

AUSTRALIA STEPS UP MEAT FOR BRITAIN

In the rich pasture lands of Australia - hundreds of miles from the southern cities - spring brings round-up time for thousands of cattle. With Britain ever more dependent for food supplies on her dominions, Australia mechanizes her overlanders so that not one pound of meat is wasted by forcing the animals on long journeys across the dry and desolate country.

The modern overlanders make the journey (that two years ago took 16 days) in 14 hours. A hundred cattle at a time are transported in huge two hundred horse-power trucks - each one hauling three or four trailers. Yet this speeding up of the annual round-up is only part of the dominion's contribution in maintaining the life line to the mother country. Australia is the only nation in the Empire apart from Britain still enforcing war-time rationing. Despite ample supplies for her own use she strictly observes one meatless day a week. Nearly a third of her total meat production is sent to this country. In 1947, we received four million pounds worth of beef - by Mr. Strachey's reckoning enough for nearly eighty million steaks. This is journey's end for the trucks - hundreds of miles by rail to Adelaide lie ahead. After that comes the ocean trip to Britain, to keep a date with you for your Sunday dinner.