

I feel it is my duty to call the attention of shippers of cattle to the extreme danger of attempting to ship by United States ports. Much attention has been recently called to a cargo of cattle shipped at Portland by the "Ontario," which arrived in a diseased state in the Mersey, in the middle of February. These cattle and also the sheep which went over in the same vessel were found to be all, more or less, suffering from foot-and-mouth disease, and were all ordered to be slaughtered on landing. The fact excited attention not only in the newspaper press at the time, in London, but in the Imperial House of Commons. Having been shipped at a United States port, these animals were treated by the Imperial authorities as American, and therefore the regulations respecting the landing of cattle were not altered as regards Canada. Some surprise was, however, expressed that shipments of this kind should be allowed. And if exporters are so blind to their own interests as to persist in them, the provisions of the Canadian Contagious Diseases Animals Act of 1879, can be at least applied as regards sheep. As regards neat cattle that Act cannot apply, owing to the fact that there is no contagious disease among them in the Dominion. But as regards neat cattle it is earnestly hoped that no one connected with the cattle trade will take healthy Canadian animals to infected American ports for shipment to Europe, as such a course would be liable to endanger the whole trade.

It is probably owing to the fact of the whole of the available shipping space *via* Canadian ports being taken up, that the temptation arose to ship through American ports. It is to be remarked, however, that notwithstanding the activity of the shipping trade, the supply of animals was well kept up during the year; and this will be found to be even more decidedly the case in future; together with the fact of an improved quality of stock, arising from the demands of the market.

The absolute immunity of Canadian cattle from any contagious disease is one of the main factors in its prosperity. The immense importance of the Quarantine system exercised over animals imported for improving the breed of this country, and the critical supervision of all live stock to Europe, by a qualified Inspector at the port of shipment, demonstrates the fact of Canada's continued clean bill of health. To maintain this reputation in the interest of the producer, the Steamship companies, and the country generally, has occupied the close attention of my Department, and no measures will be left untried in the future to maintain the reputation already acquired.

Dr. McEachran, Chief Veterinary Inspector for Quebec and the Lower Provinces, states in his report that, notwithstanding the large numbers shipped, the supply has not been exhausted. He further reports that no contagious disease of any kind exists in cattle in any part of the Dominion. During the past season the live stock on board three steamers arriving at Liverpool, from Canada, were condemned by the Imperial Government Inspector there to be slaughtered, as suffering from Texan fever, but prompt action taken by the High Commissioner in London, Sir Charles Tupper, to whom this proceeding had been at once communicated by the Liverpool