

ERADICATION OF MANGE IN ALBERTA AND SASKATCHEWAN

Cattle Affected with Bovine Scabies are to be Further Quarantined under Vigorous Campaign

GOVERNMENT ACTION

Live stock in Canada have been for many years, and are now when compared with live stock in other countries, remarkably free from diseases of all kinds, says a statement by the Department of Agriculture. Due to importations of cattle from the republic to the south of us, however, some years ago, there is to be found in south-western Saskatchewan and in the southern part of Alberta a number of cattle affected with bovine scabies, or cattle mange. The principal areas where this disease is found have been quarantined for some time, and cattle shipped out must submit to being dipped in order to destroy the parasite before being allowed to go forward to points outside the mange area. In spite of all regulations, however, the disease has not been decreasing as rapidly as might have been hoped for for some little time now.

Some few days ago a large delegation of stockmen and Government officials from Saskatchewan and Alberta waited on the Minister of Agriculture urging that if at all possible, an extraordinary effort be made this year to reduce materially that district known as the mange area and to eliminate the infection from all other districts. With a view to formulating a policy that might be expected, when carried out, to have the so-much-desired result, the Minister named a committee to discuss the situation and report thereon. The committee consisted of Dr. J. C. Rutherford, Railway Commissioner, who was for many years Veterinary Director-General for Canada, and who has just recently left Alberta, where he spent five or six years in connection with the Canadian Pacific railway, and where he had so much to do with the cattle business of that province; Dr. F. S. Tolmie, M.P. for Victoria, who has had wide experience in connection with the control of live stock diseases of various kinds, and who succeeded in quickly stamping out glanders in British Columbia, as well as an outbreak of rabies on Victoria Island, while he was employed with the Health of Animals Branch in the Federal Department of Agriculture. The live stock men were represented on this committee by Mr. Mayland, a Calgary stockyards man of wide experience in live stock matters in the province of Alberta and the owner of extensive herds; Mr. George Lane, no doubt the best-known horse and cattle man in the West; Mr. Shaw, M.P. for Macleod; and Dr. F. Torrance, Veterinary Director-General for the Federal Department of Agriculture.

This committee outlined a policy and made recommendations which,

if followed, as they will be, very closely, should, it is anticipated, have the effect of very materially reducing the disease in the affected provinces this year, and will, it is hoped, result in the practical eradication of the parasite in Canada in a short time. The principal of these recommendations were:—

1. That the western boundary of the mange area be moved to a line starting on the International Boundary between ranges 28 and 29 west of the 4th meridian, running north to the southwest corner of the Pegan reserve, along the south and east sides of the reserve, then west along the north side of the reserve to a line between ranges 27 and 28, thence north to the line between townships 14 and 15, then west to the 5th meridian, then north along the meridian to the line between townships 19 and 20, then west to the line between ranges 1 and 2 west 5th, then north to line between townships 30 and 31, then east to Red Deer river, and after that as at present. To permit shipments of cattle from the free area lying west of the mange area, Crossfield, Okotoks, High River, Cayley, and Claresholm are declared in the free area, cattle from the affected area are not allowed to be shipped from these points.

2. That a most vigorous campaign of dipping and enforcing of regulations be undertaken.

3. That meetings be held in the mange area to impress upon stock owners the necessity for observing all regulations affecting mange.

4. That the penalties for the violation of regulations be very materially increased.

CONTRACTS AWARDED BY ORDER IN COUNCIL

Additions to Bridges, Breakwater and Public Buildings

The Department of Public Works announces the following contracts awarded under Orders in Council:—

North Timiskaming, Que.—Construction of superstructure for bridge over Quinze river. Contractors: The Hamilton Bridge Works Company, Limited, of Hamilton, at \$82,000. Order in Council dated May 26, 1919.

North Wiltshire, P.E.I.—Construction of power house and laundry at Dalton Sanatorium. Contractors: Phillips & Mutch, of Charlottetown, at \$68,250. Order in Council dated May 26, 1919.

Ottawa.—Construction and erection of glazed partitions, panelling, etc., in Hunter building. Contractors: Bate, McMahon & Co., of Ottawa, at \$12,534. Order in Council dated May 26, 1919.

Sandy Cove, N.S.—Construction of reinforcing block to breakwater. Contractors: J. E. Bigelow & Son, of Canning, N.S., at \$4,900. Order in Council dated May 26, 1919.

Charters of Incorporation.

The number of companies incorporated under the Companies Act during the fiscal year 1917-18 was 574, with a total capitalization of \$335,982,400, and the number of existing companies to which supplementary letters patent were issued was 77, of which 41 increased their capital stock \$69,321,400 and four decreased their capital stock by \$1,884,300. A total of 651 charters and supplementary charters were issued during the year; this is a decrease of 32 as compared with the previous year. The total capitalization of new companies and the increased capital of existing companies amounted to \$403,419,500.

Canadian Prisoners of War.

The total number of Canadians captured as prisoners of war on the western front was 236 officers and 3,511 other ranks. Of these, 28 officers and 273 other ranks died in captivity; 1 officer and 99 other ranks escaped. The figures are from the report of the Overseas Minister of Militia.

HORSES RECEIVE SAME CONSIDERATION AS MEN WHEN CASUALTIES

Report shows Efficiency of Veterinary Services with Canadian Corps in Reducing Wastage of Animals

DID WONDERFUL WORK

The Veterinary Services were highly organized, like all other units of the Canadian Corps, and were exceedingly efficient, as stated in the report of the Overseas Minister of Militia. The method of caring for horses wounded in action was similar to the way in which wounded soldiers were looked after. Motor ambulances conveyed horses who were casualties to dressing stations maintained by Mobile Veterinary Sections, and after the animals had received first aid they passed on down the line to base hospitals. This care saved the lives of many valuable animals.

MOBILE VETERINARY SECTIONS.

"There are four Mobile Veterinary Sections of Canadian Corps, one as a unit of each full division. These sections, as the name indicates, are of a mobile nature, and act as the first channel of evacuation in the field. Sick and wounded animals are received into these sections, given first-aid treatment when necessary, and passed on down the line on their way to base hospitals," it is stated in the report. "The personnel of a Mobile Veterinary Section consists of one officer and nineteen other ranks; and, particularly during active operations, this officer and his n.c.o.'s and men have arduous duties. During operations collecting posts are thrown out, into which severely wounded animals are received and conveyed by ambulance to the Mobile Veterinary Section."

VETERINARY EVACUATING STATION.

"The Veterinary Evacuating Station of Canadian Corps is a unit with an establishment of one officer and thirty-eight other ranks," the report continues. "The function of this unit is that of a casualty clearing station for the Mobile Veterinary Sections. All animals passing through the Mobile Veterinary Sections are evacuated to the Veterinary Evacuating Station, and through the V.E.S. are evacuated to the base for treatment. At the V.E. motor horse ambulances are constantly in readiness to collect animals that cannot be moved on foot."

Referring to the daily professional activities of veterinary officers, the report says: "They must be constantly alive to the general condition of all animals under their charge, with a view to determining causes of wastage. They must scrupulously guard against possible outbreaks of contagious and infectious diseases, and must ensure that feeding, watering, grooming, shoeing, etc., are given the most careful attention. Sanitary horse and wagon lines must be maintained under any and all conditions of weather and active operations."

MEASURES TO CONTROL TOBACCO DISEASE

Course Recommended in Cases of Plants Infected

An Experimental Farms Note, issued by the Department of Agriculture, makes the following suggestions for dealing with the mosaic disease of tobacco plants:—

The mosaic disease of tobacco, more commonly known as "calico," "mottle top," and various other local names by the growers, occurs in almost all countries where tobacco is grown. The diseased plants can be detected by their peculiar mosaiced or mottled

appearance, the leaves being well covered with irregularly shaped, light and dark green spots. The leaves are sometimes distorted and the surface uneven and puckered, due to more rapid growth of the dark green areas. Diseased plants have a tendency to ripen prematurely, the leaves often disintegrating and going to pieces before harvest time. Mosaiced plants are also very susceptible to attack by the so-called "rusts" of tobacco. When plants become diseased in early stages of growth, the yield is decidedly reduced, besides the texture and elasticity of the leaf is practically destroyed.

AN INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Since no specific organism has been definitely proven as the cause of the trouble, the mosaic of tobacco is still classed as a physiological disease. The disease, however, is transmissible from diseased to healthy plants by means of the sap that contains the virus or infectious principle of the disease. In this way it is widely distributed in the field from diseased to healthy plants by the operations of topping and suckering. This is evident from the greatly increased number of diseased plants at harvest time. Observations and counts that have been made in the field for the past few years shortly before both topping and harvest, show that the number of diseased plants at cutting time are about ten times as great as just previous to topping.

All diseased plants, as soon as noticed, should be pulled up and removed from the field. The persons pulling the plants should thoroughly wash their hands with soap and water before working with healthy plants. Experiments conducted for the past three years along this line, have materially reduced the number of diseased plants at harvest on such plots as compared with the same on plots where plants were not removed.

Avoid the use of decoctions made from refuse tobacco, also old tobacco stalks and stems for watering the seedlings in the beds as such may contain the virus of the mosaic disease.

Do not transplant mosaiced seedlings from the bed to the field. It is rather difficult to detect the diseased seedlings in the bed at such an early stage of growth, but careful scrutiny by the persons pulling the plants will reduce the number of mosaiced seedlings transplanted. Disease inspections in the field point strongly to much trouble being due to the transplanting of mosaiced seedlings. If mosaiced seedlings are pulled from the beds, healthy seedlings are also infected at the same time, thus producing a rather high percentage of diseased plants in the field.

Apparently the soil and climatic conditions have some effect on the prevalence of the disease, as observations in the field for the past three years have shown a decided difference in the amount of disease present. The disease, with a few exceptions, was much more prevalent in 1917 than in the past season of 1918.

According to all evidence at hand, the disease is not transmissible through the seed, still, mosaiced plants should not be retained for seed production.

418,000 Went Overseas.

The Canadian military forces, which consisted of a permanent force of 3,000 officers and men and an active militia of 5,615 officers and 68,991 other ranks before the war, increased during the war to about 595,441 officers and men, of whom about 418,000 officers, non-commissioned officers, and men went overseas for active service, as stated in the Canada Year Book for 1918.

British Columbia Homestead Land.

In British Columbia there are large areas of free grant land available for pre-emption in 160-acre lots. Of the total area of the province 196,674,609 acres are at the disposal of the Crown through the Provincial Government. Of this area, 180,368,624 acres are unsurveyed and unencumbered Crown lands and 2,397,978 acres are surveyed for settlement pre-emption, as stated in the Canada Year Book for 1918.

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