private treaty transactions. The accommodation includes 3 covered sale rings, one of 20 ft. and two of 17 ft. 6 ins. diameter, with dial weighbridges, two of 25-cwt. and one of 50-cwt. capacity, and with tiered standing accommodation. Each firm of auctioneers occupies a separate block of cattle and pig pens, under a corrugated iron shelter, surrounding its own central covered sale ring to which, in each case, the cattle pens give easy access. Although each auctioneer does some trade in almost all classes of stock, arrangements are made that the same class of stock is not sold at the same time. The average attendance of buyers at each cattle ring is 20 in summer and 35 in winter. Covered and uncovered pens are provided for sheep, and some uncovered pens for pigs. Practically all cattle, including cows, sold by auction are penned under cover. No special pens are reserved for private treaty sales but uncovered accommodation is available. A central settling house is provided in which each firm of auctioneers has an office.

In 1928, 4,899 fat cattle, 848 store cattle, 492 dairy cows, 3,605 calves, 10,136 fat sheep and lambs, 865 store sheep, 22,415 fat pigs and 8,683 store pigs entered the market. Supplies of fat cattle are drawn from local sources in the heaviest season—from November to June—while small numbers are drawn from the Midland counties from June to November. Store cattle are received from Wales and the northern counties. No Irish store cattle are sold in the market. Sheep are drawn locally from the end of September to the end of February and from other districts from March to September. At 2 special store sheep sales, held annually, some 6,500 to 7,000 head are sold. Pigs are received from within

a radius of 25 miles of the market and the trade has grown considerably in recent years; the number of pigs handled in 1928 was some 30 per cent. higher than in any of the previous few years. Most of the fat cattle and sheep handled are consumed within a radius of about 20 miles, but most of the pigs are sent away to London, Birmingham and to bacon factories in other parts of the country. Store stock is distributed locally.

Egg and Poultry Markets.—In the cattle market, an egg and poultry auction, fenced off from the rest of the market, is controlled by a firm of auctioneers who have an auction at Thorpe-le-Soken which is similarly conducted. Wire-fronted poultry pens, 450 in number and with capacity for 3,500 birds, are built into 2 and 3-tiered timber frames roofed with corrugated iron; all the pens have sliding doors and boarded semi-slat flooring which facilitates cleaning (Fig. 28). There are 2 well-lighted egg auction buildings (Fig. 29) with capacity for 150,000 eggs in all and fitted with extended shelters for buyers outside the buildings. Egg boxes are loaned free of charge. Country carriers bring in a considerable proportion of the eggs. About 95 per cent. of vendors grade their eggs, into four grades, as specified by the auctioneers, namely, "Selecteds"—over 2¼ oz., "Firsts"—from 2 oz. to 2¼ oz., "Seconds"—from 1¾ oz.to 2 oz., "Pullets"—below 1¾ oz., the first three being the weight specifications laid down in the statutory grades for English eggs. Grading is normally found to make a difference of several pence per score to the average price of a consignment. All eggs are guaranteed laid by the producer's own poultry and to be not more than 7 days old. Dealers' eggs are rigidly excluded. As at all the larger egg auctions in Essex, the egg sheds are open for buyers to inspect produce prior to the sale, and buyers are supplied with a card bearing consecutive numbers on which they note the quality of each lot. When selling commences, the egg sheds are cleared of buyers and bidding takes place, by the score, with the aid of the marked cards. Congestion is thus avoided and selling made more rapid. Vendors are paid in cash within a few minutes of sale. Lots are generally big in this market owing to the number of large flocks of poultry in north-east Essex.

The privately owned egg and poultry auction, about 100 yards away from the public market, is held under licence from the Corporation and owned by a firm of auctioneers controlling 3 markets in Essex and 3 in Hertfordshire. The market enclosure is surrounded on three sides by tiers of wire-fronted poultry cages under a corrugated iron roof. In the egg auction, grading is practised by many vendors and encouraged by the auctioneers, but no definite standards are specified. Eggs are sold under guarantee as to 7 days maximum age and as to being the produce of the vendor's own poultry. As a safeguard against "topping," lots are inspected as they arrive, particularly those of new consignors. The numbered card system for buyers inspecting lots is used, but the shed is not cleared at the

time of sale. In this market, as in the other Colchester egg auction, persistent senders of poor quality produce are warned and, if necessary, their produce is refused.

Eggs are sent in to Colchester from a radius of 20 miles. Approximately, 6 million eggs and 200,000 head of poultry, divided about equally between the 2 marts, are sold in a year. The average number of buyers attending the egg markets is from 50 to 60. Buyers of eggs are chiefly wholesalers from London and Southend, although local buyers account for from 10 to 15 per cent. of the supplies. Southend buyers naturally take a much larger proportion in summer, as much as 50 per cent. of the supplies being sent there at that season. Local buyers take about 20 per cent. of the poultry, the remainder going to London or to fatteners.

Corn Exchange.—The corn market is held each Saturday, by licence of the Corporation, in the Corn Exchange in the centre of the town. In 1927, 171,691 cwt. of wheat, 106,456 cwt. barley and 20,578 cwt. oats were sold. There are 110 merchants' stands and the rents vary from £5 to £28 a year. Most of the standholders are local.

Wool Sale.—A wool sale, started about 30 years ago, is held annually on the second Thursday in June. On the previous day, a similar sale is held at Diss, and on the following day, there is a sale at Ipswich, and on the Saturday, at Bury St. Edmund's. All the East Anglian wool sales are therefore held on consecutive days. The auction is held in marquees erected within 400 yards of the Hythe railway station. Approximately 18,000 fleeces of locally produced wool were sold in 1928, as against 12,000 to 13,000 in 1913.

Retail Market.—The daily retail market, consisting of 53 stalls, of which 40 sell agricultural produce, is held in the streets in the centre of the town.

Dorchester.

The market rights at Dorchester were acquired under a Charter of Edward III. The town is situated in a purely agricultural district, with upland country devoted to corn growing and sheep rearing in the south, east and west, and with a dairying, cattle-grazing and pig-feeding district to the north.

Livestock Market.—From the point of view of turnover, Dorchester is the fourth market south of the Thames, 83,680 head of stock passing through it in a typical year.

There are two cattle markets in Dorchester. One, a private mart, is held on alternate Saturdays, in Charles Stréet, about 500 yards from the Corporation market. Here, cattle only—chiefly dairy stock—are sold. Covered accommodation is provided in the form of 5 wooden sheds, tile-roofed, for up to 150 cattle tied

singly. Sales are conducted in a large, covered sale ring, about 15 yards by 8 yards, with a lever weighbridge situated at one of the two entrances. The Corporation market occupies a triangular space of about 3 acres, at the point where the road from Weymouth enters the town. The Great Western Railway station adjoins it on one side and the Southern Railway station on another. The market can be reached by road from all directions without passing through the main streets. Tolls are payable on all stock passing through this market, as well as on those sold in the private mart. The Corporation market is held every Wednesday, when stock (other than cattle) and produce are sold; it is also held on every other Saturday, when it alternates with the private mart, cattle only being sold. In the Corporation market, practically all the accommodation for cattle is covered and consists of two open-fronted sheds, in which from 150 to 200 fat or store cattle or cows can be tied up. The cattle sheds are used on Wednesdays for the sale of poultry and calves. In the eastern part of the market, there are uncovered iron pens for sheep and pigs, paved with grooved blue bricks and well drained; about 1,200 sheep and nearly 500 pigs can be accommodated. Canvas awnings are drawn over the pig pens in hot weather. At the time of year when early lambs make their appearance, the pens are barely sufficient and it is sometimes necessary to overflow on to the adjacent Fair field. An oblong building, tile-roofed and open at the sides, centrally situated, is transversely divided into 2 covered sale rings—one equipped with a 30-cwt. dial weighbridge—while at one end are 3 offices used by the auctioneers operating in the market. One ring is used for the sale of fat cattle, the other for dairy and store cattle. There is limited parking space for vehicles inside the market at a charge of 1*s*. and a free parking ground on the Fair field opposite. Motor transport is very extensively used; one local firm operates a fleet of lorries for serving this and other markets. It is unusual for livestock to remain in the cattle sheds overnight; fields close by are used for turning out stock, if necessary. Although 3 firms of auctioneers operate in the market, selling days and times are mutually arranged so as not to overlap as regards any one class of livestock or produce. Private treaty sales of a small number of store cattle brought by dealers also take place.

Motor transport now enables stock to be brought, cheaply and rapidly, from a wider area than formerly. Rail facilities for the dispatch of supplies are regarded as good, Southampton, Portsmouth, London, Bristol and the Midlands being all within easy reach by rail.

The following are the approximate numbers of livestock passing through Dorchester markets in 1922 and 1928 :—

	1922.	1928.
Cattle : Fat	1,280	1,805
Store	7,280	4,692
Dairy Cows		4,694
Calves	11,640	11,891
Sheep and Lambs : Fat	17,414	19,111
Sheep : Store	29,547	26,488
Pigs : Fat	6,000	6,041
Store	6,850	9,436
Total	80,011	84,158

Fat cattle are sent in from the Sherborne district and a fair quantity by dealers from the Devonshire and Somersetshire markets. Generally, these are not more than sufficient to satisfy the needs of the area lying within 15 miles. There is a fair trade in dairy cows and heifers for local and Somerset farmers' needs, also in barreners and surplus animals, many of which go into Somerset for grazing. There is a large offering of fat sheep, particularly in the spring, when the early fat lambs appear. These attract buyers from London, South Wales and various Midland towns. In the spring, summer and early autumn, breeding ewes and store lambs are sold in large numbers at special sales : in a recent year, 26,000 store sheep were sold in this way. A large number of pigs, both fat and store, are also sold in this market.

The following Table gives the average weekly number of stock of all kinds entering the market for each month in 1928 :—

Month.	Cattle.			Calves.	Sheep (Fat).	Pigs.	
	Fat.	Store.	Dairy Cows.			Fat.	Store.
January ..	46	58	84	282	187	133	204
February ..	26	135	68	259	235	95	173
March	25	65	74	273	694	133	153
April	30	91	80	263	908	104	233
May	35	82	100	231	656	93	250
June	32	99	86	265	437	101	245
July	34	69	70	115	242	97	117
August	28	99	91	180	296	99	147
September ..	36	114	113	196	300	90	202
October ..	53	130	121	263	182	198	208
November ..	27	60	71	171	99	80	96
December ..	50	90	124	202	145	139	147

The only marked seasonal variations were the heavy influx of fat sheep during the months from March to June and an increase in the number of cows and store cattle sold in autumn. Store pigs were in abundant supply in the spring. Store sheep do not appear in the weekly market.

Buyers attend regularly, not only for fat sheep and pigs, but also for poultry and eggs (see below), from various south-coast towns, such as Bournemouth, Weymouth, Southampton and Portsmouth, as well as from London. It is estimated that from 50 to 60 per cent. of the livestock sold in Dorchester goes outside a radius of 10 miles.

Egg and Produce Auction.—On the eastern side of the livestock market is a large brick building used as an egg and dairy produce sale room. Eggs are displayed in the auctioneers' boxes, partly on the floor and partly on trestle tables. No grading system is practised. Butter and cheese are also sold by auction. The sales of poultry, eggs, butter and cheese in the market in 2 recent years were as follows :—

	Poultry.	*Eggs.*	*Butter.*	*Cheese.*
		Dozens.	Lb.	Tons.
1922	57,456	221,700	40,400	71¾
1926	39,604	252,480	22,300	44½

The cheese sold is chiefly Dorset Blue.

Wool Auction.—The annual wool auction at Dorchester, instituted over 50 years ago, is the largest provincial sale of wool in the country, the approximate number of fleeces sold in the last 3 years being as follows :—

1926	110,000
1927	120,000
1928	108,000

The sale is organised by two local firms of auctioneers and is held early in July, thus fitting into the series of wool sales held in the south of England at that season. Supplies are drawn mainly from within a radius of about 20 miles, although some lots are sent from distances up to 30 miles. The wool is mainly assembled by road during the fortnight preceding the sale. The greater part of it is sent to the sale in bulk and is stored partly in the cattle sheds at the Charles Street mart and partly in premises hired for the purpose in the town. Sample sheets are exhibited on the day before sale in large marquees in two different parts of the town. Marquees are not ideal for this purpose ; on occasions, much wool has been damaged by heavy rain. One firm of auctioneers has two marquees on the Fair field adjoining the Great Western Railway and Southern Railway stations ; the other has two smaller marquees at the private cattle mart in Charles Street. Sample sheets from each lot, or, in the case of lots consisting of a single sheet, the whole lot, are arranged in the marquees in rows with alley-ways between.

The sheets are stood on hurdles and, in order to prevent mixing of fleeces from different lots in the course of inspection, hurdles are also erected between the sheets. The sheets are the property of the auctioneers and are hired from them by vendors and buyers at a charge of 6*d.* per sheet to the former and 3*d.* to the latter; the sheets hold up to 80 or 90 fleeces according to the type of wool. No grading is carried out, the only classification being by breeds, and into ewes', tegs' and lambs' wool, if necessary. The large size of most of the lots facilitates classification; comparatively few mixed lots of ewes' and lambs' wool appear. Down and Dorset Horn wools make up the bulk of the fleeces offered; the quantity of cross-bred wool is small. Considerably more than three-quarters of the lots are sent in washed. Selling takes place in two different places: one firm of auctioneers uses the corn exchange, the other firm their own sale room. Selling occupies about 7 hours. About 40 buyers attend the sale, including representatives of both manufacturers and wool merchants, from the Midlands, Sussex, Yorkshire, Lancashire, Scotland and Ireland.

The conditions of sale are those that have been standardised throughout the country by the joint action of buyers', growers' and auctioneers' organisations, and include such regulations as minimum advances of one farthing per lb. in bidding; allowances of one-fourth for greys, blacks and greasy fleeces in washed, and for greys and blacks in unwashed, lots; deposit of 20 per cent. on the value of purchases to be paid by each buyer on the day of sale. Railway representatives attend the sale to give information and make arrangements for dispatch. The auctioneers are responsible for putting the wool on rail. All wool is weighed out of store, and on this weight the buyer pays and the vendor receives payment; the wool is not weighed in.

Corn Exchange.—An old established corn exchange is situated in High East Street, in the centre of the town. Stands are occupied by about 50 merchants, including local, Bristol and Southampton firms. The total weight of grain sold in 1927 was about 125,000 cwt., including 29,000 cwt. of wheat, 66,000 cwt. of barley and 30,000 cwt. of oats. The importance of the "sheep and barley" farm in the county is reflected in the large proportion of barley on offer.

Retail Market.—A small, covered, general retail market is held daily in North Square. There are only 2 shops and about 25 retailers' stalls; these sell miscellaneous goods and display little agricultural produce.

Exeter.

The markets include a livestock market, two general produce markets, a corn exchange and a fish market, all owned by the City Council. Exeter also has a public abattoir.

Livestock Market.—The livestock market (Fig. 30) is the most important in Devonshire and the second largest in the southern counties.

The market is situated near the centre of the town and can be approached on one side only, by a rather narrow road which becomes congested on market days. The nearest of the two railway stations is ¾-mile away. The lay-out of the market is, in general, satisfactory, but the accommodation is hardly adequate for the number of stock passing through at heavy seasons, and the market roadways do not permit of the circulation of vehicles. No space is allotted in the main enclosure to pigs, which are penned under cover in a small yard on the opposite side of the road, some being sold from carts. The main market is railed off into a sheep section, with iron pens for from 2,000 to 3,000 sheep, and a cattle section, with space for about 500 head, the greater proportion of which consists of parallel lines of iron-railed bays, between which is a central gangway for cattle leading to a 30-cwt. dial weighbridge. All fat cattle to be sold by auction are passed over the weighbridge before tying up—a lengthy process—and are sold as they stand, the auctioneers walking along a railed alley at the head of the stock and announcing the weight of each as it is put up for sale. Store cattle are herded loose in the bays, a proportion of this section being reserved for cattle sold by private treaty: probably 20 per cent. are thus disposed of; in the case of dairy cows, the proportion is about 90 per cent. A definite number of the sheep pens are also reserved for private treaty sales. Around two sides of the cattle section there are long, covered, open-fronted sheds for about 60 cows with calves and a small separate shed for calves sold singly. This constitutes the only covered accommodation in the main enclosure and there are no sale rings of any kind. Auction selling is in the hands of one firm of auctioneers. The whole site is kept in good repair and is well paved throughout with concrete. No provision is made for parking vehicles in the market but a limited number can be parked in adjoining streets. The extension of the market is under consideration.

Situated, as Exeter is, at an important railway centre, served by both the Great Western and Southern Railways, the market acts as a collecting centre for the whole county, while stock from Cornwall and Somersetshire are also received in considerable numbers. A great deal of the cattle from more distant regions is brought in by dealers from other markets, and much locally produced stock purchased in smaller neighbouring marts is also brought by dealers to Exeter market for resale. Supplies of fat cattle and dairy cows are distributed over East and South Devon; fat cattle and fat sheep are sent to Bournemouth, Bristol and South Wales, and fat sheep as far as Birmingham and London. Store cattle for fattening go as far as the midland and the south-eastern counties. Fat pigs are bought by agents for bacon factories in the southern counties.

EXETER LIVESTOCK MARKET.

Classification of Supplies according to Radius of Assembly and Distribution and Types of Sellers and Buyers.

Class of Stock.	Assembly.				Distribution.					
	Local supplies received from—		Supplies from outside 10-mile radius received from—		Bought for local needs by—			Bought for outside a 10-mile radius by—		
	Farmers.	Dealers.	Farmers.	Dealers.	Farmers.	Butchers.	Dealers.	Farmers.	Butchers.	Dealers.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Cattle : Fat ..	40	20	10	30	—	30	10	—	30	30
Store ..	20	20	—	60	40	—	10	—	—	50
Dairy ..	30	30	—	40	50	—	20	5	—	25
Calves	60	35	—	5	10	20	40	10	—	20
Sheep : Fat ..	70	10	10	10	—	10	10	—	30	50
Store ..	30	10	—	60	70	—	—	30	—	—
Lambs ..	80	—	—	20	10	20	—	10	10	50
Pigs : Fat ..	100	—	—	—	—	10	50	—	—	40
Store ..	50	50	—	—	60	—	40	—	—	—

In some cases, livestock are taken on to other markets for re-sale before finally reaching their ultimate destination, such as to Dorchester, Salisbury or Chichester. Two sales of pedigree Devon bulls are held in the market annually. The Table on page 114 indicates the radius of assembly and distribution of stock and the types of buyers and sellers. The following are the numbers of livestock entering Exeter market in 1913, 1922 and 1928 :—

——	1913.	1922.	1928.
Cattle : Fat	10,012	9,354	14,931
Store	8,626	10,774	6,260
Dairy Cows ..	3,807	2,386	2,196
Calves	5,555	4,654	6,761
Sheep : Fat	34,571	27,388	34,880
Store	29,774	33,866	20,993
Pigs : Fat	—	27	160
Store	2,489	2,511	3,676
Total	94,834	90,960	89,857

The seasonal variations in supplies are shown by the following Table, which gives the average weekly numbers of stock of all kinds entering the market for each month in 1928 :—

Month.	Cattle.			Calves.	Sheep.		Pigs.	
	Fat.	Store.	Dairy Cows.		Fat.	Store.	Fat.	Store.
January ..	322	50	35	134	775	274	—	58
February ..	332	144	39	121	850	291	3	54
March	316	202	47	142	850	378	15	56
April	240	234	27	105	1,067	239	6	75
May	320	173	38	148	1,240	198	2	100
June	306	151	47	162	763	259	—	72
July	311	88	46	157	485	233	—	51
August ..	291	79	45	136	420	852	—	84
September ..	276	94	49	134	562	498	—	85
October ..	240	89	52	131	360	508	5	68
November ..	246	94	43	107	325	542	—	64
December ..	236	46	37	91	305	513	6	64

Supplies of fat cattle were fairly regular throughout the year ; fat sheep were offered in largest numbers from January to June, with a marked rise in April and May ; fat pigs are an insignificant feature of the market. Store cattle come in chiefly from February

to June, and store sheep in late summer and autumn, particularly in August, when breeding stock are dispersed. The supply of cows and calves is fairly even.

The public abattoir is situated within about 300 yards of the cattle market. There are separate slaughter-halls for cattle, sheep and pigs, respectively. About 100 cattle, 300 sheep and 120 pigs are slaughtered in a week. The abattoir is used chiefly by retailers, but two wholesale butchers slaughter and sell direct from the abattoir; the abattoir, however, is not designed for an extension of this trade. There are 11 private slaughter-houses in the town. Exeter has a registered hide and skin "market", near the cattle market, where hides are collected from the counties of Devon, Somerset, Dorset and Cornwall, and graded and sold by private treaty to local tanners and dealers or consigned to London. A Bristol firm has a hide and skin collecting depot at Exeter.

Produce Markets.—The two general markets, known as the Higher and the Lower Markets, are in the centre of the town. Both consist of very large, stone-built and stone-paved buildings, electrically lighted and provided with slate roofs and skylights. The space is adequate for the business done. Retailers of produce and general merchandise occupy most of the space in both markets, although, in the Higher Market, some 50 producers retail butter, eggs, poultry and fruit to consumers or sell in bulk to retailers and wholesalers for local consumption or consignment to London and other towns. There are no producers in the Lower Market. There are, in all, in the two markets, about 200 stalls and pitches, from about 10 per cent. of which non-agricultural produce is sold. The markets supply only a very small part of the city's needs. It is estimated that some 14,000 eggs, 200 poultry and 800 lb. of butter are sold weekly in the Higher Market. At Goldsmith Street, wholesale merchants have taken premises and formed what is virtually a wholesale fruit and vegetable market. Under the Exeter Market Act of 1840, tolls are payable on all farm produce brought into the city for direct sale, even if it is not passed through the market, a practice found in very few towns.

Corn Exchange.—A corn exchange is held in a walled-off section of the Lower Market. Stands are occupied by 100 merchants, a few of whom, for lack of room, do business in the general market. Stand rents are £3. 5. 0. per annum. About 40 local merchants attend; the rest are principally Bristol and Plymouth firms: about 60 per cent. are traders in feeding-stuffs, seeds and manures, and the rest are millers. The Exeter Exchange is the most important west of Dorchester; in 1927, 106,000 cwt. of British corn were sold, of which 58,000 cwt. were wheat, 35,000 cwt. barley and 13,000 cwt. oats.

Wholesale Fish Market.—A small wholesale fish market is carried on at the riverside quay, where four merchants occupy premises.



FIG. 29.—Colchester: Cattle Market—Egg Auction.

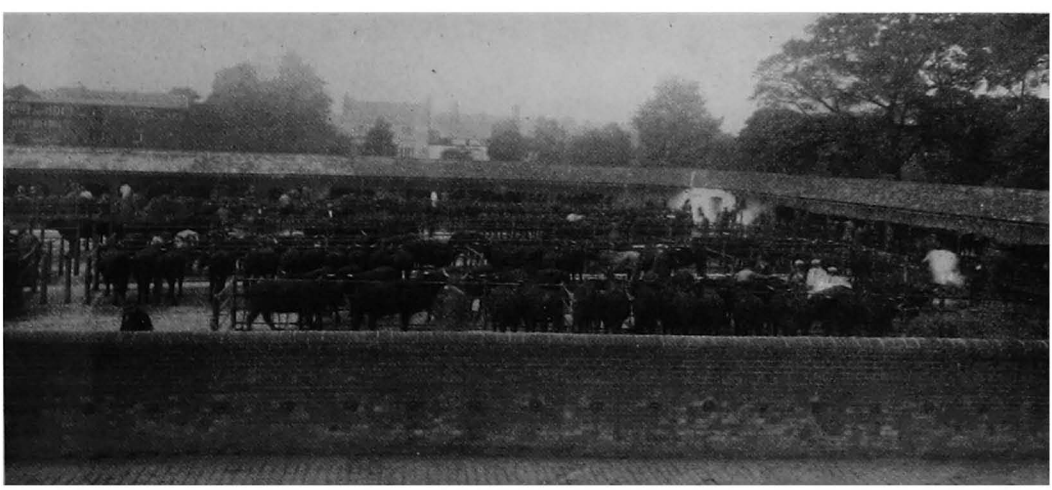


FIG. 30.—Exeter: Livestock Market.



FIG. 31.—Great Yarmouth: Herring Auction.



FIG. 32.—Ipswich: Corn Exchange—General Retail Market.

The market supplies Exeter and surrounding towns and villages. Supplies arrive chiefly by passenger train from Milford Haven. Private treaty sales on commission or by the merchants on their own account are usual.

Great Yarmouth.

Wholesale Fish Market.—Great Yarmouth is the premier herring port of the United Kingdom, but, owing to the relative unimportance of its other fisheries, gives pride of place to both Grimsby and Hull as regards total landings, and ranks sixth as regards the value of its fish. During the herring season, from the end of August to mid-December, the wholesale fish market is held every week-day at the market and quays, which are owned by the Great Yarmouth Port and Haven Commissioners. The quantity of fish dealt with in a year varies considerably owing to the uncertain nature of the herring fishery, but may be said to range between 75,000 and 100,000 tons, of which 98 per cent. are herrings. The total value of the season's catch during the past few years has varied between £725,000 and £850,000. The total area of the covered space for marketing is approximately 8,295 sq. yds.

Great Yarmouth harbour is formed by the mouth of the River Yare, below its confluence with the Waveney and Bure. Its length is about 2 miles and its average width about 85 yards. At the north end is the trawl wharf, which was intended for landings of trawl fish during the herring season. Trawl fish out of the herring season is now usually landed at the central covered herring quay, where the offices of the salesmen are situated. Adjoining, to the south, is the new fish wharf, with offices and conveniences above the market. Next comes another covered herring wharf, with offices at the back. Some considerable distance further south, and near the harbour entrance, is the export quay, intended for shipment of fresh herrings in boxes to Germany. A new covered market has recently been erected for this trade. The length of quay for fish-trade purposes is about 1 mile on the east, and ½-mile on the west sides of the harbour. Railway lines run along the back of the quays, by means of which vessels are coaled direct from the quay side. Two ice factories are situated close at hand. Landings of fish are made at all states of the tide, vessels taking up position as they arrive. Catches of trawl and seine fish are packed and laid out on the quay, where each catch is sold by auction in rotation. The fish are then put into boxes or kits of varying weight and transported by lorry to the stations, the principal destinations being Billingsgate, Norwich and the Midlands. Herrings, also, are sold by auction, the catches being taken out of the drifters into large, double-ended baskets known as "swills," which are placed in rows on the quays. Each catch is sold as it lies, buyers crowding round the auctioneers, who move from catch to catch (Fig. 31).

There are usually 30 fish salesmen or auctioneers and the number of buyers varies from 100 down. After sale, the "swills" are transported, in lorries, to curing yards and houses or to pickling plots. Fresh herrings for the home market are packed into boxes from the "swills" within short range of the wharf. Herrings pickled in barrels by Scotch curers are exported to Baltic countries in steamers which are loaded at the quay.

In the early part of the season, the herrings are bought chiefly for the Mediterranean export trade (about 15 per cent. going to this destination), and for the home trade by local merchants. Early in October, visiting Scottish curers of pickled herrings begin to dominate the market; until mid-November, the bulk of the herrings are purchased for this cure, which in all takes about 80 per cent. of the season's catch. Later, the buyers are chiefly "Klondykers" who export a small proportion of the catch in a fresh state mainly to Altona, on the Elbe.

Between 450,000 and 600,000 barrels are pickled each autumn at Great Yarmouth and Gorleston by Scottish curers, and export is usually completed by the spring of the following year.

There are two dry docks and a small area of beach where vessels can be placed in emergencies. A coal and oil depot, curing and tinning factories, net works, net store, salt stores, etc. adjoin the fish wharf on the east side.

Herring prices (range and average) are published daily in the market by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and weekly statements issued. These are also reproduced in the local press and telegraphed by local agents to most countries in northern Europe.

Livestock and other Markets.—There are, in addition to the fish market, a weekly livestock market at which some 11,000 head of stock are sold annually, including about 5,400 cattle, many of which are grazed on the adjacent marshes; a corn exchange, where a considerable trade is done, amounting in 1927 to 39,000 cwt. of wheat, 113,000 cwt. of barley and 28,000 cwt. of oats; and an open-air, retail market held twice weekly on a space near the centre of the town. The latter is publicly, the two former privately, owned.

Guildford.

Livestock Market.—Guildford livestock market is owned and controlled by the Corporation. It is one of the larger marts supplying London and is the chief fat-stock market south of the Thames between Ashford and Salisbury. Five firms of auctioneers sell livestock in the market, but arrangement of selling times to avoid clashing is made by the leading auctioneers. About 15 per cent. of the cattle and 30 per cent. of the sheep are sold by private treaty.

The lay-out of the market presents no special features of interest. The site occupies about 4½ acres and is fairly well supplied with wide vehicular roads, permitting of unloading stock direct into many of the pens. Enclosed pens and also bays of iron rails for tying up bullocks are provided for cattle. Formerly, fat cattle were sold as they stood tied, but a large sale-ring building of steelwork and timber has recently been erected in the centre of the market with tiered seating, a 22-ft. ring and 30-cwt. dial weighbridge. An uncovered 30-ft. ring is provided for store cattle and cows. Sheep and pig pens have no permanent covering but an awning is erected over many of the pig pens in hot weather. The only permanent shelter for stock is a long, open-fronted shed for calves and cows extending along one side of the market. The market provides accommodation for about 350 fat cattle and cows with calves, 240 store cattle, 2,000 sheep and 1,000 pigs. In the market are a large number of sheds, which are occupied by agricultural implement agents, and also a block of market offices. One side of the market is occupied by a range of poultry cages under cover, capable of accommodating about 3,000 head, and a small building in which eggs, butter and other farm produce are sold by auction. The following numbers of stock passed through this market in 1928 :—4,701 fat cattle, 2,790 store cattle, 1,385 cows, 6,083 calves, 21,394 sheep, mostly fat, 17,478 fat pigs and 11,694 store pigs.

Approximately 75 per cent. of the total supplies of livestock, and more in the case of fat cattle and sheep, are drawn from within 15 miles of Guildford. The drawing area for fat pigs, extending to Sussex, Hampshire and Middlesex, is wider than for sheep and cattle. Store cattle are received from Sussex and Hampshire. Monthly sales of Irish cattle have recently been instituted, at each of which about 500 Irish stores are offered. Store sheep are sent from Kent and are bought by local farmers for breeding or feeding. Probably 25 per cent. of the total livestock entering the market are brought in by dealers. About half the supplies of livestock are consigned outside a 10-mile radius. London and its western suburbs, and towns such as Kingston-on-Thames and Croydon, take large quantities of fat stock, particularly pigs and sheep. The expanding population of the Guildford area is, however, drawing increasingly on the supplies. Some pigs are sent to Reading and, occasionally, to the Midlands.

Seasonal fluctuations in supplies are illustrated by the following Table showing the average weekly number of stock of all kinds entered at Guildford for each month in 1928 :—

Month.	Cattle.			Calves.	Sheep.		Pigs.	
	Fat.	Store.	Dairy Cows.		Fat.	Store.	Fat.	Store.
January ..	101	12	23	114	275	13	448	225
February	90	24	20	115	321	—	399	206
March ..	106	31	21	114	446	5	347	244
April ..	86	31	11	97	542	44	358	282
May ..	80	52	19	106	460	19	252	217
June ..	92	29	21	129	625	—	228	208
July .	71	16	19	119	396	—	154	163
August ..	80	35	30	111	329	45	224	134
September	99	25	29	134	331	89	440	218
October ..	91	149	37	124	352	46	553	288
November..	98	93	34	91	301	17	420	203
December	97	134	24	81	218	28	411	101

Supplies of fat cattle are fairly level throughout the year, April to August being the short period. The large offering of calves is fairly steady and is determined by the necessity for maintaining milk supplies. The increase in supplies of sheep from March to June is due to the influx of fat lambs. As is usual, the fat-pig market is quiet from May to August but fairly even at other times.

Egg, Poultry and Produce Auction.—One firm of auctioneers conducts the poultry, egg and produce sales. The poultry auction was founded in 1879, but eggs have been sold only since the War. In 1927, 160,000 head of poultry and 200,000 dozen eggs were sold. The auctioneer is a registered packer under the National Mark Scheme. Eggs are delivered during the week by producers, candled, graded and packed on private premises and sold by auction weekly in the small egg and produce building in the market. Private treaty sales at auction prices take place throughout the week. The ordinary egg auction business is also still carried on but is being replaced rapidly by the graded egg sales. The bulk of the supplies come from within 20 miles of Guildford, but a few vendors consign from long distances, including Lincolnshire. Most of the eggs are sold for consumption in the neighbourhood or in London and its suburbs and adjacent towns. Jewish buyers from London take a large proportion of the hens.

Corn Exchange.—A substantial brick building in the livestock market is used as a corn exchange. There are 56 merchants' stands, occupied by firms from various parts of Surrey and from London, Reading and Southampton. Sales of corn were less than 30,000 cwt. in 1927. The exchange is used for an annual wool auction sale in June, held by two firms of auctioneers, at which only about 5,000 fleeces are now offered.

Retail Market.—A general retail market is held in the centre of the town and consists of a single line of about 40 stalls mostly for general merchandise.

Ipswich.

Ipswich, the most important market centre in East Suffolk, has a publicly controlled corn exchange and retail market and a livestock market of which the rights and most of the site are owned by the Corporation. Tolls are levied by the Corporation on all stock entering the market.

Livestock Market.—The livestock market is within ½-mile of the railway and near the centre of the town. It consists of a central, publicly owned block, surrounded by 3 privately controlled marts—2 for the sale of livestock and the other for eggs, poultry and produce, all held on land leased from the Corporation; there is also a small public pig market.

(i) The central block of the market, which is on an island site occupying about 1¾ acres, is managed by the Corporation. It includes fat-cattle pens of various sizes and some single bullock standings, with a covered and enclosed sale ring, with tiered seating, erected by a firm of auctioneers. Cattle are weighed on a public lever weighbridge and their weights are announced before sale. There is an open sale ring for store cattle, and uncovered pens for store cattle, sheep and pigs. A section of the pens is set aside and used for private treaty business, more particularly in spring and autumn when store cattle and sheep come forward. About 25 per cent. of the fat cattle, 15 per cent. of the fat sheep and most of the store cattle and store sheep are sold in the public market.

(ii) One of the privately controlled marts—that situated in Cecilia Street—is in three sections, a cattle and pig market, a sheep market and a horse repository. The cattle and pig market is almost entirely covered and includes a block of buildings with offices and covered sale ring equipped with a 25-cwt. dial weighbridge and seating for over 100 people. Cattle pens for 300 head, including single standings for bullocks, all under a substantial corrugated iron roof, adjoin the sale ring. Next to the cattle pens is a corrugated iron-roofed expanse of pig pens for about 400 fat and 600 store pigs, with a few additional pens in the open, including narrow pens for single pigs. A loading bank leads directly into the market from the street. The covered sheep market has pens for from 400 to 500 head, while the large horse repository, where fortnightly sales are held, has ample stabling and a covered sale ring and "run." Three sales of pedigree Suffolk horses are held annually—in March, July and September. The space in, and the approach to, these marts are hardly adequate for

the large numbers of stock handled. About 80 per cent. of the fat cattle and almost all the pigs entering Ipswich market are sold in the Cecilia Street marts.

(iii) The other privately controlled livestock market, in Friarsbridge Road, consists of a corrugated iron-roofed pig auction—seldom used—and a large dairy cow building with covered sale ring and stalls for cows and heifers, tied up singly, as well as ample lairage for stock kept overnight. In addition to the weekly sales, seasonal pedigree stock sales and an annual wool sale are held here.

(iv) The Corporation pig market, with both covered and uncovered pens, is for private treaty business but is not much used.

The livestock market is the largest in the county. The numbers of stock handled in 1922 and 1928 were as follows :—

		1922.	1928.
Cattle :	Fat	28,144	11,686
	Store		10,195
	Dairy Cows		2,675
Calves		3,959	5,486
Sheep :	Fat	32,986	25,030
	Store		17,791
Pigs :	Fat	40,475	17,247
	Store		22,724
Total		105,564	112,834

967 horses passed through the market in 1928.

The area of supply of fat stock is largely within a 15-mile radius of the market. The quality of the fat cattle marketed is high, supplies being greatest from March to July, when buyers from London and the Midlands take about 50 per cent. At other times of the year, the local supply is insufficient to meet local demand, and from August to November, an average of about 50 cattle per week are sent in chiefly by dealers, but to some extent by farmers, from the Midlands. Supplies of fat sheep are somewhat heavier in the spring. It is estimated that about 20 per cent. of the total supplies of fat sheep go to London. Of the fat pigs sold in the market, about 75 per cent. are sent to London and the Midlands. A considerable number of half-fat pigs go to the outskirts of London for finishing. Store cattle come in chiefly in autumn and spring. Most of these are English stores from the North, although some "free" Irish, largely brought by dealers from Norwich, are also sold. There are 2 fairs in Ipswich during the year (both in May), as well as 4 special sheep sales in August and September, at which, in all, about 9,000 store sheep, 2,200 store cattle and 1,700 pigs are sold. The special sales of sheep include 2 of pedigree Suffolks.

Egg, Poultry and Produce Auction.—The third privately controlled market handles poultry, eggs, potatoes and agricultural produce, in 3 corrugated iron buildings. This is one of the largest poultry auctions in the eastern counties and includes pens for about 5,000 birds. In the adjoining egg auction shed, eggs are displayed in cardboard sectioned boxes on sharply sloped wooden shelves behind a wooden packing counter, on to which the lots are brought forward as they are sold. All eggs are sold by the score and under guarantee that they have been laid within 7 days of sale by the vendors' hens. This business was started early in 1928. Grading is not general but a proportion of the eggs is graded to standards coinciding with National Mark categories. London buyers attend for eggs and for poultry, of which 157,000 head were sold in 1927. There is also a demand from local coastal resorts.

Hide and Skin Market.—Within 100 yards of the cattle market is a privately owned hide and skin "market," controlled by a firm with registered "markets" at 2 centres in the eastern counties and 12 in the North. Hides and skins are collected from the surrounding district and graded. Sales are by private treaty every Friday.

Corn Exchange.—The corn exchange is a brick-built, roof-lighted hall situated within ¼-mile of the cattle market. There are 105 single stands at £3 10*s.* a year, and 58 double stands at £6 a year. 129 standholders are local; preference in the letting of stands is given to local corn merchants. 12*s.* 6*d.* a quarter is charged for traders' and season tickets. In 1927, 233,000 cwt. of wheat, 314,000 cwt. of barley and 36,000 cwt. of oats were sold.

Retail Market.—On Wednesdays and Saturdays, the corn exchange is used as a general retail market, where 34 out of 43 stands are used for sales of farm produce, 32 being let to actual growers (Fig. 32).

Wool Sale.—Annual auction sales of wool are held in the dairy cow shed near the cattle market. About 21,000 fleeces are sold annually.

King's Lynn.

The markets at King's Lynn include a livestock market (in which are held an egg, produce and a poultry auction), a corn market and two open retail markets, all owned by the Corporation.

Livestock Market.—The livestock market, open every Tuesday, is situated about ¼-mile from the railway station, where there are good unloading facilities for stock. The railway service is extensively used for stock and there is ample accommodation for parking vehicles in the market.

The accommodation in the market is rather scattered, and comprises a large central area, occupied by pens and reserved for private treaty dealing, surrounded by pens and buildings erected

by four firms of auctioneers on sections of the market rented by them. In 1928, 404 fat cattle, 6,091 store cattle, 12,397 sheep and 1,210 horses were sold by private treaty. The accommodation for auction sales includes 3 covered sale rings for fat cattle, store cattle and cows, respectively. The fat-cattle ring was copied from the sale ring at Perth and consists of a tall wooden building which is covered externally with corrugated iron, moderately well lighted and fitted with tiered seating accommodation for a large number of buyers. The average attendance of buyers is about 80. The inner sale ring, from which buyers are excluded, is over 20 ft. in diameter and has a dial weighbridge weighing up to 25 cwt. Open fat-cattle pens, in which beasts are tied singly, are closely adjacent; cattle are sold in the ring at the rate of from 60 to 100 per hour. The auctioneer owning this ring contemplates erecting a covered sale ring for sheep in the near future. The other two sale rings are small. The covered ring for store cattle has a dial weighbridge of 50-cwt. capacity. Buyers are not rigidly excluded from these two rings. The pens for cows and store cattle adjoining the rings are uncovered. About 40 per cent. of the store cattle are sold by private treaty. There is ample covered accommodation for pigs; this consists of three open-sided corrugated iron erections of the Dutch barn type in different parts of the market. Several unloading ramps, both movable and fixed, are in use. Sheep are sold from open pens by auction and private treaty. Market roads are fairly wide and well paved. No lairage accommodation is provided at the market, but one auctioneer has covered accommodation for 200 cattle in another part of the town. Sales do not clash, as each class of stock is sold by separate auctioneers, one selling fat cattle, another store cattle and sheep and a third pigs and poultry.

The numbers of stock entering the market in two recent years were as follows:—

		1922.	1928.
Cattle:	Fat	11,727	13,964
	Store	19,325	14,390
	Dairy Cows		995
Calves		1,254	1,915
Sheep:	Fat	34,184	36,792
	Store	14,862	27,384
Pigs:	Fat	20,184	24,838
	Store	8,356	16,583
Total		109,892	136,861

As a fat cattle market, King's Lynn, although of lesser importance, competes with Norwich (see later), and the movements of all kinds of stock are somewhat similar in each. Supplies of fat

cattle are heaviest from February to June, and those of fat sheep from January to May, when folded tegs, followed by early lambs, come on the market. Store cattle are most abundant in spring and autumn. The supply of pigs is fairly regular. In the first half of the year, buyers from many midland and northern towns take most of the fat cattle, while a smaller number go to London and the South. This is the chief market in East Anglia for sheep, and in the spring, a certain number of fat sheep are bought for the Midlands and London, although the majority are consumed in Norfolk or adjoining counties. About 90 per cent. of the fat pigs sold go outside the county. Bacon pigs are bought for factories in midland and northern counties, while porkers are sent to London and cutters to Birmingham and other Midland towns. Store cattle in this market are sent in by dealers from Cumberland, Lincolnshire and Cambridgeshire. Some Irish stores are offered but none received direct. These are purchased chiefly for feeding in the county.

Egg, Poultry and Produce Auctions.—King's Lynn has the largest egg auction in Norfolk and is one of the most important markets in the county for live poultry. In 1928, 142,000 head of poultry, 1¼ million eggs and 260 cwt. of butter were sold. The egg supply varies from about 11,000 per week in November to about 35,000 per week in April. Surplus supplies of poultry and eggs are sent chiefly to London.

The poultry auction is a large corrugated iron building in the livestock market with a wide roadway for vehicles running through the centre; the poultry cages are arranged round the sides and selling takes place from a plank placed above the cages. There is much congestion round the cages during the auction. Eggs, butter and fruit and vegetables are sold by auction from an open-fronted shed, where facilities for inspection are poor. There are no facilities for grading eggs, but some vendors grade before sending in; re-packing facilities are exceedingly limited. A sample of each lot is exhibited as it is sold. As in most East Anglian markets, eggs are sold by the score. Hay and straw are sold by auction in the cattle market.

Corn Exchange.—The corn exchange, owned by the Corporation, is held in a stone building in the "Tuesday" market-square (see below), about ¼-mile from the cattle market. There are 132 stands used by merchants at a yearly rent of £3. Farmers attend from a radius of about 25 miles. The public are admitted at a charge of 2*d.* per head. Merchants are represented from Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk. Barley is the most important grain dealt in; in 1927, 110,000 cwt. of home-grown wheat, 377,000 cwt. of barley and 48,000 cwt. of oats were sold.

Retail Markets.—Two retail markets are held, one on Tuesday and the other on Saturday, in separate open squares near the centre

of the town and about ½-mile apart. The Tuesday market is the larger. There are about 50 stalls in all, of which only 6 are devoted to agricultural produce.

Norwich.

A Charter of Edward IV gives the Corporation of Norwich the monopoly of markets within a radius of 5 miles of the city, the present population of which is about 120,000. The markets consist of a cattle market (in which is also a poultry auction), horse market, fish market, and wholesale and retail provision market, all publicly controlled. The corn exchange, egg and butter market and hide and skin "market" are privately controlled.

Livestock Market.—The cattle market is held on Castle Hill, in the centre of the town and a mile from the Midland and Great Northern Railway station and from Trowse station, which are those chiefly used for cattle arriving at and leaving the town. Norwich ranks for cattle next in importance in the country to York. In the eastern and southern counties, there is no other market of as much as half its importance for cattle. The numbers of live-stock entering the market in the years 1913, 1922 and 1928 were as follows :—

——	1913.	1922.	1928.
Cattle : Fat	25,895	17,521	20,420
Store	62,142	46,502	59,066
Dairy Cows ..			4,040
Calves	4,374	4,589	4,841
Sheep . Fat	45,596	25,900	30,279
Store	73,528	32,000	20,717
Pigs : Fat	14,500	9,800	24,620
Store	14,428	8,644	12,914
Total	240,463	144,956	176,897

The market accommodation is simple ; 80 per cent. of the area is uncovered, in which it offers a decided contrast to York* and some other large publicly owned cattle markets. The market occupies an unenclosed oblong space of about 9 acres, paved with concrete, bricks and granite setts, and surrounded on all sides by roads. A large triangular space at one end, and the market roads adjoining, are reserved for the Irish cattle trade (Fig. 33). Large pens, capable of holding 50 cattle and upwards, are provided, each of which is usually occupied by two or three bunches of stores held in place by drovers. An adjoining space is occupied by similar pens for English stores and for those Irish cattle which, not having

* *See* Economic Series No. 19, page 73.

been sold at the previous week's market, have completed their 6 days quarantine. Adjoining the English store pens are pens for dairy cows and 2 covered sale rings, one fitted with a weighbridge for store and dairy cattle ; few store cattle, however, are weighed. Not more than 10 per cent. of the stores are sold by auction and these are all sold by one auctioneer, the majority of the Irish and many of the English stores being sold by private treaty. The market accommodation includes enclosed pens for fat cattle, also bays, formed of iron rails, to which beasts are tied singly, and a large 20 ft. by 24 ft. covered sale ring with tiered standing accommodation and a 5-ton dial weighbridge. The number of beasts sold per hour in the busy season averages 100 ; it is estimated that about 40 buyers of fat cattle attend weekly in the season. Some extension of the facilities for tying cattle singly would appear to be desirable in order to facilitate inspection by buyers who at present are apt to crowd into the ring during sales. The accommodation for sheep consists of uncovered pens of various sizes, some of which are reserved for private treaty sales. Practically all the fat cattle and sheep are, however, sold by one firm of auctioneers. A long range of covered pig pens, into which it is possible to unload pigs direct from the street, runs down one side of the market. A small number of pens are reserved for private treaty sales, a method which, however, is not greatly used in the case of pigs, the majority being sold by 2 firms of auctioneers. There is, in addition, in the market, a small, enclosed calf mart, consisting of covered pens and a small galvanised iron sale ring. A large brick Agricultural Hall, used occasionally for agricultural shows, occupies one corner of the market area. There are settling rooms in the market and at hotels around it, while 4 banks have branch premises adjoining the market.

The market is held on Saturday, which, although an unusual day for a large market, has the advantage—important because of the large number of cattle re-pitched in other markets—that an extra day is secured in which stock can be moved. Train services, however, demand the arrival of fat stock at the sidings for dispatch not later than 2.30 p.m., and, in consequence, the market commences at 9 a.m. Ample parking facilities are provided for motor vehicles, the use of which for bringing livestock to this market is increasing. A small quantity of hay (about 300 tons a year) and straw (some 25 tons) is sold to Norwich horse dealers in the cattle market near the weighbridge. Four firms of auctioneers sell livestock, times of sale being arranged so as not to clash, and although there is no actual restriction on the number of auction firms operating in the market, the number is limited, in practice, by letting all the sale rings and a large proportion of the pens exclusively to specific firms. No lairage is provided within the market area but the Norwich Corporation own authorised lairages at Harford farm, within 1¼ miles, where excellent accommodation is provided for

2,000 cattle in high, well-drained meadows occupying roughly 50 acres and supplied with Corporation water. A railway siding, adjoining the main London and North Eastern Railway, equipped with unloading pens and cattle box, runs direct into the lairage. (Fig. 34). The appreciation in value of the present market site combined with traffic considerations has already led to a suggestion that the live-stock market should be transferred to the lairage site.

Seasonal variations in supplies of livestock at Norwich Market are indicated by the following Table, which gives the average weekly numbers of the different kinds entered in the market for each month in 1928 :—

Month.	Cattle.		Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Horses.
	Fat.	Store & Cows.				
January	467	753	81	1,305	785	45
February	524	877	95	1,519	812	43
March	657	818	106	1,382	792	48
April	873	868	80	1,198	825	121
May	570	775	87	693	685	77
June	302	588	70	643	524	59
July	223	330	123	1,084	641	66
August	199	369	85	711	566	51
September . ..	203	772	88	995	597	65
October	283	3,592	138	1,048	887	115
November	238	3,786	101	856	901	50
December	219	1,362	73	448	713	26

The following is a brief summary of the trade done in Norwich market, showing the chief areas of collection and distribution of the different classes of stock :—

Areas of Collection.

FAT CATTLE.—About 90 per cent. come from Norfolk, the remainder from the counties of Lincoln, Bedford, Cambridge and Suffolk. The majority of the fat cattle on offer are yard or box fed and of high quality ; the main season is from January to June (*see* Table of monthly supplies). From August to November, local supplies do not meet local demand, and grass-fed cattle are imported to the extent of about 50 per week.

STORE CATTLE.—About 85 per cent. are Irish and 15 per cent. of English origin. Norwich is an authorised Irish cattle market, the majority of the stores offered being received directly from the landing wharves. English stores are chiefly of North Country origin. The heavy period for store cattle is from October to December.

DAIRY COWS.—About 90 per cent. come from Norfolk, the remainder mostly from Suffolk ; a few come from Wiltshire.

CALVES.—About 95 per cent. come from Norfolk, the remainder chiefly from Suffolk.



Fig. 33.—Norwich: Livestock Market—Irish Cattle Section.

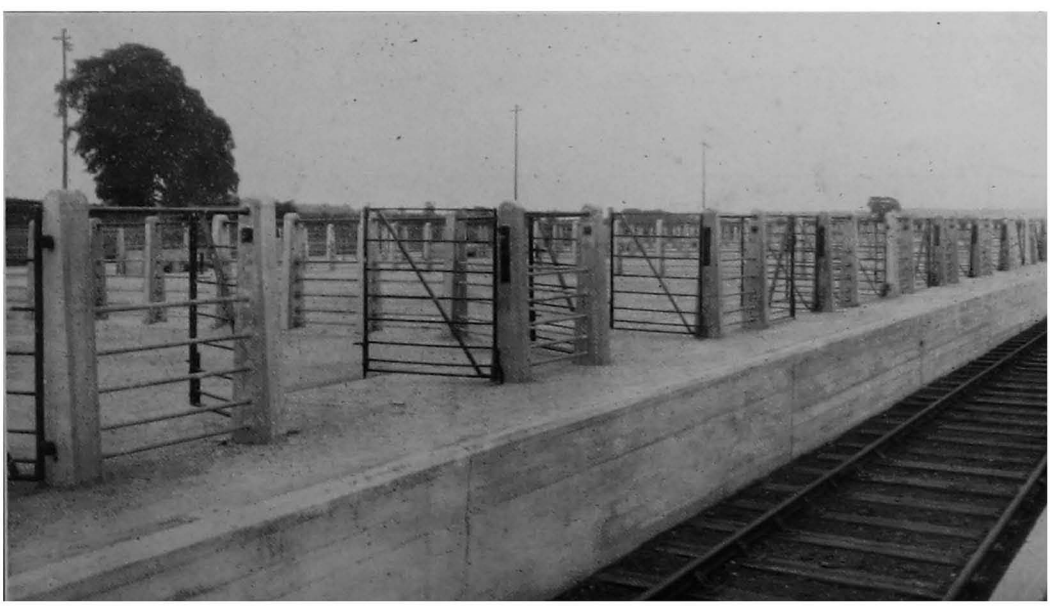


Fig. 34.—Norwich: Harford Lairages—Unloading Docks.

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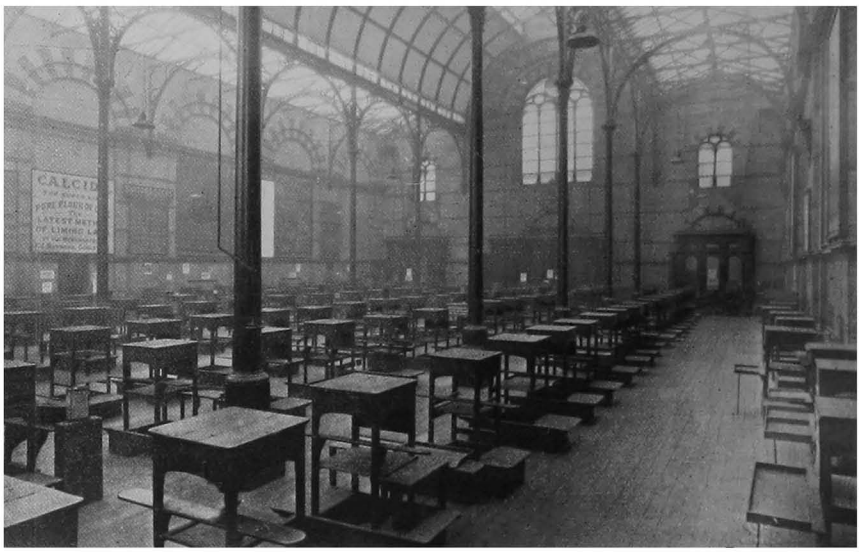


FIG. 35.—Norwich : Corn Exchange.



FIG. 36.—Reading : Livestock Market.

FAT AND STORE SHEEP AND LAMBS.—About 90 per cent. come from Norfolk, the remainder from Suffolk, Essex and Cambridgeshire. The supply of sheep has fallen off during the last 20 years. Fat sheep are prominent in the first 4 months of the year and stores in autumn. In contrast to the southern counties, sheep are short in May and June, early lamb production not being a specialty of the county.

FAT AND STORE PIGS.—Practically all come from Norfolk.

Areas of Distribution.

FAT CATTLE.—Approximately 90 per cent. of the supplies are purchased for distribution in areas outside Norfolk, the remainder for consumption in the county. In addition to sending supplies into the surrounding counties, buyers consign large numbers to the industrial areas of the Midlands and the North as well as to London and the South. It is estimated that the proportion taken by the Midlands and North is three or four times as great as that sent to London and southern counties. Many cattle from Norwich are re-pitched in other markets before being ultimately purchased for slaughter.

STORE CATTLE.—About 90 per cent. of the stores are bought by Norfolk farmers for winter feeding or grazing on the marshes. The remainder are bought by dealers for re-sale in other markets, chiefly in Suffolk, Essex, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire and Lincolnshire.

DAIRY COWS.—These are mainly distributed throughout Norfolk, but some go to Suffolk and Essex.

CALVES.—About 95 per cent. move into Norfolk, the remainder going to London, Suffolk and the Isle of Ely.

FAT AND STORE SHEEP AND LAMBS.—About 85 per cent. are purchased for Norwich and the county, including all store sheep. The remainder go to London and towns in the Midlands and North.

FAT PIGS.—About 90 per cent. are consigned out of the county. Porkers go chiefly to London, cutters to the Midlands and North, while bacon pigs are sent by agents and independent buyers to factories all over the country. The remainder are purchased by local butchers in Norwich and the county.

STORE PIGS.—These are bought chiefly by Norfolk farmers and dealers.

The Table on page 131 shows the proportions of stock entered by farmers and dealers and bought by farmers, dealers and butchers, respectively. The store cattle supply is entirely maintained by dealers. Some of the fat stock are also brought in by dealers who purchase them direct from the farms or in smaller markets.

Poultry Auctions.—A poultry auction, at which about 100,000 head of live poultry per annum are sold, is held by two firms of auctioneers in the livestock market.

Produce Auction.—A weekly auction sale of eggs and butter is held on private premises adjoining the livestock market. About ¾-million eggs are sold annually.

Horse Repository.—A publicly owned horse repository, in which one firm of auctioneers operates, adjoins the livestock market. It consists of a timber-built stable with a covered sale ring adjacent and a small yard available as a "run." Approximately 3,000 horses were sold here in a recent year; sales take place on market

day—Saturday. Horses are mainly received from Norfolk, and about half are re-consigned into the county and half to the Midlands and London.

Wholesale Fish Market.—Norwich has a small covered wholesale fish market, held daily, consisting of premises occupied by 8 merchants who supply retailers in the town and outside for a distance of from 15 to 20 miles.

Corn Exchange.—The corn exchange (Fig. 35), owned by a limited company, and regulated by the Norwich Corn Exchange Act, 1859, is in Exchange Street, in the centre of the city. This is a well-lighted building, covering over 1,000 square yards, and has 158 stands for which a yearly rent is charged of 6 guineas for a whole stand and 3½ guineas for a half-stand. The public are admitted on a charge of 3*d.* Stands or half stands are occupied by 248 merchants, of whom only about 60 per cent. transact business in corn. Approximately 65 per cent. are Norfolk firms and 20 per cent. Suffolk firms. Vendors are very largely Norfolk farmers. The sales of corn in 1927 amounted to 342,484 cwt. of wheat, 1,322,561 cwt. of barley, and 212,582 cwt. of oats. Norwich is by far the most important centre in the country for barley and oats and is surpassed only by Lincoln, Peterborough and Hull for wheat. Although buyers are mainly local, the major proportion of the corn handled is sent out of the county, the best quality barley being taken by the big Burton brewers. The average winter attendance, excluding stand-holders, is from 800 to 1,000 persons each Saturday.

Provision Market.—The market is uncovered and is used daily for both wholesale and retail trade. It serves Norwich and a radius of about 5 miles round the city, while, in summer, supplies of fruit and vegetables are consigned to various east coast resorts. Wholesale business is transacted chiefly on Saturdays, by private treaty, starting at 4 a.m. in summer and 5 a.m. in winter, the wholesalers for fruit, vegetables, butter and eggs occupying 1,600 sq. yds. and for flowers 240 sq. yds. Produce is brought in by growers from the district; the fruit and vegetable trade predominates.

The retail provision market consists of 153 stalls, covering an area of 1,958 sq. yds., for sales of fruit (53 stalls), flowers (30), fish (13), meat (37), butter and eggs (10) and dead poultry (10). A toll of 3*d.* per yard frontage per day is charged for vegetables and fruit, and 4*d.* for meat, dairy produce and poultry. In addition, 76 stalls covering an area of 1,712 sq. yds. are occupied by general merchandise.

Hide and Skin Market.—A registered hide and skin "market" is carried on by a local firm in Norwich who control one other hide and skin "market" in the eastern counties and 12 "markets" and warehouses in the North. Hides and skins are collected from Norfolk

NORWICH LIVESTOCK MARKET.

Classification of Supplies according to Radius of Assembly and Distribution and Types of Sellers and Buyers.

Class of Stock.	Assembly.				Distribution.			
	Norfolk supplies received from—		Supplies from outside Norfolk received from—		Bought for Norfolk needs by—			Bought for outside Norfolk by farmers or dealers.
	Farmers.	Dealers.	Farmers.	Dealers.	Farmers.	Dealers.	Butchers.	
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Cattle : Fat	65	25	—	10	—	—	10	90
Store	—	—	—	100	90	—	—	10
Dairy	30	60	—	10	100	—	—	—
Calves	80	15	—	5	—	—	95	5
Sheep : Fat	60	40	—	—	—	—	70	30
Store	40	40	—	20	100	—	—	—
Pigs : Fat	70	30	—	—	—	—	10	90
Store	70	30	—	—	70	30	—	—

and adjoining counties, graded, and sold by auction on commission weekly.

Norwich has no publicly controlled abattoir or wholesale meat market, although schemes have been prepared for an abattoir. There are 29 private slaughter-houses in use in the city.

Reading.

The markets at Reading comprise a livestock market, included in which is an egg and poultry auction, a corn exchange, two general retail markets and two hide and skin "markets." An annual wool sale is held in the cattle market. All the markets, with the exception of one of the hide and skin "markets," are owned by the Corporation.

Livestock Markets.—The livestock market (Fig. 36) is used not only for weekly sales of fat stock on Mondays, and of store and dairy stock, eggs and poultry on Saturdays, but also at very frequent intervals for special sales of pedigree and store cattle, the latter including much Irish stock. Monthly sales of horses are also held. In 1928, the following numbers of stock entered the market: fat cattle 2,998, store cattle and dairy cows 37,108, fat calves 1,380, store calves 3,931, fat sheep 18,045, store sheep 1,965, fat pigs 4,570, and store pigs 4,902. Reading has an excellent rail service to practically all parts of the country. It is within an hour by rail of London and within two hours of Bristol, Birmingham and Southampton. The market adjoins the Great Western Railway, and the loading docks are therefore within easy access. Main road facilities are also very good.

The sales of store and pedigree stock are increasing, the geographical position of Reading making it eminently suitable for the purpose. The success of this trade will, no doubt, call for an expansion of the market area. The present accommodation for cattle consists of a few large enclosed pens around an 18-ft. covered sale ring, open iron-railed bays in which cattle are tied, and an open-fronted lairage shed, while up to 300 store cattle are housed at special sales in a long, roomy, brick-built byre, 195 ft. by 45 ft., running along one side of the market. This building is especially useful for housing pedigree stock for which shelter is essential; it is also used for horses at the monthly sales. As the byre opens directly on to the main road outside the market, it is unnecessary for stock to pass through the market. Steps are being taken to construct more pens and lairage for store cattle; at present, temporary wooden pens often have to be erected. A very large cattle sale building, the finest south of the Thames, has been erected in the centre of the market; it is built of hollow terra-cotta brick, is adequately lighted and ventilated and has tiered seating for about 400 people. The ring, which is used for fat cattle and for special sales of pedigree and store stock, is 20 ft. in diameter and is fitted with a 30-cwt. dial weighbridge (Fig. 37). Store cattle are

not weighed. Buyers are not allowed in this ring. This contrasts with the practice in the other ring, which becomes very crowded. Uncovered iron pens on a concrete foundation are provided in the market for about 1,000 pigs and sheep, as well as a few pens for store pigs and a very small shed for calves. An auction sale of eggs and poultry is held in two small, badly lighted sheds. About ¼-million eggs and 20,000 poultry per annum are handled.

The 3 firms of auctioneers selling livestock do so by rota to avoid clashing in sale times.

In addition to local butchers, buyers attend the weekly fat stock market from London and the towns lying between Reading and London. Fat sheep and lambs are sent in from the Berkshire Down country and the South Oxfordshire hills. There is little fattening of cattle in the neighbourhood, supplies of fat cattle being brought up by dealers from Somersetshire and Devonshire. Dairy stock of a fairly good type is offered at the regular Saturday store stock market. The frequent special sales of store and pedigree cattle are one of the most important features of the market. The sales of this nature in 1928 included 32 sales of store cattle (of which many are for Irish stock, this being an "authorised" market), 3 special sales of high class dairy stock and 34 sales of pedigree cattle. Store cattle are dispatched to all parts of the south of England as well as to such midland and eastern counties as Northampton, Bedford, Hertford, Gloucester and Cambridge. The store cattle sales are arranged partly by the firms of auctioneers operating in the market and partly by the Country Gentlemen's Association acting through the agency of the auctioneers. The Association has paid special attention to the organisation and improvement of Irish store cattle sales. A system of rough grading of stores at the market is in practice. Before the sale, cattle in the pens are examined by representatives of the auctioneers and of the Association; the bunches of cattle which reach a certain standard of quality are marked with a red ticket as a recommendation to buyers. The majority of the Irish cattle are sent over by a few big dealers.

The public slaughter-houses adjoining the market are 15 in number, of which 13 are let to private butchers, including one wholesaler, and 2 are open to public use. Each slaughter-house has 3 lairage pens and some have a small yard. No cooling rooms are provided. It has been stated that the consumption of home-produced meat in the Reading area could be increased if more abattoir accommodation were provided.

Hide and Skin Markets.—A firm of hide and skin merchants occupy premises in the cattle market. Hides and skins are bought from butchers and sold by private treaty. This is a registered "market." Another firm holds a hide and skin market, which is not registered, on somewhat different lines, in premises adjoining the cattle market. Here hides and skins are sold weekly by auction

on commission after grading. Some private treaty business is also done. Supplies are collected from the counties of Berkshire, Hampshire, Wiltshire, Buckingham, Surrey, Oxford and Middlesex.

Corn Exchange.—The corn exchange is held in a roof-lighted, rectangular hall in the centre of the town. A considerable volume of corn business is transacted. In 1927, approximately 84,000 cwt. of wheat, 113,000 cwt. of barley and 57,000 cwt. of oats were sold. There are 83 merchants' stands, while there are also 79 members without stands. Stands are rented at £4 per annum. Approximately 75 per cent. of the firms in the exchange are local; London, Bristol, Oxford and Salisbury firms also operate.

Wool Sale.—At the annual wool sale, held in the cow-byre at the cattle market in July, about 10,000 fleeces are pitched.

Retail Market.—Of the two retail markets, one is held in the open air on Saturdays only, the other is covered and is held daily. The former is an open stall market confined almost entirely to general non-agricultural merchandise. The latter consists of a covered arcade, centrally situated, with 12 permanent lock-up shops and 13 temporary portable stalls, mostly for the sale of miscellaneous goods.

Salisbury.

Livestock Markets.—Although by far the most important livestock centre in Wiltshire, the public livestock market at Salisbury is still held on the open market place. This is a space of about 1½ acres, surrounded by streets and buildings, congested in part by the retail market and with no permanent pens or covered accommodation. Temporary pens formed of hurdles, for sheep and pigs, and a few temporary sheds for calves are erected weekly by the two firms of auctioneers operating in the market. The congestion is particularly noticeable in the early lamb season in the spring. The railway loading yard is almost a mile distant and the market can be approached only by passing through the narrow, busy, main streets of the town. The accommodation has been supplemented by no less than 3 separate private sale-yards in other parts of the town where all the cattle are handled.

These private sale yards—the Castle Auction, the Central Repository and the Canal Auction—are owned by three firms of auctioneers and are situated within a few hundred yards of the public market-square. They consist of disused stables which have been adapted for their present use. Cattle are sold at all of them, weekly, on the same day (Tuesday) as the public market is held.

Most of the fat cattle are sold at the Central Repository, where all beasts are tied up singly, under cover, in several byres. The covered 30-ft. sale ring, with dial weighbridge of 25-cwt. capacity and some tiered seating, has no adjoining collecting pens, and movement of stock is hampered. Fat cattle are sold at an average rate of 35 per hour.

At the Canal Auction store cattle and cows and a few fat cattle, as well as sheep, pigs and poultry, are sold. Periodical auction sales of horses are also held. A roomy, galvanised iron-roofed shed, with glass roof-lights, provides ample space for from 50 to 60 cows or store cattle tied up singly; calves are also under cover. Adjacent buildings give room for about 80 store cattle and stabling for 20 horses. Eggs and butter are sold by auction in this market.

The Castle Auction consists entirely of converted stabling. There is a roomy shed for about 100 cattle tied up singly and further accommodation for another 100 cattle, as well as a covered sale ring. Dairy cows and store cattle are mainly handled at this auction, which has a good reputation for dairy stock. The auctioneer has an egg and produce auction in a wooden building adjoining the corn exchange.

While clashing in the selling times of similar types of stock is not serious, the scattered nature of the market causes inconvenience, both to vendors and buyers. Motor transport is extensively used in connection with all the markets, but parking space is, in general, inadequate. Salisbury draws on the whole of Wiltshire, south Hampshire and east Dorset for supplies of livestock and produce of all kinds, and cattle are brought from Somerset, Dorset and areas further afield, chiefly by dealers. Buyers of fat cattle, sheep and pigs attend from various centres, including London, Bristol, Cardiff, Southampton, Portsmouth and other south-coast towns. Fat pigs are also largely bought by dealers and agents who supply bacon factories. As a fat-sheep market, Salisbury draws supplies of very high quality. Early lambs are prominent in spring. About 14,000 store sheep are sold at 2 fairs held in the town in July and November. Veal calves are a feature of this market, as many as 400 per week being sold in autumn. A veal carcase trade with London and the Midlands is carried on by dealer-slaughtermen who buy in the market. An average of about 30 buyers attend at the weekly sales of fat stock.

The following Table shows the total numbers of livestock entering Salisbury markets in 1922 and 1928:—

		1922.	1928.
Cattle:	Fat	4,276	2,113
	Store	2,906	4,061
	Dairy Cows	2,825	2,595
Calves	.. ..	12,229	12,521
Sheep:	Fat	28,605	32,758
	Store	8,500	1,870
Pigs:	Fat	6,318	5,361
	Store	8,654	10,111
Total ..	.. .. ..	74,313	71,390

About 3 million eggs are sold in a year at the two auction marts. Many of the large commercial egg producers grade their produce but no general grading system is practised. Lots are usually sold with a written guarantee of 7 days maximum age and are displayed in miscellaneous boxes as brought in by vendors. Eggs are received from a wide area and are mostly exported to London, Bristol, Bath, Southampton and Portsmouth. A fair quantity of butter is sold at both auctions and a little vegetable produce at the Castle Egg Auction. About 56,000 head of live poultry per annum are sold by auction in the public market. There is a demand for fat chickens to supply shipping at Southampton and the usual demand for hens from London Jewish buyers.

Corn Exchange.—The large corn exchange, owned by a company, is situated near the public market and is the most important south of the Thames. About 100 merchants from the locality and from London, Bristol, Reading and Southampton, occupy stands at a rent of £3 10*s.* per annum. From 200 to 250 farmers attend weekly. The total sales of grain in 1927 amounted to 133,000 cwt. of wheat, 142,000 cwt. of barley and 65,000 cwt. of oats.

Wool Auction.—An important annual wool auction sale, at which over 60,000 fleeces are disposed of, is held at Salisbury. Some of the wool samples are displayed in the corn exchange and some at the Central Repository. Buyers attend from Hampshire, Sussex, Somersetshire, Lancashire, Yorkshire, London and the Midlands, Scotland and Ireland. Most of the wool offered is Down wool and is almost entirely unwashed. It is drawn from a radius of about 25 miles.

Hide and Skin Market.—A weekly hide and skin "market" is held in the town by a local firm. Sales are by private treaty. Hides are collected from private slaughter-houses.

Retail Market.—A general market is held on Tuesdays and Saturdays in the open market-place; an almost entirely retail trade is carried on from a large number of stalls, meat, vegetables, fruit, flowers and fish, as well as general merchandise, being sold.

The City Council is alive to the necessity of improving existing market facilities and several conferences have taken place with all parties interested on the question of providing a single, large, centralised livestock market. A special committee is preparing schemes to meet requirements.

Yeovil.

The markets at Yeovil include two cattle markets—one owned by the Corporation, the other privately owned (in both of which eggs, poultry and produce are also sold), a corn exchange, and an open-air general market.

Livestock Markets.—The public market is too small to deal with all the livestock brought in for sale, a large number being sold in

the private auction mart close by. The situation of the two markets in the centre of the town sets a limit to future expansion and is also unsatisfactory from a traffic standpoint. Most of the existing pens and buildings on the public site were erected by the firm of auctioneers who operate in the market. The improvement of the accommodation made by the auctioneers since 1912 has greatly increased the trade passing through the market, but they are reluctant to carry out any further improvements as they hold their tenancy on a short-term agreement. The site of the public market (Fig. 38) is triangular, occupying only about two-thirds of an acre and is on a rather steep slope down from base to apex. There are roads and entrances on two sides and a fixed unloading bank at the lower end leading into the market direct from the street. Although motor transport for stock is in general use, there is no space for vehicles to stand in the market. Parking space is, however, provided at the sides of an adjacent road. At the higher end of the market, a corrugated iron building, with partly glazed roof, is divided into a calf shed and a sale ring for cattle, equipped with tiered seating on one side for about 50 people and with a 30-cwt. dial weighbridge. Selling of cattle takes place at the rate of about 50 per hour. An average attendance of buyers is from 25 to 30. The cattle pens, mostly uncovered, are situated near and give direct access to the sale ring. Cattle are tied up singly, but inspection is difficult as they are tightly packed. The lower part of the market includes uncovered pens set very close together for sheep and pigs, the latter covered by a canvas awning in hot weather, and a long open-fronted shed, used partly for calves and partly for the auction sale of live poultry and eggs. Eggs are displayed in partitioned wooden frames. A little fruit and vegetable produce is also sold by auction in this shed. The livestock market is held on alternate Mondays for fat stock and alternate Fridays for stores. A space is reserved, but not at present used, for private treaty sales of livestock on Fridays: at other times, the auctioneers rent the whole market. Four special sales of pedigree dairy cattle and two of pedigree pigs are held annually.

The private auction mart is held on the same days as the public market. It is within 50 yards of the public market and is more roomy, occupying about an acre, although the accommodation is somewhat scattered as a result of piecemeal additions at various times. Tolls on the stock are paid to the Corporation. The main part of the market is situated on high ground. There are three entrances, reached from the public road by a rather steep, narrow road. Covered accommodation is provided for about 60 cattle, tied up singly, about 30 untied beasts and about 300 calves. The centre of the market is occupied by sheep pens and by a 27-ft. cattle sale ring with covered tiered seating; the sale ring is fitted with a 30-cwt. dial weighbridge and is surrounded by uncovered bays and pens for about 200 cattle. There is no direct connection

by gangways from the cattle pens to the ring, beasts being led or driven across the intervening open space. Cattle are sold at about the same rate as in the public market. Space is set aside for parking vehicles. Adjoining, but on a lower level, is a covered mart for from 700 to 800 pigs, which is raised above the outside road level, thus facilitating unloading. An auction sale of live poultry, eggs, rabbits, vegetable produce and dairy produce is held in a brick building adjacent to the livestock market. Eggs are packed into the auctioneer's partitioned wooden frames. No uniform grading system is in practice. The turnover of eggs in a recent year in the two markets together is estimated at 80,000 dozen. Sales of both eggs and poultry are held on each Monday in both markets, but the supply is too short to attract the regular buyers on the Mondays when no livestock market is held.

In the absence of an agreement between the two firms of auctioneers, selling of fat stock takes place in the two markets simultaneously, and the consequent splitting of buyers undoubtedly adversely affects prices. An immediate rise in the general price level in one market is said to be noticeable when selling finishes in the other, owing to the return of buyers. In view of this, a system has been devised in the public market whereby sellers who regularly send in cattle to the public market rotate in the order in which their stock is sold, and thus, during a year, have their sales dispersed regularly over the selling times.

The total numbers of stock passing through Yeovil Markets in 1913, 1922 and 1927 were as follows :—

		1913.	1922.	1927.
Cattle .	Fat	1,740	3,278	3,711
	Store and Cows	1,740	3,442	4,718
Calves		2,978	5,738	6,074
Sheep :	Fat . .	8,551	10,655	17,869
	Store . ..	4,161	5,241	5,228
Pigs ·	Fat . .	3,600	4,573	9,889
	Store	3,952	8,751	8,436
Total ..		26,722	41,678	55,925

Rather more than half the total number are sold in the private mart, largely owing to the greater number of pigs handled. As regards cattle, the public market is more important for fat stock, and the private market for stores and cows. Trade in both markets has more than doubled since 1913.

Livestock are sent in to Yeovil from a wide area : probably 25 per cent. of the stock is obtained from beyond a 10-mile radius, Dorsetshire and Devonshire being drawn upon as well as Somersetshire. In spring and late autumn, store stock is brought in by dealers. The



FIG. 37.—Reading: Cattle Sale Ring.

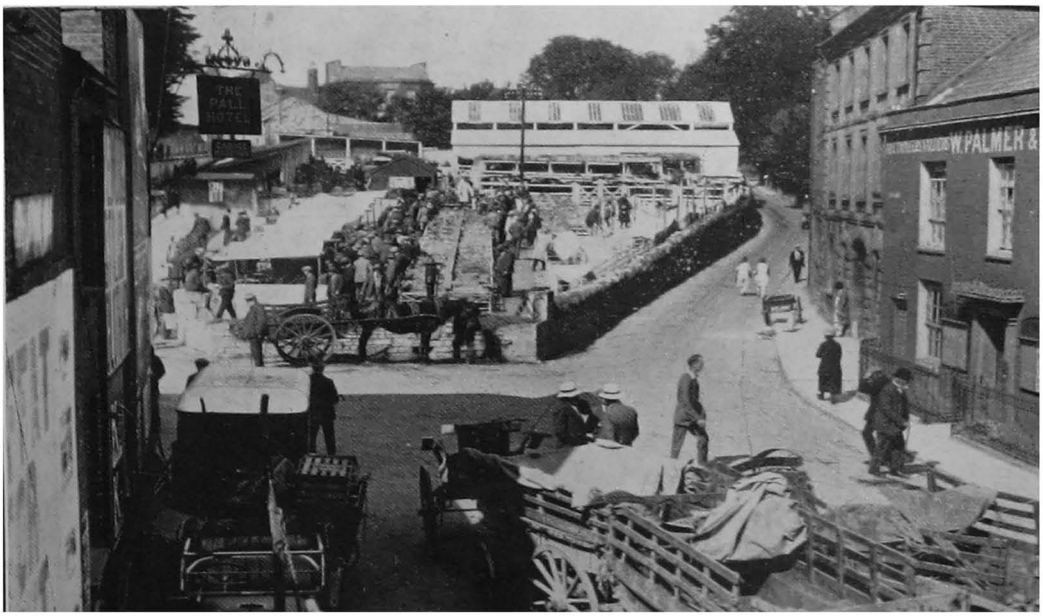


FIG. 38.—Yeovil: Livestock Market.



FIG. 39.—Brentford Market.

(By courtesy of "The Market Grower and Salesman.")

surrounding country is a dairying district and one in which cattle and sheep are bred and grazed; store cattle for fattening purposes are brought in from Devonshire and other parts of Somersetshire, and both dairy stock and store sheep come from Dorsetshire and Devonshire. It is estimated that about 60 per cent. of the fat cattle, 30 per cent. of the store and dairy cattle and 50 per cent. of the store sheep sold go beyond a 10-mile radius. There is also an export trade in fat lambs in the spring. About two-thirds of the calves and pigs are bought by dealers, in the former case for the carcase trade, and in the latter for supplying Somersetshire and Wiltshire bacon factories. Dealers are estimated to purchase from 20 to 30 per cent. of the fat and store stock for resale in other markets. Fat cattle and sheep are consigned to many small towns in Somersetshire and Dorsetshire as well as to centres such as Bournemouth, Southampton, Portsmouth, Bristol and Bath and to South Wales. Fat cows are sent as far as Plymouth, to supply shipping needs, and to the Midlands. Store cattle and sheep are sent into the feeding districts of Somersetshire, while some go as far as Hampshire, Wiltshire, Berkshire and Sussex. Most of the eggs sold are sent to London, or to Bournemouth and Weymouth in the season.

The situation of Yeovil in relation to producing and consuming areas and main-line railway routes designates it as a potentially more important collecting and distributing centre for livestock than it is to-day, given the necessary improvement in market facilities.

Corn Exchange.—In the corn exchange, in the main street, only 10,000 cwt. of grain were returned as sold in 1927.

Retail Market.—The small general retail market held in the main street 3 days a week is a cause of traffic congestion, and its removal and the construction of a covered market are under consideration.

(II) MARKETS IN CONSUMING CENTRES.

Brentford.*

Brentford Market (Fig. 39), or Kew Bridge Market as it is sometimes called, is situated in Middlesex but, like Stratford Market, it is generally considered as a London Market. It is open every weekday and is owned by the Brentford and Chiswick Urban District Council. It was erected by the Brentford Council in 1893 under the powers contained in the Public Health Act, 1875, in order to accommodate the market-gardeners who were in the habit of congregating to sell produce round the approaches to Kew Bridge.

* *See also* Economic Series No. 15, page 87 and Fig. 47.

Originally, the market occupied a site of about 2 acres, but, in 1906, the area was extended to about 6¾ acres, and a hall covering some 10,000 sq. yds. was erected. With commendable foresight, an additional 6 acres were acquired with a view to future extensions, when necessary. The covered accommodation has been added to from time to time and further extensions, estimated to cost £30,000, are about to be put in hand. The Southern Railway adjoins the market, but no siding actually runs into the market owing to structural difficulties. The road approaches are excellent. The main market building is of brick, with roof lighting on the northerly side, and is paved throughout with stone setts. The interior is divided into 3 avenues, with roads running the whole length and with 3 gates at each end, while 3 roads also pass through the market transversely. The sides of the building are occupied by 62 lock-up stalls, each of 40 sq. yds. ground area, with offices over and provided with cellars. These stalls are rented at 6*d.* per sq. yd. per week. The central portion of the building is occupied by avenues of pitching stands, 16 sq. yds. in area, 110 in number, many of which are used for the purpose of pitching heavy vegetables by merchants renting stalls. Others are occupied by market-gardeners who pitch their wagons on the stalls, although the proportion of growers occupying space in the covered market is small. Roadways within the building are ample in width to take the vehicular traffic using them, and a one-way traffic system also helps to prevent congestion. The proposed extensions include the addition of covered space in the lock-up stalls. The covered market accommodation also includes 20 large lock-up warehouses, without cellars, forming a block of buildings about 50 yards from the main block, and some 20 shops, built of wood, on the outskirts of the market enclosure, which are used by wholesalers for the display of produce. A considerable proportion of the uncovered market enclosure is occupied by wagon and pitching stands for growers, of whom over 260 regularly bring in produce from the market-garden areas in south-east Buckinghamshire, east Berkshire, east Surrey and Middlesex. These stands, which occupy 15 sq. yds. each, are rented at from 7*s.* to 8*s.* 6*d.*—i.e., from 5½*d.* to 7*d.* per sq. yd. per week. The stands inside the main building are at present rented slightly lower, on the average, than those outside—viz. at 5½*d.* per sq. yd. per week. The market enclosure is spacious and provides ample parking space for vehicles. There is no traffic congestion. Motor transport is in general use and, for horse drawn vehicles, stabling for 200 horses is provided at a charge of 9*d.* per horse.

Both home-grown and imported produce are handled, home-grown potatoes and other vegetables being obtained from Middlesex and the adjoining counties of Berkshire, Surrey, Buckingham and Hertford, and from Bedford, Cambridge and Lincoln, while Cornish broccoli is also handled in considerable quantities. Home-grown

fruit is largely derived from Middlesex and Kent, and strawberries from the Southampton and Wisbech areas. Transport difficulties hinder the direct consignment of Kentish fruit by rail, in that no through service is run from Kent to Kew Bridge station, consignments being unloaded at the east London goods stations and brought across London by road. Kentish fruit is often bought by Brentford wholesalers on Covent Garden market.

Imported produce is received via Southampton or the London Docks, or is bought through Covent Garden. Unlike Stratford market, no large proportion of the wholesalers in Brentford market occupy premises in the more central markets of London. Some trade in dairy produce, poultry, hay and straw is also done in the market.

The area supplied by the market is one of about 7 miles radius, extending from Hammersmith on the east to outlying towns such as Staines and Windsor on the west, and includes a rapidly growing population in the western suburbs of London.

The principal market days are Monday, Wednesday and Friday, though the market is open every week-day at 6 a.m. An outside sale of strawberries takes place on Sunday mornings in the season.

No tolls are payable in this market beyond an entrance fee of 2*d.* to 4*d.* per vehicle. Merchants engage their own porters, but porterage is relatively low owing to the possibility of loading and unloading direct to all stands, stalls and warehouses. As in many wholesale markets, a Market Tenants' Association has been formed.

Brighton.

Brighton, which, including Hove, has a permanent population of 198,000, has a fish market, a semi-covered, general retail market and a wholesale fruit, flower and vegetable market, all owned and controlled by the Brighton Corporation. The corn market is defunct.

*Fruit and Vegetable and Flower Markets.**—The wholesale fruit and vegetable and flower markets are in Market Street. They are open every day, but market days are Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, and on these days there is an overflow market in the adjoining streets. The markets occupy a total covered area of 1,956 sq. yds., divided into 2 sections, for fruit and vegetables and for flowers, respectively. The former, which has a 2-span glazed roof, occupies an area of 1,606 sq. yds.; two wide roads for vehicles run parallel the full length of the market, giving access to streets at each end. The road approaches to the market are very narrow and are congested on market days by the outdoor traders mentioned below. The railway is about ¾ of a mile distant, but a large proportion of the produce comes direct to the market by road. The space is divided up into 45 pitching stands, each

* *See also* Economic Series No. 15, page 98.

with about 3 yards frontage and of about 24 sq. yds. area. The majority of the stand holders are local growers. There is no storage accommodation other than that provided by the stands. The market is not adequate to carry all the wholesale trade done in the town and many wholesalers occupy permanent premises surrounding the market. On market days, some 60 wholesale traders, mostly local growers, sell in the streets around the market from motor lorries and horse wagons. Tolls at per bushel of produce are charged to the outdoor traders. The streets have to be cleared by 9 a.m. A proposal has been made to remove the market to a more suitable site. The smaller section of the market, known as the Floral Hall, occupies an area of some 350 sq. yds. and contains 33 stalls, all of which are devoted to the retail sale of flowers, fruit and vegetables. The retail trade is estimated to be about 10 per cent. of the total business done in the two markets. In the wholesale market, both home-grown and imported produce are sold, the latter comprising about 25 per cent. of the trade. Foreign fruit and vegetables reach the market by rail, principally from London, Southampton and Newhaven; potatoes are drawn from Scotland, Yorkshire and Lincolnshire, other home-grown produce from East and West Sussex (including the market-gardening district round Shoreham and Hove and the glasshouse area round Worthing), and a small quantity from Hampshire (including strawberries from the Swanwick district) and from Kent at certain seasons of the year. The locally grown produce is chiefly sold on the wholesale market by the growers themselves; commission agents handle the imported produce and also the home-grown produce sent from a distance. In addition to local traders, buyers attend this market from Eastbourne, Horsham, Haywards Heath, Hastings, Seaford, Steyning and Worthing. The quantities of fruit and vegetables passing through the market in 1913, 1922 and 1927 were as follows :—

	1913.	1922.	1927.
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.
Vegetables	305,392	372,130	470,682
Fruit	34,532	48,168	60,839

Wholesale Fish Market.—The wholesale fish market is held daily on an open concreted space on the beach below the promenade, the arches of which have been adapted for use as merchants' stands. No toll is charged on fish landed direct, but a toll is charged on all fish brought by rail or road. Rents of 3*s.* 0*d.* to 4*s.* 8*d.* per week are paid for stands under the "arches." No storage facilities are provided. Fish arrives by rail from Scotland, Wales, Billingsgate and through the east and south-coast ports. In a recent complete year, 3,050 tons of fish were sold, of which about 20 per cent. was landed on the beach from fishing boats, the remainder coming into the town by rail. The fish is sold by commission agents, principally by Dutch auction.

Retail Market.—The open-air, retail market occupies an area of about 950 sq. yds. adjoining two tram routes. The site is laid out in a single wide avenue, with covered stalls on each side. There are 65 stalls, roofed with light tiles, of an average area of 9 sq. yds. and a frontage of 8 feet. A rent of 15*s.* per week is charged for stalls. About 45 per cent. of the stallholders retail agricultural produce, both home-produced and imported. These, however, are not growers.

Public Abattoir.—There is no cattle market or wholesale meat market in the town, but a public abattoir was erected in 1894 at a cost of £12,000. The abattoir has a railway siding, lairage accommodation for 75 beasts, 500 sheep and 500 pigs, and separate semi-compartmented slaughter-halls for pigs and for cattle and sheep. In a recent year, 30,996 animals were slaughtered, including 2,571 beasts, 3,457 calves and 16,570 pigs. The pig slaughter-hall has 7 scalding tanks, while that for cattle and sheep is divided into 6 bays. Inedible offal is not fully utilised. A refuse destructor adjoins the abattoir. There are, in addition, 10 private slaughter-houses in Brighton. Four wholesale butchers conduct business from the abattoir. In Russell Street, 9 wholesale meat firms occupy private premises; this is known as the wholesale meat market.

Plymouth.

Plymouth and Devonport form the second largest centre of population, outside the London area, in the counties covered by this Report.

The markets at Plymouth include a general market, a meat market and a small, public slaughter-house, a corn exchange, a hide and skin "market" and a wholesale fish market. There is no cattle market in use. The fish market is the property of the Sutton Harbour Improvement Company, the hide and skin "market" of a London firm of merchants, and the other markets of the Corporation. All are held daily, except the corn exchange, which is held weekly. The Corporation markets and the corn exchange are grouped together in the centre of the town, about ½-mile from the railway and well placed for tram and 'bus services.

*General Market.**—The general market, a rectangular, stone, roof-lighted building, with asphalt floor, has an inconveniently narrow through roadway with entrances at each end. Along one side of the building, there are 25 permanent stalls, 12 ft. square, the majority of which are rented by wholesalers and retailers of fruit and vegetables and fish. The rest of the space is covered with rows of trestles and benches for producers selling fruit, vegetables,

* *See also* Economic Series No. 15, page 101.

dairy produce, poultry and eggs from panniers. Accommodation is provided in all for 320 tenants. Of the pannier vendors, some rent permanent pitches as well as paying toll on produce brought in, others take available accommodation and pay tolls only. As in most of the pannier markets, there is some wholesale trade between local producers and dealers in the market. Cornish broccoli and other green-stuff as well as locally produced fruit and vegetables—in particular, small fruit from the Tamar Valley—are sold both wholesale and retail. The market is open daily, but Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays are recognised as market days. Imported produce in Plymouth is handled by wholesale merchants and salesmen occupying premises in several streets near the docks.

Meat Market.—The meat market, on the opposite side of the road, consists of a central, triangular, wholesale section surrounded by an uncovered roadway, which, in turn, is lined with retail butchers' shops, of which there are 34. The wholesale section is too small for the business done in it. The building is slate-roofed, with louvre ventilation and glass lights ; the walls are lined with glazed bricks, while the floor is of asphalt. Both wholesale and retail stalls have fronts open to the uncovered road. Through ventilation is induced by 4 large electric fans, which enables the market to be improvised for the purpose of cooling carcases brought from the public slaughter-house about a ¼-mile away, where no cooling room is provided. Running through the market is an overhead-rail system with five movable cranes for transporting carcases. There is room for 300 sides of beef and 500 carcases of smaller stock. In 1927, the number of carcases passing through the market was 114,976, made up as follows :—

——	Home-killed.	Imported.	Total.
Beef	17,119	6,808	23,927
Sheep and Lambs ..	29,263	26,230	55,493
Pigs	28,641	517	29,158
Calves	6,355	43	6,398
Total	81,378	33,598	114,976

This shows that about one-third of the beef and about 45 per cent. of the mutton sold in the market is imported. Of the home-produced meat, roughly 90 per cent. of the beef and mutton is slaughtered in the town, but over 90 per cent. of the pork is brought into the town in carcase form, chiefly from Cornwall. Butchers do not rent definite space in the market, but usually have their recognised positions, paying tolls on each carcase or quarter of beef. A farmers' company (Plymouth and District Farmers,

Ltd.), with an office in the market buildings, consigns for its members direct to the abattoir and wholesale meat market. Private treaty is the only method of sale in use. There are no cold-stores in the market but a cold-storage firm has premises a short distance away.

The market supplies an area of over 30 miles' radius, including Plymouth, Devonport, Kingsbridge and Dartmouth, and Newquay, in Cornwall. Similarly, a wide area is drawn upon for supplies, Plymouth buyers attending markets as far west as Truro and Helston, in Cornwall, and as far east as Shepton Mallet, in Somersetshire.

Public Slaughter-house.—The public slaughter-house, through which the greater proportion of the home-produced beef and mutton supplied to the market passes, is admitted to be unsatisfactory. It is situated in the very heart of the city, a considerable distance from the railway and about ¼-mile from the meat market. The slaughter-halls, of which there is one for cattle and sheep and a smaller one for pigs, are inadequate in size and fitted with out-of-date equipment. There is no separate cooling room and no separate accommodation for condemned animals. Lairage is very scanty, although a little extra lairage is provided in the disused cattle market. The whole place is so congested that satisfactory hygienic conditions are impossible. The tolls chargeable are 1*s.* 9*d.* for each bullock, 4*d.* per calf, 3*d.* for sheep and lambs, and 1*s.* for pigs. It has been definitely decided by the Corporation to close down the public slaughter-house from December, 1929, but, so far as is known, no steps have, as yet, been or are being taken to provide alternative accommodation. Besides the public slaughter-house, there are 8 private slaughter-houses in the town.

Hide and Skin Market.—Plymouth has a registered hide and skin "market," which is a collecting and grading depot owned by a London firm; supplies are sold by private treaty to tanners and dealers. The market is a considerable distance from the slaughter-house.

Corn Exchange.—The small corn exchange is held in a section of the market buildings.

Wholesale Fish Market.—The wholesale fish market is held on a railed-off section of the quay at Sutton Harbour. The market buildings consist of a long, single-storey erection, lined with glazed bricks and divided into about 20 stores occupied by merchants, and 2 covered shelters, constructed of iron posts with slate and iron roofs, under which sales of fish take place. The whole market is concrete-paved. Fish are landed on the quay in the early morning and are sold by auction daily, except on Sunday, not only to local buyers but to dealers who consign away, chiefly to London and the Midlands. In 1927, the value of the fish sold in the market was

£176,000. In the herring season—November to January—when the market is very congested, sales take place also on Sundays. Vehicles can load up from the road outside without entering the market. A cold-storage company, with 50,000 cubic feet of room, has premises fairly near.

Devonport.

Devonport Market* is a statutory market, privately owned. It consists of a group of massive stone buildings in a street near the dockyard but some distance from the most populous part of the town. It is divided into 2 main parts—a retail meat market and a "pannier market." The former comprises 2 lanes of retail butchers' lock-up shops, many unoccupied. A wholesale farmer-to-retailer trade in potatoes is done here in season, and 3 or 4 wholesale fruit and vegetable firms occupy premises in this section of the markets. The pannier market consists of a large, 2-storey hall and a smaller hall, with accommodation in all for about 200 producer-vendors. who retail farm produce direct to consumers. One or two permanent stalls are occupied by non-producing retailers. Fruit, potatoes and other vegetables, eggs, butter, poultry, etc., are sold. Some wholesale trade is carried on between producers and local and Plymouth dealers. Small growers in the Tamar Valley market-garden area supply a large quantity of fruit and vegetable produce. The market is held on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, with Saturday as the chief day.

Stratford.†

Stratford has an important railhead wholesale fruit and vegetable market, owned and controlled by the London and North Eastern Railway Company. Although it is in the county of Essex, the market is only 4 miles from Liverpool Street Station. In relation to London, it occupies a similar position in the east to that of Brentford Market in the west.

The total area of the market premises is about 3 acres, practically the whole of which is under cover. It was built in 1878, but the covered area has been more than doubled since that date. The market buildings are in the form of two lines of warehouses, about 200 yards long and separated by a 40-ft. roadway which is covered by a peaked, glazed roof. The roadway continues under cover for about a further 100 yards with stands for traders on each side, forming what is known as the Green Market. At the extreme end of the market is a space for some 12 market wagons in the open. Being a railhead market, it has excellent railway unloading facilities. A double rail track runs the whole length of each side of the market,

* *See also* Economic Series No. 15, page 101.

† *See also* Economic Series No. 15, pages 86 and 87.

so that it is possible for trucks to be drawn close up against the back of each warehouse or stand. The floors of the warehouses are, moreover, some 3 ft. above ground-level, thus facilitating loading and unloading from railway trucks or from market vehicles standing on the central roadway. A goods yard adjoins the market, in which trucks are sorted out according to the consecutive order of the warehouses, and once trucks are set for the day no further movement is allowed. Each warehouse has sufficient sidings for 6 trucks. The whole of the sidings behind the warehouses are under cover; those serving the wholesalers' stands are not covered. The vehicular roadway is hardly wide enough for the volume of traffic using it, and to ease congestion, motor vehicles of over 1-ton capacity are not permitted to enter before 10 a.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays—the busiest days—although the market opens at 5 a.m. A one-way traffic system is impracticable. Each warehouse, of which there are 21, has a frontage of 65 ft. and is 15 ft. wide, while the newer ones—10 in all—have, in addition, cellars in some of which merchants have fitted gas heating for the purpose of banana ripening. There is ample storage room in all the warehouses, which are lighted by roof lights and by electric lamps. Some of the warehouses are divided into two, the total number of merchants occupying warehouse space being 28. In the Green Market, tenancies are weekly, although, in practice, tenants hold the same stands permanently. There are 24 stands in all, of which about half are occupied by growers. The average size of a stand is about 50 sq. yds. and the rental 6*d.* per sq. yd. per week. The open market, although providing space for only 12 vehicles, is rarely fully occupied. Tenancies in this part of the market are daily and the rent charged is 2*d.* per sq. yd. per day.

Of the merchants occupying the warehouses, about half also operate in Covent Garden and Spitalfields markets, Stratford market being largely used by them for handling the heavier vegetables. When the market originated, the bulk of the trade was in potatoes and heavy vegetables, but although these commodities still preponderate, there has been a great increase in the quantities of home-grown and imported fruit handled. A certain quantity of hay, straw and eggs is also sold, but the egg trade is insignificant. During the last two years, the rail-borne traffic entering the market has averaged between 80,000 and 90,000 tons a year, while the road-borne traffic has been from 18,000 to 19,000 cart or wagon loads. Trade is at present stationary. To cover the annual payment which has to be made to the owners of Spitalfields market for infringement of rights, market dues of from 1*s.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* per vehicle are charged on all road vehicles bringing in produce, and of 3*d.* per ton on rail-borne produce. There is no market porterage charge, but salesmen collect porterage averaging 1*d.* per package on all produce sold in the market. The road approaches are some-

what narrow. The bulk of the home-grown produce coming into Stratford market is derived from the counties of Lincoln, Cambridge, Bedford, Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex, and home-grown fruit is also received from Kent; Essex, in particular, supplies large quantities of produce. Imported produce, particularly fruit, is obtained direct from the London Docks, which are easily accessible, and from Covent Garden and Spitalfields markets. Growers bring in produce from the market-garden area stretching east of London through Dagenham, Romford and West Thurrock to the coast, while a certain amount of road-borne produce comes from north Kent. The market supplies part of the needs of a very densely populated area in east London, including West Ham and Ilford, and, to a less extent, places south of the Thames such as Woolwich. Premises adjacent to the market are occupied by various salesmen and merchants who do a considerable proportion of the fruit trade.

Stratford market differs from Brentford market (see page 139) in that a much smaller number of actual growers make use of the former, while bulky produce, such as potatoes and heavy vegetables, probably make up a considerably greater proportion of the trade.

Markets Division,
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries,
May, 1929.

APPENDIX I.

Summary of Market Authorities or Occupiers of Markets in the Eastern and Southern Counties, classified according to Kinds of Markets under their Control in each Market Centre.

County.	Number of Authorities controlling Public Markets.			Number of Occupiers of Private Markets.			Total.
	Retail Markets only.	Wholesale Markets only.	Both Retail and Wholesale Markets.	Retail Markets only.	Wholesale Markets only.	Both Retail and Wholesale Markets.	
Berkshire ..	1	—	4	—	11	—	16
Buckingham ..	—	—	3	—	9	1	13
Cornwall ..	2	2	6	1	22	2	35
Devon	4	2	14	3	72	2	97
Dorset	3	—	3	1	14	2	23
Essex	1	—	6	1	24	2	34
Hampshire (with Isle of Wight)	3	2	5	—	18	4	32
Hertford ..	6	—	3	—	15	3	27
Kent	3	3	7	—	26	3	42
Middlesex ..	2	1	—	7	1	—	11
Norfolk ..	5	—	4	1	30	9	49
Somerset ..	2	1	7	—	38	6	54
Suffolk ..	5	1	3	1	25	1	36
Surrey	—	1	2	3	6	—	12
Sussex	—	4	2	1	27	2	36
Wiltshire ..	1	2	7	—	10	1	21
	38	19	76	19	348	38	538

Note.—Cattle Markets are included as wholesale markets in this Table.

APPENDIX II.

Markets in the Eastern and Southern Counties.

(This statement is compiled from information furnished by the owners or lessees of the markets and sales enumerated. The commodities included under the heading "Character of Market" are sold wholesale by private treaty unless otherwise indicated.)

Abbreviations used throughout this Appendix:—

c = Covered area. *u* = Uncovered area.
(*a.l.*) = Auctioneer selling livestock in public markets.
(*a.p.*) = Auctioneer selling produce in public markets.
(*d.w.*) = Dial weighbridge, installed or about to be installed.

† Wholesale corn business carried on elsewhere than on the market premises.

Number of cattle, sheep and pigs passing through the market in a recent typical year:—* over 60,000; ** 10,000 to 60,000; *** under 10,000.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
BERKSHIRE			
Abingdon			
**Cattle Market (*d.w.*) 63 *c* 2500 *u*	Abingdon Corpn. (Lessees: Adkin Belcher & Bowen, Abingdon)	Mon. ..	Livestock and poultry auction.
Corn Exchange 475 *c*	Abingdon Corpn. ..	Mon. ..	Corn.
General Market 1000 *u*	,, ,, ..	Mon. ..	Retail fish, fruit, veg., and misc. articles.
Bracknell			
**Auction (*d.w.*) 750 *c* 1850 *u*	F. W. Hunton & Son, Bracknell	Thurs. ..	Livestock. Eggs and poultry (chiefly); also dairy produce and hay. Corn.†
Challow			
***Auction 5793 *u*	Adkin, Belcher & Bowen, Wantage	3rd or 4th Tues. each month.	Livestock and poultry.
Didcot			
Auction 30 *c* 180 *u*	A. W. Neate & Sons, Newbury	Tues. ..	Butter, eggs, fruit, veg. and poultry.
East Ilsley			
***Market 250 *u*	(*a*) Franklin & Gale, Auctioneers, Wallingford (*b*) G. & H. Wilson, Sheep & Cattle Salesmen, Newbury	Periodically	Auction and private treaty sales of sheep.
Faringdon			
***Auction (*d.w.*) (Held in street) *u*	A. F. Hobbs & Chambers, Faringdon	1st Tues. each month	Livestock and poultry. Corn, hay and straw. (Private treaty.)

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Hungerford			
Auction 140 *c* 200 *u*	Hungerford Town Trustees (Lessees: A. W. Neate & Sons, Newbury.)	Wed. ..	Butter, eggs, fruit, veg. and poultry. Corn (Private Treaty.)
Newbury			
**Cattle Market 374 *c* 2986 *u* (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	Newbury Corpn. .. (2 *a.l.* & 1 *a.p.*)	Thurs. ..	Auction and private treaty sales of live-stock. Butter, egg and poultry auction.
Corn Exchange 495 *c*	,, ,, ..	Thurs. .. 1st or 2nd Sat. in July	Corn. Wool auction.
General Market 1550 *u*	,, ,, .. (1 *a.p.*)	Thurs. ..	General retail produce. Poultry auction.
Auction 320 *c*	Day, Shergold & Herbert, Newbury	Thurs. ..	Dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg. and poultry.
Reading			
**Cattle Market 2980 *c* (*d.w.*) 8363 *u* (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	Reading Corpn. .. (3 *a.l.* & 1 *a.p.*)	Fat: Mon. Store and dairy stock poultry, etc., Sat. 1st Sat. each month Annually ..	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock. Butter, egg and poultry auction. Horses. Wool auction.
Corn Exchange 544 *c*	,, ,, ..	Sat. ..	Corn.
Covered Market 544 *c*	,, ,, ..	Daily ..	Retail fish and misc. articles. Fruit and veg. (chiefly retail).
Open Market 590 *u*	,, ,, ..	Sat. ..	General merchandise
Hide and Skin Market	,, ,, .. (Lessees: W. J. Adams & Co., Ltd.)	Irregular ..	Private treaty sales of hides and skins.
Hide and Skin Market 1000 *c*	Harrison & Lucas (1927), Ltd.	Fri. ..	Auction and private treaty sales of hides and skins.
Wallingford			
***Auction 213 *c* 2987 *u*	Franklin & Gale, Wallingford	Alt. Fri. .. 1st Mon. in July	Auction and private treaty sales of live-stock. Wool.
Corn Exchange 250 *c*	Wallingford Corn Exchange Co. ..	Fri. ..	Corn, hay and straw.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Wantage			
Auction 268 *u*	Adkin, Belcher & Bowen, Wantage	Wed. ..	Eggs, poultry and produce.
Wool Sale 300 *c*	,, ,,	1st week in July	Auction sales of wool.
Windsor			
Market 400 *u*	Windsor Corpn. ..	Sat. ..	Retail fish, fruit & veg.
Wokingham			
***Market 347 *u*	Wokingham Corpn. (Lessees of part of market: Cottrell & Butler, Wokingham)	Tues. ..	Livestock, eggs, fruit, veg. and poultry auction.
		Tues., Sat.	General retail produce.
***Auction 150 *c* 4000 *u*	H. E. Hall & Sons, Wokingham	Tues. ..	Eggs and poultry (chiefly); also calves, pigs, corn, fruit and veg.
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE			
Aylesbury			
**Cattle Market (2 *d.w.*) 766 *c* 5434 *u*	Aylesbury Corpn. .. (2 *a.l.* & *p.*)	Wed. ..	Livestock (fat stock and store pigs) auction.
			Butter, egg and poultry auction.
		Sat. ..	Store cattle and sheep (private treaty).
Corn Exchange 450 *c*	,, ,, ..	Sat. ..	Corn, hay and straw.
		Annually in June	Wool auction.
General Market 6500 *u*	,, ,, ..	Wed., Sat.	Retail fish, fruit, veg. and general.
			Corn.†
Meat Market 84 *c*	,, ,, ..	Wed., Sat.	Retail meat.
Bletchley			
**Auction (*d.w.*) 600 *c* 4320 *u*	Geo. Wigley & Sons, Bletchley	Thurs. ..	Livestock.
			Butter, eggs, fruit, veg. and poultry.
Buckingham			
**Cattle Market 1200 *u*	Buckingham Corpn. (2 *a.l.*)	Sat. ..	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock.
			Potato auction.
General Market 600 *u*	,, ,,	Sat. ..	Retail fish, fruit, veg. and general.
Poultry Auction 300 *c*	(*a*) G. Bennett & Sons. (*b*) Osborne & Son.	Sat. ..	Poultry.
Great Marlow			
***Auction 3000 *u*	Lawrence & Son, Great Marlow	Mon. ..	Livestock and poultry.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
High Wycombe			
***Cattle Market 250 *u*	Chepping Wycombe Corpn.	Fri. ..	Cattle (Store).
Corn Market 240 *c*	,, ,,	Fri. ..	Corn.
General Market 130 *c* (Held in Street) *u*	,, ,,	Fri. ..	General retail produce.
***Auction 150 *c* (*d.w.*) 3850 *u*	Lawrence & Son, Great Marlow	Mon. ..	Livestock.
Newport Pagnell			
***Auction 1697 *u*	Stafford Rogers & A. W. Merry, Ltd., Bedford	Wed. ..	Livestock & occas'l sales of poultry. Corn.†
Olney			
***Auction 97 *c* 1362 *u*	P. C. Gambell, Newport Pagnell	Thurs. ..	Livestock. Butter, eggs, fruit, veg., hay, straw and poultry.
Slough			
**Auction 950 *c* (*d.w.*) 4450 *u*	Buckland & Sons, Slough	Tues. .. Horses: Periodically	Livestock. Butter, eggs, hay, straw and poultry.
Stony Stratford			
***Auction 892 *u*	P. C. Gambell, Newport Pagnell	3 or 4 times annually	Livestock.
Winslow			
***Auction 100 *c* 1600 *u*	Geo. Wigley & Sons, Winslow	Mon. ..	Livestock.
***Market 100 *u*	Lord of the Manor ..	Mon. ..	Livestock. Retail fish, fruit and veg. Corn.
CORNWALL			
Antony			
***Auction 20 *u* (Held on Road)	Vosper & Kivell, Launceston	Last Mon. each month	Livestock. Corn.†
Bodmin			
***Cattle Market (*d.w.*) 480 *c* 5180 *u*	Bodmin Corpn. .. (4 *a.l.*)	1st and 3rd Mon. each month	Auction (chiefly) and private treaty sales of livestock.
Market House 1234 *c*	,, ,, ..	Sat. ..	General retail produce. Corn.
Callington			
**Cattle Market 1210 *c* (*d.w.*) 6050 *u*	Callington U.D.C. .. (3 *a.l.*)	1st and 3rd Wed. each month	Livestock auction and occas'ly poultry.
Pannier Market 1210 *c*	,, ,,	Wed. ..	General retail produce. Butter, eggs and poultry.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of Market.
Camborne			
***Cattle Market 50 *c* 7872 *u*	Camborne U.D.C. (Lessee: J. Coad, St. Keverne)	Alt. Tues.	Livestock auction.
Hide & Skin Market	Camborne & District Hide, Skin, Fat & Wool Market	Sat. ..	Hides and skins.
Camelford			
***Cattle Market 4840 *u* (*d.w.*)	Camelford Town Trust (Lessees: W. H. Jasper & Son, Camelford)	1st Thurs. each month	Livestock auction.
Pannier Market 100 *c* 50 *u*	Camelford Town Trust	Thurs. ..	Retail butter, eggs, fruit, veg. and general.
Delabole			
***Auction 14520 *u*	W. T. Kivell & Sons, Holsworthy	3rd Thurs. each month	Livestock.
Doublebois			
***Auction 1210 *u*	Hedley Collings, Liskeard	3 to 5 times annually: usually on Thurs.	Livestock (stores). Poultry occas'ly.
Five Lanes			
***Auction 24200 *u*	W. H. Jasper & Son, Camelford	4th Thurs. each month	Livestock.
Fowey			
Market 193 *c*	Fowey Corpn. ..	Sat. ..	Retail produce.
Halworthy (Wilsey Down)			
***Auction (Held in field) *u*	W. H. Jasper & Son, Camelford	2nd Fri. each month	Livestock.
Helston			
**Cattle Market 890 *c* (*d.w.*) 6090 *u*	Helston Corpn. .. (3 *a.l.*)	Mon. ..	Livestock and poultry auction. Store cattle (chiefly private treaty).
Butter and Egg Market 250 *c*	,, ,, ..	Wed., Sat.	Wholesale and retail dairy produce and eggs.
Corn Exchange 100 *c*	,, ,, ..	Mon., Sat.	Corn.
Kilkhampton			
***Auction 9680 *u*	W. T. Kivell & Sons, Holsworthy	3rd Sat. each month	Livestock.
Launceston			
**Cattle Market 267 *c* (*d.w.*) 3640 *u*	Launceston Corpn. (3 *a.l.*)	2nd, 4th and last Tues. each month	Auction (chiefly) and private treaty sales of livestock. Occas'l poultry auction.
Meat and Pannier Market 541 *c* 266 *u*	,, ,, ..	Sat. ..	General retail produce. Dairy produce, eggs and poultry.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Launceston—*cont.*			
Corn Exchange 33 *c*	Launceston Corpn.	Sat. and Cattle Market days.	Corn.
Liskeard			
***Cattle Market (*d.w.*) 200 *c* 4000 *u*	Liskeard Corpn. .. (4 *a.l.*)	2nd and last Mon. each month	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock. Corn†.
Vegetable Market 200 *c*	,, ,, ..	Sat. ..	Retail fruit, veg. and meat.
Looe			
***Auction (*d.w.*) 1000 *u*	Olver & Sons, Looe	Last Mon. each month	Livestock and poultry
Lostwithiel			
***Cattle Market (*d.w.*) 100 *c* 1400 *u*	Lostwithiel Cattle Market Co., Ltd.	Alt. Tues.	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock. Occas'l poultry auction.
Penzance			
***Cattle Market 295 *c* 542 *u*	Penzance Corpn. .. (3 *a.l.*)	Thurs. ..	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock.
Princes Street Market 440 *c*	,, ,, ..	Daily ..	General retail produce. Fish.
		Thurs. ..	Corn, dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg., hay, straw & pork.
Market House 460 *c*	,, ,, ..	Daily ..	Retail meat.
Redruth			
**Cattle Market 453 *c* 2722 *u*	Redruth Market Co., Ltd.	Fri. ..	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock and poultry.
General Market 1249 *c* 502 *u*	,, ,,	Fri. ..	Wholesale and retail farm and dairy produce. Corn.
Roche			
***Auction 4840 *u*	J. K. Barber, Bodmin	Last Mon. each month	Livestock.
St. Austell			
Market 1210 *c*	The Commissioners of St. Austell Markets and Fairs	Fri., Sat.	General retail produce.
***Auction (*d.w.*) 2420 *u*	H. Rowse & Sons and J. Venning, St. Austell	Alt. Tues. Annually at Xmas.	Livestock. Poultry.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
St. Columb Major			
**Auction 80 *c* (*d.w.*) 2420 *u*	St. Columb Cattle Market, Ltd. (Lessees: John May & Sons, Mawgan, St. Columb, and J. Tremain May, St. Columb)	1st, 3rd and 5th Mon. each month	Livestock and poultry.
St. Germans			
***Auction (Held in Field) *u*	Olver & Sons, Looe	Tri-annually Mar., Apl. and occas'ly June	Livestock.
St. Ive			
***Auction 1210 *u*	Vosper & Kivell, Launceston	1st Tues. each month	Livestock (stores).
St. Ives			
Market 444 *c*	St. Ives Corpn. ..	Sat. ..	Retail fish, fruit, veg., and meat.
St. Neot			
***Auction (Held in Field) *u*	(*a*) W. H. Jasper & Son, Camelford (*b*) John Littleton & Son, Bodmin	Thurs. before 2nd Mon. Feb. to Nov.	Livestock.
Saltash			
***Auction 2000 *u*	Vosper & Kivell, Launceston	1st and 3rd Mon. each month.	Livestock.
Stratton			
***Auction 14520 *u*	W. T. Kivell & Sons, Holsworthy	1st Tues. each month	Livestock.
Tresmeer			
***Auction 1210 *u*	J. Kittow & Son, Launceston	1st Fri. each month	Livestock.
Truro			
**Cattle Market (2 *d.w.*) 350 *c* 1613 *u*	Truro Corpn. .. (6 *a.l.*)	Wed. ..	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock and poultry.
Corn Exchange 270 *c*	Truro Exchange Buildings Co., Ltd., Truro	Wed. ..	Corn.
Hide and Skin Market	W. B. Walker & Co., Ltd., Truro	Daily ..	Hides and skins.
Wadebridge			
**Cattle Market (*d.w.*) 200 *c* 3000 *u*	Wadebridge Cattle Market Co., Ltd.	2nd and 4th Mon. each month	Livestock and poultry auction.
Wainhouse Corner			
***Auction 4840 *u*	W. T. Kivell & Sons, Holsworthy	1st Mon. each month	Livestock.
***Auction 4840 *u*	Button & Mutton, St. Tudy	Fri. previous to last Tues. in each month	Livestock (chiefly stores).

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Week St. Mary			
***Auction 3630 *u*	J. Kittow & Son, Launceston	3rd Tues. each month	Livestock (chiefly cattle and sheep).
DEVONSHIRE			
Appledore			
Pannier Market 320 *c* 130 *u*	J. Beara & Son, Appledore	Sat. ..	Retail fruit, veg., and meat.
Ashburton			
***Auction 4840 *u*	Rendell & Sawdye, Newton Abbot	3rd Sat. in Jan., Feb., Apl., May, July, Oct. and Dec.	Livestock (stores).
		3rd Thurs. in Sept.	Breeding ewes.
Ashwater			
***Auction 2420 *u*	W. T. Kivell & Sons, Holsworthy	Last Thurs. each month	Livestock (chiefly stores).
Axminster			
**Auction 200 *c* 300 *u*	W. Palmer & Co., and R. & C. Snell, Axminster	Alt. Thurs.	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock. Corn.†
Bampton			
***Auction 2420 *u*	Bampton Cattle and Sheep Market Committee (Lessees: Knowlman & Sons, Culmstock)	Last Wed. each month (except Oct.)	Livestock.
Barnstaple			
**Cattle Market (*d.w.*) 350 *c* (*Public Slaughterhouse*) 950 *u*	Barnstaple Corpn. .. (2 *a.l.*)	1st Tues. each month	Livestock (fat), chiefly auction. Hay and straw (occas'ly).
		Fri. ..	Livestock (stores) and poultry auction.
Meat Market 634 *c*	,, ,, ..	Fri. ..	Retail meat.
Pannier Market 2000 *c*	,, ,, ..	Tues., Fri.	Eggs, dairy & farm produce (chiefly retail) and poultry (dead). Corn.
Bickleigh			
***Auction 2420 *u*	Cockram, Dobbs & Stagg, Tiverton	2nd Wed. each month	Livestock.
Bideford			
***Cattle Market 3892 *c* (*Public Slaughterhouse*) 3060 *u*	Bideford Corpn. .. (3 *a.l.*)	Tues: (chiefly 3rd Tues. each month)	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Bideford—*cont.*			
Pannier Market 1365 *c* 1632 *u*	Bideford Corpn. ..	Tues. ..	General retail produce. Corn.
		Sat. ..	Dairy produce, eggs, fruit and veg.
Fish Market 60 *c*	,, ,, ..	Sat. ..	Retail fish.
Meat Market 800 *c*	,, ,, ..	Sat. ..	Retail meat.
Blackmoor Gate	(*See* under Kentisbury).		
Bow.			
***Auction 90 *c* 4900 *u*	Chas. Harris, Crediton	2nd Mon. each month	Livestock and poultry.
Bradworthy			
***Auction 400 *u*	Seldon & Cory, Bradworthy	3rd Mon. each month	Livestock.
Bratton Clovelly			
***Auction 2420 *u*	Ward & Chowen, Okehampton	1st Mon. each month	Livestock.
Bridestowe			
***Auction 1210 *u*	,, ,, ..	1st Thurs. in Mar., 3rd Thurs. in Apl., last Thurs. in Aug. & Nov.	Livestock.
Burlescombe			
***Auction 2420 *u*	Knowlman & Sons, Culmstock	Last Mon. each month	Livestock.
Chagford			
***Auction 2420 *u*	Coe & Amery, Chagford	1st Mon. in Mar., June July, Nov. and Dec. 2nd Mon. in Aug., last Thurs. in Mar., 1st Thurs. in May, Sept. and Oct.	Livestock (chiefly stores).
Chapmans Well			
***Auction 2420 *u*	J. Kittow & Son, Launceston	Last Mon. each month	Livestock (chiefly stores).
Cheriton Fitzpaine			
***Auction 524 *u*	Cockram, Dobbs and Stagg, South Molton	Fri., usually in Feb., Apr., and Oct.	Livestock.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Christow			
***Auction 4840 *u*	J. Hellier & Son, Dunsford	2nd Mon. each month	Livestock (chiefly stores).
Churston			
***Auction 3000 *u*	Rendell & Sawdye, Newton Abbot	4th Mon. each month	Livestock.
Copplestone			
***Auction 800 *u* (*d.w.*)	May & Son, Okehampton	1st Mon. each month	Livestock.
Crediton			
***Cattle Market 1040 *u*	Crediton U.D.C. (3 *a.l.*)	3rd Thurs. each month	Livestock auction. Corn.†
Pannier Market 800 *c*	,, ,,	Thurs.	Wholesale and retail butter, eggs and poultry.
Cruwys Morchard (*See* under Pennyoor.)			
Cullompton			
***Cattle Market (*Public Slaughterhouse*) 4840 *u*	Cullompton Market, Ltd.	1st Wed. each month	Livestock auction.
Dartmouth			
***Cattle Market (*Public Slaughterhouse*) 1200 *u*	Dartmouth Corpn. (1 *a.l.*)	2nd Tues. each month	Livestock auction.
General Market 1500 *c*	,, ,, (1 *a.p.*)	Fri.	General retail produce. Hay, straw and hides. Butter, eggs, fruit, and veg. auction (retail).
Dawlish			
***Auction 2000 *u*	Rendell & Sawdye, Newton Abbot	3rd Mon. each month	Livestock.
Devonport			
Market 2879 *c* 827 *u*	Lord St. Levan	Tues., Thurs. Sat.	Wholesale and retail butter, eggs, fruit, veg., and poultry. Retail fish and meat.
Dolton			
***Auction 1210 *u*	J. Hannaford, Son & Southcombes, Ltd., Chulmleigh	3rd Mon. in Mar., May and July, 1st Mon. in Oct.	Livestock.
***Auction 2420 *u*	W. J. Slee and Son, Gt. Torrington	3rd Mon. in Feb., Apr., Aug. and Nov.	Livestock.
East Anstey			
**Auction 7260 *u*	Cockram, Dobbs & Stagg, South Molton	4th Mon. each month	Livestock.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
East Budleigh			
***Auction 4840 *u*	Hussey & Son, Ltd., Exeter	Last Mon. each month	Livestock.
Eggesford			
***Auction 5200 *u* (*d.w.*)	J. Hannaford, Son & Southcombes, Ltd., Chulmleigh	2nd Wed. each month	Livestock.
Exeter			
*Cattle Market (*d.w.*) 863 *c* (*Public Slaughterhouse*) 5619 *u*	Exeter Corpn. .. (1 *a.l.*)	Fri. ..	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock.
Fish Market 193 *c* 320 *u*	,, ,, ..	Daily ..	Auction and private treaty sales of fish.
Higher Market 1733 *c*	,, ,, ..	Tues, Fri. (chiefly), Sat.	General retail produce.
Lower Market 1889 *c*	,, ,, ..	Tues., Fri., Sat. (chiefly)	General retail produce. Fruit and veg. auction.
Corn Exchange 525 *c*	,, ,, ..	Fri. ..	Corn, hay and straw.
Hide and Skin Market	London Butchers' Hide & Skin Co., Ltd.	Daily ..	Hides and skins.
Great Torrington			
**Cattle Market 3630 *u*	Great Torrington .. Corpn. (1 *a.l.*)	Last Sat. each month except Apr. 1st Mon. in May	Livestock auction. Corn.†
Pannier Market 1210 *c*	,, ,,	Sat. ..	Retail produce.
Halwill Junction			
***Auction 19360 *u*	W. T. Kivell & Sons, Holsworthy	2nd Thurs. each month	Livestock.
Hartland			
***Auction 19360 *u*	W. T. Kivell & Sons, Holsworthy	2nd Sat. each month	Livestock.
Hatherleigh			
***Auction 2420 *u*	Ward & Chowen, May & Son, John Brooking & Co., Okehampton	3rd Tues. each month and 2nd Tues. following	Livestock.
Hele			
***Auction 1210 *u*	Cockram, Dobbs and Stagg, South Molton	3rd Mon. each month	Livestock.
Hemyock			
***Auction 1210 *u*	Knowlman & Sons, Culmstock	1st and 3rd Mon. each month	Livestock and potatoes.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Holsworthy			
**Cattle Market 198 *c* 3630 *u*	Holsworthy U.D.C. (1 *a.l.*)	1st and 3rd Wed. each month	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock. Corn.†
Pannier Market 1877 *c* 700 *u*	,, ,, ..	Wed. ,,	Wholesale and retail butter, eggs, fruit, veg., and poultry. Retail fish and meat.
Honiton			
Market (Held in Street) *u*	Honiton Corpn. ..	Sat. ..	General retail produce.
**Auction 400 *c* 4440 *u*	T. D. Hussey & Sons, Honiton	Sat. ,,	Livestock (chiefly stores) and poultry. Corn.†
Ilfracombe			
Market 871 *c* (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	Ilfracombe U.D.C.	Wed., Sat.	Retail produce.
Ivybridge			
***Auction 1850 *u*	(*a*) J. Maye, South Brent (*b*) J. Pearse & Sons, Plymouth (*c*) W. Pearse & Son, Modbury (*d*) J. C. Revell, Plymouth	3rd Mon. each month	Livestock and poultry.
Kentisbury (Blackmoor Gate)			
***Auction 65 *c* 4840 *u*	Sanders & Son, Barnstaple	3rd Mon. each month	Livestock.
**Auction 9680 *u*	(*a*) Herbert W. Court, Parracombe (*b*) J. Hannaford, Son & Southcombes, Ltd., Chulmleigh	1st Mon. each month	Livestock.
Kingsbridge			
**Cattle Market (*d.w.*) 110 *c* 2000 *u*	Kingsbridge U.D.C. (1 *a.l.*)	1st and 3rd Wed. each month	Livestock and poultry auction. Corn.†
Pannier Market 168 *c*	,, ,, ..	Wed. ..	Wholesale and retail dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg. and poultry.
Lapford			
***Auction 3000 *u*	J. Hannaford, Son & Southcombes, Ltd., Chulmleigh	3rd Wed. each month	Livestock.
Lewdown			
***Auction 1210 *u*	Ward & Chowen, Tavistock	2nd Mon. each month	Livestock.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Littleham			
***Auction 2420 *u*	Hussey & Son, Ltd. Exeter	Tues., monthly, alt., with Lympstone	Livestock.
Lydford			
***Auction 1210 *u*	Ward & Chowen, Tavistock	Tri-annually — Apl., Sept., and Nov.	Cattle and sheep.
Lympstone			
***Auction 2420 *u*	Hussey & Son, Ltd., Exeter	2nd Tues. each month	Livestock.
Lynton			
Market 140 *c*	Lynton U.D.C. ..	Daily ..	Retail produce.
Meshaw			
***Auction 1200 *u*	J. Hannaford, Son & Southcombes, Ltd., Chulmleigh	3rd Wed. in Feb., Mar., Apl., May and June	Livestock.
Modbury			
***Market 750 *u*	Modbury Parish Council (1 *a.l.*)	2nd Mon. each month	Auction (chiefly) and private treaty sales of livestock and poultry. Corn.
Molland			
**Auction 9680 *u*	Cockram, Dobbs & Stagg, South Molton	2nd Mon. each month	Livestock.
Morchard Bishop			
***Auction 2500 *u*	J. Hannaford, Son & Southcombes, Ltd., Chulmleigh	3rd Tues. in Feb., Apl., and June, 2nd Mon. in Sept., 4th Tues. in Oct.	Livestock.
Moretonhampstead			
***Auction 2420 *u*	John Palmer, George Street, Moretonhampstead Auctioneers:— Michelmore Loveys & Sons, Moretonhampstead	Usually 1st Tues. in Mar., 2nd Tues. in Aug.	Livestock (stores).
Mortehoe			
***Auction 4840 *u*	Sanders & Son, Barnstaple	2nd Thurs. each month	Livestock.
Newton Abbot			
**Cattle Market (*d.w.*) 407 *c* (*Public Slaughterhouse*) 1730 *u*	Newton Abbot U.D.C. (1 *a.l.*)	Wed. ..	Auction (chiefly) and private treaty sales of livestock. Poultry and potato auction.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Newton Abbot—*cont.*			
Pannier Market 1260 *c*	Newton Abbot U.D.C.	Wed. ..	Wholesale and retail dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg., and poultry. Retail fish and meat.
Vegetable Market 653 *c*	,, ,, ..	Wed. ..	Wholesale and retail fruit and veg. Corn.
North Tawton.			
***Cattle Market (Held in Street) *u*	North Tawton Parish Council (2 *a.l.*)	Periodically — about 7 sales annually	Livestock auction.
Pannier Market 58 *c* 315 *u*	North Tawton Market Co.	Thurs. ..	General retail produce.
Okehampton			
***Cattle Market (*d.w.*) 600 *c* 1000 *u*	Okehampton Corpn. (3 *a.l.*)	1st and 2nd or 3rd Sat. each month	Livestock auction. Corn.†
Pannier Market 1633 *c*	,, ,,	Sat. ..	General retail produce.
Ottery St. Mary			
**Auction 1210 *u*	T. D. Hussey & Sons, Honiton	1st and 3rd Mon. each month	Livestock and poultry.
Parkham			
***Auction 2420 *u*	W. J. Slee & Son, Gt. Torrington	Last Mon. each month	Livestock.
Pennymoor			
***Auction 4840 *u*	Cockram, Dobbs & Stagg, South Molton	4th Thurs. each month	Livestock.
Petrockstowe			
***Auction 9680 *u*	W. J. Slee & Son, Gt. Torrington	3rd Mon. each month	Livestock.
Plymouth			
General Market (*Public Slaughterhouse*) 8903 *c*	Plymouth Corpn. ..	Daily (chiefly Tues., Thurs. and Sat.)	Wholesale and retail butter, eggs, fruit, veg., and poultry. Retail fish.
Corn Market 210 *c*	,, ,, ..	Thurs. ..	Corn, hay and straw.
Meat Market 155 *c*	,, ,, ..	Daily ..	Wholesale and retail meat.
Fish Market 1186 *c* 7337 *u*	Sutton Harbour Improvement Co., Plymouth	Daily ..	Auction sales of fish.
Hide and Skin Market	W. B. Walker & Co., Ltd.	Daily ..	Hides and skins.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Plympton St Mary			
***Cattle Market 2017 *c* 4033 *u*	Plympton Cattle Market (1909), Ltd.	1st Mon. each month	Livestock and poultry auction.
Portsmouth Arms (Burrington)			
***Auction 4200 *u*	J. Hannaford, Son & Southcombes, Ltd., Chulmleigh	2nd Thurs. each month	Livestock.
Rackenford			
***Auction 1210 *u*	Cockram, Dobbs & Stagg, South Molton	Six sales annually	Livestock.
Roborough			
***Auction 4840 *u*	J. Young, Tavistock	3rd Tues. each month	Livestock and poultry.
Sheepwash			
***Auction 1210 *c* 4840 *u*	W. T. Kivell & Sons, Holsworthy	Last Mon. each month	Livestock.
Sidford			
***Auction 2420 *u*	A. W. Brown & Johnsons, Chard, Somerset	Last Wed. each month	Livestock.
Sidmouth			
Market 200 *c*	Sidmouth U.D.C. .	Daily ..	Retail fruit, veg. and general.
Sidmouth Junction.			
***Auction 9680 *u*	Hussey & Son, Ltd., Exeter	2nd Mon. each month	Livestock.
South Brent			
***Auction (Held in Street) *u*	(*a*) John Maye, South Brent.	1st Wed. in Mar,	Store cattle.
	(*b*) Rendell & Sawdye, Newton Abbot	Last Tues. in Aug.	Sheep (chiefly breeding ewes and rams).
South Molton			
**Cattle Market 4840 *u*	South Molton Corpn. (2 *a.l.*)	1st Thurs. each month	Livestock (chiefly auction).
Pannier Market 2500 *c* 1600 *u*	,, ,,	Thurs., Sat.	General retail produce.
South Molton Rd. (Chulmleigh)			
***Auction 100 *c* 5800 *u*	J. Hannaford, Son & Southcombes, Ltd., Chulmleigh	4th Wed. each month	Livestock.
South Molton Station			
***Auction 3025 *u*	Cockram, Dobbs & Stagg, South Molton	3rd Thurs. each month	Livestock.
Spreyton			
***Auction 4840 *u*	J. Hellier & Son, Dunsford	3rd Mon. each month	Livestock (chiefly stores).

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Starcross			
***Auction 4840 *u*	Hussey & Son, Ltd., Exeter	1st Mon. each month	Livestock.
Stibb Cross (Langtree)			
***Auction 7260 *u*	W. J. Slee & Son, Gt. Torrington	2nd Mon., each month	Livestock.
Tavistock			
**Cattle Market (*d.w.*) 400 *c* (*Public Slaughterhouse*) 8500 *u*	Tavistock U.D.C. .. (2 *a.l.*)	2nd and 4th Wed. each month except Dec. (1st & 3rd Wed.)	Auction (chiefly) and private treaty sales of livestock. Poultry auction.
Pannier Market 3000 *c*	,, ,, ..	Fri. ..	General retail produce. Corn, dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg., and poultry.
Tedburn St. Mary			
***Auction 2420 *u*	J. Hellier & Son, Dunsford	Bi-annually on a Mon. in Apr. and Sept.	Livestock (stores).
Thelbridge Cross			
***Auction (Held in Field) *u*	Cockram, Dobbs & Stagg, South Molton	1st Wed. each month	Livestock.
Tiverton			
***Cattle Market 100 *c* 3490 *u*	Tiverton Market Trustees	Tues. (chiefly 2nd and last Tues. each month)	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock.
Pannier Market 900 *c*	,, ,,	Tues., Sat.	General retail produce. Butter, cheese, eggs and poultry.
Corn Exchange 280 *c*	The Tenant, Palmerston Hotel, Tiverton	Tues. ..	Corn.
Tiverton Junction			
***Auction 53 *c* 1147 *u*	Thorne & Baker, Cullompton	3rd Wed., each month	Livestock and poultry.
Torquay			
Market 500 *c*	Torquay Market Co.	Daily ..	General retail produce.
Totnes			
**Cattle Market 200 *c* 2691 *u*	Totnes Corpn. .. (3 *a.l.*)	1st, 3rd and 5th Tues. each month	Livestock auction. Corn.†
Pannier Market 4193 *c*	,, ,, .. (1 *a.p.*)	Fri. ..	Retail produce. Auction and private treaty sales of dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg., and poultry.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Umberleigh			
***Auction 3630 *u*	Cockram, Dobbs & Stagg, South Molton	2nd Tues. each month	Livestock.
Walkhampton (Dousland)			
***Auction 4840 *u*	J. Young, Tavistock	1st Tues. in Feb., Apr., June, Sept., Nov.	Cattle and sheep (stores).
West Buckland			
***Auction 2420 *u*	Cockram, Dobbs & Stagg, South Molton	About four sales annually	Livestock (stores).
West Down			
***Auction 9680 *u*	J. C. Webber & Son, Barnstaple	4th Thurs. each month	Livestock.
Winkleigh			
***Auction 1400 *u*	J. Hannaford, Son & Southcombes, Ltd., Chulmleigh	Bi-annually May and Sept.	Livestock.
Witheridge			
***Auction 4840 *u*	Cockram, Dobbs & Stagg, South Molton	3rd Mon. each month	Livestock.
Woolfardisworthy			
***Auction 350 *u*	Seldon and Cory, Bradworthy	Last Thurs. each month	Livestock.
Yealmpton			
***Auction 30 *c* 2518 *u*	Lt.-Col. R. Bastard, D.S.O., Kitley, Yealmpton	4th Mon. each month	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock.
DORSETSHIRE			
Beaminster			
Market 28 *c*	Women's Institute, Beaminster	Thurs. ..	General retail produce.
Blandford			
**Cattle Market	Blandford Corpn. ..	Alt. Thurs.	Livestock auction.
81 *c* 625 *u*	(2 *a.l.*)		
Corn Exchange	,, ,, ..	Thurs. ..	Corn.
265 *c*	(1 *a.p.*)		Dairy produce, eggs, fruit and veg. auction.
General Market	,, ,, ..	Thurs. ..	General retail produce.
88 *u*	..		Poultry auction.
Wool Auction	,, ,, ..	Annually in July	Wool.
3000 *c*			
Bridport			
Market	Bridport Corpn. ..	Sat. ..	General retail produce.
(Held in Street) *u*			
Auction 80 *c*	Jeffs & Son, Wareham	Wed. ..	Dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg. and poultry.
80 *u*			

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Bridport—*cont.*			
**Auction 520 *c* (*d.w.*) 3110 *u*	Wm. Morey & Sons, Bridport	Wed. ..	Livestock.
Corn Exchange *c*	The Tenant, Greyhound Hotel, Bridport	Wed. ..	Corn.
Dorchester			
*Cattle and Produce Market: Livestock (*d.w.*) 1550 *c* 11205 *u* Produce 651 *c*	Dorchester Corpn. .. (3 *a.l.* & *p.*)	Calves, sheep, pigs and produce: Wed. Cattle: Alt. Sat.	Livestock (chiefly auction). Dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg. and poultry auction.
Corn Exchange 319 *c*	,, ,, ..	Sat. .. Annually in July	Corn. Wool auction.
General Market 690 *c*	,, ,, ..	Daily ..	General retail produce.
***Auction 1006 *c* 3713 *u*	T. Ensor & Son, Dorchester	Alt. Sat. Annually in July	Cattle. Wool.
Gillingham			
***Auction 400 *c* 1600 *u*	John Jeffery & Son, Donhead, Shaftesbury	Alt. Mon. ..	Calves.
***Auction 640 *c* 4200 *u*	Senior & Godwin, Gillingham	Alt. Mon. ..	Livestock. Corn, dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg., hay, straw and poultry.
Handley			
***Auction 100 *c* 1100 *u*	John Jeffery & Son, Donhead, Shaftesbury	Wed. (monthly)	Cattle and sheep.
Marshwood			
***Auction 200 *u*	R. & C. Snell, Axminster	Periodically	Livestock.
Shaftesbury			
***Cattle Market 1400 *u*	Shaftesbury Corpn. (Lessees: J. Jeffery & Son, Donhead)	Alt. Sat. ..	Cattle and sheep auction.
Market House 240 *c*	,, ,,	Sat. ..	Retail butter, egg and poultry (live) auction.
Sherborne			
***Auction 356 *c* 2420 *u*	Senior & Godwin, Sherborne	Alt. Thurs.	Livestock. Dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg. and poultry.
Stalbridge.			Corn.†
***Auction 133 *c*	F. T. Rowland, Sturminster Newton	Alt. Wed. ..	Calves. Dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg. and poultry. (Wholesale and retail.)

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Sturminster Newton			
Market 200 *u*	Sturminster Newton U.D.C.	Alt. Mon...	General retail produce.
***Auction 12 *c* 4788 *u*	John Jeffery & Son, Donhead, Shaftesbury	Alt. Mon...	Cattle.
Auction 450 *c*	F. T. Rowland, ‡ Sturminster Newton	Alt. Mon...	Eggs and poultry (wholesale), fruit and veg.—chiefly potatoes (retail).
**Auction 1935 *c* (*d.w.*) 16015 *u*	Senior & Godwin, Sturminster Newton	Alt. Mon.	Livestock. Dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg. and poultry.
Corn Exchange 170 *c*	,, ,,	Alt. Mon...	Corn.
Wareham			
**Auction 484 *c* 2420 *u*	S. W. Cottee, Wareham	Thurs. ..	Livestock. Dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg. and poultry. Corn (private treaty)
Auction 484 *c* 1210 *u*	Jeffs & Son, Wareham	Mon., Thurs.	Dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg. and poultry.
Weymouth			
Market 800 *c*	Weymouth Corpn. ..	Daily ..	General retail produce.
Wimborne			
**Auction 1198 *c* (*d.w.*) 13322 *u*	T. Ensor & Son, Dorchester	Tues. 5 sales annually for horses.	Livestock. Dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg. and poultry. Corn. (Private treaty).
ESSEX			
Barking			
Market 633 *u*	Barking U.D.C. ..	Daily ..	General retail produce.
Braintree			
General Market 3000 *u*	Braintree U.D.C. ..	Wed. ..	Wholesale and retail produce.
**Auction 460 *c* (*d.w.*) 2927 *u*	Balls and Balls, Braintree	Wed. ..	Livestock. Eggs, poultry and potatoes; also butter and fruit occas'ly.
Auction 200 *c* 750 *u*	Woodward & Priday, Saffron Walden	Wed. ..	Eggs and poultry; also butter and game.

‡ Registered packer under National Mark Egg Scheme.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Braintree—*cont.*			
Corn Market 450 *c*	Braintree Market House Co.	Wed. ..	Corn.
Brentwood			
Auction 350 *c* 1000 *u*	Joseph Hibbard & Sons, Brentwood	Tues. ..	Butter, eggs and poultry (wholesale and retail).
Chelmsford			
**Cattle Market 2915 *c* (*d.w.*) 9446 *u*	Chelmsford Corpn. .. (5 *a.l.*)	Fri. ..	Livestock (chiefly auction).
Egg and Poultry Market 194 *c*	,, ,, .. (1 *a.p.*)	Fri. ..	Butter, egg and poultry auction.
General Market 848 *u*	,, ,, ..	Fri. ..	General retail produce.
Corn Exchange 500 *c*	Chelmsford Corn Exchange Co., Ltd.	Fri. ..	Corn, hay and straw.
Colchester			
**Cattle Market (3 *d.w.*) 2500 *c* 7926 *u*	Colchester Corpn. .. (3 *a.l.*)	Sat. ..	Livestock (chiefly auction).
Egg and Poultry Market 280 *c* 706 *u*	,, ,, .. (Lessees: C. M. Stanford & Son, Colchester)	Sat. ..	Egg, poultry and veg. auction.
General Market 487 *u*	Colchester Corpn. ..	Daily ..	General retail produce.
Corn Exchange 1105 *c*	Colchester New Corn Exchange and Cups Hotel Co., Ltd.	Sat. ..	Corn, hay & straw.
Auction 200 *c* 1000 *u*	Woodward & Priday, Saffron Walden	Sat. ..	Butter, eggs and poultry.
Wool Auction *c*	Fenn, Wright & Co., Colchester	2nd Thurs. in June	Wool.
Epping			
**Market 1536 *u*	Sworder, Knight & Trotter, Epping	Mon. ..	Livestock auction. Retail fruit, veg. and meat.
Great Dunmow			
***Auction 4840 *u*	J. M. Welch & Son, Great Dunmow	Tues. ..	Livestock. Butter, eggs and poultry.
Great Yeldham			
***Auction 205 *c* 2030 *u*	F. C. Krailing, Halstead	Mon. ..	Livestock. Dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg. and poultry.
Halstead			
***Auction 100 *c* 1900 *u*	Stanley Moger, Halstead	Tues. ..	Dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg., hay, straw, pigs and poultry.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Maldon			
***Auction 300 *c* 900 *u*	Claude C. Cowell, Maldon	3rd Thurs. each month Thurs. ..	Livestock. Dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg. and poultry.
Rochford			
***Auction (*Public Slaughterhouse*) 924 *u*	R. Hilliard, Romford	Thurs. ..	Livestock. Eggs and poultry.
Romford			
**Cattle Market (*d.w.*) 8000 *u*	Romford U.D.C. (3 *a.l.*)	Wed. ..	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock.
General Market (Held in Street) *u*	,, ,,	Wed., Sat.	General retail produce.
Auction 900 *c*	R. Cheke & Co., incorporating Butterfield & Co., Romford	Wed. ..	Dairy produce, eggs, and poultry.
Corn Exchange 550 *c*	Private Syndicate. (Agents: Kemsleys, 33, South Street, Romford).	Wed. ..	Corn, hay and straw.
Saffron Walden			
***Cattle Market 86 *c* 1310 *u*	Saffron Walden Corpn. (1 *a.l.* & *p.*)	Tues. ..	Auction and private treaty sales of pigs. Auction sales of eggs and poultry (chiefly), dairy produce, fruit and veg.
Corn Exchange 352 *c*	,, ,,	Tues. ..	Corn.
General Market 476 *u*	,, ,,	Tues., Sat.	General retail produce. Auction and private treaty sales of hay and straw.
**Auction 276 *c* 1164 *u*	H. J. Cheffins & Son, Saffron Walden	Tues. ..	Livestock.
Auction 250 *c* 500 *u*	Woodward & Priday, Saffron Walden	Tues. ..	Butter, eggs, fruit, veg., game and poultry.
Southminster			
***Auction 1200 *c* 17000 *u*	E. J. Gale, Southminster	Tues. Store stock. Tues. (monthly). Horses: Thurs. monthly, except Aug. Bi-annually	Livestock. Dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg. and poultry. Hay and straw.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Stanford-le-Hope			
**Auction 4840 *u*	Offin & Rumsey, Rochford	Tues. ..	Livestock. Butter, eggs and poultry.
Stratford			
Market 10000 *c* 2940 *u*	L. & N.E.Rly. Co.	Daily ..	Fruit and veg., also corn, eggs, hay and straw.
Thaxted			
***Auction 35 *c* 1000 *u*	E. Jennings, Thaxted	Fri. ..	Dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg., pigs and poultry.
Thorpe-le-Soken			
**Auction 225 *c* 2100 *u*	C. M. Stanford & Son, Colchester	Mon. ..	Livestock. Eggs, fruit, veg., and poultry.
***Auction 2420 *c*	J. Cordy & Son, Great Bentley	Mon. ..	Corn, dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg., hay, straw and poultry. Calves and pigs.
Waltham Abbey			
***Cattle Market (*d.w.*) 1500 *u*	Waltham Holy Cross U.D.C. (Lessees: S. Chetwood & Sons, Waltham Abbey.)	Tues. ..	Livestock auction.
General Market 700 *u*	Waltham Holy Cross U.D.C.	Tues. ..	General retail produce. Corn.
Wickford			
***Auction 184 *c* 2200 *u*	A. W. Offin, Rayleigh	Mon. ..	Livestock.
Auction 350 *c* 3000 *u*	W. J. Slipper, Chelmsford	Mon. ..	Eggs, poultry and dairy produce.
General Market 230 *c* 270 *u*	Wickford Market Co.	Mon. ..	General retail produce.
Witham			
***Auction 120 *c* 3200 *u*	Witham Stock Sale and Cattle Market, Ltd.	Tues. ..	Livestock. Eggs and poultry.
HAMPSHIRE (with Isle of Wight)			
Alton			
***Market 400 *c* 4840 *u*	Alton U.D.C. (Lessees of part of market: Martin & Wyatt, Alton)	Tues. ..	Livestock (auction and private treaty) Wholesale and retail auction sales of dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg., hay, straw and poultry.
Corn Exchange 100 *c*	Alton U.D.C.	Tues. ..	Corn.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Andover			
Corn Exchange 500 *c*	Andover Corpn. ..	Fri. ..	Corn.
General Market 900 *u*	,, ,, ..	Fri. ..	General retail produce.
Auction 110 *c*	,, ,, ..	Fri. ..	Dairy produce, eggs,
700 *u*	(Lessees: E. Carruthers & Co., Andover)		fruit, veg., poultry.
***Auction 2420 *u*	P. G. Ford, Andover	Mon. ..	Livestock.
Wool Sale 800 *c*	F. Ellen & Son, Andover	Last Tues. in June or 1st Tues. in July.	Auction sales of wool.
***Auction (Held in Field) *u*	,, ,, ..	2 to 5 sales annually	Livestock.
Basingstoke			
General Market 484 *u*	Basingstoke Corpn.	Wed., Sat.	General retail produce.
**Auction 450 *c*	Jennings and Lear,	Wed.	Livestock.
2150 *u*	Basingstoke	Horses: monthly	Dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg., and poultry.
***Auction 300 *c*	Tomlin and Tomlin,	Wed. ..	Livestock.
13010 *u*	Basingstoke		Dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg., and poultry (wholesale and retail).
**Auction 979 *c*	Hugh E. Raynbird &	Wed. ..	Livestock.
3170 *u*	Sons, Ltd., Basingstoke	Annually ..	Corn (private treaty) Wool.
Bishops Waltham			
***Auction 6600 *u*	R. Austin & Wyatt, Bishops Waltham	7 or 8 sales annually	Livestock.
Botley			
***Auction 3000 *u*	F. Matthews, Fareham	Fri.—5 sales annually	Cattle, pigs, horses.
Bournemouth			
Market 233 *c*	Lawrence Bell, Westbourne Markets, Bournemouth	Daily. Auction sales: Tues. and Fri. only	Wholesale and retail auction and private treaty sales of dairy produce eggs, fruit, veg., meat and poultry.
Brockenhurst			
***Auction 3630 *u*	Brockenhurst Market Co., Ltd.	Alt. Mon.	Dairy produce, eggs, and poultry.
			Corn.†
		Periodically	Livestock.
Christchurch			
Auction 170 *c*	C. G. Bulstrode &	Alt. Thurs.	Dairy produce, eggs,
187 *u*	Sons, Christchurch		fruit, veg. and poultry.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Fareham			
**Auction 1142 *c* 6683 *u*	Fareham Market Co., Ltd.	Mon. ..	Livestock. Dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg. and poultry (wholesale and retail). Corn (private treaty)
Fawley			
***Auction 1000 *u*	R. Austin & Wyatt, Bishops Waltham	Bi-annually Apl. and Sept.	Livestock.
Havant			
***Auction 395 *c* 1880 *u*	Wyatt & Son, Havant	Tues. ..	Livestock. Dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg. and poultry (wholesale and retail).
Lymington			
Market 6360 *u*	Lymington Corpn. ..	Sat. ..	General retail produce.
Milton			
***Auction 9860 *u*	Hewitt & Co., Lymington	1st Mon. each month	Livestock. Dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg. and poultry.
Petersfield			
**Cattle Market 2520 *u*	Petersfield U.D.C. .. (2 *a.l.*)	Alt. Wed.	Livestock, egg and poultry auction.
General Market 2520 *u*	,, ,, ..	Sat. ..	General retail produce.
Corn Exchange 277 *c*	The Liquidator to Petersfield Corn Exchange Co., Ltd.	Alt. Wed.	Corn.
Auction 690 *c* 2488 *u*	Jacobs & Hunt, Petersfield	Alt. Wed.	Corn, dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg. and poultry.
Portsmouth			
Market (Held in Street) *u*	Portsmouth Corpn...	Tues., Thurs., Sat.	Eggs, fruit, veg. & poultry (chiefly wholesale).
***Market (Cosham) 250 *c* 3361 *u*	Cosham & Petersfield Market Co., Ltd.	Mon. ..	Livestock auction. Dairy produce, egg, fruit, veg. and poultry auction. Corn.†
Hide and Skin Market	Portsmouth & Gosport Hide, Skin, Fat and Wool Co., Ltd.	Fri. ..	Auction sales of hides and skins.
Ringwood			
General Market 400 *u*	Ringwood R.D.C. ..	Wed. ..	General retail produce.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Ringwood—*cont*			
**Auction 600 *c* 2000 *u*	Woolley and Wallis, Salisbury	Wed. ..	Livestock. Dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg. and poultry. Corn.†
Romsey			
***Auction 340 *c* 610 *u*	Romsey and District Market Co., Ltd.	Thurs. ..	Livestock. Dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg. and poultry. Corn (private treaty)
Southampton			
**Cattle Market 395 *c* 5827 *u*	Southampton Corpn. (3 *a.l.*)	Wed. .	Livestock auction. Hay and straw (occas'ly).
Corn Exchange 183 *c*	,, ,,	Wed. ..	Corn.
Fish Market 313 *c*	,, ,,	Daily ..	Fish.
General Market 1500 *u*	,, ,,	Daily .	Retail fruit, veg., poultry and misc.
Fruit Auction 7000 *c*	Simons & Co., Ltd., Southampton Docks	Daily ..	Colonial & foreign fruit.
Wickham			
***Auction 1000 *u*	F. Stubbs and Son, Bishops Waltham	Thurs., twice monthly	Livestock. Corn (Private treaty).
Winchester			
**Auction: Livestock 429 *c* 2497 *u* Produce and poultry 278 *c* 123 *u*	Winchester Corpn. (Lessees: J. Harris & Son, Winchester)	Mon. ..	Livestock. Butter, eggs, fruit, veg. and poultry.
Corn Exchange 300 *c*	Winchester Corpn.	Mon. ..	Corn.
Wool Auction 4000 *c*	J. Harris & Son, Winchester	1st Wed. in July	Wool.
Isle of Wight			
Newport			
**Cattle Market (*d.w.*) 1036 *c* 3787 *u*	Newport Corpn. .. (2 *a.l.*)	Tues. ..	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock.
		Sat. ..	Agric. implements, etc.
Corn Exchange 303 *c*	,, ,, ..	Tues., Sat.	Corn. Hay and straw (occas'ly).
Poultry Market 274 *c*	,, ,, .. (2 *a.*)	Tues. ..	Poultry auction.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Isle of Wight			
Newport—*cont.*			
Auction 120 *c*	Sir Francis Pittis & Son, Newport	Tues. Annually in July	Butter and eggs. Wool.
Wool Auction 850 *c*	H. J. Way & Son, Newport	Annually in July	Wool.
HERTFORDSHIRE			
Baldock			
***Market 550 *u*	Baldock Markets Co., Ltd.	Wed. ..	Livestock, poultry and farm produce auction. General retail produce.
Barnet			
**Auction 1200 *c* (*d.w.*) 1000 *u*	Harland and Son, Barnet	Wed, ..	Livestock. Dairy produce, eggs, fruit and veg. (Wholesale and retail). Hay, straw and poultry.
Berkhamsted			
Market 300 *c* (Held in Street) *u*	Berkhamsted Town Hall Committee	Sat. ..	General retail produce.
Bishop's Stortford			
General Market 1225 *u*	Bishop's Stortford U.D.C.	Thurs., Sat.	General retail produce.
Corn Exchange 150 *c*	Bishop's Stortford Market Co.	Thurs. ..	Corn.
**Cattle Market (*d.w.*) 119 *c* 2880 *u*	G. E. Sworder & Sons, Bishop's Stortford	Thurs. ..	Livestock auction. Corn.
Auction 250 *c*	Edwin Watson, Bishop's Stortford	Thurs. ..	Dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg. and poultry.
Auction 160 *c* 550 *u*	Woodward & Priday, Saffron Walden	Thurs. ..	Eggs and poultry; also butter, fruit and veg.
Buntingford			
***Auction 20 *c* 1200 *u*	G. Scarborough Taylor, Buntingford	Mon. ..	Livestock. Butter, eggs and poultry.
Hemel Hempstead			
General Market 480 *u*	Hemel Hempstead Corpn.	Thurs. ..	General retail produce.
***Auction 450 *c* 830 *u*	Facer Bros., Hemel Hempstead	Thurs. ..	Livestock and poultry. Corn.†

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Hemel Hempstead—*cont.*			
***Auction 2948 *u*	W. Brown and Co., Hemel Hempstead	Periodically	Livestock.
Hertford			
Corn Exchange 260 *c*	Hertford Corpn. ..	Sat. ..	Corn.
General Market 554 *c* 700 *u*	,, ,, ..	Sat. ..	General retail produce.
***Auction 120 *c* 1280 *u*	Norris and Duvall, Hertford	Sat. ..	Livestock.
Auction 180 *c* 800 *u*	Woodward & Priday, Saffron Walden	Sat. ..	Eggs and poultry; also butter, fruit veg. and game.
Hitchin			
Corn Exchange 604 *c*	Hitchin Market Co., Ltd.	Tues. ..	Corn.
General Market 2844 *u*	Hitchin U.D.C. ..	Tues., Sat.	General retail produce.
**Auction (*d.w.*) 450 *c* 2500 *u*	Geo. Jackson & Son, Hitchin	Tues. ..	Livestock (chiefly fat).
Auction 420 *c*	Woodward & Priday, Saffron Walden	Tues. ..	Eggs and poultry, also butter, fruit, veg. and game.
Hoddesdon			
***Cattle Market 200 *u*	Hoddesdon U.D.C... (2 *a.l.* & *p.*)	Wed. ..	Livestock, eggs, fruit, veg. and poultry auction.
General Market 465 *u*	,, ,, ..	Wed. ..	General retail produce.
Royston			
***Cattle Market 750 *u*	Nash, Son & Rowley, Royston	Wed. ..	Pig auction. Corn, hay and straw (private treaty).
		Annually at Xmas.	Cattle and sheep.
Auction 100 *c* 600 *u*	,, ,, ..	Wed. ..	Wholesale and retail dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg. and poultry.
Auction 67 *c* 136 *u*	A. F. Lofts, Cambridge	Wed. ..	Butter, eggs, fruit, veg. and poultry.
St. Albans			
**Cattle Market & Corn Exchange (*d.w.*) 580 *c* 4260 *u*	St. Albans Corpn. .. (1 *a.l.* & *p.*)	Wed. ..	Livestock, eggs, fruit, veg. and poultry auction. Corn, hay & straw. (Private treaty.)
General Market (Held in street) *u*	,, ,, ..	Sat. ..	General retail produce.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Tring			
General Market 500 *u*	Tring U.D.C. ..	Fri. ..	General retail produce.
**Auction 133 *c* 2494 *u*	W. Brown and Co., Tring	Mon. ..	Livestock and poultry. Corn.†
Watford			
General Market 1955 *u*	Watford Corpn. ..	Tues., Sat.	General retail produce.
**Auction 1250 *u*	C. H. Halsey, Watford	Tues. ..	Livestock.
KENT			
Ashford			
*Market ‡ 3220 *c* (*d.w.*) 37190 *u*	Ashford Cattle Market Co., Ltd.	Tues. ..	Livestock (chiefly auction). Dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg. and poultry auction. (Wholesale and retail.) General retail produce.
Corn Exchange 300 *c*	Ashford Corn Exchange Co.	Tues. ..	Corn and hops.
Bromley			
Market 4182 *u*	Bromley Corpn. ..	Thurs. ..	General retail produce.
Canterbury			
*Cattle Market (*d.w.*) 4080 *u*	Canterbury Corpn. .. (7 *a.l.*)	Fat: Alt. Mon. Store: Sat.	Livestock and poultry auction.
Corn Exchange and 719 *c*	,, ,, ..	Sat. ..	Corn, hay and straw
General Market 381 *c*	,, ,, ..	Daily ..	General retail produce.
Hide and Skin Market	Rowland Stagg, Ltd., Canterbury	Daily ..	Hides.
Cheriton			
***Auction 4500 *u*	R. Foord Thorpe & Co., Ashford	Mon. ..	Livestock. Dairy produce & poultry.
Dartford			
***Auction 480 *c* 1690 *u*	P. Champion & Sons, Dartford	Tues. ..	Livestock. Dairy produce, eggs and poultry (retail).
Deal			
Market 83 *c* 137 *u*	Deal Corpn. .. (2 *a.p.*)	Tues., Fri. Fruit, veg., fish, meat: Daily	General retail produce. Fruit, veg. and poultry auction.

‡ A. V. Checksfield and Co., registered packers under National Mark Egg Scheme, have premises in this market.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days	Character of market.
Dover			
Market 396 *c* 3315 *u*	Dover Corpn. ..	Tues., Thurs., Sat.	Wholesale and retail fruit and veg. Retail fish. Horse auction (occas'ly).
Edenbridge			
**Market 300 *c* 3000 *u*	Edenbridge Cattle, Corn & Hop Exchange Co., Ltd. (Lessees: Fox & Manwaring)	Mon. ..	Livestock, butter, egg and poultry auction. Corn.
Elham			
***Auction 7260 *u*	(*a*) W. L. Hogben, Lyminge (*b*) R. Foord, Thorpe & Co., Ashford	4 or 5 sales during Spring and Autumn	Cattle, sheep and poultry.
Faversham			
General Market 300 *c* 300 *u*	Faversham Corpn. ..	Wed., Fri., Sat.	General retail produce.
***Cattle Market 7000 *u*	Faversham Cattle Market Co., Ltd. (Lessees: G. W. Finn and Sons, Faversham)	Alt. Tues.	Livestock auction.
Auction 600 *u*	R. Foord Thorpe & Co., Ashford	Wed. ..	Dairy and farm produce, eggs and poultry.
Folkestone			
Fish Market 433 *c* 761 *u*	Folkestone Corpn.	Daily ..	Wholesale (auction) and retail sales of fish
Goudhurst			
***Auction 2420 *u*	Ambrose & Foster, Maidstone	Alt. Wed.	Livestock and poultry.
Gravesend			
Market 1125 *c* 526 *u*	Gravesend Corpn. .. (1 *a.p.*)	Daily, except Mon. Mon. ,,	General retail produce. Butter, eggs and poultry.
Hamstreet			
**Auction 14500 *u*	(*a*) H. Pelham Collick, Hamstreet (*b*) H. F. Finn-Kelcey, Lyminge. (*c*) Reeve and Finn, Lydd.	2 or 3 sales during Spring and Autumn	Store cattle and sheep.
Hawkhurst			
***Auction (Held in Field) *u*	Winch and Sons, Cranbrook	Bi-annually Spring and Autumn	Store cattle and sheep.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Headcorn			
**Auction 4840 *u*	(*a*) R. Foord Thorpe and Co., Ashford (*b*) H. Judge, Tenterden.	Fri. .. (Monthly during Spring and Autumn)	Store cattle and sheep.
Hythe (Newingreen)			
**Auction (Held in field) *u*	W. and B. Hobbs, Ashford	5 sales during Apl., Aug., Sept., Oct. and Nov.	Store cattle and sheep.
Lenham			
***Auction (Held in field) *u*	,, ,,	Bi-annually Mar. and Aug. ..	Store cattle and sheep.
Lydden			
***Auction 7260 *u*	J. Wilks, Manor House, Upper Deal	4 or 5 sales during Spring and Autumn	Store sheep and lambs.
Lyminge			
**Auction 1000 *c*	H. F. Finn-Kelcey, Lyminge	Mon. ..	Livestock.
14520 *u*			Butter, eggs, fruit, veg. and poultry (wholesale and retail).
			Corn.†
Maidstone			
*Cattle Market 6050 *u*	Maidstone Corpn. (1 *a.l.* & 1 *a.l.* & *p.*‡)	Tues. ..	Livestock auction. Auction and private sales of dairy produce, eggs, fruit veg. and poultry.
Including Agric. Hall 1300 *c*			
Corn Exchange 520 *c*	,, ,,	Thurs. ..	Corn and hops.
Marden			
***Auction 4840 *u*	E. J. Parker, Maidstone	Alt. Mon...	Livestock. Dairy produce, eggs, and poultry.
Margate			
Market 83 *c* (Held in street) *u*	Margate Corpn. ..	Daily ..	Wholesale and retail fruit and veg.
Paddock Wood			
***Auction 860 *c* (*d.w.*) 2420 *u*	Winch and Sons, Cranbrook	Alt. Mon...	Livestock and poultry.
***Auction 400 *c* 4840 *u*	Lambert & Symes, Paddock Wood	Alt. Mon...	Livestock, eggs, poultry & potatoes.
Ramsgate			
Market 350 *c*	Ramsgate Corpn. ..	Tues., Thurs., Sat.	Retail produce. Wholesale fruit, veg. and poultry.

‡ E. J. Parker, registered packer under National Mark Egg Scheme.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Rochester			
**Cattle Market (*d.w.*) 700 *c* 5540 *u*	Rochester Corpn. .. (2 *a.l.*)	Tues. ..	Livestock and poultry auction.
Corn Exchange 422 *c*	,, ,, ..	Tues. ..	Corn, hay, straw and wool.
***Auction 19360 *u* (Frindsbury)	(*a*) Wm. Wood and Sons (*b*) G. Long, Rochester	Periodically	Store cattle and sheep Horses (private treaty).
Sandwich			
**Market 4743 *u* (*d.w.*)	Sandwich Corpn. .. (7 *a.l.* & 2 *a.p.*)	Alt. Mon...	Livestock, dairy produce, egg, fruit, veg. and poultry auction. Corn.
***Auction 14520 *u*	Honeyball & Finn, Deal	Monthly — Mar. to Dec.	Livestock (stores).
Sevenoaks			
General Market 250 *u*	Sevenoaks U.D.C. ..	Sat. ..	Retail, fruit, veg., meat and misc. articles.
**Cattle Market (*d.w.*) 500 *c* 3130 *u*	Pattullo, Higgs & Co., Ltd., Orpington	Mon. ..	Livestock, butter, egg, fruit, veg. & poultry auction.
Sittingbourne			
**Auction 2000 *u*	F. Austen Bensted & Sons, Sittingbourne	Alt. Mon.	Livestock.
Auction 130 *c*	,, ,,	Wed. ..	Eggs, fruit, veg. and poultry.
Staplehurst			
**Auction 7260 *u* (*d.w.*)	Winch and Sons, Cranbrook.	Alt. Mon...	Livestock and poultry. Corn (private treaty)
Stelling			
***Auction (Held in field) *u*	W. and B. Hobbs, Ashford	Bi-annually — Apl. & Sept.	Store cattle and sheep.
Swingfield			
***Auction (Held in field) *u*	,, ,,	Tri-annually — Mar., Aug. and Sept.	Store cattle and sheep.
Tonbridge			
**Cattle Market (*d.w.*) 400 *c* 9000 *u*	Tonbridge Stock and Cattle Market Co., Ltd. (Part Lessee: W. Tibbits, Tonbridge)	Tues. ..	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock & wool.
		Fri. ..	Dairy produce, egg, fruit, veg. and poultry auction.
Corn Exchange 40 *c*	Tonbridge Stock and Cattle Market Co., Ltd.	Tues. ..	Corn and hops.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Tonbridge—*cont.*			
***Auction *u*	E. C. Holding and Fox and Manwaring, Tonbridge	Tri-annually — Apl., Aug. and Oct.	Store cattle and sheep.
Wrotham			
***Auction 9680 *u*	Ambrose & Foster, Maidstone	Tri-annually — Mar., May and Oct.	Store cattle and sheep.
MIDDLESEX			
Acton			
Market 1287 *c*	T. Poore & Son, Crown Street, Acton	Daily ..	General retail produce.
Brentford			
Market 10411 *c* 22269 *u*	Brentford and Chiswick U.D.C.	Daily (chiefly Mon., Wed. and Fri.)	Fruit and veg. (chiefly), also corn, dairy produce, eggs hay, straw, meat and poultry.
Chiswick			
Market 1225 *c*	,, ,,	Daily ..	General retail produce.
Ealing			
Market 1476 *c*	G. Ravenshear, 48, People's Market, Ealing	Daily ..	General retail produce.
Market 950 *u*	(Mrs.) A. M. Shellshear, 96/100, Broadway, Ealing	Daily ..	General retail produce.
Enfield Lock			
Market 877 *u*	War Office	Chiefly Fri. and Sat.	Retail fish, fruit, veg. and general merchandise.
Enfield Town			
Market 640 *u*	Trustees of the Enfield Parochial Charities	Sat. ..	Retail fruit, veg. and general merchandise.
Southall			
**Auction 4840 *c* 4840 *u*	Steel Bros., Southall	Wed. ..	Livestock. Potatoes, poultry and straw. Corn.†
Market 577 *c*	S. Green, New Southall Market, Uxbridge Road, Southall	Daily ..	General retail produce.
Staines			
Market 950 *u*	Staines U.D.C. ..	Wed., Sat.	General retail produce.
Uxbridge			
Market 565 *c*	Trustees of the Uxbridge United Charities.	Daily ..	General retail produce. Corn.†

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
NORFOLK			
Acle			
**Auction (*d.w.*) 400 *c* 6800 *u*	Waters and Son, Norwich	Thurs. ..	Livestock and poultry. Eggs, fruit and veg. (occas'ly).
***Auction (*d.w.*) 286 *c* 2200 *u*	Howlett and Edrich, Stalham	Thurs. ..	Livestock and poultry.
Attleborough			
***Auction 400 *c* 14500 *u*	Salter, Simpson & Sons, Attleborough	Alt. Thurs. Horse sales: Spring and Autumn	Livestock and poultry. Potatoes (retail). Corn.†
Aylsham			
***Auction 4840 *u*	Irelands, Norwich	Fri. from Jan. 1st to June 30th	Livestock and poultry.
Burnham Market			
***Auction 20 *c* 400 *u*	Andrews and Dewing, Wells	Alt. Mon.	Livestock and poultry.
Diss			
Corn Market 311 *c*	Diss Corn Hall Trustees	Fri. ..	Corn, hay and straw.
General Market 400 *u*	The Lord of the Manor	Fri. ..	General retail produce.
**Auction 175 *c* 28500 *u*	T. W. Gaze and Son, Diss	Alt. Fri. .. Special lamb sales in June and Aug.	Cattle, calves and sheep.
***Auction 400 *c* 1600 *u*	,, ,, ..	Alt. Fri. ..	Pigs and poultry.
***Auction (*d.w.*) 428 *c* 2062 *u*	Salter, Simpson and Sons, Attleborough	Alt. Fri. .. Horses: annually in Sept.	Livestock and poultry.
Auction 200 *c* & *u*	A. S. Vincent, South Lopham	Fri. ..	Butter eggs and poultry.
Wool Auction *c*	John Symonds, Diss	2nd Wed. in June	Wool.
Auction‡ (*d.w.*) 500 *c* 8700 *u*	H. G. Apthorpe, Diss	Alt. Fri. ..	Livestock and poultry.
Downham Market			
Auction 1210 *u*	J. H. Hammond, King's Lynn	Fri. ..	Poultry. Fruit and veg. (retail). Corn.†
East Dereham			
***Cattle Market 5182 *u*	East Dereham U.D.C.	Fri. ..	Cattle and sheep.

‡ In course of construction.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
East Dereham *—cont.*			
General Market 2865 *u*	East Dereham U.D.C.	Fri. ..	General retail produce. Corn.†
***Pig Market 376 *c*	,, ,, .. (2 *a.l.* & *p.*)	Fri. ..	Pig, poultry, butter and egg auction.
***Auction 600 *u* (*d.w.*)	Beck and Hawkins, East Dereham	Fri. ..	Cattle and sheep.
East Harling			
***Auction 1600 *u*	H. Hawker, Thetford	Tues. ..	Poultry (chiefly) and pigs. Dairy produce, eggs. fruit and veg, (retail).
***Auction 1500 *u*	Salter, Simpson and Sons, Attleborough	Bi-annually March .. July ..	Cattle and sheep. Lambs and ewes.
Fakenham			
General Market 2500 *u*	Fakenham Parish Council	Thurs. ..	General retail produce.
**Auction 234 *c* (*d.w.*) 3916 *u*	E. W. Long, Fakenham	Thurs. ..	Livestock (chiefly auction). Poultry auction.
Corn Market 453 *c*	W. J. Aldiss, Fakenham	Thurs. ..	Corn.
Great Yarmouth			
General Market 9100 *u*	Gt. Yarmouth Corpn.	Wed., Sat.	General retail produce. Fruit and veg.
Fish Wharf 8295 *c* 70843 *u*	Gt. Yarmouth Port and Haven Commrs.	Daily ..	Fish auction.
**Auction 724 *c* (*d.w.*) 5750 *u*	Maddison, Miles and Son, Gt. Yarmouth	Wed. ..	Livestock, poultry, hay and straw.
Corn Exchange 300 *c*	The Tenant, Duke's Head Hotel, Gt. Yarmouth	Wed. ..	Corn, hay and straw.
Hackford-next-Reepham			
Market 1210 *u*	Aylsham R.D.C. ..	Wed. ..	Retail produce.
Harleston			
**Auction 3000 *u*	G. Durrant & Sons, Harleston	Alt. Wed.	Livestock, poultry, hay, straw. Corn.†
Hingham			
***Auction 200 *c* 300 *u*	W. Vincent & Sons, Norwich	Tues. ..	Cattle and pigs. Dairy produce, eggs and poultry. Fruit and veg. (Wholesale and retail).

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Holt			
***Auction 2420 *u*	Irelands, Norwich ..	Alt. Fri. ..	Pigs, and occas'ly cattle, calves and poultry.
			Corn.†
Kenninghall			
***Auction 1610 *u*	A. S. Vincent, South Lopham	Mon. ..	Poultry (chiefly) also calves, pigs, dairy produce, hay and straw.
King's Lynn			
*Cattle Market (2 *d.w.*) 2000 *c* 13360 *u*	King's Lynn Corpn. (3 *a.l.* & 1 *a.p.*)	Tues. .. Horses: 1st Tues. each month	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock.
			Dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg., hay & straw & poultry auction.
Corn Market 1039 *c*	,, ,, ..	Tues. ..	Corn; hay and straw (occas'ly.).
Provision Market 7200 *u*	,, ,, ..	Tues. ..	Retail dairy produce, eggs, fish and meat.
Provision Market 1210 *u*	,, ,, ..	Sat. ..	General retail produce.
Loddon			
**Auction 300 *c* 7000 *u*	Waters and Son, Norwich	Alt. Mon...	Livestock and poultry.
			Fruit and veg. (occas'ly.).
Long Stratton			
***Auction 3000 *u*	,, ,, ..	Alt. Tues.	Calves, pigs and poultry.
			Fruit and veg. (occas'ly.).
Methwold			
***Auction 5000 *u*	Hewitt and Whitta, Methwold	Mon. ..	Livestock.
			Dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg., hay, straw and poultry.
North Walsham			
General Market 100 *u*	North Walsham U.D.C.	Thurs. ..	Retail fruit, veg. and general.
			Corn.†
***Auction 200 *u* (*d.w.*)	B. Ling, North Walsham	Thurs. ..	Cattle, eggs, poultry and pigs.
**Auction 2613 *u*	Herbert Plumbly, North Walsham	Thurs. ..	Livestock and poultry.
Norwich			
*Cattle Market (*d.w.*) 8546 *c* 35503 *u*	Norwich Corpn. .. (2 *a.l.* & 2 *a.l.* & *p.*)	Sat. ..	Livestock (auction and private treaty).
			Poultry auction.
		Daily ..	Hay and straw.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Norwich—*cont.*			
Fish Market 1952 *c*	Norwich Corpn. ..	Daily ..	Fish.
Horse Market 1028 *c* 1044 *u*	,, ,, .. (1 *a.l.*)	Sat. ..	Auction and private treaty sales of horses.
Provision Market:	,, ,, ..		
Wholesale 1840 *u*		Daily ..	Wholesale and retail butter, eggs, fruit and veg.
Retail 3670 *u*			Retail fish and meat.
Auction 50 *c*	W. Vincent & Sons, Norwich	Sat. ..	Butter and eggs.
Corn Exchange 1134 *c*	Norwich Corn Exchange Co., Ltd.	Sat. ..	Corn.
Hide and Skin Market	W. D. Mark & Sons, Ltd., Norwich	Fri. ..	Auction sales of hides and skins.
Reepham			
**Auction 600 *c* (*d.w.*) 3000 *u*	Irelands, Norwich ..	Wed. ..	Livestock and poultry.
Stalham			
**Auction 400 *c* 6840 *u*	J. Howlett, Stalham	Alt. Tues. (Fat cattle: Mon. Jan. 1st to July 1st.)	Livestock. Butter, fruit and veg. (wholesale and retail). Eggs and poultry.
Swaffham			
***Auction 60 *c* 600 *u*	T. H. Warren & Son, Swaffham	Sat. ..	Poultry (chiefly) hay, straw and pigs. Butter, eggs, fruit and veg. (retail).
**Auction 2000 *u*	Salter, Simpson & Sons, Attleborough	Thurs. in Mar. or Apl. 2nd Thurs. in July	Store cattle and sheep. Lambs and ewes.
Thetford			
General Market 150 *c* 1400 *u*	Thetford Corpn. ..	Sat. ..	General retail produce.
Auction 1200 *u*	Lacey N. Gooding, Bury St. Edmunds	Alt. Sat. ..	Poultry and farm produce.
Watton			
General Market 400 *u*	Wayland R.D.C. ..	Wed. ..	Retail fish, fruit, veg. and meat. Corn.
***Auction 340 *c* 7260 *u*	H. G. Barnham & Son, Watton	Wed. .. (Fat stock: weekly. Store: monthly.)	Livestock. Butter, eggs and poultry. Fruit and veg. (retail).

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Watton—*cont.*			
**Auction .125 *c* 5000 *u* and 5 acres open lairage available	W. S. Hall and Palmer, Watton	Wed. .. (Special store cattle and sheep sales 1st Wed. each month.)	Livestock. Butter, eggs and poultry. Fruit and veg. (retail).
Wroxhar -			
***Auction 100 *c* (*d.w.*) 7100 *u*	Waters and Son, Norwich	Alt. Mon... (Fat cattle only: Fri., Mar. to June)	Livestock and poultry. Retail fruit and veg. (Occas'ly.).
Wymondham			
***Auction 385 *c* 3630 *u*	Hall and Palmer, Wymondham	Fri. ..	Livestock and poultry.
SOMERSET			
Bath			
**Cattle Market (*d.w.*) 300 *c* 1576 *u*	Bath Corpn... (2 *a.l.* & *p.*)	Wed. ..	Livestock (chiefly auction). Egg poultry and veg auction. Corn.
Provision Market 630 *c*	,, ,, ..	Daily ..	General retail produce.
Hide and skin Market	H. A. Fry, Bath ..	—	Hides and skins.
Bishops Lydeard			
***Auction 4840 *u*	W. R. J. Greenslade and Co., Taunton	Last Tues. each month	Cattle and sheep.
Bridgwater			
* Cattle and Pig Market 803 *c* (*d.w.*) . 2167 *u*	Bridgwater Corpn... (2 *a.l.* & 1 *a.p.*)	Wed. ..	Cattle, calves and pigs (chiefly auction).
Sheep Market 1903 *u*	,, ,, ..	Wed. ..	Sheep (chiefly auction).
Corn Exchange 1550 *c*	,, ,, ..	Wed. ..	Corn.
Market House 754 *c*	,, ,, ..	Wed., Sat.	Dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg. and poultry auction. General retail produce.
Bruton			
***Auction 60 *c* 100 *u*	Harding and Son, Frome	Alt. Tues.	Calves and poultry.
Burnham-on-Sea			
Auction 40 *u*	Andrew Brown, Burnham-on-Sea	Fri. ..	Dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg. and poultry (wholesale and retail).

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Castle Cary			
***Auction 400 *c* 1000 *u*	Wainwright, Laver & Crees, Ltd., Shepton Mallet	Alt. Tues.	Store cattle.
Chard			
**Cattle Market 80 *c* 350 *u*	Chard Corpn. .. (2 *a.l.*)	Alt. Thurs.	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock.
General Market 800 *u*	,, ,, ..	Alt. Thurs.	Wholesale and retail dairy produce, eggs and poultry. Corn, hay and straw.
Cheddar			
***Auction 450 *c* *u*	J. H. Palmer & Sons, Burnham-on-Sea	Wed. ..	Dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg., poultry and calves.
Congresbury			
***Auction 600 *c* 6000 *u*	Alonzo Dawes & Son, Clevedon	Alt. Wed.	Dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg., poultry and calves.
Crewkerne			
***Auction 308 *c* 10202 *u*	Crewkerne Fair and Markets Co., Ltd., Lessees: T. R. G. Lawrence and Son, Crewkerne	Alt. Tues.	Livestock. Dairy produce, eggs, fruit veg. and poultry.
Cutcombe			
***Auction 2420 *u*	J. Phillips & Sons, Minehead	Last Mon. in Apr., 4th Mon. in Oct.	Calves and sheep.
Dulverton			
***Auction 3630 *u*	,, ,, ..	2nd Thurs. each month	Livestock.
Evercreech Junction			
***Auction 700 *c* 11500 *u*	Wainwright, Laver & Crees, Ltd., Shepton Mallet	Alt. Mon...	Livestock.
Exford			
***Auction 4840 *u*	J. Phillips & Sons, Minehead	Last Thurs. in Aug. 4th Thurs. in Sept.	Cattle and sheep.
Farrington Gurney			
**Auction 2500 *c* 7000 *u*	Blinman & Miles, Farrington Gurney	Mon. ..	Livestock. Dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg. and poultry.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Frome			
***Cattle Market 750 *c* 3000 *u*	Frome Market Co.	Wed. ..	Livestock (chiefly auction). Dairy produce, eggs, fruit veg. and poultry (auction). Corn (private treaty).
General Market 440 *u*	,, ,, ..	Wed. ..	General retail produce.
**Auction 700 *c* 400 *u*	Harding and Sons, Frome	Wed. ..	Livestock. Dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg. and poultry.
Glastonbury			
**Auction 112 *c* 2720 *u*	Glastonbury Corpn. (Lessees: C. Cooper & Tanner, Glastonbury)	Tues. ..	Livestock.
Auction 333 *c*	C. Cooper & Tanner, Glastonbury	Tues. ..	Dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg. and poultry.
Highbridge			
Auction 1000 *c*	F. Keirle, Bridgwater	Tues. ..	Butter, eggs and poultry and veg. (Wholesale and retail.)
**Auction 100 *c* (*d.w.*) 7167 *u*	J. H. Palmer & Sons, Burnham-on-Sea	1st and 3rd Mon. each month.	Cattle and sheep. Eggs and poultry.
**Auction 1000 *c* 6000 *u*	Palmer, Sons and Toogood, Burnham-on-Sea	Tues. ..	Cheese (chiefly auction) and calves.
(*Repository*)		Alt. Tues...	Pigs.
General Market 200 *u*	Highbridge U.D.C. ..	Tues. ..	General retail produce.
Ilminster			
***Auction 9680 *u*	H. M. Hext and Son, Ilminster	Alt. Wed.	Livestock and poultry.
***Auction 800 *c* 7000 *u*	F. L. Hunt & Son, Langport	Alt. Wed.	Livestock and poultry.
Keynsham			
**Auction 1008 *c* 4992 *u*	C. Cooper & Tanner, Keynsham	Alt. Mon...	Livestock. Dairy produce, eggs and poultry.
King's Brompton			
***Auction 2420 *u*	Risdon, Gerrard & Hosegood, Wivelscombe	Last Mon. in Apl. 2nd Thurs. in Aug.	Cattle, sheep and poultry.
Langport			
**Auction 160 *c* (*d.w.*) 2500 *u*	F. L. Hunt and Son, Langport	Alt. Tues.	Livestock. Dairy produce, eggs, fruit veg. and poultry.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Langport—*cont.*			
Market 300 *u*	Langport Town Trust	Alt. Tues ..	Wholesale and retail dairy produce, eggs and poultry. Retail meat. Corn.†
Martock			
***Auction (*d.w.*) 7260 *u*	W. Palmer and Co., Yeovil	Alt. Tues.	Livestock.
Minehead			
***Auction (*d.w.*) (*Public Slaughterhouse*) 3630 *u*	J. Phillips and Sons, Minehead	3rd Mon. each month	Livestock.
Misterton			
*** uction 136 *c* 1120 *u*	W. Palmer and Co., Yeovil	Tues. monthly	Livestock.
Portb ıry			
***Market 100 *c* 1000 *u*	Portbury Live Stock Market Co., Ltd.	1st and 3rd Mon. each month	Livestock auction.
Raleighs Cross			
***Auction 2420 *u*	Risdon, Gerrard and Hosegood, Wivelıscombe	1st Thurs. in Aug. & Sept.	Sheep (chiefly breeding ewes).
Shepton Mallet			
Market 1050 *u*	Shepton Mallet U.D.C.	Fri. ..	General retail produce.
**Auction (*d.w.*) 350 *c* 16940 *u*	Wainwright, Laver & Crees, Ltd., Shepton Mallet	Fri. ..	Livestock (except calves), eggs and poultry.
***Auction 875 *u*	,, ,,	Alt. Mon...	Calves.
Somerton			
***Auction 90 *c* 7260 *u*	G. A. Bloom, Glastonbury	Alt. Tues.	Livestock. Dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg. and poultry.
***Auction 1500 *u*	F. L. Hunt and Son, Langport	Bi-annually Spring and Autumn	Store cattle and sheep.
Sparkford			
**Auction (*d.w.*) 1316 *c* 2420 *u*	C. Cooper & Tanner, Glastonbury	Alt. Mon...	Livestock. Dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg. and poultry.
Taunton			
**Cattle Market 225 *c* 3000 *u*	Taunton Corpn. .. (2 *a.l.*)	Sat. ..	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock.
Corn Exchange 253 *c*	,, ,, ..	Sat. ..	Corn.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Taunton—*cont.*			
Covered Market 1600 *c*	Taunton Corpn. .. (1 *a.p.*)	Daily ..	General retail produce.
		Sat. ..	Butter, egg and poultry (auction).
Open Market 5600 *u*	,, ,, ..	Sat. ..	Retail fish and general merchandise.
Washford			
**Auction 2420 *u* (*d.w.*)	Risdon, Gerrard and Hosegood, Wivelis-combe	1st Mon. each month	Livestock and poultry.
Wellington			
***Market 100 *c* (*d.w.*) 9600 *u*	Wellington (Som.) Cattle Market Committee	1st Tues. each month	Livestock auction.
Wells			
***Cattle Market 50 *c* 6260 *u*	Wells Corpn. .. (2 *a.l.*)	Sat. ..	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock.
General Market 1028 *u*	,, ,, ..	Sat. ..	General retail produce.
Auction 2000 *c* 400 *u*	C. K. Parrott, Wells	Sat. ..	Dairy produce, eggs, and poultry. Fruit, veg. (retail).
West Harptree			
***Auction 4840 *u*	Blinman and Miles, Farrington Gurney	Bi-annually Apr., and Oct.	Livestock.
Weston-super-Mare			
***Cattle Market 3400 *u* (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	Weston-super-Mare (1 *a.l.*) U.D.C.	2nd and 4th Mon. each month.	Livestock, hay, straw and poultry auction.
General Market 600 *c*	,, ,,	Daily ..	General retail produce.
Williton			
***Auction 1210 *u*	Risdon, Gerrard and Hosegood, Wivelis-combe	2nd Mon. each month and 1st Thurs. in Dec.	Livestock and poultry.
Wincanton			
***Auction 4840 *u*	Senior and Godwin, Wincanton	Alt. Wed.	Livestock.
Winford			
**Auction 135 *c* 1210 *u*	W. King and Sons, Chew Stoke	Tues. ..	Livestock. Bacon, corn, dairy produce, eggs, fruit veg., hay, straw and poultry.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Wivelliscombe			
**Market (*d.w.*) 6000 *u*	Wiveliscombe Market Committee	3rd Tues. each month	Auction (chiefly) and private treaty sales of livestock and poultry.
Yatton			
***Auction 900 *c*	Alonzo Dawes & Son, Clevedon	Mon. ..	Livestock.
1500 *u*			Dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg, and poultry.
***Auction 200 *c*	Geo. Nichols, Hunt and Co., Bristol	2nd and last Mon. each month	Livestock.
6000 *u*			Dairy produce, eggs and poultry.
Yeovil			
**Cattle Market	Yeovil Corpn.	Fat: Mon.	Livestock auction.
(*d.w.*) 449 *c*	(Lessees: R. B. Taylor and Sons, Yeovil)	Store: Fri. (alt. weeks)	
2817 *u*		Mon., Fri.	Dairy produce, egg, fruit, veg. and poultry auction.
Corn Exchange 312 *c*	Yeovil Corpn. ..	Fri. ..	Corn, hay and straw
General Market 1873 *u*	,, ,, ..	Mon., Fri., Sat.	Retail fish, fruit, veg., meat and misc. articles.
**Auction 1089 *c*	W. Palmer and Co., Yeovil	Fat: Mon.	Livestock.
(*d.w.*) 3462 *u*		Store: Fri. (alt. weeks)	
		Mon., Fri.	Dairy produce, eggs, fruit, potatoes and poultry.
SUFFOLK, EAST			
Beccles			
Corn Hall 250 *c*	Lloyds Bank, Ltd., Beccles	Fri. ..	Corn.
General Market 600 *u*	Beccles Corpn. ..	Fri. ..	Retail fruit, veg. and general.
**Auction 175 *c*	G. Durrant and Sons, Beccles	Alt. Fri. ..	Livestock and poultry.
5825 *u*			
***Auction 300 *c*	Read and Owles, Beccles	Alt. Fri. ..	Livestock and poultry.
6143 *u*			
Botesdale			
Auction 2420 *u*	A. S. Vincent, South Lopham, Norfolk	Tues. ..	Poultry (chiefly) butter, eggs, hay and straw.
Bungay			
Market 36 *c*	Town Reeve and Feoffees of Bungay	Daily (chiefly Thurs.)	General retail produce.
45 *u*			Corn.†
Eye			
***Auction 164 *c*	R. Bond and Sons, Ipswich	Alt. Mon..	Pigs and poultry.
4670 *u*			Corn.†

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Framlingham			
***Auction 3220 *u*	Moore, Garrard and Son, Hoxne, nr. Diss	Alt. Fri. ..	Fruit, veg., poultry and pigs. Corn.†
Halesworth			
**Auction 200 *c* 28000 *u*	Stanford, Broom and Stanford, Halesworth	Alt. Wed.	Livestock, poultry, hay and straw. Corn.†
Ipswich			
Corn Exchange and Provision Market 761 *c*	Ipswich Corpn. ..	Tues. Wed., Sat.	Corn. General retail produce.
**Cattle Market 450 *c* 8338 *u*	,, ,, .. (1 *a.l.*)	Tues. ..	Cattle, calves and sheep (chiefly auction).
***Pig Market 333 *c* 1349 *u*	,, ,, ..	Tues. ..	Pigs.
***Auction 3449 *c* 605 *u*	Ipswich Corpn. .. (Lessees: R. Bond & Sons, Ipswich)	Tues. Annually in June	Dairy cattle and pigs. Wool.
*Auction 2325 *c* (*d.w.*) 1220 *u*	Ipswich Corpn. (Lessees and part owners: Spurlings & Hempson, Ipswich)	Tues. ..	Cattle (fat), sheep and pigs.
Horse Repository 137 *c*	Spurlings & Hempson, Ipswich	Alt. Tues.	Horse auction.
Auction 1200 *c* 1432 *u*	Ipswich Corpn. (Lessees: Herbert Wright and Ward, Ipswich)	Tues. ..	Eggs, poultry and potatoes.
Hide and Skin Market	W. D. Mark and Sons Ltd., Ipswich	Fri. ..	Hides and skins.
Lowestoft			
Fish Market: Trawl fish 3400 *c* Herrings 9900 *c*	L. & N.E. Rly. Co.	Daily ..	Auction sales of fish.
Saxmundham			
**Auction 3000 *u*	Flick and Son, Saxmundham	Alt. Wed...	Livestock and poultry.
Corn Hall 220 *c*	,, ,,	Wed. ..	Corn.
Southwold			
Market 500 *u*	Southwold Corpn. ..	Mon. and Thurs. during Summer	Retail produce.
Stowmarket			
General Market 4840 *u*	Stowmarket U.D.C.	Thurs., Sat.	Retail fruit, veg. and general merchandise.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Stowmarket—*cont.*			
**Auction 2600 *c* 4230 *u*	Hunt, Peddar and Knight, Stowmarket	Thurs. .. (Horses: monthly.)	Livestock. Butter, eggs and poultry.
**Auction 2722 *c* 908 *u*	Woodward & Woodward, Stowmarket	Thurs. ..	Livestock and poultry.
Corn Exchange 311 *c*	Stowmarket Corn Exchange Co.	Thurs. ..	Corn.
Wickham Market			
**Auction 600 *c* 16340 *u*	A. E. Spear & Sons, Wickham Market	Mon. ..	Livestock. Butter, eggs, potatoes and poultry.
Corn Exchange 140 *c*	,, ,,	Mon. ..	Corn.
Woodbridge			
***Auction 810 *u*	Woodbridge U.D.C. (Lessees: Arnott & Everett, Woodbridge)	Alt. Thurs.	Pigs, poultry, fruit and veg. Corn.†
Corn Exchange 164 *c*	Woodbridge Market Hall Committee	Thurs. ..	Corn, hay, straw & feeding stuffs.
SUFFOLK, WEST			
Bury St. Edmund's			
**Cattle Market 506 *c* 9047 *u*	Bury St. Edmund's Corpn. (2 *a.l.* & 2 *a.p.*)	Wed. ..	Livestock (chiefly auction). Butter, egg and poultry auction.
**Auction (*d.w.*) 1653 *c* 3204 *u*	,, ,, (Lessees and part owners: Simpson & Sons, Bury St. Edmund's)	Wed. .. 2nd Wed. each month 3rd Sat. in June	Cattle, calves and sheep. Horses. Wool.
**Auction (*d.w.*) 1247 *c* 2395 *u*	Lacey Scott and Sons, Bury St. Edmund's	Wed. ..	Cattle, pigs and poultry. Sheep (occas'ly).
Corn Exchange 1250 *c*	Bury St. Edmund's Corpn.	Wed. ..	Corn.
General Market (Butter Market) 1500 *u*	,, ,, ..	Wed., Sat.	General retail produce.
General Market (Cornhill) 3200 *u*	,, ,, ..	Wed. Sat.	General retail produce.
Hadleigh			
**Auction 180 *c* 540 *u*	A. Cecil Grimwade, Hadleigh	Mon. ..	Livestock. Eggs, poultry and potatoes.
Corn Exchange 368 *c*	Trustees of Hadleigh Market Feoffment Charity	Mon. ..	Corn.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Haverhill			
**Auction 200 *c* 1010 *u*	Chas. Boardman, Haverhill	Fri. ..	Livestock. Dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg. and poultry.
Corn Exchange 1200 *c*	Haverhill Corn Exchange Co., Ltd., Haverhill	Fri. ..	Corn.
Lavenham			
***Auction 4840 *u*	H. C. Wolton, Bury St. Edmund's	Mon. at intervals of 3 to 4 weeks	Livestock and poultry.
Mildenhall			
General Market (Held in Street) *u*	Trustees of Mildenhall Settled Estate	Fri. ..	General retail produce.
***Auction 3630 *u*	Lacey N. Gooding, Bury St. Edmund's	Fri. ..	Farm produce, poultry and pigs.
Newmarket			
Corn Exchange 250 *c* 140 *u*	Newmarket U.D.C.	Tues. ..	Corn.
General Market (Held in Street) *u*	,, ,, ..	Tues., Sat.	General retail produce.
***Cattle Market 532 *c* (*d.w.*) 9000 *u*	Newmarket Farmers' and Butchers' Co., Ltd.	Tues. ..	Livestock, egg and poultry auction.
Sudbury			
General Market 2420 *u*	Sudbury Corpn. ..	Thurs., Sat.	General retail produce.
**Auction 250 *c* 1800 *u*	Boardman & Oliver, Sudbury	Thurs. ..	Livestock. Butter, eggs and poultry.
***Auction 280 *c* 900 *u*	Hills and Warren, Sudbury	Thurs. ..	Livestock. Fruit, veg. and poultry (wholesale and retail). Corn, hay and straw (wholesale). Dairy produce and eggs (retail).
Corn Exchange 300 *c*	Sudbury Corn Exchange Co., Ltd.	Thurs. ..	Corn, hay and straw.
SURREY			
Chertsey			
Market (Held in Street) *u*	Feoffees of Chertsey Market	Sat. ..	General retail produce.
Croydon			
***Cattle Market 285 *c* (*Public Slaughterhouse*) 2925 *u*	W. H. Still, Addington	Thurs. ..	Livestock (chiefly auction).

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Croydon—*cont.*			
Market Hall 619 *c*	Agents: F. W. Rees and Partners, 44, Park Lane, Croydon	Daily ..	General retail produce.
Hide and Skin Market	Charles Potter & Sons South Norwood	Daily ..	Hides and skins.
Dorking			
***Market 311 *c* (*d.w.*) 1793 *u*	Dorking U.D.C. .. (2 *a.l.* & *p.*)	Mon. ..	Livestock, egg, fruit and poultry auction. Corn.†
Epsom			
Market 600 *u*	Trustees of the late James Stuart Strange	Sat. ..	General retail produce.
Farnham			
***Auction 366 *c* 3970 *u*	Hewett & Lee, Farnham	Mon. ..	Livestock. Dairy produce, eggs and poultry. Corn.†
Guildford			
**Cattle Market (*d.w.*) 912 *c* 20868 *u*	Guildford Corpn. (5 *a.l.* & 1 *a.p.*‡)	Tues. ..	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock. Dairy produce, egg, fruit, veg. and poultry auction.
Corn Exchange 480 *c*	,, ,, ..	Tues. ..	Corn, hay and straw.
		Annually in June	Wool auction.
General Market 270 *u*	,, ,, ..	Fri., Sat...	Retail fish, fruit, veg. and meat.
Holmwood			
***Auction 100 *c* 4840 *u*	(Messrs.) Crow, Dorking	Bi-annually May and Sept.	Livestock and poultry.
Horley			
***Auction 370 *c* 14520 *u*	Baker and Baker, Horley	Wed. ..	Livestock. Dairy produce, eggs and poultry.
Kingston-upon-Thames			
**Cattle Market (*d.w.*) 100 *c* 4740 *u*	Kingston-upon-Thames Corpn. (2 *a.l.* & 1 *a. poultry*)	Mon. ..	Livestock and poultry auction. Private treaty sales of horses. Corn.†
General Market 2020 *u*	,, ,, ..	Daily ..	General retail produce.
General Market (Town Hall) 266 *c*	,, ,, ..	Sat. ..	Retail produce (chiefly meat).

‡ Folker and Horton, registered packers under National Mark Egg Scheme.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Oxted			
***Auction 85 *c* 698 *u*	R. Collyer Hamlin & Co., Oxted	Tues. ..	Livestock. Butter, eggs and poultry.
Redhill			
***Cattle Market 330 *c* 2670 *u*	Redhill Market Hall Co., Ltd.	Mon. ..	Livestock and poultry auction.
Corn Market 111 *c*	,, ,, ..	Mon. ..	Corn.
SUSSEX, EAST			
Battle			
**Auction 350 *c* 5320 *u*	J. Woodhams & Son, Battle	Alt. Mon... Mon. ..	Livestock. Butter, fruit, veg., and poultry. Corn.†
Brighton			
Fish Market 522 *c* 683 *u*	Brighton Corpn. ..	Daily ..	Auction and private treaty sales of fish.
Fruit & Vegetable Market 1956 *c* 3266 *u*	,, ,, ..	Daily (chiefly Tues., Thurs., Sat.)	Fruit, flowers, veg., eggs (chiefly wholesale).
General Market 949 *c* & *u* (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	,, ,, ..	Daily ..	Retail fruit, veg., and general.
Chiddingly			
***Auction 2500 *u*	A. Burtenshaw and Son, Hailsham	5 sales annually—Apr., May, July, Oct. and Nov.	Store cattle and sheep.
Dallington			
***Auction 4840 *u*	,, ,,	3 sales annually—Apr., July and Oct.	Cattle and sheep.
Eastbourne			
Fish Market 204 *c*	Eastbourne Corpn.	Daily ..	Fish.
East Grinstead			
**Auction 480 *c* 1694 *u*	Turner, Rudge and Turner, East Grinstead	Thurs. ..	Livestock, eggs and poultry. Corn.†
Groombridge			
***Auction 100 *c* 1900 *u*	R. N. G. Ashby, Tunbridge Wells	Alt. Mon...	Livestock and poultry.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of Market.
Hailsham			
**Auction 250 *c*	Hailsham Cattle Market Co. (Lessees: A. Burtenshaw & Son, Hailsham)	Alt. Wed.	Livestock.
10000 *u*		Wed. ..	Dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg., and poultry.
Corn Market 96 *c*	The Tenant, Crown Hotel, Hailsham	Alt. Wed.	Corn.
Hastings			
Fish Market 500 *c* 833 *u*	Hastings Corpn. ..	Daily ..	Fish.
Corn Market 267 *c*	,, ,, ..	Sat. ..	Corn.
Haywards Heath			
**Auction 1015 *c*	T. Bannister & Co., Haywards Heath	Tues. ..	Livestock, eggs and poultry.
(*d.w.*) 2860 *u*			
Corn Market 122 *c*	The Tenant, Goldings Hotel, Haywards Heath	Tues.	Corn.
Heathfield			
***Auction 815 *c*	E. Watson and Sons,‡ Heathfield	Tues. ..	Livestock.
1000 *u*			Dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg. and poultry (wholesale and retail).
			Corn.†
Herstmonceux			
***Auction 4000 *u*	A. Burtenshaw and Son, Hailsham	Bi-annually —Apr. and Oct.	Store cattle and sheep.
Lewes			
Corn Exchange 469 *c*	Lewes Corpn. .. (Lessees for Wool Sale: A. Burtenshaw and Son, Hailsham)	Tues. .. Annually in July	Corn. Wool Auction.
**Cattle Market (*d.w.*) 1100 *c* 5310 *u*	Lewes Cattle Market Co. (Lessees: J. R. Thornton and Co., Lewes)	Mon. ..	Livestock, butter, egg and poultry auction. Corn.
**Auction 9680 *u*	J. R. Thornton and Co., Lewes	July, Aug. and Sept.	Sheep.
General Market 100 *c*	East Sussex Federation of Women's Institutes	Tues. ..	Retail produce.
Northiam			
**Auction 146 *c*	Howse and Co., Northiam	Alt. Wed.	Livestock.
3000 *u*			Dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg., hay, straw and poultry.
			Corn.†

‡ Registered packers (in conjunction with Heathfield and District Poultry Keepers' Assocn., Ltd.), under National Mark Egg Scheme.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Pevensey			
***Market 3630 *u*	Pevensey Town Trust (Lessees: A. Burtenshaw and Son, Hailsham)	Alt. Thurs. May to Dec.	Cattle and sheep auction.
Robertsbridge			
***Auction 60 *c*	E. S. Mills and Son, Sandhurst, Kent	Alt. Mon...	Livestock.
4780 *u*			Corn.†
***Auction 160 *c*	W. Tibbits, Tonbridge, Kent	Alt. Mon...	Butter, eggs, fruit, veg. and poultry.
2420 *u*		Periodically during Spring and Autumn	Store cattle and sheep.
Rye			
**Cattle Market 280 *c*	Rye Cattle Market Co., Ltd.	Alt. Wed.	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock.
18720 *u*			Eggs, fruit, veg., hay, straw and poultry auction.
			Corn.
Uckfield			
***Auction 1250 *u*	C. J. Parris, Tunbridge Wells, Kent	Wed. ..	Livestock.
			Eggs, potatoes and poultry.
			Corn.†
Wadhurst			
***Auction 2420 *u*	E. Watson and Sons, Wadhurst	Mon. ..	Livestock.
			Dairy and farm produce, eggs, and poultry.
SUSSEX, WEST			
Angmering			
Auction 190 *c*	Angmering & Southdown Market, Ltd.	Tues. ..	Eggs, fruit, veg. and poultry.
15730 *u*			
Barnham			
**Auction 1870 *c*	Stride and Son, Chichester	Mon. ..	Livestock.
(*d.w.*) 10230 *u*		Horses: Annually in Spring	Butter, eggs and poultry.
			Fruit and veg. (wholesale and retail).
			Corn(private treaty).
Chichester			
Butter Market 550 *c*	Chichester Corpn.	Daily ..	Retail produce.
**Cattle Market (2 *d.w.*) 5164 *c*	,, ,, .. (2 *a.l.* & 1 *a.p.*)	Alt. Wed.	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock. Butter egg and poultry auction.
21329 *u*			
Corn Exchange 471 *c*	Chichester Corn Exchange, Ltd.	Wed. ..	Corn, hay and straw.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Crawley			
Auction 50 *c* 600 *u*	C. F. Taylor, Crawley.	Alt. Fri. ..	Dairy produce, fruit veg. and poultry.
Horsham			
***Market 260 *c* 7000 *u*	Horsham Market Co., Ltd.	Wed. ..	Livestock, butter, egg, fruit, veg. and poultry auction. Corn.
Petworth			
***Auction 12100 *u*	Newland, Tompkins and Taylor, Petworth	Bi-annually —May and Oct.	Livestock and poultry.
Pulborough			
***Auction 300 *c* 1000 *u*	Pulborough Stock Market Committee	Alt. Mon...	Cattle, calves and sheep.
Auction 200 *c*	Newland, Tompkins and Taylor, Pulborough	Alt. Mon...	Butter, eggs, fruit, veg. and poultry.
***Auction 100 *u*	,, ,,	Alt. Mon...	Pigs.
Steyning			
**Auction 240 *c* 1155 *u*	H. J. Burt & Son, Steyning	Fat: Wed. Store and Horses: Alt. Wed.	Livestock. Butter, eggs, fruit, veg. and poultry. Corn (private treaty)
WILTSHIRE			
Calne			
***Cattle Market (2 *d.w.*) 500 *c* 6548 *u*	Calne Corpn. .. (2 *a.l.*)	3rd Mon. each month	Auction & occas'l private treaty sales of livestock. Poultry auction.
Corn Exchange 30 *c*	,, ,, ..	3rd Mon. each month	Corn.
General Market 1245 *u*	,, ,, ..	Sat. ..	General retail produce.
Chippenham			
**Cattle Market (*d.w.*) 968 *c* 3872 *u*	Chippenham Corpn. (3 *a.l.*)	Alt. Fri. ..	Livestock and poultry auction.
Corn Exchange 100 *c*	,, ,, ..	Fri. ..	Corn, hay and straw
General Market (Held in Street) *u*	,, ,, .. (2 *a.p.*)	Fri. ..	Retail dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg. and poultry. Egg and poultry auction.
Cricklade			
***Cattle Market 3000 *u*	Cricklade Market Committee .. (3 *a.l.*)	3rd Tues. each month	Livestock and poultry auction.
Devizes			
**Cattle Market (Held on Market Place) 500 *u*	Devizes Corpn. .. (2 *a.l.*)	Thurs. ..	Livestock, egg and poultry auction. Auction and private treaty sales of horses.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Devizes—*cont.*			
Corn Exchange 560 *c*	Devizes Corpn. ..	Thurs. ..	Corn.
	Wool Auction: (*a*) Lavington and Hooper, Marlborough. (*b*) T. H. S. Ferris & Son, Devizes	2nd week in July	Wool auction.
Market House 830 *c*	Devizes Corpn. ..	Thurs. ..	Retail merchandise.
Market Place 2420 *u*	,, ,, ..	Thurs. ..	Retail produce.
***Auction 900 *u*	Lavington & Hooper, Devizes	Thurs. ..	Cattle, sheep and horses.
Malmesbury			
***Cattle Market 4300 *u*	Malmesbury Corpn. (2 *a.l.*)	Last Wed. each month	Livestock and poultry auction.
			Auction and private treaty sales of horses.
General Market 5740 *u*	,, ,, ..	Wed. ..	General retail produce.
Marlborough			
**Auction 150 *c* 1060 *u*	Lavington & Hooper, Marlborough	2nd Tues. each month during Spring and Autumn	Livestock.
		2nd Wed. in July.	Wool.
Melksham			
***Market 4305 *u*	Melksham U.D.C. .. (2 *a.l.*)	Alt. Tues.	Calf and poultry auction.
Pewsey			
***Auction 2420 *u*	C. R. Y. King, Pewsey	1st Wed. each month	Livestock and poultry.
Salisbury			
*Livestock and General Market 7000 *u*	Salisbury Corpn. .. (2 *a.l.*)	Tues. ..	Auction and private treaty sales of calves, pigs, sheep and poultry.
		Tues., Sat.	General retail produce. Fruit and veg. (chiefly retail)
Corn Market 2178 *c*	Salisbury Railway & Market House Co.	Tues. ..	Corn.
	Wool Sale: Woolley & Wallis, and J Jeffery & Son, Salisbury	Annually in July	Wool (auction).
***Auction 300 *c* (Central Repository) (*d.w.*)	J. Jeffery and Son, Salisbury	Tues. ..	Cattle (chiefly fat) and calves.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Salisbury—*cont.*			
***Auction (Canal Mart) 200 *c* 400 *u*	Knapman, Lawes and Bament, Salisbury	Tues. .. Horses: Periodically	Livestock, butter, eggs and poultry.
***Auction (Castle Mart) 800 *c* 130 *u*	Woolley and Wallis, Salisbury	Tues. ..	Cattle (chiefly dairy and store).
Auction 180 *c*	,, ,,	Tues. ..	Eggs, butter and veg.
Hide and Skin Market	Ware Bros., Ltd., Salisbury	Tues. ..	Hides and skins.
Savernake			
***Auction 20 *c* 2420 *u*	Vines and Pinniger, Burbage	3rd Wed. each month 1st Wed. each month	Cattle, sheep and pigs. Calves.
Swindon			
General Market 2134 *c*	Swindon Corpn. ..	Daily (chiefly Fri. and Sat.)	General retail produce.
**Cattle Market (*d.w.*) 150 *c* 9450 *u*	Swindon Central Market Co., Ltd. (Part leased by Fielder & Tuckett, Swindon)	Mon. ..	Auction sales of livestock, butter, eggs and poultry.
Corn Exchange 400 *c*	Swindon Central Market Co., Ltd.	Mon. ..	Corn.
Wool Sale 300 *c*	Augustus A. Hart, Swindon	Annually in June or July	Wool auction.
Trowbridge			
**Cattle Market (*d.w.*) 1544 *c* 7512 *u*	Trowbridge U.D.C. (2 *a.l.* & 2 *a.l.* & *p.*)	Alt. Tues.	Livestock, dairy produce, eggs, hay, straw and poultry auction. Corn, fruit and veg.
Market House 870 *c*	,, ,, ..	Alt. Tues.	Retail plants and misc. goods.
Warminster			
**Market 1157 *c* 6490 *u*	Warminster U.D.C. (2 *a.l.* & 2 *a.p.*)	Alt. Mon.. :	Livestock, dairy produce, egg, fruit, veg., hay, straw and poultry auction. Corn.
Wootton Bassett			
***Market 4500 *u*	Wootton Bassett Town Trust (4 *a.l.*)	1st Wed. each month	Livestock and poultry auction. General retail produce.

APPENDIX III.

Agricultural Fairs in the Eastern and Southern Counties.

* Held on same day as usual market.
** No other market or sales of the same character held.
† Fair practically extinct, or business decreasing to a marked extent.
‡ Annual sale resembling a fair.

(This table is compiled from information furnished to the Ministry from various sources regarding the Fairs enumerated.)

Location.	Approximate Date.	Type.
Berkshire		
†East Ilsley ..	Aug. 1st	Sheep, a few Cattle.
	Aug. 27th ..	
†Faringdon	*1st Tues. in Oct. ..	Horses.
Buckinghamshire		
†**Amersham ..	Whit. Mon.	Horses, Cattle, Sheep.
Aylesbury	*2nd Sat. in May	Cattle, Sheep, Horses.
	*3rd Sat. in June	
	*4th Sat. in Sept.	
	*2nd Sat. in Oct. ..	
	3rd Wed. in June.. ..	Wool.
Buckingham ..	*1st Sat. in Sept.	Sheep.
	1st Mon. in Oct.	Dairy Cattle.
†**Chesham	Apr. 21st	Cattle, Horses.
	July 22nd (Cherry Fair)	
	Sept. 28th.. ..	
†Great Marlow ..	Oct. 29th and 30th ..	Horses.
Cornwall		
**Blisland	1st Mon. after Sept. 22nd. (St. Pratt's Fair)	Livestock (mainly Sheep and Cattle).
**Boscastle ..	Aug. 5th	Cattle, Sheep, Pigs.
	Nov. 22nd ..	
Helston	Whit. Mon. ..	Cattle, Sheep, Horses, Produce.
	July 20th	
	Sept. 9th	
†**Marazion	Michaelmas Day ..	Horses.
†**Mitchell	3rd Mon. in May ..	Cattle, Pigs.
	3rd Mon. in Oct.	
Roche	Wed. before Ascension Day	Livestock, Produce.
	3rd Tues. in July	
	2nd Tues. in Oct.	
St. Germans ..	Mon. nearest May 28th ..	Livestock, Produce.
**St. Lawrence ..	Aug. 22nd.. ..	Horses, a few Cattle.
	Oct. 31st	
**Stoke Climsland ..	3rd Mon. in May	Livestock.
†**Summercourt	Sept. 25th..	Ponies.
†**Trewen	1st Mon. in Oct.	Sheep, Cattle.
Devonshire		
Ashburton ..	1st Thurs. in Mar.	Store Cattle and Sheep, Pigs.
	1st Thurs. in June	
	1st Thurs. in Aug.	
	1st Thurs. in Nov.	

Location.	Approximate Date.	Type.
Devonshire—*cont.*		
Axminster	1st Tues. after April 25th 1st Wed. after Oct. 10th	Livestock.
Bampton	Last Thurs. in Oct.	Exmoor Ponies, Sheep, Cattle, Horses.
Barnstaple	Wed. before Sept. 20th Thurs. before Sept. 20th	Sheep, Cattle. Horses.
**Bratton Fleming	Aug. 19th (day after if date falls on Sunday)	Sheep, Cattle.
Bridestowe	1st Wed. in June	Cattle, Sheep, Pigs.
**Burrington	1st Mon. after Trinity	Cattle, Sheep, Pigs.
Chulmleigh	*Last Wed. in July	Breeding Ewes, Cattle, Horses.
**Churchinford	Last Mon. in Jan. Last Mon. in April Last Mon. in Aug.	Sheep, Cattle, a few Horses.
Crediton	Sat. before last Wed. in Apr. 1st Tues. after Aug. 22nd	Cattle, Sheep. Sheep, Cattle.
Cullompton	*1st Wed. in May *1st Wed. in Nov.	Livestock
**Culmstock	Mon. before May 24th	Cattle, Sheep.
**Dunsford	‡Mon. after 2nd Sun. in Sept.	Livestock.
Exeter	2nd Wed. in Dec.	Cattle, Sheep.
Great Torrington	1st Thurs. in May	Cattle, Sheep.
Hatherleigh	*3rd Tues. in May *3rd Tues. in June *1st Tues. in Sept. *2nd Tues. in Nov.	Livestock.
**Haytor Vale (Ilsington)	‡3rd Thurs. in Aug.	Store Sheep.
**High Bickington	1st Mon. after May 14th	Sheep, Cattle, Pigs.
Holsworthy	Tues., Wed. and Thurs. after July 9th (St. Peter's Fair)	Livestock, Produce.
Honiton	1st Wed. after July 19th	Livestock.
Kingsbridge	1st Thurs, after July 20th	Sheep, Cattle, Horses.
Modbury	May 4th (if date falls on a Tues., Wed. or Thurs. fair held following Tues.)	Livestock.
†Morchard Bishop	1st Mon. after Sept. 9th	Cattle, Sheep, Pigs.
Newton Abbot	*Wed. before Sept. 11th	Livestock.
North Tawton	3rd Tues. in April 2nd Tues. in Oct. 1st Tues. in Dec.	Livestock.
Okehampton	1st Tues. after Mar. 19th	Livestock (mainly Cattle and Horses).
	‡2nd Tues. in Oct.	Dartmoor Ponies.
**Princetown	‡1st Wed. in Sept.	Livestock (mainly Cattle and Horses).
**Sampford Peverell	Mon. before last Wed. in Apr.	Livestock (mainly Cattle).

Location.	Approximate Date.	Type.
Devonshire—*cont.*		
**Sandford ..	1st Mon. after July 26th	Cattle, Sheep, Pigs.
**Sidbury	Wed. before Sept 20th	Livestock, Produce.
**Sourton	‡3rd Thurs. in Sept. ..	Breeding Ewes, Store Cattle.
South Brent ..	Last Tues. in April Last Tues. in Sept.	Livestock.
South Molton ..	3rd Wed. in June.. Last Wed. in Aug.	Sheep, a few Cattle.
**Stockland ..	In June (date fixed annually)	Cattle, Pigs.
Totnes	*3rd Tues. in May *3rd Tues. in Oct.	Livestock.
**Widecombe-in-the-Moor	2nd Tues. in Sept. ..	Sheep.
Winkleigh ..	1st Mon. after July 8th 1st Wed. in Oct. (or day after if date clashes with any other market in district).	Livestock.
Dorset		
**Beaminster.. ..	2nd Tues. in May.. 3rd Tues. in Sept.	Livestock (mainly Sheep).
Blandford	A Thurs. early in Mar. ..	Sheep, Cattle.
	A Thurs. early in July A Thurs. early in Aug. A Thurs. early in Sept. A Thurs. early in Oct. A Thurs. early in Nov.	Sheep.
	A Thurs. early in July ..	Wool.
Dorchester ..	Feb. 14th (Candlemas Fair)	Cattle, Sheep, Horses.
	3rd Thurs. in May July 6th .. .. Aug. 6th .. .. Aug. 28th .. Oct. 25th ..	Sheep.
**Maiden Newton ..	1st Thurs. in Mar. 1st Thurs. in May 1st Thurs. in Oct.	Store Cattle, a few Sheep and Pigs.
**Martinstown ..	Nov. 23rd	Sheep, Horses.
**Poundbury ..	‡Last Thurs. in Sept. ..	Sheep.
Sherborne ..	July 26th	Sheep, Calves, Cattle, Pigs.
	Oct. 15th (Pack Monday Fair)	Sheep, Cattle, Horses.
Wareham	*3rd Thurs. in April *2nd Thurs. in Sept.	Cattle, Calves, Pigs, Produce.
**Wool	May 14th	Livestock (mainly Cattle).
**Yetminster ..	1st Wed. after April 20th	Store Cattle, Pigs.
Essex		
**Great Bentley ..	‡2nd Thurs. in July ..	Lambs (mainly Suffolks).

Location.	Approximate Date.	Type.
Hampshire		
**Alresford	Last Thurs. in July ..	Store Sheep and Lambs, a few Store Cattle.
Andover	Nov. 17th	Sheep, Lambs, Cattle.
†**Blackwater.. ..	Nov. 9th and 10th ..	Horses.
**Lyndhurst ..	Aug. 9th	New Forest Ponies.
**Overton	July 18th	Sheep and Lambs.
Petersfield ..	Oct. 6th	Horses, Sheep, Cattle.
†Ringwood	July 10th	Horses.
	Dec. 11th	New Forest Ponies, Horses, Dairy Cattle.
†Southampton ..	‡Trinity Monday ..	Horses.
**Stockbridge ..	July 10th ..	Sheep, a few Cattle.
**Weyhill	2nd Thurs. in Apr.	Sheep, Cattle, Horses.
	Last Fri. in July ..	
	Oct. 10th ..	
	‡May 18th	
Wickham	May 20th	Livestock (mainly Cattle).
Winchester ..	Oct. 23rd	Sheep, Cattle, Horses.
Isle of Wight		
Newport	‡In May (2 annual sales)	Livestock.
	‡In Oct. (2 annual sales)	
	In July	Wool.
Hertfordshire		
Barnet	Sept. 4th, 5th, 6th ..	Livestock (mainly Horses and Cattle).
Royston	*First Wed. after Oct. 11th	Cattle, Horses.
Kent.		
**Benenden	May 15th	Sheep, Cattle, a few Horses.
**Biddenden ..	Nov. 8th	Cattle, Sheep, a few Horses.
	‡1st Thurs. in Nov. ..	Cattle, Sheep.
Frindsbury ..	Apr. 16th (Strood Fair) ..	Store Sheep, Cattle, Horses.
**Grove Ferry ..	‡1st Fri. in May	Cattle.
Ham Street.. ..	Last Thursday in Aug. ..	Sheep, Lambs, a few Store Cattle.
**Hollingbourne ..	‡1st Fri. in Nov.	Store Sheep and Cattle, a few Horses.
**Horsmonden ..	July 26th	Store Sheep and Lambs.
	Oct. 10th	Sheep, a few Cattle.
**Lamberhurst ..	Apr. 6th	Sheep, Cattle.
Maidstone	Feb. 13th ..	Store Sheep and Cattle, Horses, Produce.
	May 12th	
	June 20th	
	Oct. 17th ..	

Location.	Approximate Date.	Type.
Kent—*cont.*		
**New Romney ..	Aug. 21st (held following Mon. if date falls on a Sat.)	Sheep, a few Cattle.
Rochester (*see* Frindsbury)	——	——
**Sandhurst	May 25th	Cattle, Sheep.
Strood (*see* Frindsbury)	——	——
**Tenterden	1st Mon. in May .. } 1st Fri. in Sept. }	Sheep, Cattle, a few Horses.
Tonbridge	Last Fri. in Oct. ..	Store Cattle and Sheep.
Upstreet (*see* Grove Ferry)	——	——
**West Malling ..	Nov. 17th	Sheep, Store Cattle, Horses.
**Wye..	‡1st Thurs. in Sept. ..	Sheep.
Middlesex		
There are no agricultural fairs existent in Middlesex.		
Norfolk		
**Briston	‡Last Thurs. in May ..	Sheep, Cattle.
†**Downham Market ..	Mar. 1st, 2nd and 3rd. (Winnold Fair) } *1st Fri. in May .. } *2nd Fri. in Nov. .. }	Horses, Cattle.
**Hempton	1st Wed. in Sept. (Kipton Fair)	Sheep (mainly Rams and Breeding Ewes).
†Holt	*Fri. after Apr. 25th ..	Livestock (mainly a few Pigs and Poultry).
**Ingham	Trinity Mon.	Livestock (mainly Cattle), Implements, Produce.
King's Lynn ..	*2nd Tues. in Apr. ..	Sheep.
	*2nd Tues. in Nov. ..	Stofe Cattle.
**Melton Constable ..	‡1st Fri. in July	Lambs, Ewes.
Methwold	April 23rd	Livestock, Produce, Implements.
Norwich	Thurs. before Easter Sunday (Tombland Fair)	Livestock.
†**Stow Bardolph ..	Sat. after Whitsun ..	Horses, Cattle.
Somerset		
†**Ashcott	Jan. 9th	Cattle.
**Axbridge	Feb. 2nd (Candlemas Fair) } Mar. 25th (Ladyday Fair) }	Livestock.
**Backwell	Sept. 21st (or following Mon. if date falls on Sat. or Sunday).	Sheep, Horses.
†**Banwell	Jan. 18th	Livestock (mainly Cattle)
**Binegar	Whit. Tues.	Horses, Cattle.

Location.	Approximate Date.	Type.
Somerset—*cont.*		
Bridgwater ..	*Last Wed. in June ..	Horses.
	*Last Wed. in Sept. (St. Matthew's Fair) ..	Sheep, Horses, Cattle.
Chard	1st Wed. in May ..	Livestock (mainly Sheep).
	1st Wed. in Aug. 1st Wed. in Nov.	Livestock, Produce.
Cheddar	1st Tues. in Oct. ..	Sheep, Cattle.
Congresbury ..	1st Mon. after Sept. 8th	Livestock.
Crewkerne ..	Sept. 4th (day after if date falls on Sunday)	Sheep, Cattle.
**Cross	‡1st Fri. in Sept.	Sheep, Cattle, Horses.
Cutcombe	Thurs. after Sept. 15th ..	Sheep.
Frome	*Last Wed. in Feb. ..	Livestock.
	*Last Wed. in Nov. ..	Cattle, Horses.
Glastonbury ..	2nd Mon. in Sept. (Tor Fair)	Sheep, Horses, Cattle.
**Hinton St. George	Apr. 23rd	Livestock (mainly Cattle and Sheep).
Ilminster	Last Wed. in Aug. ..	Livestock (mainly Sheep and Cattle).
King's Brompton ..	3rd Thurs. in Oct. ..	Livestock (mainly Sheep and Cattle).
†Langport	Sept. 3rd.	Horses.
**Priddy	3rd Tues. in Aug. ..	Sheep, a few Store Cattle, Horses.
**Shipham	Last Wednesday in April Nov. 17th ..	Sheep, Cattle. Horses, Implements.
**Simonsbath ..	‡1st Tues. after Barnstaple Fair	Livestock (mainly Sheep), Produce.
**Ubley	Sept. 4th or following Mon. when date falls on Sat. or Sunday.	Sheep, Cattle, Horses (occasionally).
†**Wellow	Oct. 17th	Sheep, a few Cattle.
Wells	*1st Tues. in Jan... *1st Tues. in Nov... *1st Tues. in Dec.	Livestock.
**Westonzoyland ..	2nd Fri. in Sept... ..	Cattle, Horses.
**Winsford	‡3rd Mon. in Aug. ..	Sheep (Pedigree Exmoor Horns).
Yeovil	*Last Fri. in June *3rd Fri. in Nov. ..	Livestock, Produce.
Suffolk (East)		
**Bungay	May 14th	Horses, Cattle.
Halesworth ..	‡2nd Mon. in July ..	Lambs, Ewes.
Ipswich	*1st Tues. in May .. *3rd Tues. in May (Handford Fair)	Livestock.
	‡1st Wed. in Aug. ..	Ewes, Lambs.
	‡1st Thurs. in Aug. ..	Rams.
	‡1st Fri. in Sept.	Rams, Ewes.
	‡Aug. 22nd..	Sheep.
	In June	Wool.

Location.	Approximate Date.	Type.
Suffolk (East)—*cont.*		
**Kesgrave	‡3rd Thurs. in July	Lambs, Sheep.
**Melton	‡1st Fri. in July (Sutton lamb sale)	Lambs.
Saxmundham	‡3rd Fri. in July	Lambs.
Stowmarket	‡1st Fri. in July	Lambs, Ewes.
Sutton (*See* Melton)	—	—
Suffolk (West).		
**Barnham	‡1st Mon. in July	Lambs.
Bury St. Edmunds	1st Tues. in Sept. (Horringer Fair)	Sheep.
Hadleigh	‡1st Thurs. in July	Lambs.
Haverhill	‡2nd Mon. in July	Sheep, Lambs.
**Long Melford	Thurs. after Whitsun	Horses.
Newmarket	‡2nd Fri. in Aug.	Sheep and Lambs (mainly pedigree Suffolks).
Surrey.		
Guildford	May 4th Nov. 22nd	Cattle, Sheep, Horses.
Kingston-upon-Thames	Nov. 13th	Horses.
Sussex (East)		
**Burwash	May 12th	Cattle, Sheep, Horses.
**Cross-in-Hand	Nov. 19th	Cattle.
**Crowborough	Apr. 25th	Store Cattle and Sheep, Horses.
†East Grinstead	Apr. 21st Dec. 11th	Cattle, Horses.
Heathfield	Apr. 14th (Cuckoo Fair)	Store Cattle, Sheep, Horses.
Lewes	‡May 6th	Store Cattle, Sheep, Horses.
**Mayfield	May 30th Nov. 13th	Livestock (mainly Cattle).
Northiam	3rd Thurs. in Apr.	Sheep, Cattle, Horses.
	Last Fri. in Aug.	Sheep.
	Last Fri. in Oct.	Sheep, Cattle, Horses.
Robertsbridge	Sept. 25th.	Sheep, Cattle.
**Rotherfield	June 18th Oct. 20th	Livestock (mainly Cattle).
Uckfield	May 14th	Store Cattle, Sheep, Horses.
Sussex (West)		
**Crawley	May 8th Sept. 9th	Cattle, Sheep, Pigs.
**Findon	July 12th	Lambs.
	Sept. 14th.	Sheep.
**Loxwood	2nd Thurs. in May	Livestock.
Steyning	Oct. 11th	Cattle, Sheep, Horses.
	‡2nd Fri. in Feb.	Horses.

Location.	Approximate Date.	Type.
Wiltshire		
**Box (Kingsdown) ..	Nearest Wed. to Sept. 20th	Sheep.
**Britford	Aug. 12th	Store Sheep, Cattle, Horses.
Devizes	Feb. 14th	Cattle.
	Apr. 20th ..	Livestock.
	Oct. 20th ..	
	2nd Tues. in July ..	Wool.
Marlborough ..	Aug. 22nd	Livestock (mainly Sheep).
	Nov. 23rd	
Salisbury	July 15th	Sheep (a few Cattle and Horses occasionally).
	Nov. 1st	
**Tan Hill	Aug. 6th	Sheep, a few Store Cattle, Horses.
Warminster ..	Apr. 22nd ..	Sheep, Cattle, Calves, Pigs.
	Oct. 26th ..	
**Westbury	1st Tues. in Sept. ..	Sheep, a few Cattle, Horses.
**Wilton	May 4th (St. George's Fair)	Sheep Cattle, a few Horses.
	Sept. 12th (St. Giles' Fair)	
**Wylye (Yarnborough Castle)	Oct. 4th	Sheep, a few Cattle, Horses.

APPENDIX IV.

Statement showing the Live Stock Markets and Auctions and Fairs in the Eastern and Southern Counties arranged according to the total number of Cattle, Calves, Sheep and Pigs passing through each during a recent typical year. Where there are two or more Live Stock Markets or Auctions in a town, the total numbers of the various classes of Live Stock passing through all the Markets is given. Where Fairs are held at market centres the figures are shewn separately in italics; the figures in respect of Fairs not held at market centres are given on page 220 *et seq.*

Market Town.	Frequency.	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Total.
Norwich ...	Weekly ..	80,000	4,800	51,000	32,000	168,250
		410	*10*	—	*30*	
Ashford ...	„ ...	5,140	6,180	99,840	31,930	143,090
Kings Lynn ...	„ ...	28,420	2,050	67,580	37,000	139,760
		710	—	*4,000*	—	
Ipswich ...	„ ...	24,430	4,860	43,200	42,940	128,390
		2,260	—	*2,880*	*1,720*	
	Special annual sale ...	—	—	*6,100*	—	
Islington (London)*..	Twice weekly ..	16,990	20	92,860	—	109,870
Bury St. Edmund's	Weekly ...	12,000	540	49,180	36,000	104,300
		—	—	*6,580*	—	
Exeter ...	„ ...	22,950	6,150	54,960	3,840	89,100
		400	—	*800*	—	
Salisbury ...	„ ...	9,040	11,780	34,080	20,050	88,970
		20	—	*14,000*	—	
Maidstone ...	„ ...	4,500	2,420	38,800	20,000	86,180
		2,600	—	*17,860*	—	
Dorchester ...	Twice weekly ...	10,550	12,120	19,780	14,370	83,680
		330	—	*26,530*	—	
Bridgwater ...	Weekly ...	8,300	6,000	42,500	15,500	78,120
		30	*120*	*5,670*	—	
Canterbury ...	Weekly (Store) Fortnightly (Fat)	5,350	2,380	40,000	16,700	64,430
Chelmsford ...	Weekly ...	14,760	4,510	18,000	25,000	62,270
Stowmarket ...	Weekly ...	4,090	1,200	780	47,300	60,370
	Special annual sale	—	—	*7,000*	—	
Reading ...	Twice weekly ...	30,000	4,500	16,000	9,000	59,500
Yeovil ...	Fortnightly ...	8,310	6,550	23,150	18,300	57,620
		510	—	*800*	—	
Chichester ...	Fortnightly ...	15,040	5,500	28,430	8,450	57,420
Lewes ...	Weekly ...	5,350	7,420	10,790	14,500	56,850
		450	—	*180*	*20*	
	Special annual sale ...	—	—	*18,140*	—	
Guildford ...	Weekly ...	6,750	5,760	16,280	26,630	55,590
		170	—	—	—	

* Islington will be described, together with other London Markets, in a subsequent Report.

Market Town.	Frequency.	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Total.
Rye	Fortnightly ...	1,600	720	51,200	1,350	54,870
Truro ...	Weekly ...	14,300	4,500	21,000	13,230	53,030
Wimborne ...	,, ...	3,300	8,650	22,000	18,000	51,950
Aylesbury ...	Twice weekly ...	10,890	2,160	26,470	8,000	47,990
		370	—	*100*	—	
Colchester ...	Weekly ...	6,050	2,800	11,370	26,730	46,950
Barnham ...	,, ...	4,330	3,690	30,000	8,500	46,520
Sandwich ...	Fortnightly ...	3,340	2,210	22,410	17,370	45,330
Diss	Weekly ...	3,470	1,550	28,560	11,500	45,080
Newton Abbot	,, ...	6,610	4,620	21,980	10,120	44,070
		100	*100*	*350*	*190*	
Lyminge ...	,, ...	2,200	800	34,600	4,000	41,600
Romford ...	,, ...	8,000	3,000	16,000	13,500	40,500
Halesworth ...	Fortnightly ...	2,580	2,090	8,650	19,230	39,550
	Special annual sale	—	—	*7,000*	—	
Tonbridge ...	Weekly ...	4,460	3,020	18,550	10,970	38,480
		300	—	*1,180*	—	
Rochester (including Frindsbury)	,, ...	3,040	1,350	20,810	9,050	37,550
		300	—	*3,000*	—	
Newport (Isle of Wight)	,, ...	900	6,500	4,500	22,250	36,950
		700	*100*	*1,000*	*1,000*	
Helston ...	,, ...	9,350	5,800	400	20,870	36,920
		300	—	*200*	—	
Hamstreet ...	2 or 3 times annually	940	10	24,900	—	36,870
		20	—	*11,000*	—	
Basingstoke	Weekly ...	5,590	5,350	7,310	14,750	33,000
Sparkford ...	Fortnightly ...	2,000	7,500	10,000	13,000	32,500
Winchester ...	Weekly ...	890	6,560	7,530	9,730	30,210
		500	—	*5,000*	—	
Steyning ...	Weekly (Fat) ...	4,000	4,430	10,380	8,500	27,860
	Fortnightly (Store)	*450*	—	*100*	—	
Sturminster Newton	Fortnightly ...	4,380	7,650	3,500	12,280	27,810
Hitchin ...	Weekly ...	3,750	1,800	11,850	9,000	26,400
Farrington Gurney	,, ...	3,000	8,500	5,000	9,500	26,000
Abingdon ...	,, ...	1,800	3,600	10,000	10,500	25,900
Sittingbourne	Fortnightly ...	1,870	650	12,000	10,750	25,270
Taunton ...	Weekly ...	4,250	5,500	12,290	2,930	24,970
Kentisbury (Blackmoor Gate)	Fortnightly ...	1,550	340	22,750	250	24,890
Fareham ...	Weekly ...	690	3,530	9,090	11,060	24,370
Watton ...	Weekly (Fat) ...	4,200	550	13,000	6,450	24,200
	Monthly (Store)					
Acle	Weekly ...	7,500	740	20	15,200	23,460
Launceston ...	Two to three times monthly	6,000	1,900	11,750	3,600	23,250
East Anstey ...	Monthly ...	3,000	100	20,000	100	23,200

Market Town.	Frequency.	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Total.
Highbridge ...	Weekly (Calves) Fortnightly (other stock)	3,250	7,500	8,400	3,750	22,900
Braintree ...	Weekly ...	2,100	2,500	8,000	9,500	22,100
Tavistock ...	Twice monthly	5,400	2,200	11,200	3,300	22,100
Devizes ...	Weekly ...	1,450	7,750	350	7,600	21,720
		910	—	*3,660*	—	
Marlborough	Monthly during Spring and Autumn	230	10	1,400	10	21,650
		—	—	*20,000*	—	
Beccles ...	Fortnightly ...	3,800	2,000	1,020	14,730	21,550
Wimford ...	Weekly ...	2,940	5,180	6,850	6,500	21,470
Totnes ...	Two to three times monthly	2,730	1,480	10,860	4,400	21,360
		560	*150*	*610*	*570*	
Shepton Mallet	Weekly (except calves) Fortnightly (calves)	7,800	2,600	4,350	6,500	21,250
Glastonbury ...	Weekly ...	3,200	5,000	4,000	7,000	21,200
		—	—	*2,000*	—	
Northiam ...	Fortnightly ...	1,200	500	10,690	660	20,500
		450	—	*7,000*	—	
Reepham ...	Weekly ...	5,050	800	4,400	10,000	20,250
Swaffham ...	Weekly (Pigs)... Bi-annually (Store stock)	450	—	19,500	210	20,160
Buckingham	Weekly ...	900	2,200	11,000	1,850	19,600
		150	—	*3,500*	—	
Slough ...	Weekly ...	1,800	1,750	6,000	10,000	19,550
East Dereham	,, ...	1,740	1,640	2,790	13,260	19,430
Fakenham ...	,, ...	3,000	400	11,000	5,000	19,400
Harleston ...	Fortnightly ...	2,750	580	9,660	6,120	19,110
Swindon ...	Weekly ...	2,650	11,200	3,500	1,000	18,350
Kingsbridge ...	Twice monthly	2,180	670	8,100	4,250	17,900
		200	—	*2,500*	—	
Saxmundham	Fortnightly ...	1,630	920	1,250	9,250	17,550
	Special annual sale	—	—	*4,500*	—	
Bletchley ...	Weekly ...	2,500	1,500	11,000	2,500	17,500
Barnet ...	,, ...	2,000	1,600	10,000	3,250	17,390
		540	—	—	—	
Honiton ...	,, ...	3,850	3,000	2,500	6,000	17,000
		420	*80*	*1,000*	*150*	
Molland ...	Monthly ...	1,500	500	15,000	—	17,000
Haverhill ...	Weekly ...	600	300	70	11,000	16,970
	Special annual sale	—	—	*5,000*	—	
Kingston-upon-Thames	Weekly ...	810	2,500	1,650	12,000	16,960
Epping ...	,, ..	1,500	2,500	5,360	7,500	16,860
Sevenoaks ...	,, ...	1,700	3,000	7,000	5,000	16,700
Wickham Market	,, ...	560	570	220	15,320	16,670

Market Town.	Frequency.	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Total.
Redruth ...	Weekly ...	2,000	2,500	—	12,000	16,500
East Grinstead	„ ...	2,480	2,800	3,650	6,890	16,020
		200	—	—	—	
Newbury ...	„ ...	3,000	4,000	1,000	8,000	16,000
Petersfield ...	Fortnightly ...	2,580	3,000	3,520	6,500	15,900
		—	—	*300*	—	
Saffron Walden	Weekly ...	1,090	750	5,210	8,700	15,750
Stanford-le-Hope	„ ...	1,600	1,600	10,000	2,500	15,700
Frome ...	„ ...	2,160	8,300	110	4,030	15,540
		660	*150*	*10*	*120*	
Haywards Heath	„ ...	3,000	3,500	2,700	6,000	15,200
Bracknell ...	„ ...	1,800	2,000	2,100	9,260	15,160
Axminster ...	Fortnightly ...	3,330	3,000	4,570	2,930	15,100
		150	*120*	*800*	*200*	
Bridport ...	Weekly ...	1,200	3,500	5,000	5,400	15,100
Blandford ...	Fortnightly ...	350	150	350	280	14,990
		220	*10*	*13,600*	*30*	
South Molton	Monthly ...	550	50	6,000	300	14,920
		20	—	*8,000*	—	
Hythe (Newingreen)	5 times annually	320	—	14,260	—	14,580
Wiveliscombe	Monthly ...	2,400	50	12,000	50	14,500
Southampton	Weekly ...	1,250	2,760	6,300	4,120	14,430
Bath	„ ...	1,400	3,310	7,600	1,940	14,250
Callington ...	Twice monthly	2,500	550	6,500	4,500	14,050
Keynsham ...	Fortnightly ...	2,080	1,300	8,500	2,000	13,880
Chippenham	„ ...	3,200	3,000	200	7,400	13,800
Staplehurst ...	„ ...	600	800	4,500	7,800	13,700
Watford ...	Weekly ...	320	1,600	5,220	6,500	13,640
St. Columb Major	Two to three times monthly	2,700	200	6,470	3,980	13,350
Bishops Stortford	Weekly ...	2,710	1,620	5,170	3,740	13,240
Chard ...	Fortnightly ...	1,080	1,360	6,020	200	13,110
		350	*100*	*4,000*	—	
Edenbridge ...	Weekly ...	3,600	700	8,600	150	13,050
Cutcombe ...	Bi-annually ...	—	100	6,700	—	12,800
		—	—	*6,000*	—	
Sudbury ...	Weekly ...	270	780	1,200	10,410	12,660
Wadebridge ...	Twice monthly	2,800	80	7,250	2,500	12,630
Yatton ...	Weekly ...	1,850	2,450	5,750	2,440	12,490
Holsworthy ...	Twice monthly	3,950	1,400	4,940	1,150	12,450
		250	*30*	*700*	*30*	
Barnstaple ...	Monthly ...	2,710	1,330	3,610	2,050	12,420
		130	*10*	*2,530*	*50*	
Trowbridge ...	Fortnightly ...	1,940	5,620	1,500	3,130	12,190
Thorpe-le-Soken	Weekly ...	650	1,430	2,000	7,890	11,970
Washford ...	Monthly ...	1,200	250	9,500	1,000	11,950
Southall ...	Weekly ...	600	1,190	500	9,620	11,910

Market Town.	Frequency.	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Total.
North Walsham	Weekly ...	5,980	470	—	5,370	11,820
Hadleigh ...	,, ...	200	—	110	8,700	11,510
	Special annual sale	—	—	*2,500*	—	
Warminster ...	Fortnightly ...	1,220	3,250	560	2,920	11,490
		470	*300*	*2,500*	*270*	
Gt. Yarmouth	Weekly ...	5,400	600	730	4,490	11,220
Gt. Torrington	Monthly ...	540	60	10,000	190	11,190
		50	—	*350*	—	
Ilminster ...	Fortnightly ...	1,500	2,100	4,160	100	11,010
		150	—	*3,000*	—	
St. Albans ...	Weekly ...	1,290	880	5,500	3,300	10,970
Headcorn ...	,, ... (Monthly during Spring and Autumn)	740	—	10,100	—	10,840
Ottery St. Mary	Twice monthly	1,250	1,250	3,800	4,500	10,800
Battle ...	Fortnightly ...	1,500	1,920	4,000	3,300	10,720
Hailsham ...	,, ...	2,460	2,930	1,800	3,400	10,590
Tring ...	Weekly ...	750	750	5,000	4,000	10,500
Ringwood ...	,, ...	970	3,270	100	5,950	10,320
		30	—	—	—	
Stalham ...	Fortnightly ...	3,350	120	—	6,620	10,090
Loddon ...	,, ...	1,500	500	20	8,000	10,020
Wareham ...	Weekly ...	190	3,360	580	5,310	10,020
		160	*100*	*20*	*300*	
Gillingham ...	Fortnightly ...	660	7,500	320	1,530	10,010
Hemyock ...	Twice monthly	1,130	490	1,870	6,450	9,940
Liskeard ...	,, ...	1,500	500	5,500	2,400	9,900
Newmarket ...	Weekly ...	440	380	3,000	2,500	9,620
	Special annual sale	—	—	*3,300*	—	
Wickford ...	Weekly ...	240	1,530	1,800	5,850	9,420
South Molton Road (Chulmleigh)	Monthly ...	1,300	130	7,000	900	9,330
High Wycombe	Weekly ...	1,100	2,250	3,260	2,550	9,160
Langport ...	Fortnightly ...	2,450	2,400	4,150	100	9,100
Malmesbury ...	Monthly ...	840	1,300	4,500	2,300	8,940
Farnham ...	Weekly ...	440	1,250	3,120	4,060	8,870
Penzance ...	,, ...	1,500	3,700	30	3,500	8,730
Tiverton ...	,, ...	360	900	3,140	4,270	8,670
Thelbridge Cross	Monthly ...	3,000	500	5,000	—	8,500
East Harling	Weekly (Pigs)... Twice annually (Cattle and Sheep)	400	—	8,000	50	8,450
Alton ...	Weekly ...	350	4,000	2,060	2,000	8,410
Wincanton ...	Fortnightly ...	750	2,500	100	5,000	8,350
Dartford ...	Weekly ...	750	1,000	2,000	4,500	8,250

Market Town.	Frequency.	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Total.
Lydden ...	4 or 5 times annually	—	—	8 000	—	8,000
Portsmouth (Cosham)	Weekly ...	120	1,000	1,780	5,100	8,000
Lostwithiel ...	Fortnightly ...	2,500	500	2,340	2,650	7,990
Saltash ...	Twice monthly	1,300	900	3,250	2,500	7,950
Buntingford ...	Weekly ...	800	100	4,000	3,000	7,900
Chagford ...	Monthly ...	1,400	40	6,000	400	7,840
Pulborough ...	Fortnightly ...	590	1,500	3,630	2,120	7,840
Stratton ...	Monthly ...	1,560	240	5,400	600	7,800
Handley ...	„ ...	240	—	7,550	—	7,790
Minehead ...	„ ...	1,020	160	6,580	30	7,790
Melksham ...	Fortnightly ...	—	7,780	—	—	7,780
Plympton St. Mary	Monthly ...	1,850	780	2,830	2,200	7,660
Sidmouth Junction	„ ...	1,130	500	2,660	3,280	7,570
Hertford ...	Weekly ...	1,110	990	2,820	2,490	7,410
Lavenham ...	Intervals of 3 to 4 weeks	3,250	200	1,150	2,800	7,400
Umberleigh ...	Monthly ...	2,000	250	5,000	—	7,250
Exford ...	Twice annually	40	—	7,100	—	7,140
Waltham Abbey	Weekly ...	1,280	410	5,100	250	7,040
Havant ...	„ ...	350	1,490	3,320	1,840	7,000
Bow	Monthly ...	1,200	240	4,390	1,090	6,920
Oxted ...	Weekly ...	290	1,170	3,880	1,380	6,720
Hatherleigh ...	1, 2 or 3 times monthly	690 *1,060*	130 *130*	1,870 *2,100*	360 *360*	6,700
Wroxham ...	Fortnightly ...	740	100	—	5,800	6,640
Southminster	Weekly (Fat) ... Monthly (Store)	600	2,000	2,500	1,500	6,600
Winslow ...	Weekly ...	1,100	400	5,000	100	6,600
Rochford ...	„ ...	600	900	3,450	1,550	6,500
Stubb Cross ...	Monthly ...	1,500	60	4,500	250	6,310
Crewkerne ...	Fortnightly ...	570 *120*	1,290 *40*	2,510 *740*	810 *60*	6,140
Faversham ...	„ ...	580	150	4,050	1,310	6,090
Sherborne ...	„ ...	670 *60*	2,650 *110*	460 *700*	1,330 *80*	6,060
Ashburton ...	7 times annually	300 *2,200*	50 —	2,250 *750*	400 *100*	6,050
St. Austell ...	Fortnightly ...	2,600	450	2,000	1,000	6,050
Bideford ...	Weekly ...	1,400	550	3,320	650	5,920
Witham ...	„ ...	120	750	3,500	1,500	5,870
Weston-super-Mare	Twice monthly	950	450	4,260	200	5,860
Bodmin ...	„	2,100	500	1,000	2,250	5,850
Robertsbridge	Fortnightly ...	310 *70*	1,090 —	1,300 *2,250*	810 —	5,830
Paddock Wood	„ ...	620	320	2,360	2,500	5,800
Witheridge ...	Monthly ...	650	150	5,000	—	5,800
Wellington ...	„ ...	1,100	50	4,500	—	5,650

Market Town.	Frequency.	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Total.
Hartland ...	Monthly ...	960	240	4,200	230	5,630
Dulverton ...	,, ...	450	80	4,830	90	5,450
South Molton Station	,, ..	960	50	4,200	240	5,450
Horsham ...	Weekly ...	600	2,100	700	2,000	5,400
Okehampton...	Twice monthly	670	170	4,000	310	5,350
		200	—	—	—	
Bampton .	Monthly ...	400	40	3,890	200	5,270
		210	—	*530*	—	
Calne ...	,, ...	630	300	4,250	60	5,240
East Ilsley ...	Periodically ...	40	—	2,200	—	5,240
		—	—	*3,000*	—	
Savernake ...	Twice monthly	1,600	2,500	300	750	5,150
Hele ...	Monthly ...	1,160	170	3,000	800	5,130
Cheriton ...	Weekly ...	20	470	1,860	2,740	5,090
Halworthy ...	Monthly ...	880	30	4,000	140	5,050
Attleborough	Fortnightly ...	1,000	200	2,000	1,800	5,000
Martock ...	,, ...	1,750	750	2,500	—	5,000
Halwill Junction	Monthly ...	1,800	120	2,400	600	4,920
Wells	Weekly ...	800	2,500	750	300	4,850
		170	*50*	*180*	*100*	
Andover ...	,, ...	100	250	230	510	4,840
		250	—	*3,500*	—	
Crediton ...	Monthly ...	640	100	2,020	630	4,790
		750	—	*650*	—	
Camelford ...	,, ...	820	—	3,870	—	4,690
Hemel Hempstead	Weekly ...	720	310	1,500	2,060	4,590
Heathfield ...	,, ..	380	1,960	460	1,260	4,570
		400	—	*110*	—	
Raleighs Cross	Twice annually	—	—	4,500	—	4,500
Wainhouse Corner	Twice monthly	700	—	3,750	40	4,490
Dartmouth ...	Monthly ...	560	150	2,200	1,500	4,410
Evercreech ...	Fortnightly ...	250	4,000	150	—	4,400
East Budleigh	Monthly ...	760	170	2,700	750	4,380
Dorking ...	Weekly ...	110	930	2,000	1,300	4,340
Eggesford ...	Monthly ...	1,000	80	2,900	350	4,330
Cullompton ...	,, ...	880	50	1,320	1,130	4,260
		250	—	*430*	*200*	
Copplestone ...	,, ...	830	40	2,700	600	4,170
Spreyton ...	,, ...	600	100	3,000	450	4,150
Lenham ...	Twice annually	30	—	4,100	—	4,130
Kilkhampton	Monthly ...	1,000	50	2,300	650	4,000
Yealmpton ...	,, ...	700	300	1,850	1,100	3,950
Williton ...	,, ...	350	50	3,500	—	3,900
Croydon ...	Weekly ...	800	1,060	450	1,140	3,450
Five Lanes ...	Monthly ...	730	30	2,600	90	3,450
Romsey ...	Weekly ...	300	1,950	160	900	3,310
Bishops Lydeard	Monthly ...	270	—	2,990	—	3,260
Burlescombe	,, ...	640	70	2,400	120	3,230
Churston ...	,, ...	390	150	2,060	630	3,230

Market Town.	Frequency.	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs.	Total.
Long Stratton	Fortnightly ...	30	200	—	3,000	3,230
Mortehoe ...	Monthly ...	160	30	3,000	40	3,230
Olney ...	Weekly ...	480	100	2,280	300	3,160
Redhill ...	„ ...	90	870	860	1,340	3,160
Week St. Mary	Monthly ...	550	60	2,500	40	3,150
Chapmans Well	„ ...	480	70	2,300	290	3,140
Parkham ...	„ ...	430	50	2,500	150	3,130
Looe	„ ...	750	120	2,000	250	3,120
Cricklade ...	„ ...	1,000	600	990	500	3,090
Bickleigh ...	„ ...	600	170	2,000	300	3,070
Faringdon ...	„ ...	800	900	700	670	3,070
Shaftesbury ...	Fortnightly ...	3,000	20	—	30	3,050
Elham ...	4 or 5 times annually	90	—	2,910	—	3,000
Wallingford ...	Fortnightly ...	350	140	2,080	350	2,920
Newport Pagnell	Weekly ...	100	150	2,250	400	2,900
Bradworthy ...	Monthly ...	800	100	1,800	120	2,820
South Brent ...	Twice annually	100	—	1,940	—	2,820
		380	—	*370*	*30*	
Ivybridge ...	Monthly ...	330	380	750	1,280	2,740
Gt. Dunmow	Weekly ...	800	100	1,500	330	2,730
Starcross ...	Monthly ...	320	40	2,300	60	2,720
Pevensey ...	Fortnightly (May to Dec.)	1,200	—	1,500	—	2,700
Walkhampton (Dousland)	5 times annually	700	—	2,000	—	2,700
Pennymoor ...	Monthly ...	500	170	1,500	500	2,670
King's Brompton	Twice annually	150	—	1,500	—	2,650
		200	—	*800*	—	
Delabole ...	Monthly ...	440	70	1,800	220	2,530
Lympstone ...	„ ...	360	250	1,600	320	2,530
Woolfardis-worthy	„ ...	700	100	1,600	120	2,520
Framlingham	Fortnightly ...	—	—	—	2,500	2,500
Camborne ...	„ ...	1,040	400	150	780	2,370
Petrockstowe	Monthly ...	500	40	1,640	100	2,280
Marden ...	Fortnightly ...	210	40	900	1,100	2,250
Wickham ...	Twice monthly	760	—	910	—	2,210
		420	—	*120*	—	
Gt. Yeldham	Weekly ...	150	50	600	1,400	2,200
Bishops Waltham	7 or 8 times annually	1,140	—	1,000	50	2,190
Lapford ...	Monthly ...	400	80	1,300	400	2,180
Ashwater ...	„ ...	710	140	1,020	300	2,170
Tresmeer ...	„ ...	210	60	1,880	—	2,150
Modbury ...	„ ...	480	140	400	720	2,140
		120	*30*	*150*	*100*	
Wrotham ...	Three times annually	430	—	1,710	—	2,140
Gt. Marlow ...	Weekly ...	100	400	1,350	220	2,070
Swingfield ...	Three times annually	90	—	1,940	—	2,030

Market Town,	Frequency.	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Total.
Christow .	Monthly ...	230	30	1,050	700	2,010
Wymondham	Weekly ...	150	310	—	1,500	1,960
Sheepwash ...	Monthly ...	650	70	940	260	1,920
Wadhurst ...	Weekly ...	540	370	840	160	1,910
Chiddingly ...	5 times annually	1,550	—	350	—	1,900
Methwold ...	Weekly ..	250	100	50	1,000	1,900
		200	—	*100*	*200*	
Somerton ..	Fortnightly ..	280	140	730	600	1,750
Lewdown ...	Monthly ...	530	90	720	360	1,700
Tedburn St. Mary	Twice annually	170	10	1,400	60	1,640
Littleham ...	Monthly ..	220	190	1,050	150	1,610
Baldock ..	Weekly ...	100	—	800	700	1,600
Goudhurst ..	Fortnightly ...	750	100	500	250	1,600
Roche ...	Monthly ..	600	50	100	300	1,600
		400	*30*	*70*	*50*	
Tiverton Junction	,, ...	480	90	300	650	1,520
Antony .	,, ...	350	50	850	250	1,500
Groombridge	Fortnightly ...	300	100	930	70	1,400
Portsmouth Arms (Burrington)	Monthly ...	300	—	1,000	100	1,400
Stelling ..	Twice annually	160	—	1,240	—	1,400
Eye . . .	Fortnightly ..	—	—	—	1,350	1,350
Dawlish ...	Monthly ...	150	50	1,000	90	1,290
Royston ...	Weekly (Pigs)...	10	100	20	1,100	1,270
	Annually (cattle and sheep)	*40*	—	—	—	
Wokingham ..	Weekly ...	50	930	100	190	1,270
Challow ...	Monthly ...	500	250	400	110	1,260
Wootton Bassett	,, ...	1,100	70	70	10	1,250
Pewsey ..	Monthly ...	120	1,000	100	—	1,220
St. Neot ...	,, ..	520	10	590	40	1,160
Moretonhampstead	Twice annually	250	—	900	—	1,150
Horley ...	Weekly ...	100	500	260	260	1,120
Bridestowe ..	4 times annually	300	30	580	70	1,090
		60	*10*	*20*	*20*	
West Buckland	,, ,,	40	20	1,000	30	1,090
Dolton ...	,, ,,	470	20	500	90	1,080
St. Ive ..	Monthly ...	600	50	100	300	1,050
West Down ..	,, ...	50	10	950	30	1,040
Bratton Clovelly	,, ...	270	40	600	120	1,030
Roborough ..	,, ...	170	60	250	550	1,030
Castle Cary ...	Fortnightly ...	650	100	160	100	1,010
Holt	,, ..	20	30	—	890	1,000
		—	—	—	*60*	
Portbury ...	Twice monthly	300	250	400	50	1,000
Sidford ...	Monthly ...	290	70	120	480	960

Market Town.	Frequency.	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Total.
Uckfield ...	Weekly ...	260	320	120	150	960
		90	—	*20*	—	
Aylsham ...	Weekly (Jan. to June)	830	80	—	—	910
Petworth ...	Twice annually	400	—	400	80	880
Misterton ...	Monthly ...	250	240	360	20	870
Rackenford ...	6 times annually	150	20	600	60	830
Holmwood ...	Twice annually	390	—	300	80	770
Hoddesdon ...	Weekly ...	50	250	100	350	750
St. Germans ...	3 times annually	100	20	150	60	750
		230	—	*160*	*30*	
Lydford ...	„ „	70	—	640	—	710
Dallington ...	„ „	550	—	150	—	700
Hurstmonceux	Twice annually	450	—	230	—	680
North Tawton	About 7 times annually	70	20	60	40	660
		140	*10*	*250*	*70*	
Congresbury	Fortnightly ...	—	90	—	20	530
		40	—	*350*	*30*	
Cheddar ...	Weekly ...	—	300	—	—	510
		20	—	*190*	—	
Bruton ...	Fortnightly ...	—	500	—	—	500
Stalbridge ...	„ ...	—	500	—	—	500
Burnham Market	„ ...	10	20	150	300	480
West Harptree	Twice annually	220	—	110	80	410
Doublebois ...	3 to 5 times annually	180	20	100	100	400
Hawkhurst ...	Twice annually	20	—	360	—	380
Botley ...	5 times annually	300	—	—	50	350
Fawley ...	Twice annually	150	—	150	30	330
Morchard Bishop	5 times annually	40	10	130	50	330
		20	—	*50*	*30*	
Winkleigh ...	Twice annually	80	—	100	40	310
		40	—	*40*	*10*	
Woodbridge ...	Fortnightly ...	—	—	—	300	300
Brockenhurst	Periodically ...	50	100	20	100	270
Meshaw ...	5 times annually	80	10	80	100	270
Cheriton Fitzpaine	Periodically ...	100	—	100	50	250
Milton ...	Monthly ...	20	—	—	210	230
Thaxted ...	Weekly ...	—	10	—	220	230
Stony Stratford	3 to 4 times annually	100	—	80	40	220
Halstead ...	Weekly ...	—	10	—	200	210
Kenninghall ...	„ ...	—	20	—	140	160
Hingham ...	„ ...	80	—	—	50	130
Marshwood ...	Periodically ...	30	10	60	30	130
Mildenhall ...	Weekly ...	—	—	—	100	100
Maldon ...	Monthly ...	Market	opened	20/12/19	28.	

Approximate average numbers of livestock on offer at fairs held at centres where there is no livestock market.

Fair.	Frequency.	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Total.
Wilton ..	Twice annually	300	—	29,000	—	29,300
Weyhill	Four times annually	740	—	20,100	—	20,840
Tenterden ...	Twice annually	1,000	10	18,000	—	19,010
Findon ...	,, ,,	—	—	15,000	—	15,000
Horsmonden	,, ,,	25	—	10,000	—	10,025
New Romney	Annually ...	25	—	10,000	—	10,025
Alresford ...	,, ...	15	—	10,000	—	10,015
Poundbury ...	,, ...	—	—	9,385	—	9,385
Britford ...	,, ...	20	—	9,000	—	9,020
Barnham ...	,, ...	—	—	8,500	—	8,500
Melton ...	,, ...	—	—	7,000	—	7,000
Biddenden ...	Twice annually	2,000	—	4,000	—	6,000
Tan Hill ...	Annually ...	125	—	5,000	—	5,125
Westbury ...	,, ...	10	—	5,000	—	5,010
Bratton ...	,, ...	55	—	4,500	—	4,555
Fleming						
Simonsbath ...	,, ...	—	—	4,000	—	4,000
Melton Constable	,, ...	—	—	3,900	—	3,900
Hempton ...	,, ...	—	—	3,500	—	3,500
Kesgrave ...	,, ...	—	—	3,500	—	3,500
Stockbridge ...	,, ...	15	—	2,500	—	2,515
Briston ...	,, ...	300	—	2,000	—	2,300
Wimsford ...	,, ...	—	—	2,145	—	2,145
Priddy ...	,, ...	50	—	2,000	—	2,050
Beaminster ...	,, ...	50	—	1,950	10	2,010
Overton ...	,, ...	—	—	2,000	—	2,000
West Malling	,, ..	210	—	1,790	—	2,000
Lamberhurst	,, ...	300	—	1,500	—	1,800
Churchinford	Three times annually	275	10	1,490	—	1,775
Great Bentley	Annually ...	—	—	1,700	—	1,700
Backwell ...	,,	—	—	1,500	—	1,500
Benenden ...	,, ...	300	—	1,200	—	1,500
Box (Kingsdown)	,, ...	—	—	1,500	—	1,500
Chulmleigh ...	,, ..	60	—	1,250	10	1,320
Hollingbourn	,, ..	150	—	1,070	—	1,220
Grove Ferry ...	,, ...	1,000	—	—	—	1,000
Mayfield, ...	Twice annually	845	—	60	—	905
Shipham ...	,, ,,	100	—	800	—	900
Ubley... ..	Annually ...	30	—	800	—	830
Culmstock ...	,, ...	400	—	350	—	750
Cross	,, ...	15	—	700	—	715
Sourton ...	,, ...	10	—	700	—	710
Crawley ...	Twice annually	550	15	100	30	695
Wylye ...	Annually ...	10	—	650	—	660
Burrington ..	,, ...	150	—	400	30	580
Haytor Vale (Ilsington)	,, ...	—	—	550	—	550

Fair.	Frequency.	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Total.
Blisland ...	Annually ...	25	—	500	15	540
Boscastle ...	Twice annually	30	—	480	10	520
Martinstown	Annually ...	—	—	500	—	500
Hinton St. George	„ ..	300	10	150	30	490
Loxwood ...	„ ...	180	—	260	30	470
Sampford Peverell	„ ...	465	—	—	—	465
Sandhurst ...	„ ...	150	—	300	—	450
Wye	„ ...	—	—	420	—	420
Dunsford ...	„ ...	40	—	350	20	410
Ingham ...	„ ...	400	—	—	—	400
Widecombe-in-the-Moor	„ ...	—	—	400	—	400
High Bickington	„ ...	20	5	300	30	355
Axbridge ...	Twice annually	80	—	250	—	330
Amersham ...	Annually ...	100	—	200	—	300
Burwash ...	„ ...	250	—	40	—	290
Maiden Newton	Three times annually	200	—	50	40	290
Crowborough	Annually ...	250	5	30	—	285
Yetminster ...	„ ...	170	—	—	100	270
Wellow ...	„ ...	—	—	230	—	230
Trewen ...	„ ...	5	—	220	—	225
Sandford ...	„ ...	60	—	120	20	200
Stoke Climsland	„ ...	110	10	20	60	200
Rotherfield ...	Twice annually	150	—	—	—	150
Wool	Annually ...	150	—	—	—	150
Sidbury ...	„ ...	30	5	40	60	135
Cross-in-Hand	„ ...	120	—	10	—	130
Princetown ...	„ ...	120	—	5	—	125
Mitchell ...	Twice annually	45	—	—	50	95
Stockland ...	„ ...	40	—	—	40	80
Binegar ...	Annually ...	75	—	—	—	75
St. Lawrence...	„ ...	65	5	—	—	70
Ashcott ...	„ ...	20	—	30	—	50
Westonzoyland	„ ...	50	—	—	—	50
Banwell ...	„ ...	40	—	—	—	40
Downham Market	„ ...	30	—	—	—	30
Bungay	„ ...	25	—	—	—	25
Stow Bardolph	„ ...	10	—	—	—	10

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Economic Series No. 26.

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MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

Markets and Fairs

in

England and Wales

(Part V : Welsh Markets)

(Part VI : London Markets)

(Part VII : Final Review)

LONDON:
PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.
To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:
Adastral 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.
1930.
Price 6d. Net.

24-40-26.

The cost of this Survey and of the issue of this Report is defrayed out of funds placed at the disposal of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries by the Empire Marketing Board.

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Markets and Fairs

in

England and Wales

PART V: WELSH MARKETS

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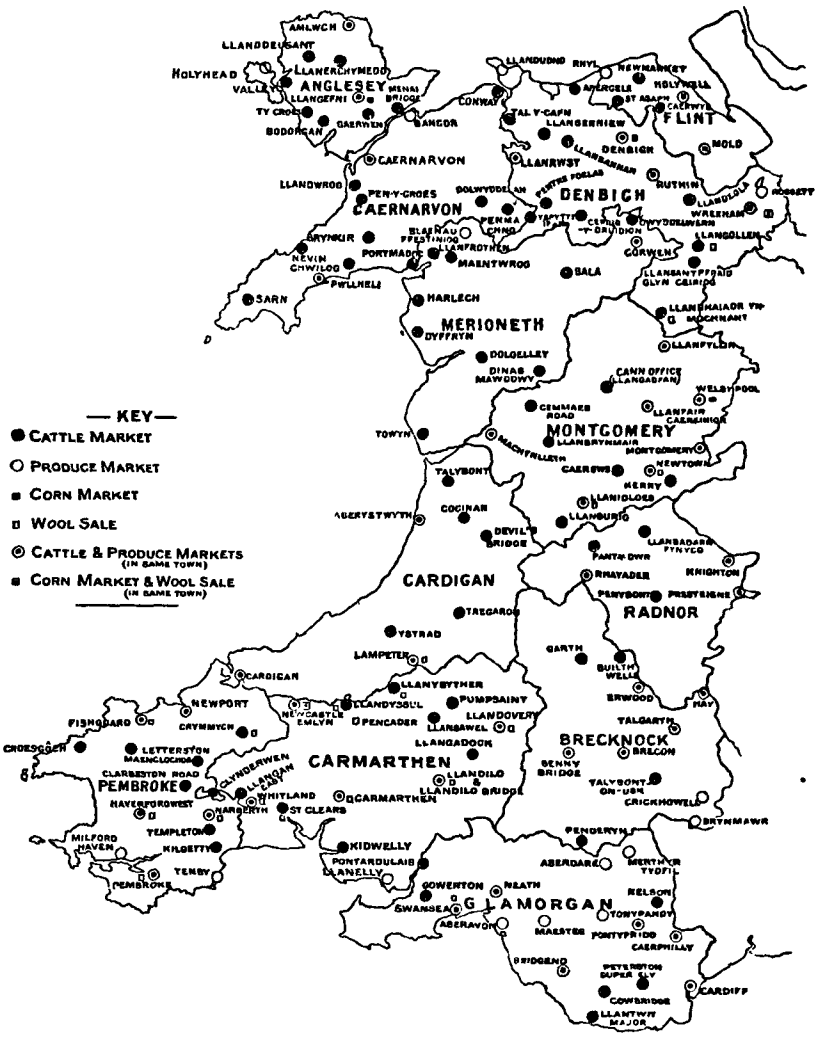


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MARKETS AND FAIRS IN ENGLAND AND WALES. PART V.—WELSH MARKETS.

INTRODUCTION.

The present Report is the fifth of a series of Reports on the markets and fairs of England and Wales, prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in connection with its investigations into the marketing of agricultural produce. The need for such a survey as this series presents was emphasised by the Linlithgow Committee in its final Report.*

The four Reports previously issued are as follows :—Part I —a general review of market origins, rights and administration, market charges and finance, and the general lay-out and working of markets of various kinds; Parts II, III and IV—detailed reviews of the markets and fairs of the Midlands, the North, and the Eastern and Southern counties of England, respectively. The present Report is a review of the Welsh markets and fairs and follows the lines of previous reports on the English markets. The first section of this Report, taken in conjunction with Appendices I, III, and IV, summarises the Welsh markets and fairs as a whole, and discusses the general situation as regards markets for agricultural produce in Wales. The second section examines the markets of each county separately in relation to local agricultural conditions, and includes brief notes on a few markets in each county which possess features of special interest. This section should be read in conjunction with Appendix II, which is a complete list of the markets in each county with particulars of ownership, market days, commodities sold and method of sale. The third section describes in detail the markets in a number of the more important centres. Figure 1 shows the geographical distribution of the Welsh markets as a whole.

The Ministry hopes that, like its predecessors, this Report will be of value not only to market owners and administrators, to producers and distributors in the area covered by it, but to all interested in the efficient administration of markets throughout the country.

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* Cmd. 2008/1924.

The Ministry is glad to acknowledge the assistance rendered in connection with this Report by local authorities and by individual auctioneers and market owners who have furnished much of the information which it contains. In particular, the Ministry desires to acknowledge the help given by the Agricultural Economics Department of the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, both in the collection of information as to markets and fairs and in supplying figures on which is based much of the information regarding livestock movements.

SECTION I.—THE WELSH MARKETS AS A WHOLE.

(I) GENERAL.

Appendix I, page 85, gives a numerical summary of the market authorities or occupiers of markets in Wales, classified according to the types of markets under their control in each market centre. There are 52 public authorities controlling markets, and 133 private occupiers of markets, making 185 market authorities or occupiers in all. Of the publicly owned markets, 39 are carried on under Charters, 30 under the Public Health Acts, while 27 have been established by Local or Special Acts. Of markets occupied by private bodies or individuals, 7 are Charter and 10 Special Act markets, while the remainder—129—appear not to be markets in the strictly legal sense.*

In all, there are 242 separate markets† for the sale of livestock and agricultural produce in Wales, of which 35 are purely retail markets, 12 are purely wholesale, and 28 both wholesale and retail markets for produce other than livestock; while 167 are livestock markets, in some of which produce is also handled. Of the purely retail markets, 14 are privately controlled.

(II) CLASSIFICATION BY COMMODITIES.

The following Table gives a re-classification of the Welsh markets according to commodities sold, nature of trade—whether retail or wholesale—and method of sale—i.e., by private treaty only, by auction only, or by both methods.

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* *See* Economic Series No. 13, page 8.

† The term "market," in the general sense in which it is used in this Report, will be found to cover more than is often implied by the term in Wales. The term "fair" in Wales is applied to any private treaty sale of livestock. Where these are held at regular and frequent intervals throughout the year, however, they are, in effect, markets in the popular meaning of the word, and monthly "fairs" have accordingly been included with markets in the tables and appendices of this Report.

Commodity Sold.	No. of Public Markets.			No. of Private Markets.			Total No. of Markets at which Commodity is sold.
	Auction only.	Private Treaty only.	Both Auction and Private Treaty.	Auction only.	Private Treaty only.	Both Auction and Private Treaty.	
			Retail only.				
Butter and cheese	1	21	—	—	9	—	31
Eggs	1	19	—	—	9	—	29
Fish .. .	—	28	—	—	8	—	36
Fruit & vegetables	—	27	—	—	9	—	36
Meat . .	—	31	—	—	12	—	43
Poultry	—	21	—	—	10	—	31
			Wholesale only.				
Butter and cheese	1	1	—	—	1	—	3
Corn .	—	3	—	—	—	—	3*
Eggs	1	1	—	—	2	—	4
Fish	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Fruit & vegetables	—	1	—	1	1	—	3
Livestock	10	22	16	108	4	7	167†
Meat ..	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Poultry	2	3	—	11	2	—	18
Wool .	6	—	—	15	—	—	21
			Wholesale and Retail.				
Butter and cheese	—	17	—	—	6	—	23
Eggs . .	—	17	—	—	6	—	23
Fish	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Fruit & vegetables	—	11	—	—	7	—	18
Meat	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Poultry	1	16	—	—	6	—	23

* In addition, sales take place at 3 centres on other than market premises.

† Includes 12 private treaty markets for pigs only, 6 for sheep, and 4 each for cattle and horses.

The large proportion of mountain land and of pasture on the lower land has the effect of making Wales pre-eminently a livestock country. The concentration of a large proportion of its population in a comparatively restricted industrial area in the south-east, and the existence of a large centre of population on the north-east border, give rise to two main lines of flow of livestock and farm produce. The efficiency of the markets has, therefore, largely to be judged by the extent to which they assist this flow.

(a) Retail.

There are only 35 markets in Wales where trade is solely retail. The congregations of open-air retail stalls so common in English country towns are rarely seen in Wales. Covered retail market halls of the type found in very many English towns, where foodstuffs and miscellaneous goods are sold by non-producers, are practically restricted to a few centres in the South Wales industrial

area and on the coast. Retailing by producers takes place in the "produce markets," of which about 35 exist in Wales. These are similar in principle to the pannier markets of Devonshire and Cornwall (see Economic Series No. 23, pages 11, 34 and 39) and, like them, tend to be more largely devoted to wholesale trade. Among those where retail trade is prominent may be mentioned, in order of importance, the markets at Swansea, Llanelly, Wrexham and, to a less extent, Welshpool and Carmarthen.

(b) Wholesale.*

Produce Markets.—In practically all cases where home-produced butter, cheese, eggs and poultry, fruit and vegetables are sold wholesale in markets in Wales, the sales take place in or in connection with the produce markets mentioned above, the trade being mainly direct from producer to dealer or shopkeeper. There are no cases where eggs, butter or cheese, and few where poultry are sold in livestock markets as is so common in England. Only two small auction sales of butter, cheese, eggs, or fruit and vegetables are held in Wales, and in only 14 markets are poultry sold by auction. In this respect, Wales offers a striking contrast with England. Considerable differences in marketing practice between neighbouring counties have been noted in previous Reports (e.g., Economic Series No. 23, p. 44, on bidding for cattle by live weight); the custom with respect to the sale of produce by auction in the border counties of England and in Wales, respectively, affords another example, for in the counties of Cheshire, Shropshire, Hereford and Monmouth there are, in all, 29 centres where poultry, eggs or dairy produce are sold by auction.

The facilities offered in the produce markets consist of tables and benches for the use of producer-retailers. In some cases, weighing machines and reserved space are provided for dealers to pack produce bought wholesale. No grading by producers is met with. The wholesale trade is, generally, by far the most important part of the market's activities. Prices are determined by negotiation between vendor and buyer, though some sort of agreement as to the weekly level of prices of various commodities often exists between the chief buyers in a market, and, as vendors often deal week by week with the same buyer, many of the transactions consist simply of the vendor delivering to his regular dealer and accepting his price. Wholesale buyers include (*a*) shopkeepers in those markets which are near consuming centres, as in Glamorganshire or Breconshire: (*b*) dealers who regularly take large quantities of produce and consign to consuming centres at a distance; such dealers may reside in the market town and send supplies to regular customers or may be wholesalers from the consuming

* Additional information regarding wholesale markets will be found in other reports in the Economic Series, notably Nos. 1, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 18, 20, etc.

towns : (*c*) traders of a more casual nature, who buy up produce and often hawk it from door to door or from shop to shop in the consuming towns.

The produce markets are best developed in Carmarthenshire, Denbighshire, Breconshire and Montgomeryshire. The principal markets in order of importance, together with the approximate average number of producers using them for marketing their produce, are as follows :—

Carmarthen	600	producers	Swansea ...	300–350	producers
Welshpool	450–500	„	Denbigh ..	300	„
Llandilo ...	450–500	„	Llanelly ...	100–150	„
Brecon ...	400	„	Llanrwst ...	100–150	„

The South Wales industrial area takes much of the produce from the markets in Glamorganshire, Carmarthenshire, and Breconshire. From Carmarthenshire, a little produce—mainly eggs—is sent to London. From Denbighshire and Montgomeryshire, much produce is sent to Lancashire, and from Montgomeryshire a little goes to the Midlands. The North Wales coastal resorts and quarry districts absorb a large part of the produce sent to market in Anglesey, Caernarvonshire and Denbighshire. Little produce is sent to market in the counties of Cardigan, Flint, Merioneth, Pembroke or Radnor. It may safely be estimated that even in Carmarthenshire, where the produce markets are the most flourishing, not more than from 15 to 20 per cent. of the farmers use them for the disposal of their produce, and in many counties the proportion is undoubtedly much less.

There is a tendency for the produce markets to fall into disuse and for the trade to be transferred to the streets, inn-yards or dealers' premises. This is attributed partly to the dealers' desire to avoid more competitive conditions and also, possibly, to avoid paying tolls, for in few cases are tolls charged on produce sold outside the market building. Builth Wells, Llangefni, Newtown and Pwllheli are examples of important market towns where the bulk of the farm produce trade is done outside the market. At Knighton, an attempt is being made to increase the use of the market and to obtain more competitive prices by the institution of auction sales of produce. While the produce market system hardly falls into line with modern organised marketing methods, weekly delivery to the dealers' vehicles in the market centre, which is replacing it, offers no improvement. The latter has the added disadvantage of depriving the vendor of the opportunity of comparing prices offered by different buyers.

Butter and Cheese.—Much of Wales is out of reach of a market for liquid milk, as such, and butter is made extensively—often as an adjunct to store cattle raising—in most Welsh counties, though in Flintshire and Glamorganshire, a relatively small proportion of butter is made, as there is in each case a good outlet for liquid

milk close at hand. Broadly speaking, butter making is localised in 2 main areas—a northern area comprising Anglesey, Caernarvonshire, West Denbighshire, Merionethshire and Montgomeryshire, and a south-western area including Cardiganshire, north Pembrokeshire and north Carmarthenshire. In the former area, the butter is made up by the producer in pats or sometimes in bricks ; in the latter, it is often sold off the farms in lump form, unsalted for blending purposes. In Wales, as a whole, butter is an important commodity in the produce markets, being sold wholesale in 26 markets in all.

Little cheese is made in most parts of Wales, though it is an important farm product in east Denbighshire and the south of Flintshire. In neither of these counties does it enter the markets to any extent, factors buying it up in bulk from the farms. Cheese is sold in small quantities in 24 markets in Wales.

Eggs.—The poultry population of Wales is considerably less dense on the average than that of England, as would be expected in view of the high proportion of mountain land. Eggs are sold wholesale in 27 markets in Wales, being naturally more prominent, on the whole, in the less mountainous districts. In Flintshire, however, where the poultry population is denser than in any other Welsh county, practically no eggs are sent to the markets, and in Cardiganshire and Pembrokeshire, both important poultry counties, the proportion so marketed is relatively small. Eggs, however, on the whole, are the most important commodity sold in the produce markets. There are only two auction sales of eggs in Wales, both of which are in Radnorshire. So far as is known, no grading is practised by vendors in any of the markets ; in this respect they resemble the markets of Devon and Cornwall. The absence of any unified control over marketing methods in these markets renders impracticable any general grading scheme, even of the kind existing in the egg auctions in the eastern counties of England.

Poultry.—Poultry are sold wholesale in 41 markets—in 14 cases by auction—generally in connection with livestock markets. Poultry are generally sold dressed in the produce markets. In the auctions, however, they are usually sold alive, and, in Montgomeryshire, it is common to find them sold alive in the produce markets. The Christmas poultry markets, held in many centres in addition to those where a regular market is held, are a very important means of disposing of poultry in Wales. At these annual sales, there is great variation in prices received at different centres, and at different stages of any one sale.

Fruit and Vegetables.—Over the greater proportion of Wales, the quantities of fruit and vegetables grown are exceedingly small, the total area of orchards and small fruit in the whole country being returned in 1928 as only 3,424 acres, and that of vegetable crops for human consumption as about 23,000 acres—less than 1 per

cent. of the area under crops and grass. It is therefore natural to find that practically no produce of this nature appears in the markets in most counties. Actually, fruit and vegetables are sold in small quantities in 21 markets. The only specialised areas of production of fruit and vegetables are in the neighbourhood of Swansea and Wrexham, with a certain amount around Conway and Llandudno. A considerable proportion of the produce of the first two areas is sold wholesale and retail, both by producers and middlemen, in the markets of Llanelly and Wrexham, and retail by producers in Swansea market. Cardiff, the largest town in Wales, has no wholesale fruit and vegetable market, though there is a privately owned auction at the Docks for the sale of imported fruit.

Corn.—The total acreage under cereal crops in Wales amounts to about 5 per cent. of its total area and to less than 10 per cent. of the area under crops and grass. Most of the corn grown is used for stock feeding, or, in the case of wheat, for household requirements. The few sales which take place are direct to local agricultural merchants or other farmers, there is only one corn exchange in Wales—at Welshpool.

Livestock.—Livestock production is the principal farming activity in Wales, and livestock are sold at 167 of the markets, including 4 in which only horses are sold. Private ownership is the rule, only 48 of the markets being publicly owned, 20 of which are held on streets or fields and are chiefly confined to private-treaty sales, from carts, of store pigs. In the 6 north Welsh counties, only 8 markets are publicly owned and 4 of these are leased to firms of auctioneers. The auction marts have gradually replaced most of the old livestock fairs at which all stock were formerly sold by private treaty. In many cases, however, the fairs still continue or, where they have lost their separate identity, the practice of private-treaty selling has survived. In consequence, auction selling in the markets is not so universally predominant as in England. Stock are sold exclusively by auction in 118 markets, by private treaty only in 26, and by both auction and private treaty in 23.

As in England, a large proportion of the livestock marts are owned by firms of auctioneers. In the publicly owned markets, the number of auctioneers selling in a single market does not reach such high figures as in England; 4 firms in one market is the highest. At least one instance exists—Newtown—where the policy of the local authority is to maintain competition between firms of auctioneers. 13 livestock markets are owned by companies or associations whose shareholders are mainly farmers, and 2 have been established by voluntary subscription by farmers and others. These markets are generally let to firms of auctioneers, who pay a fixed rent and take commission on sales. In 4 cases—of which 3 are co-operative associations—however, an auctioneer

is employed either at a fixed salary or is remunerated by a share in the commission. In these cases, the company is responsible for bad debts.

The gradual development of livestock markets under various types of ownership has naturally occurred, as in England, with little reference to the needs of each district for markets. The privately owned markets, which constitute so large a proportion, have mainly been established for the profit of the owners, and competition between auctioneers owning markets has led to many being set up for which there is no real need.

The total number of livestock entering the Welsh markets and fairs in an average year is approximately 1,900,000, comprising 253,000 cattle, 74,000 calves, 1,254,000 sheep and 319,000 pigs. These figures, however, are in excess of the number of stock actually sold in the markets, as a fair proportion of the stock offered by auction—it is estimated up to 50 per cent. in some markets—are withdrawn without being sold, though they may be sold by private treaty afterwards. It is a common practice for stock to be entered in an auction sale merely with the object of ascertaining their market value as a basis for a private deal. This combination of auction and private-treaty selling in the livestock markets appears to be due largely to suspicion by Welsh farmers of the auction system—a relatively new development in Wales—which can only be overcome by a high standard of efficiency on the part of auctioneers. The contention that " rings " among buyers in the auction can be avoided by private-treaty selling is probably unsound, for dealers are just as likely to refrain from competing with one another in private-treaty as in auction buying.

The auction marts are considerably less important as a means of disposing of livestock in Wales than is the case in England, a large proportion of the stock sold being bought by dealers who visit the farms for the purpose. Generally, it may be said that the long-distance trade is largely in the hands of dealers. A larger proportion of the stock sold in markets is retained for local use than is the case with that bought by dealers direct from the farms. Moreover, particularly in some counties—e.g., Pembroke—the best stock tends to be sold privately. Practice varies considerably, however, in different parts of the country. The auction marts are usually weakest in the more remote districts—e.g., in Pembrokeshire, Cardiganshire, Merionethshire and Caernarvonshire, and strongest in the counties bordering England, particularly Flint and Denbigh. The sale of livestock through auction marts has the advantage of giving the producer competitive prices, provided the markets handle sufficient stock to attract a fair attendance of buyers. Direct dealing on the farm is subject frequently to the practice, known to exist among dealers, of allocating areas to individuals for monopoly buying. Unfortunately, in Wales, there appear to be many auction marts at which the entry of stock is so

small that only a few buyers attend, and, as a result, competitive prices are not obtained The small markets have also the disadvantage that transport facilities are likely to be bad as compared with larger markets ; special trains for stock may not be provided and there may be no service for the transport of stock to the market by road. The income derived from a small market, again, may not enable adequate expenditure to be incurred in market upkeep and organisation, including publicity.

The average number of stock offered per market day in Wales is 565, compared with 790 in the north of England, 660 in the Midlands, and 450 in the eastern and southern counties. Owing to the importance of seasonal sales, however, the entries at many marts vary widely at different periods. Of the 125 centres at which livestock are sold, at 60 less than 5,000, and at 71 less than 10,000, head of stock are sold in an average year.

The utility of a market cannot be judged solely by its annual turnover , other factors (discussed later in this Report), such as geographical conditions, seasonality and type of trade, have also to be considered. In the mountainous districts of Merionethshire and Radnorshire, for example, there are a number of small marts which fulfil a useful function owing to the difficulties of transport to larger markets at a greater distance. In Brecon, Montgomery and other counties, again, there are marts which, though their annual turnover is small, have a heavy entry of stock—especially store sheep and fat lambs—at certain seasons. In such cases, the method adopted at some centres—e.g., Garth and Erwood, of holding the market during only part of the year is commendable. Notwithstanding these considerations, certain districts may be indicated as suffering from an excessive number of small livestock markets, in particular, Anglesey and Pembrokeshire for fat stock, and parts of Cardiganshire for store stock. In Anglesey, this may definitely be traced to competition between firms of auctioneers.

The principal movements of stock in Wales are as follows: From Anglesey, Denbighshire and Flintshire, and to a less extent from Caernarvonshire and Merionethshire, there is a heavy export of fat sheep to Lancashire and industrial Cheshire. A considerable number of fat cattle and pork pigs also go to the same destinations from Anglesey and Denbighshire. The North Wales coastal resorts and quarry districts absorb a large number of fat stock of all kinds from the above-mentioned counties. A large proportion of the fat lambs, for example, find a ready market in the sea-coast towns, where the " holiday " demand for lamb coincides with the peak period in fat sheep production. This is illustrated by the following Table comparing the average slaughterings in the public slaughter-house of Llandudno, in North Wales, and the total for Caernarvonshire, with the entry of fat sheep at 2 North Wales markets for each month in a recent year.

Month.	Average Weekly Slaughterings.		Average Market Entries (Fat Sheep).	
	Llandudno Abattoir.	Caernarvonshire.	Abergele. (Weekly).	Tal-y-cafn. (Fortnightly).
January	227	7,580	421	562
February	216	6,870	394	357
March	172	6,450	272	315
April	241	9,090	446	386
May	256	9,470	677	661
June	1,246	13,910	741	930
July	728	20,070	693	1,143
August	971	21,860	782	1,310
September ..	617	16,520	845	1,121
October	274	9,660	710	523
November	243	8,360	386	510
December	221	8,100	280	275

Bacon pigs from the counties of Anglesey, Caernarvon, Denbigh, Flint and Montgomery are consigned to the Midlands and Lancashire. From Montgomeryshire, and to some extent from Breconshire and Radnorshire, fat sheep are sent to the Midlands. The surplus fat stock from the Mid-Welsh and South Welsh counties—Brecon, Cardigan, Carmarthen, Glamorgan, Pembroke and Radnor—is largely consigned to the South Wales coalfield. There is some consignment of bacon pigs from Cardiganshire to the Midlands. So far as the bulk of the fat stock trade is concerned, concentration in some half-dozen large assembling marts in North Wales and a similar number in the south, situated on the main lines of movement, would appear to offer advantages. Such centres as Menai Bridge, Conway, Corwen, Wrexham, Abergele, Denbigh, Mold and Welshpool in North Wales, and Lampeter, Haverfordwest, Carmarthen, Llandilo, Brecon, and Builth Wells in Mid and South Wales, suggest themselves as convenient assembly markets capable of further development.

Wales, however, is primarily a store-stock raising country, the hilly districts being devoted almost entirely to this type of production. Caernarvonshire, Cardiganshire, parts of Carmarthenshire, Merionethshire, Montgomeryshire and the lower parts of the counties of Brecon and Radnor are the chief store cattle areas. In addition to the local movements of stores from the higher to the lower lands, store cattle are bought in the markets and on the farms for consignment to various parts of England. From the eastern Welsh counties, in particular—viz., Montgomery, Brecon and Radnor—store cattle, mainly Herefords, go into the western and west-midland counties of England, many being taken

from the Welsh markets to such English markets as Shrewsbury, Oswestry or Hereford. There is also an extensive trade in store cattle from Cardiganshire to the Shropshire markets and to the midland and northern grazing areas of England and to East Anglia. This trade, however, is mainly in the hands of dealers who buy direct from the farms, and the same is true largely of the export of Welsh Black stores from Merionethshire to the Midlands. Carmarthenshire store cattle go mainly into Glamorgan or the western counties of England, and those from Caernarvonshire to Anglesey. Many cows sold in the markets of Caernarvonshire, Denbighshire and Flintshire are taken to the dairy district of Cheshire. Except in the border counties, particularly Montgomery, Radnor and Brecon, the number of store sheep exported to England is a relatively small proportion of the total output. Within the country, the principal movements are from the Merionethshire and Denbighshire hills into the Vale of Clwyd and the lowlands of Flintshire, from Caernarvonshire, Merionethshire and Denbighshire into Anglesey, and from the hill districts of Cardiganshire, Carmarthenshire and Breconshire to the Vale of Glamorgan. Many store sheep are dispersed at seasonal sales, particularly in autumn, which are an important feature of the store-raising districts, especially the counties of Brecon, Montgomery and Radnor. The old fairs were held largely for the purpose of disposing of stores, and in the markets in the store-raising counties, private-treaty selling is common, especially for cattle. Store pigs in most counties are sold principally by private treaty, and all over Wales, especially in the south, it is common for store pigs to be sold direct from the cart in which they are brought to market, in many cases on the streets, a method which can hardly permit of a thorough examination by the buyer. (See Figure 2.) There is some trade in store pigs from the markets of Anglesey, Denbighshire and Montgomeryshire, to the dairy districts of Flintshire, Cheshire and Lancashire.

The 6 largest markets for each kind of stock, and in respect of total turnover, with the average entries per annum, are as follows :—

CATTLE.

Fat.		Store.		Cows		All Kinds.	
Carmarthen	5,710	Welshpool	6,600	Mold	4,350	Carmarthen	13,630
Llandilo	4,600	Llanerchymedd	5,800	Carmarthen	4,300	Mold	12,360
Menai Bridge	2,900	Montgomery	5,400	Wrexham	2,100	Welshpool	10,000
Cardiff (Ely)	2,900	Abergele	4,900	Welshpool	1,900	Llanerchymedd	9,400
Llantwit Major	2,700	Mold	4,600	Llanerchymedd	1,450	Wrexham	8,350
Wrexham	2,500	Newtown	4,100	Abergele	1,300	Abergele	7,920

SHEEP AND LAMBS.

Fat.		Store.		All Kinds.	
Abergele	47,000	Knighton	40,000	Abergele	59,850
Welshpool	30,000	Brecon	35,000	Welshpool	55,660
Wrexham	30,000	Mold ...	26,500	Brecon	53,000
Llandilo	26,500	Builth Wells	26,000	Mold ...	48,030
Sennybridge	26,000	Welshpool	25,660	Knighton	44,500
Tal-y-cafn	22,000	Llanidloes	24,500	Wrexham	37,480

CALVES.

Carmarthen	11,160
Wrexham	7,360
Llandilo ...	3,960
Welshpool	3,780
Cardiff ...	3,690
Mold ...	3,310

PIGS.

Welshpool	32,150
Cardiff ...	27,560
Wrexham	26,780
Carmarthen	22,350
Mold ...	18,270
Llandilo ...	17,670

ALL STOCK.

Welshpool	101,590
Mold ...	81,970
Wrexham	79,970
Abergele ...	74,660
Carmarthen	66,270
Brecon ...	60,300

Fat cattle appear in the markets in greatest numbers in Carmarthenshire, Glamorganshire, Anglesey and Denbighshire, and fat sheep in Denbighshire and Breconshire. The great majority of the fat cattle and sheep sold in the Welsh markets are grass fed ; in all but the more mountainous areas, fat lambs appear on the market in large numbers. There is, however, some winter feeding in the vales of Clwyd, Severn and Glamorgan, the Gower Peninsula and Pembrokeshire. Store cattle are a prominent feature in the Montgomeryshire and Denbighshire marts, while the markets in Breconshire, Montgomeryshire and Radnorshire have large entries of store sheep. The principal dairy cow markets are in Carmarthenshire, Denbighshire and Flintshire ; pigs are also a feature of the markets in these three counties.

The desirable features of a well-planned livestock market were outlined in Part I of the present survey (Economic Series No. 13). In lay-out and equipment, the livestock markets of Wales

do not compare unfavourably with those of the east and south of England, but, on the whole, they are less satisfactory than those of the North and Midlands. The markets of North Wales are distinctly superior to those of the South. A number in Denbighshire, Flintshire and Anglesey, in particular, are better equipped than many marts of a similar size in England. In these counties, it is customary to pen fat cattle singly, which facilitates inspection before they enter the ring. The practice of allowing buyers to enter the cattle sale ring is general throughout Wales, however, and the resultant congestion and delay in selling are marked. The chief respects in which Welsh markets, on the whole, are defective, are in covered accommodation for cows, calves and fat cattle, in the material used in construction of pens, which is often wood, in size of sale rings and in planning with a view to the rapid movement of stock, particularly into and out of the sale ring. Separate collecting pens for stock after sale or different gangways for cattle entering and leaving the ring are not general in Welsh markets, with the result that selling is slow. Covered accommodation would, of course, be superflous in many of the markets which handle mainly store stock and fat sheep.

In a considerable number of North Wales markets, all cattle, and, in some, all stock, are penned under cover. Covered sale rings are general in the larger marts in most parts of Wales. Most of the marts, where any considerable number of fat cattle are sold, have dial weighbridges, generally of 30-cwt. or 2-ton capacity. The advantages of the use of the weighbridge in markets have been indicated in previous reports.* No case is known where fat cattle are bid for, as in Cornwall, by the live cwt. or where store cattle or any fat stock other than cattle are weighed before sale. It is common, however, for fat pigs bought on the farms by dealers on a weight basis, where no weighing facilities exist on the farm, to be brought into marts or railway stations for weighing.† On the whole, it must be admitted that the markets owned by public authorities are less efficient than those privately owned.

Compared with England, motor transport is not at present extensively used for carrying stock to and from markets ; its use, however, is on the increase. It is probably most common in Denbighshire and Flintshire—from which counties fat sheep are taken by motor transport as far as Lancashire—and around the town of Carmarthen. The majority of the motor vehicles in use appear to be owned by local haulage contractors. An increasing number of dealers, however, are running their own vehicles for livestock transport. The number of farmers owning their own motor vehicles is comparatively small ; it is probably greatest

* Economic Series No. 13, page 46, and Economic Series No. 20, pages 73 and 74.

† Economic Series No. 12, pages 75 and 77.

in Denbigh and Flint. Motor transport of livestock to market is a factor likely to lead to greater use of the large market, and its development is, therefore, desirable in the interests of better marketing, apart from any question of economy and the better condition of stock so transported as compared with those moved on the hoof. On the whole, the Welsh roads are well adapted to motor transport, though the access of farms to main roads is often difficult.

Facilities for loading on rail from markets leave room for improvement. In a number of cases—e.g., Carmarthen and Montgomery—the market is a mile or more from the station. Few markets have railway sidings on or adjoining the site. Welshpool and Tal-y-cafn are examples of important markets with their own sidings.

The notification by vendors of the number and description of stock they propose to send to market on a given day in time to enable auctioneers to prepare a catalogue for circulation to buyers, would do much to counteract the adverse effect on prices of the wide fluctuations which occur from one market day to another, especially in the smaller marts, in the supplies entered for sale. As in England, however, the practice is rarely adopted sufficiently by vendors to enable catalogues to be prepared. A Montgomeryshire firm of auctioneers, at several of their medium-sized marts, has instituted a scheme by which vendors fill in their expected entries on a specially printed postcard. A list is then circulated by the auctioneers to the principal buyers a day or two before the sale. While it is found impossible to obtain prior notification of all entries, the proportion notified is high and fairly constant (generally from 75 to 85 per cent. of the actual offers), so that a reasonably accurate forecast of the actual numbers at any market can be made. The following figures show the entries of cattle notified and those actually received at four successive markets in 1928 at one centre where this firm conducts an auction :—

Date.	Fat Cattle.		Store Cattle.		Dairy Cows.	
	Entered.	Offered.	Entered.	Offered.	Entered.	Offered.
July 4	76	104	107	135	26	33
„ 18	44	57	32	47	8	12
Aug. 1	114	131	174	221	10	27
„ 15	57	66	82	93	11	12

The fluctuation in margin between entries and offers is naturally greatest for dairy cows, of which the numbers handled are, however, comparatively small. The value of the prior

notification of such an abnormally high entry as that of fat cattle on August 1st, is obvious. The scheme is worth a trial by all livestock auctioneers.*

Of the 167 livestock markets, 36—of which 11 are street markets for pigs—are held weekly, 56 fortnightly or twice or 3 times a month, 8 once or twice every three weeks, 54 monthly, and the remainder at longer intervals. Market days generally fall in the first half of the week; Monday is the most favoured day, when 48 markets are held; 37 are held on Tuesday, 25 on Wednesday, 17 on Thursday, 17 on Friday and 9 on Saturday.

Generally, owing to the large number of markets held at fortnightly or longer intervals, market days in adjacent centres do not clash. Moreover, even where markets in neighbouring towns are held on the same day, there may be no real clashing; geographical considerations might prevent either buyers or sellers at one market from using the other even if they were held on different days. In some cases, clashing may be unavoidable owing to the necessity for timing the markets to enable stock to be repitched in important markets in England—e.g., Salford, or Shrewsbury. The question of the clashing of market days is more important in exporting centres, where buyers are relatively few and from a distance, than in a centre of local importance only. It would be to the advantage of all market users to have market days and times over wide areas arranged by mutual agreement of representatives of the various interests involved The worst example of clashing is in the north-east, where 7 of the most important markets within a circle of 35 miles diameter, in Denbighshire and Flintshire, are held on a Monday; though some of these are held only fortnightly or twice monthly, never less than 4, generally as many as 5, and, at times, 6 of them are held on a Monday. Welsh livestock markets commence generally rather late in the day. Auctions are conducted in English in most districts.

Meat, etc.—Cardiff has the only wholesale meat market, in the true sense of the term, in Wales. The public slaughter-house at Swansea, however, functions as a wholesale meat market and there is some wholesaling of carcases by country butchers in the general produce market at Swansea.

There are public slaughter-houses in 21 market towns in Wales, though these are generally small and not equipped on modern lines; even those at Cardiff and Swansea have out-of-date equipment.

There are only 6 hide and skin markets registered by the Hide, Leather and Allied Trades Improvement Society; 5 of these are in Glamorganshire and 1 in Carmarthenshire.

Wool.—There are 22 annual sales of wool in Wales; these are held at 21 centres and are all auction sales. Of these sales, 9 are

* Economic Series No. 20, page 72.

in Carmarthenshire, 5 in Pembrokeshire, 3 in Denbighshire, 2 in Montgomeryshire, 2 in Cardiganshire and 1 in Glamorganshire. Most of the Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire auctions have been arranged by the county branches of the National Farmers' Union, in collaboration with the British Wool Federation and local auctioneers. Wool sales are most frequent in the counties with the least dense sheep population; counties such as Brecon, Merioneth and Radnor, where the stock of sheep is, proportionately, heaviest, have no sales, all wool being sold direct to wool merchants. It is estimated that about 15 per cent. of the wool produced in Wales passes through the auctions. The 3 largest sales are at Llanidloes and Newtown, at each of which 90,000 fleeces are sold, and Llanrhaiadr-yn-Mochnant, where 30,000 to 40,000 are sold. A small proportion of the wool sold is bought for use in the still surviving Welsh woollen industry. At 12 of the sales, considerably less than 10,000 fleeces are sold. Some of these small sales are badly organised, lotting and cataloguing being poorly done and inadequate space being allowed for the display of samples. Wool is in some cases received too late for cataloguing and badly packed. These small sales would appear to possess no advantages over direct trading, and amalgamation of many of them might profitably be carried out. In most of the Welsh sales, with the possible exception of the 3 largest, the great diversity of breeds and crosses of sheep in Wales is reflected in the miscellaneous character of the wool on offer. The wool cheque is relatively a more important item in the revenue of Welsh farmers generally than in England, and the need for improved marketing of this commodity is therefore all the more urgent.

Fish.—Only one wholesale fish market exists in Wales—viz. at Milford Haven, a description of which appears on page 64.

General.—Of the Welsh markets generally, it may be said that they could play a considerably greater part than they do in assisting the main flow of stock and produce to the principal consuming areas supplied—Lancashire and the South Wales coalfield. A very large proportion of this "export" is at present in the hands of dealers who buy direct from the farms.

(III) RENTS, STALLAGES AND TOLLS.*

Particulars of the charges made in each wholesale market for spaces, stalls or stands and the tolls levied on farm produce and livestock have been collected by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for each market included in the present Report. Information regarding the charges ruling in any market can be obtained on application to the Department.

* *See also* Economic Series No. 13, Chapter II.

In the produce markets, the usual practice is to charge vendors with tolls on all produce brought into the market, the toll carrying with it the right to make use of whatever public bench space is available. Tolls are generally at a fixed rate per basket of mixed produce, but may be charged on each different kind of produce. The rates vary considerably from market to market, 1*d.*, 2*d.* and 3*d.* being the most common charges per basket of average size. When tolls are charged on specific kinds of produce, those on eggs work out at from ½*d.* to ¾*d.* per dozen, those on butter at 1*d.* or 2*d.* for baskets containing from 5 to 10 lb. Special charges are made in some markets on butter sold in tubs, which are usually at a lower rate. ½*d.* or 1*d.* a couple are the most common toll charges for fowls or ducks and 1*d.* each for geese and turkeys. On the whole, charges appear to be lower in the markets of the north than in those of the south. There are several centres where no tolls are charged in the produce markets—e.g. Lampeter, Talgarth. At Swansea, on the other hand, all farm produce sold in the town, other than on the premises of the vendor, is liable to toll.

Tolls are charged in most publicly controlled livestock markets, but when livestock is sold on the streets, as in a number of centres where the old fairs survive (*see* page 25), it is often toll free. This is the case at Knighton, Llanidloes, Llanrwst and Haverfordwest, and in many centres where pigs are sold from carts on the street. The tolls on livestock are usually 2*d.* or 3*d.* per head for cattle—bulls, cows, steers or heifers, 4*d.* per cow and calf, 1*d.* or 2*d.* per calf, 1*d.* per head for sheep (or 1*s.* 3*d.* to 1*s.* 8*d.* a score for stores), and from 1*d.* to 2*d.* per pig (or 6*d.* to 1*s.* 0*d.* per cart-load for stores). These charges are, on the whole, somewhat lower than in England.

Several instances occur—e.g. at Wrexham—where the auctioneers as well as the vendors pay a toll on livestock, but this is in lieu of rent for the space occupied.

In the private markets owned by limited companies, toll charges are often made unless the market has been leased to a firm of auctioneers. In markets owned by auctioneers, no tolls are charged, the auctioneers' commission covering all services.

(IV) FAIRS.

(a) General.

Sale by private treaty is implied in the definition of a fair in Wales, and formerly, the fairs, held in many centres as frequently as monthly, were practically the only form of livestock "market" which existed. Very few of the fairs in Wales appear to be based on charter or statutory rights, most of them being held by ancient custom. A number are of comparatively recent origin. Among the fairs which are authorised by ancient charter or statute

and are still of some importance may be mentioned those at Crickhowell (A.D. 1400), St. Luke's Fair, Criccieth (A.D. 1284), Lampeter (Ffair Dalis) and Llanidloes (Charter of Edward I). As in England, fairs are being gradually superseded by the auction marts, though the process of transition does not appear to have gone so far in Wales. In England, for example, auction selling has very largely replaced private-treaty selling in most of the fairs. In Wales, this is by no means the case. So far as can be ascertained, about 570 fairs are still held in 120 centres in Wales. Their number, however, gives a misleading impression of their importance.

It should be noted that in Appendix II of this Report, an arbitrary division between fairs and markets has been made; all fairs held as often as monthly have been included in the list of markets, with a special indication that they are designated fairs. The justification for this is that, except in name and method of selling employed, there is no essential difference between a monthly mart and a monthly fair.* In many centres where fairs were held at monthly or, roughly, monthly intervals, publicly or privately owned markets have been set up, and both fair and market are still held in the same town, though the market is generally more frequent. In these cases, the fairs are often held on the streets and not always on the same day as the market. Centres where the auction is held on the old fair days include Brecon, Builth Wells, Caerwys (Flint), Denbigh, Erwood, Garth, Hay, Montgomery, Newtown, Rhayader, Ruthin and Talgarth, at all of which practically all the trade is now done in the market, though there may be a little private dealing on the streets and private treaty selling takes place extensively in the market at Brecon, Builth Wells and Denbigh. Centres at which a mart is held on the old fair days, but where the private treaty trade on the streets or on fair grounds is still important, include Corwen, Llanfair Caereinion and Llanidloes. At Caerphilly, Cardiff, Cowbridge, Lampeter, Llandilo, Llanfyllin, Llangadock and Llanrwst, fairs of some importance are still held. These towns possess marts, but the fairs are not held on the same day as the marts.

Though private-treaty selling on fair days survives in many of these centres, in others—e.g., Ruthin—a fair day is only distinguishable by the larger numbers of stock offered in the mart. In most centres where fairs were formerly held as frequently as monthly, an auction mart has now developed, but several instances exist, mainly in Pembrokeshire, where fairs are still held monthly, or approximately monthly, and little or no auction selling takes place. Instances are to be found at Crymmych, Haverfordwest, Maenclochog, Narberth and Letterston in Pembrokeshire, Llanbrynmair (Montgomery) and Newbridge-on-Wye (Radnor). At Llanbryn-

* The same method was adopted in regard to the Shropshire monthly fairs, in Economic Series No. 14.

mair, an auction mart was held for a period but succumbed to direct dealing between farmers and dealers, whereas the fairs survived. Apart from the fairs held at approximately regular monthly intervals, there are few of any importance though a large number of seasonal fairs are still held. These seasonal fairs, the function of which was to give an opportunity of disposing of the seasonal production of store stock—as, for instance, the autumn disposal of draft ewes—have been largely superseded by special auction sales held in market centres, or otherwise. These special seasonal auction sales, in fact, now form one of the chief means of disposing of store sheep in certain counties—e g., Brecon, Montgomery and Radnor. Thus, though efforts are being made in some counties—e.g., Cardigan—to revive some of the old fairs, it seems probable that the surviving fairs in Wales will eventually, as in England, give place to auction marts and sales. Where, as in Anglesey and other counties, a large number of small auction marts have replaced the seasonal fairs, the transition cannot be regarded as entirely advantageous. It may be said of most counties that the total number of market days occurring in a year is now greater than the number of fair days formerly held. While the producer now has more frequent opportunities of marketing his stock and is not forced to sell stock when first offered, the multiplication of market days has the disadvantages of reducing the average number of stock per market and reducing the chance of free competition. The present condition also encourages a multiplicity of dealers and tends to increase the amount of unnecessary dealing.

Fairs for the sale of produce have practically died out. At Llangefni, a honey fair was originated in 1929 under the auspices of the local bee-keepers' society. At Bala, there are relics of the old " seed " fairs at which seed corn was formerly sold by farmers to farmers, and in one or two instances, namely Corwen, Llanrwst and Ruthin, the produce market day is altered monthly to coincide with the old fair dates. At Brecon, a cheese fair is held in November, when considerable quantities of locally made cheese are sold by farmers to their neighbours. The Christmas poultry markets (see page 13) are of the nature of fairs.

(b) Horse Fairs.

Horse breeding is an important branch of livestock production in certain parts of Wales, particularly in Montgomeryshire and Denbighshire. In the moorland districts, ponies are reared. There are 380 fairs at which horses or ponies may be sold and, of these, 28 are confined to horses. Among the more important horse or pony fairs may be mentioned those at Newbridge-on-Wye, Lampeter (Ffair Dalis), Menai Bridge, Caerphilly, Llandilo and Tregaron, while several hundred horses or ponies are sold annually at Llandrhaiadr-yn-Mochnant (Denbigh), Myddfai (Carmarthen), Llangammarch Wells (Brecon), Criccieth (Caernarvon) and Brecon.

(c) Sheep Fairs.

Sheep are sold at 298 fairs or annual sales held at 63 centres. At 33 fairs, sheep are the only stock sold. The bulk of the sheep at the fairs are stores, except in those cases where the fairs are held in conjunction with a mart. The principal sheep fairs and annual sheep sales—excluding annual sales held in market centres and those fairs which are held monthly or in conjunction with marts, as, for example, Llanidloes, Builth Wells and Crymmych, the more important of which are mentioned in Part II of this Report—are at Felindre (Radnor), Caerphilly, Cowbridge, Crickhowell (Brecon), Llanfachreth (Merioneth), St. Harmon (Radnor), Trawsfynydd (Merioneth), Dolfor (Montgomery), Llanberis, Drwsynant (Merioneth), Llanbedr (Merioneth), Bethesda (Caernarvon) and Ynysybwl (Glamorgan). The most important, however—that at Felindre—does not handle more than 4,000 head, the special auction sales in market centres having absorbed most of the store trade that is not covered by direct farmer-dealer transactions on the farms.

(d) Cattle Fairs.

Cattle are sold at 438 fairs or annual sales held at 85 centres. There are few fairs for the sale of cattle only—23 in all. The fairs are of little importance as a means of disposing of cattle, in spite of the large number of fairs at which some are offered. Even at those centres, such as Llanidloes, where fairs are held on the same day as the auction marts, the bulk of the cattle are sold by auction. At Denbigh, however, there are still a considerable number of private-treaty sales of cattle on fair days. Apart from those centres where fairs are held monthly or in conjunction with auction marts, which are mentioned in Appendix II, their turnover of stock being included with that of the auction in Appendix IV, the most important cattle fairs are at Criccieth, Caerphilly and Cowbridge. At the first, about 1,000 head are sold; the others are smaller.

(e) Pig Fairs.

There are 55 fairs at which pigs are the only class of stock on offer; 36 are held in centres where the fairs are usually held monthly. A few store pigs also appear in a number of livestock fairs, together with other stock.

SECTION II.—THE COUNTIES AND THEIR MARKETS.*

ANGLESEY.

(a) General.

Anglesey, one of the two smallest Welsh counties, is comparatively flat and low lying, nowhere rising to an altitude of 1,000 feet. It is one of the chief fat-stock producing counties of Wales. The land is of comparatively good quality, only 11 per cent. of its total area being returned as rough grazing land. About a quarter of its area is arable land, but, of this, over one-half is under clover and rotation grasses, grassland of all kinds occupying 85 per cent. of the area under crops and grass. The corn produced, consisting almost entirely of oats, is chiefly used for stock feeding. A little corn is sold in the market town of Llangefni on market days, but there are no corn exchanges in the county.

The eastern side of the county is largely devoted to the rearing of store cattle and dairy stock, the western side mainly to the fattening of cattle and sheep on grass. Fat lambs are, however, produced all over the county. Practically all the lamb crop is fattened, the ewe flock being replaced by stock imported from other counties. There is little winter feeding of cattle or sheep. Some liquid milk is produced for local requirements and, to some extent, for the supply of Caernarvonshire towns, while butter is made extensively all over the county. Pigs and poultry are more important than in most of the Welsh counties.

A small area of carrots is grown in the south-west and some potatoes on farms all over the county, particularly in the south-east and along the Menai Straits. A little of this produce is sold wholesale in the Bangor produce market, but more is sold on the farms to Bangor buyers.

The production of store stock within Anglesey is not sufficient for local needs and large numbers of store cattle are imported from Caernarvonshire, and of breeding ewes from Caernarvonshire, Merionethshire, west Denbighshire and Cardiganshire. Large numbers of fat sheep and lambs, cattle and pigs are sent out of the island, chiefly to Lancashire, but also, to a less extent, to the sea coast and quarrying towns of Caernarvonshire. There is some export of dairy cows and store pigs to the dairy districts of Cheshire and Flintshire. As is the case in many other Welsh counties, most of the stock sold in Anglesey are not handled by the live-stock markets. Large numbers of stock are bought direct off

* *See also* Appendix II, pages 86-109.

the farms and are taken chiefly to Salford market for private-treaty sale by dealers, of whom about a score operate in the county. Generally, it may be said that the long distance trade is chiefly in the dealers' hands, only a comparatively small surplus being distributed from the markets to destinations outside a radius of 15 miles.

The total number of stock passing through the Anglesey markets in an average year is approximately 77,000, comprising 21,000 cattle, 1,000 calves, 47,000 sheep and 8,000 pigs. The comparatively small part played by the Anglesey marts in the marketing of stock is illustrated by the case of sheep. It is estimated that about 80,000 fat sheep and lambs were railed alive out of the county for sale in 1927, and that about 22,000 were slaughtered in the county, making a total of over 100,000 fat sheep produced in that year, exclusive of those sent away by road, compared with a total entry in the markets of about 47,000 per annum, including both fat and store sheep.

Anglesey suffers from an excessive number of small marts. There are 9 livestock market centres in this small county, at one of which—Llanerchymedd—there are 2 marts. Two firms of auctioneers control 7 out of the 10 marts ; it should therefore be possible for a reduction in the number of marts to be effected by agreement between the auctioneers concerned. The chief live-stock market is at Menai Bridge. Llanerchymedd, the principal store cattle and dairy cow market, is a centre of medium import-ance, and there are smaller marts in order of importance at Llangefni, Gaerwen, Bodorgan, Tycroes, Amlwch, Valley and Llanddeusant. At none of the last 5 centres are as many as 5,000 head of stock sold per annum. Llangefni is the chief centre in the island for the sale of pigs, principally stores, some of which are sold by private treaty direct from the farmers' carts. The Llangefni pig trade, however, is chiefly in the hands of dealers who both sell in the market and hawk pigs around small holdings and cottages. Practically no fat pigs enter the Anglesey markets. In equipment, the largest marts are reasonably good, ample cover for cattle and covered sale rings being provided. There are dial weighbridges in 7 marts.

The livestock market position in Anglesey somewhat resembles that of Cornwall, and appears to call for a similar remedy—viz., the building-up of a large mart on the side of the county nearest to the consuming centre chiefly supplied. In both cases there is a large export of fat stock to distant consuming centres and in neither case are the existing marts large enough to attract long distance buyers, with the result that the trade is largely in the hands of local dealers. From Anglesey, as many as 67,000 fat sheep, 10,000 fat cattle and 12,000 fat pigs are estimated to be railed in a year to Lancashire alone. Assuming livestock markets in the exporting areas to be a sound system of marketing such stock, an arrangement such as exists in Norfolk, where a large

proportion of the stock is sent in to large markets, such as Norwich and King's Lynn, which are big enough to attract buyers from the consuming areas, would be an improvement on the present disorganised condition of the Anglesey marts. If farmers could be persuaded to make use of it, a large collecting mart at a centre such as Menai Bridge might fulfil a useful function in this county.

The only livestock fairs in Anglesey are held at Menai Bridge, the principal of which is held in October, when several hundred horses and mountain ponies are sold. At one time, the fairs, held at comparatively long intervals, used to attract large entries of stock. The rise of auctions has resulted in the practical disappearance of the fairs, however, and has gradually produced a system of frequent small sales of stock which can hardly be said to be more efficient in ensuring competitive prices, whatever advantages they may possess in giving more frequent opportunities of putting stock on the market. An annual honey fair was commenced at Llangefni in 1929 by the county beekeepers' association to dispose of surplus. About ½ ton of honey was sold in the first year of the fair. Minimum prices were fixed previous to the fair day by the Association, below which all vendors agreed not to sell.

Butter, eggs and poultry are, like livestock, mainly sold direct to dealers who visit the farms, and large quantities are taken by these buyers to the Caernarvonshire coast towns and quarry districts. There are produce markets at Amlwch, Holyhead and Llangefni. At the first two, trade is practically all retail. At the last, it is mainly wholesale, buyers from the Caernarvonshire coast and quarry towns attending, and this market sets the price for farm produce for the whole island. Even at Llangefni, however, as at other market towns in North Wales, a large proportion of the trade is done outside the market building in the streets and inn-yards; only about 60 tons of produce per annum are brought to the market itself.

No livestock sales take place at the Holyhead L.M.S. lairages for Irish stock, where accommodation is provided for about 1,500 cattle and 2,000 sheep and pigs.

(b) Notes on particular markets.

Menai Bridge.—The livestock market at Menai Bridge, owned by a firm of auctioneers and held weekly, is easily the largest in Anglesey. Its situation at the entrance to the island on the main Holyhead road, and on the L.M.S. main line, is such as to make it potentially a more important collecting centre for the whole island than it is at present.

The market is quite well laid out, with ample uncovered pens for cattle, sheep and pigs and covered pens for about 90 cattle tied up singly. There is a covered sale ring building with a 2-ton dial weighbridge and tiered staging for buyers.

In a recent year, 33,865 head of stock entered the market, including 2,923 fat cattle, 1,712 store cattle, 1,132 cows, 1,009 calves, 23,856 fat and store sheep and 3,233 pigs. The market draws on both Anglesey and Caernarvon-

shire for its supplies. Store cattle from the Lleyn Peninsula are brought in by dealers and bought by Anglesey buyers for feeding in the county. Dairy cows produced in Anglesey are sold in this market to buyers for export to Cheshire. About 60 per cent. of the fat cattle are assigned to Lancashire, the remainder being consumed in North Wales towns. A large proportion of the fat sheep sold at Menai Bridge go to the adjacent Caernarvonshire towns—Caernarvon, Bangor, Llandudno, Bethesda, Llanberis—but it is estimated that over 40 per cent. are consigned to Lancashire. The pig trade is chiefly a local one.

The trade in this market shows great seasonal variations; the fat cattle are mainly grass-fed and over 40 per cent. of the year's supply come forward in the 3 months of September to November. Store cattle are on offer mainly in the spring, half the year's supply coming in from April to June inclusive. A large number of the cattle fed in Anglesey are Welsh Blacks, which, under the prevailing conditions, give a lean carcase suitable for the Lancashire trade. Indeed, a considerable percentage of the cattle sold as stores in this and other markets in the island are actually sent to Manchester for immediate slaughter. The sheep trade is largely concentrated in the 5 months of May to September, when, owing to the influx of fat lambs in spring and early summer, and of breeding ewes coming into the county in autumn, almost 70 per cent. of the year's entry are offered. At 2 special ewe sales held annually in September, over 5,000 breeding ewes off the Caernarvonshire hills are offered. There are 2 special sales of pedigree Welsh Black cattle in March and September.

At the Great Fair held on the streets in October, large numbers of horses and mountain ponies are sold, the former by auction and the latter by private treaty. A smaller fair for mountain ponies is held in November. Up to 1,000 horses and ponies are disposed of at the 2 fairs.

BRECONSHIRE.

(a) General.

Breconshire is a somewhat mountainous county with, however, a fair proportion of lower land of good quality. In the south, are the Black Mountains and the Forest Fawr, rising in parts to well over 2,000 feet. In the north, is a lower ridge, the Mynydd Eppynt, much of which is over 1,000 feet in height. Between these two mountainous areas runs the river Usk, from the west to the south-east of the county, where it cuts between the Black Mountains and Forest Fawr into Monmouthshire. In this valley, particularly the lower portion, there is good grassland. The river Wye forms the northern and north-eastern boundary, but its valley is narrow except for a stretch of about 10 miles above Hay. Much of the hilly country makes useful pasturage, and in the Usk and Wye valleys there is land of good quality. Some of the best land in the county lies on the strip of comparatively low country between the Usk and Wye valleys from Brecon, through Talgarth to Hay. As much as 47 per cent. of the area of the county is returned as rough grazing land and less than 8 per cent. is arable.

Store sheep and store cattle are the chief agricultural products of Breconshire. The highest land is devoted entirely to store sheep raising. Lower down, the farms have some low land in

conjunction with a mountain sheep run ; as many lambs as possible are fattened, the proportion varying with the extent of the lowland grazing on the farm the rest are sold off as stores, either as "couples" in spring or as store lambs in autumn ; many prime draft ewes are also disposed of in the autumn. Below an altitude of 1,000 feet, store cattle, chiefly Herefords, are raised ; many are wintered, corn and roots being grown for feeding and as much lowland grass as possible being made into hay for the purpose. On the lower land, also, rape is grown for wintering sheep. It is not found possible to winter all the sheep in the county, however, and considerable numbers are sent into the counties of Cardigan, Glamorgan and Monmouth to winter. In the Usk and Wye valleys and on the strip of lowland between Brecon and Hay, cattle and sheep are fattened on grass and there is an increasing amount of liquid milk production for the South Wales market. Butter is extensively made in conjunction with store cattle raising

The sheep population of Breconshire is second in Wales for density. The chief breeds of sheep are Welsh Mountain or Cheviot-Welsh cross on the hills, and Radnor, Kerry and Ryeland on the lowlands. Very few pigs are kept in the county, nor is poultry-keeping a prominent feature.

The county has markets for its agricultural output at its doors. The South Wales coalfield absorbs most of its surplus fat stock and produce, while the grazing lands of the counties of Hereford, Monmouth, Salop and Gloucester and of the Vale of Glamorgan are convenient outlets for its store stock. There are 7 livestock markets in the county held regularly throughout the year , in addition, livestock auction sales, of sheep chiefly, are held at monthly or fortnightly intervals in summer and autumn at 2 centres—viz. Garth and Erwood. In the southern half of the county, livestock are rarely sold by auction ; there is only one regular mart south of the Usk valley and that is relatively unimportant. The store sheep, which are the main product of this part of the county, are largely sold to dealers who buy sheep straight off the farms, taking them mainly to the Vale of Glamorgan. The seasonal nature of the trade does not favour the establishment of regular markets. The two chief livestock markets are at Brecon and Builth Wells, the former handling over 60,000 and the latter over 40,000 head of stock annually. There are medium-sized marts at Sennybridge, Talgarth, Hay and Talybont-on-Usk, and a small mart at Penderyn. At Builth Wells and Sennybridge, the trade is principally in store stock, apart from fat lambs ; stores are in the majority at Brecon also. Store sheep are sold in large numbers at Brecon and Builth Wells in particular, 60,000 head or more being dispersed every year at these 2 marts alone. The store sheep trade is concentrated chiefly in the autumn ; special autumn sheep sales are

held at Brecon (3), Talgarth (4), Hay (2), Sennybridge (2), Builth Wells (2), Talybont-on-Usk (1) and Crickhowell (1). Over 40,000 head are disposed of at these sales. "Couples"—ewes with lambs—from Cardiganshire are a prominent feature of Brecon market in the spring. Some of the larger farmers dispose of their surplus store sheep annually by means of "draft sales," held on the farm in the autumn. At the 4 largest draft sales, a total of about 7,000 sheep per annum are sold. At Sennybridge, monthly store cattle sales have recently commenced, with the result that Monmouthshire and Herefordshire farmers now attend and buy their store stock personally, whereas formerly the trade was carried on entirely by dealers who bought on the farms and took stock for re-sale to Herefordshire and Monmouthshire markets. Brecon and Talgarth are the two principal fat cattle markets. Fat lambs are sold in large numbers in season in all the principal markets, but especially at Talgarth, Sennybridge, Brecon and Builth Wells; over 70,000 fat sheep, the majority being lambs, were sold in these 4 markets in a recent year.

The total number of stock passing through the Breconshire markets in an average year is about 203,000, comprising 12,000 cattle, 4,000 calves, 176,000 sheep and 11,000 pigs.

Monthly fairs at which livestock were sold by private treaty were formerly the only kind of market for livestock in the county; in several cases these have survived, but auction selling has been introduced and the two methods of sale now go on side by side. The turnover of stock through the auctions which are now held at more frequent intervals is usually larger than at the surviving private-treaty fairs. The latter have, in fact, largely lost their separate identity as a means of disposing of stock. In some of the larger marts—e.g., Brecon and Builth Wells, private-treaty selling of store stock is common.

The livestock markets are moderately well equipped for the type of trade handled. Covered accommodation for stock is usually restricted to a shed for cows and calves. Talgarth is the only market with a dial weighbridge. Overlapping in sales by different firms of auctioneers does not occur. In spite of its large sheep population, there are in the county no auction sales of wool, which is disposed of chiefly by direct sales to wool merchants. Some wool is sent to the Hereford agency of Southern Wool Growers', Ltd., and to wool sales in Scotland.

Produce markets for the private-treaty sale of butter, eggs, poultry and cheese by producers are found at Brecon, Brynmawr, Crickhowell, Erwood, Hay, Sennybridge and Talgarth. Some retailing is done in these markets but a large proportion of the produce sold is taken by dealers from the South Wales towns. Brecon is the most important market, about 600 baskets of produce per week being sold: trade is relatively small at the other centres. Talgarth market suffers from falling on the same day as the

neighbouring Brecon market. At Builth Wells, the produce market is disused, but a considerable trade is done between producers and dealers every Monday on the roads entering the town.

Brecon has a public slaughter-house which is of purely local importance.

(b) Notes on particular markets.

Brecon.—The markets at Brecon include a livestock market and produce market. The cattle market adjoining the station is ample in size; practically all accommodation is uncovered except for an open-fronted shed for cows and calves. The cattle sale ring is uncovered and has an ordinary weighbridge; the erection of a dial machine is contemplated. Store pigs are sold direct from carts, both by auction and private treaty. The market is held on alternate Tuesdays for all stock and every Friday for store sheep in season. Both auction and private-treaty sales take place at the fortnightly Tuesday market, a large proportion of the store cattle, sheep and pigs being sold by private treaty. On Fridays, all sales are by private treaty. Tolls are payable on all stock brought to the market, the tolls being leased by the Corporation to a lessee. The yearly approximate sales of livestock at Brecon are:—fat cattle 1,000, store cattle 1,800, dairy cows 300, calves 1,300, fat sheep and lambs 18,000, store sheep 35,000, fat pigs 1,300 and store pigs 1,600.

Almost all the fat stock surplus to local requirements goes to South Wales and, to a small extent, to the Midlands. Large numbers of sheep "couples" are brought in during May and June from Cardiganshire by dealers and are generally sold on Fridays by private treaty. They are bought by farmers in the county, the best lambs being sold fat and the rest kept on and sold as store ewes or fat wethers. Wethers are also brought in from Cardigan in the spring and ewes in the autumn for private-treaty sale on Fridays. These are mainly Welsh Mountain sheep. Large numbers of locally bred store lambs and draft ewes enter the market in the autumn: in 3 special sales of store sheep held in September, about 10,000 sheep in all are dispersed. These sheep are bought by farmers in the lowland parts of the county and by dealers and farmers from the counties of Glamorgan, Monmouth, Hereford and Salop.

The monthly fairs are held on market day and only differ from ordinary markets in that some horses are sold in the streets.

The produce market is probably the fourth in importance in Wales for direct trade by producers. The building is a hall of the usual type, with stone floor and roof partly glazed. A large entrance lobby and annexe are occupied by miscellaneous stalls and "cheap-jacks," and about one-third of the main hall is similarly occupied. The rest of the main hall is occupied on Fridays by benches and tables for producers, who sell both retail and wholesale from baskets in the usual way. There is considerable congestion. One end of the hall is reserved for dealers to pack produce bought from farmers' wives. Some 500 to 700 baskets of produce are sold weekly, probably representing from 300 to 400 vendors. Eggs, poultry and butter are the chief products; fruit and vegetables are also sold. Butter is sold chiefly in pats, but also in lump and in tubs, particularly in the autumn. The retail trade forms only a small proportion of the total trade in the market. Produce is largely bought by wholesalers, shopkeepers and hucksters from Merthyr, Pontypridd and other towns in the north of the Glamorganshire and Monmouthshire industrial area. Dealers generally rent a stall in the market; farmers pay tolls at per basket of produce sold.

There is a public slaughter-house in Brecon.

An annual cheese fair is held in the produce market in November. The cheese offered is largely the local variety, made partly from ewes' milk and skimmed or whole cows' milk, and is bought by local and Glamorganshire farmers; about 80 to 100 tons are sold.

Builth Wells.—The only market in use in Builth Wells is the livestock market. The produce market is now disused as such.

The livestock market, which is publicly owned, occupies about ½ acre and consists almost entirely of open pens and iron-railed bays for sheep, pigs and cattle, respectively. There is a small covered shed for cows and calves. Pigs, as in other parts of South and mid-Wales, are also sold direct from carts. Only one firm of auctioneers sells in the market. Practically all the store cattle and a large proportion of the store sheep are sold by private treaty.

The stock offered is mainly store. About 42,800 head pass through the market annually, comprising about 600 fat cattle, 600 cows and calves, 2,700 store cattle, 700 calves, 10,000 fat sheep and lambs, 26,000 store sheep, 600 fat pigs and 1,600 store pigs. Fat sheep and lambs go to South Wales. Store cattle and sheep are taken on to the lower lands in the east of the county and into Glamorganshire, Monmouthshire and the West of England. About 5,000 draft ewes are sold at two special ewe sales in September, and about 150 rams at a special sale in October. The monthly fairs have become merged in the weekly market. A few horses are sold in the streets on the old fair dates.

Though no farm produce is sold in the produce market, a number of dealers on market day pitch their vehicles by the sides of roads entering the town and purchase eggs, butter and poultry from farmers coming in to market. This produce is generally consigned to South Wales towns. Farm produce is also delivered direct to shops in the town by farmers. No tolls are taken on produce thus sold.

CAERNARVONSHIRE.

(a) General.

Caernarvonshire may be divided, geographically, into two main parts; the Lleyn peninsula in the west is moderately flat, somewhat resembling Anglesey, though the land is on the whole of poorer quality; the eastern portion of the county, with the exception of a lowland coastal strip, is occupied by the Snowdon range of mountains and is of low fertility, though, in recent years, of comparatively high economic productivity. Of the total area of the county, almost half is returned as rough grazing land and only about one-seventh is arable. The Lleyn peninsula is largely devoted to the rearing of store cattle and cows, with some cattle feeding, and fat lamb production. Store cattle raising is especially important west of Pwllheli, where large 3-year-old Welsh Black stores are a feature. Cattle feeding is carried on mainly on grass. Butter is made all over the peninsula but production is heaviest on a belt of land north of Criccieth. On the coastal strip north of the Snowdon range, dairying is general for the supply of liquid milk to the coast towns. On this belt, there is also some fat-lamb production and winter feeding of cattle. The Snowdon range itself is mainly devoted to the rearing of store sheep, both breeding ewes and store lambs, with a little lamb feeding on the lower farms. Pigs and poultry are relatively unimportant in Caernarvonshire. Bacon pigs are produced, however, in the Lleyn peninsula and the north of the county, the surplus going to the Midlands. Very few fat pigs pass through the markets.

Although some fat sheep and a few fat cattle are sent from Caernarvonshire to Lancashire, the county's production is actually insufficient for the needs of its population, which includes that of the quarry districts of Bethesda and Llanberis and the floating population of the coastal resorts; fat stock, particularly sheep, are therefore imported from the adjoining counties of Denbigh and Anglesey. Store cattle for feeding are sent from the Lleyn peninsula to Anglesey and other North Wales counties and, at times, to the Midlands. Dairy stores are consigned to Cheshire. Considerable numbers of store sheep go from Caernarvon to Anglesey, Denbigh and other North Wales counties. On the whole, however, movements of stock into and out of Caernarvonshire are comparatively small and the need of the county for large assembling marts is less urgent than is the case with the adjoining counties of Anglesey and Denbigh.

There are 8 regular markets for livestock in Caernarvonshire. The most important are at Conway and Caernarvon, the former being one of the system of marts serving the Conway valley and attracting both Caernarvonshire and Denbighshire stock. The others are all small marts on the Lleyn peninsula—Pwllheli, Sarn, Brynkir, Chwilog, Penygroes and Portmadoc. Most of them attract considerable supplies of store cattle and cows but few other stock. Conway is the only market at which any considerable number of pigs are received. There are periodical sales of stock, chiefly sheep, varying from 2 to 4 sales per annum at Dolwyddelan, Yspytty Ifan, Penmachno, Nevin and Llandwrog. The total number of stock entered in the Caernarvonshire marts and periodical sales in an average year is 94,000, comprising 17,000 cattle, 3,000 calves, 65,000 sheep and 9,000 pigs. Annual sales of store cattle or sheep are held in some of the regular market centres as well as in various places where there is no regular mart. They are, naturally, most frequent in the eastern mountainous part of the county. There are annual sales or fairs for store sheep at Aber, Bethesda, and Llanllechid, of cattle at Llanllyfni, and of both cattle and sheep at Beddgelert, Bettws Garmon, Llanberis and Llanfairfechan. Most of these sales are comparatively small. Several of the old fairs survive, but the auction is rapidly replacing the private-treaty sale. The auction sales at Aber, Beddgelert, Bethesda, Llanberis, Llanfairfechan, Llanllechid and Llanllyfni are all held on the old fair dates. At Caernarvon and Pwllheli, where there are auction marts, fairs are still held on the streets or in fields, but very little stock is sold. Three fairs are held annually at Criccieth, of which the May fair is important, about 200 horses and up to 1,000 cattle as well as pigs being sold.

There are no wool auction sales in Caernarvonshire.

Farm produce—butter, eggs and poultry—is generally sold direct to dealers who visit the farms, or is delivered to dealers' or retailers' premises. At the Bangor, Caernarvon, Llandudno

and Pwllheli markets, there is little or no retailing or wholesaling of farm produce. At Bangor, there is a little wholesale trade in fruit and vegetables. At Pwllheli, at one time the most important produce market in North Wales, an important trade in farm produce is still done in the town on market days, not in the market but in the streets, inn-yards and dealers' premises. A similar position obtains at Caernarvon.

There are public slaughter-houses at Caernarvon, Llandudno and Pwllheli; these are engaged in local trade and are, on the whole, satisfactory.

(b) Notes on particular markets.

Conway.—The weekly livestock auction mart at Conway adjoins the L.M.S. main line and is owned by a firm of auctioneers. The accommodation consists of a long, corrugated-iron shed occupying about 1,000 square yards, and divided into two sections, one containing pens for sheep, the other cattle pens with a sale-ring and 30-cwt. dial weighbridge. All stock can thus be housed under cover. The market draws on the Conway Valley and the coastal plain to the west of the town. It is primarily a fat stock market supplying Conway and Llandudno and other North Wales coastal resorts. There is a large entry of fat lambs, as many as 800 a week being on offer in the season. These find a ready market in the seaside towns. Practically no fat stock is sent to Lancashire, as prices paid by the North Wales butchers in the holiday season are too high for the Lancashire dealers. A special sale of breeding ewes and rams, at which about 1,000 head are offered, is held in September.

The produce market is defunct, no farm produce now being offered.

CARDIGANSHIRE.

(a) General.

Cardiganshire consists, in the main, of hilly country, a considerable proportion (25 per cent.) being over 1,000 feet in altitude, particularly in the extreme north and north-east, where there is much very poor high land. A relatively high proportion —almost 20 per cent.—of the total area of the county is under arable cultivation: it is common for the lower hill grassland to be broken up periodically and to be sown with rape for grazing with sheep. Considerable areas of corn, chiefly oats and barley for stock feeding, and of roots are grown. There are few corn sales, those which take place being direct to local agricultural merchants or neighbouring farmers. There are no corn exchanges in the county. On the lower land, fat sheep, both summer and winter fed, are produced; there is little fattening of cattle. In the southern half of the county, the production of small pork is important. The higher and poorer land, especially in the north, is devoted chiefly to sheep raising with a few store cattle. Many of the farms include an area of lowland with a hill sheep run, the lowland being, so far as possible, laid up for hay to provide winter keep for the stock which are grazed on the hills in summer. Many

sheep " couples " are sold off in the spring and large numbers of breeding ewes go out in the autumn. Breeds of sheep in the lowland parts of the county are very mixed. There is a little dairying in the Ystwyth valley for the supply of milk to the seaside resorts. Butter is made all over the county in conjunction with store cattle raising. Poultry keeping in Cardiganshire is comparatively well developed.

The export of store cattle and sheep and of fat pigs from the county is important. A large proportion of the store cattle are taken by dealers to Oswestry and Shrewsbury for resale, usually for grazing in the north Midlands. Cows and store cattle also go into Carmarthenshire and Glamorganshire from the south of the county. Store and breeding sheep are sent chiefly into other Welsh counties, particularly to Anglesey, Merioneth and Brecon from the north of the county and to Carmarthen and Glamorgan from the south. The pig trade is largely in small pork, which is sent to the South Wales industrial area. There is also some export of fat sheep and lambs to South Wales and the Midlands. Fat lambs meet a ready demand within the county in the holiday season.

The export of livestock from the county is entirely in the hands of dealers, and most of the better-class stock is bought by them on the farms. The livestock markets of the county handle a relatively small proportion of the stock sold, particularly of the sheep, as is indicated by the following Table showing the total of each kind of stock passing through the Cardiganshire markets in an average year compared with the total railed out of the county in 1927. The market figures include stock bought both for consumption or use in the county and for export, so that the proportion of exported stock sold through the markets is actually considerably less than shown by the Table :—

	Passing through markets.	*Railed out of the county* (1927).
Cattle	12,400	20,800
Calves	1,200	7,600
Sheep	33,000	80,600
Pigs	19,000*	34,600†

In the publicly owned markets, private-treaty selling is practised extensively, particularly for pigs. At Aberystwyth and Cardigan, weaner and store pigs do not enter the mart but are sold weekly by private treaty on the streets direct from the farmers' carts. Most of the fat pigs produced are bought on the farms on a live-weight basis. The auctioneer thus plays a comparatively small part in the marketing of livestock in Cardiganshire. There are livestock markets in 8 centres in the county, at none of which

* Chiefly store.
† Chiefly fat.

are as many as 20,000 head of stock handled per annum. There are medium-sized auction markets at Cardigan, Lampeter and Devil's Bridge, and small marts, in order of turnover, at Talybont, Aberystwyth, Goginan and Ystrad. At Tregaron, a private-treaty livestock market is held in the streets and fair fields. The auction marts at Llandyssul, Llanybyther and Newcastle Emlyn, on the borders of the counties of Cardigan and Carmarthen, receive much Cardiganshire stock. Cardigan is the principal fat cattle market, receiving a considerable proportion of winter-fed cattle. Cardigan, Lampeter and Tregaron are useful store cattle centres, store cattle from Cardigan being consigned as far as East Anglia in the autumn. At Devil's Bridge, practically all the entries are store sheep. Talybont and Devil's Bridge marts are farmers' co-operative marts; auctioneers are employed by the company in each case, the commission being divided equally between the company and the auctioneer, while the company also collects tolls on all stock and is responsible for bad debts.

The only fair of any importance is Ffair Dalis at Lampeter; held in May, at which about 600 horses are sold annually. From this fair, horses are taken to all parts of England and Wales as well as to Belgium and Germany. Recent efforts to revive one or two of the old fairs have not yet met with success.

Greater use by farmers of the auction marts would ensure freer competition than is offered by the present system of direct individual dealing. The existence of so many small marts unfortunately tends to split up the stock sold in markets into excessively small groups, though, in the north of the county, transport facilities are so poor that even the small markets fulfil an essential function. Established custom favours the continuance of the direct trading system, and if the marts are to secure a greater part of the trade they must emerge from their present disorganised condition. There is a large export of livestock, particularly store, and progress would appear to lie on the lines of developing a few large, efficiently run marts or seasonal sales in positions planned in relation to the main flow of stock from the county. Pencader in Carmarthenshire, Cardigan, Lampeter and Tregaron, for example, are well situated as centres for collection prior to export.

Lampeter is the only centre for wool sales: here, there are 2 sales per annum, the first consisting mainly of lowland clips, the second, in August, being held to meet the needs of hill farmers whose flocks are sheared too late for the first sale. In all, about 30,000 to 35,000 fleeces are sold at these two sales. Cardiganshire wool is also sent to sales in Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire, such as Llanybyther, Llandyssul, Newcastle Emlyn and Narberth.

As in the case of livestock, much farm produce, such as butter, eggs and poultry, is bought by dealers who visit the farms: a considerable quantity is also taken by the producers directly to

town shops, especially to the seaside resorts during the summer. At the Aberystwyth, Cardigan and Lampeter produce markets, farm produce is sold direct to retailers, dealers and consumers, but relatively little trade is done.

There are small public slaughter-houses at Aberystwyth, Cardigan and Lampeter.

CARMARTHENSHIRE.

(a) General.

Carmarthenshire, the largest county in Wales, consists mainly of moderately high, undulating country, penetrated by fertile river valleys, of which the chief is that of the Towy, which runs right across the county from north-east to south-west. Permanent grass accounts for seven-eighths of the area under crops and grass in the county. In the north-east, approaching Breconshire, the country becomes mountainous. The south-east forms part of the South Wales industrial area ; near the coast, around Llanelly, the land is less hilly and some market gardening is carried on.

Dairying is the main agricultural industry, with store-cattle raising on the higher ground and cattle grazing on the richer land, particularly in the upper Towy valley around Llandilo and on the Laugharne marshes at the mouth of the Towy. The Towy Valley, in particular, is a great milk-producing district, though dairying becomes less conspicuous in its upper portion. The dairy area extends westwards along the G.W.R. main line to the Pembrokeshire border. Most of the milk output is sold in liquid form, some in the South Wales towns, much in London. Butter is made on the more remote farms and is marketed partly in the local provision markets found in several towns, partly direct to retailer or dealer. On the richer land, many dairy farmers rear no stock but sell their calves and buy in dairy cows as required. In the north-west, the farming resembles that of Cardigan and there is more arable land than in the rest of the county. Little corn is sold, however, that which is grown being used for feeding purposes. Store-cattle raising is prominent in this part of the county. Sheep are less important in Carmarthenshire than in most of the Welsh counties ; their numbers increase in the north-east, where store sheep are raised on the hills and fat lambs are produced on the lower ground. Pigs are kept in large numbers all over the county, small pork being chiefly produced.

Store cattle and sheep, besides being bought for feeding in the county, are sent to the west of England. Fat stock is bought in the markets by wholesalers from the industrial towns of G'amorganshire and south-east Carmarthenshire, and a little goes into England. Winter-fed cattle and sheep are sent in from Shropshire and

Pembrokeshire to some of the marts—e.g., Llandilo, where they are bought by South Wales butchers.

There are livestock markets at 14 centres in the county, of which 9 handle less than 10,000 head of stock per annum. Carmarthen, at which over 60,000 head of stock are sold annually, is the largest market and is particularly noted for dairy cows and veal calves with, also, a considerable supply of fat lambs in the season. Although handling only a quarter of the number of cattle sold at Shrewsbury, for example, it is the biggest market for cattle in Wales. Llandilo, with two marts, handles over 50,000 head of stock per annum and is regarded as the best fat-stock centre in the county. There are markets of medium importance at Llanybyther, Whitland, Llandovery, Llangadock and Newcastle Emlyn, and smaller marts at Llandyssul, St. Clears, Clynderwen, Kidwelly, Pumpsaint, Pontardulais and Llansawel. In addition, 2 annual sales of sheep are held at Llangain East. Llanybyther, Whitland, Newcastle Emlyn and St. Clears receive fair supplies of fat cattle and lambs, and fat lambs are plentiful at Llandovery and Llangadock, situated in the upper Towy valley. Carmarthen, Llanybyther and Llandyssul are important store-cattle markets, and at Llanybyther, Llandovery and Llangadock large numbers of store sheep are also offered. The principal pig markets are Carmarthen, Llandilo, Whitland and Newcastle Emlyn. Horse sales are held at Carmarthen and Llanybyther, where there are special repositories.

In an average year, 248,000 head of stock pass through the marts, comprising 40,000 cattle, 27,000 calves, 119,000 sheep and 62,000 pigs. This total turnover would suggest that a reduction in the number of marts, attracting, on the average, increased entries, would ensure more competitive prices as a result of attracting more buyers from a distance. There are several small marts the necessity for which it is difficult to appreciate in view of the proximity of other markets. The movement of fat stock being predominantly in an easterly and south-easterly direction, the markets at Carmarthen and Llandilo are good assembling centres and greater concentration on them should be sound policy. Some of the disadvantages inherent in a multiplicity of markets have been overcome; and, in several cases, adjoining marts are held in alternate weeks, thus avoiding clashing of market days and, at the same time, securing a larger average entry per market day. This is the case with the two marts at Llandilo and with the markets at Llandovery and Llangadock, Whitland and St. Clears. Overlapping of sales by several auctioneers in the same market is also uncommon, many of the marts being owned by firms of auctioneers and, generally, where they are publicly owned, as at Carmarthen and Llandilo, only one firm of auctioneers conducts sales. Four marts are owned by limited companies or farmers' associations. Where this is the case, the

mart is usually let to a firm of auctioneers at a fixed rent. At Kidwelly, where the mart is owned by a farmers' co-operative association, an auctioneer is employed at a commission on sales and vendors are charged a slightly higher commission than that paid to the association's auctioneer, as well as a toll on stock entered. The markets are, on the whole, poorly equipped, comparing in this respect unfavourably with those of Denbighshire, which are similar as regards trade. Covered accommodation for stock, a more important consideration than in most parts of Wales, on account of the number of dairy cows and calves on offer, is deficient in most marts in the county. Covered sale rings are not general and, in many cases, the marts are not planned so as to facilitate stock movements and rapid selling. There are dial weighbridges in four marts. The practice of selling pigs direct from the carts both by auction and private treaty is general.

Autumn sales of store sheep are held in many of the market centres, including Llandilo, Llandovery and Llanybyther. Direct sales from farmer to dealer on the farms are common in Carmarthenshire, particularly on the western side of the county.

The livestock fairs, though numerous, have been reduced as in other counties to comparative unimportance by the auctions. Fairs are still held in several centres where auction marts have arisen, but these, generally, have not become merged in the mart but are usually held on a different day—e.g., Carmarthen, Llandilo and Llandovery.

Wool auction sales have been arranged in a number of centres by the National Farmers' Union in agreement with the British Wool Federation. There are nine annual sales in all, at Carmarthen, Llandilo, Llandovery, Llandyssul, Llanybyther, Newcastle Emlyn, Pencader, St. Clears and Whitland. The two most important are at Llanybyther and Llandilo, at which about 25,000 and 15,000 fleeces, respectively, are sold. The other sales average about 4,000 fleeces each and some amalgamation would appear to be desirable. Much of the wool is bought by Yorkshire and Breconshire buyers.

The provision, or produce, markets, in which eggs, poultry, butter and a little cheese, and vegetables are sold by private treaty by producers direct to consumers and dealers, are a conspicuous feature in Carmarthenshire. Such markets are to be found at Carmarthen, Llandilo, Llandovery, Llanelly, Newcastle Emlyn and Whitland. The market at Carmarthen is the largest of its kind in Wales, while that at Llandilo is, with Welshpool, the second largest. At Llanelly, the selling of farm produce is mainly retail and is carried on in conjunction with a miscellaneous retail stall market. The produce markets at Llandovery, Newcastle Emlyn and Whitland are of little importance. It is estimated that an average of almost 2,000 baskets of produce of various kinds are sold in the county's markets weekly, most of which is taken by dealers to the South Wales industrial area. This represents the

produce of probably not more than 1,500 growers, while there are in Carmarthenshire about 8,500 agricultural holdings of over 1 acre. It seems likely, therefore, that less than 20 per cent. of producers in the county use the produce markets. From the west of the county and from Cardiganshire and Pembrokeshire, large numbers of eggs and much butter are sent in to the Clynderwen and District Farmers' Association, Ltd., which grades and packs eggs under the National Mark Scheme and is a demonstration centre for the purpose.

Fruit and vegetables from the market-garden area in the south-east are sold wholesale and retail by producers in Llanelly market. There is a hide and skin market at Carmarthen. Carmarthen, Kidwelly, Llandilo and Llanelly have public slaughter-houses.

(b) Notes on particular markets.

Carmarthen.—*See* page 68.

Llandilo.—The markets at Llandilo comprise a public provision market, with a small public slaughter-house adjoining, and a public cattle mart leased to a firm of auctioneers. Another cattle mart, owned by a limited company of which the shareholders are chiefly farmers, is held at Llandilo Bridge about ½-mile outside the town. Both marts are held fortnightly, alternating with each other. An auction sale of wool is held in the provision market in June or July, about 12,000 fleeces being sold.

The Llandilo mart, which has recently been reconstructed, is situated about 200 yards from the railway station. The mart occupies about an acre and its accommodation includes covered shedding for about 120 cows and calves, a separate shelter for calves with covered sale-ring, uncovered pens for cattle, sheep and pigs, and a covered cattle sale-ring with a 30-cwt. dial weigh-bridge. The mart is equipped with a permanent cattle loading ramp.

The Llandilo Bridge mart adjoins the railway and is also well-equipped, with stabling for horses in addition. The numbers of stock sold are about equal in each mart, and, if taken together, make Llandilo almost as important a livestock centre as Carmarthen (*see* page 68). In 1928, 57,104 head of stock passed through the two marts, comprising 5,232 fat cattle, 441 store cattle, 154 cows, 4,412 calves, 5,856 fat sheep, 20,802 fat lambs, 2,823 store sheep, 8,859 fat pigs and 8,525 store pigs. Llandilo is situated in the Towy Valley, and much cattle and sheep grazing as well as dairying are carried on in the neighbourhood. The district is, in fact, probably the best for feeding in the county, and Llandilo is regarded as the best centre in Carmarthenshire for fat cattle. Supplies of livestock are mainly derived locally, fat cattle coming in chiefly in late summer and autumn, fat lambs from May onwards. Winter-fed bullocks and tegs are, however, brought in, to some extent, from Cardiganshire, Shropshire and Pembrokeshire. In addition to supplying local needs, the marts supply many towns in the South Wales industrial area—e.g., Swansea, Llanelly, Neath, Aberdare, Ammanford and Gorseinion. No private-treaty selling is permitted. The existence of two marts in one town would appear to be an unnecessary duplication of equipment and overhead expense, though it is said that some advantage in service by competition between auctioneers is obtained without the disadvantages which accrue when two sales are held at the same time. An annual sale of ewes and rams, at which some 1,200 head are sold, is held in Llandilo mart in September.

In the provision market, open on Saturdays, butter and eggs and other farm produce are sold by producers to consumers in the town and from the Ammanford mining district near by, but much of the produce brought in is bought by dealers from the South Wales towns. It is among the more

important South Wales provision markets for direct producer trade, it being estimated that from 400 to 500 producers use the market for selling weekly. There is also some buying in the street. In 1928, 7,921 1*d.*, 12,673 2*d.*, 11,801 3*d.* and 5,689 4*d.* toll tickets were sold, representing from 300 to 400 tons of produce per annum and averaging about 700 baskets weekly. Butter and eggs are the principal commodities sold. Tolls are considerably higher than in the Devon pannier markets and somewhat higher than in most of the Welsh provision markets.

Llanelly.—Llanelly has a large general wholesale and retail market in the centre of the town, occupying a space of about 3 acres. There are no other markets in the Borough. In addition to retailers of general merchandise who use the market daily, producers sell supplies of butter, eggs and poultry, rabbits, fruit and vegetables on Thursdays and Saturdays, while local greengrocers and others occupy stalls on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays and local butchers occupy permanent shop-like stalls,chiefly on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

The market consists of two main blocks of buildings. The first, known as the Pavilion, is a large building of stone and corrugated-iron with a partly glazed roof, and is open daily. It is mainly occupied by the permanent stalls of butchers and retailers of general merchandise, fruit and vegetables. The other is a smaller, stone, roof-lighted building reserved for producer-retailers of fruit, vegetables and farm produce, for whom rows of wooden tables and benches are provided. Some 120 to 150 producers, from within a 10 to 15-mile radius of Llanelly, attend this market, renting benches or pitches at 1½*d.* per square foot or paying toll at 1½*d.* per basket. Produce is sold chiefly direct to consumers from the town and the surrounding industrial district. A few Swansea dealers also attend and buy wholesale. About half a dozen local market-gardeners sell both wholesale and retail from wagons pitched in the market area. Several wholesale vegetable merchants also occupy premises in the market area. Two ranges of open-fronted sheds with benches and tables are let to a large number of casual retailers of miscellaneous goods.

Llanelly has a public abattoir, from which most of the home-killed meat supply of Llanelly and district is obtained. There are no private slaughter-houses in the Borough.

Llanybyther.—Llanybyther, a small town in the store-raising area on the borders of Carmarthenshire and Cardiganshire, has a livestock mart, leased to a firm of auctioneers, and attracts stock from both counties. Uncovered pens for cattle and sheep are arranged around the sides of the irregularly shaped site, and covered accommodation consists of a shed for cows and calves and a small sale-ring of Dutch barn type. Practically all pigs, both fat and store, are sold from carts. The mart is somewhat small for the trade handled. A weighbridge of index lever type is available. Private-treaty sales of live-stock, on which the auctioneers receive tolls, are permitted, most of the pigs being sold in this way. In 1928, 24,439 head of stock entered the mart, comprising 1,076 fat cattle, 2,377 store cattle, 613 cows, 1,674 calves, 4,767 fat sheep, 12,130 store sheep and 1,802 pigs. It is thus primarily a store stock market. Many store cattle are bought by dealers from Oswestry for re-sale in the Shropshire markets. Store cattle and sheep are taken for grazing to the richer lands in Carmarthenshire and store sheep also go further east. A special sale of store sheep is held in the mart in autumn. The comparatively small quantity of fat stock entered is consumed in Carmarthenshire or Glamorganshire. Only a small proportion of the fat pigs produced in the neighbourhood pass through the market; they are usually purchased from the farms direct by dealers.

A horse repository, owned by the same auctioneers, adjoins the livestock mart, and has double standings for 160 horses. Monthly auction sales of horses are held, about 1,300 being sold in a year.

An annual wool sale is held in July, at which about 25,000 fleeces of a variety of breeds are sold.

DENBIGHSHIRE.

(a) General.

Denbighshire is one of the most productive counties in Wales from an agricultural point of view, though it has, at the same time, considerable areas of poor land, as much as 30 per cent. of its area being returned as rough grazing. One-sixth of the county consists of arable land. Most of the corn grown is for feeding on the farm and little is sold. There are no corn exchanges, though a few corn sales take place at Wrexham in the vicinity of the live-stock market. The centre of the county is occupied by the fertile Vale of Clwyd, separated by hills on the east from Flintshire, on the south from Montgomeryshire and on the west from the Conway Valley, much of which is in Denbighshire. The southern hills are penetrated by the narrow Vale of Llangollen. In the east of the county, around Wrexham, is a comparatively flat, semi-industrial area which provides a market for a considerable part of the county's produce. The total population within an 8-mile radius of Wrexham is about 100,000. The coastal towns of North Wales also provide a convenient outlet for produce, especially in summer. Farming in the Conway valley, along the north coast and in the Vale of Llangollen is mixed. On the higher hills surrounding the Vale of Clwyd and in the extreme south, store sheep and cattle rearing is the chief type of farming. In the Vale of Clwyd itself, the lower land is mainly under grass and devoted to dairying and summer feeding of cattle and sheep: very early lambs are produced, chiefly of Welsh-Southdown cross. On the higher farms of the Vale there is more arable, and a considerable number of cattle and sheep are winter-fed. The sheep population of Denbighshire is the densest in Wales. Store cattle and sheep are imported into the Vale of Clwyd in considerable numbers from Merionethshire and Caernarvonshire, especially the former, and from the hilly parts of Denbighshire. Dairying is intensive in the Wrexham area for the supply of liquid milk to the mining towns. All over the county, a smaller proportion of the milk produced is converted into butter than is the case further west. In the Wrexham district, there is a fair amount of market-gardening, the produce being consumed locally. In the Vale of Clwyd and the east of the county, pigs are an important feature: bacon pigs are produced in conjunction with cheese-making in east Denbighshire. There is a movement of store pigs for feeding from the west to the eastern districts.

Denbighshire exports more fat stock than any other county in North Wales. Large numbers of fat sheep are sent to Lancashire, Cheshire, the Deeside towns of Flintshire and the Caernarvonshire coast. Fat cattle also go to Lancashire and Cheshire, and a considerable number of fat and store cattle are taken by dealers to the Shropshire markets. There is a considerable export of

cows, heifers and store pigs to the dairy districts of Cheshire and Flintshire. Fat pigs from the county go mainly to Liverpool, Manchester, Wolverhampton and Birmingham.

Denbighshire has a well developed system of livestock markets and, while direct trade between farmers and dealers disposes of much stock, it is probable that a larger proportion passes through the markets than is the case in most Welsh counties. The total number of stock entered in the markets in an average year is approximately 369,000, comprising 34,000 cattle, 10,000 calves, 269,000 sheep and 56,000 pigs. Pigs are more prominent than in the markets of many Welsh counties. The two principal markets are at Wrexham and Abergele, each handling over 70,000 stock in an average year. Wrexham is an important pig market, while Abergele is the largest sheep market in Wales, its speciality being fat lambs. There are medium-sized markets, in order of importance, at Ruthin, Llangollen, Llanrwst, Llanrhaiadr-yn-Mochnant, Tal-y-cafn and Denbigh, and smaller marts, at which the trade is chiefly in store sheep and fat lambs, at Llangerniew, Llansannan, Cerrig-y-Druidion, Pentre Voelas and Llandegla, while periodical sheep sales are held at Llansaintffraid-Glyn-Ceiriog. The Vale of Clwyd is served by three large marts—Abergele, Denbigh and Ruthin, while St. Asaph, in Flintshire, also draws stock from the Vale. Ruthin is a pig market of some importance. The Conway Valley has markets at Conway in Caernarvonshire and also at Llanrwst and Tal-y-cafn, the last two being owned by the same auctioneer and held fortnightly, alternating with each other. The markets at Llangollen and Llanrhaiadr, the latter serving the extreme south of the county and drawing stock from Montgomeryshire, attract large numbers of store sheep and fat lambs. Llangollen mart supplies fat lambs to the Wrexham district.

Special sales of store sheep are held in the autumn in some of the marts—e.g. Denbigh, Llangollen, Llanrhaiadr-yn-Mochnant, Llanrwst, Ruthin and Tal-y-cafn. The numbers thus dispersed are not comparable with those at the autumn sales in some of the more hilly counties, however, about 22,000 ewes in all being sold in the September sales in these six centres. Wrexham and Abergele are important centres for the sale of horses, over 2,000 per annum being sold at the former and about 1,200 at Abergele. The marts in Denbighshire are, on the whole, better laid out and equipped than in any other Welsh county. At Wrexham, Ruthin and Llanrwst, most of the stock is housed under cover, while at Llangollen and Tal-y-cafn, practically all the cattle pens are roofed. It is the general practice for fat stock and cows to be penned singly, thus facilitating inspection before they enter the ring, a convenience which, however, does not, as yet, prevent the crowding of buyers into the inner ring during sales. Covered sale-rings are the rule, and dial weighbridges are fitted in 10 marts. The sale of pigs direct from carts, though less common than in

many Welsh counties, takes place at Denbigh and Llanrwst. where a large proportion of the pigs are sold by private treaty, Motor transport is extensively used for taking livestock from markets, especially for taking sheep to Lancashire direct from the marts. There is some overlapping in market days in the county, the markets at Abergele, Llanrhaiadr, Llanrwst, Ruthin, Tal-y-cafn and Wrexham, as well as at Holywell in Flintshire, all being held on Monday. At Abergele, two firms of auctioneers hold marts on the same day.

Most of the livestock fairs have died out, auction marts having sprung up at some of the centres at which fairs were formerly held and absorbed most of the trade. At Denbigh and Ruthin, the auction marts fall on the old fair dates, and at Denbigh, private-treaty dealing in livestock still takes place, but at Ruthin, where the mart is privately owned, this method of sale has practically died out. At Llanrwst, monthly fairs are held on a different day from the auction mart, but little livestock is sold at them. At Llanrhaiadr-yn-Mochnant, there are two pony fairs—in July and November—at which several hundred head are sold.

Wool auction sales are held annually at Llangollen, Llanrhaiadr-yn-Mochnant and Wrexham. That at Llanrhaiadr is the third largest in Wales, over 30,000 fleeces being sold ; those at Llangollen and Wrexham handle about 5,000 and 12,000 fleeces, respectively.

Butter, eggs, poultry and other farm produce are sold in private-treaty markets by producers to dealers, retailers and consumers at Denbigh, Llanrwst, Ruthin and Wrexham. A poultry auction is held at Llangollen. In these markets, there is generally much retailing of miscellaneous, non-agricultural goods. Wrexham has four produce markets—three covered and one open-air. A large proportion of the produce sold in the Denbighshire markets is consigned to the North Wales seaside towns, and, from the east of the county, some is taken to Deeside and Lancashire towns. Much farm produce is sold direct to dealers without passing through the markets. A considerable wholesale trade in fruit and vegetables—including locally grown vegetables—is carried on in the Wrexham markets by both producers and middlemen.

There are public slaughter-houses at Abergele and Wrexham.

(b) Notes on particular markets.

Abergele.—There are three privately owned livestock auction marts in Abergele ; of these, two adjoining marts, known as the Harp and the Bee Marts, are owned by one firm of auctioneers and handle about two-thirds of the total trade. Situated on opposite sides of a main road, the Harp mart is used for the sale of pigs and store sheep and consists entirely of uncovered accommodation ; the Bee mart is used for all other kinds of stock and, though the pens for cattle, sheep and pigs are mainly uncovered, a limited amount of covered accommodation for cattle and a covered 18-ft. cattle sale-ring, with a 2-ton dial weighbridge, are provided. Fat cattle and cows are tied up singly. Horse sales are held monthly in this mart and there is a covered sale-ring with " run " for horses. From 1,000 to 1,500 horses are sold annually.

In addition to the weekly livestock sales, monthly store stock sales are held from March to October inclusive.

The Hesketh mart, owned by another firm of auctioneers, is about 300 yards distant. Here, also, most of the accommodation, including single standings for cattle, is uncovered; some covered shedding is, however, provided for a proportion of the cattle and for calves and there is a covered sale-ring fitted with a 30-cwt. dial weighbridge. In addition to the weekly livestock sales, special store stock sales are held monthly on the old fair dates. No stock is now sent to the fairs. A special ewe and ram sale, at which some 300 rams and 2,500 ewes are sold, is held every September. An average of about 100 poultry are sold by auction weekly.

All three marts are held on the same day, but the respective auctioneers arrange their selling order so as to avoid clashing in selling times.

In 1928, 69,995 head of stock entered the markets in all, comprising 1,634 fat cattle, 4,771 store cattle, 1,215 cows, 1,004 calves, 12,764 fat sheep, 30,283 fat lambs, 12,268 store sheep, 1,868 fat pigs and 4,188 store pigs. The entry of fat lambs, and, indeed, the total entry of sheep, is greater than in any other Welsh market. The drawing area of the market is entirely local, including the lower end of the Vale of Clwyd and the coastal plain. Much of the fat stock is bought by dealers or butchers for the North Wales coast towns, the holiday season coinciding fairly well with the fat lamb season, which is at its height from the end of May to the end of September. There is also a considerable consignment of fat stock to Lancashire. The entries of store cattle are greatest in the spring, those of store sheep in the autumn. The store sheep trade is almost entirely local, both store cattle and sheep being bought by farmers in the Vale of Clwyd and its vicinity; cows are taken to Cheshire and, from the monthly store cattle sales, stores are taken to Shropshire markets and to Lancashire.

Denbigh.—The markets at Denbigh comprise a livestock market and two produce markets, all owned by the Corporation. The livestock market is held on two successive days in each month, all stock except pigs being sold on the first day and pigs only on the second day. The market, which is a development of the old fairs, is held on the fair dates, and stock is sold both by auction and by private treaty. The market is divided into two parts, the main market, covering about 2 acres, and a "Horse Market," consisting of a walled space used occasionally for the sale of horses.

The main market is almost entirely uncovered, except for an open-fronted shed for cows and calves and two covered sale-rings equipped with dial weighbridges. Part of the market is let to two firms of auctioneers and the rest is reserved for private-treaty sales. Most of the stock, particularly the stores, are sold by private treaty, this trade being largely in the hands of dealers who bring in stock collected from neighbouring farms. Many of the pigs are also sold by private treaty.

In 1928, 22,671 head of stock entered the market, comprising 867 fat cattle, 1,909 store cattle, 37 cows, 28 calves, 8,530 fat sheep, 7,310 fat lambs, 2,168 store sheep, 28 fat pigs and 1,794 store pigs. A fair proportion of the cattle received are stall-fed. Fat sheep and lambs go mainly to the neighbouring coast towns. The store trade is mostly local. The market handles a relatively small part of the livestock trade of the district. The following is a comparison of the total market sales in an average year with the number railed from Denbigh station in 1927:—

Kind of Stock.	Average year's sales in mart.	Railed from Station, 1927.
Cattle	2,840	5,772
Sheep	16,170	35,193
Pigs	1,780	4,391

Most of the long-distance trade is in the hands of dealers buying straight off the farms.

Of the two produce markets, one is used for the private-treaty sale of poultry, usually sold alive, the other for general farm produce—butter, eggs and fruit—and for miscellaneous merchandise. During 1928, some 20,000 baskets of butter and eggs passed through this weekly market, which is the most important in Wales north of Welshpool. Most of the produce goes to the coastal towns and some to Lancashire. There is little retail trade. Tolls are charged on all produce sold in the markets or on the streets.

Llanrhaiadr-yn-Mochnant.—This small town in the Tanat valley, in the extreme south of Denbighshire, has a livestock mart owned by a limited company, of which the shareholders are mainly farmers. A wool auction sale is held here in July. The mart, held at approximately fortnightly intervals, is fairly well laid out and consists mostly of uncovered pens for sheep. An uncovered sale-ring with a dial weighbridge is provided for cattle. Tolls are payable to the Market Company by the auctioneers and the vendors on all stock sold. In 1928, 76 fat cattle, 201 store cattle, 37 cows, 11 calves, 3,118 fat sheep, 10,221 fat lambs, 13,566 store sheep, 61 fat pigs and 142 store pigs entered the mart. Store sheep go chiefly to Shropshire and the lower parts of Denbighshire and Montgomeryshire. Fat lambs are taken to Cheshire, Lancashire, the North Wales coast and the Midlands. At a special ewe sale every September, from 3,000 to 5,000 sheep are on offer. Two pony fairs are held annually, in July and November, at each of which about 200 mountain ponies are sold.

At the annual July wool auction, from 30,000 to 40,000 fleeces are sold, the wool, mainly washed, being mostly Welsh, Kerry and crossbred. Marquees are used for storing and exhibiting the wool. Vendors are paid on the weight of wool entering the auction, while buyers pay on its weight on dispatch from the sale. The sale commences at midday, inspection of samples taking place in the morning. Supplies are drawn from a radius of up to 15 miles: buyers, numbering from 25 to 30, attend the sale from Yorkshire and mid-Wales. There is no produce market in Llanrhaiadr, Oswestry Market drawing in much of the farm produce from the neighbourhood.

Llanrwst and Tal-y-cafn.—The livestock marts at Llanrwst and Tal-y-cafn, in the Conway valley, about 5 miles distant from each other, are owned by the same firm of auctioneers and are both held fortnightly, alternating with each other. There are no other markets at Tal-y-cafn; Llanrwst has a produce market owned by the Urban District Council.

Both livestock marts are well laid out. At Llanrwst, there are two main sets of pens roofed with corrugated iron, one for sheep, and the other, with a sale-ring and 50-cwt. dial weighbridge, for cattle. A lean-to shed is also provided for tying up dairy cows. Fat cattle are not penned singly as is the case in many Denbighshire marts. The Tal-y-cafn mart, which adjoins the railway, from which a loading platform leads by a short gangway direct into the market, includes a corrugated-iron cowshed, completely enclosed, for 44 cows, covered single standings for 90 cattle, a cattle sale-ring building with a dial weighbridge and tiered staging for about 40 people, and uncovered pens for sheep and pigs.

The trade at Tal-y-cafn includes a larger proportion of fat stock than that at Llanrwst, which is higher up the Conway valley. In 1928, the numbers of stock entered at the two marts were as follows:—

—	Fat Cattle.	Store Cattle.	Cows.	Calves.	Fat Sheep.	Fat Lambs.	Store Sheep.	Fat Pigs.	Store Pigs.
Llanrwst ...	564	1,427	390	433	7,133	10,309	6,310	739	19
Tal-y-cafn	1,038	569	261	276	7,660	13,248	3,435	195	—
Total ...	1,602	1,996	651	709	14,793	23,557	9,745	934	19

The heaviest supplies of fat cattle are from November to January; the fat lamb season extends from April to the end of the year, July and August being the two chief months. Most of the fat stock is sent to the coast towns, particularly Llandudno, or to the North Wales quarry districts, only a small proportion going to Lancashire. The store trade is a local one with the exception of some consignment of store sheep to Anglesey. Generally, there is a movement of stores from the upper to the lower parts of the valley. "Couples"—ewes with lambs—are entered in the spring in considerable numbers, about 1,600 being sold in the two marts in a recent year. September and October are, however, the chief months for the store sheep trade, when draft ewes come on the market. Special ewe sales are held in both marts at the end of September. The mart at Llanrwst is held on alternate Mondays whereas the produce market day is Tuesday.

At Llanrwst, a few cartloads of store pigs are sold by private treaty on market day—Tuesday—on the streets. Monthly livestock fairs are held in Llanrwst, when a few cattle and horses are sold by private treaty on the streets and in fields near the town.

The produce market at Llanrwst is fairly important, being used weekly by 100 to 150 producers from the Conway valley for the sale of butter, eggs and poultry. The retail trade is small, buyers being chiefly dealers from the coast towns. No tolls are charged in the produce market.

Ruthin.—The livestock market at Ruthin is owned by a farmers' auction company which employs salaried auctioneers and charges commission of 4*d.* in the £ on sales. The accommodation is in two parts, about 100 yards apart. The older part, known as the Vale of Clwyd Auction, is used chiefly for store stock: it has a corrugated-iron roofed range of pig pens and a few single standings for cattle with a covered sale-ring, and open pens for sheep and cattle. The newer section of the market, known as the Agricultural Hall, is used for fat stock, and is chiefly covered. Pens for sheep and single standings for about 50 cattle, with a sale-ring and a 40-cwt. dial weighbridge, are built under a double-span, partly glazed, corrugated-iron roof. A lever weighbridge is available for weighing pigs, but its use is confined to the weighing of pigs sold privately by live weight. Both marts are held on the monthly fair days (the first Tuesday in each month) and the second Monday following. Special store cattle and sheep sales are held monthly except in January, February and December. Entries are largest on the monthly fair days, when the accommodation in the two marts is barely adequate. The sales of livestock on these days are now confined to those sold in the auction marts.

In 1928, 49,102 head of stock entered the marts, comprising 865 fat cattle, 1,348 store cattle, 766 cows, 328 calves, 8,260 fat sheep, 11,546 fat lambs, 11,886 store sheep, 5,419 fat pigs and 8,684 store pigs. The market is thus primarily a sheep market, but has also a considerably greater entry of pigs than most centres in North Wales. The store sheep trade is a local one: sheep off the hills are bought for grazing by farmers in the Vale of Clwyd. Two special sales of draft ewes are held in the autumn, the September sale usually receiving from 6,000 to 7,000 head of Welsh and cross-bred sheep. Entries of fat cattle are heavy in spring as there is a fair amount of stall feeding in the district. Fat stock is consigned to the coast towns and to Lancashire and the Deeside mining area. The market has grown considerably since pre-War days, the number of sheep and pigs offered for sale having almost trebled.

Ruthin has a produce market held weekly, to which, however, little farm produce is sent. During the weeks on which the monthly fair days fall, the produce market is held on Tuesday instead of Monday. The fairs are now practically confined to the sale of general merchandise from stalls on the streets.

Wrexham.—*See* page 80.

FLINTSHIRE.

(a) General.

Flintshire is the smallest of the Welsh counties and is mostly flat, though on the west it is bordered by the range of hills forming the eastern side of the Vale of Clwyd. Almost the whole county is under cultivation with the exception of the small industrial area on the Dee estuary and the coastal residential district; only about 9 per cent. is returned as rough grazing land. About one-quarter of the area under crops and grass is arable land. The county is thus predominantly under grass, with milk production for supply to local towns and to Lancashire and industrial Cheshire as the chief agricultural activity. Many dairy cows are brought into the county from Denbighshire and Caernarvonshire. Cheese is made fairly extensively and pig feeding is important as a means of utilising the by-products. Cheese does not enter the markets of Flintshire, however, though it is sent from the south of the county to Whitchurch cheese fair in Shropshire. Store pigs are produced in the north of the county, from which many are sent to the south—the cheese making district. The pig population of Flintshire is easily the densest in Wales. Sheep grazing is also important, store sheep being imported from Merionethshire and Denbighshire in large numbers for the purpose, and there is a fair amount of cattle grazing. Poultry are kept extensively, particularly in the south and the coastal districts, the stock of poultry in the county being proportionately greater than in any other part of Wales and being exceeded in density by only six English counties. There is some fruit and vegetable growing, particularly in the south, the produce being sold locally, generally direct to wholesalers or retailers. Flintshire growers also make use of Wrexham vegetable markets.

A small "island" of southern Flintshire is cut off from the rest of the county by a tongue of Denbighshire: in this portion, there are no markets of any description, Wrexham in Denbighshire and Whitchurch in Shropshire acting as market towns for the area.

Local needs for fat stock and produce are high as the county is fairly densely populated. A considerable number of fat sheep are sent to Lancashire and Cheshire, however, and smaller numbers to the Denbighshire and Caernarvonshire coastal resorts, this export being chiefly from the northern part of the county. Bacon pigs are also sent to Lancashire and Cheshire, and surplus dairy cows go to Cheshire.

Livestock markets are, naturally, few, numbering only 5 in all, but even so, there are instances of marts which are probably superfluous. A large proportion of the stock sent to markets—as much as 90 per cent. of the total entries—passes through the two

largest markets—viz. Mold, handling over 80,000, and Holywell, handling over 40,000 head of stock per annum. There are small markets at St. Asaph, Caerwys and Newmarket; that at St. Asaph is a small fat stock market supplying the coast towns, Rhyl in particular. Dairy cows are a feature of the markets, particularly Mold, which is the most important in Wales in this respect. The entry of pigs is greater than in most Welsh counties. In an average year, 140,000 head of stock enter the markets, comprising 20,000 cattle, 6,000 calves, 84,000 sheep and 30,000 pigs. A high proportion of the livestock is sold through the markets, direct farmer-dealer transactions on the farm being correspondingly less important.

The standard of equipment in the livestock markets is high. Covered accommodation for livestock is ample and covered sale-rings are the rule. There are dial weighbridges in the three largest marts. Motor transport is extensively used for marketing stock, direct communication with Lancashire and Cheshire being regularly carried on thus.

The livestock fairs have died out with the exception of the Caerwys fairs, and even here the auction held on the monthly fair days has practically superseded the private-treaty sales.

Much of the farm produce—eggs, poultry and the relatively small quantities of butter produced—is consumed within the county but does not pass through the markets. The retail markets which exist in the three centres of Holywell, Mold and Rhyl are not much used for direct trade by producers. Foodstuffs such as meat, fruit, vegetables and fish are sold by retailers and, as in similar markets in England, there is the usual abundance of miscellaneous stalls.

Poultry and eggs are sent to industrial Lancashire and to Cheshire, principally by dealers who collect from the farm. A certain proportion is sent direct to retailers in the Flintshire industrial area.

There are no wool sales in Flintshire and no towns possess public slaughter-houses, though the erection of one at Rhyl is contemplated.

(b) Notes on particular markets.

Holywell.—The weekly livestock market at Holywell is owned by an auctioneer. The mart is well provided with covered accommodation, including corrugated-iron roofed pens for store cattle, and similarly roofed pens for fat cattle and cows in single standings, adjoining a covered sale-ring provided with a 30-cwt. dial weighbridge. The sheep and most of the pig pens are uncovered.

Practically all stock entered is derived from within a radius of about 8 miles. In 1928, 45,080 head of stock were entered, comprising 1,593 fat cattle, 2,215 store cattle, 1,008 dairy cows, 906 calves, 29,749 sheep (almost all fat) and 9,609 pigs. The main function of the mart is the supply of fat stock to the Deeside towns—e.g. Connah's Quay, Flint, Mostyn and Holywell itself. A certain number of fat sheep go to the North Wales coast and Lancashire and to the Wirral Peninsula. The dairy cow trade is largely a local one, but some

cows are consigned to Cheshire. Two special sales of store cattle and sheep are held in the spring and two or three in the autumn, the supplies coming from the west for fattening or for dairy purposes in the district. At the two annual horse sales in the autumn about 150 head are sold.

The publicly owned retail market, open daily, is used solely for retailing fruit, vegetables, meat and miscellaneous goods by non-producers.

Mold.—See page 70.

GLAMORGANSHIRE.

(a) General.

Glamorganshire, the second largest county in Wales, is primarily industrial. It may be divided, geographically and economically, into two main portions. The southern and smaller portion, known as the Vale of Glamorgan, is, with the exception of the ports of Cardiff, Penarth, Barry and Swansea, mainly agricultural. This is the most fertile part of the county. Dairying on mixed farms is prevalent for the supply of liquid milk to the industrial areas. Comparatively little butter is made. Cattle and sheep feeding are important, particularly in the extreme south, where there is more arable land and where cattle and sheep are winter as well as summer fed. There is still a little sheep folding, and Suffolks or Shropshires crossed with Kerry, Radnor or some other Welsh breed are used. Fat pigs, chiefly small porkers, are produced in the Vale. Store ewes are obtained from Breconshire and Radnorshire and the north of Glamorganshire, and store cattle from Herefordshire and Monmouthshire. Dairy cows are brought in from Carmarthenshire, many of the farmers in the Vale relying on bought stock for replenishing their herds. Some store pigs come from Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire. Fat stock finds a ready market in the neighbouring towns on the South Wales coalfield. The northern and larger portion of the county consists of mountainous country intersected by valleys which are largely given over to industrialism. Farming is poor in this part of the county and relatively little stock of any kind is produced. On the hills, sheep rearing with some store cattle raising is the chief form of agriculture. In the valleys where agriculture is possible, farming chiefly consists of the production of liquid milk for the towns and mining villages. The peninsula of Gower, in the extreme south-west, is a more or less isolated area, and at the Swansea end of the peninsula, around Bishopston, there is a considerable amount of market-gardening to supply Swansea and Llanelly. Market-gardeners sell their own produce direct to consumers and retailers in Llanelly and Swansea markets, the inhabitants of these towns and the surrounding industrial area obtaining a fair proportion of their supplies of vegetables at these markets. The agriculture of Gower includes cattle feeding, both winter and summer, fat-lamb production and a little dairying; butter-making is common.

There are livestock markets at 12 centres in Glamorganshire, none of which handles as much as 40,000 head of stock per annum. They are primarily fat-stock markets supplying their immediate locality. The most important are at Cardiff (Ely), Bridgend and Llantwit Major (3), and there are smaller markets at Gowerton, Cowbridge (2), Nelson, Peterston-super-Ely, Caerphilly, Pontypridd, Neath, Wenvoe and Swansea, of which the last 5 handle less than 10,000 stock each per annum. Gowerton market attracts supplies from the Gower peninsula ; it has a good entry of fat cattle from October to April. The store sheep produced in the north are very largely disposed of privately to dealers who visit the farms ; there are few livestock auctions of any importance in Glamorgan north of the Vale. In an average year, about 179,000 head of stock enter the markets, comprising 18,000 cattle, 11,000 calves, 92,000 sheep and 58,000 pigs.

The livestock marts in the industrial towns—e.g., Neath and Pontypridd, are small and unimportant, and are, on the whole, declining. Three small marts have recently died out—viz., Reynoldston, Pyle and one at Peterston-super-Ely. Other markets would appear to be redundant, while in several centres—e.g. Llantwit Major and Cowbridge—there are 2 or 3 marts in the same centre. Though clashing is avoided in these cases by holding the marts in alternate weeks, much overhead expense could be saved and an improved standard of equipment made possible by concentration on one mart at each centre. In the larger marts, covered sale-rings are generally provided and dial weigh-bridges are fitted in 7 markets, but the livestock markets are, on the whole, somewhat crude in accommodation.

A number of old livestock fairs still remain but most have been reduced to small proportions. Those at Caerphilly, Cardiff and Cowbridge, however, still attract a good entry of stock, including cattle, sheep and horses. At these fairs, both auction and private-treaty selling are practised. There are public slaughter-houses in 6 towns in Glamorganshire. Cardiff has 2 public abattoirs, a wholesale meat market being carried on in connection with one of them. At Swansea, though there is no wholesale meat market, the public abattoir is used for wholesale meat trade and there is a little meat wholesaling in the general market. A consignment trade in pig carcases with London is carried on from the Cardiff and Neath abattoirs. Generally, the public abattoirs are not up-to-date in equipment. Their supplies of fat stock are obtained locally and from the counties of Monmouth, Hereford, Somerset, Devon, Cornwall, Brecon, Carmarthen and Pembroke.

The only wool sale held in the county is at Swansea, where about 12,000 fleeces per annum are sold. There are hide and skin markets at Cardiff (2), Swansea (2) and Treforest (Rhondda Valley).

There are general markets at Aberavon, Aberdare, Bridgend, Caerphilly (3), Cardiff (2), Maesteg, Merthyr Tydfil (2), Neath, Pontypridd, Swansea and Ton-y-Pandy. These are, in the main, concerned with the retailing of miscellaneous goods. At Bridgend and Swansea, however, considerable quantities of farm produce are sold—e.g. fruit and vegetables, particularly at Swansea, eggs, poultry and butter—both wholesale and retail at Bridgend, and retail only at Swansea. At both these markets, much of this trade is carried on by producers who bring their own produce for sale. Cardiff has a foreign fruit exchange similar in character to those at other ports in the country—e.g. London, Bristol, Liverpool, Southampton.

(b) Notes on particular markets.

Bridgend.—The markets at Bridgend include a livestock market and a general produce market; there is also a public slaughter-house; all are owned by a limited company. The livestock market has a covered shed on three sides for cows, calves and pigs and ample uncovered pens for pigs, sheep and cattle, as well as a covered sale-ring, 32 ft. × 19 ft., with staging for buyers. An index lever weighbridge is installed in the market. There has been a large increase in all stock sold since 1922. Stock is of local origin, except store sheep from Breconshire and, at times, some fat pigs from the west. Fat stock is bought by local buyers and for Cardiff and the Glamorganshire valleys; buyers are generally retailers, only two wholesale dealers attending regularly. A few Irish stores and cows and some stores from Hereford and Monmouth are on offer at the market. Of the cattle entered (4,350 per annum), about one-fifth are cows. Veal calves are sent to Cardiff. A little live poultry is sold. The market is open on Saturdays for private-treaty selling but is little used for that purpose. A firm of auctioneers rents the market for one day a week. Three livestock fairs are held annually on the street and in the mart, but very little stock is sold.

The produce market, open daily, is largely occupied by 24 retail stalls for the sale of sundry merchandise. On Saturdays, however, some 50 to 60 producers occupy benches and sell farm produce—butter, eggs and poultry—both retail and wholesale. The wholesale buyers who take most of the produce are "hucksters" from Maesteg and other industrial towns in the neighbouring valleys.

The public slaughter-house is of local importance only, some 725 beasts, 687 calves, 5,502 sheep, and 2,541 pigs having been slaughtered there in 1928.

Cardiff.—*See* page 75.

Swansea.—*See* page 78.

MERIONETHSHIRE.

(a) General.

Merionethshire is the most mountainous and, agriculturally, the least productive county in Wales. Its only lowland portions are a narrow coastal strip and the vales of Ffestiniog in the north, Mawddach in the centre and Dee in the East. The south and north-west of the county are covered by mountains over 2,000 feet

in height; in the north-east, the country is not quite so high, but is mostly over 1,000 feet. Almost two-thirds of the total area of the county is returned as rough grazing land.

The coastal strip and the vales of Ffestiniog and Mawddach are devoted to dairying for the milk supply of the coast towns, to store cattle raising and some lamb production. In the Dee Valley, from Bala to Corwen, there is also some dairying and some cattle feeding. The mountain districts are devoted to store sheep rearing, with store cattle on the parts up to 1,000 feet in altitude.

The system of sending sheep into the adjoining lowlands in Caernarvonshire and Denbighshire for wintering is common. The sheep are chiefly of the Welsh Mountain breed; cattle are mainly Welsh Blacks. The sheep population per acre of the county is well above the average for Wales. That of pigs, on the other hand, is lower than in any other Welsh county, and poultry, as would be expected, are also comparatively unimportant.

There is a considerable export of store sheep from the county, the majority going into Denbighshire and Flintshire, and smaller numbers to Anglesey, Shropshire and the North Midlands. From the east of the county, fat lambs are sent to Lancashire. Some store cattle are consigned out of the county to other counties in North Wales and to the Midlands of England for grazing. Merionethshire itself has a small industrial area in the Blaenau Ffestiniog quarry district, which absorbs part of the fat stock and produce of the county and to which stock is sent from adjoining counties—Denbigh and Caernarvon.

Merioneth has livestock markets, in the generally accepted sense, at Dolgelley, Corwen, Bala, Harlech, Towyn and Dinas Mawddwy. At none of these centres are as many as 20,000 head of stock sold in the marts in a year. In addition, periodical livestock sales, varying from 2 to 6 per annum, are held at Gwyddelwern, Maentwrog, Dyffryn and Llanfrothen. About 55,000 head of stock pass through these marts and sales in an average year, comprising 10,000 cattle, 130 calves, 44,000 sheep and 1,000 pigs. Sales at Corwen, Bala and Harlech are fortnightly, at Towyn and Dinas Mawddwy monthly. Corwen receives a fair entry of fat cattle and the mart is equipped with a dial weighbridge. At Corwen, Dolgelley and Bala, the auction marts fall on the monthly fair dates. Except at Corwen, where the private-treaty sales of cattle on the streets at the fairs appear to be equal to those sold by auction, the auction sales have practically replaced the old method of private-treaty dealing at these centres. Large numbers of stock are bought by dealers direct from farmers, however, without passing through marts, auction sales or fairs. The proportion thus sold is obviously large, seeing that over 80,000 sheep were sent out of the county by rail in 1927, as compared with an average of only about 44,000 sold annually in all the marts and auction sales in the county.

The store stock trade, particularly the store sheep trade, is essentially seasonal, and a considerable number of store stock are sold at special periodical sales held in many places. In spite of the importance of sheep in the county, these sales, however, do not compare with those of a similar nature held in the eastern counties of Wales. They are principally organised by three firms of auctioneers. The autumn sheep sales are the most important, the principal being, in addition to those in the centres already mentioned, Llanfachreth, Trawsfynydd, Drwsynant, Llanbedr and Cynwyd. About 10,000 sheep are, in all, dispersed at these sales in an average year.

Corwen and, to a less extent, Bala and Dolgelley appear to be well adapted by their geographical position as centres for store stock sales, and a concerted attempt to organise such sales on a large scale (similar, for example, to the large Kentish or Dorset sheep sales) would seem to be desirable in order to bring producers into direct touch with farmers from the Vale of Clwyd or from Flintshire, many of whom are at present buying Merionethshire stores through dealers.

There are no wool auction sales in Merionethshire in spite of the large sheep population. Wool is sold direct off the farms to merchants.

Although there is a daily retail market at Blaenau Ffestiniog and a monthly produce market at Corwen, neither deals with any large quantity of agricultural produce. The comparatively small output of butter, eggs and poultry is collected by local dealers from the farms or taken direct to shops by farmers.

There are no public slaughter-houses in the county.

MONTGOMERYSHIRE.

(a) General.

The western side of Montgomeryshire, with the exception of that part of the Dovey valley which lies in the county, is largely mountainous, a considerable proportion of its area rising to over 1,000 feet. On the eastern side, in the valley of the Severn below Caersws, and to a less extent in the valleys of the Tanat and Vyrnwy, there is lower and better land. Over one-third of the total area of the county, however, is returned as being rough grazing land, and only one-eighth is arable. Montgomery has the highest acreage of wheat of all the Welsh counties; the bulk of the wheat grown is, however, used for home consumption, home baking of bread being general. Oats are largely grown for feeding purposes. The only corn exchange in Wales is at Welshpool, at which some 4,000 cwt. of grain were sold in 1928.

Except in the Severn valley, farming consists mainly of the rearing of store cattle and sheep, with some fat-lamb production

below an altitude of about 600 feet. The lamb produced, however, is not early. Store cattle are wintered, a large proportion of the grassland being laid up for hay for this purpose. The cattle are put on the market largely in the spring or autumn. The proportion of the year's crop of lambs which are not fattened or needed for flock replacements are sold as stores, chiefly in late summer and autumn, and large numbers of draft ewes also come on the markets in autumn. Butter is produced in conjunction with the raising of store cattle. Hereford and Hereford-Shorthorn cross cattle prevail over the whole county except in the Dovey Valley, where Welsh Blacks predominate. Various breeds of sheep are kept, but the mixture of breeds is not so great as in many of the lowland districts of Wales : the local Kerry Hill breed is widely kept and its numbers are increasing. In the Severn valley, while store stock raising is still very important, particularly above Caersws, a larger proportion of cattle and sheep are fattened than in the rest of the county. The most intensive area of beef production is around Montgomery and Welshpool. While most of the cattle are grass-fed, there is also some stall-feeding. On many farms, where the grass is hardly good enough to fatten cattle, good-quality, forward stores are produced from October onward. In the Severn valley, below Welshpool, towards Oswestry and also in the Tanat valley, there is considerable production of milk for consumption as fluid or for cheese-making at factories in the county. Pigs are of relatively little importance except on the eastern side of the county, where both pork and bacon pigs are produced on dairy farms and weaners are reared for export to Cheshire and the Midlands. Montgomeryshire is noted for the breeding of excellent Shire horses. Poultry-keeping is of considerable importance.

There is little export of fat cattle from the county, the number produced being comparatively small ; fat sheep and particularly lambs, however, are sent in considerable numbers to towns in the Midlands and to Liverpool and Manchester from the east of the county, whence also bacon pigs go to the Midlands and cutters and porkers to Lancashire. Large numbers of store stock are exported from Montgomeryshire. Both store cattle and sheep are taken into Shropshire and the west and north Midlands : there is also some movement of dairy cows into Shropshire, and a considerable trade in store pigs with the dairy districts of Cheshire and Shropshire. Within the county, store stock move from the western hilly district to the lower land in the Severn valley : store pigs are also sent from the west to the cheese-making district in the east. Eggs, poultry and butter are bought both in the markets and on the farm by local and other dealers for Lancashire or, to a less extent, the Midlands.

There are regular livestock markets at 11 centres in the county. That at Welshpool is the largest in Wales. There are medium-sized marts, in order of turnover, at Llanidloes, Newtown, Mont-

gomery, Llanfyllin, Caersws and Cemmaes Road. Welshpool is the only weekly market; Llanidloes market is held monthly, the others twice or three times a month. Small monthly sales of livestock are held at Llanfair Caereinion, Llanbrynmair, Machynlleth and Cann Office. The best stock from the east of the county is taken to Oswestry market in Shropshire. In practically all the Montgomeryshire markets, the bulk of the trade is in store stock or fat lambs. Welshpool, however, is the only market which receives over 7,000 fat lambs in a season. Welshpool, Newtown, Montgomery and Caersws are all important store cattle centres. Montgomery is the only market where any considerable number of fat cattle are offered. In the western markets and sales, the sheep are mainly stores. Besides the heavy entries of draft ewes and store lambs in autumn, "couples" generally appear in the Montgomeryshire markets in the spring. In addition to the regular sales, periodical sales of store stock, mainly sheep, are held at Kerry and Llangurig in the autumn, and there are special store sheep sales in the autumn in many of the market towns mentioned above. It is estimated that almost 70,000 store sheep are sold in the marts and periodical sales in September and October. The three annual sheep sales at Kerry, at which over 18,000 sheep, mainly Kerry Hill, are dispersed, are especially important. Buyers, including a large number of farmers buying for themselves or their neighbours, attend from many of the western midland and southern counties of England. The sheep trade at Llanidloes, Llanfair Caereinion and Cann Office is chiefly concentrated in special autumn sales. Few pigs appear in the Montgomery markets, with the exception of Welshpool. The total number of livestock passing through the Montgomeryshire marts and periodical sales in an average year is approximately 258,000, comprising 35,000 cattle, 8,000 calves, 175,000 sheep and 40,000 pigs. In addition, there are annual sales of sheep at Dolfor, Llangynog and Cefn Coch. As in other Welsh counties, several of the old monthly fairs are still held concurrently with auction marts; this is the case at Llanidloes and Llanfair Caereinion, at both of which towns livestock are sold on the streets and in the auction marts on the same days. At Llanbrynmair, the old monthly fairs held on the streets have survived, while an auction has succumbed to the competition of direct buying of stock by dealers on the farms. This latter method of marketing livestock is common in Montgomeryshire; nevertheless, the proportion of the stock sold through the markets, estimated at as much as 60 per cent., is larger than is the case in most Welsh counties. In the extreme west of the county—the Machynlleth district—and the north, where communications are poor, direct sale to dealers is usual. Horse sales are held at Welshpool and Newtown.

In the larger livestock marts, cover is provided for dairy cows and calves, and, in view of the relatively small entries of fat cattle and pigs, there would appear to be little need for cover for any

other class of stock. In the two publicly owned markets—Welshpool and Newtown—there is a tendency for firms of auctioneers to overlap in the times of selling similar stock.

There are two annual auction sales of wool in the county, at Newtown and Llanidloes, at each of which over 90,000 fleeces are sold.

There are produce markets in five centres—Welshpool, Newtown, Llanidloes, Llanfyllin and Montgomery, in order of importance—for the sale, both retail and wholesale, of eggs, poultry, butter, cheese and other farm produce by producers. At Welshpool, over 700 baskets of produce per week are sold ; much less business is done at the other centres and, at Newtown and Llanidloes, the bulk of the trade is done on the streets, the market-halls being used mainly for retailing miscellaneous articles. At Llanfair Caereinion, there is some wholesale trade in produce on the streets and a general retail market is held daily at Machynlleth. As in the case of livestock, much produce is bought by dealers on the farms.

(b) Notes on particular markets.

Llanidloes.—Llanidloes, in the upper Severn valley, is an example of a town where the old livestock fairs have been revived and are still held on the streets concurrently with auction sales of livestock in a privately owned mart. The fairs are held monthly, the auction sales taking place on the same day. While about two-thirds of the cattle are sold by auction, it appears probable that, except during the autumn sheep sales, almost as many sheep are sold by private treaty as in the auction marts. On Fair days, hurdle pens to accommodate sheep are erected along the streets by inn-keepers ; no pens are supplied by the Corporation and no tolls are charged on livestock sold. Pigs are sold by private treaty every week direct from carts on a piece of waste ground near the centre of the town. It is estimated that some 2,400 cattle, 24,000 sheep, 1,500 pigs and 750 calves, in addition to horses, are sold in the fairs and auctions in a year. Llanidloes is in a store-rearing district, practically no stock being fattened : few fat lambs appear in the markets. The trade is consequently mainly seasonal, particularly for sheep, which come forward principally in autumn. At a special annual sheep fair in October, about 10,000 sheep, mainly Welsh improved by crossing with Kerry, are sold by auction, and about 5,000 cross-bred sheep are sold at a special September fair, largely by auction. Store stock are taken from the market to the lower Severn valley and to Shropshire.

One of the two largest wool sales in Wales is held by a firm of auctioneers at Llanidloes in July. Some 90,000 fleeces of Kerry, Radnor, Cross-bred and Welsh wool were sold in 1928, as compared with 38,000 in 1913. Wool is sent in from a radius of about 15 miles and includes produce from Montgomeryshire, Radnorshire and Cardiganshire. Between 40 and 50 local merchants and manufacturers from Yorkshire and the Midlands attend. The wool is stored in marquees and in a warehouse in the town, and the bulk is on view for 24 hours before the sale ; it is practically all washed. Conditions of sale are similar to those at Newtown wool sale (*see* page 62).

Llanidloes has a public market-hall, which is not now used by farmers for the sale of produce but is devoted to stalls for the retailing of meat and miscellaneous articles. Farm produce is delivered direct to dealers and to houses and shops in the town on market days.

Montgomery.—The market rights at Montgomery belong to the Corporation,

by virtue of several Royal Charters dating back to 1227. These Charters grant the Burgesses of the town permission to hold a weekly General Market on Thursdays, and a Fair on the first Thursday in each month, together with the right to prevent any public buying and selling in the Borough without permission. A firm of auctioneers, under licence from the Corporation, holds a livestock auction twice a month, one on the monthly fair day and the other a fortnight later. The old monthly livestock fairs are also still held on the streets but little stock is now sold privately, the majority going into the auction mart.

While most of the cattle sold at Montgomery are stores, it is the best fat-cattle market in the county. In 1928, some 21,843 head of stock were sold, including 1,864 fat cattle, 5,727 store cattle, 602 dairy cows, 902 calves, 5,748 fat sheep and lambs and 7,000 store sheep. The auction mart consists of a yard for cattle, with open pens, a covered shed in which dairy cattle are tied up singly, and three uncovered sale-rings, one with a 30-cwt. dial weighbridge, and a yard with open pens for sheep. The mart is 1½ miles distant from the railway station.

Fat stock go to Birmingham and Wolverhampton, to Lancashire towns and to the Wrexham district. Montgomery is a good market for forward store cattle in the autumn and early winter. Store cattle and sheep are taken to Shropshire and the north Midlands and a few store cattle to Essex. Two special sales of store sheep are held in August and September.

The public market-hall is used for sales of miscellaneous articles and small quantities of farm produce every Thursday. No tolls are charged on livestock or produce sold in the markets.

Newtown.—The markets at Newtown comprise two monthly livestock auctions, a horse repository used for both horse and cattle sales, and a general produce market held twice a week. Livestock fairs are still held on the last Tuesday in each month, when a few stock, chiefly ponies, are sold on the streets, but most of the livestock trade has gone into the auctions, which are held on fair days. An annual wool sale is held in July.

The two livestock auctions are owned by the Urban District Council and leased to two firms of auctioneers. Accommodation is poor in both cases, consisting entirely of uncovered pens and uncovered sale-rings for cattle. A lever weighbridge is available if required, but few fat cattle are offered. Both auctions are held on the last Tuesday in each month and sales of similar stock are inclined to clash. The firm of auctioneers leasing one mart also owns the adjoining horse repository, which is used on the second Tuesday each month for sales of cattle, sheep and pigs. The unpaved condition of the public marts prevents their being used at fortnightly intervals. The horse repository, which provides stabling for 400 horses, was built during the War and, owing to the falling-off in the horse trade, is now much bigger than is necessary. Horse sales are held every month except December, but the total number sold in 1928 did not exceed 600. The livestock markets mainly handle stores. In 1928, 2,333 store cattle, 529 dairy cows, 806 calves, 3,000 fat sheep and lambs, 5,393 store sheep and 2,700 store pigs were sold. A large proportion of the supplies are absorbed locally, particularly pigs; store cattle and sheep are taken to Shropshire and the north Midlands. The policy of the market authority has been to maintain competition between firms of auctioneers selling livestock, but it is questionable whether, in the long run, this has not tended to retard the development of Newtown as an important market centre.

The produce market is practically confined to retail sales, both of farm produce by producers and of miscellaneous goods. Approximately 100 baskets of produce (butter, eggs and poultry) are brought to the market weekly. An extensive wholesale trade in farm produce is done on the streets between producers and some 9 or 10 local and Lancashire dealers. Butter, eggs and poultry surplus to local requirements are sent mainly to Lancashire

The annual wool sale held by a firm of auctioneers is one of the two largest

in Wales. In 1928, 90,000 fleeces of Kerry Hill, Cross-bred and Welsh wool were sold, Kerry Hill predominating. The wool is stored in a local woollen mill, near the station, and is on view for a day and a half previous to the sale. Practically all is washed wool. All wool is sold without reserve. Sheets are lent to the vendors free of charge, a hiring fee of 9*d.* per sheet being made to buyers. Full instructions as to proper packing are issued to vendors, and, in order to eliminate the use of binder twine, suitable string is supplied for fastening the sheets. Wool is weighed in and out of store, vendors receiving payment on weight in, and buyers paying on weight out. The conditions of sale are those agreed on between the National Farmers' Union, the British Wool Federation, the Country Wool Merchants' Association and the Auctioneers and Estate Agents' Institute. The principal conditions include minimum advances of ¼*d.* per lb. in bidding, a requirement of 50 per cent. deposit from purchasers on day of sale, allowance of 1 lb. per cwt. to buyers, and regulations as to rebates for greys, unwashed fleeces, tailings, etc. Wool is sent in from a radius of about 15 miles. Between 40 and 50 buyers attend, including local wool merchants and buyers from Yorkshire and the Midlands.

PEMBROKESHIRE.

(a) General.

Pembrokeshire is one of the least hilly Welsh counties, rarely rising to a height of 1,000 feet except in the Prescelly Hills in the north. The proportion of the total area returned as rough grazing land is only about 17 per cent. The most fertile part of the county is in the south and south-west, where farming conditions greatly resemble those in England, farms being comparatively large. In this part of the county there is a fair proportion of arable land; corn and roots are grown and many cattle are winter-fed. This is, in fact, one of the best beef areas in Wales. The beef goes mainly to the South Wales industrial area. In the north and north-west of the county, farming is mixed; store cattle, both Welsh Blacks and Shorthorns, are reared extensively and butter is made in conjunction; store sheep are raised on the higher ground; along the coast is a district which produces good barley. Much of the corn grown in the county, including the barley, is fed to stock; round the coast, however, a fair amount of oats and barley are grown for sale as seed. Most of the corn sold goes direct to local merchants and co-operative stores. There are no corn exchanges. In the east of the county, bordering Carmarthenshire, the rearing of store cattle and, to a less extent, store sheep is the main type of farming. Milk production is an established industry along the G.W.R. main line. Pigs are kept in large numbers all over Pembrokeshire, the pig population of which was, in 1928, the largest in Wales. Pigs are chiefly kept for the production of small pork for the South Wales market, or for bacon for home needs. From the north of the county, there is some export of store pigs to dairy districts such as Carmarthenshire and the Vale of Glamorgan. A considerable proportion of the store cattle raised are fattened within the county, a certain number of dairy stores being sent into Carmarthenshire and Glamorganshire. The number of sheep in Pembrokeshire is proportionately less than in any other Welsh

county, though considerable numbers of very early fat lambs are produced in the south of the county.

In the marketing of livestock, the Pembrokeshire markets, which are generally small and unorganised, play an unimportant part, probably even less important than those in Cardiganshire. Although there are livestock markets at 11 centres, the total number of stock handled in them in an average year amounts to only 49,000, comprising 13,000 cattle, 1,000 calves, 12,000 sheep and 23,000 pigs. By far the greater proportion of the livestock sold are bought by dealers visiting the farms. The general tendency seems to be for only the poorer quality stock to be sent to market, the best being bought on the farms by dealers. In many cases, the larger farmers act as dealers, buying up the smaller farmers' stock. Private-treaty dealing is common even so far as the markets are concerned ; at 6 of the 11 centres where livestock are sold, this is the sole method of sale ; pigs are thus sold, generally on the streets direct from the farmers' carts, in practically all cases.

The principal livestock market centres are Haverfordwest and Pembroke ; at the latter market there is a fair entry of fat cattle. There are smaller markets at Crymmych, Mathry Road, Kilgetty, Narberth, Croesgoch, Letterston, Fishguard, Maenclochog, Clarbeston Road and Newport, of which Crymmych, Narberth, Letterston, Fishguard and Maenclochog are private-treaty markets only and are known as "fairs." Cattle, chiefly stores, are the principal stock sold at Crymmych, Mathry Road, Kilgetty and Clarbeston Road. At Fishguard, Newport and Pembroke Dock, pigs only are sold. Accommodation at the markets is rudimentary, the small capital expenditure that has been incurred being a reflection of their small turnover.

A considerable number of the old livestock fairs have survived in Pembrokeshire, a few being still held at monthly intervals and being, in effect, monthly private-treaty markets. Haverfordwest, Narberth, Crymmych and Letterston "fairs" are examples ; at Maenclochog, monthly fairs are held from March to December.

In an exporting area such as Pembrokeshire, it is probable that, as in the neighbouring county of Cardigan, the present markets system would be improved if one or two well-organised large marts or seasonal store-stock sales were instituted which would ensure keener competition among buyers than is the case at present.

Wool sales have been organised in 5 centres by the county branch of the National Farmers' Union in conjunction with the British Wool Federation and local firms of auctioneers. They are held at Crymmych, Fishguard, Haverfordwest, Narberth and Pembroke. The turnover is, at present, small, about 40 tons of wool only being handled in all in 1928. An increase of about 50 per cent. is reported in 1929. In at least one case, the organisation was bad at first, largely owing to farmers not sending in wool sufficiently in advance. This initial difficulty is being overcome

but the state of organisation still compares unfavourably with that of the larger Welsh wool auctions.

There are produce markets at 8 centres, at which eggs, poultry and butter are sold by producers direct to consumers or to dealers. The quantities of farm produce so marketed are small in all cases, stalls for miscellaneous merchandise generally being the most prominent feature of the markets. The comparative unimportance of the produce markets is accounted for by the operation of the Clynderwen and District Farmers' Association, which draws a large proportion of the supplies of eggs, poultry and butter from Pembrokeshire, and by the operation of itinerant dealers.

The harbour fish market at Milford Haven handled about 36,000 tons of fish in 1928, of which about two-thirds went to the Midlands and the rest to London and the south of England. The market is efficiently laid out.

No sales of livestock take place at the G.W.R. livestock landing depot at Fishguard. There are 2 public slaughter-houses in the county—at Haverfordwest and Pembroke.

(b) Notes on particular markets.

Milford Haven.—The port fish market at Milford Docks is owned by the Docks Company. Though exceeded in importance by some of the English fish markets, it compares favourably with the largest in lay-out. Situated at the entrance to the Docks; the market is divided into 2 parts, a Trawl Market and a Herring Market. The former, with a frontage of 950 ft., is situated inside the Docks; the latter is outside, fronting on the Haven and thus allowing fish to be landed at all times regardless of the tide. The Trawl Market is floored with vitrified brick, with a good slope to the edge of the quay, and is roofed its entire length with felt-covered corrugated iron, and glazed in parts on the north side. The floor is divided at the rear into about 100 stands, each with about 10 ft. frontage, rented by fish wholesalers, and is available for packing fish into boxes. At the rear of the market are two rail tracks with direct loading facilities and roofed for protection from the sun. Fish is landed on the quay, arranged in "kits," according to kind, and sold by auction and immediately put on rail after packing. The larger trawler firms employ their own auctioneers; the smaller ones pay about £1 per boat-load for selling. Porters are employed by the Trawler Owners' Association, which charges from £2 to £3 per boat for unloading. Several auction sales are usually in progress at a time but care is taken to avoid overlapping in the kind of fish sold.

The Herring Market, adjoining, is smaller, having a frontage of 350 ft. Fish is landed on a landing stage and brought up gangways to the market. Sea water for cleaning purposes is pumped all over the 2 markets. There are 2 ice factories, together capable of manufacturing 200 tons of ice per day, and 8 smoke-houses, in the Docks.

The Market is used by boats fishing off the Welsh coast, in the Irish Sea, off the west and south coasts of Ireland, as far north as Iceland and as far south as Morocco. In 1928, 727,200 cwt. of fish were landed, as follows:—

	Cwt.		*Cwt.*
Hake	229,300	Ling	23,900
Herrings ...	105,000	Conger... ...	21,900
Skates and Rays	98,500	Whiting ...	21,200
Dogfish ...	37,700	Cod	20,800
Megrims ...	37,200	Mackerel ...	16,800
Bream ...	25,600	Others ...	89,300

There has been a considerable increase in trade since pre-War days, but since 1922, little change appears to have taken place, as shown by the following figures of total landings :—

1913	492,600	cwt.
1922	698,000	,,
1928	727,200	,,
Average 1924–8	710,200	,,

Three fish trains per day are normally dispatched from Milford, one to the north of England and Scotland, one to London and the eastern counties, one to South Wales, Bristol and the Midlands. A special, morning, rail service is also given to South Wales and to Plymouth and Southampton. The following figures indicate the proportions of the 1928 rail consignments to various localities :—

Dispatched to :—	*Percentage of Total Rail Consignments.* Per cent.
London	40·3
Midlands and East Anglia	15·6
Bristol and West of England	12·3
North of England and Scotland	11·2
Wales	10·0
Ireland and the Continent	6·2
South of England	4·4

Over 7 per cent. of Billingsgate's supplies are derived from Milford Haven.

RADNORSHIRE.

(a) General.

Radnorshire, which is one of the smaller Welsh counties, is mountainous, a considerable proportion of the county rising to over 1,000 feet, and over 40 per cent. of its area being returned as rough grazing land. The proportion of arable land is only about 12 per cent. There is some lower and better land on the eastern border of the county and in the valleys of the Teme in the north-east, of the Ithon in the north-west, and of the Wye, which forms the southern and south-western boundary. The rearing of store sheep and cattle and an extensive production of fat lambs are much the most important forms of farming. Judged by the density of the sheep population, the county is one of the four most important for sheep in Wales. In the higher and more remote parts, store sheep are practically the only stock produced; draft ewes and store lambs for breeding or feeding are sold off in the autumn and many 2-year-old ewes are sold as " couples " with their lambs in the spring. In the lower and more accessible parts of the county, a larger proportion of the lambs are fattened and store cattle raising becomes more important. The cattle reared are almost entirely Herefords; sheep consist largely of the Welsh Mountain or the local Radnor breed, Shropshires, Kerrys and their crosses. Little cattle feeding is practised, though some land is

used for this purpose in the east of the county around Presteign. The production of liquid milk is small, a little butter is, however, produced in conjunction with store cattle raising. The pig population is the lowest in Wales for total numbers and density, and that of poultry is also much below the average for Wales.

The export of store sheep from the county is large; that of fat lambs and store cattle is also considerable. Store sheep are taken largely into the west-midland counties of England (Salop, Hereford, Worcester, Gloucester and Monmouth) and a few to Montgomeryshire and Glamorganshire. From the north-west of the county, sheep are sent to Denbighshire Fat lambs are taken to South Wales and the Midlands. Store cattle move eastward into Shropshire, Herefordshire or even further.

As in most of the Welsh counties, a large proportion of the livestock produced is bought by dealers on the farms and does not enter the markets of the county. In the markets, also, buyers are principally dealers; much of the stock is taken on by them to Oswestry and other English markets for re-sale.

Regular livestock markets are held, in order of importance, at Knighton (2), Penybont, Rhayader (2) and Presteign. The first three are primarily store stock markets, Rhayader being almost entirely confined to sheep, at Presteign, which is the only fat cattle market of any importance in the county, about two-thirds of the stock sold is fat. In addition to the regular marts, seasonal store stock sales, principally for sheep, are held at Llanbadarn-Fynydd and Pantydwr; seasonal store sales also account for a considerable proportion of the livestock sold in the markets at Knighton, Penybont and Rhayader. The total number of stock entering the Radnorshire markets and seasonal sales in a year averages about 121,500, comprising some 17,000 cattle, 300 calves, 103,000 sheep and 1,200 pigs. There are also annual sheep sales at Felindre, St Harmon and Llandewy. Including those held in regular marts, some 14 special sales of store sheep take place in the county in the months of September and October, at which over 40,000 sheep are dispersed. The dates of these sales are generally so arranged as to avoid clashing. The old livestock fairs have practically disappeared or have been replaced by auction sales held on the old fair dates. Two important horse fairs (at which over 1,500 mountain ponies are sold chiefly for the South Wales mines) and small monthly livestock fairs are held, however, at Newbridge-on-Wye, while at Rhayader the market, at which a large proportion of the stock is sold by private treaty, is held on the old fair dates, cattle and horses still being sold on the streets A large proportion of the stock in the marts at Builth Wells and Hay, in Breconshire, is of Radnorshire origin.

Accommodation in the livestock marts is of the simplest; they are practically devoid of cover for stock, which, however, in this county is no great disadvantage, since the bulk of the entries,

are sheep or store cattle Dial weighbridges for cattle are fitted at Penybont and Presteign markets

There are no wool sales in the county, in spite of the large stock of sheep. Wool is sold direct to local merchants or staplers. Farm produce, chiefly butter, eggs and poultry, is sold in 3 produce markets—at Knighton, Presteign, and Rhayader Contrary to the usual custom in Wales, produce is sold by auction at Knighton and Presteign. There is little surplus over local requirements.

(b) Notes on particular markets.

Knighton.—The markets include two livestock auction marts, one publicly owned and leased to a firm of auctioneers, the other privately owned, and a public produce market. In addition, miscellaneous goods are sold from stalls on the street weekly.

The two livestock markets are both held fortnightly on the same day, arrangements being made by the auctioneers to avoid clashing in selling times. In practice, each firm of auctioneers sells almost all the stock on alternate market days. Livestock accommodation is ample in extent, and consists in each case of uncovered paved pens for sheep and cattle, with uncovered sale-rings for cattle. There are facilities for weighing fat stock but no dial weighbridge. Knighton is chiefly a store stock market, the fat stock produced in the district being generally sent to Craven Arms market in Shropshire. It is, in fact, probably the biggest store sheep market in Wales. A large proportion of the sheep, which are largely of the Kerry breed, are sold at the two special 2-day sales held in September. Three special sales of wethers are held in June and July. Store sheep and cattle go into the west of England—Shropshire, Herefordshire, Gloucestershire and the Midland counties—while store sheep are sent further afield. Until the beginning of 1929, farm produce —butter, eggs and poultry—was sold by private treaty direct to dealers in the town. At the request of the local branch of the National Farmers' Union, however, a weekly auction sale of produce was commenced in a public hall owned by the Urban District Council. Some 20,000 eggs, 5 cwt. of butter and 160 head of poultry were, on the average, sold weekly in the first quarter of 1929. The auction is used by 60 to 80 farmers. Produce is still, however, delivered in considerable quantities to dealers' premises in the towns. No tolls are payable on livestock or produce sold in the markets.

SECTION III.—SOME WELSH MARKETS DESCRIBED.

(I) MARKETS IN PRODUCING AREAS.

Carmarthen.

The markets at Carmarthen comprise a livestock market, with horse repository, and a provision market, both publicly owned, and a privately owned hide and skin market. A wool auction sale is held annually. There is a public slaughter-house adjoining the livestock market.

Livestock Market.—The livestock market (Fig. 3) is the most important in South Wales It is situated about ¼-mile from the centre of the town and almost 1 mile from the railway station. The mart is fairly well planned with, probably, sufficient covered accommodation to meet requirements The site occupies about 1½ acres and has covered shedding on 3 sides for about 180 cows, calves and bulls. The centre of the mart is occupied at one end by uncovered sheep and pig pens, and at the other by cattle pens, with 2 covered sale-rings of Dutch-barn type between the two sets of pens. One sale-ring, with a 30-cwt. dial weighbridge, is used for fat stock, the other for store cattle and cows. The whole of the covered space in the rings is occupied by the actual stock enclosure, so that buyers are forced to enter the rings if they are to be under cover. The result is extreme congestion within the rings and stock are driven in and out with difficulty. Better results and quicker selling would be obtained by having an inner ring for stock from which buyers should be excluded Market roadways are wide and movement of stock within the mart easy. Vehicles are parked in the yard of the adjoining horse repository. Here, there is wooden stabling with single standings for about 100 horses. The yard of the horse repository is used also for the sale of store pigs. As in many Welsh markets, these are not penned but sold by auction and private treaty direct from the farmers' carts.

The livestock market is held weekly, with sales of store cattle on alternate Thursdays except in January. Special bull auction sales are held in February, March, April and November, and a special ewe and ram sale in September. Only one firm of auctioneers sells in this market and practically all stock is sold by auction. At the monthly fairs, a few cattle are sold privately in the market, and horses on the streets. Tolls are charged on all stock entering the mart. In 1928, 65,488 head of stock passed through the market, comprising 5,741 fat cattle, 3,577 store cattle,



FIG. 2.—Common Method of Exposing Store Pigs for Sale in Wales.

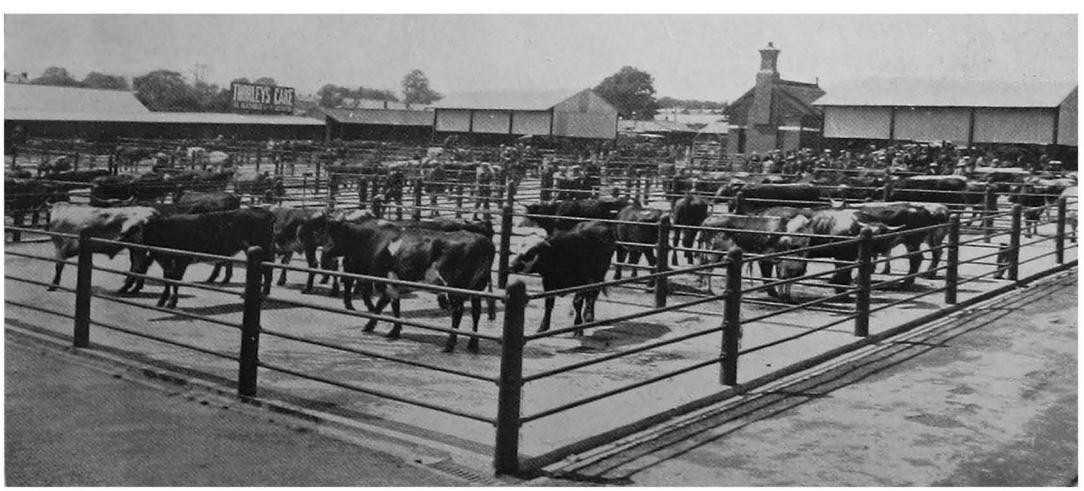


FIG. 3.—Carmarthen: Livestock Market.

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FIG. 4.—Welshpool: Livestock Market.



FIG. 5.—Welshpool: Produce Market.

4,342 cows, 11,414 calves, 18,609 sheep and 21,805 pigs. This is the most important centre for cattle and calves in Wales; next to Mold, it is the largest dairy cow market. The following Table gives the average *weekly* entry of stock of all kinds for each month of 1928:—

Month.	Fat Cattle.	Store Cattle.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.
January	81	—	75	83	204	398
February ...	70	11	108	133	190	295
March	65	22	97	156	228	300
April	113	102	104	232	422	432
May	84	139	109	251	556	582
June	97	80	89	207	511	556
July	92	42	67	115	335	378
August	105	61	79	109	449	364
September ...	130	88	68	87	642	479
October	135	117	76	105	362	481
November ...	157	129	74	78	192	488
December ...	129	47	64	85	169	319

Grass feeding being general in the county, the supply of fat cattle is highest from August to December.

The entry of sheep shows a rise in the fat lamb season—April to August—and again in September, when store sheep are on offer. The abundance of dairy cows and calves in the spring indicates the prevalence of spring calvings in the district on which it draws. The fat cattle entries include many fat cows. Fat stock goes mainly to the industrial parts of South Wales; store cattle, sheep and pigs are bought locally, a few also going to Glamorganshire and the west of England. The market draws on the whole county for dairy cows, many of which are taken by dealers to Glamorganshire and Cheshire. Most of the calves entered are for veal and they are largely sent to South Wales.

Horse sales are held monthly in the repository, over 600 head having been sold in 1928.

The public slaughter-house adjoins the cattle market. It has 12 separate small slaughter-rooms but, as is generally the case in public slaughter-houses in Wales, it lacks a separate cooling-room. It is of local importance only.

Produce Market.—The produce market,* held once a week, is the most important in Wales and consists of a large open space of about 2¼ acres with 4 covered-in shelters, open at the ends and sides, occupied by benches and tables for vendors. Each shelter has several avenues of tables, each of which was originally set apart for a specific purpose, such as the sale of butter, cheese,

* *See* Economic Series No. 10, Figs. 24 and 25.

fruit and vegetables, poultry, eggs, meat, corn, and flannel, respectively. The grouping is still adhered to so far as possible. The bench space is occupied on Saturdays by producers, generally farmers' wives, selling, from baskets, supplies of butter, eggs, poultry, fruit, vegetables and rabbits, and by dealers who attend to collect this produce. For sales of dressed poultry and butter, a covered market-hall would be more suitable.

A few permanent lock-up stalls are occupied by local dealers. Around the outside of the market space are some 45 butchers' shops and there are also approximately 100 general merchandise stalls in the market From 800 to 1,000 baskets of produce are sold weekly on the average, probably representing 600 or more producers. Producers attend from a radius of up to 30 miles. There is some retailing but the great bulk of the produce is bought by dealers, or " hucksters," who are largely from the South Wales industrial area. Most of the butter and poultry goes to South Wales and many of the eggs are also taken there, but local dealers also consign to London and Lancashire. There is no grading of eggs by producers , indeed, the preparation of produce for market generally leaves much to be desired. Butter is brought in both in pats and lump, and, in the autumn, in tubs Poultry are generally sold dressed There is no auction selling and prices seem to be more or less agreed between the chief buyers beforehand. Tolls are charged on all produce at so much per basket, according to its size. Vendors of fruit, vegetables and miscellaneous goods pay tolls according to space occupied.

Wool Sale —At the annual wool auction sale, held in July or August in the produce market, about 4,000 fleeces are sold.

Hide and Skin Market.—There is a registered hide and skin market situated about $\frac{1}{4}$-mile from the public abattoir ; hides, skins and other animal offals are sold by private treaty.

Mold.

Livestock Market.—The livestock market at Mold is owned by a local firm of auctioneers and is the second in Wales in point of turnover of stock. The mart is somewhat small for the number of stock entering it, but congestion is eased by the holding of special store stock sales in season on a different day from the usual Wednesday market. Special sales of store cattle and dairy cows are held on alternate Fridays from the end of March to June, and special store sheep and cattle sales on alternate Fridays from the end of July to October. Though small, the mart is well laid out. all accommodation, with the exception of a few of the sheep pens, being covered. There are three large corrugated-iron structures of Dutch-barn type covering the sheep and pig pens, the fat cattle pens and the store cattle and dairy cow pens, respectively. The fat cattle are penned singly in about 90 standings giving con-

venient access to a sale-ring which is situated at one end of the building and equipped with a 2-ton dial weighbridge ; buyers are permitted to enter this ring. The accommodation for stores and dairy cows consists of pens for bunches of store cattle and rows of single standings for about 80 cows. At one end of this building is a sale-ring with staging for buyers who, contrary to the practice in the fat cattle sale-ring, are not permitted to enter the inner ring. In addition to these main blocks of pens, the mart has also a small set of roofed pens for store pigs. The entrances to the market are narrow and apt to become congested. The railway station is about 200 yards distant.

Supplies come chiefly from within a radius of about 10 miles, though store sheep are brought from Merionethshire and Denbighshire, and store cattle and cows from Denbighshire and Caernarvonshire. In 1928, 82,857 head of stock passed through the mart, comprising 2,297 fat cattle, 4,844 store cattle, 4,549 dairy cows, 3,050 calves, 8,177 fat sheep, 14,582 fat lambs, 28,341 store sheep, 4,511 fat pigs and 12,506 store pigs

The following Table, which gives the average *weekly* entries of stock for each month in the year 1928, indicates the seasonal fluctuations in the volume of supplies of different kinds coming forward for sale :—

Month.	Cattle.			Calves.		Sheep.			Pigs.	
	Fat	Store.	Dairy Cows.	Veal.	Rearing.	Fat	Store.	Fat Lambs.	Fat.	Store.
January ...	44	29	41	41	12	218	—	147	118	262
February	47	45	47	35	11	188	—	142	142	276
March ...	49	116	93	38	17	159	210	125	122	281
April ...	42	203	181	65	24	167	730	53	84	282
May ...	42	201	169	60	25	100	737	137	64	194
June ..	36	183	167	36	27	106	558	321	37	130
July	40	59	52	41	23	109	—	410	29	147
August ...	37	50	51	37	20	130	1,256	530	26	150
September	43	162	144	38	28	175	2,356	496	48	209
October ...	46	80	79	34	18	204	908	439	90	332
November	53	35	47	39	11	179	6	296	141	378
December	54	23	37	26	7	152	—	191	154	262

Seasonal fluctuations are very marked except for fat cattle, the entries of which are fairly constant, the autumn rise being considerably less prominent than is the case in most markets in grazing districts. Store and dairy cattle and store sheep are much in evidence in spring and autumn, the influx being catered for by special sales. The calf trade, naturally, follows the dairy cow trade. The fat lamb season is somewhat late—from June to

October inclusive—as compared with that of the Denbighshire markets. The fall in fat pig entries in summer is exceptionally marked.

Mold is thus, primarily, a store stock market. It is the principal market in Wales for dairy cows, which are bought locally and by farmers and dealers from Cheshire, Shropshire and, at times, Staffordshire. The entry of store sheep is also larger than in any other Welsh market with the exception of Brecon and, possibly, Welshpool and Knighton. Many of these sheep come off the hills between Flintshire and Denbighshire and are bought for grazing in the county or in Cheshire. At the annual ewe sale held at the end of September, up to 8,000 ewes are dispersed, including Shropshires, Southdowns and some Kerrys and their crosses, while about the same number of store lambs are dispersed at the first special lamb sale at the end of August. Fat stock sold in this mart is bought principally for towns in Flintshire , some of the sheep are taken by buyers from Liverpool, Birkenhead, Manchester and the North Wales coast, while bacon pigs are also sent to Lancashire. The store cattle entering this mart are brought by dealers from Denbighshire and Merionethshire or by farmers from the adjacent hills ; they are bought for grazing on the lower land. The store pig trade is an important feature ; many are taken to the south of the county—the cheese-making district—or to Cheshire. A few live poultry are sold by auction.

Retail Market.—The retail market-hall in the centre of the town, open twice a week, is used almost entirely for retailing miscellaneous goods ; some of the stall-holders, however, receive deliveries of farm produce, such as eggs, on market days from farmers. There is a fair direct trade in eggs and poultry between farmers and shopkeepers in the town and between farmers and dealers in inn-yards, etc.

Welshpool.

Welshpool is the principal market town of Montgomeryshire. Its markets comprise a public livestock market, with horse repository adjoining, and a general market-hall and corn exchange.

Livestock Market.—The livestock market (Fig. 4) is the most important in Wales from the point of view of numbers handled. In 1928, 104,812 head of stock entered the market, made up of 10,204 cattle, 3,781 calves, 56,929 sheep and 33,898 pigs. The market occupies an area of about 4½ acres adjoining the railway station and is served by a siding which runs along the whole of one side. The livestock accommodation is divided into three sections, separated by transverse roads. Two of the sections are let to two firms of auctioneers ; the third, which consists only of a small number of uncovered pens, is reserved for private-treaty dealing. The bulk of the stock is sold by auction. The sections

of the market rented by the auctioneers consist, in each case, of uncovered pens for sheep, pigs and cattle, and shedding for about 60 cows and calves. There are two uncovered cattle sale-rings in each section and, in one case, a covered sale-ring for fat stock. Separate sale-rings are used for store cattle and for cows. Pigs are sold from the pens, not from carts as is the case in many Welsh markets. The total area of covered accommodation in the market is small. The market roadways are wide enough to allow free movement of traffic, and parking space for vehicles is provided.

The market is held weekly on Mondays. Sales by the two firms of auctioneers are not arranged so as to avoid clashing and the selling times of similar kinds of stock overlap to some extent. Tolls are payable on all stock entering the market.

Welshpool is largely a store stock market, with a good entry of fat lambs in the season. The small proportion of fat stock in the mart may be partly explained by its being held on Monday, when Wellington, Ludlow and Craven Arms markets are also held. Its drawing area extends to about 10 miles from the market but is curtailed on the east by the large Shropshire marts. Most of the stock entered is brought in by farmers. Buyers, on the other hand, particularly of store stock, are largely dealers, many of whom re-pitch the stock at Oswestry or Shrewsbury. It is estimated that as much as 75 per cent. of the store cattle and 60 per cent. of the store sheep sold are taken outside a 20-mile radius of the town, largely to Shropshire, Staffordshire and the north-west Midlands. A considerable proportion of the store pigs sold are taken to the dairy districts of Cheshire and Shropshire for feeding. Practically all the fat cattle sold are bought locally, as the entry is not large enough to attract buyers from a distance. Fat sheep, lambs and pigs, however, are bought for Midland towns. The following Table indicates the average *weekly* entry of stock for each month in 1928 :—

Month.	Cattle.			Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.
	Fat.	Store.	Dairy Cows.			
January	42	41	32	69	671	1,030
February ...	25	135	43	93	443	947
March	17	167	60	124	571	900
April	18	139	39	121	1,164	772
May	18	192	58	117	1,625	784
June	18	279	52	120	1,658	690
July	27	111	30	84	1,115	496
August	32	216	44	104	1,591	606
September ...	44	105	29	88	3,145	642
October	59	211	34	96	1,927	920
November ...	40	128	31	86	1,042	963
December ...	50	34	36	58	604	756

The trade in Welshpool market is, naturally, seasonal. There are two heavy periods for sheep—from mid-April to the beginning of July, when "couples" and fat lambs are forward, and from the middle of August to the end of October, when the store sheep are brought in. The total number of sheep sold in five sales in September, 1928, was 15,500. Store cattle are brought forward in largest numbers in May and June and at the end of summer, though there is at all times a fairly steady flow.

Horse Repository.—The horse repository is leased by the Corporation to two firms of auctioneers working in conjunction. It consists of stabling, built of corrugated iron, for about 250 horses, and two covered sale-rings with "runs." Horse sales are held monthly and an annual sale of Shire foals is held in October. Over 1,000 horses are disposed of annually. About 25 per cent. are bought by local farmers, the remainder being taken by dealers, chiefly to the Midlands Commission on horses sold by auction is a shilling in the guinea.

Market Hall.—The market-hall is a part of the Town Hall buildings and is divided into three sections. One is used for retailing miscellaneous articles from about 24 stalls, a second for the retailing of farm produce by producers, and the third (Fig. 5) for wholesale sales of produce by producers to dealers. In the retail farm produce section, trestle tables are provided, in the usual manner, on which farmers' wives display baskets of produce. About 150 vendors can be accommodated. The proportion of total produce sold retail, however, is small. The wholesale section is used by about 30 dealers, who occupy floor space at a nominal rent and purchase eggs, poultry, butter and other produce brought in by farmers, for dispatch chiefly to Lancashire and to some extent to the Midlands. Three 5-cwt. weighing machines and two counter scales are provided. The dealers are mainly local men, with a few from Oswestry, Shrewsbury and, occasionally, Cheshire and Lancashire. Eggs constitute a large proportion of the trade Poultry are sold alive and not dressed as is usual in Wales. Tolls are paid on all produce brought into the market. An average of about 700 baskets of produce are sold weekly. There is no grading of produce by vendors, each one bringing in a miscellaneous assortment of commodities in one or more baskets. All sales are by private treaty. The market suffers somewhat from lack of room, both the produce sections being very congested. As in many other Welsh market towns, there is a tendency for the produce business to be transferred to the streets or other parts of the town. It is now customary for a number of dealers to intercept farmers on the roads entering Welshpool and buy produce before it enters the market. This method of dealing is probably disadvantageous to the producer, who, in the absence of a concourse of buyers and sellers, cannot readily compare prices.

Corn Exchange.—The Corn Exchange (the only one in Wales) is a room in the Town Hall buildings, in which some 12 merchants occupy stands at an annual rent of £2 2*s*. The principal business is the sale of feeding-stuffs and other agricultural requisites, the corn sales, chiefly wheat, amounting to only 4,000 cwt. in 1928.

Unlike most of the larger Welsh towns, Welshpool has no public slaughter-house.

(II) MARKETS IN CONSUMING CENTRES.

Cardiff.

The markets at Cardiff include a wholesale meat market and 2 public abattoirs, a cattle market, little used, 2 retail market buildings and a small, open-air, retail market, all owned and controlled by the Corporation, also a cattle market at Ely and an imported fruit exchange, both privately owned.

Fruit Exchange.—Cardiff has no wholesale fruit and vegetable market, the wholesale trade being carried on near the Docks, where a large number of merchants occupy warehouses in four streets. In the same district is situated the Fruit Exchange, a large building with sample showrooms, offices and sale-room. Sales of imported fruit and onions are conducted similarly to those in the other port exchanges, samples being drawn from bulk at the Docks, catalogued and exhibited in the showrooms. Fruit is sold by auction by catalogue after the samples have been examined, and delivery taken direct from the Docks. Sales are held once a week, in winter only, no soft fruits being handled. The auction is run by three firms of brokers in conjunction, each firm selling in rotation. This is a " closed room," the list of buyers being drawn up in collaboration with the Buyers' Federation. Supplies are sent to the whole of the South Wales industrial area and buyers also attend from the Midlands.

Wholesale Meat Market and Abattoirs.—Cardiff has two public abattoirs—at Roath and Canton—at the former of which a wholesale meat market is held. Livestock, chiefly pigs, are also sold at this market before slaughter.

Roath meat market and abattoir, situated on a tram route 1½ miles from the centre of the town and adjoining the railway, consists of a central block of buildings divided into an abattoir and a meat market, a livestock market and lairages, and a pig slaughtery, as well as subsidiary buildings such as offices and buildings for post-mortem examination and for treating offals. The lairages consist of covered buildings on three sides of a square,

with some uncovered pens for cattle and sheep, and can accommodate from 1,500 to 2,000 sheep, 120 cattle and 750 pigs. Livestock, mainly pigs, are sold by private treaty direct from the lairages, approximately 10,600 pigs being sold in 1928. Few sheep and practically no cattle are now sold. Tolls of 3*d.* per beast, 2*d.* per calf and 1*s.* 6*d.* per score of pigs or sheep are charged on sales of livestock. For stock for immediate slaughter, no lairage charge is made The main abattoir is not planned on up-to-date lines, it is divided into 2 blocks, each with 3 small slaughter-rooms, some used for cattle, others for sheep and pigs. From the cattle slaughter-rooms, overhead cranes communicate, across an intervening market roadway, with the meat market, which is roof-lighted and ventilated and also serves as a cooling room. The market is not divided into stands for separate merchants. 250 sides of beef and the carcases of 400 to 500 sheep, calves and pigs can be hung. Ten wholesalers use the meat market, very few retailers slaughter at Roath. The separate pig slaughtery is used for killing pigs to be sent in carcase form to London, a trade which is considerable, as many as 500 pigs per week being consigned in the season. There is one slaughter-room and two hanging rooms; the slaughtery has its own loading bank leading direct on to the railway. Extension of the meat market and main abattoir to almost double their present size is at present in progress. Tolls are payable on all meat offered for sale in the meat market at the rate of 1*s.* per beast, 2*d.* per sheep and 6*d.* per calf or pig. Pigs sent to London in carcase form pay no toll. The market supplies Cardiff and the surrounding industrial area; quite 75 per cent. of the meat sold in the market is home-produced and killed in the abattoir. Cattle are brought in from local markets and from Devon, Somerset, Cornwall, Hereford and Ireland; sheep come from many Welsh markets in the counties of Glamorgan, Carmarthen, Brecon, Radnor and from Monmouth and Hereford; pigs are received from local markets and from Pembrokeshire, Gloucestershire and Ireland. A few farmers send in livestock to the abattoir for sale on commission. Offals are dealt with on the premises by a private firm.

Canton slaughter-house, about three miles away, is about half the size of that at Roath and is similarly equipped, though there are fewer lairages as there is no livestock selling. Covered lairage is provided for 60 cattle and 100 pigs, sheep being laired in the open on a small adjoining field. There are three slaughter-halls similar to those at Roath, each used for all classes of stock and communicating, by 3 overhead cranes and runways, with the cooling-hall, where 90 sides of beef and 150 carcases of sheep and pigs can be hung. This abattoir is used almost entirely by retailers.

There is only one privately owned slaughter-house in Cardiff. There are no publicly owned cold-stores in Cardiff. The average *weekly* slaughterings at Cardiff public abattoirs for each month in 1928, with the total for the year, were as follows:—

Month.	Beasts.			Sheep.			Calves			Pigs.		
	Roath.	Canton.	Total.	Roath.	Canton.	Total.	Roath	Canton.	Total	Roath	Canton.	Total.
Jan. ..	180	32	212	905	191	1,096	153	14	167	809	156	965
Feb. ..	173	25	198	814	146	960	179	20	199	849	157	1,006
Mar. ..	171	21	192	703	111	814	257	19	276	640	162	802
April .	146	12	158	851	124	975	329	17	346	513	129	642
May ..	122	10	132	980	216	1,196	260	11	271	498	101	599
June ..	103	12	115	1,001	285	1,286	279	14	293	476	79	555
July ..	88	14	102	1,123	289	1,412	239	14	253	399	71	470
Aug. ..	101	14	115	1,142	293	1,435	232	12	244	478	91	569
Sept ..	116	19	135	1,072	298	1,370	231	16	247	795	142	937
Oct. ..	137	26	163	962	251	1,213	202	20	222	854	175	1,029
Nov. ...	142	31	173	974	271	1,245	199	20	219	824	179	1,003
Dec. ...	150	34	184	730	211	941	134	13	147	996	220	1 216
Total for year..	7,062	1,087	8,149	48,553	11,652	60,205	11,678	826	12,504	35,445	7,262	42,707

Slaughtering charges at both abattoirs are 2*s.* per beast, 4*d.* per sheep, 8*d.* per calf, 8*d.* per pig. Butchers employ their own slaughtermen.

Hide and Skin Markets.—There are two hide and skin markets in the town, situated near Roath abattoir. In each case hides and skins are sold by auction weekly and by private treaty daily.

Cattle Markets.—Ely cattle market, owned by a firm of auctioneers, is situated on the western outskirts of the town near Ely Station. Though the biggest cattle market in Glamorganshire, it supplies a very small proportion of the city's needs. There are 210 open pens for pigs and sheep, holding about 4 animals each, and uncovered cattle pens for 150 head. There is no cover for stock, the only covered part of the market being a cattle sale-ring with a 30-cwt. dial weighbridge. The accommodation seems adequate in extent, however, for the quantity of stock handled. In 1928, 40,215 head of stock entered the mart, comprising 2,650 fat cattle, 172 store cattle, 678 cows, 3,695 calves, 16,400 sheep, 11,860 fat pigs and 4,760 store pigs. Live poultry are sold by auction. This is mainly a fat-stock market, handling stock of local origin as well as some fat pigs from Pembrokeshire and a few fat sheep from Breconshire. There is a good supply of veal calves from the Vale of Glamorgan. The bulk of the supplies of livestock are brought in by dealers. The market supplies Cardiff, Pontypridd, Barry, Maesteg and, at times, Merthyr and Newport.

The public cattle market at Canton, consisting almost entirely of uncovered pens, is used monthly, principally for the sale of a few Irish cows. It is also used for the two annual fairs, at which, in all, about 300 cattle, 1,200 sheep and 200 horses are sold

Retail Markets.—There are two retail markets, centrally situated, neither of which is used by producers. The larger Central Market contains 263 stalls, many of which are lock-up, and of which only 44 handle foodstuffs The Fish and Fruit Market, some 200 yards distant, was originally built as a wholesale market but, as such, was unsuccessful. It is now used as a retail fish and fruit market. Only about 12 of the 40 stalls are occupied. Some 20 fruit and flower stalls occupy an open space at the converging point of the streets in which the retail markets are situated.

The equivalent of a wholesale fish market is held on private premises near the docks by a local trawler-owning firm. Fish is landed by this firm at the docks and transported by canal barge to the " market " in Custom House Street, where it is sold by auction to buyers from the city and surrounding district.

Swansea.

The only public markets, in the strictly literal sense of the term, in Swansea are a retail market—used also, to a small extent, for wholesale sales of meat carcases—and a cattle market, which, except for occasional private-treaty sales of pigs, no longer fulfils that function but is used as lairage for stock arriving at the public abattoir The abattoir, however, serves also as a wholesale meat market. Auction sales of fish at the docks, conducted on private premises by a firm of trawler owners, take the place of a wholesale fish market Fish is bought for local supply and is sent to various towns in the South Wales industrial area, as well as to Billingsgate and other parts of England An annual wool auction sale, which has taken the place of the old wool fair, is held in July by a firm of auctioneers in the cattle market, about 12,000 fleeces, of many varieties, being sold There are 2 privately owned registered hide and skin markets. The market rights of Swansea are owned by the Corporation, the earliest records being contained in a Charter of 1158–84 granted by the Lord of Gower. Toll is payable and is collected, where possible, on all produce, covered by these rights, which is sold in the town other than on the vendor's private premises. Thus farm and garden produce sold from door to door, hawked in the streets or delivered direct to shops, unless to order, is liable to toll.

Public Slaughter-house and Cattle Market.—The public slaughter-house adjoins the old cattle market in Dyfatty Street near the centre of the town, the slaughter-house occupying almost 1 acre and the cattle market about ¾-acre. There is covered lairage in the cattle market, and fasting pens in the abattoir, for about 180 cattle, 590 sheep, 110 calves and 400 pigs. Free lairage is provided for all stock slaughtered. The abattoir consists of two main buildings separated by a narrow, partly covered roadway. The buildings are of stone, concrete-paved, with roof lighting and louvre

ventilation, and with walls glazed to a height of 7 ft. One building is used for cattle and the other for sheep, pigs and calves. The lay-out and equipment are not up-to-date and the question of improvement has recently been considered by the Corporation. The cattle building consists of a main public slaughter-hall and 4 private cattle-killing houses. It has no separate cooling-room, one side of the main hall being used for slaughter and the other for hanging carcases. There is accommodation for slaughtering 16 beasts at a time. Overhead travelling cranes are fitted for moving carcases ; a scheme for fitting overhead gravity runways was found to be impracticable owing to the excessive slope of the site. The second building has a central cooling-room and walled-off slaughter compartments at each end for sheep and calves and for pigs, respectively. The total hanging capacity of the abattoir is 500 sides of beef, 770 carcases of sheep and calves and 375 carcases of pigs. Offals are dealt with by a limited company, who also own a hide and skin market, on premises within 100 yards of the abattoir. There are 14 privately owned slaughter-houses in Swansea. There are no publicly owned cold-stores, but privately owned stores and ice-making plant exist in the town. About 30 butchers make use of the public abattoir, of whom about 8, accounting for quite 75 per cent. of the slaughterings, carry on a wholesale trade direct from the abattoir. A large proportion of the stock is brought in by wholesalers from long distances, there being little stock-feeding in the vicinity of Swansea, except in the Gower peninsula and the extreme south of Glamorganshire. Cattle, sheep and pigs are obtained from Pembrokeshire, cattle and sheep from the counties of Carmarthen, Cardigan, Salop and Hereford. Cattle are also sent in from Somersetshire, Devonshire and, at times, Cornwall and Ireland. Tolls of 6*d.* per beast, 1*d.* per sheep and 2*d.* per calf or pig are charged on sales in the abattoir. In addition to local retailers, butchers in some of the smaller industrial towns near Swansea are supplied, but distribution outside Swansea itself is not important. The Corporation charges for slaughtering amount to 2*s.* 3*d.* per beast, 4*d.* per sheep, 8*d.* per calf, and 10*d.* per pig. Butchers employ their own slaughtermen, who are licensed by the Corporation. The total stock slaughtered in 1913, 1922 and 1928, was as follows :—

—	1913.	1922.	1928.
Cattle	6,233	5,758	6,628
Sheep and Lambs	32,877	34,883	42,248
Calves	2,809	4,752	4,993
Pigs	18,779	12,273	14,609

General Market.—The general market occupies an area of about 2 acres on one of the main tram routes of the town. It is

a brick building with slate and glass roof, louvre ventilated, wi entrances from all sides, and is mainly occupied by avenues permanent stalls and shops (Fig. 6). The market is intersected b cross avenues with a main central vehicular roadway. Space reserved at one end of the market for producers of fruit an vegetables retailing their own produce, and at the other for simil producer-retailing of butter, eggs, poultry and other farm produc while on one side of the market an area known as the Shambles set aside for the wholesaling of carcases. The market is open eve day for general retail trade, direct producer-to-consumer trac taking place chiefly on Saturdays. There are, in all, about 67 stalls, stands and pitches in the market, of which 450 are permanen the remainder being occupied by casual traders. Home agricu tural produce or other foodstuffs are sold from about 600 of th stalls or pitches, of which over 300 are occupied by producer Some 250 producers of fruit and vegetables, occupying benc space or pitching their produce on the ground, attend the Saturda market, chiefly from the market-garden area around Bishopsto and further down the Gower peninsula west of Swansea. Butte eggs and poultry are retailed by 110 traders, about two-thirds whom are producers These occupy bench space, as in the Devo pannier markets, and sell by private treaty direct to consumer but there is no wholesale trade in these products as in most of th Devonshire pannier markets. The wholesale meat trade is carrie on by from 12 to 15 country butchers, most of whom are producer Permanent stalls and shops are let on weekly tenancies at rental of about $1\frac{3}{4}d.$ per sq. ft per week; casual traders pay tolls pe basket of produce offered for sale. A portion of this market wa formerly used by wholesale fruit and vegetable merchants, but dispute as to space occupied, rent charged, etc., led to their leavin the market, which is no longer used for wholesale fruit an vegetable trade. For retail buying, the market is largely used, no only by the inhabitants of Swansea, but also, on Saturdays, b many people from the industrial area surrounding the town.

Hide and Skin Markets.—There are 2 registered hide and ski markets in Swansea; one, adjoining the abattoir, is owned by company of which the shareholders are local butchers. Hides an skins are collected from Swansea and the surrounding country a far west as Carmarthen. Hides and skins are sold by private treaty daily in both cases, and a weekly auction sale of skins i held in one case.

Wrexham.

Wrexham, with a population in the Borough of about 20,000, and a surrounding population in the Wrexham rural district of over 60,000, has a good system of Corporation markets, comprising a livestock market, a retail meat and fish market, a wholesale



FIG. 6.—Swansea: View of General Market.



FIG. 7.—Wrexham: Fruit and Vegetable Market.

Facing page 81.]



FIG. 8.—Wrexham: **Livestock Market.**



FIG. 9.—A typical Welsh Cattle Sale-ring. **(Wrexham Market.)**

retail fruit and vegetable market, and a general retail market. ıddition, vegetables are sold wholesale on the Guildhall Square. re are also two privately owned horse repositories and two ately owned poultry auctions in the town. An annual wool ion is held in July. Wrexham has a public slaughter-house. The three produce markets in Wrexham are grouped together ınd the main streets, from which there is direct access to the ıtable and meat markets.

Fruit and Vegetable Markets.—The fruit and vegetable market, ch is open daily, is a brick building with slate and glass roof, is laid out in avenues of stalls with lock-up shops around the ide (Fig. 7). There are 13 shops, of which 4 are rented by whole- and retail fruit and vegetable merchants, 3 by retailers of ., vegetables and flowers and 6 are used for the sale of miscel- ous goods. Of the 40 permanent central stallholders, 24 sell ., vegetables and flowers and 16 sell miscellaneous goods. A ion of the space is reserved for casual traders on Thursdays Saturdays, from 25 to 30 traders, chiefly local growers, making of the space. Permanent stallholders pay rents, and casual ers pay tolls on all produce entered. Extensions to the ket are in progress in the direction of increased storage room more shops.

Wholesale fruit and vegetable trade is carried on each Thursday ıe open Guildhall Square, close to the market buildings, where, ımmer, from 40 to 60 and, in winter, from 15 to 20, local pro- rs sell fruit and vegetables, including a large quantity of vberries in season, to retailers from the district. Three esalers of foreign fruit occupy stands in this square.

Cattle Market.—The livestock market, or Smithfield (Fig. 8), weekly and occupying an area of about 2 acres within ¼-mile ıe centre of the town and a similar distance from the public ghter-house, is adequately equipped, though the letting of contained blocks of accommodation to four firms of auctioneers resulted in some duplication of equipment. Of the firms of ioneers selling in the market, one sells pigs only, one sheep and one all stock except pigs and the fourth all classes of livestock. e are two main blocks of pens, used by the two last-mentioned . One of these blocks includes a corrugated-iron roofed set ındings for 120 cattle tied singly in 10 rows of 12 each : under ame roof is a cattle sale-ring with a 30-cwt. dial weighbridge. block of pens also includes a large expanse of corrugated-iron d pens for sheep and calves and some uncovered pens. The ıd of the main blocks is similar, comprising two roofed erections Dutch barn type, one for cattle, the other for pigs, and vered pens for calves and sheep. The cattle pens accommo- 160 head, tied singly, and there are 2 cattle sale-rings, one, a 30-cwt. dial weighbridge, for fat cattle (Fig. 9), the other tore cattle and cows. Calves are sold by auction in a small

corrugated-iron sale-ring. A third and smaller block of covered pens is used by the other two firms of auctioneers for pigs, chiefly, and for calves. A few pens are available in the market for private-treaty sales, but are not used. As is common in Welsh markets, great congestion in the sale-rings is caused by the practice of buyers and others crowding into the inner rings during sale. There is ample room in the Smithfield for the movement of vehicles, market roads being wide and well paved. Motor transport is used considerably for conveying livestock from the market; there is a public motor park just outside.

The auctioneers using the market pay tolls on all stock entered in lieu of rent As is usual, tolls are also charged to vendors. Mutual arrangements are made by the 4 auction firms to avoid overlapping in selling times.

In the 12 months, April, 1928, to March, 1929, 88,185 head of stock entered the market, comprising 8,814 cattle, 7,475 calves, 42,968 sheep and 28,928 pigs. Of the cattle, about 25 per cent. are cows, 45 per cent. stores, chiefly for dairy purposes, and 30 per cent. fat. Most of the calves and sheep and a large proportion of the pigs are fat. The following Table shows the seasonal variation in supplies, giving the average *weekly* entry of each kind of stock for each month from April, 1928, to March, 1929 :—

Month.	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.
April	281	294	972	653
May	245	194	1,220	511
June	164	120	1,052	326
July	155	121	941	337
August	157	86	1,081	433
September	159	78	1,030	544
October	177	89	854	856
November	159	84	662	764
December	90	71	519	722
January	120	90	490	524
February	152	197	451	444
March	175	322	584	562

The most marked fluctuation in cattle supply is the rise in the spring, due to the influx of down-calvers and store cattle. The peak period for calves also falls in the spring and is influenced by the Easter demand. Sheep show a well-marked rise from April to October, coinciding with the fat lamb season. The supply of pigs, as is usual, drops off from May to September. On the whole, there has been a considerable increase in the trade passing through the market since pre-War days, as is indicated by the entries in 1913, 1922 and 1928–9 shown below :—

—	1913.	1922.*	1928–9.
Cattle	7,573	5,500	8,814
Calves	4,974	6,574	7,475
Sheep	25,677	20,220	42,968
Pigs	14,112	11,641	28,928

* Market closed for 12 weeks owing to foot-and-mouth disease.

The market draws its supplies mainly from within a radius of about 15 miles. The immediate neighbourhood is largely a dairy district, hence the large entry of cows and calves. The trade in cows and store cattle is largely local, though a fair number of cows are consigned to Cheshire. A considerable number of veal calves are sent to Lancashire, particularly to Liverpool. Most of the fat cattle and a fair proportion of the pigs sold in this market are consumed locally, either in Wrexham or in the thickly populated area surrounding the town. A small surplus of cattle is bought by dealers for Lancashire or Cheshire towns, while there is a considerable consignment of fat pigs to Liverpool, Manchester and Wolverhampton. The fat sheep and lambs entering Wrexham market are much in excess of local needs and a fair surplus is bought by Lancashire buyers. Many of the pigs and sheep sent to Lancashire go by road transport.

Horse Repositories.—Of the two horse repositories owned by local firms of auctioneers, the larger has 4 corrugated iron stables with room for about 300 horses in all, and 2 covered sale-rings and "runs." Nine sales are held each year, nearly 2,000 horses, chiefly heavy, being sold. The smaller repository has accommodation for about 110 horses. 7 sales a year are held and about 350 horses are sold annually.

Public Slaughter-house.—The public slaughter-house, about ¼-mile from the livestock market, is small and of local importance only. The accommodation is partly let to individual butchers and partly open to public use. It comprises 8 slaughter-rooms, 3 of which are let privately. Of the 5 public slaughter-rooms, separate rooms are reserved for cattle, sheep and pigs, respectively. There is no separate cooling chamber, carcases being allowed to hang in the slaughter-rooms. Ample lairage is provided, particularly for pigs. The slaughter-house is used solely by retail butchers, 18 in all. Extensions to the slaughter-house are contemplated which will include separate cooling accommodation. There is only one private slaughter-house in the Borough, but within the Wrexham Rural District there are over 60, and much meat slaughtered in them is sold in Wrexham.

Poultry Auctions.—Two firms of auctioneers conduct weekly poultry auctions on private premises. Poultry are sold alive. In addition to those sold in cages of the usual type, a considerable number of the birds are laid on tables with their legs tied. The trade is mainly a local one, but some supplies go to Shropshire and Cheshire.

Wool Auction.—At the annual wool auction, about 12,000 fleeces of wool of various breeds, mainly unwashed, are sold at the smaller horse repository Yorkshire and Welsh buyers attend. Payment both to vendors and by purchasers is based on the weight of the wool as it leaves the repository.

Retail Markets.—The meat and fish market, open daily, is one of the group of 3 similar market buildings in the centre of the town. It is laid out in avenues of lock-up stalls, of which 32 are occupied by butchers, 3 by fish traders, 3 by tripe dressers and 16 by vendors of miscellaneous articles.

The general retail market is also one of the group of 3 buildings above-mentioned. It consists of rows of shops—let to 13 tenants—along the sides of the building, and central avenues of tables, similar to those in produce markets all over Wales, from which producers retail butter, eggs and poultry on Thursdays and Saturdays. On Saturdays, the busiest day, about 40 local farmers and smallholders sell in this market. Of the permanent shops, 9 are used for the sale of foodstuffs, the rest for miscellaneous goods.

APPENDIX I.

Summary of Market Authorities or Occupiers of Markets in the Welsh Counties, classified according to Kinds of Markets under their Control in each Market Centre.

County.	Number of Authorities controlling Public Markets.			Number of Occupiers of Private Markets.			Total.
	Retail Markets only.	Wholesale Markets only.	Both Retail & Wholesale Markets.	Retail Markets only.	Wholesale Markets only.	Both Retail & Wholesale Markets.	
Anglesey	—	—	1	1	9	1	12
Brecon ...	—	1	4	—	4	3	12
Caernarvon	1	1	2	1	12	1	18
Cardigan ...	—	2	2	1	5	—	10
Carmarthen	—	1	5	—	11	1	18
Denbigh ...	—	1	4	—	17	—	22
Flint ...	3	—	—	—	5	—	8
Glamorgan	2	1	3	5	10	4	25
Merioneth ...	1	1	—	—	11	1	14
Montgomery	—	1	7	—	11	—	19
Pembroke ...	1	2	3	1	8	2	17
Radnor ...	—	—	2	—	8	—	10
	8	11	33	9	111	13	185

Note.—Cattle Markets are included as wholesale markets in this Table.

APPENDIX II.

Markets in Wales.

(This statement is compiled from information furnished by the owners or lessees of the markets and sales enumerated. The commodities included under the heading "Character of Market" are sold wholesale by private treaty unless otherwise indicated.)

Abbreviations used throughout this Appendix:—

c = Covered area. *u* = Uncovered area.

(*a.l.*) = Auctioneer selling livestock in public markets.

(*a.p.*) = Auctioneer selling produce in public markets.

(*d.w.*) = Dial weighbridge, installed or about to be installed.

(*F.*) = Sales which are locally designated "fairs," but are equivalent in character to a market.

† Wholesale corn business carried on elsewhere than on the market premises.

Number of cattle, sheep and pigs passing through the market in a recent typical year:—*over 60,000; **10,000 to 60,000; ***under 10,000.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
ANGLESEY			
Amlwch			
***Auction 157 *c* 194 *u*	David Jones and Co., Amlwch	Alt. Wed.	Livestock.
Market Hall 60 *c*	,, ,,	Sat. ..	Retail meat and woollen goods.
Bodorgan			
***Auction 50 *c* (*d.w.*) 950 *u*	W. Hughes, Bodorgan	Alt. Wed.	Cattle and sheep.
Gaerwen			
***Auction (*d.w.*) 14520 *u*	Bob Parry & Co., Ltd., Caernarvon	Alt. Mon.	Cattle and sheep.
Holyhead			
Market Hall 1440 *c* 560 *u*	Rt. Hon. Lord Stanley of Alderley	Sat. ..	General retail produce.
Llanddeusant			
***Auction 300 *u*	David Jones & Co., Amlwch	Monthly, usually Fri.	Livestock.
Llanerchymedd			
***Auction 560 *c* (*d.w.*) 2210 *u*	John Pritchard & Co., Bangor	Wed. ..	Livestock.
***Auction 300 *c* (*d.w.*) 2000 *u*	R. G. Jones & Co., Caernarvon	Mon. ..	Livestock.
Llangefni			
Market Hall 200 *c*	Llangefni U.D.C.	Thurs. ..	Butter, eggs and poultry. General retail produce. Corn.†

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Llangefni—*cont.*			
***Pig Market 150 *u*	Llangefni U.D.C.	Thurs. ..	Pigs.
***Auction 400 *c*	John Pritchard & Co.	Thurs. ..	Cattle, sheep, horses
(*d.w.*) 2148 *u*	Bangor		and poultry.
Menai Bridge			
**Auction 500 *c*	John Pritchard &	Mon. ..	Livestock.
(*d.w.*) 2580 *u*	Co., Bangor	Twice annually in Sept.	Special sales of ewes.
Tycroes			
***Auction 120 *c*	David Jones & Co.,	Alt. Wed.	Livestock.
300 *u*	Amlwch		
Valley			
***Auction 300 *c*	John Pritchard &	Mon.	Cattle and sheep.
(*d.w.*) 1200 *u*	Co., Bangor	(monthly)	
BRECONSHIRE			
Brecon			
*Cattle Market	Brecon Corpn. ..	1st, 3rd &	Auction and private
270 *c*	(2 *a.l.*)	5th Tues.	treaty sales of
5500 *u*	..	each month	livestock.
(*Public Slaughterhouse*)			
		Fri. ..	Livestock, chiefly sheep (private treaty).
Provision Market	,, ,, ..	Fri. ..	Dairy produce, eggs,
1500 *c*			fruit, veg. and poultry.
			General retail produce.
Brynmawr			
Market 650 *c*	Brynmawr U.D.C.	Sat. ..	Dairy produce, eggs,
1000 *u*			fruit, veg. and poultry.
			General retail produce.
Builth Wells			
**Cattle Market	Builth Wells U.D.C.	Mon. ..	Auction and private
80 *c*	(1 *a.l.*)		treaty sales of
2370 *u*			livestock.
Crickhowell			
Market 151 *c*	The Duke of Beaufort	Thurs. ..	Wholesale and retail
272 *u*			dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg. & poultry.
Erwood			
Market 50 *c*	John Evans, Erwood	Thurs. ..	Dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg. & poultry.
			Retail meat

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Erwood—*cont.*			
***Auction 450 *u*	Price & Evans, Builth Wells	(F) 1st Thurs. each month May to Oct. & last Thurs. in Sept.	Livestock.
Garth			
***Auction 450 *u*	Price & Evans, Builth Wells.	Alt. Wed. June to Oct.	Livestock.
Hay			
**Cattle Market 2000 *u*	Hay U.D.C. .. (1 *a.l.*)	Fat: Alt. Mon.	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock.
		(F) Store: 2nd Thurs. each month	
		(F) Last Thurs. in Aug. & Sept.	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock (chiefly sheep).
Produce Market 150 *c* 1000 *u*	,, ,,	Thurs. ..	Dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg. & poultry. General retail produce.
Penderyn			
***Auction 4000 *u*	E. Parry-Thomas & Sons, Pontypridd, Glamorgan	Alt. Mon.	Livestock.
Sennybridge			
**Cattle Market 2420 *u*	The Sennybridge & District Voluntary Stock Market Committee.	Fat: 2nd, 4th & 5th Wed. each month Jan. to 3rd week in May. Wed. each week remainder of year. Store: 2nd Fri. each month.	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock.
Market Hall 250 *c*	The Sennybridge & District Voluntary Stock Market Committee.	Wed.	Wholesale and retail dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg. & poultry.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Talgarth			
**Cattle Market (*d.w.*) 100 *c* 9000 *u*	Hay R.D.C. (2 *a.l.*)	2nd (F) & 4th Tues. each month Sept. (usually each Fri.)	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock. Sheep auction.
Market Hall 150 *c*	,, ,,	Fri. ..	Dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg. & poultry (wholesale and retail).
Talybont-on-Usk			
**Auction 40 *c* 2400 *u*	The Talybont and District Farmers' Markets Association, Ltd.	Mon. (Weekly; except Feb., Mar. & April, then fortnightly)	Livestock.
CAERNARVONSHIRE			
Bangor			
Market 900 *c* 350 *u*	Bangor Market Co.	Fri.	Retail produce. Fruit & vegetables (wholesale).
Brynkir			
***Auction 100 *c* 1110 *u*	R. G. Jones & Co., Caernarvon	Alt. Tues.	Dairy and store stock.
Caernarvon			
General Market *u* (Held on Street) (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	Caernarvon Corpn.	Sat.	Retail produce.
***Pig Market (Held on street) *u*	,, ,,	Sat.	Pigs.
Market Hall 490 *c*	Sir Michael Duff Assheton-Smith, Bt.	Daily; chiefly Sat.	General retail produce.
**Auction (*d.w.*) 250 *c* 4590 *u*	R. G. Jones & Co., Caernarvon	Alt. Tues.	Dairy and fat stock.
**Auction 100 *c* 1500 *u*	Bob Parry & Co., Ltd., Caernarvon	Alt. Tues.	Livestock.
Chwilog			
***Auction 200 *c* 2000 *u*	,, ,,	,,	Livestock.
Conway			
**Auction (*d.w.*) 1000 *c* 1000 *u*	W. Dew & Son, & R. A. Jones, Conway	Wed.	Livestock.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Dolwyddelan			
***Auction *u* (Held in field)	Robert & Rogers Jones, Llanrwst	Twice annually—Aug. and Sept.	Livestock.
Llandudno			
Market 817 *c* (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	Llandudno U.D.C.	Daily	Retail produce.
Llandwrog			
***Auction 500 *u*	Bob Parry & Co., Ltd., Caernarvon	4 times annually—Mar., May, Aug. and Oct.	Cattle and sheep.
Nevin			
***Auction	Bob Parry & Co., Ltd., Caernarvon	Thurs. 4 times annually—Apl., May, Aug. and Sept.	Cattle.
Penmachno			
***Auction *u* (Held in field)	Robert & Rogers Jones, Llanrwst	3 times annually—June, Aug. and Oct.	Livestock
Penygroes			
***Auction *u* (Held in field)	Bob Parry & Co., Ltd., Caernarvon	4th Wed. each month	Livestock.
Portmadoc			
***Auction 5177 *u*	Portmadoc U.D.C. (Lessees: Bob Parry & Co., Ltd., Caernarvon)	Fri. (monthly)	Livestock (store).
Pwllheli			
***Cattle Market 225 *c* (*d.w.*) 4840 *u* (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	Pwllheli Corpn. (Lessees: R. Parry & Son, Pwllheli)	Fair dates and 1st Wed., in Jan., Feb. and Dec.	Livestock auction.
Market Hall 327 *c*	Pwllheli Corpn. ..	Wed. ..	General retail produce.
***Produce & Pig Market (Held on street) *u*	,, ,,	Wed. ..	Butter, cheese, eggs, and poultry. (chiefly wholesale). Pigs.
Sarn			
***Auction 200 *c* 2000 *u*	Bob Parry & Co., Ltd., Caernarvon	Thurs. (Monthly: Jan., Feb., Nov. Fort-n'ly: Mar. and Oct.)	Cattle.
		Last Thurs. in July	Sheep.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Ystpytty Ifan			
***Auction *u* (Held in field)	Robert & Rogers Jones, Llanrwst	Two or three times annually—May, Sept. & Nov.	Cattle and sheep.
CARDIGANSHIRE			
Aberystwyth			
***Cattle Market 1100 *c* (*d.w.*) 250 *u* (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	Aberystwyth Corpn. (Lessee: John Price, Aberayron)	1st Mon. each month	Livestock auction.
***Pig Market *u* (Held on street)	Aberystwyth Corpn.	Mon. ..	Pigs.
Old Market Hall 410 *c*	,, ,,	Daily ..	General retail produce.
New Market Hall 458 *c*	A. Cheetham, Aberystwyth	Daily ..	Retail fruit, veg. and general.
Cardigan			
General Market 2178 *c* (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	Cardigan Corpn. ..	Sat. ..	Retail produce. Corn.
**Pig Market *u* (Held on street)	,, ,,	Sat. ..	Pigs.
***Auction . 100 *c* 1700 *u*	Clay and Evans, Cardigan	Alt. Mon.	Livestock (except pigs).
	,,	,,	
Devil's Bridge			
**Auction 9680 *u*	Devil's Bridge Auction Mart, Ltd., Aberystwyth	Tues. (usually monthly)	Livestock.
Goginan			
***Auction 3630 *u*	Lloyd, Herbert and Evans, Aberystwyth	Monthly on advertised dates (usually Wed.)	Cattle and sheep.
Lampeter			
**Cattle Market 1500 *c* (*Public Slaughterhouse*) 2500 *u*	Lampeter Corpn. .. (1 *a.l.*)	Alt. Tues.	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock.
General Market 136 *c*	,, ,,	Fri. ..	Butter, cheese, eggs and poultry.
Wool Sale *c*	Williams & Williams Lampeter	Twice annually— July and Aug.	Wool auction.
Llandyssul			
Station Mart	(*See* under Carmarthenshire)		

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Talybont			
***Auction 4840 *u*	Talybont (Cards.) Farmers' Mart, Ltd.	Irregular—Aug. to Nov.	Livestock.
Tregaron			
***Market 19360 *u* (Held in field and street)	Tregaron R.D.C. ..	Tues. before 1st Wed. each month	Cattle and pigs.
		(F) Each Tues. in May and June. Last Tues. in Sept., 1st, 2nd and 3rd Tues. in Oct.	Sheep.
Ystrad			
***Auction 171 *c* 1980 *u*	John Price, Aberayron	Alt. Thurs.	Cattle.
CARMARTHENSHIRE			
Carmarthen			
* Cattle Market (*d.w.*) 740 *c* (*Public Slaughterhouse*) 6810 *u*	Carmarthen Corpn. (1 *a.l.*)	Wed. ..	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock (except store pigs.)
		Alt. Thurs. (except Jan.)	Auction sales of store cattle.
Horse Repository 700 *c* 4237 *u*	,, ,, (1 *a.l.*)	Fri. (Monthly)	Auction and private treaty sales of horses.
		Sat. (5 sales during Feb. Mar. Apl. and Nov.)	Auction sales of bulls.
		Wed. ..	Auction and private-treaty sales of store pigs.
General Market 3590 *c* 7300 *u*	,, ,,	Sat. ..	Dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg. and poultry. General retail produce.
	(Auctioneers for wool sale: J. Francis & Son, Carmarthen)	Annually: July or Aug.	Wool auction.
Hide & Skin Market 400 *c*	Carmarthen Hide & Skin Market	Thurs. ..	Hides and skins.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market	Market days.	Character of market.
Clynderwen			
‡***Auction 45 *c* 3725 *u*	E. J. Thomas and R. G. Davies, Clynderwen	Alt. Tues. Jan. and Feb. Tues., three times monthly remainder of year.	Livestock.
Kidwelly			
***Cattle Market 1613 *u* (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	Kidwelly & District Farmers' Mart, Ltd.	Alt. Mon.	Livestock auction.
Llandilo			
Provision Market 804 *c* 982 *u*	Llandilo U.D.C. ..	Sat. ..	Dairy produce, eggs and poultry. General retail produce.
	(Auctioneers for wool sale: T. Ll. Harries, Llandilo)	Annually in June or July	Wool auction.
**Cattle Market 200 *c* (*d.w.*) 5000 *u* (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	Llandilo U.D.C. .. (Lessees: Walter James & Son, Llandilo)	Alt. Mon. Mon. weekly in May & June. Annually in Sept.	Livestock auction. Ewes and rams.
Llandilo Bridge			
**Auction 210 *c* (*d.w.*) 4840 *u*	Llandilo & District Cattle Market and Auction Mart Co.	Alt. Mon.	Livestock (fat).
Llandovery			
**Cattle Market 4840 *u*	Llandovery Corpn. .. (1 *a.l.*)	Alt. Tues. Each Fri. in May	Livestock auction. Sheep (private treaty).
Produce Market 240 *c* 240 *u*	,, ,,	Fri. .. Annually in Sept.	Wholesale and retail dairy produce, eggs and poultry. Wool auction.
Llandyssul			
***Station Mart 850 *c* 6850 *u*	Thomas Jones & Sons, Llandyssul	Alt. Tues. Annually in in July	Livestock auction. Wool auction.
***Pig Market (Held on streets) *u*	Llandyssul Parish Council	Tues. ..	Pigs.

‡ Section of auction mart situate in County of Pembroke (Hamlet of Grondre).

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Llanelly			
Market 10500 *c* 3500 *u* (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	Llanelly Corpn. ..	Daily (chiefly Thurs., Sat.) Thurs., Sat.	General retail produce. Butter, eggs, fruit, veg. poultry.
Llangadock			
**Auction 2420 *u*	Morris & Williams, Llangadock	Alt. Tues...	Livestock.
Llangain East (nr. Whitland)			
***Auction *u* (Held in field)	J. R. Thomas, Whitland	1st & 3rd Fri. in Sept.	Sheep.
Llansawel			
***Auction 36 *c* 1200 *u*	Evans Bros., Llanybyther	2nd Wed. each month (Mar. to Nov.)	Livestock
Llanybyther			
**Market 330 *c* 2105 *u*	,, ,,	1st, 3rd & 5th Mon. each month Annually in July	Livestock. (Chiefly auction). Wool auction.
Horse Repository 1273 *c* 2400 *u*	,, ,,	Monthly ..	Horse auction.
Newcastle Emlyn			
**Cattle Market 40 *c* 3260 *u*	Newcastle Emlyn U.D.C. (2 *a.l.*)	Fri. ..	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock.
General Market 170 *c* 50 *u*	,, ,,	Fri. ..	Dairy produce. eggs, fruit & veg., poultry. (Wholesale and retail) Corn.
	Newcastle Emlyn U.D.C. (Auctioneers for wool sale:— Lloyd & Thomas)	Annually in July	Wool auction.
Pencader			
Wool sale	Tom Thomas, Rose Hill, Pencader	Annually in July	Wool auction.
Pontardulais			
***Hendy Auction Mart 800 *u*	J. Francis & Son, Carmarthen	Mon. every 4 weeks	Livestock auction.
***Black Horse Field Mart 800 *u*	W. N. Jones & Son, Carmarthen	Mon. every 4 weeks	Livestock auction
	—	(F) Last Tues. each month	Livestock (private treaty).

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Pumpsaint			
***Auction 1210 *u*	Morris & Williams, Llangadock	2nd Wed. each month	Livestock.
***Auction 1210 *u*	,, ,,	Last Wed. in Aug. & Sept.	Livestock.
St. Clears			
***Market 200 *c* 7260 *u*	The St. Clears Market Co., Ltd.	Alt. Tues.	Livestock auction.
	(Lessees: Lloyd & Thomas, Carmarthen)	1st Tues. each month	Livestock (private treaty).
Wool sale	Lloyd & Thomas, Carmarthen	Annually in July	Wool auction.
Whitland			
**Cattle & Produce Market (*d.w.*) Produce:—225 *c* Cattle:— 1900 *u*	Whitland Market House Trustees (Auctioneers: Davies & Lloyd, Carmarthen)	Alt. Tues. Apl. to Dec.	Auction sales of fat cattle.
		Alt. Thurs. Apl., May, Aug., Sept. and Oct.	Auction sales of store cattle and sheep, stock bulls and ewes with lambs.
		Annually in June or July	Wool auction.
		Fri. ..	Dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg. and poultry (wholesale and retail).
DENBIGHSHIRE			
Abergele			
**The Bee 408 *c* Smithfield 625 *u* (*d.w.*)	Richard Pearce & Co,, Abergele	Mon. Special store sales last Fri. each month (Mar. to Oct.)	Auction sales of cattle and calves also fat sheep and lambs.
		3rd Wed. each month	Auction sales of horses.
**The Harp, Smithfield 772 *u*	,, ,,	Mon. Special store sales last Fri. each month (Mar. to Oct.)	Sheep (store) and pig auction.
**Hesketh Mart (*d.w.*) 150 *c* (*Public Slaughterhouse*) 1850 *u*	Jones & Beardmore, Abergele	Fat: Mon. Store: 3rd Wed. each month	Livestock & poultry (live) auction.
		Annually in Sept.	Special sale of ewes and rams.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Cerrig-y-Druidion			
***Auction 2420 *u*	Frank Owen, Corwen	Mon. before 3rd Tues. each month	Cattle and sheep.
Denbigh			
**Smithfield 793 *c* Market 13,350 *u* (2 *d w.*)	Denbigh Corpn. .. (2 *a.l.*)	(F) 2nd Tues. each month	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock (except pigs).
		(F) Wed. after 2nd Tues. each month	Auction and private treaty sales of pigs. Corn.†
Produce 348 *c* Market 480 *u*	,, ,,	Wed. ..	General retail produce. Dairy produce, eggs,
Poultry Market 300 *c*	,, ,,	Wed. ..	Poultry.
Llandegla			
***Auction 800 *u*	K. Hugh Dodd, Wrexham	(F) Sat. (monthly)	Livestock.
		Mon., fortnightly during July, Aug., Sept.	Special fat lamb sales.
Llangerniew			
***Auction 600 *u*	Richard Pearce & Co., Abergele	Fri. (Fortnightly Mar. to Sept. Monthly: Oct. to Feb.)	Livestock.
Llangollen			
**Smithfield 655 *c* Market 4000 *u* (*d.w.*)	Llangollen U.D.C. (1 *a l.*)	2nd & 4th Tues. each month	Livestock & poultry auction.
		Annually in July	Wool auction.
Llanrhaiadr-yn-Mochnant			
**Auction 240 *c* (*d.w.*) 2460 *u*	Llanrhaiadr-yn-Mochnant & District Smithfield Co., Ltd.	Alt. Mon. except Feb. Mar. and Apr. when monthly	Livestock.
Wool sale	Hall, Wateridge & Owen, Ltd., Oswestry, Salop	Last Fri. in July	Wool auction.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Llanrwst			
Market 450 *c*	Llanrwst U.D.C. ..	Tues. except Fair Week. when held on Fair day	General retail produce. Dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg. and poultry (wholesale)
***Livestock Market (Held on street) *u*	,, ,,	(F) Wed. after 1st Tues. each month	Cattle and horses.
		Tues. ..	Pigs.
**Auction 1210 *c* (*d.w.*) 1210 *u*	Robert & Rogers Jones, Llanrwst	Alt. Mon.	Livestock.
Llansannan			
***Auction 396 *u*	Richard Pearce & Co., Denbigh	Fri. (Fortnightly: Mar. to Sept. Monthly: Oct. to Feb.)	Livestock.
Llansaintffraid-Glyn-Ceiriog			
***Auction 14520 *u* (Held in field)	Thorn and Bessell, Wrexham	About 6 sales during July, Aug. and Sept.	Sheep and fat lambs.
Pentre Voelas			
***Auction *u* (Held in field)	Robert and Rogers Jones, Llanrwst	Periodically Apl. to Nov.	Cattle and sheep.
Rossett			
Auction 250 *u*	Jones & Son, Wrexham	Monthly ..	Poultry.
Ruthin			
Market 393 *c* 350 *u*	Ruthin Corpn. ..	Mon. & (F) 1st Tues. each month	Dairy produce, eggs and poultry (wholesale and retail).
**Auction (Agricultural Hall) (*d.w.*) 500 *c* 200 *u*	Ruthin Farmers' Auction Co., Ltd.	1st Tues. & 2nd Mon. following, each month	Cattle and sheep (fat).
**Auction (Vale of Clwyd) (*d.w.*) 500 *c* 700 *u*	,, ,,	1st Tues. & 2nd Mon. following, each month	Cattle (store and dairy), sheep (store) and pigs.
Tal-y-cafn			
**Auction (*d.w.*) 400 *c* 2020 *u*	Robert and Rogers Jones, Llanrwst	Alt. Mon.	Livestock.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Wrexham			
*Cattle Market (2 *d.w.*) 2171 *c* (*Public Slaughterhouse*) 7481 *u*	Wrexham Corpn. .. (4 *a.l.*)	Mon. ..	Livestock auction. †Corn.
Butchers' Market 1608 *c*	,, ,,	Daily, chiefly Thurs. Sat.	Retail meat, fish & general merchandise.
General Market 760 *c*	,, ,,	Daily, chiefly Thurs. Sat.	General retail produce.
Vegetable Market 2353 *c*	,, ,,	Daily, chiefly Thurs. Sat.	Wholesale and retail fruit and veg.
Vegetable Market 1194 *u* (Guildhall Square)	,, ,,	Thurs. ..	Vegetables.
Horse Repository 2000 *c*	Jones and Son, Wrexham	Thurs. .. (About 7 sales annually)	Horse auction.
		Annually in July	Wool auction.
Horse Repository 1500 *c* 900 *u*	Frank Lloyd & Son, Wrexham	Thurs. each month except Feb. Aug. and Dec.	Horse auction.
Auction 200 *c*	K. Hugh Dodd, Wrexham	Thurs. ..	Poultry.
Auction 200 *c*	Jones & Son, Wrexham	Thurs. ..	Poultry.
FLINTSHIRE			
Caerwys			
***Auction 100 *c* 500 *u*	Richard Pearce & Co., Abergele	Last Tues. each month	Livestock.
Holywell			
Market 336 *c*	Holywell U.D.C. ..	Daily ..	Retail fruit, veg. and meat.
**Auction 650 *c* (*d.w.*) 2150 *u*	Walter O. Jones, Holywell	Mon. Twice annually Sept., Oct.	Livestock. Horses.
Mold			
Market 430 *c* 200 *u*	Mold U.D.C. ..	Wed. .. Sat.	General retail produce.
*Auction 1605 *c* (*d.w.*) 298 *u*	J. Bradburne Price, Mold	Wed. ..	Livestock & poultry
		Alt. Fri. June to Oct.	Special sales of store and dairy cattle and store sheep.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Newmarket			
***Auction 100 *c* 400 *u*	Charles F. Birch, Prestatyn	1st and 3rd Tues. each month	Livestock.
Rhyl			
Market 595 *c*	Rhyl U.D.C. ..	Irregular ..	Retail fish, fruit, veg., meat and general.
St. Asaph			
***Auction (*d.w.*) 400 *c* 4400 *u*	Frank Lloyd & Sons, Wrexham	Thurs. ..	Livestock.
GLAMORGANSHIRE			
Aberavon			
Market 2724 *c*	Port Talbot Corpn.	Fri., Sat.	General retail produce.
Aberdare			
Market (*Public Slaughterhouse*) 8000 *c*	Aberdare Markets & Town Hall Co.	Daily ..	General retail produce.
Bridgend			
**Cattle Market 914 *c* (*Public Slaughterhouse*) 2206 *u*	The Dunraven Estates Co., Ltd.	Tues. ..	Livestock auction. Poultry (live) auction.
		Sat.	Occasional private-treaty sales of livestock.
General Market 1810 *c*	,, ,,	Daily (chiefly Sat.)	Butter, eggs, farm produce & poultry. General retail produce.
Caerphilly			
Market 4840 *u*	Evan Brinson, Caerphilly	Fri., Sat.	Retail dairy produce, eggs, fish, fruit, veg. & poultry.
***Auction 3630 *u*	,, ,,	Alt. Mon.	Livestock & poultry.
Market (Central) 375 *c*	Wm. Rees, Caerphilly	Fri., Sat.	General merchandise
Market (Caerphilly) 1500 *c*	V. G. Griffin, Caerphilly	Daily ..	General merchandise
Cardiff			
Central Market 2787 *c*	Cardiff Corporation..	Daily ..	General retail produce.
Fish and Fruit Market 1842 *c*	,, ,,	Daily ..	Retail fish, fruit & veg.
Open Market 250 *u*	,, ,,	Daily ..	Retail fruit.
**Roath Meat & Livestock Market & Slaughterhouse 4000 *c* 7559 *u*	,, ,,	Daily ..	Meat. Livestock (chiefly pigs).

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i e*, owner or lessee) of market	Market days.	Character of market.
Cardiff—*cont.*			
***Canton Livestock Market 300 *c* (*Public Slaughterhouse*) 4000 *u*	Cardiff Corporation..	1st Mon. each month	Cattle.
**Auction (Ely) (*d.w.*) 240 *c* 2500 *u*	J. Richard Thomas, Cardiff	Tues. ..	Livestock & poultry
Fruit Exchange 3000 *c*	(*a*) Connolly Shaw, Ltd. (*b*) Glover, Hill & Co. (*c*) South Wales Fruit Brokers Ltd.	Usually each Tues., but occas'ly Wed. or Thurs. during Winter months	Imported fruit & onions, auction.
Hide and Skin Market 600 *c*	Cardiff Butchers' Wool & Hide Co., Ltd.	Thurs. ..	Auction sales of hides and fats.
		Fri. ..	Auction sales of skins.
		Daily ..	Private treaty sales of skins.
Hide and Skin Market 1200 *c*	Harrison & Bowen's Hide, Skin, Fat & Wool Co., Ltd., Cardiff	Thurs. ..	Auction sales of hides and skins.
		Daily ..	Private treaty sales of hides and skins.
Cowbridge			
***Cattle Market 605 *c* 1673 *u*	Cowbridge Corpn. .. (2 *a l*)	Mon. (every 3 weeks)	Auction sales of livestock.
		Tues. ..	Private treaty sales of livestock.
***Auction (*d.w.*) 40 *c* 4800 *u*	J. Richard Thomas, Cardiff	Mon. (twice every 3 weeks)	Livestock.
Gowerton			
**Auction (*d.w.*) 200 *c* 1600 *u*	James and James, Swansea	Tues. ..	Livestock.
Llantwit Major			
***Auction (Llammals Rd.) 200 *c* 4640 *u* (*d.w.*)	J. Richard Thomas, Cardiff	Mon. (‡Every 3 weeks)	Livestock.
***Auction (Boveston Rd.) 70 *c* 1230 *u*	J. D. Watts & Morgan, Cowbridge	Mon. (‡Every 3 weeks)	Livestock.
***Auction (White Lion) 400 *c* 2420 *u* (*d.w.*)	Howell Williams, Cardiff	Mon. (‡Every 3 weeks)	Livestock.
Maesteg			
Market 731 *c* 2085 *u*	Maesteg U.D.C. ..	Fri., Sat.	General retail produce.

‡ Sales held on consecutive weeks.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Merthyr Tydfil			
Dowlais Market 1613 *c* 1120 *u*	The Dowlais Market Co., Ltd.	Sat. ..	General retail produce.
Merthyr Market 5500 *c*	The Court & Meyrick Estates, Merthyr Tydfil	Daily (Chiefly Fri. & Sat.)	Wholesale & retail dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg. and poultry. Retail meat, fish & general.
Neath			
**Cattle Market (*d.w.*) 713 *c* (*Public Slaughterhouse*) 1569 *u*	Neath Corporation .. (1 *a.l.*)	Alt. Wed.	Auction and private treaty sales of live stock.
		Wed., Sat.	General merchandise
General Market 2462 *c*	,, ,,	Daily (Chiefly Wed., Sat.)	Fish, fruit & veg (chiefly retail). General retail produce.
Nelson			
**Auction 2420 *u*	The Nelson & District Farmers' Markets Association, Ltd.	Alt. Tues.	Livestock & poultry
Peterston-super-Ely			
**Auction 90 *c* (*d.w.*) 2280 *u*	J. D. Watts & Morgan, Cowbridge	Mon. (twice every 3 weeks)	Livestock.
Pontypridd			
***Cattle Market (*Public Slaughterhouse*) 2000 *u*	Pontypridd Markets, Fairs & Town Hall Co.	Wed. ..	Auction and private treaty sales of livestock.
General Market 3050 *c* 2600 *u*	,, ,,	Wed., Sat.	General retail produce.
Hide & Skin Market (Treforest)	Rhondda, Pontypridd and Aberdare Hide, Tallow & Wool Co., Ltd.	Daily ..	Hides and skins.
Swansea			
***Cattle Market 1570 *c* 2213 *u*	Swansea Corporation	Irregular ..	Pigs.
General Market 9600 *c*	,, ,,	Daily (Chiefly Fri. and Sat.)	General retail produce.
		Sat. .. (Chiefly)	Meat (wholesale).
Wholesale Meat Market and Abattoir 2285 *c*	,, ,,	Daily ..	Meat.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Swansea—*cont.*			
Wool Auction	James and James, Swansea	Annually—1st week in July	Wool.
Hide and Skin Market	Swansea & District Butchers' & Cattle Dealers' Hide, Skin, Fat & Wool Co., Ltd.	Thurs. ..	Auction sales of sheep skins.
		Daily ..	Private treaty sales of hides, fat, calf skins, bones & wool.
Hide and Skin Market	W. J. Greenslade & Sons, Swansea	Thurs. ..	Hides, skins, fat & wool.
Ton-y-Pandy			
Market 655 *c*	George Hutchinson, Swansea	Daily ..	Retail dairy produce, eggs, fruit & veg. and general.
Wenvoe			
***Auction‡ 2400 *u*	T. Dawson, Cardiff	Alt. Mon	Cattle and Sheep.
MERIONETHSHIRE			
Bala			
***Auction 2200 *c*	G. Ivor Evans, Bala	Sat. .. (usually fortn'ly)	Livestock.
Blaenau Ffestiniog			
Market 475 *c*	Ffestiniog U.D.C. ..	Daily .. (chiefly Sat.)	Retail fruit, veg., meat and general merchandise.
Corwen			
Market Hall 96 *c*	Corwen Market Hall Co.	Fri. & (F) 3rd Tues. each month	Dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg., poultry (chiefly retail).
**Auction 500 *c* (*d.w.*) 4000 *u*	Frank Owen, Corwen	1st Mon, & 3rd Tues. each month	Livestock.
***Livestock Market (Held on streets) *u*	Corwen Parish Council	(F) 3rd Tues. each month	Cattle and horses.
Dinas Mawddwy			
***Auction	(*a*) G. Ivor Evans, Bala	Feb. 21st, Mar. 6th, Apr. 24th, May 29th, July, Aug. 13th and 28th, Sept. 24th, Oct. 9th, Nov. 2nd.	Cattle and sheep.
	(*b*) R. G. Jones and Co., Caernarvon	Annually on Oct. 1st.	Sheep.

‡ Mart opened in November, 1929. Particulars received too late for inclusion in map (Figure 1).

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Dolgelley			
**Auction 350 *c* 2070 *u*	R. G. Jones and Co., Caernarvon	Usually alt. Fri. in Mar. Apr., May, Sept., Oct. and Nov.	Livestock.
Dyffryn			
**Auction *u* (Held in field)	Bob Parry & Co., Ltd., Caernarvon	Wed. (6 times annually in Mar., Apr., May, Aug., Sept. and Oct.)	Cattle and sheep.
Gwyddelwern			
**Sheep sale *u*	The Tenant, Rose & Crown Hotel, Gwyddelwern	Twice annually—Sept. and Oct.	Sheep (stores).
Harlech			
**Auction 250 *c* 3380 *u*	R. G. Jones & Co., Caernarvon	1st & 3rd Wed. each month. (except July and Aug.)	Livestock.
Llanfrothen			
**Auction *u* (Held in field)	R. G. Jones & Co., Caernarvon	3 times annually—Mar., May and Nov.	Cattle.
Maentwrog			
**Auction *u* (Held in field)	R. G. Jones & Co., Caernarvon	Feb. & May (2 sales annually) Sept. (1 sale)	Cattle and sheep. Sheep.
Towyn			
**Auction 2000 *u*	G. Ivor Evans, Bala	2nd Tues. each month	Livestock.
**Auction 2000 *u*	R. G. Jones & Co., Caernarvon	Usually 3rd Thurs. each month	Livestock.
MONTGOMERY-SHIRE			
Caersws			
**Auction 72 *c* 1488 *u*	Morris, Marshall & Poole, Welshpool	2nd Fri. & Fri. before last Tues. each month	Livestock.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Cann Office (Llangadfan)			
***Auction 1600 *u*	J. Stanley Davies, Llanfyllin	Last Fri. each month except Dec. Special sheep sales in Sept. & Oct.	Livestock (chiefly store).
Cemmaes Road			
**Auction 2200 *u*	Morris, Marshall & Poole, Welshpool	2nd & 4th Thurs. each month and special sheep sales in Sept.	Livestock.
Kerry			
**Auction 9680 *u*	Morris, Marshall & Poole, Welshpool	(F) 1st and 2nd Fri. in Sept. and Sept. 16th	Sheep.
Llanbrynmair			
***Market *u* (Held on streets)	Llanbrynmair Parish Council	(F) Mon. before last Tues. each month, except Dec	Livestock.
Llanfair Caereinion			
***Auction 100 *c*	Morris, Marshall & Poole, Welshpool	1st Fri. each month.	Livestock.
5000 *u*		Twice monthly during June July, Aug. and Sept.	Special fat lamb sales.
		Annually in Oct.	Foals.
***Auction 2420 *u*	Hubert Watkins, Llanfyllin	2 or 3 times annually in Sept.	Sheep (chiefly store ewes).
***Market *u* (Held on streets)	Llanfair Caereinion Parish Council	(F) Fri. after 1st Thurs. each month & 3rd Fri. in May	Livestock. Butter, eggs & poultry (retail).
Llanfyllin			
Market Hall 174 *c*	Llanfyllin Corpn. ..	Thurs. ..	Dairy produce, eggs, fruit, veg. & poultry. General retail produce.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
***Cattle Market *u* (Held on streets)	Llanfyllin Corpn. ..	(F) last Thurs. each month	Livestock.
**Auction 200 *c* 1400 *u*	Hubert Watkins, Llanfyllin	Alt. Mon.	Livestock.
Llangurig			
***Auction 2420 *u* (Held in field)	R. P. Hamer, Penybont, Radnor	3 times annually—Aug., Sept. and Oct.	Sheep (chiefly) and store cattle.
Llanidloes			
General Market 100 *c*	Llanidloes Corpn.	Sat. ..	General retail produce.
**Livestock Market (Held on streets) *u*	,, ,,	(F) 4th Sat. each month except Sept.; 2nd Sat. in May, Sept. 17th; 3rd Sat. in Sept., Oct. 4th Sat. ..	Livestock. Pigs.
**Auction 3630 *u*	Morris, Marshall & Poole, Welshpool	4th Sat. each month and special sales in May, Sept. and Oct.	Livestock.
Wool Sale ..	Morris, Marshall & Poole, Welshpool	Annually in July	Wool auction.
Machynlleth			
Market Hall 220 *c*	Machynlleth U.D.C.	Daily ..	Retail butter, eggs, fish, fruit, veg., meat and poultry.
***Pig Market *u* (Held on street)	,, ,,	Wed. (weekly), also 2nd Mon. each month	Pigs.
***Auction 8470 *u*	Gillart & Sons, Machynlleth	2nd Mon. each month	Livestock & poultry
Montgomery			
**Cattle Market (*d.w.*) 213 *c* 1845 *u*	Montgomery Corpn. & Morris, Marshall & Poole, Welshpool	(F) 1st Thurs. each month. 3rd Thurs. each month	Livestock (chiefly auction). Livestock auction.
General Market 334 *c*	Montgomery Corpn.	Thurs. ..	Retail cheese and miscellaneous articles. Poultry (wholesale).

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Newtown			
General Market 1000 *c*	Newtown & Llanllwchaiarn U.D.C.	Tues., Sat.	General retail produce. Butter, eggs & poultry (wholesale).
** Auction 7260 *u*	Newtown & Llanllwchaiarn U.D.C. (Lessees: Morris, Marshall & Poole, Welshpool)	Last Tues. each month	Livestock.
** Horse Repository 3230 *c* 6450 *u*	Morris, Marshall & Poole, Welshpool	Last Tues. each month (except Dec.)	Horse auction.
		Last Tues. in Sept. & Oct.	Auction sale of foals.
		2nd Tues. each month	Cattle, sheep & pig auction.
		Special annual sheep sale on Sept 10th	
Wool Sale	Morris, Marshall & Poole, Welshpool	Annually in July	Wool auction.
***Auction 3000 *u*	Newtown & Llanllwchaiarn U.D.C. (Lessee: Norman R. Lloyd, Welshpool)	Last Tues. each month	Livestock.
Welshpool			
*Smithfield 700 *c* Market 21780 *u* (*d.w.*)	Welshpool Corpn. .. (2 *a.l.*)	Mon. ..	Livestock (chiefly auction).
Horse Repository 2121 *c* 3315 *u*	Welshpool Corpn. (Lessees and part owners: Caves and Morris, Marshall & Poole, Welshpool)	2nd Fri. in July, Aug. and Sept & 2nd Sat. in other months	Horse auction.
Market Hall 862 *c*	Welshpool Corpn. ..	Mon. ..	Dairy produce, eggs & poultry (chiefly wholesale).
Corn Exchange 168 *c*	,, ,, ..	Mon. ..	Corn.
PEMBROKESHIRE			
Clarbeston Road			
***Auction 968 *u*	Basil Jones, Haverfordwest	3rd Mon. each month	Livestock.
Clynderwen Auction Mart. (Sale yards in Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire, see under Clynderwen, Carm.)			

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Croesgoch			
***Auction 4840 *u*	T. Perkins, Fishguard	1st Mon. each month	Livestock.
Crymmych			
***Cattle Market 19360 *u*	Crymmych Market Hall Co., Ltd.	(F) Last Tues. each month	Livestock.
Market Hall 355 *c*	,, ,,	Last Tues. each month	Poultry and manufactured goods (retail).
		Annually in July	Wool auction.
Fishguard			
General Market 504 *c*	The Company of Proprietors of the Market Place, Fishguard	Thurs. ..	General retail produce.
***Pig Market 500 *u*	,, ,, (Auctioneers for wool sale: T. Perkins & A. J. Hodges, Fishguard)	(F) 1st Thurs each month (except Oct.) and Oct. 9th	Pigs.
		Annually in June	Wool auction.
Haverfordwest			
General Market 1250 *c*	Haverfordwest Corpn.	Sat. ..	Retail, butter, fruit veg, meat and poultry.
***Livestock Market (St. Thomas Green) 19360 *u*	,, ,,	(F) Periodically on 2nd Tues. in month	Cattle, sheep and horses. (Chiefly private treaty).
		(F) 2nd Wed. each month	Pigs (Chiefly private treaty).
***Pig Market 930 *u* (*Public Slaughterhouse*)	,, ,,	Sat. (except Sat. before & after 2nd Wed. each month)	Pigs.
***Auction 1680 *u*	Basil Jones, Haverfordwest	Alt. Mon., Sat.	Livestock. Dairy cows.
Wool Sale *c*	,, ,,	Annually in June	Wool auction.
Kilgetty			
***Auction 200 *c* 2500 *u*	G. Wyndham Collins, Narberth	Alt. Mon.	Livestock.
Letterston			
***Cattle Market 10000 *u*	Letterston Parish Council	(F) 3rd Mon each month	Livestock.
***Auction 13310 *u* (Mathry Road)	(*a*) J. Watts & Son, Letterston (*b*) Lloyd & Thomas, Carmarthen	Alt. Mon.	Livestock.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Maenclochog			
***Market *u*	Maenclochog Parish Council	(F) Tues. after 3rd Mon. each month (except Jan. and Feb.)	Livestock.
Milford Haven			
Trawl Market 6861 *c* Herring Market 778 *c* 583 *u*	Milford Docks Co., Milford Haven	Daily ..	Fish auction.
Narberth			
***Cattle Market 248 *c* 5440 *u*	The Narberth Cattle Market & Fairs Co., Ltd.	(F) 2nd or 3rd Wed. each month Thurs. ..	Cattle and sheep. Pigs.
Market Hall 500 *c* 200 *u*	The Narberth Market and Public Hall Co., Ltd.	Thurs. .. Annually in June or July	Retail meat & poultry. Wool auction.
Newport			
***Market 2000 *u*	St. Dogmells R.D.C.	Fri. ..	General retail produce. Pigs.
Pembroke			
***Cattle Market (*Public Slaughterhouse*) 6020 *u*	Pembroke Corpn. (Lessees: Lloyd & Thomas, Carmarthen)	Alt. Mon.	Livestock (chiefly auction).
General Market 1560 *c* 880 *u*	Pembroke Corpn. (Auctioneers for wool sale: W. E. Thomas Pembroke)	Fri. .. Annually in June	General retail produce. Wool auction.
***Auction 300 *u* (Station Mart)	W. E. Thomas, Pembroke	Alt. Mon.	Livestock.
Pembroke Dock			
***Market *u*	Pembroke Corpn. ..	Friday (occas'ly)	General retail produce. Pigs.
Tenby			
Market 560 *c* & *u*	Tenby Corpn. ..	Wed., Sat.	General retail produce.
RADNORSHIRE			
Knighton			
Market Hall 150 *c*	Knighton U.D.C. (1 *a.p.*)	Thurs. ..	Dairy produce, egg & poultry auction.
Open Market 400 *u*	,, ,,	Thurs. ..	General retail produce.
**Auction 1640 *u*	,, ,, (Lessees: Jackson & McCartney, Craven Arms, Salop)	Alt. Thurs.	Livestock.

Market town and area of market in sq. yds.	Name of occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of market.	Market days.	Character of market.
Knighton—*cont.*			
**Auction 1774 *u*	Morris, Marshall & Poole, Ludlow, Salop	Alt. Thurs.	Livestock.
Llanbadarn-Fynydd			
***Auction 1210 *u*	Morris, Marshall & Poole, Welshpool	Three times annually—Feb., Apl. and Sept.	Cattle.
		Annually in Sept.	Sheep.
***Auction 2500 *u*	R. P. Hamer, Penybont	Sat. 3 times annually—Feb., Sept. and Oct.	Cattle and sheep.
Pantydwr			
***Auction 7260 *u*	Morris, Marshall & Poole, Welshpool	Twice annually—Aug. and Sept.	Sheep.
Penybont			
**Auction (*d.w.*) 4300 *u*	R. P. Hamer, Penybont	Usually Alt. Tues.	Livestock.
Presteign			
Auction 200 *c*	Presteign U.D.C. (1 *a.p.*)	Wed. ..	Retail butter and eggs. Poultry (wholesale and retail).
**Auction (*d.w.*) 2420 *u*	Presteign & District New Auction Mart, Ltd. (Lessees: Morris, Marshall & Poole, Ludlow, Salop)	Fri. usually every three weeks; occasionally fortnightly	Livestock.
Rhayader			
**Smithfield Market 8470 *u*	Rhayader Smithfield Trust (Auctioneer: R. P. Hamer, Penybont)	Various dates usually twice monthly	Livestock (chiefly private treaty).
Market Hall 150 *c*	Rhayader Smithfield Trust	Wed. ..	Poultry and eggs.
***Auction 3630 *u*	Campbell & Edwards, Llandrindod Wells	Fri. (monthly)	Cattle and sheep.

APPENDIX III.

Agricultural Fairs in Wales.

* Held on same day as usual market.
** No other market or sales of the same character held.
† Fair practically extinct or business decreasing to a marked extent.
‡ Annual sale resembling a fair.

(This table is compiled from information furnished to the Ministry from various sources regarding the Fairs enumerated.)

Location.	Approximate Date.	Type.
Anglesey		
*Llangefni	Aug. 29th	Honey.
**Menai Bridge ..	Oct. 24th	Horses, mountain ponies.
	Nov. 14th..	Mountain ponies.
Breconshire		
*Brecon	1st Tues. in Mar.	Livestock.
	1st Tues. and Wed. in May	
	1st Tues. in July	
	1st Tues. in Sept.	
	1st Tues. and Wed. in Nov.	Livestock, dairy produce.
Builth Wells ..	*2nd Mon. in Feb. ..	Horses.
	*3rd Mon. in Feb. ..	Cattle, sheep, pigs.
	*2nd Mon. in April ..	Horses.
	*Mon. before May 12th	Cattle, sheep, pigs.
	May 20th	
	*Last Mon. in June	
	*2nd Mon. in July ..	Horses.
	*Last Mon. in Aug. (Builth Feast)	Cattle, sheep, pigs.
	*2nd Mon. after Builth Feast	
	*1st Mon. in Oct.	
	Oct. 16th	Horses.
	*2nd Mon. in Nov.	Cattle, sheep, pigs.
	*1st Mon. in Dec.	
‡**Crickhowell ..	Sept. (1 sale)	Sheep.
†**Devynoch ..	April 16th ..	Store cattle.
	2nd Tues. in July	
Erwood .. .. (*see* Appendix II)	—	—
Hay .. .. (*See* Appendix II)	—	—
**Llangammarch Wells	Oct. 16th	Horses, ponies.
**Llangynidr ..	3rd Wed. in Sept. ..	Livestock (chiefly store sheep).
**Llanwrtyd Wells ..	Oct. 14th	Ponies.
†Sennybridge ..	2nd Tues. in Mar.	Store cattle.
	2nd Thurs. in June	
	Last Thurs. in Sept.	
	3rd Thurs. in Oct.	

Location.	Approximate Date.	Type.
Breconshire—*cont.*		
Talgarth .. .. (*See* Appendix II)	—	—
**Ystradgynlais ..	Last Fri. in Aug. ..	Store lambs.
	Last Fri. in Sept. ..	Store sheep & lambs.
Caernarvonshire		
**Aber	Oct. 1st	Sheep, horses; cattle occasionally.
**Beddgelert	Sept. 21st.	Livestock, produce.
**Bethesda	Sept. 28th	Sheep.
**Bettws Garmon ..	Sept. 17th	Cattle, sheep.
Caernarvon ..	Jan. 6th	Cattle, horses.
	Feb. 9th	
	Mar. 4th ..	
	Apr. 10th	
	May 5th	
	May 15th	
	June 26th ..	
	Aug. 12th ..	
	Sept. 23rd ..	
	Oct. 18th ..	
	Nov. 9th	
	Dec. 6th	
**Criccieth	May 23rd	Cattle, horses.
	June 29th ..	
	Oct. 21st (St. Luke Fair)	
**Llanbedr	Oct. 3rd	Dairy cattle, ponies.
**Llanberis	Sept. 18th	Livestock.
**Llanfairfechan ..	Apr. 23rd ..	Cattle, sheep.
	Sept. 30th ..	
**Llanllechid ..	Oct. 29th	Welsh wethers and ewes; store cattle occasionally.
**Llanllyfni	†Apr. 11th ..	Fat cattle.
	July 6th	
	†Oct. 20th ..	
Penygroes	†Mar. 3rd ..	Cattle, horses.
	May 21st	
	†June 25th ..	
	†Aug. 11th ..	
	†Sept. 22nd ..	
*Pwllheli	Mar. 15th ..	Cattle, horses.
	May 1st	
	May 22nd ..	
	June 28th ..	
	Aug. 13th ..	
	Sept. 24th ..	
	Nov. 1st	
**Trefriw	Nov. 7th	Cattle, mountain ponies.
Cardiganshire		
Aberystwyth ..	May 6th	Horses.
	Sept. 17th ..	

Location.	Approximate date.	Type.
Cardiganshire—*cont.*		
Lampeter	*1st Tues. in Jan.	
	*Last Tues. in Jan.	
	*2nd Tues. in Mar.	Livestock, produce.
	Mar. 30th ..	
	May 7th and 8th (Dalis or Great Horse Fair)	Horses
	Wed. after Whit Sunday	
	*1st Tues. in July	
	Aug. 15th	Livestock, produce.
	*3rd Tues. in Oct.	
	Nov. 15th (Hiring Fair)	
**Llanrhystyd Mefenydd	1st Sat. in May	Horses.
†**Pontrhydfendigaid	Sept. 25th	Horses.
Tregaron	Mar. 16th ..	Horses.
	May 4th (Dalis Fair)	
	(*See* Appendix II as to Sheep Fairs)	
Carmarthenshire		
**Ammanford ..	May 2nd ..	Livestock.
	Sept. 1st	
**Brynamman ..	Apr. 30th ..	Livestock.
	Last Sat. in Oct.	
Carmarthen ..	Mon. before 2nd Tues. in Feb. ..	
	Mar. 15th ..	
	Apr. 15th ..	
	Mon. before 2nd Tues. in May ..	
	June 3rd ..	Cattle, horses.
	July 10th	
	Aug. 12th ..	
	Sept. 9th ..	
	Oct. 9th	
	Nov. 14th.. ..	
**Gorslas	Last Wed. in Apr. ..	Cattle (store and dairy).
	Last Wed. in Oct. ..	Pigs (weaners).
†Kidwelly	Tues. before May 20th ..	Cattle.
	Aug. 3rd and 4th ..	Cattle, horses.
	Oct. 29th and 30th ..	Cattle.
	1st Mon. in Dec... ..	Cattle.
†**Llanarthney ..	May 16th	Store cattle.
**Llanddarog ..	1st Mon. after May 20th	Livestock.
	1st Tues. after May 20th..	Pigs.
	Sept. 27th	Cattle.
	Sept. 28th	Pigs.
**Llanddeusant ..	June 17th	Ponies.
	Oct. 4th	Sheep.
**Llandebie ..	1st Wed. after Whitsun	Cattle, pigs.
	Dec. 26th	

Location.	Approximate date.	Type.
Carmarthenshire— *cont.*		
Llandilo	Feb. 20th ..	Cattle, pigs, produce.
	Mon. before Easter	
	May 5th	Horses, cattle, produce.
	May 14th	
	June 21st	Horses, cattle.
	July 28th	Horses, cattle, produce.
	Aug. 23rd ..	
	Sept. 28th ..	
	Oct. 28th ..	
	Nov. 12th.. ..	
	Nov. 23rd ..	
	Mon. before Xmas ..	Horses, cattle, pigs, produce.
	Day following each Cattle and Horse Fair	Pigs.
Llandovery ..	Jan 16th ..	Cattle, horses.
	Feb. 16th ..	
	Mar. 24th ..	
	Apr. 17th ..	
	May 15th ..	
	June 19th ..	
	July 8th	
	Aug. 10th ..	
	Sept. 8th ..	
	Oct. 22nd ..	
	Nov. 16th.. ..	
	Dec. 15th ..	
†**Llanedy	Nov. 8th	Cattle, calves.
†**Llanelly	Ladyday ..	Cattle, horses, ponies.
	Michaelmas ..	
†**Llanfihangel-ararth	Oct. 10th	Cattle, horses.
Llangadock ..	Last Thurs. in Apr.	Cattle, horses.
	May 12th and 13th	
	Last Thurs. in May	
	July 9th	
	1st Thurs. after Sept. 11th	
	2nd Thurs. after Oct. 11th	
	Dec. 5th ..	
†**Llangennech ..	June 16th and 17th	Store pigs.
	Oct. 23rd and 24th	
†**Llannon	July 6th	Cattle, calves.
	Dec. 12th ..	
†Llanybyther ..	Nov. 1st (St. Tessan Fair)	Horses.
	Nov. 21st (Martin Fair)	
**Myddfai	June 18th ..	Ponies.
	†Nov. 5th.. ..	

Location.	Approximate Date.	Type.
Carmarthenshire— *cont.*		
†Newcastle Emlyn ..	Jan. 11th Feb. 15th Mar. 22nd Apr. 12th May 10th June 13th July 12th Aug. 20th Sept. 20th Oct. 25th Nov. 22nd — Dates fixed annually, except May and Sept. Fairs	Cattle, horses.
Pontardulais (*See* Appendix II)		
†**Pontyates ..	Mon. after May 21st Oct. 5th	Pigs.
†**Pontyberem ..	Last Tues. in Nov. ..	Cattle, pigs.
Denbighshire		
Denbigh (*See* Appendix II)	—	—
‡**Gwytherin	Oct. 5th	Cattle, sheep.
Llandegla .. (*See* Appendix II)	—	—
Llanrhaiadr-yn-Mochnant	July 24th .. .. 2nd Tues. in Nov.	Ponies.
Llanrwst .. .. (*See* Appendix II)	—	—
Ruthin .. .. (*See* Appendix II)	—	—
Flintshire ..	—	—
Glamorganshire		
**Aberdare .. .	Apr. 1st .. .. Apr. 16th .. Nov. 13th.. ..	Cattle, pigs, horses.
†**Alltwen	Feb. 11th	Store cattle; sheep occasionally.
Bridgend	Apr. 1st .. .. Ascension Thurs. Nov. 17th ..	Cattle, sheep, horses.
Caerphilly ..	Last Thurs. in Feb. Apr. 5th .. .. Trinity Thurs. .. July 19th .. .. Aug. 25th ..	Cattle, pigs, horses.
	Oct. 9th	Livestock.
	Nov. 16th.. .. Thurs. before Xmas	Cattle, pigs, horses.
Cardiff	Whit Monday .. Sept. 19th ..	Cattle, sheep, horses.

Location.	Approximate Date.	Type.
Glamorganshire—*cont.*		
Cowbridge ..	*Tues. before Mar. 25th	Cattle, sheep, horses.
	May 4th	
	June 24th ..	
	Sept. 29th ..	
	*1st Tues. in Dec. ..	Cattle, horses.
**Llantrisant.. ..	Feb. 13th ..	Cattle, horses.
	May 12th	
	Aug. 12th ..	
	Oct. 29th ..	
†**Loughor	Oct. 10th	Colts, pigs.
Neath	2nd Thurs. in Sept. ..	Livestock.
†Nelson	2nd Thurs. in Mar. ..	Cattle.
†**Pencoed	1st. Mon. in June ..	Cattle and calves.
**Pontardawe ..	Mar. 16th ..	Livestock.
	Sept. 26th ..	
‡**Reynoldston ..	Dec. 12th	Cattle, pigs, sheep, poultry.
**St. Mary Hill ..	Aug. 26th ..	Horses (chiefly) and cattle.
‡**Ynysybwl	Sept. (1 sale)	Sheep (chiefly), store cattle.
Merionethshire		
**Bala	Mar. 9th ..	Seeds, chiefly corn.
	Mar. 16th ..	
	Mar. 23rd ..	
**Bettws-Gwerful-Goch	Aug. 12th	Store sheep.
Corwen .. .. (*See* Appendix II)	—	—
**Cynwyd	†Aug. 6th ..	Sheep.
	Oct. 20th or 21st	
Dinas Mawddwy ..	†Mar. 5th ..	Cattle, horses.
	†Apr. 2nd ..	
	†May 1st ..	
	June 2nd	
	†Aug. 14th	
	†Sept. 10th ..	
	†Oct. 17th ..	
	†Oct. 22nd	
	Nov. 12th ..	
**Drwsynant.. ..	Aug. 22nd	Sheep and lambs (store).
‡**Llanbedr	Sept. 19th	Sheep.
‡**Llanfachreth ..	Aug. 15th	Mountain store lambs.
**Llanuwchllyn ..	June 20th ..	Lambs (store).
	Aug. 10th ..	
†**Penrhyndeudraeth	May 5th	Cattle, pigs, horses.
	May 12th	
	Aug. 10th ..	
	Sept. 25th ..	
	Nov. 2nd ..	

Location.	Approximate Date.	Type.
Merionethshire—*cont.*		
‡**Trawsfynydd ..	Wed. before 2nd Tues. in Oct.	Livestock.
Montgomeryshire		
‡**Cefn Coch ..	Sept. (1 sale)	Sheep.
‡**Dolfor	Sept. (1 sale)	Sheep.
Kerry .. .. (*See* Appendix II)	—	—
Llanbrynmair .. (*See* Appendix II)	—	—
Llanfair Caereinion (*See* Appendix II)	—	—
**Llanfihangel ..	May 9th	Livestock.
Llanfyllin .. .. (*See* Appendix II)	—	—
**Llangynog	2nd Fri. in Sept. ..	Cattle, sheep, pigs.
Llanidloes .. (*See* Appendix II)	—	—
Montgomery .. (*See* Appendix II)	—	—
†Newtown	Last Tues. each month ..	Ponies.
Pembrokeshire		
Crymmych .. .. (*See* Appendix II)	—	—
**Eglwyswrw ..	1st Mon. after Nov. 22nd	Cattle, horses.
Fishguard .. .. (*See* Appendix II)	—	—
Haverfordwest (*See* Appendix II)	—	—
**Kilgerran	June 12th .. } Aug. 19th .. }	Horses.
Kilgetty	Wed. after 2nd Tues. in June	Cattle, horses.
Letterston .. .. (*See* Appendix II)	—	—
Maenclochog .. (*See* Appendix II)	—	—
Narberth .. .. (*See* Appendix II)	—	—
Newport	June 27th and 28th ..	Cattle, pigs, horses.
**Puncheston ..	1st Mon. in Dec... ..	Cattle, horses.
**Templeton ..	Nov. 12th	Calves.
Radnorshire		
‡**Felindre	Sept. 10th	Cattle, store ewes.
†Llanbadarn-Fynydd	Fri. before last Tues. in Apr. Sat. before last Tues. in Sept.	Store cattle and sheep.
‡**Llandewy	Usually 2nd Tues. in July	Lambs.

Location.	Approximate Date.	Type.
Radnorshire—*cont.*		
**Newbridge-on-Wye	3rd Tues. in Jan. ..	Cattle, pigs.
	2nd or 3rd Thurs. in Mar.	Cattle, sheep, pigs.
	3rd Tues. in Apr. ..	Cattle.
	May 16th	Cattle, sheep.
	Last Tues. in July	
	3rd Tues. in Aug.	
	2nd Thurs. in Sept. (Ewe Fair)	
	Oct. 17th (Great Horse Fair)	Horses, ponies.
	2nd Mon. in Nov. (Horse Fair)	
	3rd or 4th Thurs. in Nov.	Cattle, sheep, pigs.
**New Radnor ..	Oct. 29th	Cattle, sheep, horses.
Penybont	Oct. 16th	Horses.
Rhayader	Feb. 20th ..	Livestock.
	May 13th	
	Aug. 6th .. .	
	Aug. 27th ..	
	Sept. 26th } Special Ewe	
	Oct. 14th } Fairs	
	Dec. 3rd	
‡**St. Harmon ..	Usually 2nd Fri. in Sept.	Ewes.

APPENDIX IV.

Statement showing the Live Stock Markets and Auctions and Fairs in Wales arranged according to the total number of Cattle, Calves, Sheep and Pigs passing through each during a recent typical year. Where there are two or more Live Stock Markets, Auctions or Fairs in a town, the total number of the various classes of Live Stock passing through all the Markets, Auctions or Fairs is given. The figures in respect of Fairs not held at market centres are given on pages 123-4.

Market Town.	Frequency.	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Total.
Welshpool ...	Weekly ...	10,000	3,780	55,660	32,150	101,590
Mold	,, ...	12,360	3,310	48,030	18,270	81,970
Wrexham ..	,, ...	8,350	7,360	37,480	26,780	79,970
Abergele ...	Weekly (Fat) Monthly (Store)	7,920	940	59,850	5,950	74,660
Carmarthen . .	Weekly ... Fortnightly (Store cattle only)	13,630	11,160	19,130	22,350	66,270
Brecon ...	2 or 3 times monthly Weekly (Private treaty only)	3,100	1,300	53,000	2,900	60,300
Llandilo and Llandilo Bridge	Weekly ...	7,090	3,960	29,250	17,670	57,970
Cardiff ...	Weekly (Auction) Monthly (Private Treaty)	3,760	3,690	17,400	27,560	52,410
Knighton ...	Fortnightly ..	7,200	50	44,500	250	52,000
Ruthin ...	Twice monthly	3,100	280	31,350	12,780	47,510
Holywell ...	Weekly ...	5,040	900	29,090	8,950	43,980
Builth Wells	,, ...	3,950	720	36,000	2,150	42,820
Llangollen ...	Twice monthly	2,140	370	30,960	5,130	38,600
Penybont ...	Usually fortnightly	5,200	—	33,000	200	38,400
Bridgend . .	Once to twice weekly	4,350	2,290	20,750	9,370	36,760
Menai Bridge	Weekly ...	5,880	1,050	25,670	3,130	35,730
Sennybridge ...	Weekly to 2 or 3 times monthly (Fat) Monthly (Store)	2,000	700	32,000	700	35,400
Talgarth ...	Twice monthly	1,000	750	30,000	3,000	34,750
Conway ...	Weekly ...	1,500	2,000	25,000	4,000	32,500
Llanrwst ...	Fortnightly (Auction) Weekly to twice weekly (Private treaty)	3,110	410	24,350	2,900	30,770

Market Town.	Frequency.	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Total.
Llanidloes ...	Usuallymonthly Weekly (Pigs only)	2,470	750	24,530	1,550	29,300
Llanrhaiadr-yn-Mochnant	Fortnightly to monthly	300	20	28,040	240	28,600
Caernarvon ...	Weekly ...	2,450	700	23,120	2,180	28,450
Tal-y-cafn ...	Fortnightly ...	1,970	250	25,330	160	27,710
Llantwit Major	Weekly ...	2,810	550	15,670	5,730	24,760
Llanybyther	2 or 3 times monthly	3,600	1,520	17,630	1,500	24,250
Whitland ...	Fortnightly (Apr. to Dec.)	3,200	3,000	10,000	8,000	24,200
Newtown ...	Twice monthly	4,990	1,210	12,780	4,590	23,570
Montgomery	,,	7,670	980	14,390	10	23,050
Denbigh ...	,,	2,840	50	16,170	1,780	20,840
Gowerton ...	Weekly ...	2,090	1,620	8,840	7,180	19,730
Kerry... ...	3 times annually	—	—	18,650	—	18,650
Cardigan ...	Fortnightly (Auction) Weekly (Private Treaty)	4,330	400	3,000	10,000	17,730
Lampeter ...	Fortnightly ...	3,050	500	10,000	4,000	17,550
Llanfyllin ...	Fortnightly (Auction) Monthly (Private Treaty)	1,290	60	14,000	1,020	16,370
Llandovery ...	Fortnightly ...	500	1,350	12,250	1,400	15,500
Llangadock ...	,, ...	1,080	1,440	10,750	1,550	14,820
Llanerchy-medd	Twice weekly	9,400	60	4,840	40	14,340
Cowbridge ...	Weekly ...	1,410	420	10,820	1,520	14,170
Caersws ...	Twice monthly	3,940	1,000	9,120	50	14,110
Haverford-west	Once, twice or three times weekly	4,000	—	1,250	8,420	13,670
Hay	Fortnightly (Fat) Monthly (Store)	1,050	250	11,000	1,300	13,600
Rhayader ...	Usually twice monthly	460	20	12,620	20	13,120
Cemmaes Road	Twice monthly	1,820	30	10,990	—	12,840
Dolgelley ...	Usually fort-nightly (Mar. to Nov.)	2,250	20	10,000	280	12,550
Devil's Bridge	Usuallymonthly	500	—	12,000	10	12,510
Pembroke ...	Weekly ...	2,620	300	5,960	2,760	11,640
Nelson ...	Fortnightly ...	670	930	8,000	1,770	11,370
Newcastle Emlyn	Weekly ...	1,840	700	4,130	4,600	11,270
Corwen ...	Twice monthly	1,600	50	10,000	—	11,650
Talybont-on-Usk	Weekly to fort-nightly	450	360	9,000	1,000	10,810

Market Town.	Frequency.	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Total.
Presteign ...	Once or twice monthly	3,000	200	6,000	800	10,000
Bala	Usually fortnightly	1,500	20	8,150	40	9,710
Llangefni	Weekly ...	2,580	—	1,990	5,000	9,570
St. Asaph ...	,, ...	1,660	1,830	2,860	2,770	9,120
Llanfair Caereinion	Twice monthly	2,300	170	6,300	150	8,920
Gaerwen ...	Fortnightly ...	800	—	8,000	—	8,800
Harlech ...	Twice monthly (except July and Aug.)	2,450	40	5,650	470	8,610
Pwllheli ...	Weekly (Pigs) Monthly, except April, July & Oct. (other stock)	2,000	—	4,000	2,500	8,500
Llandyssul ...	Weekly (Pigs)... Fortnightly (other stock)	3,740	700	1,530	1,100	7,070
Crymmych ...	Monthly ...	2,000	350	2,850	1,700	6,900
Peterston-super-Ely	Twice every 3 weeks	1,100	550	4,070	990	6,710
St. Clears ...	Fortnightly (Auction) Monthly (Private Treaty)	2,000	1,200	2,330	1,000	6,530
Caerphilly	Fortnightly ...	810	50	4,310	740	5,910
Llangam East (near Whitland)	Twice annually	—	—	5,000	—	5,000
Letterston ...	Fortnightly (Auction) Monthly Private Treaty)	1,350	50	520	3,070	4,990
Talybont ...	Periodically (Aug. to Nov.)	250	—	4,630	10	4,890
Clyderwen ...	Fortnightly or 3 times monthly	1,950	1,250	1,500	150	4,850
Llansaint-ffraid-Glyn-Ceiriog	6 times annually	—	—	4,500	—	4,500
Tregaron ...	Monthly (Cattle and Pigs) Periodically (Sheep)	2,000	100	360	2,000	4,460
Llanbadarn-Fynydd	Periodically ...	530	—	3,910	—	4,440
Towyn ...	Twice monthly	860	—	3,470	110	4,440
Llangerniew ...	Fortnightly to monthly	1,980	20	2,120	50	4,170
Llanbrynmair	Monthly ...	760	—	3,330	40	4,130

Market Town.	Frequency.	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Total.
Aberystwyth	Monthly (Auction) Weekly (Private Treaty)	1,100	100	150	2,700	4,050
Kidwelly ...	Fortnightly ...	800	400	970	1,750	3,920
Bodorgan ...	,,	1,200	—	2,600	—	3,800
Dinas Mawddwy	Monthly ...	380	—	3,400	—	3,780
Sarn	Fortnightly to monthly	2,500	—	1,200	—	3,700
Pontypridd ...	Weekly ...	100	1,000	1,500	1,000	3,600
Neath ...	Fortnightly ...	520	420	390	2,250	3,580
Caerwys ...	Monthly ...	740	30	2,650	120	3,540
Llansannan ...	Fortnightly to monthly	770	20	2,580	50	3,420
Brynkir ...	Fortnightly ...	1,220	40	2,050	30	3,340
Pantydwr ...	Twice annually	—	—	3,250	—	3,250
Penygroes ...	Monthly ...	2,200	80	800	150	3,230
Chwilog ...	Fortnightly ...	2,500	80	500	—	3,080
Cerrig-y-Druidion	Monthly ...	1,050	—	2,000	—	3,050
Kilgetty ...	Fortnightly ...	1,270	290	710	560	2,830
Pumpsaint ...	Monthly ...	150	50	2,500	30	2,730
Dolwyddelan	Twice annually	100	—	2,620	—	2,720
Goginan ...	Monthly ...	80	—	2,570	—	2,650
Ysbytty Ifan	2 or 3 times annually	250	—	2,350	—	2,600
Pentre Voelas	Periodically ...	480	—	2,100	—	2,580
Llangurig ...	3 times annually	10	—	2,550	—	2,560
Penderyn ...	Fortnightly ...	180	20	2,310	40	2,550
Pontardulais	,, ...	330	230	880	1,100	2,540
Narberth ...	Weekly (Pigs) Monthly (Other Stock)	100	—	180	2,200	2,480
Llandegla ...	Monthly (Fortnightly in July, Aug. & Sept.) ...	350	—	2,000	50	2,400
Croesgoch ...	Monthly ...	300	—	60	1,990	2,350
Portmadoc ...	,, ...	800	—	1,500	40	2,340
Newmarket (Flint)	Twice monthly	540	30	1,320	240	2,130
Machynlleth ...	Weekly (Pigs)... Monthly (Other Stock)	240	10	1,700	70	2,020
Gwyddelwern	Twice annually	—	—	2,000	—	2,000
Penmachno ...	3 times annually	180	20	1,780	—	1,980
Tycroes ...	Fortnightly ...	460	—	1,250	20	1,730
Amlwch ...	,,	150	—	1,550	10	1,710
Garth ...	Fortnightly (June to Oct.)	80	60	1,230	220	1,590
Fishguard ...	Monthly ...	—	—	—	1,400	1,400
Maentwrog ...	3 times annually	150	—	1,200	—	1,350
Valley ...	Monthly ...	120	—	1,160	—	1,280

Market Town.	Frequency.	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Total.
Llansawel ...	Monthly (Mar. to Nov.)	350	30	650	200	1,230
Ystrad ...	Fortnightly ...	1,100	110	—	—	1,210
Erwood ...	Monthly (May to Oct.)	40	40	1,050	60	1,190
Cann Office ... (Llangadfan)	Monthly ...	130	—	930	—	1,060
Maenclochog	Monthly (Mar. to Dec.)	180	—	700	100	980
Clarbeston Road	Monthly ...	840	10	10	100	960
Dyffryn ...	6 times annually	350	—	600	—	950
Nevin... ...	4 times annually	750	—	—	—	750
Llanddeusant	Monthly ...	320	10	340	20	690
Llandwrog ...	4 times annually	170	90	400	—	660
Wenvoe* ...	Fortnightly .	50	—	500	—	550
Newport ...	Weekly ...	50	20	—	450	520
Llanfrothen ...	3 times annually	270	—	—	—	270
Swansea ...	Periodically ...	—	—	—	210	210

* Market opened in November, 1929.

Approximate average numbers of livestock on offer at fairs held at centres where there is no livestock market.

Fair.	Frequency.	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Total.
Felindre ...	Annually ...	200	—	4,000	—	4,200
Trawsfynydd	,, ...	300	—	2,300	185	2,785
Crickhowell ...	,, ..	—	—	2,500	—	2,500
Llanfachreth...	,, ...	—	—	2,500	—	2,500
St. Harmon ...	,, ...	—	—	2,500	—	2,500
Llanberis ...	,, ...	110	90	2,000	10	2,210
Dolfor ...	,, ...	—	—	2,140	—	2,140
Llanfairfechan	Twice annually	30	—	1,600	—	1,630
Ystradgynlais	,,	—	—	1,500	—	1,500
Drwsynant ...	Annually ...	—	—	1,400	—	1,400
Llanbedr (Merioneth) ...	,, ...	—	—	1,400	—	1,400
Ynysybwl ...	,, ...	10	—	1,250	—	1,260
Bethesda ...	,, ...	—	—	1,250	—	1,250
Cynwyd ...	Twice annually	—	—	1,250	—	1,250
Gwytherin ...	Annually ...	200	—	1,000	—	1,200
Criccieth ...	Three times annually	1,000	—	—	—	1,000
Llandewy ...	Annually ...	—	—	750	—	750
Newbridge-on-Wye	Monthly (except Feb., June & December)	200	—	450	10	660
Llanddeusant (Carm.)	Twice annually	—	—	650	—	650
New Radnor	Annually ...	100	—	400	—	500
Llangynog ...	,, ...	60	—	400	25	485
Bettws-Gwerful-Goch	,, ...	—	—	400	—	400
Cefn-Coch ...	,, ...	—	—	400	—	400
Llanddarog ...	Four times annually	250	20	—	100	370
Aberdare ...	Three times annually	270	30	—	60	360
Eglwyswrw ...	Annually ...	350	—	—	—	350
Llanllechid ...	,, ...	—	—	350	—	350
Llanuwchllyn	Twice annually	—	—	300	—	300
Pencoed ...	Annually ...	200	20	—	—	220
Llangynidr ...	,, ...	5	—	200	5	210
Aber	,, ...	—	—	200	—	200
Llantrisant ...	Four times annually	175	25	—	—	200
Reynoldston	Annually ...	100	—	50	25	175
Bettws Garmon	,, ...	20	—	120	—	140
Llanllyfni ...	Three times annually	100	—	—	—	100
Gorslas ...	Twice annually	40	10	—	40	90
Llandebie ...	,,	40	10	—	30	80
Penrhyndeudraeth	Five times annually	60	—	—	20	80
Llanfihangel ...	Annually ...	20	—	50	—	70
Llannon ...	Twice annually	60	10	—	—	70
Ammanford ...	,,	20	20	—	20	60

Fair.	Frequency.	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Total.
Pontyberem ...	Annually ...	30	—	—	30	60
Brynamman	Twice annually	20	5	—	25	50
Puncheston ...	Annually ...	50	—	—	—	50
Beddgelert .	,, ..	20	—	20	—	40
Llanbedr (Caer.)	,, . .	40	—	—	—	40
Templeton . .	,, ...	—	30	—	—	30
Llanarthney ...	,, ...	20	—	—	—	20
Llanedy .	,, ...	10	10	—	—	20
Llanelly ..	Twice annually	20	—	—	—	20
Loughor ...	Annually .	—	—	—	20	20
Pontardawe ...	Twice annually	10	5	—	5	20
St. Mary Hill...	Annually .	20	—	—	—	20
Alltwen ...	,, .	10	—	—	—	10
Devynoch ...	Twice annually	10	—	—	—	10
Llanfihangel-ararth	Annually ...	10	—	—	—	10
Llangennech	Four times annually	—	—	—	10	10
Trefriw ...	Annually ..	10	—	—	—	10
Pontyates ...	Twice annually	—	—	—	5	5

Markets and Fairs

in

England and Wales

PART VI: LONDON MARKETS

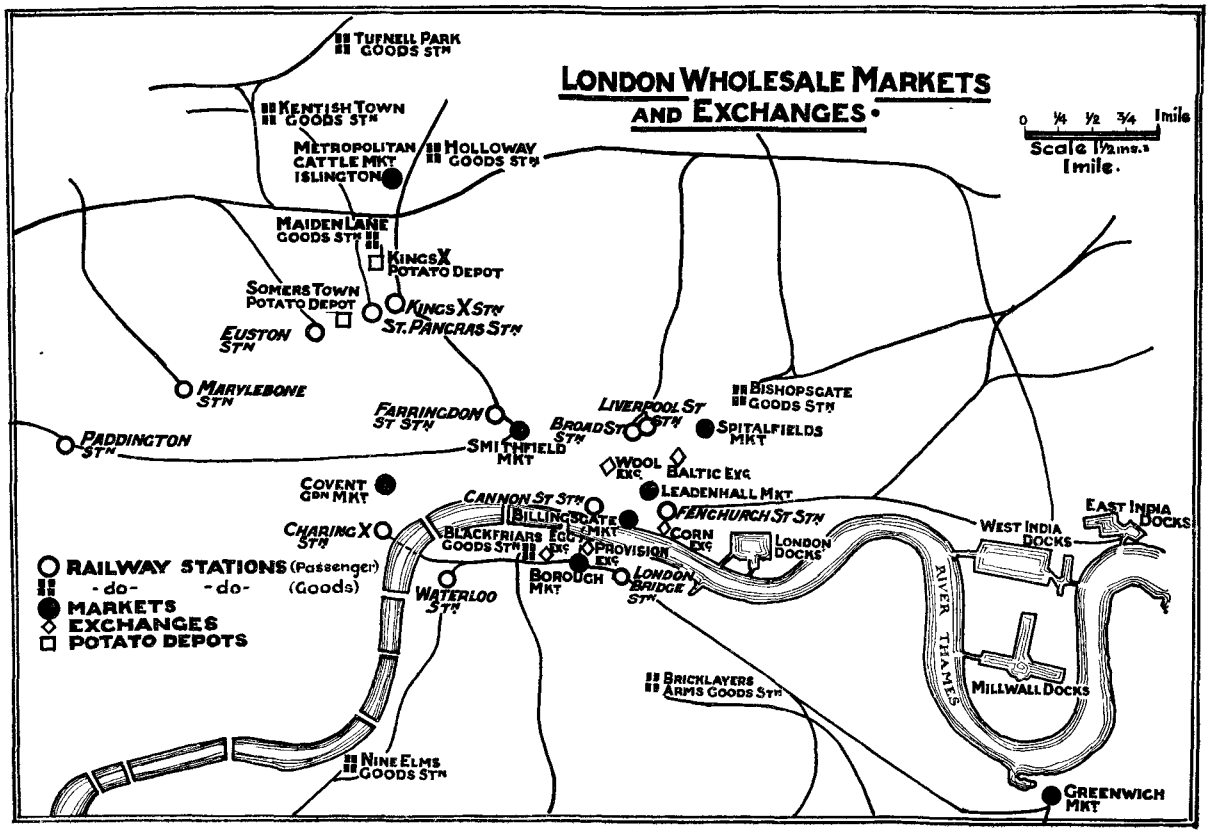

LONDON WHOLESALE MARKETS AND EXCHANGES.
0 ¼ ½ ¾ 1mile
Scale 1½ins. = 1mile.
TUFNELL PARK GOODS STN
KENTISH TOWN GOODS STN
METROPOLITAN CATTLE MKT ISLINGTON
HOLLOWAY GOODS STN
MAIDEN LANE GOODS STN
KINGS X POTATO DEPOT
SOMERS TOWN POTATO DEPOT
KINGS X STN
ST. PANCRAS STN
EUSTON STN
MARYLEBONE STN
FARRINGDON ST STN
PADDINGTON STN
SMITHFIELD MKT
BROAD ST STN
LIVERPOOL ST STN
BISHOPSGATE GOODS STN
SPITALFIELDS MKT
WOOL EXC.
BALTIC EXC.
LEADENHALL MKT
COVENT GDN MKT
CANNON ST STN
BILLINGSGATE MKT
FENCHURCH ST STN
CHARING X STN
BLACKFRIARS GOODS STN
EGG & BUTTER EXC.
PROVISION EXC.
CORN EXC.
LONDON DOCKS
WEST INDIA DOCKS
EAST INDIA DOCKS
RAILWAY STATIONS (Passenger)
-do- -do- (Goods)
MARKETS
EXCHANGES
POTATO DEPOTS
WATERLOO STN
BOROUGH MKT
LONDON BRIDGE STN
RIVER THAMES
BRICKLAYERS ARMS GOODS STN
MILLWALL DOCKS
NINE ELMS GOODS STN
GREENWICH MKT

FIG. 1.

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MARKETS AND FAIRS IN ENGLAND AND WALES. PART VI.—LONDON MARKETS.

INTRODUCTION.

The present Report is the sixth of a series of Reports devoted to the markets and fairs of England and Wales, which have been prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in connection with its investigations into the marketing of agricultural produce. These Reports are based on a comprehensive survey, the need for which was emphasised by the Linlithgow Committee in its final Report.*

Part I of the series was published as Economic Series No. 13 and was a general review of market conditions throughout the country, dealing with such subjects as market rights, market administration, charges and finance, market construction and market practice generally. Parts II, III and IV, published as Economic Series Nos. 14, 19 and 23, and Part V, which is published in this volume, reviewed in detail the markets and fairs of the Midland, Northern, Eastern and Southern, and Welsh counties, respectively. The present Report is a corresponding review of the markets and exchanges handling agricultural produce and fish in London†.

The first section of this Report, taken in conjunction with the two appendices, summarises the London markets as a whole, touching particularly upon the problem of congestion. Figure 1 shows the location of London wholesale markets with respect to railway facilities. The second section of the Report consists of detailed descriptions of all the principal London wholesale markets and exchanges.

The London markets are of such importance, nationally, that the Ministry hopes that the Report will prove useful, not only to market owners, members of market committees and to market

* Cmd. 2008/1924.

† Brentford and Stratford markets are not included in the present Report, having been described in Part IV of the Series (Economic Series No. 23)

tenants in the London area, but also to producers and distributors of agricultural produce generally, and to all interested in the improvement of marketing facilities in this country.

The Ministry is glad to acknowledge the assistance rendered in connection with this Report by local authorities, individual market owners, and railway companies, who have furnished much of the information on which it is based.

SECTION I.—THE LONDON MARKETS AS A WHOLE.

(I) GENERAL.

The markets and exchanges of London fulfil a wider function than that of supplying local needs, and, from the most important of them, produce is dispatched far beyond the boundaries of the metropolis. This particularly applies to the more expensive kinds of produce for which provincial centres have not usually sufficient demand to attract supplies direct from the source. London's importance as a port accounts for its development as a distributing centre for imported foodstuffs. Its markets and exchanges draw supplies, more or less regularly, from all parts of the country, particularly from the Midlands and the south of England, and are freely used also for the disposal of temporary surpluses.

(a) Market Rights and Ownership.

The London markets and exchanges may be classified into those owned by public authorities and those owned by private bodies.

There are only two exclusively retail markets in London which are publicly owned; these are in the borough of Woolwich. The remainder are owned by private individuals or companies. All the exchanges, with the exception of the imported fruit exchange, are also privately owned. Most of the more important wholesale markets are publicly owned, the chief exception being Covent Garden Market; two railhead vegetable markets are owned by railway companies; the small wholesale fruit and vegetable market at Greenwich is part of the Greenwich Hospital Estate. Of the publicly owned wholesale markets, all but the Borough Market are owned by the City Corporation, which possesses 5 markets—viz. The Central Markets (Smithfield), the Metropolitan Cattle Market and Abattoir at Islington, Spitalfields Market, Billingsgate Fish Market and Leadenhall Market. Two of the City's markets are actually situated outside its boundaries.

The market rights of the City Corporation are based on a Charter of Edward III, which prohibits the setting up of rival markets within a distance of 7 leucae (about 6⅝ miles) of the City. Notwithstanding this restriction, market charters were subsequently granted to other individuals or bodies by the Crown, in particular by Charles II, who was responsible for the bestowal of rights which led to the establishment or legal recognition, among existing

markets, of Covent Garden, Spitalfields and the Borough, of which Spitalfields was acquired by the City by purchase in 1920. Technical infringements of the City's rights would seem to have occurred from time to time in various instances The Pudding Lane fruit auctions, for example, which existed until 1929, undoubtedly infringed the City's Charter. The policy of the Corporation, however, is only to exercise its right to prohibit rival "markets" when they appear unnecessary or prejudicial to the public interest.

The London County Council has no market rights and controls no markets The only markets under the control of any of the London boroughs are the 2 retail markets referred to in the borough of Woolwich. As long ago as 1882, the Duke of Bedford attempted unsuccessfully to sell his Covent Garden market rights to the Metropolitan Board of Works—the predecessors of the London County Council. Several attempts have also been made by the London County Council itself to acquire complete or partial control of existing markets , the Council was a prospective purchaser of the Spitalfields Market rights some 30 years ago, and in 1905 endeavoured unsuccessfully to obtain representation on the governing body of the Borough Market.

The Departmental Committee on the Wholesale Food Markets of London* recommended that the administration of the London markets should be vested in one central authority for the whole of Greater London, indicating as possible bodies the City Corporation, the London County Council or a body specially constituted for the purpose, and advocating the last.

(b) Market Charges.

The charge for the use of market facilities in London takes, in some cases, the form of toll, in others of rents for space occupied, and in others of both rents and tolls. Tolls alone are not frequently found, though this is the method of charge for the sale of livestock at Islington and for the sale of produce by growers in the Borough Market and Greenwich Market. In some of the wholesale markets —Spitalfields and, in part, the Borough Market—tolls have been commuted for an annual lump sum and absorbed in rentals. Rents only are charged at Leadenhall and at the railhead markets at King's Cross and Somers Town. The toll system continues, in conjunction with rents on space occupied, at Billingsgate, Covent Garden and Smithfield. In large wholesale markets handling produce of a mixed nature, the toll system is cumbersome and causes inconvenience to both market users and market owners. Its advantage to the market owner is, of course, that income increases with the development of market business. Markets should be regarded, however, as a public service rather than as

* Cmd. 634/1920.

profit-earning institutions, and the revenue aimed at should be a sum sufficient to cover working costs and to provide for necessary improvements. This can be done under a purely rental system where market tenants are permanent occupiers.

Rent charges in London markets vary widely from market to market, and even within markets, according to position and services supplied. The charge for space per square yard per week is as low as from 11*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* in Spitalfields and 10½*d.* in parts of Covent Garden, and as high as 5*s.* 3*d.* in other parts of Covent Garden and 6*s.* to 6*s.* 9*d.* at Billingsgate.

It is interesting to note the small proportion which market charges bear to the value of the goods. The estimated average market charge (rent and toll) per ton of produce handled at 3 of the principal London markets in 1928 was as follows :—

	s.	*d.*	
Billingsgate	5	3	
Smithfield	8	7	
Borough Market ..	5	5	(including porterage inward amounting to 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* per ton).

On relatively valuable produce, such as meat and fish, these charges are not high. At Smithfield, for instance, market charges constitute only 0·63 per cent. of the value of sales—estimated at £32,000,000 in 1928. On fruit and vegetables, on the other hand, they impose a relatively larger burden.

Charges for use of the London exchanges generally take the form of entrance fees and annual subscriptions.

The Borough Market is the only London wholesale market in which porters are employed by the market authority; in this market, all unloading must be done by official porters. At Billingsgate and Smithfield, porters are licensed by the market owners, but are employed by haulage firms or market tenants, or work independently. At Covent Garden, porters are employed by Master Porters appointed by the market owners, and rates of porterage are regulated by the owners. The City Corporation does not fix porterage rates in its markets. Porterage rates in London markets vary from as low as 1½*d.* per cwt. at the Borough market to as high as 6*d.* per cwt. on fish at Billingsgate when long carrying distances are involved.

(c) Congestion.

Wholesale produce markets, if they are to function efficiently, should be easily accessible from all parts of the area supplied by them, and they should be so situated and constructed as to enable large quantities of bulky produce to be passed in and out rapidly. It cannot be said that all or even most of the more important London markets fulfil these conditions.

The principal London markets are centrally situated. Figure 1 shows the position of the principal London wholesale markets in relation to railway goods termini. Most of the markets are situated within a reasonable distance of railway goods stations, Covent Garden and the small market at Greenwich being worst off in this respect. Smithfield Market is the only market in the county of London with direct railway communications, and in this case their use is only possible during certain hours.

The congested state of London markets has been commented on by several bodies who have investigated them since the War, including the Departmental Committee on the Wholesale Food Markets of London and the Linlithgow Committee. While the situation has now been eased by the reconstruction of Spitalfields and the provision of increased space at Billingsgate, there are still several outstanding instances of acute traffic congestion in and around London markets, in particular, Covent Garden, Billingsgate and the Borough. Smithfield and Spitalfields markets are surrounded by roads of ample width and are well planned, and in consequence do not suffer so severely from congestion. The causes of congestion, in the three cases mentioned, are narrow and busy road approaches, lack of space in and around the market (which gives rise to an added complication in the establishment of merchants' premises outside the market), and unsatisfactory planning in respect of market entrances and internal roads or avenues. None of the London markets is provided with mechanical appliances such as overhead runways for conveying goods from the streets into the market, and, generally, vehicles are unable to enter the market buildings. Large staffs of market porters are, therefore, necessary at the larger markets and, in some cases—Covent Garden and Billingsgate—goods have to be carried or hand-trucked for long distances. Market congestion not only increases the costs incurred in the delivery or collection of goods but occasionally results in perishable goods being delivered too late for the day's market, with consequent loss of value. Hindrance is also caused to non-market traffic.

How to relieve the congested condition of the markets at Billingsgate, the Borough and Covent Garden, is the chief problem connected with markets in the London area. The remedy suggested by the Departmental Committee on the Wholesale Food Markets of London was extension and reconstruction on its present site in the case of Covent Garden and removal to more convenient sites in the case of Billingsgate and the Borough. The owners of Covent Garden, however, recently attempted to obtain Parliamentary authority for removal, but abandoned the attempt on account of opposition from almost all the traders interested in the market. The main grounds of objection, which are likely to apply to all attempts to remove markets, were the immense costs of the project, which were thought likely to involve higher market charges, and the fact that trade connections of various kinds had

grown up and become firmly rooted around the market. The successful extension of Spitalfields market on its original site, on the other hand, gives ground for believing that this method of market improvement, where practicable, may be more likely to succeed than any project involving removal. Plans are accordingly on foot to extend Covent Garden market by absorbing several neighbouring buildings. Very heavy expenditure would be involved in total reconstruction, which, in view of the development of Spitalfields, may hardly now be justified. The predominance of Covent Garden appears to be largely due to buyers being able to obtain all their requirements at this centre, and it will be necessary for Spitalfields to supply an equally comprehensive range of produce before it can perform the same function as Covent Garden.* An effort is being made in this direction as shown by the establishment of the Fruit Exchange and by the proposal to erect a Flower Market at Spitalfields.

The City Corporation's plan to extend the market by taking in the adjoining Custom House site, if carried out, may eventually solve the Billingsgate traffic problem.

The Borough Market congestion could be satisfactorily cured only by complete reconstruction, either on the present site or on some site in the vicinity. The improvement of this market is important not only as a relief to traffic in the neighbourhood, but also because an improved market would attract a greater share of the fruit and vegetable trade and so relieve the congestion at Covent Garden.

The lines on which the wholesale trade in agricultural produce is developing are likely to bring about a gradual improvement in market traffic conditions. The increasing standardisation of product, pack and package is enabling goods to be sold on sample or description and to be sent direct to buyers without actually passing through markets. Market stalls are being used, more and more, simply as a means of displaying samples, the delivery of bulk being taken direct from the docks and from railway goods depots, such as those at King's Cross, Somers Town and Stratford. The recent opening of the Spitalfields fruit exchange, where sales of imported fruits are made entirely on sample, bulk being collected by buyers direct from the Docks, illustrates the trend of events. In the fruit trade, again, another market change is the decrease in the amount of reconsignment from London markets, particularly Covent Garden, to provincial towns. Imported fruit is being increasingly shipped direct to the ports which serve the provincial centres where the fruit is consumed.†

With a view to relieving pressure on the main London markets, the suggestion has been made that peripheral markets, in addition

* Linlithgow Committee Report on Fruit and Vegetables (Cmd. 1892/1923), page 79.

† Economic Series No. 15, page 83, and Linlithgow Report on Fruit and Vegetables (Cmd. 1892/1923), pages 73 and 74.

to those at Brentford and Stratford, might be constructed in London, but these would hardly be likely to be successful if started artificially in places which are not a natural meeting ground for wholesale traders. Cases of failure on this account are the Columbia Market established by Baroness Burdett-Coutts in 1856, and the Shadwell Fish Market set up in 1883.

(d) Use by Producers.

Part I of this Survey* indicated, as one of the desirable characteristics of wholesale markets in consuming centres, the provision of space to accommodate producers or producers' organisations who wish to dispose directly of their supplies. Direct sale by producers or their organisations in London markets is practically confined to the wholesale fruit and vegetable markets In Covent Garden and the Borough markets, as well as the small market at Greenwich, considerable space is specifically provided for growers to pitch their wagon-loads of produce for sale direct to retailers. In all these cases, full advantage of the facilities provided is taken by producers from many of the Home Counties. At Spitalfields Market, little provision is made for this type of trade and the direct sale of produce by growers from their vehicles has practically died out. In all the London wholesale fruit and vegetable markets —including the railhead depots—warehouses and permanent stands are rented by large-scale growers and, in one or two cases, by organisations under the control of producers. Producer-wholesalers of this type often combine a considerable commission-sales trade with their other activities.

(II) CLASSIFICATION BY COMMODITIES.

(a) Retail Markets.

London differs strikingly from many of the large towns of the Midlands and North in its lack of large municipal, covered, retail markets, in which foodstuffs, particularly fruit and vegetables, meat and fish, are sold in large quantities. Only one of the 28 London boroughs—i e., Woolwich, controls any retail markets. This borough owns two markets—Woolwich and Eltham markets —both of which are held in the open. The City of London Central Markets include a small retail section. There are some 9 privately owned, covered retail markets in the Metropolitan area, in most of which a large proportion of the trade is in miscellaneous non-agricultural commodities. None of these markets compares with the public retail markets in such towns as Birmingham and Liverpool. The place of the municipal markets is taken in London very largely by the "street markets"†—congregations of retail stalls from which are sold various commodities,

* Economic Series No. 13, page 35.

† *See* Figure 56, Economic Series No. 11.

including all kinds of foodstuffs. There are 106 of these street markets in the Metropolitan area. While possessing serious disadvantages, the street markets, like retail markets in general, appear to fulfil a useful function. In particular, they help to clear surplus produce which would otherwise be wasted. Good quality produce can often be obtained in the markets at lower prices than in shops. Their principal disadvantages are, however, the risk of contamination of foodstuffs sold thus, and their obstruction of traffic. Contamination of foodstuffs in these markets arises not only from exposure to street dust, but from the necessity, in many cases, for unsold goods to be stored each night at the retailer's dwelling place, often, it is believed, under unhygienic conditions. It is also maintained by shop-keepers that the street stallholders compete with them unfairly as they pay no rent or rates.

The question of the regulation of street trading in London has been the subject of consideration by central and local government bodies since the War. In 1922, a Departmental Committee appointed by the Home Secretary to consider the question issued a report,* of which the chief recommendations were the licensing and control, by by-laws, of street traders by London local authorities and that some financial contribution should be made by such traders towards the upkeep and scavenging of streets. The London County Council (General Powers) Act, 1927, among other provisions, requires that each street trader in London must take out an annual licence from the borough council concerned, and in doing so must state the nature of the goods he intends to sell and the street or area in which he intends to sell them. The Home Secretary, after consultation with borough councils, may prohibit street trading in any streets where undue interference with traffic would be caused. Each London borough council has been required under the Act to make by-laws regulating the days and times when street trading may take place, the charges which may be made for removal of refuse and other services by the borough council, maximum dimensions for barrows, stalls, etc., the storage and sanitary supervision of articles offered for sale, and other matters. Maximum charges for removal of refuse, etc., are prescribed in model by-laws under the Act.

(b) Wholesale Markets and Exchanges.

Practically all kinds of agricultural produce are handled by the markets and exchanges of London.

Corn, etc.—Home-grown and imported corn, together with flour, millers' offals, seeds and other produce are sold on the London Corn Exchange (see page 177). Imported grain only is

* Report of the Street Trading Committee, Cmd. 1624/1922. *See also* Linlithgow Committee's Report on Fruit and Vegetables (Cmd. 1892/1923), page 68.

dealt in at the Baltic Mercantile and Shipping Exchange (see page 176).

Dairy Produce.—Home-produced butter and cheese do not appear on the London wholesale markets or exchanges in any considerable quantity. A little is handled at Smithfield and there is some business in these commodities on the Provision Exchange (see page 179), but the provision trade at the latter is mainly in imported produce.

Poultry and Eggs.—Poultry, both home-produced and imported, is handled in considerable quantities at Smithfield and Leadenhall markets (see pages 163 and 175). At the former, there is also an important egg trade, including both home-produced and imported eggs. The bulk of London's imported egg business, however, is transacted at the London Egg Exchange (see page 178).

Fruit and Vegetables.—The position regarding fruit and vegetable markets in London has undergone important changes recently. The markets of this nature at present existing are Covent Garden (page 143), Spitalfields (page 154), the Borough (page 140), King's Cross and Somers Town railhead markets (pages 151 and 153), and Greenwich Market (page 150). The extension of Spitalfields has considerably increased the facilities available in the London area. The imported-fruit exchange at Spitalfields (see page 156) has superseded the privately owned fruit auction sales previously held at Pudding Lane. Covent Garden is still the national centre as well as the most important London market for fruit and vegetables, especially the former, but Spitalfields in its new fruit exchange has now easily the best machinery in London for the distribution of imported fruit from the Docks, while the market itself is far better equipped and much easier of access than Covent Garden. The areas supplied by the 3 principal markets naturally overlap. Buyers attend Covent Garden from all parts of the London area; Spitalfields appears to predominate in the east and north-east, while the Borough chiefly supplies south London. The two railhead markets serve a useful purpose in distributing direct from the stations much heavy produce, particularly potatoes, which would otherwise come into central London. Stratford and Brentford wholesale markets*, in Essex and Middlesex, respectively, fulfil a similar function. Greenwich market is of local importance only.

Livestock.—Livestock is sold at the Metropolitan Cattle Market, Islington (page 158), but the importance of the market for the sale of live animals is declining.

Meat.—The London Central Markets, Smithfield (page 163), are the only wholesale meat markets in London; they supply meat to the whole of Greater London. The City Corporation's abattoir at Islington (page 158) serves largely as an appendage to

* *See* Economic Series No. 23.

Smithfield, though part of the meat slaughtered there goes direct to private butchers in London. The abattoir is in urgent need of improvement. It is the only public abattoir in the Metropolitan area, none being provided by any of the London boroughs. The provision of better public slaughtering facilities is urgently needed in London, which, in this respect, is far behind many of the provincial towns. There are 109 private slaughter-houses in the London County Council area, and many more within a radius of 15 miles of the City. There are none in the City itself. The Public Health Committee of the London County Council recently concluded that the public slaughter-house at Islington was capable of dealing with all the needs of the county of London, that the private slaughter-houses were disappearing fairly rapidly, and that the construction of a number of small supplementary abattoirs was unnecessary.

Hides and Skins.—Hides and skins, both from London and provincial slaughter-houses, are sold by auction or private treaty in 8 privately owned hide and skin "markets" in Bermondsey registered by the Hide, Leather and Allied Trades Improvement Society. In all cases, hides and skins are graded on the premises. At one "market," auction sales are held; at the others, sales are by private treaty. Hides and skins are collected from Islington abattoir and private slaughter-houses in London and from within a radius of about 80 miles of London, while firms with provincial collecting depots also receive hides and skins from as far west as Cornwall. Auction sales of imported hides and skins, both raw and tanned, are held by 6 firms of brokers about twice a week in the London Commercial Sale Rooms, Mincing Lane; no home produce, however, is handled there.

Wool.—Auction sales of wool, chiefly imported, are held about 6 times a year by 9 firms of brokers at the Wool Exchange, Coleman Street (see page 180).

Fish.—Practically all the fish coming into London is sold at the City Corporation's market at Billingsgate (see page 171).

Sugar.—The London terminal sugar market, conducted at the London Commercial Sale Rooms by the United Terminal Sugar Market Association, is not concerned with home-grown sugar.

Hops.—The Hop Exchange has not served in that capacity during the past 35 years. Some 13 hop factors occupy premises in or near the Borough High Street, Southwark, and, in the season, samples are exhibited in their private warehouses where hop merchants buy, on behalf of brewers, by private treaty. Hops are a commodity in which wide variations in quality occur, so much so that, when selling, it is necessary to display a sample from each pocket in a consignment. Moreover, relatively small variations in quality influence the price which individual merchants are willing to pay. Hops do not lend themselves, therefore, to exchange operations.

SECTION II.—SOME LONDON MARKETS AND EXCHANGES DESCRIBED.

(I) FRUIT AND VEGETABLES.

Borough Market.*

Situated on the west of Borough High Street, Southwark, the Borough Market is reputed to be the oldest of the London fruit and vegetable markets. Its origin goes back to the time when London was so small that the River Thames formed the boundary on the south side ; the streets inside the City itself were so narrow and congested that it became necessary to prohibit the sale of fruit and vegetables in them and to establish market places outside the City gates. Among the market places established in this manner was one which eventually become the Borough Market as it is known to-day. The right to hold a market on the south side of London Bridge originated in a Charter granted by Edward VI which was later confirmed by Act of Parliament in the reign of Charles II. At first, the market was held at the side of the main thoroughfare, but it was found that the horse-drawn carts, in which all produce arrived at the market, so interfered with the normal traffic that the market was moved under Statute to an adjoining piece of land, where it has since remained. The existing market was set up by the parishioners of St. Saviour's, Southwark, under an Act of 1754, and is controlled by 21 Trustees, appointed by the Southwark Borough Council on the nomination of the Councillors of St. Saviour's Ward. All profits accruing from the market go to the relief of the rates, and, to meet any loss that may arise, the Trustees have statutory power to levy a rate not exceeding 6*d.* in the £—a power which it has not been necessary to exercise for a considerable number of years. In 1905, the reconstitution of the governing body was under consideration and the London County Council made application, unsuccessfully, for representation upon it.

Like Covent Garden, the Borough Market suffers from inadequate space and poor road approaches. The space occupied by the market proper is about 3½ acres, exclusive of privately owned warehouses in proximity to, and, as at Covent Garden, constituting a part of, the market in the full sense of the term. The accommodation is miscellaneous and is crowded in amongst other buildings, its situation practically preventing expansion. From the Borough High Street—the main thoroughfare by which much

* *See also* Economic Series No. 15, page 85.

of the traffic has to approach the market—only two narrow streets enter the market. It is, however, proposed to construct another and wider road and to improve the existing streets. The main market buildings form a continuous covered area of irregular shape. The partly glazed roof affords insufficient light and the avenues between the stands are narrow As at Covent Garden, vehicles cannot pass through the covered area, and produce has to be transferred into and out of the market by hand. In addition to the main covered market, warehouses, most of which are owned or leased by the Market Trustees, occupy an area of approximately equal extent in the streets adjoining , two open spaces for outside traders, one partly covered by an erection of Dutch barn type (Fig. 2), also adjoin the covered area. A block of market offices is situated at the north-east corner of the market area. Four or five narrow streets penetrate the market in addition to those leading off the Borough High Street. The main building is occupied by 188 pitching stands, of various sizes and shapes. let to 81 tenants. Sixteen stands along one side of the market are open to Stoney Street and are occupied by growers who are able to unload direct on to the stands from the street. The irregular lay-out of the various blocks of stands does not make for ease of handling or advantageous display of produce. The uncovered portions of the market are divided into 203 wagon and pitching stands occupied by growers who bring in produce chiefly from Kent, and to some extent from Surrey and Essex. The number of growers using these stands varies according to the season. About 60 per cent. of the produce sold on these stands by growers is marketed in the months of June to September, inclusive. Of the warehouses in the market vicinity, 29 are owned or leased by the Market Trustees. Nominal rents are charged for the outside stands, amounting to only £1 1*s*. 0*d*. per stand per annum. Tolls were originally payable on all produce entering the market proper, but have been commuted by certain tenants of warehouses, who now pay a lump sum annually to cover rent and toll. No tolls are payable on produce sold on the "extra-market" premises The tolls charged are roughly at the rate of ½*d*. per bushel, or 1*s*. 10*d*. per 100 pecks ; imported fruit is charged 1*d*. per box, bags of greens 5*s*. per 100, and bags of peas and beans 8*s*. 4*d*. per 100. All unloading is done by the porters employed by the Trustees, the tenants themselves being responsible for loading. Porterage charges are 3*s*. per 100 bushels, 1*d*. per box of imported fruit, 6*s*. 6*d*. per 100 bags of peas and beans and 5*s*. per 100 bags of greens.

The market is conveniently situated for rail facilities, being within a few hundred yards of London Bridge Goods Depot and about 1 mile from the depots at Bricklayers' Arms and Gravel Lane. The Southern Railway line actually crosses the market by two bridges (which partly account for the dim lighting), and the suggestion has been made that a siding should be constructed

with lifts for letting down trucks into the market so that produce could be unloaded direct on to the stands. The market is cut off from the river front by the Hibernia Wharf, and the landing of produce by means of lighters, which might otherwise form an easy means of bringing goods to the market, is possible only at a small dock (St. Saviour's) which has insufficient space for dealing with the goods when landed and is not used for market purposes.

Potatoes and heavy vegetables bulk very largely in the trade passing through the Borough Market; although home-grown and imported fruits are also sold in considerable quantities, the stands and warehouses handling fruit are much fewer than in Covent Garden. The counties which supply most of the home-grown produce are Kent, Essex, Surrey, Sussex, Middlesex, Lincoln, Cambridge and Bedford. Imported fruit is bought at the London fruit auctions; previous to the opening of the new Spitalfields auctions, the dock auction at Southampton was also largely used. Most of the produce is bought by retailers in south London, although the radius of distribution from the market has extended greatly of recent years and now includes towns throughout Surrey and Kent and as far south as the Sussex coast.

Several of the wholesale merchants and salesmen occupy premises in other London markets and several are also growers on a considerable scale. There is no market tenants' association such as is found in many wholesale markets. The development of the Borough Market is of considerable importance, not only in view of the increasing business in the London area and with the expanding towns to the south and south-east, but as a relief to the traffic congestion in Covent Garden. A test conducted by the Ministry of Transport in 1926 showed that from 25 per cent. to 30 per cent. of the vehicles arriving at Covent Garden came from south of the Thames. On the basis of the figures arrived at in 1926, the diversion of this traffic to the Borough Market would reduce the number of vehicles entering Covent Garden daily by about 1,200. In view of the special nature of the Covent Garden trade, however, it cannot, of course, be assumed that the development of the Borough Market would, in fact, lead to the diversion of the whole of this traffic, but it would certainly relieve the pressure on Covent Garden to some extent.

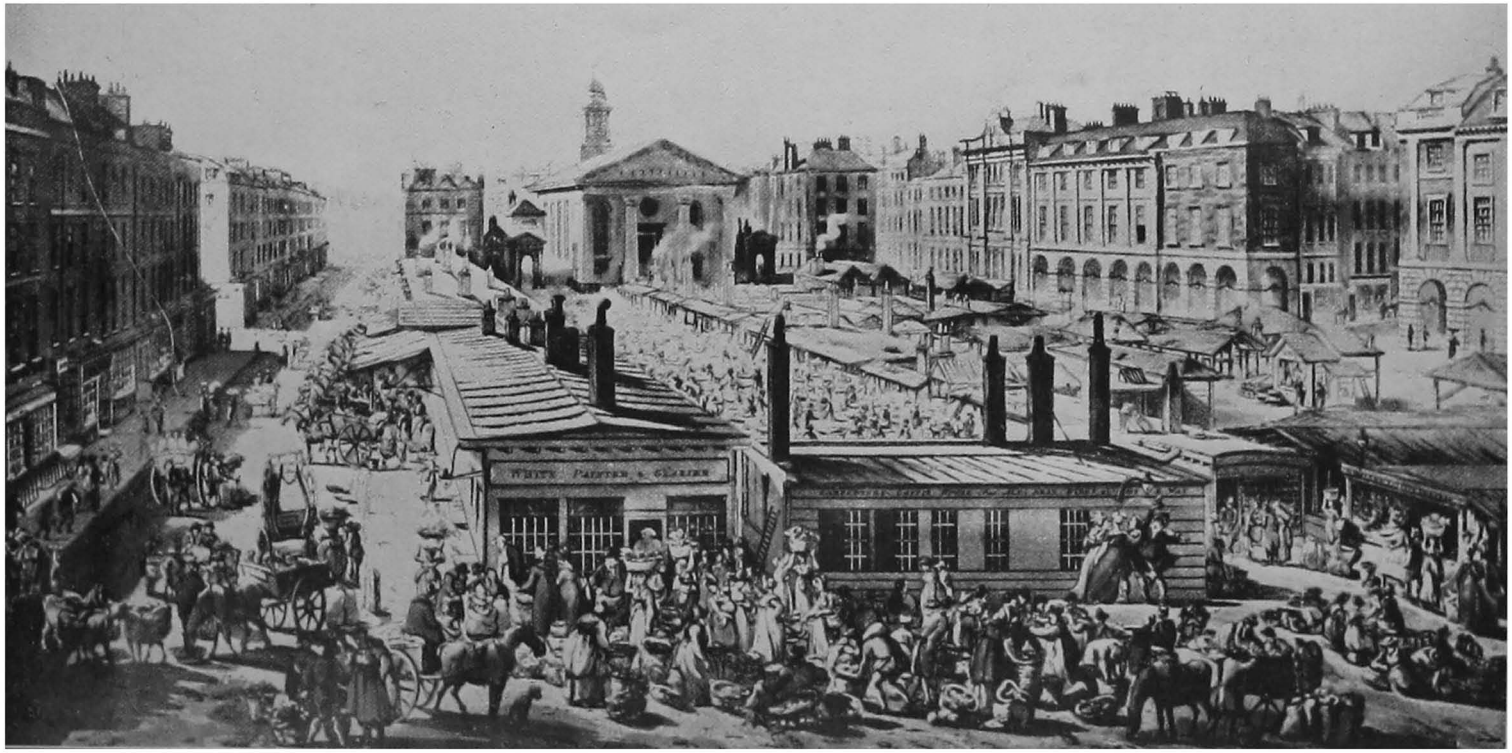
The Departmental Committee on the Wholesale Food Markets of London came to the conclusion in 1921 that "both the site and buildings of the Borough Market are thoroughly unsuitable and that no considerable expenditure on improvement is justifiable in this case," and that "a modern market should be erected on some convenient site not too far removed from that of the present market and so placed as to be in touch with the Southern Railway system."* The recent negotiations in regard to Covent Garden have shown, however, that proposals to remove whole-

* Cmd. 1341/1921.



FIG. 2.—Borough Market: Growers' Section.

[Facing page 142.



"Times" photo.

FIG. 3.—Covent Garden Market About 1811. (From an old print in the London County Council's print collection.)

sale markets are likely to meet with serious opposition. On the other hand, the successful extension of Spitalfields Market on its old site should encourage consideration of the possibility of reconstructing the ancient Borough Market on similar lines.

Covent Garden Market.*

History.—In the year 1670, Charles II, by Letters Patent, granted to William, Earl of Bedford, his heirs and assigns, power to hold and keep a market in a certain place "commonly called the Piazza" near the Church of St. Paul, Covent Garden. Before this date, the Piazza appears to have been the commonly accepted meeting place of people coming into London with fruit and vegetables to sell, and, although no tolls were taken, it was popularly, if not legally, known as a market. In granting the Charter, Charles II appears to have ignored, as he did in the case of the Spitalfields Charter, the prior claim of the City of London to a monopoly of markets under a grant of Edward III. From 1678, the market, which does not appear to have been of very great size or importance, was let on lease until about the year 1828, when the Duke of Bedford obtained an Act of Parliament which empowered him to erect buildings on certain portions of the Piazza within the rails. From that time until its sale in 1918, the market was managed entirely by the Duke's agents. The Act of 1828 gave the owner of Covent Garden more comprehensive powers in the management and control of the market, the charging of tolls, etc., than had a similar Act passed 15 years before (1813), which was simply an Act for regulating the market made necessary by its continued expansion and the consequent inconvenience to all concerned. From 1860 onwards, various additional unchartered market buildings were erected by the Duke of Bedford. In the year 1882, the Duke tried unsuccessfully to sell his market rights both to the Metropolitan Board of Works (the predecessors of the London County Council) and to the Corporation of the City of London; both attempts were unsuccessful, mainly on account of the terms on which the property was offered. In 1918, the market was sold by the Duke to a Company known as the Covent Garden Estate Co., Ltd., since when the Company's name has been changed first to Beecham Estates and Pills, Ltd. and more recently to Covent Garden Properties Co. Ltd., the present owners of the market. In 1920, the Covent Garden Estate Co., offered to sell the market to the London County Council, but the offer was declined, the terms being considered unsuitable and the time unfavourable for a financial operation of such magnitude. In 1921, the Departmental Committee on the Wholesale Food Markets of London in its Report† recommended that "this market, the

* *See also* Economic Series No. 15, pages 81–84.

† Cmd. 1341/1921.

largest of its kind in the Kingdom, should be placed under a public authority with a view to its development in the interest of the trade and the consumer."*

Situation and Approaches.—The market is situated some 200 yards north of the Strand, the market area occupying some 254,000 sq ft (5 8 acres) Space is notoriously inadequate both within the market buildings and in the roads in and around the market area. Its central position, while possessing many advantages, has made expansion difficult and largely contributes to the acute traffic congestion that occurs during the busy hours in the early morning The road approaches, which include Henrietta Street, King Street, James Street, Russell Street (Fig. 5), Bow Street, Wellington Street, Tavistock Street and Southampton Street, are all narrow, and it is impossible for vehicular traffic to approach the market without passing through one or other of the main London thoroughfares, as, for instance, the Strand, Holborn and Charing Cross Road. Although there are several railway goods termini within a radius of 2 miles of Covent Garden, the market has no terminus nearer than 1¼ miles. The lack of siding facilities within the market area—a notable deficiency in almost all of the large wholesale fruit and vegetable markets in this country—is particularly disadvantageous in this, the most important market of its kind in Great Britain. The Docks, where imported produce is largely landed, are some 4 miles distant at their nearest point. The main advantage of the present site is its equal accessibility to goods and buyers from both the north and south sides of the Thames.

There is very little open space surrounding the market buildings, and what exists is utilised as wagon and pitching stands ; moreover, there is not sufficient space within the buildings to permit of vehicles entering, and, in consequence, they are parked in the surrounding streets while produce is transferred into and out of the market by hand or on barrows. This increases the cost of handling as well as adding to the detention time of each vehicle. The parking of vehicles in the streets, except in the Strand, is permitted until 10 a.m. and adds to the congestion which, in spite of detailed regulations for the control of traffic issued by the Commissioner of Metropolitan Police, is acute in the neighbourhood of the market Figures prepared by the Ministry of Transport in 1926 indicate that on one day, chosen at random, 5,519 vehicles entered and 5,377 left the market area, of which some 20 per cent. were vehicles carrying to and from railway stations. Between 7 and 10 a.m. the incoming vehicles numbered 2,198, and the outgoing 2,302. The congestion has been somewhat eased by several of the larger salesmen and merchants moving their bulk transactions to premises in streets outside the market precincts.

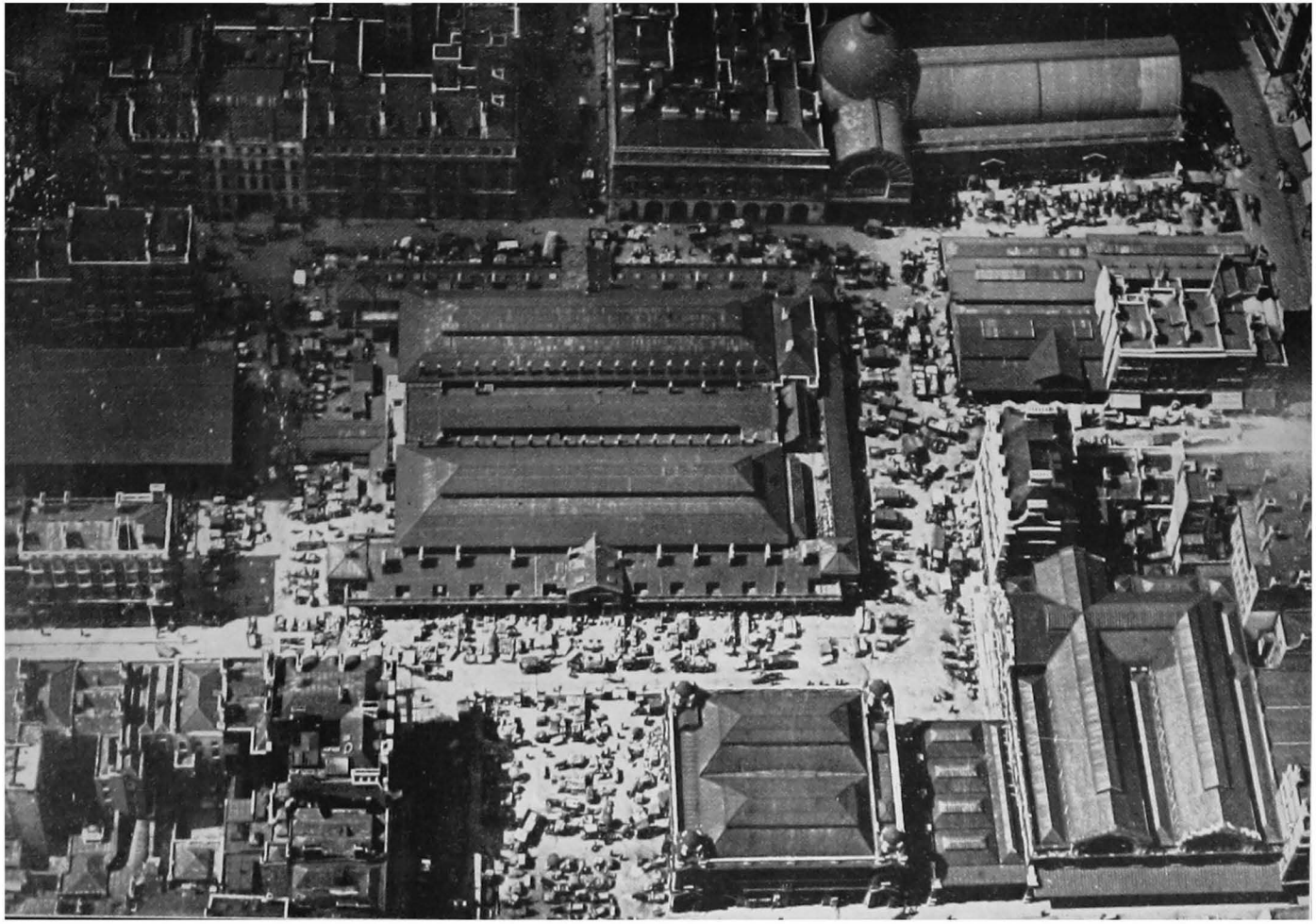


FIG. 4.—Aerial View of Covent Garden Market.

[Facing page 144.

Facing page 145.]



[*Courtesy of Covent Garden Properties Co.*

FIG. 5.—Covent Garden Market: Russell Street Approach.



FIG. 6.—Spitalfields Market.

Market Premises.—The actual market buildings are entirely ıadequate to accommodate the trade handled. Covent Garden arket, in the full sense of the term, comprises, in addition to the ıarket proper, a large expanse of premises occupied by fruit and ɛgetable merchants and salesmen in the neighbouring streets; ıe warehouses in this "overflow" region extend on the north ı a distance of ¼-mile from the market proper, and cover approxiately 7½ acres in all—i.e. more than the actual market area. small proportion of these premises belongs to the market owners.

The market proper has grown up piecemeal, and consists of ve distinct areas :—

(i) The original Charter market building with the uncovered square surrounding it occupies about 3 acres. The building is of stone, roof-lighted and includes a central avenue and two side rows of lock-up shops (Fig. 7), the remainder of the building being occupied by avenues of pitching stands.* No partitions are provided between the stands, those which exist having been erected by the tenants. The stands are set very close together, leaving only narrow lanes between, which hinders the free movement of goods within the market. The surrounding uncovered square is largely used as wagon and pitching stands chiefly by growers who bring in produce to market daily. These include both yearly and casual tenants, the former occupying the west and part of the north sides, and the latter the east side and the remainder of the north side of the square. Potato stands occupy most of the south side. The covered portion of the Charter Market is used chiefly for fruit and choice vegetables, but a proportion of the trade is in heavy vegetables. In the Square, potatoes and other vegetables and the less choice varieties of fruit are sold.

(ii) The Tavistock Row area was at one time the Foreign Flower Market; it is a building consisting of an upper storey supported by stone pillars and comprising warehouses and offices, with an open ground-floor area. This, together with an adjoining uncovered enclosure, is let out in wagon and pitching stands. Potatoes and heavy vegetables make up the greater proportion of the trade in this section of the Market.

(iii) The Flower Market (Fig. 8), built in 1872, is a roof-lighted hall, at the south-east corner of the market area, occupying about an acre, fitted with some 450–500 flower stands; these consist of iron frames fitted with shelves in tiers. Most of the tenants occupy several stands. Business in the Flower Market is done even earlier than in the rest of the market, the hall being closed by 9 a.m.

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* *See* Figure 46, Economic Series No. 15.

(iv) The Russell Street market, erected about 1890, is an area of about $\frac{1}{3}$rd acre, on the north-east side of the Square, covered with a partially glazed roof but without side walls. The arrangement of stands is somewhat similar to that in the Charter market, but the trade consists to a greater extent of heavy vegetables.

(v) The Floral Hall, separated from the Russell Street market by a private open roadway in which vehicles stand awaiting loading or unloading, is a glass-roofed building of about $\frac{2}{3}$rd acre, built in 1856, and used principally for the sale of imported fruit. There is ample room in this Hall for the 8 fruit brokers occupying it. Of these, 4 conduct sales of fruit by auction on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. As a means of distributing large bulks of imported fruit, the Floral Hall auctions (Fig. 9) are much less effective than the well-organised fruit auctions at, for example, Spitalfields (Fig. 10), Liverpool* or Southampton. The attendance of many small buyers slows down the rate of sale, and the clearing of cargoes from the Docks is hindered in consequence. Each broker occupies a separate rostrum and sales are often carried on by several firms simultaneously, a method which has obvious disadvantages. Efforts have been made, without success, to persuade brokers to conduct sales in rotation. A proportion of the fruit is sold by sample, delivery of the bulk being taken direct from the Docks, but lots are also offered in bulk in the market. Auction selling of fruit in Covent Garden is confined to the Floral Hall, supplies being almost exclusively from distant countries. A large quantity of fruit is disposed of also by private treaty in the Floral Hall.

Growers regularly using the market for direct sale number about 110. They come mainly from Essex, Kent, Bedfordshire, Middlesex and Surrey, and are remarkable for the large scale of their operations. Big loads are brought in by them compared with those brought in by growers to Brentford Market, for example. A number of growers also carry on a commission business.

The total number of tenants occupying spaces in the market on regular tenancies is 550, in addition to growers, in varying numbers according to the season, who take up space on daily tenancies. Stands vary greatly in size. There are cellars for storage purposes under a considerable part of the market, including the Floral Hall, the Flower Market, the Foreign Flower Market and much of the Charter market; most of the warehouses outside the actual market are also provided with cellars.

Market Charges.—The Charter market is a public market, no part of which can be closed, except on Sundays and Christmas

* *See* Figure 44, Economic Series No. 15.

Day without the authority of Parliament, and members of the public have a common-law right to resort to it for buying or selling the articles to which the Charter extends. If there is no room for them in the market, they are entitled to buy and sell outside without paying tolls. Market charges are based upon both rents and tolls, of which the latter are the more important source of revenue to the owners. The stand rents vary enormously according to the advantage of position and the value of the trade carried on. They are as low as 5*s*. per sq. ft. per annum (10½*d*. per sq. yd. per week) in the Tavistock Row Area, and as high as 30*s*. per sq. ft. per annum (5*s*. 3*d*. per sq. yd. per week) in the Flower Market. On account of the value of the site, these charges are much higher than those found in any other fruit and vegetable market in this country. Tolls are based on the rate authorised by the Act of 1828, namely, ½*d*. per bushel, though a change has been made in that packages now bear ½*d*. toll on every bushel or part of a bushel rather than a toll in proportion to size *at the rate* of ½*d*. per bushel. Tolls are charged on produce sold not only in the Charter market, but in the other market premises and in the extra-market warehouses belonging to the market owners. Merchants trading from their own premises near the market, if they also occupy a stand in the market, pay tolls on all produce sold by them on either premises.* It appears doubtful whether the market owners actually claim as a legal right the power to exact tolls on produce sold outside the Charter area ; tolls are, however, paid by agreement with tenants, the rent being kept at what is regarded as a nominal figure, having regard to the value of the site, as an alternative to charging higher rents and no tolls. There is no system of commuting tolls in Covent Garden as is the case in other London markets. The continuance of the tolls system, with its difficulties and costs of collection, is due to the aim of the owners to secure an increase in revenue in keeping with the increasing value of the market as reflected in the amount of trade done. This would be difficult to attain under a purely rental system, as not only would no basis exist on which the owners could assess the value of the market for rents, but rent adjustments, being made of necessity at comparatively long intervals, would lag behind the actual appreciation of the site. The payment of tolls is made by the merchants, and, in the case of goods sold on commission, is deducted from the proceeds of sale.

The market owners are authorised to license porters but the right is not at present exercised. The Company, however, appoints Master Porters who employ their own men to do the work on an agreed maximum scale prepared by the Company,† in conjunction with various trade associations connected with the

* Linlithgow Committee's Report on Fruit and Vegetables (Cmd. 1892/1923), page 77.

† Linlithgow Committee's Report on Fruit and Vegetables (Cmd. 1892/1923), pages 42 and 43.

market. The approximate basis of the charges is about 3*d.* per cwt. for loading out of the market, and 1*s.* 3*d.* per score packages—equal to about $\frac{3}{4}$*d.* per cwt.—for loading into the market, though there are variations according to the type of produce and size of packages. The inaccessibility of the market makes porterage charges very heavy and increases the costs of marketing.

The Trade of the Market.—Covent Garden is the principal fruit and vegetable centre of Great Britain. The system of charging tolls on all produce sold enables an estimate to be made of the total volume of goods handled per annum in the market proper. The figures (estimated by the owners) for several recent years are as follows .—

1910	360,000 tons
1920	538,000 ,,
1925	670,000 ,,
1928/29	748,000 ,,

These figures do not include the trade handled by firms occupying entirely private premises, which is estimated at another 250,000 tons. Of the actual market tonnage, it is estimated that about 120,000 tons consists of foreign fruits—apples, pears, oranges, lemons, grapes, tomatoes and a large variety of other fruits—and of foreign potatoes and onions. The busiest season at Covent Garden is from June to September, inclusive, though a considerable weight of produce, chiefly potatoes and bulky vegetables, is also brought in by growers from September to December. Fruit and vegetables, and flowers of all kinds, both home-produced and imported, are sold, from cheap bulky produce, such as potatoes, to the most expensive varieties of imported fruit and flowers. One reason advanced for the supremacy of Covent Garden in the fruit and vegetable trade is that buyers can obtain all their requirements at the Market, thus obviating journeys to other centres.

The classes of produce handled at Covent Garden, with their sources, and the distributive area of the market, are described in some detail in the Linlithgow Committee's Report on Fruit and Vegetables* and in the Ministry of Agriculture's Report on Fruit Marketing in England and Wales.†

Bulky vegetables are regularly obtained from the Home Counties and from those districts where production is consistently in excess of local needs, such as Lincolnshire and Cambridgeshire for potatoes and Cornwall for broccoli. Covent Garden is also an important outlet for seasonal surpluses from regions which do not generally produce in excess of local needs. The distributive area for this kind of produce is confined to London itself and the surrounding districts within carting distance of the market—an area which is constantly expanding with the development of

* Cmd. 1892/1923, pages 73–4.

† Economic Series No. 15, pages 81–84.



[*Courtesy of Covent Garden Properties Co.*

FIG. 7.—Covent Garden Market: Central Avenue.



[*Courtesy of Covent Garden Properties Co.*

FIG. 8.—Covent Garden Market: Flower Market.



[*Courtesy of Covent Garden Properties Co.*

FIG. 9.—Auction Selling of Fruit in Floral Hall, Covent Garden Market.

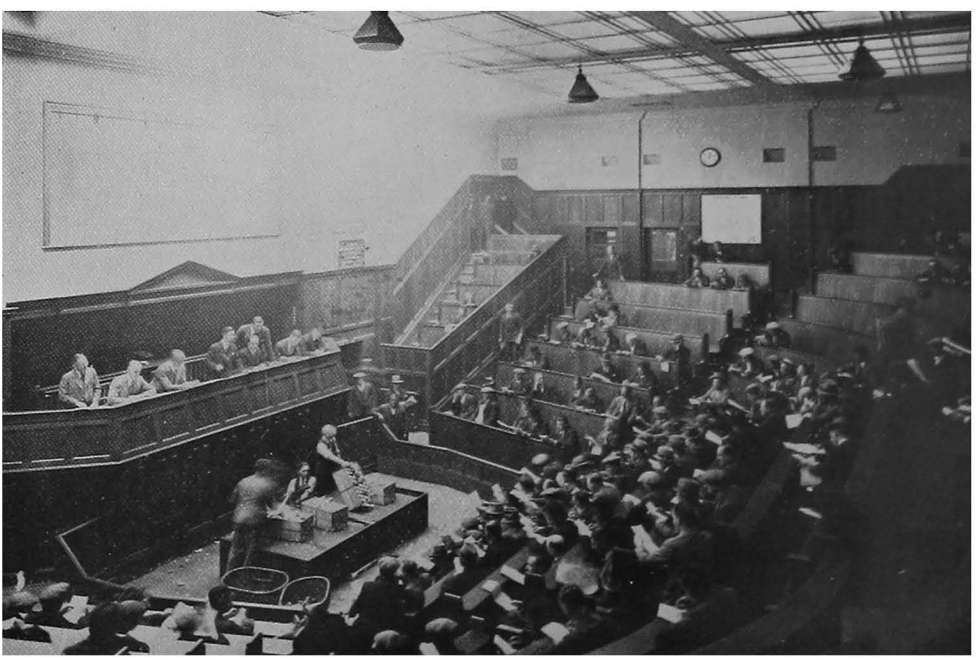


FIG. 10.—Auction Selling of Fruit at London Fruit Exchange.

motor transport and is at the same time increasing in population. Produce of this nature, however, probably constitutes a considerably smaller proportion of the total trade passing through Covent Garden than is the case in most fruit and vegetable markets.

Home-grown fruit is also drawn from the Home Counties, particularly Kent, and from other regularly exporting areas such as Cambridgeshire and Hampshire for strawberries, and Devon and Hereford, to some extent, for apples. The glasshouse growers of the Lea Valley and Sussex coast market a large proportion of their output through Covent Garden. In addition to supplying London and its surroundings, these products are re-consigned to wholesalers in many provincial towns without markets of their own, and to some extent to other wholesale markets in the provinces. The reconsignment trade is, however, believed to be diminishing, especially as some Covent Garden traders now occupy premises in provincial markets. For luxury products, such as the earliest fruits and vegetables, Covent Garden is the national entrepôt. Imported fruits of all kinds are sold through Covent Garden ; provincial towns all over the country obtain their supplies from this market, particularly of the more expensive fruits. As an example of the wide area supplied by Covent Garden, it may be mentioned that one commission buyer, in a single month in 1928, consigned fruit to the following distant towns :—Cardiff, Newport, Llanelly, Merthyr, Leicester, Newark, Nottingham, Sheffield, Dewsbury, Liverpool, Wigan, Preston, Stockton, Middlesbrough, Hartlepool, Glasgow, Inverness and Dublin. Reconsignments of imported fruit to other wholesale markets has long been a feature of the trade, but, as with English fruit, this is becoming considerably less important. As a centre for the distribution in bulk of imported hard fruits to the provinces, Covent Garden is probably less important than the Spitalfields Fruit Exchange. The poor facilities for the auction sale of fruit in Covent Garden and, indeed, until recently, in London as a whole, have almost certainly encouraged the consignment of foreign fruit direct to other ports, such as Liverpool, Bristol, Hull and Southampton.

The merchants operating in Covent Garden include auction brokers, commission salesmen, commission buyers and wholesalers, some firms acting in more than one capacity ; for example, wholesale merchants, some of whom are themselves large growers, often carry on commission businesses also. In the trade between Covent Garden and the provinces, the commission buyer fulfils an important function in getting provincial traders in touch with suitable supplies at the minimum of trouble and expense.

The main defect of Covent Garden market, which has been emphasised in all reports on the subject, is that the present facilities and lay-out are totally inadequate to permit the market to function efficiently as the chief distributing centre in the country

for fruit and vegetables.* The difficult road approaches, its restricted area, the comparative lack of warehouse accommodation and the absence of mechanical appliances for moving goods, cause much waste of time and add to handling costs. An attempt to move the market was made in 1927, when the market owners promoted a Bill for removing it to a more convenient site in Bloomsbury. This was vigorously opposed by trading associations on the grounds of increased rentals and anticipated loss of trade, and by various public bodies, such as the Westminster City Council, on grounds of loss of rateable value, and by the Chelsea Borough Council owing to the anticipated loss of market facilities to traders in that borough. The fact that a large number of private premises around the present market are occupied by fruit and vegetable merchants constituted another serious difficulty. The Bill was dropped. The alternative of improving and extending the existing market buildings is now being attempted. Plans have been passed enabling the market owners to reconstruct the Tavistock Row area market and later to take in the Covent Garden Opera House and the Tavistock Hotel, which adjoin the Floral Hall, as well as to widen some of the existing market roads and improve some of the market buildings. This scheme would seem to have more chance of success than that of removal of the market to another site. As a market for bulky produce, however, Covent Garden is in the wrong situation. A sufficient extension to accommodate adequately under one roof the immense trade now transacted in the market and surrounding warehouses would, in its present central situation, incur prohibitive expense. Removal having proved impracticable, the future development of the market would appear to lie in the provision of adequate accommodation for the trade in the more expensive products. The trade in heavy vegetables and the bulk of the imported fruit trade are in process of being attracted to more convenient markets, and the improvement of Spitalfields Market and the opening of the Spitalfields Fruit Exchange will probably accelerate this transfer of business.

Greenwich Market.

The wholesale fruit and vegetable market at Greenwich, controlled by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty as Trustees for Greenwich Hospital, is the smallest of the London wholesale markets and is of purely local importance. It is held under a Royal Charter and the Greenwich Market Act of 1849. It is a daily market, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday being the principal market days. It is situated in the central part of Greenwich, occupying an area of about ⅓rd acre, and consists of a central paved space, with a single-span, glazed roof, surrounded

* Linlithgow Committee's Report on Fruit and Vegetables (Cmd. 1892/1923), pages 75 and 118.

by 26 lock-up stalls, provided with small cellars. The average dimensions of the stalls are 21 ft. × 15 ft.; the stalls are rented at 6*d.* per square yard per week on the average. They are occupied by wholesale merchants and salesmen and by growers from Kent. Kentish growers also sell from wagons in the central space; about 350 square yards of the neighbouring street are also used by growers for the same purpose, an average of about 25 market growers, of whom 9 occupy stalls, using the market for the sale of produce direct to retailers. Charges of 1*s.* 6*d.* per wagon, 1*s.* per 1-horse cart, and 6*d.* per barrow per market day are made. The market area has two entrances for vehicles. The nearest railway goods-yard is Bricklayers' Arms, over 3 miles away.

Both home-grown fruit and vegetables as well as imported produce are handled. Kent supplies a large proportion of the home-grown produce, the market-garden area along the Thames estuary being close at hand. Although business in the market is said to be declining, it still supplies a large part of the needs of the surrounding district. Buyers attend from distances up to 15 miles.

King's Cross Potato Market.*

King's Cross Potato Market, owned by the London and North Eastern Railway Company, was constructed by the Great Northern Railway Company and opened in 1865 for the purpose of dealing with potato and other vegetable traffic. An old-established vegetable market had previously been held on this site under an old Charter.† The market, which now covers an area of about 3¾ acres, consists of a single line of 39 warehouses alongside a railway siding, from which "runs," or short lengths of railway line, branch off to each warehouse. Railway trucks are diverted on to these "runs" by means of small turntables and are hauled by hydraulic capstans to the warehouse unloading platforms, thus enabling produce to be discharged direct from the trucks on to the warehouse floors.‡ The loading stands can mostly hold four railway trucks at a time, though there are a few smaller stands. The market tenants are also allowed the use of several "working roads" or sidings in the main goods-yard from which delivery of large lots may be made direct from the railway trucks to road vehicles, thus avoiding passing them through the warehouses.

Most of the warehouses, which are single-storey buildings, have a floor-space of about 280 sq. yds. and are provided with cellars for the storage of empties. A market road, under cover for almost its whole length, runs along the range of warehouses on the opposite side to the railway siding. On this road, vehicles stand while loading up. The warehouses are held on 6 months'

* *See also* Economic Series No. 9, page 53.
† *See* Figure 1, Economic Series No. 9.
‡ *See* Figure 19, Economic Series No. 9.

tenancies at inclusive rents averaging about 12*s.* 6*d.* per sq. yd. per annum. Rents are low, as the Railway Company aims at recouping itself by the freight tonnage attracted to its lines by the market. Each tenant of a warehouse is required to handle a minimum of 2,000 tons per annum and all produce brought to the market is required to come by rail.

A railhead market of this type, eliminating as it does much handling of produce, has great advantages for the kind of goods chiefly dealt with at King's Cross, namely, potatoes and bulky vegetables. The only cartage involved is from the market to the customers' premises, whereas, in the case of such markets as Covent Garden, there is, in addition, a haul from the railway goods depot to the market. Moreover, the storage facilities for bulky produce in central wholesale markets are generally considerably less than can be provided at a railhead. For marketing produce direct from grower to retailer, the railhead market is unsuitable except in the case of large-scale growers; for the marketing of produce grown near at hand, road transport is now more largely used.

Although vegetables such as celery, greenstuffs and peas are dealt with in large quantities, 75 per cent. of the total trade consists of potatoes. Except for a few imported early potatoes, only home-grown produce is handled. The total weight of produce dealt with at the depot annually has remained fairly steady since 1912; in that year, it amounted to about 103,000 tons; in 1921, it was 124,000 tons, and, in 1925, it was as high as 132,000 tons. From July, 1927, to June, 1928, 119,000 tons were handled, comprising about 90,900 tons of potatoes and 28,100 tons of other vegetables.

The following figures of monthly arrivals in the 12 months, July, 1927, to June, 1928, are interesting as indicating the seasonal deliveries of home-grown potatoes to London:—

	Potatoes.	*Other Vegetables.*
1927	Tons.	Tons.
July	6,100	1,570
August	7,490	3,590
September	7,870	2,980
October	8,100	3,380
November	10,600	3,880
December	7,820	3,400
1928		
January	12,820	2,810
February	9,200	2,170
March	9,160	1,490
April	7,070	980
May	3,940	1,230
June	730	620
Total	90,900	28,100

Produce is obtained chiefly from Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Bedfordshire, and from Scotland. The Bedfordshire trade has largely fallen off owing to the competition of road transport. Several of the tenants are themselves growers on a large scale. The area of distribution of produce from the market comprises the whole of London, but does not extend to towns outside to any degree; the larger salesmen often, however, receive orders from provincial towns which they fulfil by consigning trucks direct from the producing areas. Business commences at about 5 a.m. Except, to some extent, in the celery season, there is not, as at the central markets, a constant stream of small vehicles and barrows arriving to pick up supplies. Some of the larger retailers fetch their goods, but a large proportion of the produce is delivered direct to customers by the merchants' or railway company's vans and lorries, to orders received by telephone or through the merchants' travelling salesmen. All but 4 of the 28 tenants occupy premises in other markets, particularly Covent Garden; to a large extent, therefore, the depot acts as a " warehouse " for those markets.

Somers Town Potato Depot.*

The Somers Town potato depot, owned by the London Midland and Scottish Railway Company, is situated at the Somers Town Goods Station. The depot was opened in 1892 by the old Midland Railway Company. The goods station consists of two levels, on the lower of which the potato depot is situated, with a road entrance direct from Euston Road. The depot itself consists of 20 warehouses and occupies an area of about an acre. Trucks enter the goods station on the high level and are transferred to the low level by hydraulic lifts, each having a capacity of 20 tons. By means of hydraulic capstans, they are hauled to the potato depot and diverted to the various warehouses by means of turntables. Each warehouse has its own run of rail track (see Fig. 11), enabling 4 trucks at a time to stand at the unloading platform. The warehouses are single-storey buildings with about 230 sq. yds. of floor space and provided with cellars for the storage of empties; they front on a covered roadway in which vehicles stand while loading. Tenants are not bound to handle any specified minimum of tonnage, but when new tenancies are arranged, preference is given to applicants whose annual turnover is sufficient to ensure an appreciable tonnage of traffic passing by L.M.S. rail to the depot.

Potatoes are the chief commodity handled, though celery and other bulky vegetables and some fruit are also dealt in to a small extent. Most of the principal potato areas contribute to the supply, Lincolnshire and Cambridgeshire being the chief counties drawn on. In a normal year, from 50,000 to 60,000 tons of produce are handled.

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* *See* Economic Series No. 9, page 53.

Hotels, restaurants and retail shops in all parts of the London area are supplied from this depot, and, as at King's Cross, most of the produce sold is delivered to customers by the merchants' or railway company's vehicles, sales over the telephone or through travellers being general. Several of the tenants are also growers on a large scale. There is a considerable commission business, but most of the produce handled is bought outright by tenants acting as wholesale merchants. Like King's Cross Potato Depot, Somers Town acts as a "warehouse" for the central London vegetable markets, many of the tenants also occupying space in one of the other markets.

Spitalfields Market.*

The right to hold a market on two days a week in the vicinity of Spital Square—now called Spitalfields Market—was granted by Charles II, in 1682, to John Balch and his heirs.

In 1875, the market and market rights were leased to a Mr. Robert Horner. The City Corporation acquired the freehold in 1902, subsequently purchasing the leasehold interests from Mr. Horner and finally taking over the management of the market in 1920. The City of London (Various Powers) Act, 1922, conferred the right to hold the market on 6 days a week, which had actually been the practice for many years previously.

The market is situated between Liverpool Street Station and Bishopsgate Street goods depot, in one of the most densely populated parts of London. When the Corporation took over the management of the market, the actual market building occupied an area of only a little over 2 acres and was entirely inadequate, with the result that a large volume of business had overflowed to private premises in the vicinity. Moreover, though internal roadways were good, the approaches were unsatisfactory and liable to become congested. The Corporation, therefore, prepared a scheme for the extension of the market in a westerly direction; this scheme was endorsed, in principle, by the Departmental Committee on the Wholesale Food Markets of London.† Under the City of London (Various Powers) Act, 1922, the sum of £2,000,000 was allocated for the purpose of these extensions, which have recently been completed. Some of the streets surrounding the market area have been widened, and 60-ft. roads now run along the northern and southern sides, while on the western side runs a road of from 80 to 120 ft. in width (Fig. 6). Many of the streets leading to the market area are, however, still very narrow. The market now consists of a main block, which has been extended from 2 to about 5 acres in site area; on the south side, an entirely new building with a site area of 1 acre is used as a

* *See also* Economic Series No. 15, pages 85 and 86.

† Cmd. 1341/1921.



[*By courtesy of L.M.S. Rly.*

FIG. 11.—Somers Town Potato Depot.



FIG. 12.—London Fruit Exchange (Spitalfields Market): Sample Show-room.



FIG. 13.—Spitalfields Market: Main Avenue.

fruit exchange. The erection of a flower market is also contemplated.

The main building is roughly rectangular, and is under a continuous 6-span roof, partly glazed and with louvre ventilation (Fig. 13). The exterior frontage of the market is occupied on all 4 sides by warehouses, the interior by pitching stands. Three roadways run the whole length of the market from street to street, and 3 run from side to side, while there are also 5 shorter transverse avenues. The main avenues can accommodate 3 vehicles abreast; all the roads in the market will take 2 abreast. Spitalfields has, therefore, the advantage which Covent Garden and Borough markets do not possess—that vehicles can drive right into the market and unload direct on to the stands, each of which has at least one side fronting on to a road. Porterage is thus reduced to the minimum. The stalls are separated from one another by partitions and, in the new portion of the market, are provided with storage cellars.

The regular lay-out of the stalls and the abundance of space enable produce to be displayed to much better effect than in less efficiently planned markets. The new warehouses are of 2 storeys; each is provided also with cellars which are heated by gas and are extensively used for banana ripening, for which adequate facilities are particularly necessary in this the most important of the London markets for bananas. Each warehouse is also equipped with a 1-ton electric lift. The older warehouses are 3-storey buildings but are not so well fitted up. All warehouses front on to the streets surrounding the market, which, on 3 sides, are wide enough to enable large motor-lorries to stand while unloading without interfering with traffic. The total number of regular tenants in the market is over 200. Rents for warehouses and stands vary from 11*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* per sq. yd. per week; the rent charge includes the tolls which are not now levied on individual sales. Porters are not employed by the market authority, tenants making their own arrangements for labour. The applicants for space in the market are considerably in excess of the number that can be accommodated, and temporary warehouses are being erected outside the main buildings on the north side to provide room for some of the overflow. The business done on Spitalfields Market —excluding the Fruit Exchange—includes the sale of considerable quantities of high quality produce, but the proportion of the bulkier fruit and vegetables in the total trade is much greater than at Covent Garden. The approximate total weight of produce sold annually in the market proper is estimated at about 600,000 tons, of which potatoes constitute at least one-half.

The market is not largely used by growers for marketing their own produce; most of those who do so rent pitching stands. There is practically no selling direct from growers' vehicles in or around the market as is the case at Covent Garden and the Borough markets. A large proportion of the home-grown produce is drawn

from the Eastern and Home Counties, including Lincolnshire Cambridgeshire and Essex for potatoes, and Kent and Cambridgeshire for fruit. Bedfordshire, Essex, Kent, Surrey, Middlesex and Hertfordshire supply most of the vegetables. The proximity of the London and North-Eastern Railway goods station at Bishopsgate—less than ¼-mile distant—is a great advantage. The market is, in fact, well situated with respect to rail facilities, 4 goods depots being within 1 mile of the market, while the East India Docks are within about 2 miles. The market supplies a thickly populated area in east and north-east London; its distributive area is not, however, confined to London and its suburbs, buyers attending from various provincial towns in the Midlands and Eastern Counties, road vehicles from as far as Oxford and Kettering, for example, regularly fetch produce from Spitalfields. Excluding the trade in imported fruit (see below) the volume of supplies distributed to principal towns does not at present approach that consigned from Covent Garden, since the high-class produce which constitutes much of the long-distance trade at Covent Garden is not largely offered at Spitalfields. The institution of fruit auction sales and the encouragement of the flower trade may attract more of the higher classes of produce and enable retailers to supply their needs for all kinds of produce at Spitalfields. This is essential if the market is further to relieve the present congested condition of Covent Garden market.

Fruit Exchange.—The principle on which the fruit exchange is worked is that of sale by sample. Cargoes of fruit are unloaded at the Docks—where special facilities are provided by the authorities—lotted and catalogued, and sample packages are brought to the Exchange.

The exchange building is a 5-floored erection, covering a ground area of about 1 acre and with a total floor space of over 4 acres. The ground floor and basement are occupied by showrooms and warehouses in which the sample packages of fruit are stored and displayed on long wooden tables (Fig. 12). Loading docks to the ground floor occupy over 230 feet of the Duval Street frontage, and it is also possible to load direct into large goods lifts from the street. The first floor is largely occupied by two sale-rooms, built on the lecture-hall principle, with numbered tiered seats for buyers to the number of 507 in one room and 382 in the other (Fig. 10). Before the auctioneer's rostrum, in each room, a pair of hydraulic lifts communicate with the ground floor and basement; during sales, these are used for bringing up a sample of each lot as it is put up. Before sales commence, buyers, with the aid of catalogues, inspect the samples and make notes for reference during the sale. Six firms of fruit brokers conduct sales, the showrooms and warehouses being rented by a federation of all these firms. Sales are held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; the brokers sell in rotation, each being allotted 30 minutes selling time. Selling is very rapid,

buyers basing their offers on catalogue information amplified by their previous inspection of the samples and finally corroborated by the appearance of the samples of each lot brought up by lift during the sale. As many as 8 lots a minute are sold at times. All lots are sold without reserve. A very large quantity of fruit can thus be disposed of at one sale.

On the three upper floors of the building, well appointed offices are let to brokers and other firms connected with the fruit trade. Three cable companies have offices adjoining the auction rooms with direct communication to their transmission centres, so that brokers, buyers and agents can send particulars at a moment's notice to any part of the world.

The Exchange is conducted on the " closed room " principle. Permission to attend sales as a buyer is granted by a Committee representing brokers' and buyers' associations, who take into consideration not only the reliability of the applicant but also his buying powers, the aim being to ensure that all who are permitted to attend are capable of buying on a reasonably large scale. The object of this is to speed up sales and to avoid spoiling the market by driving the wholesale buyers away, which, it is contended, is the effect of taking bids from small retailers who are able to pay higher prices. Only about 20 per cent. of the buyers are provincial wholesalers, the remainder being London buyers, who, of course, include commission buyers operating on behalf of provincial merchants; the area supplied by the Exchange consists, at present, mainly of London and the South. It is expected that the impetus given to the London fruit trade by the opening of these auctions will result in attracting provincial buyers from a wider area. London buyers who previously used Southampton fruit exchange will probably now make use of Spitalfields, which may even act as an outlet in London for part of the fruit landed at Southampton.

Fruit is entered in the auction both by agents and by foreign exporters direct. Practically all fruit handled is imported; all kinds of fruits, as well as onions, are sold. A few consignments of Evesham fruit have been offered, however, and the possibility of attracting Kentish fruit in bulk is being explored, the main obstacles being the reluctance of many English growers to use non-returnable packages and the comparatively small quantities of any one kind of fruit which the average grower can offer.

The Exchange is certainly the best equipped of its kind in the country. The rapidity with which large consignments are sold and the advantage of direct delivery from the Docks to buyers' orders should hasten the clearing of cargoes, which had hitherto been hampered by the method of selling, by auction or private treaty, in relatively small lots to both wholesalers and retailers. The Exchange should also assist the London fruit trade to establish reliable market prices for purposes of quotation.

(II.) LIVESTOCK.

The Metropolitan Cattle Market and Abattoir, Islington.

A weekly cattle market was held at Smithfield as long ago as the 12th century, when the site was outside the gates of the City. With the expansion of London, the market gradually became surrounded by houses. In the 18th century, cattle were still driven at night into Smithfield from country districts for the market, which was then held every Monday and Friday. The space available, however, was too limited, and this, combined with the inconvenience of holding a cattle market in so busy a situation, led to agitation for its removal. In 1834, a market place, with slaughter-houses attached, was built at Islington with the object of drawing stock away from Smithfield. This was unsuccessful for about twenty years, when an Act of Parliament (1852) was passed closing Smithfield and establishing Islington as the Corporation cattle market.

The market, as it exists to-day, occupies a site of about 15 acres, exclusive of the lairages and abattoir. There is no railway siding in the market, but within 600 yards are the railway cattle sidings at Maiden Lane and Holloway and, within a mile, those at Kentish Town and Tufnell Park. Most of the livestock sent to the market and abattoir arrive by rail. Smithfield meat market, where a large proportion of the meat is subsequently sold, is 2 miles distant.

Market and Lairages.—The market is paved with granite and nearly a third of its area is occupied by uncovered, iron-railed bays to which cattle are tied up. An equal area is occupied by sheep pens, mostly uncovered. In addition, there are several large corrugated-iron buildings, two of which were originally used for the sale of calves and of hides. These and the pens are now occupied on Tuesdays and Fridays by a large number of stalls for the retail sale of miscellaneous goods. This retail market is known as the Caledonian Market. A central block of market offices and premises used by banks, railway companies, cartage firms, etc., completes the accommodation in the market proper. All sales of stock are by private treaty and no selling rings are provided. Attempts to set up auction selling have so far proved unsuccessful. It is customary for cattle to be weighed on the Corporation index-lever weighbridge in the market before tying up and to be sold by weight. The market is open on Monday and Thursday for livestock sales, most of the business taking place on Monday between 3 and 9 a.m.

On two sides of the market, and separated from it only by a road, are the cattle lairages and those for sheep, pigs and calves. The lairages consist of long ranges of open-fronted, brick-built shedding with yards, divided up into compartments and fitted with feeding and drinking troughs and chains for tying up beasts. About a third of the lairages are completely enclosed. The lairages

are used for stock intended both for the market and for slaughter. Feeding of stock is carried out by the drovers employed by the owners of the stock, hay being purchased from the Corporation, who keep a supply on the spot. In 1928, 124,374 days' lairage was provided for cattle, 162,882 days for sheep, 21,178 days for calves and 36,813 days for pigs. On a third side of the market, with only a road intervening, are the public slaughter-houses.

Public Slaughter-houses.—The various buildings comprising the public slaughter-houses have been erected from time to time since their foundation in the middle of last century. The most modern portion dates from 1910. Much of the accommodation is not, therefore, planned or equipped on modern lines. There are four main blocks of buildings :—

(i) the cattle slaughtering and refrigeration block ;
(ii) the pig slaughter-house ;
(iii) the sheep slaughter-house ; and
(iv) a block of old cattle slaughter-houses now used for dealing with sheep, calves or pigs.

(i) The cattle slaughtering accommodation is the most modern. It consists of a long range of buildings, comprising a central block of cold-store rooms with slaughteries on each side. Each of these consists of a central slaughter-hall semi-divided into bays —5 and 10, respectively—with waiting pens along one side and hanging compartments along the other. The waiting pens adjoin the slaughter-halls, from which they are separated by sliding doors. Each slaughtering " bay " is fitted to allow 2 beasts to be killed at a time, while 4 carcases can be dressed simultaneously in the same compartments. Overhead runways, with electric hoists, lead direct from the slaughter-hall into the cooling chambers, in which from 750 to 800 carcases can be hung at a time. From the cooling chambers, overhead runways, provided with 4 overhead weighbridges, lead along the outside of the building, under an overhanging shelter, to 7 chilling rooms worked on the cold-air system, with capacity in all for about 1,000 sides of beef. The slaughter-halls are paved with Portland stone, are walled with glazed bricks and have roof lighting and louvre ventilation. Three of the chilling rooms were built in 1911, the remainder in 1916.

(ii) The main pig slaughtery consists of 4 waiting pens leading up by gangways into 4 killing rooms elevated about 4 feet above ground level. From these rooms, the pigs, after killing, are slid by chutes into round wooden scalding tanks—8 in number. Overhead runways lead from the tanks into 4 railed-off cooling rooms accommodating 800 carcases.

(iii) The sheep and calf slaughtery has the usual waiting pens leading direct into a single, open slaughter-hall in which 4 slaughterers can operate at once. A separate hanging room, with 4 compartments accommodating 800 carcases, communicates with the slaughter-hall by overhead runways.

(iv) Sheep, pigs and calves are killed not only in the more modern slaughteries specifically designed for them, but also in the old cattle slaughter-houses. These, the oldest buildings, consist of some 14 slaughter-rooms with hanging accommodation adjoining. The increase in business renders their use inevitable until better accommodation is provided. Although when they were erected these buildings represented an advanced stage of development in slaughter-house construction, they are far from meeting modern needs in respect of construction, lighting, equipment and drainage.

The total hanging capacity of the abattoir is estimated at 750 beasts, 1,900 sheep, 500 calves and 1,800 pigs.

Hides and skins are either collected, chiefly by Bermondsey merchants, on contract, or are sent to the hide and skin markets in Bermondsey by the wholesale butchers for sale on commission. Most of the edible offals are collected by merchants on contract; a tripery is in operation adjoining the slaughter-house. After treatment, inedible offals are disposed of to contractors for conversion into manure.

The principal defects of Islington abattoir, particularly the older portion, are the unsuitability of the planning and equipment of the buildings for the economical handling of meat, insufficient separate meat-hanging rooms and incomplete facilities for dealing with by-products on the premises. Considerable cost is involved in maintaining the abattoir in a hygienic condition, much of which would be saved by modernisation.

The City Corporation is alive to the disadvantages of the existing slaughter-houses and have had under consideration for some time a scheme to demolish the old block of slaughter-houses and to re-plan, modernise and extend the abattoir as a whole. The most up-to-date developments in abattoir practice in this country and abroad are being investigated with a view to preparing plans for reconstruction.

The following Table indicates the average proportion of the weeks' slaughterings at Islington occurring on each day of the week for three representative weeks in 1928:—

Kind of Stock.	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
	Per cent.	*Per cent.*	*Per cent.*	*Per cent.*	*Per cent.*	*Per cent.*	*Per cent.*
Beasts . .	18 4	19 6	21·4	10·6	2·4	7·6	20 0
Sheep . .	31 8	18 5	22 3	17 3	1 9	—	8 2
Pigs	22 3	11·5	20 4	15 2	5 5	2 1	23 0
Calves	33·2	8·4	27·2	23·6	7 6	—	—
Total Stock . .	25 7	14·8	21·6	15·7	3·9	2 2	16 1

The large proportion of slaughterings on Sundays is a feature of this abattoir and is due to the Jewish trade.

Since early October, 1929, official graders have been stationed at the abattoir to grade and mark beef carcases, on request, in accordance with regulations under the Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act, 1928.

Market and Abattoir Supply.—Islington cattle market is entirely a fat stock market, and practically only cattle and sheep are sold; the number has greatly declined since pre-War days, while, at the same time, the number of stock slaughtered at the abattoir has greatly increased. The decrease in livestock sold in the market appears to be a tendency common to livestock markets in most large towns in this country—c.f. Liverpool, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Salford and Sheffield.

The following Table is a comparison of the numbers of livestock sold in the market and slaughtered in the abattoir in 1913, 1922, and 1928, respectively :—

Kind of Stock.	1913.		1922.		1928.	
	Sold.	Slaughtered.	Sold.	Slaughtered.	Sold.	Slaughtered.
Cattle ...	49,764	63,906	27,299	47,006	11,516	54,282
Calves ...	400	8,615	83	7,130	20	34,770
Sheep ...	261,402	55,853	93,696	34,874	92,731	129,128
Pigs ...	—	14,491	—	21,514	—	131,887

Supplies of livestock are brought to the market by cattle salesmen who purchase the stock in provincial markets or straight off the farms, or from country dealers. They are bought by London carcase butchers or, to some extent, by retailers. It is estimated that 70 per cent. of the livestock sold are slaughtered in the public abattoir; the remainder, with the exception of a very small proportion bought by butchers from outside London, going to private slaughter-houses in London.

In addition to most of the livestock sold in the market, the abattoir itself receives large supplies direct from the provinces. These direct supplies are brought in by London wholesale carcase butchers, or more often sent in by agents in the provinces who buy on their behalf. All the large number of pigs slaughtered are received direct. Practically the whole of the stock slaughtered in the abattoir goes for sale either to Smithfield or, in the case of beef, mutton and veal, to the Jewish wholesale trade in Aldgate. Very few retail butchers use the slaughter-house.

The principal sources of supply of cattle to the market and

abattoir are the Midland grazing area from July to December, and Norfolk and Suffolk from January to June. Cattle are also sent in from Lincolnshire and Devonshire and, to a less extent, from Cornwall, Buckinghamshire and Wiltshire, the last-named county sending mainly cows and bulls. Supplies of Irish cattle, sheep and pigs are received from Birkenhead, Bristol, Holyhead and Fishguard. Sheep are received principally from the Midlands (Leicestershire and Northamptonshire), Norfolk, Kent, Sussex Lincolnshire and Cambridgeshire. Small supplies come in from Dorsetshire, Berkshire, Hampshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. Calves are obtained mostly from the counties of Devon and Somerset and pigs from Suffolk, Cambridge, Norfolk and Essex.

The following Table shows the seasonal variation in supply of livestock to the market and slaughter-house in 1928, giving the average weekly sales and slaughterings for each month :—

Average Weekly Numbers of Stock offered in the Market, and Numbers Slaughtered, for each Month in 1928.

Month.	Market.		Slaughter-house.			
	Cattle.	Sheep.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Calves.	Pigs.
January ...	268	1,547	1,083	1,726	518	2,635
February ...	212	915	1,200	2,342	621	2,905
March ...	290	2,242	1,435	3,550	850	3,061
April ..	121	1,774	820	2,427	454	1,872
May . .	137	2,052	999	2,824	500	1,719
June	145	2,534	1,194	3,529	692	1,867
July	133	2,043	598	2,097	465	691
August	259	2,302	1,244	3,180	877	1,689
September . .	259	1,910	820	2,009	709	2,351
October ..	219	1,243	1,011	2,434	866	3,502
November . .	377	1,736	1,329	2,380	1,050	4,427
December ...	219	986	805	1,374	441	3,491

Charges.—Tolls are payable on all livestock sold in the market, amounting to 1*s.* 0*d.* per head for cattle, 2½*d.* for sheep and 6*d.* for calves. Charges for lairage amount to 6*d.* per day for each beast, 2*s.* per score for sheep and calves, 2*d.* per pig and 6*d.* per horse. Slaughtering charges cover provision of accommodation and use of appliances, all slaughtering being done by butchers employed by the traders. The charges are 2*s.* 3*d.* per beast, 3*d.* per sheep, 3*d.* to 9*d.* per calf, 5*d.* per pig, and 9*d.* per sow or boar. For use of the chill-rooms at the abattoir, a charge is made according to the time occupied.

(III) MEAT, Etc.

The London Central Markets, Smithfield.*

The London Central Markets are concerned primarily with the wholesaling of meat, but they are also an important distributing centre for eggs, poultry and game as well as for butter and cheese. Fish, fruit and vegetables are retailed in small quantities in sections of the market devoted to retail trade.

Old Smithfield Market was founded in 1614 on the site of an ancient livestock fair. Until the opening of the Metropolitan Cattle Market at Islington in 1855, this market was used for the sale of livestock, while, in the vicinity, a dead-meat trade was carried on at Newgate Market until 1868. The London Central Markets, established by Act of Parliament in 1860, were opened on the Smithfield site in 1868, when Newgate Market, which had become a serious obstruction to traffic, was closed. The old Farringdon Market for fish, fruit, vegetables and flowers was also held in the vicinity but was abolished by an Act of 1875, which, with an Act of 1882, gave authority for holding a retail market in these commodities at Smithfield. The gradual building up of the Central Markets at a capital expenditure of about £2,000,000 has resulted in a group of buildings covering about 10 acres.

The markets are comparatively well-placed in regard to rail and road communications. Each of the four railway companies has at least one goods station within a mile of the market, and there are 13 stations within 3 miles, viz. :—

Station.	*Railway.*	*Distance from Smithfield.*
Farringdon Street	L.N.E.R.	Adjoins
Smithfield	G.W.R.	„
Whitecross Street	L.M.S.R.	¼ mile
Blackfriars	S.R.	¾ „
Broad Street	L.M.S.R.	¾ „
Bishopsgate	L.N.E.R.	1¼ miles
St. Pancras	L.M.S.R.	1½ „
King's Cross	L.N.E.R.	1½ „
Euston	L.M.S.R.	1¾ „
Bricklayers' Arms ...	S.R.	2¼ „
Willow Walk	„	2½ „
Nine Elms	„	3 „
Marylebone	L.N.E.R.	3 „

* *See also* Economic Series No. 6, pages 36–42; No. 10, pages 109–110, No. 11, pages 90–91; and No. 17, pages 52–58.

The market is easily accessible to main roads, and, as these do not actually pass the market, serious congestion of general market traffic is avoided. The Docks and the Metropolitan Cattle Market and Abattoir at Islington are, however, some distance away, which is a disadvantage. A system of rail tracks actually passes beneath the market, and lifts are provided to enable goods to be unloaded direct from the trains to the stalls; comparatively little use is made of this facility, however, owing to the impossibility, except at a few specified times, of breaking through the circle formed round the market by the Metropolitan Railway; only about one-fifth of the rail-borne meat is delivered in this way. Of the total supplies delivered to the market in 1928, 17 per cent. came in by rail, viz.:—7 per cent. from Scotland, 4·7 per cent. from Ireland and 5·3 per cent. from England and Wales; 72·4 per cent. being imported meat, came from the Docks, 5 per cent. came in by road from outside London and 5·6 per cent. by road from the abattoir at Islington and from private slaughter-houses in the London area.

In lay-out, Smithfield market ranks with Spitalfields as the best of the London markets. It consists of 5 separate buildings for the wholesale trade, and 2 retail sections (Fig. 14). Of the 5 wholesale sections, 4 are rectangular blocks standing in line, running east and west, the fifth, or Annexe, is a smaller triangular block to the south of the main market. The two retail sections occupy about $\frac{3}{4}$-acre to the north of the main blocks. Of the four main sections, the 2 easterly were built for meat, the third for poultry, the western section for provisions. In the poultry section, however, about three-quarters of the space is now taken up by meat and provision stalls, while the provision section is almost entirely used for meat. The market is planned for rapid in-and-off-loading. The 4 central blocks are divided from one another by wide roadways, the whole of the market buildings being surrounded by a footway 12 ft. wide and roads averaging 38 ft. wide. The wholesale buildings are provided with entrance gates 13 to 17 ft. wide; there are, in all, 31 entrance gates in the wholesale sections—8 in each of the meat sections, 6 in the poultry section, 5 in the general section and 4 in the Annexe. All gates are in pairs, one on each side of the market (with the exception that the General Section has no gate at its western end) connected by transverse and longitudinal roads. Vehicles are not allowed to enter the market but are backed up to the whole length of external market pavement —about 3,900 feet in all (Fig. 15). There is room for 350 3-ton lorries to unload at a time. The meat is either unloaded on to hand trucks or carried in by porters. A standard truck has been introduced in order to eliminate trucks of excessive width and so facilitate movement within the market; over 800 standard trucks are in use. Very few of the stands face on to the roads surrounding the market; this has the great advantage that meat is protected from

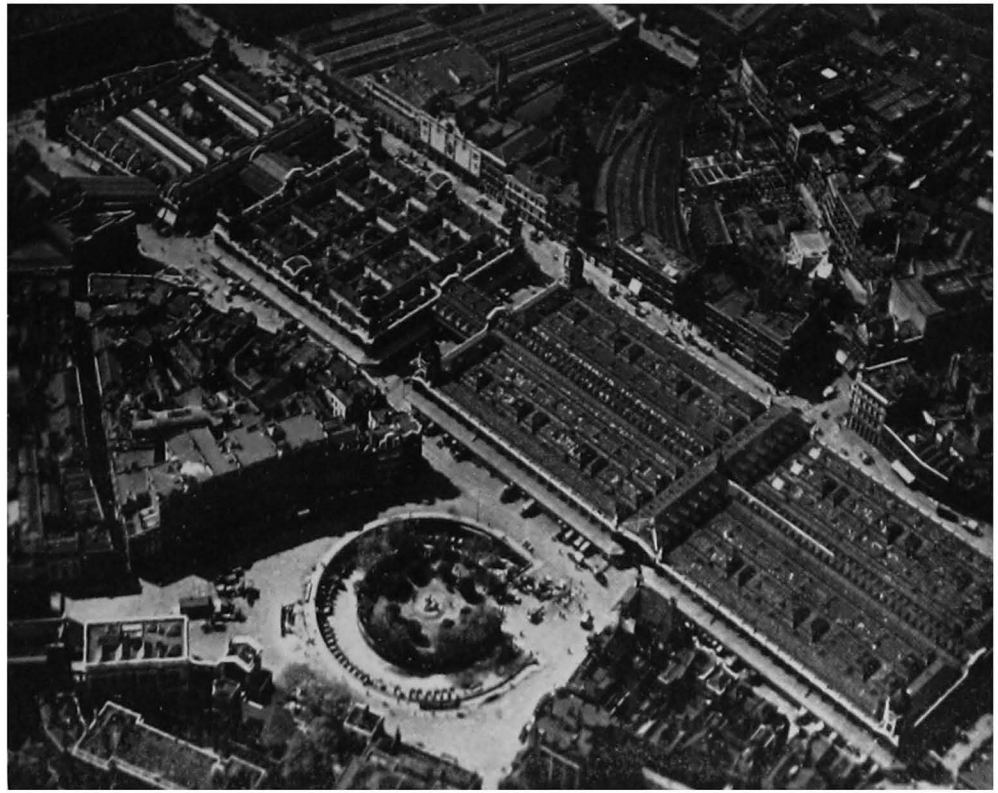


FIG. 14.—Aerial View of London Central Markets.

[Facing page 164.



[*"The Times."*

FIG. 15.—London Central Markets, Smithfield.

Facing page 165.]

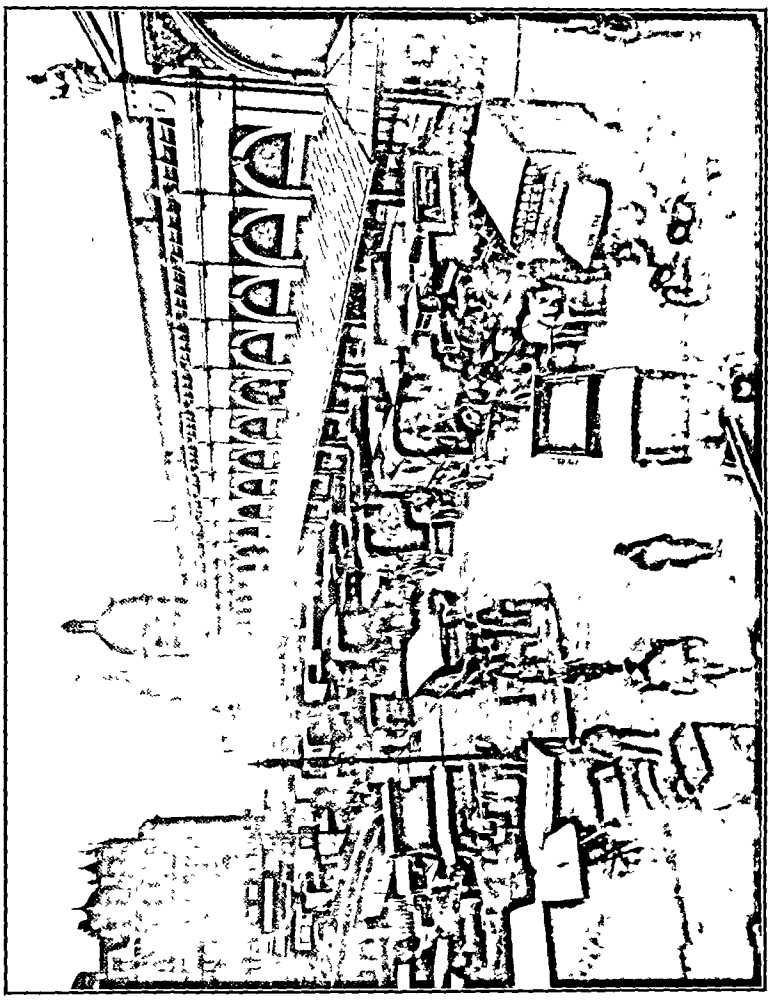


FIG. 15.—London Central Markets, Smithfield.

["*The Times*"

dust by the market walls, but it somewhat increases the labour required in unloading produce into the market. All loading and unloading are done by licensed porters, of whom there are nearly 1,600, about two-thirds being employed by transport firms, the rest by market tenants or railway companies, or working on their own account. There are no mechanical means of transferring goods to and from the market such as the overhead runways in use, for example, in the Birmingham wholesale meat market. Deliveries of meat to Smithfield take place extremely early—from midnight to 6 a.m.—so that little clashing between inward and outward vehicles occurs, the latter commencing operations generally about 6 a.m. The extent of roadways surrounding the market and of the available off-loading positions is such that serious congestion of traffic rarely occurs.

The market buildings themselves are of brick and stone, roofed with slate, partly glazed, with louvre ventilation, and floored with asphalt and wood blocks ; the walls and shop partitions are faced with impervious material. In the wholesale market, there are 364 stalls or shops averaging 60 sq. yds. each, of which from 30 to 40 are occupied by poultry and egg salesmen and butter and cheese merchants, and the rest by meat salesmen. In many cases, tenants rent more than one stand, some of the larger firms occupying as many as twelve.

The areas of the various wholesale sections are :—

	sq. ft.
Meat section, East...	68,400
„ „ West	68,400
Poultry	62,400
General	51,380
Annexe	12,750
Total ...	263,330

The equipment of the meat stalls or shops is simple, each being fitted with hanging rails, but not running rails, the total hanging capacity in the market being equal to 60,000 sides of beef. Each stall has at least one frontage on one of the through roadways ; in fact, the facilities for display of meat leave little to be desired. The market has a comparatively small first-floor area, used as offices by salesmen ; small offices, as well as such appliances as power-driven cutting-up machines and weighing machines have been installed on the stands by some tenants. All the market buildings, including the retail sections, have sub-structures with 22 ft. headroom. These are all occupied by through railway lines or shunt lines, or as goods depots, with the exception of the poultry

section, where part of the underground area is occupied by vaults rented by salesmen and by the London Central Markets Cold Storage Company. The total cold-storage accommodation under or near the market is sufficient for 13,000 tons of meat; the City Corporation does not, itself, operate any cold-storage service. With the exception of two large, public weighbridges of 10-ton and 20-ton capacity, tenants provide their own weighing facilities.

The following Table shows the total weight of produce handled in the wholesale sections of Smithfield in the years 1913, 1922 and 1928 :—

	1913. Tons.	*1922.* Tons.	*1928.* Tons.
Meat :—			
Beef and Veal	231,811	251,921	246,061
Mutton and Lamb	138,614	142,038	139,345
Pork and Bacon.	35,634	39,283	48,347
Total Meat	406,059	433,242	433,753
Poultry and Game	13,756	16,453	23,798
Rabbits	4,669	4,730	5,867
Eggs	2,261	4,455	3,378
Butter and Cheese	4,826	3,915	2,777
Sundries	540	280	588
Total ...	432,111	463,075	470,161

These figures cover only the trade done in the market proper. As with most London markets, there is a considerable extra-market area, consisting of the private premises of meat, poultry, egg and provision salesmen; of the business done in extra-market premises there is no record. With the exception of the War years, successive five-year periods have shown a continuous increase in total tonnage handled, from an average of 146,570 tons per annum in the period 1869–73 to an average of 477,206 tons in the period 1924–8. The fall in supplies of meat during 1928 below the five-year average appears to be a temporary phase and not part of a gradual decline. The average daily load in 1928, on the basis of a five-day week, was about 1,810 tons; the load varies, however, according to the season and day of the week, the maximum quantity of produce ever handled in a day having been 5,160 tons. The market, with its 9,000-ton capacity, has, therefore, never been more than 60 per cent. filled.

The Table on the opposite page shows the monthly supplies of various kinds of produce during 1928 :—

LONDON CENTRAL MARKETS, SMITHFIELD.

Monthly Supplies of Produce during the Year 1928.

Month.	Beef and Veal.	Mutton and Lamb.	Pork and Bacon.	Poultry and Game.	Rabbits.	Eggs.	Butter, Cheese, etc.	Total.
	Tons.	*Tons.*	*Tons.*	*Tons.*	*Tons.*	*Tons.*	*Tons.*	*Tons.*
January ...	22,210	11,852	4,649	2,449	738	299	338	42,535
February	21,229	10,749	4,245	1,917	495	284	337	39,256
March ...	21,189	12,607	4,418	1,906	358	315	414	41,207
April ...	20,277	12,089	3,984	1,572	235	334	196	38,687
May ...	21,525	12,231	2,766	1,425	36	282	238	38,503
June ...	19,757	11,283	2,331	1,270	24	301	234	35,200
July ...	18,434	11,917	2,104	1,363	98	335	488	34,739
August ...	20,091	12,501	2,712	1,393	188	322	250	37,457
September	17,781	10,558	4,142	1,617	887	224	204	35,413
October	21,765	11,933	5,511	2,061	1,280	278	218	43,046
November	21,218	11,714	5,602	2,145	787	235	243	41,944
December	20,585	9,911	5,883	4,680	741	169	205	42,174
Total ...	246,061	139,345	48,347	23,798	5,867	3,378	3,365	470,161

The market is open every weekday, though practically no business is done on Saturdays. The average daily load for the six weekdays in 1928 was :—

	Monday.	*Tuesday.*	*Wednesday.*	*Thursday.*	*Friday.*	*Saturday.*
Tons	2,275	1,116	1,900	2,072	1,286	222
Per cent. ...	25·6	12·6	21·4	23·4	14·5	2 5

Mondays, Thursdays and Wednesdays are thus the chief business days. In the case of a meat market, the possibility of levelling off the variations in load is small, being dependent on the facilities and willingness of a large number of retailers to store on their own premises.

The Table on page 168 indicates, for the year 1928, the origin of the Smithfield supplies of various kinds.

Origin of Supplies consigned to Smithfield Market, London, during the Year 1928, showing the Quantities and Percentages received from each Source.

Country.	Beef and Veal.		Mutton and Lamb.		Pork and Bacon.		Poultry and Game.		Rabbits.		Eggs.		Butter and Cheese.		Sundries.	
	Tons.	*Per cent.*	*Tons.*	*Per cent.*	*Tons.*	*Per cent.*	*Tons.*	*Per cent.*	*Tons.*	*Per cent.*	*Tons.*	*Per cent.*	*Tons.*	*Per cent.*	*Tons.*	*Per cent.*
England and Wales ...	23,842	9·7	14,244	10 2	24,600	50·7	10,035	42·2	1,022	17·3	554	16·3	593	21·2	314	53·4
Scotland	12,617	5·1	19,656	14·1	223	·4	609	2·6	36	·6	2	—	—	—	1	·2
Ireland	6,571	2·7	1,760	1·3	11,815	24 6	1,872	7 9	6	—	32	—	201	7·2	9	1·5
Australia	6,438	2·6	6,949	5 0	114	·2			2,941	50·5			377	13 5	2	·4
New Zealand... ...	2,036	·8	66,430	47 8	1,490	3·1			160	2·7			735	27·1	—	—
Canada and South Africa	189	—	9	—	120	·2	611	2·6	—	—	121	4 6	104	3 7	1	·2
U.S.A.	909	·4	135	—	1,484	3·1			—	—			12	·4	124	21·1
Argentina	177,738	72 3	26,357	18·9	896	1·9			—	—			180	6 4	18	3·0
Other South American Countries	15,721	6·4	3,805	2·7	28	—			—	—			—	—	—	—
Netherlands	—	—	—	—	5,122	10·7	1,434	6·0	312	5·3	487	14·3	345	12·3	59	10·0
Denmark	—	—	—	—	1,787	3·7	14	—	—	—	55	1·6	8	·3	—	—
Other Countries ...	—	—	—	—	668	1·4	9,223	38·7	1,390	23·6	2,127	63·2	222	7·9	60	10·2
Total ...	246,061	—	139,345	—	48,347	—	23,798	—	5,867	—	3,378	—	2,777	—	588	—

The relatively small proportion of home-produced beef and mutton handled is noteworthy. Only 17·5 per cent. of the beef and veal supplies and 25·6 per cent. of the mutton and lamb were obtained from the British Isles. Of the total weight of meat sold in 1928—433,753 tons—25·6 per cent. was of British and Irish production, 19·6 per cent. was received from other parts of the Empire, and 54·2 per cent. was foreign, including 47·2 per cent. from the Argentine. The Argentine, with 72·3 per cent. of beef and veal and 18·9 per cent. of the mutton and lamb, and New Zealand, with 47·8 per cent. of the mutton and lamb, are the two chief individual sources of supply. Only a small proportion of the imported beef is frozen, most being chilled. Owing to the embargo on the importation of fresh pork, supplies of that product come solely from Great Britain and Ireland, though a little frozen pork is received from overseas. The Dutch and Danish figures under the heading of "Pork and Bacon" refer almost entirely to bacon. Approximately half the supplies of poultry and game come from Great Britain and Ireland, most of the remainder coming from European countries—e.g., Belgium, France, Latvia, Austria, Hungary and Italy. Over half the supplies of rabbits are imported frozen from Australia, and there is also a considerable trade in fresh rabbits from Belgium. Comparatively few English eggs—16·3 per cent.—are handled at Smithfield, the principal sources of supply being Holland and the Baltic countries.

The importance of the market as a distributing centre for imported meat may be gauged from the fact that, in 1927, about one-third of the imports* of beef and veal into the United Kingdom, and two-fifths of the mutton and lamb, were marketed at Smithfield. Of the New Zealand mutton and lamb imports, the market received almost a half, and, of the Argentine meat imports, about a third of the beef and a quarter of the mutton and lamb.

Of the English and Welsh meat supplies in 1928, about 40 per cent. was brought in from Islington and private slaughter-houses in London; about 60 per cent. was consigned straight to the market in carcase form. A brief summary of the sources of supply to Islington is given on page 162. With the exception of the trade in Scotch beef, the direct consignment of carcases is almost confined to mutton, lamb, pork and veal. The principal source of supply of mutton, lamb and veal in carcase form is the south-west of England, particularly Devonshire; much pork is also derived from the south-west, Cornwall contributing largely to the supply. English eggs and poultry are sent in generally from within a radius of about 100 miles, though some supplies come from considerably further afield. It is estimated that about half the poultry supplies come from the Eastern Counties—Essex, Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridge, Lincoln—about a third from the western counties—Devon and Somerset—and Ireland, and the balance from other parts of

* Excluding Irish supplies and tinned meats.

England, particularly Sussex, Surrey and Kent. For eggs, Smithfield—including the private dealers' premises in the vicinity—acts as an important centre for the disposal of temporary surpluses occurring in all parts of the country, as well as drawing on regular surplus-producing areas within a radius of 100 miles.

Over 90 per cent. of the meat and poultry is sold to buyers in London and the Home Counties. Towns as far distant as the Sussex coast also derive a proportion of their supplies from Smithfield.

The market has probably an even more important national function in regard to meat than Covent Garden has for fruit. While the meat which actually passes through the market may not be distributed over so wide an area as is Covent Garden produce, the market itself and the meat traders' premises in the vicinity virtually fulfil the function of a meat exchange of international importance, large quantities of meat, much of which may not enter the market at all, changing hands in this way. An outline of the operations of the London wholesale meat trade on Smithfield Market is given in the Ministry's Report on the Trade in Refrigerated Beef, Mutton and Lamb.* The various classes of meat salesmen operating in Smithfield Market are also described in the Ministry's Report on the Marketing of Cattle and Beef.† Briefly they include :—

(*a*) Carcase butchers buying or raising home-fed stock for slaughter and marketing.

(*b*) Importers, carrying on a similar trade in imported stock.

(*c*) Commission salesmen handling either home or foreign meat.

(*d*) Jobbers or dealers buying from one or the other of the three previous classes of salesmen and re-selling.

Out of 113 meat wholesalers, 44 trade in home-killed meat.

The normal rate of commission on meat is 4*d*. per stone of 8 lb.

About half of the eggs, and a higher proportion of the poultry, are sold on commission.

Stalls are held on weekly tenancies, in return for the payment of rent, and tolls are payable on all marketable commodities at the rate of ¼*d*. for every 21 lb. (2*s*. 3*d*. per ton). Rents work out at 2*s*. 3*d*. per sq. yd. per week. Tolls are collected from the carriers—motor transport firms, railways, etc.—who, in turn, recover them from the salesmen. The standard charge for porterage inwards is 3*s*. 7*d*. per ton.

The cleansing of the general market space is performed by the Corporation, tenants being responsible for cleaning the interior of the premises rented by them. The cost of the market facilities to salesmen—including rents and tolls, but not porterage—works

* Economic Series No. 6, pages 36–42.

† Economic Series No. 20, pages 100 and 101.

out, on the basis of the 1928 turnover, at about 8*s.* 7*d.* per ton of produce handled—i.e., somewhat less than $\frac{1}{20}$th of a penny per lb. A daily report on prices and supplies at Smithfield is issued by the City Corporation—a practice which was strongly urged by the Linlithgow Committee.*

The retail sections of the market are of the usual type of urban retail market hall, and comprise a fish section and a fruit and vegetable section, the former with 28 stalls, the latter with 20 fruit and vegetable and 20 miscellaneous stalls, including a few meat stalls. The general section of the wholesale market has retail shops (40 in all) around the outside facing the surrounding streets; a fair proportion of these are retail meat shops.

(IV) FISH.

Billingsgate Market.

Billingsgate Fish Market, owned and controlled by the Corporation of the City of London, is the most important of its kind in the country, acting as a clearing market for fish received from a wide radius. Situated on Thames-side a little below London Bridge, the main market building occupies about an acre of ground floor space, fronting on the river on one side and on the junction between Lower Thames Street and Monument Street on the other. A fish market has been held for several centuries on the present site, which has the great advantage of allowing delivery by water. In pre-War days, about one-third of all fish sold was so delivered, but the proportion received in this way is now only about 12 per cent. on the average. Nearly 90 per cent. of the supplies arrive by rail. Three out of the five chief goods stations which are used as arrival points for fish consigned to Billingsgate are within one mile of the market.

The market consists of two buildings—a main building devoted solely to wet fish, and a smaller one, adjacent, used for the sale of wet and dried fish. The main building, with a ground floor area of about 39,000 sq. ft., is of stone and brick with York stone floor, slate and glazed roof and louvre ventilation, and is electrically lighted. In addition to the ground floor there is a basement devoted to ice-making plant, cold-storage and lobster-boiling, and an intermediate floor used for storage and selling purposes, each having an almost equivalent area to that of the ground floor. There is communication by two lifts and by staircases between the floors. The ground floor is divided into 261 stands, 8 ft. square, occupied by fish salesmen and arranged in avenues running generally from street to river (Fig. 16). The gangways between the stands average 8 ft. in width. The river end of the ground floor is occupied by specially constructed sale forms for the sale of sea-borne fish by

* Report on Meat, Poultry and Eggs (Cmd. 1927/1923), page 85.

auction. The intermediate floor, besides having a number of salesmen's stands, is used largely for storage purposes. Any supplies remaining unsold after business finishes for the day may be stored on the salesmen's stands on the ground floor as well as on this intermediate floor, in order to be ready for the next day's trade. The greater part of the basement is let to an ice manufacturing firm, in which many of the market salesmen are shareholders. The approximate cold-storage capacity is 160,000 cubic feet. The lobster-boiling plant on this floor, owned by the Corporation, is extensively used by the trade throughout the shell-fish season, and is also available for use by retailers for having shell-fish cleaned and boiled.

The smaller building on the corner of Monument Street occupies about 5,000 sq. ft. of ground floor area, all of which is occupied by salesmen's stands. A large proportion of the trade done in this section is in dried fish—smoked haddock, kippers, herrings, etc.

The nature of the trade has given rise to a special method of selling fish at Billingsgate. Fish trains from the ports are not dispatched until the last moment, owing to the perishable nature of fish and the need for getting as much of one day's catch as possible upon the next day's market. On this account, it is not possible for the railway companies to effect transport and delivery to Billingsgate before about 5 a.m. at the earliest, and as it is necessary for the bulk of the day's trade to be completed by about 10 a.m., in order to meet the needs of retailers for the day, the selling period is short. Nor is it possible for any sorting of fish to be done at the railway depots, so that each delivery van often bears consignments for more than one salesman and each salesman's consignment from any particular port may be contained in several delivery vans. The time factor thus prevents a large proportion of the fish from actually entering the market. Railway and other delivery vehicles stand in the street in front of and leading up to the market, while sample boxes of fish are carried on to the stands from the vans by porters. Selling is done largely on sample, the buyer's purchase, in many instances, being delivered direct to his cart from the rail delivery van. To facilitate traffic, the roads leading up to the market are reserved for early morning use by delivery vans only, buyers' vehicles being parked in the side streets stretching from London Bridge to Great Tower Street. The transference of fish to and from the market is carried out by about 1,400 porters (Fig. 18), some employed by salesmen, others working independently, but all licensed by the Corporation, and, in addition, by several hundred outside casual workers who are unlicensed. Vehicles are not allowed to enter the market itself. Porterage charges for incoming goods vary from 6*d.* to 9*d.* per package, and those for out goods, where considerable carrying distances are often involved, are sometimes as much as 1*s.* 6*d.* per package. Fish arriving by water is chiefly brought by carrier vessels which collect supplies from the fishing fleets in the North Sea, though at times trawlers land fish direct. As with road-borne supplies, all



FIG. 16.—Billingsgate Fish Market.



FIG. 17.—Billingsgate Fish Market ; Delivery vehicles in Lower Thames Street.

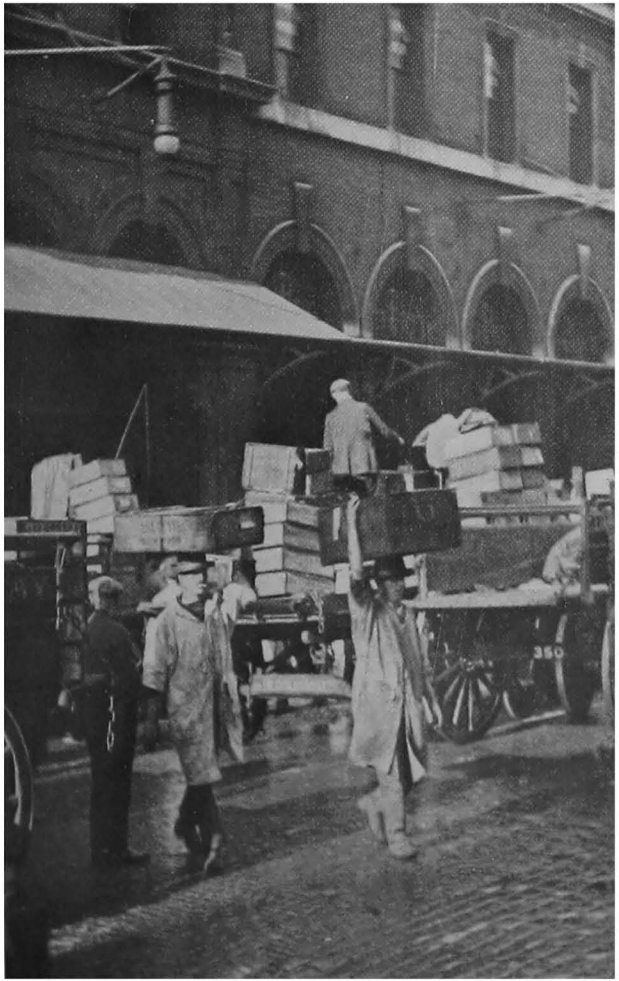


Fig. 18.—Billingsgate Market: Loading from Market.

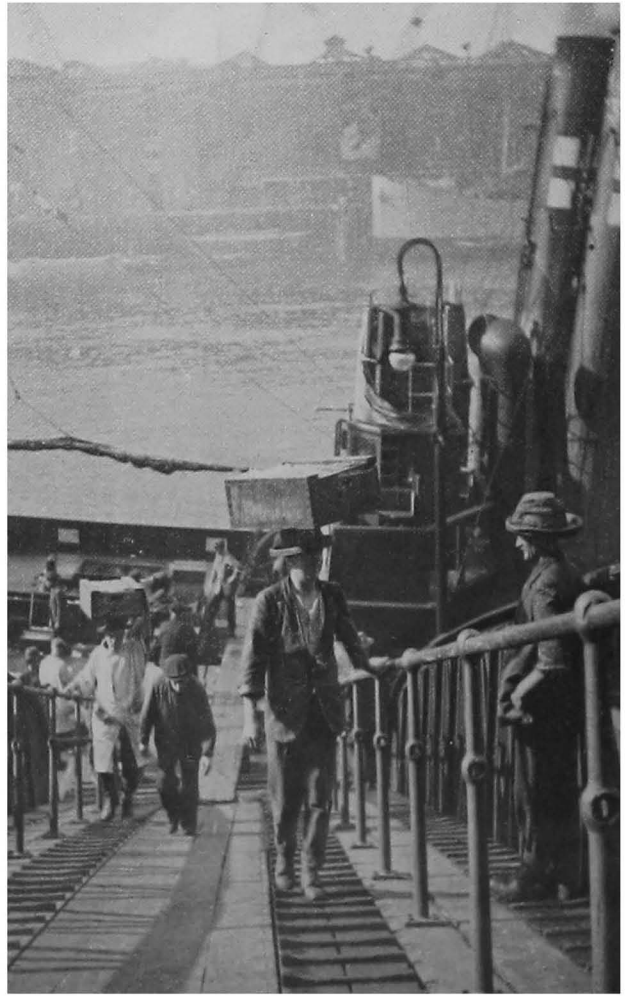


Fig. 19.—Unloading from "Carrier Ship" at Billingsgate Fish Market.

is landed by porters by hand (Fig. 19), by means of two unloading pontoons at which vessels lie abreast of each other, cargoes from the outer being carried across the decks of the innermost. A large proportion of the rail-borne fish arrives for sale on commission and is all sold by private treaty, whereas all sea-borne fish is sold by auction.

Tolls are payable on all fish brought to the market proper by water or by road, whether sold in the market or from vehicles outside. Tolls on road-borne fish amount to 2*s.* 6*d.* per vehicle with more than two wheels, 1*s.* 6*d.* per two-wheeled vehicle. On vessels laden with fish, there is a schedule of toll charges based on the registered tonnage of the vessel. The charges work out at about 5*d.* a ton for vessels not exceeding 100 tons and 6*d.* per ton for larger vessels.

The total volume of trade passing through the market (including sales direct from vehicles) in 1913, 1922 and 1928, was as follows :—

1913	182,749 tons.
1922	187,954 „
1928	189,793 „

In addition, about 60 wholesalers occupy private premises in the vicinity of the market, owing to all space within the market being fully taken up ; it is estimated that the total arrival in 1928 of fish from all sources at the market and these private premises was about 246,000 tons. In 1928, the proportions in which fish was derived from the principal sources were as follows :—

	Per cent.	Per cent.
British :—		
From Scottish ports :—		
Aberdeen...	10 8	
Other ports	17·1	
		27·9
From other British ports :—		
Hull	12·5	
Fleetwood	7·3	
Milford Haven	7·0	
Grimsby	6·7	
Lowestoft	4·1	
Yarmouth	1·9	
Other ports	11·0	
		50·5
From North Sea Fleet (By water)		8·5
Foreign :—		
Danish	10·4	
Dutch	1·4	
Norwegian	1·3	
		13·1*
		100·0

There is a growing importation of fish from such countries as Denmark, Holland, Norway and France, much of which is landed

* Of this, a certain proportion was delivered by water.

at Harwich. Billingsgate is also the central point for the Atlantic and Pacific frozen salmon trade.

Billingsgate supplies the whole of London and much of the Home Counties, while fish is commonly sent from the Market to centres at long distances from London, including even towns in the immediate neighbourhood of a fishing port, or fishing ports themselves. This is due to the variety of supplies obtainable at the Market and to the comparative regularity of supply which, at times, results in prices being lower at the Market than at coastal towns, where a temporary shortage may have occurred. Fish sent to Billingsgate may either have been bought by salesmen or their agents at the ports to meet their requirements for the following day, or may be received from dealers at the coast for sale on commission.

The Corporation of the City of London have prepared a scheme for the extension of Billingsgate Market by the acquisition of the adjoining Custom House. It has long been recognised that the existing market is inadequate in size to accommodate the large and increasing trade which is handled in the Market and its environs. Moreover, the road approaches of the present market are also inadequate, with the result that traffic congestion during the busy hours is acute (see Fig. 17), though as the bulk of the traffic to and from Billingsgate moves largely between 5 a.m. and 9 a.m., the disturbance to City traffic is less than might be expected. The Corporation have expended over a million pounds from time to time since the Market was constructed in road widening and in market improvements, but have arrived at the conclusion that the only solution to the present problem is re-construction on a large scale. The Departmental Committee on the Wholesale Food Markets of London* expressed the opinion that the position and facilities of Billingsgate were inadequate, and recommended that an attempt should be made to remove the market to an inland site sufficiently near the goods stations to eliminate much road haulage. The removal of a central market of long establishment, however, presents almost insuperable difficulties, of which the growth of private businesses in the vicinity engaged in or connected with the fish trade is not the least. Moreover, the Corporation take the view that a river frontage is desirable having regard to the existing deliveries by water and to the possibility of these being increased if improved facilities for landing fish were provided. On this account, the Corporation's scheme for improvement of the market is aimed at extension on the present site. The acquisition of the Custom House would enable the market to be extended by double its present area. Under the City's scheme, half the new area would be utilised as a wholesale poultry market instead of Leadenhall. The river frontage would be trebled, mechanical appliances for landing fish would probably be provided, and a

* Cmd. 1168/1921.

wide road for vehicles would be made on the river side of the market, thereby doubling the unloading space for vehicles. Ample storage for empties would be provided on an upper floor. The scheme would also include the widening of Thames Street and the clearing of space in front of the present market by the demolition of Billingsgate Buildings.

(V) POULTRY, Etc.

Leadenhall Market.

Leadenhall market, situated off Leadenhall Street, is owned and controlled by the City Corporation; it has an important wholesale and retail trade in poultry and game as well as a small retail trade in meat, fish, provisions and fruit. There is also a large wholesale and retail trade in eggs.*

The market premises consist of a central block of shops with several avenues of shops radiating from it, the area occupied being irregular in outline and hemmed in by neighbouring buildings. There are 73 shops in the market, with an average floor space of 30 sq. yds. and provided with upper storeys and large basements. The market avenues are wide enough to permit vehicles to enter the market. Many tenants occupy more than one shop; there are only 36 tenants in all.

Almost half the shops are occupied by poultry wholesalers, of whom there are 10, while 4 more firms carry on both a wholesale and a retail trade. Of the retailers, about half retail poultry, often in combination with fish; most of the others retail meat, and some retail provisions and fruit.

No tolls are payable on produce sold, premises in the market being occupied at fixed rents which average 4*d.* per sq. ft. ground floor area per week.

Though its actual volume has not greatly changed, the wholesale business now probably accounts for a smaller proportion of the wholesale poultry trade of London than before the War. Dressed poultry is sent in from as far as Lancashire and Yorkshire as well as from Ireland and Scotland. Country wholesalers and higglers send in large supplies, ready killed and plucked but generally not trussed. A large proportion of the supplies comes direct from producers, a fair number being consigned alive; the wholesalers charge a small fee for killing and dressing. Sales are mostly on commission. Imported supplies (frozen and fresh) are handled as well as English. Most of the poultry is sold to London and suburban retailers, but there is a considerable trade with the south and south-east coast and consignments are even sent to the Midlands. The radius supplied by the market, however, is smaller than before the War. All sales are by private treaty, except

* *See* Economic Series No. 10, page 111.

on a few occasions, as at Christmas, when a glut remains to be disposed of.

As part of the Billingsgate extension plans, a proposal has been made to remove the wholesale trade to a part of the suggested new Billingsgate building. By enabling them to obtain all their supplies in one market, it is maintained that this would be a great convenience to those retail poulterers who combine a fish and poultry business. A number of wholesale poultry salesmen already occupy premises in the vicinity of Billingsgate.

(VI) CORN, Etc.

The Baltic Mercantile and Shipping Exchange.

The "Baltic," as this Exchange is commonly termed, comes into the London system of markets and exchanges for agricultural produce but is not concerned with home-grown produce. One of its main functions, as indicated by its title, is to provide a place where the agents of owners of shipping can meet merchants and shippers, or their agents, desiring to charter vessels or purchase freights, but it is at the same time the chief grain exchange in Europe. The Exchange arose from the fusion about 1900 of the two exchanges—the Baltic Exchange and the London Shipping Exchange—which, in their turn, originated in two of the old London coffee-houses where merchants used to meet to discuss business.

Besides dealings in charters and freights, and business, such as insurance, connected with shipping, the work of the Exchange includes the sale of cereals, oilseeds and oils, in cargo or parcel lots; tallow and turpentine are also dealt in; unless for export, no business is done in home-grown grain. A brief description of the methods of carrying on the grain business will be found in the Report on the Marketing of Wheat, Barley and Oats in England and Wales.* The convenience of conducting a shipping and an imported grain exchange in the same building is obvious. Trade in grain or oilseeds is not confined to that between the exporting countries and Great Britain; it is common for grain bought in, say, Canada to be sold on the Baltic for delivery in some Continental country. Cargoes may indeed change hands several times while still at sea. The Baltic is the headquarters of the London Corn Trade Association, which has a clearing house to facilitate the settlement of contracts and the adjustment of price differences between successive traders concerned in a series of transactions in the same lot of grain. Buyers on the Exchange include, in addition to men concerned solely in speculative buying, millers buying for their own use, merchants buying for distribution to millers and smaller merchants, and buyers for delivery abroad.

* Economic Series No. 18.

A grain "futures" market has recently been established at the Baltic. Previously, London merchants made use of the Liverpool market for such transactions.

Besides the large central hall (Fig. 20), the facilities offered at the Exchange include large suites of offices on the upper floor, which are let to members and associations connected with the Exchange, a reading room and library, dining-hall and lounge. There is also an elaborate telephone service. World prices of grain and other produce, and sundry information from Lloyds as to arrivals and departures of vessels and as to shipwrecks, etc., are posted up in the Exchange Room. The membership is about 2,500, of various nationalities.

The Corn Exchange.*

The London Corn Exchange was established in 1750, when a building for the sale of corn was erected by a company on the present site in Mark Lane. Congestion in and around this building eventually led to the establishment of another company and the erection in 1827 of another building adjoining the old one. The two companies—both chartered—continued to enjoy an independent existence until 1929, when an Act was passed enabling the Corn Exchange Company, London—the older—to absorb the newer London Corn Exchange Company. Business is still conducted in the two halls, both under the same roof and with direct inter-communication, but is now controlled by one authority.

The purpose of the Exchange is to serve as a convenient meeting place for trade in cereals, flour, millers' offals, seeds, oil cakes, artificial manures and other agricultural requisites. The corn trade is not confined to home-grown grain. Many members of the Baltic also operate on Mark Lane; buyers of cargoes or parcels on the former exchange use the Corn Exchange for distributing among town and country agricultural merchants, millers, etc. The trade in flour and millers' offals is a very important branch of the Corn Exchange business. Buyers of flour, millers' offals, feeding-stuffs, artificial manures, seeds, etc., attend not only from London itself but from provincial towns all over the country. Country corn merchants also bring corn for sale to London factors or millers. Buyers are generally agricultural merchants, factors or millers, though farmers, chiefly from the Home Counties, also attend both as buyers and sellers. The speciality of the smaller hall—previously owned by the London Corn Exchange Company—is the trade in agricultural seeds; most of the other business is transacted in the larger hall. The Exchange as a whole may be said to act principally as an intermediate market between the London wholesale trade—the shippers, factors, millers, brewers, cake manufacturers, etc.—and the provincial and smaller London

* *See also* Economic Series No. 18, pages 139 and 140.

merchants who are in touch with the ultimate consumer or the home producer, as the case may be. Business is thus on a considerably larger scale than in the provincial exchanges, which are generally the means of direct communication between farmer and merchant. The total quantity of home-grown grain handled in 1928 was 490,948 cwt. of wheat, 812,615 cwt. of barley and 123,455 cwt. of oats.

The two halls are both well lighted, glass-roofed buildings with rows of stands for traders. In the two buildings, there are about 270 stand-holders, while over 420 members pay subscriptions as sellers but do not occupy stands. Buyers are admitted free. All business is on sample or description by private treaty. A considerable amount of business takes place in the street outside the Exchange even during business hours, particularly transactions in malting barley, for which a good light is required. The Exchange is open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

The exchange company merely regulates the working of the building, exercising no control over the trade methods of its members ; these are controlled by the associations of the various trades using the Exchange—e.g., the London Corn Trade Association. No official price quotations are issued by the Company.

(VII) EGGS.

The London Egg Exchange.*

The London Egg Exchange originated, about 1862, in informal meetings of buyers and importers in an inn in the Borough of Southwark. Trade was later transferred to the Borough Market and eventually to the Hop Exchange. The Egg Exchange is now housed in its own hall in the Hop Exchange building and meets every Monday morning for about 3 hours. It is controlled by a limited company.

Only shareholders and subscribers are allowed to do business on the Exchange ; subscribers are of 2 kinds—sellers and buyers—the former paying a 50-guinea entrance fee and a 6-guinea annual subscription, the latter a 5-guinea entrance fee and a 2-guinea annual subscription. To become a subscriber, it is necessary to be proposed and seconded by existing members. This, in practice, means that membership is confined to individuals and firms of standing in the egg trade and of known financial soundness, a necessary condition both to protect members and to secure the confidence of consignors abroad. There are about 200 subscribers in all.

The function of the Exchange is to provide a convenient meeting place for buyers and sellers, to regulate and define trading methods and to collect and disseminate trade information. At

* *See also* Economic Series No. 10, pages 112 and 113.



FIG 20.—Baltic Exchange: Main Hall.



]*Photo by H. J. Whitlock and Sons, Ltd.*

FIG. 21.—London Provision Exchange: Main Hall.

present, business is almost entirely in imported eggs, the sellers being either importers, agents selling on commission on behalf of foreign exporters, or wholesale merchants who split up consignments previously purchased. London and provincial wholesalers and the very large retail distributors buy on the Exchange. The largest consignments of imported eggs are generally financed by London firms and are sold on the London Egg Exchange; thus, it follows that buyers attend from all parts of the country, though the majority of buyers are from the south of England.

It is estimated that 95 per cent. of the eggs landed in London —1,132 million in shell in 1928—are sold by members of the Exchange. Though many of the members are interested in the home trade, there is at present little dealing in English eggs on the Exchange, largely because supplies come to hand in too small parcels to interest the sellers and, except for National Mark supplies, are not sufficiently standardized to permit of exchange operations. Sales of imported eggs are nearly all on description alone—*i.e.*, by known grade designation or weight per long hundred. In some cases, consignments are inspected at the wharves previous to buying. A large proportion, however, are sold before actual landing. It has been suggested that authorised packers of National Mark eggs should organise and appoint an agent or agents on the Exchange, in order that, with expanding production, the English product might be handled similarly. Imported butter, margarine and cheese are also dealt in, to a small extent, on the Exchange.

All sales are by private treaty, prices being quoted generally at per long hundred, sometimes at per case. Rules have been formulated by the Exchange Company defining trade terms, fixing conditions of payment, regulating claims regarding damaged consignments, governing c.i.f. and f.o.b. contracts, providing for arbitration in cases of dispute or non-fulfilment of contract, and in other ways facilitating the course of business.

(VIII) PROVISIONS.

The London Provision Exchange.*

The London Provision Exchange (Fig. 21), controlled by a limited company of that name, was founded in 1887, when it was registered as the Home and Foreign Produce Exchange, its name having been changed to its present form in 1924. Its objects are the provision of a meeting place for buyers and sellers, the formulation of rules for the regulation and standardization of trade practices, and the dissemination of business information. The commodities dealt in include bacon and hams, butter, cheese, lard and canned goods.

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* *See also* Economic Series No. 17, page 139.

The Exchange building is situated at the southern end of London Bridge, adjacent to the Tooley Street warehouse area. It is open daily, trade being done in the main hall. No samples are shown but buying is done on description or after inspection of produce in warehouse. There is practically no "future" dealing. Membership of the Exchange is open to all bona-fide members of the trade; most of the large sellers and buyers of provisions in London and the south of England are members. The bulk of the trade is in imported produce, but English bacon, hams and cheese are also handled. The larger English curers of bacon and hams, and one or two large-scale cheese factors who buy cheese direct from the farmer, sell on the Exchange, the types of English cheese quoted being Cheddar, Cheddar Loaf, Stilton and Cheshire. Buyers on the Exchange include wholesalers and large retail distributors, such as multiple shop companies.

A comprehensive set of rules, embodying trade customs and the system of arbitration to be followed by members, has been settled by the Exchange Committee and approved by the representative trade organisations whose members trade on the Exchange. These rules deal with such matters as terms of payment and credit, methods of weighing and averaging, c.i.f. and f.o.b. sales and claims for defects, and make provision for the survey of goods and for arbitration in cases of dispute. An Arbitration Committee is appointed annually; this Committee is divided into 4 sections dealing with hog products, cheese, butter and canned goods, respectively.

Practically the whole of the imports into London of the commodities dealt in are handled on the Exchange.

Official reports of the state of the markets and the prices ruling at the end of each week are posted in the Exchange on Fridays.

(IX) WOOL.

The Wool Exchange.*

While Bradford is the centre of the wool textile industry, London is the focal marketing point. The London Wool Exchange, owned and controlled by the Associated London Selling Wool Brokers, is the most important of its kind in Europe, and the prices realised at the London sales are a barometer of the value of Colonial wools all over the world. Auction sales have been held at the Exchange, otherwise known as the Coleman Street Auction Rooms, since 1875. Previously, public sales were held at Garraway's Coffee-house in Cornhill. The Association is composed of 9 firms of brokers, who, in conjunction with the Colonial wool merchants' associations, determine the dates of sales annually. Six series of auction sales a year, at approximately equal intervals, are usually held, each series lasting from 2 to 3 weeks. The wool handled is

* *See also* Economic Series No. 7, pages 34–38.

almost entirely imported, the quantity of English offered being only 1·2 per cent. of the whole. The bulk of the English wool sold is entered by 4 wool growers' co-operative societies.

Colonial and foreign wool is sent over to banks and merchant houses in this country, who may finance the clip and have it warehoused in the neighbourhood of the docks. Selling brokers do not receive wool direct from overseas consignors, but arrangements for sale are made with the broker by the receiving banks or merchant houses on behalf of the vendors. All imported wool comes over classified and graded, nothing being done to it in warehouse beyond examination for errors of description by the brokers. As a sale approaches, individual members of the Brokers' Association notify the quantity of wool they propose to offer and the order of selling is arranged accordingly. The quantity of wool put up at a series of sales is governed by the quantities that have arrived up to within a week of the opening date. Each vendor is naturally at liberty to have his wool sold at any sale, but the selling brokers are usually consulted as to when to offer. The wool is lotted and catalogued, samples of each lot—1 lb. from each bale—being generally taken by the selling brokers for valuation. This estimated value is notified to the banks or merchant houses holding the wool, who may in turn notify the vendor. The vendor will probably order his broker not to sell below this valuation, or, if dissatisfied with it, may put on a higher reserve price. The practice of fixing reserve prices, in which the advice of the selling brokers is naturally of great value, is becoming fairly general. Arrangements are made with the warehouse owners to show from 10,000 to 12,000 bales each morning of the sale. These are examined by the buyers during the morning, the sales taking place during the afternoon. There is no actual restriction as to who may bid at the London sales, but, in practice, all buying is done through recognised firms or buying brokers; this is a necessary protection for the selling brokers, who guarantee payment for all wool to the banks and merchant houses from the moment each lot is knocked down.

The sales take place in a large auction room with seating for some 500 persons. Lots of 3 bales and under, called "Star" lots, are sold in special sales held in the so-called "Star" auction room. The grading of English wools by the co-operative societies results in a large number of small lots which are sold in the "Star" room. The aim should be, so far as practicable, to market lots large enough to be sold in the main rooms, as, owing to the smallness of the lots, the "Star" room sales may suffer at times from lack of interest on the part of buyers. Selling is entirely based on catalogue. Bidding is at so much per lb. advancing by $\frac{1}{4}d.$ per lb. up to 15*d.*, by $\frac{1}{2}d.$ per lb. after 15*d.* The task of determining the first bidder at any price calls for great skill on the part of the auctioneers owing to the large number of bidders at each price. About 150 to 200 lots per hour are usually sold. If the reserve

price, where one is fixed, is not reached, the lot is either held unti the next series of sales or sold after the sale by private treaty through the broker. The London wool sales have the advantage to the vendor which the country wool auctions in England and Wales do not possess, that holding for the next sale is practicable owing to the frequency with which the sales are held. Delivery is given within 7 days after sale upon payment in full, and must be taken within 14 days, of which 3 days are rent free; otherwise, the deposit of 25 per cent. which is required on all purchases before the sale is considered complete is liable to forfeit. The wool is weighed off by the warehouse keepers and payment based on this weight, and is taken away at buyers' expense with all faults and defects of whatever kind (including defect or error of description). This last condition pre-supposes a high standard of packing by sellers, an efficient check on descriptions by the brokers and adequate opportunity for examination by buyers. The commission charged by brokers is 1 per cent. The quantities of wool offered on the Exchange in a number of years since 1898 are as follows :—

Catalogued Quantities.	1898.	1905.	1913.	1924.	1928.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Colonial Wool . .	1,154,500	778,200	852,000	727,000	581,700
South American ...	32,700	43,300	80,630	76,500	67,200
English	—	—	330	4,150	8,000
Low Wool (Persian Gulf, China, etc.)	21,700	34,400	31,700	29,400	23,500
Total ...	1,208,900	855,900	964,660	837,050	680,400

These figures, however, are in excess of the quantities sold, as a certain proportion, generally varying from 10 to 20 per cent. according to the state of trade, is unsold at any one sale and may be re-offered later. The wool is bought in approximately equal quantities by British and Continental buyers. Of the English wool sold, about two-thirds is on account of the 4 English wool growers' societies referred to.

APPENDIX I.

Markets in the London Metropolitan Area.

(This statement is compiled from information furnished by the owners or lessees of the markets and sales enumerated. The commodities included under the heading "Character of Market" are sold wholesale by private treaty unless otherwise indicated.)

Abbreviations used throughout this Appendix:—
c=Covered area. *u*=Uncovered area.

Market and Area in sq. yds.	Name of Occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of Market.	Market Days.	Character of Market.
Bermondsey			
Hide and Skin Market	City of London Hide & Skin Co., Ltd., Leather Market, Bermondsey	Tues. (usually)	Hides and skins.
Hide and Skin Market	M. Clench & Co., Ltd., 30, Skin Market, Bermondsey	Daily ..	Hides and skins.
Hide and Skin Market	Victor Herrmann, 75, Maltby Street, Bermondsey	Daily ..	Hides and skins.
Hide and Skin Market	London Butchers' Hide & Skin Co., Ltd., 44, Leather Market, Bermondsey	Thurs. ..	Auction sales of hides and skins.
Hide and Skin Market	T. F. Robinson, 12, Hardwidge Street, Bermondsey	Daily ..	Hides and skins.
Hide and Skin Market	Strong, Rawle & Strong, Ltd., 24, Upper Russell Street, Bermondsey	Daily ..	Hides and skins.
Hide and Skin Market	W. B. Walker & Co., Ltd., 16, Whites Grounds, Bermondsey	Daily ..	Hides and skins.
Hide and Skin Market	E. W. Williams, Leather Market, Bermondsey	Daily ..	Hides and skins.
City of London			
Billingsgate Market 6000 *c*	Corpn. of London	Daily ..	Auction and private-treaty sales of fish.
Central Markets (Smithfield) 48400 *c*	,,	,,	Meat, also dairy produce, eggs, game and poultry. Retail fish, fruit, veg. and meat.
Leadenhall Market 5500 *c*	,,	Daily ..	Poultry and game (chiefly) also eggs. Retail poultry, eggs, fish, fruit, meat and provisions.

Market and Area in sq. yds.	Name of Occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of Market.	Market Days.	Character of Market.
City of London— *contd.*			
Baltic Exchange 1588 *c*	Baltic Mercantile & Shipping Exchange Ltd., St. Mary Axe, E.C.	Daily ..	Imported grain, etc. (by description).
Corn Exchange 1647 *c*	The Corn Exchange Co., Mark Lane, E.C.	Mon., Wed. Fri.	Corn, flour and millers' offals, hay, straw and feeding stuffs, agricultural seeds, etc. (by sample or description).
Hide, Skin, etc. Auction (Mincing Lane)	(*a*) Anning & Cobb (*b*) Chadwick and Hollebone. (*c*) Culverwell, Brooks and Co. (*d*) Dyster, Nalder and Co. (*e*) Flack, Chandler and Co. (*f*) Goad, Rigg & Co.	Usually Thurs. or Fri. on dates fixed annually	Auction sales of foreign & colonial hides, leather, skins, furs, horns, bones, etc.
Wool Exchange 600 *c*	Associated London Selling Wool Brokers, Coleman Street, E.C.	Series of 6 sales per annum on advertised dates.	Auction sales of wool (chiefly colonial and foreign).
Deptford			
Market 2000 *u*	Southern Rly. Co. Lessees: London Markets, Ltd., 111, Moorgate, E.C.2	Daily ..	General retail produce.
Fulham			
Market Hall 3667 *c*	Fulham Market Hall Ltd., Harwood Road, S.W.	Daily ..	General retail produce.
Greenwich			
Market 1788 *c*	Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty as Trustees for Greenwich Hospital	Daily (chiefly Tues., Thurs. and Sat.)	Fruit and veg.
Hammersmith			
Shepherds Bush Market 2905 *c* 5050 *u*	Metropolitan and Gt. Western Rlys., Baker Street Stn., N.W.1	Daily ..	General retail produce.
Islington			
Metropolitan Cattle Market 6986 *c* (*Public Slaughterhouse* 64125 *u*)	Corpn. of London ..	Mon., Thurs Tues., Fri.	Fat cattle & sheep; horses. General retail produce.

Market and Area in sq. yds.	Name of Occupier (*i.e.*, owner or lessee) of Market	Market Days.	Character of Market.
St. Pancras			
Euston Market 2716 *c*	Euston Markets, Ltd. Euston Road. N.W.1	Daily ..	General retail produce.
King's Cross Potato Depot 18000 *c*	L. & N. E. Rly, Co.	Daily ..	Vegetables (chiefly potatoes).
Somers Town Potato Depot 4900 *c*	L.M. & S. Rly., Co.	Daily ..	Fruit and vegetables (chiefly potatoes).
Southwark			
Borough Market 14520 *c* 2420 *u*	Borough Market Trustees	Daily ..	Fruit and veg., also dairy produce, eggs and poultry.
London Egg Exchange 278 *c*	London Egg Exchange, Ltd., 24, Southwark Street, S.E.1	Mon. ..	Eggs (chiefly), butter, cheese and margarine, chiefly imported (by description).
London Provision Exchange 525 *c*	London Provision Exchange Ltd., Hibernia Chambers, London Bridge, S.E.1	Daily ..	Butter, cheese, bacon, hams, lard and canned goods; chiefly imported (by description).
Stepney			
Spitalfields Market 25000 *c*	Corpn. of London ..	Daily ..	Fruit and veg.
Fruit Exchange 6000 *c*	,,	Mon., Wed., Fri. ..	Auction sales of fruit (chiefly imported) and onions (by sample).
Wandsworth			
Blunt's Market 300 *c*	G. Blunt, Mitcham Road, S.W.	Daily ..	General retail produce.
Streatham Market Hall 80 *c*	—	Daily ..	Retail produce.
Tooting Market Hall 936 *c* 430 *u*	—	Daily ..	General retail produce.
Westminster			
Covent Garden Market 20172 *c* 7640 *u*	Covent Garden Properties Co., Ltd.	Daily ..	Auction and private treaty sales of fruit, veg. and flowers.
Woolwich			
Market 4600 *u*	Woolwich Borough Council	Daily ..	General retail produce.
Eltham Market 780 *u*	,,	,,	General retail produce.

APPENDIX II.

List of Street Markets in the London County Council Area.

Battersea:

High Street.
Northcote Road.

Bermondsey:

Albion Street.
Bermondsey Street.
Lower Road.
Southwark Park Road.
Tower Bridge Road.

Bethnal Green:

Bethnal Green Road.
Brick Lane, and side streets.
Green Street.
Hare Street } Sunday
Virginia Road } mornings.

Camberwell:

Atwell Road.
Choumert Road.
Hardcastle Street.
North Cross Road.
Peckham Rye.
Triangle, Rye Lane.
Waterloo Street.

Chelsea:

Draycott Avenue.
King's Road.

Deptford:

Douglas Street, High Street.
Hatcham Park Road, New Cross Road.
Reginald Road, High Street.

Finsbury:

Chapel Street.
Exmouth Street.
Farringdon Road.
White Conduit Street.
Whitecross Street.

Fulham:

Munster Road.
North End Road.

Greenwich:

Earlswood Street, Trafalgar Road.
Tyler Street, Trafalgar Road.

Hackney:

Bradbury Street.
Chatsworth Road, and side streets.
Garnham Street.
Kingsland Road.
London Fields (and off-streets).
Ridley Road.
Well Street, and side streets.
Wick Road.

Hammersmith:

Bradmore Lane.
Norland Road, Shepherd's Bush.
Railway Approach, Shepherd's Bush.

Hampstead:

Netherwood Street.

Holborn:

Leather Lane.
Little Earl Street.

Kensington:

Golborne Road.
Portobello Road.

Islington:

Baron Street.
Caledonian Market.

Lambeth:

Brixton Road.
Lambeth Walk.
Lower Marsh.
New Cut.
Pope's Road.
Station Road, Brixton.
Wilcox Road.

Lewisham:

Lewisham Market, Lewisham High Street.
Off Springfield Park Crescent.

Poplar:

Chrisp Street (and off-streets).
Devon's Road.
Roman Road.

St. Marylebone:

Bell Street.
Blandford Street.
Church Street.
Great Titchfield Street.

St. Pancras:

Chalton Street.
King Street.
Queen's Crescent.
Seaton Street.
Wellington Street.

Shoreditch:

Hoxton Street.
London Fields.
Nile Street.

Southwark:

East Street.
Westmoreland Road.
Draper Street.

Stepney:

Bow Common Lane.
Burdett Road (off-streets).
Burslem Street.
Cambridge Road.
Cobb Street.
Goulston Street.
Hessel Street and Hessel Street Market.

Stepney—*continued.*

Hope Street (and off-streets).
Leyden Street.
Middlesex Street.
Mile End Road.
Old Castle Street.
Salmon Lane.
Watney Street (and off-streets).
Wentworth Street and side streets.
Whitechapel Road.
White Horse Street (and off-streets).

Wandsworth:

Hildreth Street, Balham.

Westminster:

Berwick Street.
Little Pulteney Street.
Lupus Street.
Peter Street.
Pimlico Road.
Rupert Street.
Strutton Ground.
Tachbrook Street.
Warwick Street.

Woolwich:

Archery Road Market, Eltham High Street.
Beresford Square.

Markets and Fairs

in

England and Wales

PART VII: FINAL REVIEW

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MARKETS AND FAIRS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, PART VII.—FINAL REVIEW.

INTRODUCTION.

This Report is the last of the series of Reports on the markets and fairs of England and Wales. These Reports are based on a comprehensive survey which has been undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in connection with its investigations into the marketing of agricultural produce. The need for the survey was emphasised by the Linlithgow Committee in its final Report.*

Part I of the series was a general review of market conditions throughout the country, dealing with such subjects as market rights, market administration, charges and finance, market construction and market practice generally. Parts II to IV, published as Economic Series Nos. 14, 19 and 23, and Parts V and VI, published in this volume, reviewed in detail the markets and fairs of the Midland, Northern, and Eastern and Southern Counties, Wales and London, respectively.

This Report (Part VII) reviews the Introductory Report (Economic Series No. 13) in the light of the detailed investigations which have since been made of market conditions throughout the country.

(I) MARKET RIGHTS AND CONTROL.

The principle that there should be some form of public control over the establishment of markets and over the carrying on of markets after they are established is sound. Markets are essentially a public service; it has been recognised from the earliest days of markets that the owner of a market had public functions to perform, failure in which could be visited by forfeiture of his franchise. At the present day, it is important that the ownership of markets should rest with bodies who are susceptible to public opinion, and, once this is secured, it is desirable that unreasonable competition between markets should be prevented.

At present, however, the system under which markets exist is haphazard. The process of development of markets was outlined in Part I of this survey (pages 5–14). It may generally be said that this process has in the past had no relation to the organisation of a system of markets adapted to the needs of agriculture. Two main types of markets may be distinguished, those based on some legal title—Charter or statutory right—and those which have no real legal title, which include a large proportion of

* Com. 2008|1924.

the privately owned auction marts. Many of the markets based on legal title, while they may at the date they were established have filled an economic need, often fail under modern conditions to promote the efficient marketing of agricultural produce. In most cases, the motive underlying the establishment and working of the unauthorised privately owned markets has been the financial profit of the owner. (See later, page 198).

It is still possible for a new market to be established under Charter, but, in fact, this method of setting up markets is extremely rare at the present day. So far as new markets are established on a lawful footing, they are commonly set up by local authorities in virtue of the Public Health Acts (1875 and 1908) or, occasionally, of local Acts. In practice, therefore, so far as the general law is concerned, the only effective control over the establishment of new legal markets is that exercised by the Minister of Health as the authority for sanctioning loans or for assenting to the use by a Rural District Council of the Public Health Act, 1908, if application is made to him. So far as it goes, this power could no doubt be used to limit the establishment of new markets in unsuitable places, or in areas which were already adequately supplied, but if the proposed new market were not within the Common Law distance of 7 miles from an existing market, there would be manifest difficulties in the way of his refusing assent to the proposals of a local authority merely on the ground, for example, that the market proposed to be established could not be considered necessary in view of modern developments in transport which have enlarged the drawing area of neighbouring markets.

Excessive competition, however, may arise not so much from markets which have a formal legal existence as from the establishment of new auction marts or other privately owned "markets" which enjoy no legal protection but are not interfered with, either because they are not near enough to infringe an existing market franchise, or because the owners of an existing franchise may not have thought it worth while to test their legality in judicial proceedings.

A case seems to be made out both for increased control of legally established markets, so as to reduce (it may be gradually) wasteful competition, and for the control of the indiscriminate organisation of auction marts or other "markets" which are not markets in law, by some authority other than those presumed under the existing law to have a financial interest in preventing the infringement of existing market franchises.

Where a market has been established under Charter, the terms of the Charter may be unsuitable for modern requirements. For example, the Charter may prescribe a market-day which no longer corresponds to the needs of the community or, less often, may require the market to be held in a particular place which is unsuitable. While there is no reason in law why such matters should not be remedied by obtaining a fresh grant of a new or amended Charter, in practice this is seldom done. Another course

which is available, where the owner of a Charter market is a local authority, is to take formal steps for establishing a statutory market in virtue of the incorporation with the Public Health Act, 1875, of the Markets and Fairs Clauses Act, 1847, in which case, the Charter market merges in the statutory market and it becomes possible for the local authority, by its own by-laws, to change the market-day and, if necessary, the situation of the market, subject to certain legal restrictions which need not be set out here. Again, however, this step is comparatively seldom taken, and it might be worth while for local authorities who are market owners to consider it afresh. In this connection, a steady tendency may be recorded on the part of the local authorities owning markets, established not by Charter but under special Acts, to bring them instead under the powers of the Public Health Acts, which are much more convenient and flexible than most of the market Acts passed in the first half of the 19th century.

Where a market legally established is a Charter market or a statutory market, a clear defect in the existing powers is that the owner is unable to limit the number of auctions which may take place within the market limits. An auction is virtually a market in itself, and it appears just as desirable to restrict the number of auctions in a market as of markets in the full sense. The general position is that, by the common law, a person desirous of selling animals or goods may employ any lawful mode of sale, including sale by auction. In some markets, practical inconvenience has been reduced by the letting of space, and particularly by the letting of sale-rings, to certain auctioneers (this is within the powers of the market authority), and also, where the powers of the Public Health Act have been applied, by the making of by-laws—which there is power to make so long as they are framed to meet general convenience and not to give protection to the market owners or tenants—putting restrictions upon auction sales; but all such devices are subject to the over-ruling principle of the common law that freedom of trade in the market must not be infringed. If it were possible by some amendment of the law to give market authorities, or some central authority acting, it may be, through regional authorities* dealing with markets, power to restrict the number of auction sales, whether within legally established markets or in separately existing auction marts, much wasteful competition would be eliminated and funds would be set free for the improvement of market accommodation.

On the other hand, in places where a market authority, either through inertia or through lack of means, has not provided adequate accommodation, particularly for the sale of livestock, there might be considerable advantage if power were given directly to some central authority, or indirectly to regional authorities such as those referred to above, to render auction marts legitimate even

* Economic Series No. 13, page 59.

within the territorial limits of a franchise and without the conse of the market authority. The latter would then be driven, if had funds available, to improve its own accommodation alternatively, if it did not do so, the franchise would cease to a direct obstacle to the provision of proper accommodation private means. Cases have actually occurred where a mark authority, unable or unwilling itself to provide adequate acco modation, has given or offered to give licence to a private pers or body to erect a mart within the territorial limits of the franchi In such cases, however, the difficulty met with is the impossibili of guaranteeing freedom from competition to the owners of t private mart owing to the necessity for the provision by the mark authority of facilities for all and sundry to sell, whether auction or otherwise. This difficulty has been known to sufficient to deter private individuals from taking advantage the licence offered them.

In view of the inadequacy of existing market accommodation many towns, it is a defect in the powers of many public authorit that they are unable to provide for the accumulation, out of mark profits, of a fund for the improvement or extension of their marke It was pointed out in Part I of this Series † that, under the Municij Corporation Act, 1882, all boroughs are bound to pay profits arisi from their markets into the borough funds, while the Public Heal Acts require similar action in the case of authorities holding mark pursuant to them. Amendment of these Acts to remove tl disability would appear to be desirable.

(II) MARKET CHARGES.*

In the types of market charge in use, particularly in co suming centres, a general tendency may be noted in wholes produce markets to substitute, for tolls on produce sold, fix rents for space occupied. This tendency is a natural sequel the change which has taken place in the type of trader using t markets. Originally, markets were used almost entirely producers who came to the markets to sell their own goods; to on the produce sold were then the most appropriate form of char Later, middlemen began to establish themselves permanently markets, and, in consuming centres, business in wholesale marke and in many retail markets is nowadays carried on mainly traders who occupy permanent stands. For traders of this typ fixed rents for space occupied are a much more convenient form charge than tolls, which cause considerable inconvenience collection both to market owners and market users. It is st common, however, in markets where a direct trade is carried by producers, for tolls to be charged on goods sold by produce or for a charge to be made on each loaded vehicle brought to t

* *See also* Economic Series No. 13, Chapter II.

† Economic Series No. 13.

market. Tolls are practically universal in legally constituted livestock markets, except where they have been commuted by auctioneers for an annual lump-sum payment.

While the agitation which is sometimes raised against market charges on the score of their magnitude may frequently be out of proportion to the economic burden imposed, it should be borne in mind that, when prices are low and production profits are small, increases in market tolls may not unnaturally give rise to considerable irritation. So long as tolls remain, it is essential, therefore, that some system, such as exists at present, of public control over these charges should continue. The necessity for obtaining the consent of the Ministry of Health, which consults with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, to any increase in tolls in markets established under the Public Health Acts, should give agriculturists a feeling of confidence that tolls will not be unreasonably increased against them. In other legally constituted markets—i.e., markets established by Charter or special local Acts, the tolls chargeable are usually limited by those Charters or Acts and the limits can only be varied by the granting of new Charters or by fresh legislation.

The question of what constitutes a fair level of market charges in publicly owned markets is, of course, a vexed one. The contention of those using the markets for selling purposes, whether tenants of stalls or warehouses, or producers who sell through the markets, is that charges should not be so high as to yield more than a normal return on the capital value of the market; publicly owned markets, it is claimed, should not be regarded as institutions expected to earn profits which may go to relieve the rates. On the other hand, public authorities owning markets may naturally be disposed to operate them primarily in the interests of their ratepayers and to aim at securing the maximum profit on the market undertakings.

A public authority, however, possessing a market franchise which confers on the possessor the exclusive right to hold a market within a certain radius, cannot justly claim the right to conduct the market primarily in the interests of its ratepayers. Its position of monopoly makes such an authority responsible for providing adequate market accommodation at a reasonable cost for all who require it, seeing that market users are precluded from finding better and cheaper facilities elsewhere within the area over which the franchise extends. Where market charges are so high that the market authority is known to be securing a high rate of profit, and where it can thus be reasonably claimed that cheaper facilities could be provided by private enterprise, given freedom from the restriction imposed by the Charter, there would appear to be a reasonable claim for a reduction of charges.

In any event, the maintenance of high market charges may not necessarily be in the best interests of the town to which the market belongs. In produce markets, the lower the stand rents the more

cheaply can market traders sell, with consequent benefit to tl town's population as consumers; in all cases, lower tolls tend attract producers from the countryside to the town as a mark centre, to the benefit of the local shopkeepers—an importa consideration in many small towns possessing livestock marke Low stand rents in produce markets may, on the other han damage the trade of local shopkeepers by giving market tenan the advantage of lower working expenses. Further, if, as is tl case in many towns, stand rents are not only very low but spa in the market is insufficient to accommodate all who apply for i the market traders may be said to enjoy an unfair monopoly cheap business premises.

The lack of uniformity in market charges—as regards not on rents and tolls but porterage and other charges—throughout tl country, together with the inability of market authorities, in mar cases, owing to the terms of their franchise, to regulate the markets in the manner best suited to the economic needs of tl day, adds force to the suggestion that some form of external contr over markets is desirable—in this instance, not only to introdu greater elasticity into their administration, but also some degr of standardisation into their working.

(III) WHOLESALE PRODUCE MARKETS.

Two types of wholesale produce market may be distinguish —markets in producing areas, used largely by producers f selling their own goods to country wholesalers (dealers) who subs quently "export" them to consuming centres, and markets consuming centres in which the traders are either middlemen local producers selling their own goods for consumption in tl district. The general statements already made* as to the ma physical requirements of large wholesale produce markets in co suming centres can be substantially confirmed from the experien gained as this survey has progressed. The private-treaty marke in producing areas may, on the whole, be said to be declining importance, though, in certain areas—e.g., Devonshire, Cornwa and Wales—they still fulfil a useful function. There is a tendenc which may become more marked with the development of tl process of grading agricultural produce by wholesalers (wheth private individuals or producers' organisations) and of farm-t farm collection by motor transport, for country markets to side-tracked and for the produce to be delivered direct to packin stations, whence graded supplies are dispatched in bulk to co suming centres. These producers' markets seem destined, ther fore, to become more and more confined to the supply of loc needs.

* Economic Series No. 13, pages 34–36.

(IV) LIVESTOCK MARKETS.*

Small Markets.—Throughout the country, the general practice of farmers selling livestock through markets is to make use of a market close at hand. As was pointed out in Part I of this survey, this implies the existence of a network of small or medium-sized markets at comparatively short distances apart. The majority of livestock markets all over the country are, in fact, of this type. There are in England and Wales approximately 1,008 livestock markets, and, in approximately 470 of the centres in which livestock markets are held, the average annual number of stock of all kinds passing through the markets is less than 10,000. The principal disadvantages of small livestock markets, as has been repeatedly emphasised throughout this series of reports, are, first, the likelihood of less freedom of competition due to the comparatively small number of buyers, and, secondly, the sensitiveness of the small market to comparatively minor variations in the numbers of stock on offer and the number of buyers present. A further disadvantage likely to attend the small market is the poorness of transport facilities, due to the fact that the number of stock moved on each market day may not call forth the provision of a good railway service or of motor haulage by private contractors. Accommodation for stock in the small market, again, is likely to be poor owing to the revenue from the market being insufficient to enable its owner to provide adequate facilities.

The mere fact that the average turnover of a market is small, however, does not necessarily justify the conclusion that the market is superfluous. The number and position of markets essential to each district are largely influenced by geographical conditions and means of communication. In parts of Wales, Devonshire and Cornwall, and the north-west of England, for instance, many markets which are comparatively small fulfil an essential function owing to the difficulty in those districts of transporting stock long distances to markets. Seasonal fluctuations in trade, again, may result in markets, which during a year have a relatively small turnover, becoming at certain seasons important centres with large entries of stock. The type of trade handled also has a bearing on the question whether a market is or is not redundant. Those markets engaged in purely local trade, such as the supply of cows, store sheep or store pigs by farmers to other farmers in their locality, or the supply of fat stock for local consumption, do not need the large turnover which is desirable for efficient working in an " export " market, which has to attract buyers from a distance.

A large proportion of the small livestock marts have been established by auctioneers for their private profit or as a means of keeping in touch with farmers for the purpose of securing farm

* *See also* Economic Series No. 20, pages 69–75.

sales and local valuations, and this process has been stimulated l competition between rival auctioneers.

Farmers' representatives, in negotiation with auctioneers each district, might do much to secure the elimination of superfluo marts, at any rate in districts—of which there are many—whe single firms of auctioneers own a number of small marts. A sugge tion that some regional body should be set up in each district organise the rural markets with a view to the elimination of sma economically and financially unsound markets, was referred to Part I of this series of reports.*

Motor Transport.—Motor transport is widely used in mo parts of the country for transporting livestock, but there is st much room for further development all over the country. Tl use of motor transport for stock is least common in the hilli districts—e.g., Wales, Devon and Cornwall—and, at least in tl two latter counties, lack of it appears to be associated with super-abundance of small markets. The use of motor transport f taking livestock to market is bound to accelerate the process substitution of the large for the small mart. The labour involv in driving stock from the farm to a railway station, trucking a driving from station to market on arrival, combined with tl comparative slowness of rail transport over short distances, sufficient to deter most farmers from sending livestock away to large market in the absence of any means of transport other th rail.

Planning.—The accommodation requirements of a good liv stock market were outlined in Part I of this survey (pages 53–5 The survey has shown that, generally in the North and to a le extent in the Midlands and the East, the larger markets ful these requirements reasonably well. In the South and in Wal however, there are comparatively few well laid-out large marke and all over the country the small marts are on the whole inad quately equipped. The principal defects are lack of cover for cow calves and fat cattle, bad planning from the point of view of rap movement of stock into and out of sale-rings, and, in a number important marts, lack of space. The number of street livesto markets remaining is remarkably high.

Market Intelligence.—One important function of a market to establish prices throughout a district as a basis for priva dealing. In the marketing of agricultural produce, buyers a generally better informed of the state of the market than produce In order, therefore, that the markets may satisfactorily perfor their function, an accurate system of market reporting is essenti At present, prices at some 34 livestock markets in England a 5 in Wales are reported in the Ministry of Agriculture's Week Agricultural Market Report. The defects of most market pri

* Economic Series No. 13, page 59.

quotations are the lack of definition of grades or age groups for stock, the practice of quoting top and bottom prices rather than averages, and the necessity for basing quotations on estimated rather than actual weights for fat stock other than cattle, and for all store stock, owing to the general practice of weighing only fat cattle for sale in markets. The advantages of weighing stock before sale have been pointed out in previous reports in the Economic Series* and were emphasised by the Linlithgow Committee in its Third Interim Report.† Farmers stand to gain most by the practice. Its adoption for stock of other kinds than fat cattle would probably be secured if farmers collectively demanded it. The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries has recently arranged for the broadcasting of prices realised in certain markets for fat cattle of defined weight and quality.

Notification of Entries.—The desirability of a system of prior notification of entries of stock in organised marts by farmers was emphasised in the Report on the Marketing of Cattle and Beef.‡ Investigation of market practice all over the country has shown the small proportion of markets in which such a system exists. If entries were generally notified in time for a catalogue to be prepared by the auctioneer for circulation to buyers showing the numbers of stock expected on the following market day, the bad effect of week-to-week fluctuations in entries, particularly at the smaller markets, would be mitigated.

(V) PUBLIC ABATTOIRS.

Throughout the country, there is a lack of up-to-date public slaughtering facilities. The Linlithgow Committee, in 1923, drew attention to the need for a considerable extension of public abattoirs.§ Much has been done since that date, but a number of towns of over 100,000 inhabitants still have no public abattoir, while few of the existing public abattoirs are planned and equipped on modern lines. The way in which they have developed in this country is outlined in the Report on the Marketing of Cattle and Beef.¶ As is there pointed out,‖ improvement in these facilities is urgently needed, both on public health and economic grounds. A number of local authorities are known to be considering the construction or extension of abattoirs, but some are deterred by the expense. It was explained in the Report referred to that much of the expenditure usually incurred in erecting public abattoirs might be saved by planning them on the lines of modern meat works, and by some form of control over the flow of stock

* Economic Series No. 12, pages 75–77; Economic Series No. 13, pages 45–46; and Economic Series No. 20, pages 73–75.

† Cmd. 1927/1923, pages 23–27.

‡ Economic Series No. 20, pages 71–72.

§ Cmd. 1927/1923, pages 43–46.

¶ Economic Series No. 20, pages 90 and 91.

‖ op. cit. No. 20, pages 89 and 90.

through the abattoir, such as has been carried out, for example by the municipality of Adelaide, South Australia.* It may be added that the building of public abattoirs, provided they can be shown to be necessary in the interests of public health, can be aided by grants from State funds through the Unemployment Grants Committee, operating under Part II of the Development (Loan Guarantee and Grants) Act, 1929. This Act empowers the Minister of Labour until 1932, with the approval of the Treasury, to make grants toward any expenditure for carrying out works of public utility that are calculated to promote employment, on condition that it appears likely that the works would not be proceeded with in the near future unless the grant were made.

Markets Division,
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.
January, 1930.

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* Economic Series No. 20, pages 91–95.