

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

This control work, including the investigation, quarantine and free vaccination clinics, has prevented rabies from becoming established in the dog population to the point where there has not been one case of dog to dog transmission during the current outbreak. This is important as human exposure is usually through dogs.

The reservoir of rabies is established in the wild fox and, as peak fox populations are reached, the incidence of rabies rises proportionately. In order to aid in the destruction of foxes the Ontario government is supplementing various fox bounty programs. Departmental veterinarians supplement regulatory control measures with appropriate publicity and educational programs.

The Animal Contagious Diseases Act provides for the payment of compensation only when animals are ordered destroyed. This authority is provided to prevent the spread of animal diseases. The spread of rabies is dependent upon the introduction of the causative virus of the disease into the flesh of an animal, principally through biting by an infected animal. Because of this mode of transmission the spread of rabies cannot be prevented by ordering the destruction of infected or exposed cattle.

Compensation is normally paid for two classes of diseases, first, when it is necessary to destroy infected and exposed animals to stop the spread of serious animal diseases. Examples of this are foot and mouth disease and hog cholera. Second, compensation is paid in eradication programs for established diseases such as tuberculosis and brucellosis where there are adequate test procedures to identify infected animals. In order to curtail the spread and eventually eradicate such infection, these infected animals are ordered destroyed and compensation is awarded.

The nature of rabies, together with the lack of any diagnostic procedure to confirm the disease in living animals, does not support the destruction of cattle as a disease control measure.

**HARBOURS****PICTOU, N.S.—REQUEST FOR USE OF ICEBREAKER**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. H. J. Robichaud (Gloucester):** I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Has the minister or his department received any representations to send an icebreaker to clear heavy ice off Pictou harbour in order to permit the shipping of prefabricated buildings from the New Glasgow plant of Eastern Woodworkers Limited and prevent a possible slow-down in operations? If so, what action is being taken in this regard?

[Mr. Harkness.]

**Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, we received such a request, but the ice conditions in Pictou harbour are so severe that it would take two of our biggest icebreakers to perform the task. For the reason that our icebreakers are very heavily committed at the present time, we have suggested other means of moving the goods to the people concerned.

**Mr. Robichaud:** At extra cost to the company concerned.

**THE ROYAL FAMILY****REPORTED INTENTION TO PUBLISH INTIMATE ACCOUNT OF ACTIVITIES**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. D. M. Fisher (Port Arthur):** I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister related to the announcement by the *Toronto Star* that it is to publish an intimate revelation of the activities of the royal household. Has the government considered any action analogous to that taken by the crown in Britain whereby the right of a British paper to publish this particular account has been challenged in the law courts?

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister):** The answer is no.

**TRADE****RUSSIA—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT RESPECTING EXTENSION OF AGREEMENT**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Hazen Argue (Assiniboia):** I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Can the minister report the state of negotiations with the U.S.S.R. for the extension of the Soviet-Canadian wheat and trade agreement? Can the minister say whether the past quantity of approximately 15 million bushels a year may be provided for?

**Hon. Gordon Churchill (Minister of Trade and Commerce):** I thank the hon. member for giving me notice of his question. The present Canada-U.S.S.R. trade agreement, which includes a commitment by the U.S.S.R. for the purchase of a minimum of 400,000 tons of wheat from Canada each year, or approximately the 15 million bushels mentioned, expires at the end of February. Preliminary discussions between officials of both countries are currently under way in Ottawa looking to a renewal of the trade agreement. We continue to attach great importance to wheat among the commodities which we wish to export to the U.S.S.R. Although I am hopeful that a satisfactory agreement will be reached,