

*Foot-and-mouth disease*

yards so that the actual result of that is that no livestock comes from Winnipeg into Ontario at the present moment, but that beef does come from Winnipeg into Ontario.

**Mr. Harkness:** What about the British Columbia situation?

**Mr. Gardiner:** Well, the British Columbia situation is the same in effect except that British Columbia has gone a little farther. British Columbia has taken authority, although I do not know that they have acted on it, to eliminate beef as well as cattle. However, I am not so sure that they will make that active. They can do so under their legislation, if their legislation is constitutional.

**Mr. Cruickshank:** May I ask a supplementary question? If British Columbia desires to take that action, will any objection be put in their way by the federal authority?

**Mr. Gardiner:** No, Mr. Speaker; if we follow the plan that we have in mind at the moment it will not require that we take any action.

**Mr. Charlton:** Can the minister say when actual quarantine proceedings were taken in that district first?

**Mr. Gardiner:** A week ago last Wednesday.

**Mr. Charlton:** It had gone all the way from November 26 to a week ago Wednesday.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Gardiner:** It would have gone all the way until next Christmas at least if we had not had proof that warranted us in thinking it was foot-and-mouth disease.

**Mr. White (Middlesex East):** In view of the loss of a herd in western Ontario through a tropical disease, will compensation be paid to that owner the same as with foot-and-mouth disease?

**Mr. Gardiner:** The disease in Oxford county which I think affected the herd of one individual, whose animals were destroyed and buried yesterday, puts him in this position. It is intended to so draft legislation, which will be brought before the house, as to make it possible to take care of this case along with the others.

**Mr. Harkness:** I have one other question on this matter. The minister said—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I did not want to curtail the asking of questions on this matter, because it is an important one. At this time I do not think questions should be asked which are not very important. I understand the hon. member for Calgary East (Mr.

Harkness) and the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggan (Mr. Coldwell) want to ask a question. I hope the questioning will have been completed by that time.

**Mr. Harkness:** My question is this. The minister said that the United States had not put an embargo on grain going into that country. However, I understand from the newspapers that they have stopped the shipment of grain. What I want to know is: in actual fact, are they now allowing grain to go in there, or are they actually stopping it, as has been reported?

**Mr. Gardiner:** My understanding is that they are allowing it to come in; that there has not been any order put out in the United States to stop grain. There may be some people at the boundary line who have misunderstood the order, and have stopped some shipments, but outside of that I do not know of any being stopped.

**Mr. Coldwell:** I rise simply to remind the minister that I asked him a supplementary question: was any consideration being given to compensating the packing plants, as was suggested in the newspapers? Is any consideration being given to compensating the packing house workers for the loss of wages?

**Mr. Gardiner:** Consideration is being given as to how the packing plants are to be advised to operate both inside and outside the quarantine area; but until that consideration is given I would not like to say anything further.

**Mr. Cruickshank:** I have a supplementary question. I think this is as important a question as any we shall have before the house at this session, if not more important than any other legislation. If the agricultural authorities and the legal authorities in my province of British Columbia take the stand that they do not want the importation of cattle or killed beef from Alberta and Saskatchewan, will any steps be taken to prohibit an excessive rise in prices? It may be that the Minister of Agriculture is not the minister to answer this question. I should like to direct it to whoever is responsible. It has been suggested that if the province of British Columbia does what has been mentioned, namely, prohibit the importation of cattle and beef from those areas affected into British Columbia, there may be a rise in the price of beef. Will steps be taken to see that an ample supply of beef in the hands of the packing companies now is not sold at an excessive price, thereby exploiting the public, and using as an excuse the shortage of beef because of the prohibition of imports from Alberta and Saskatchewan? I am surprised that the Minister of Fisheries

[Mr. Gardiner.]