

Western Canada Veterinary College

in 1955-59 it was \$10,255,000 and for 1962 it was \$10,666,000. This gives a total for 1955-59 of \$823,114,000, and for 1962, \$1,107,566,000.

I would like to point out one of the important matters regarding what could happen to the value of livestock in Canada if there were an outbreak of a serious disease and how this could affect our economy. There was a fantastic drop of \$648,278,000 in livestock values in 1952 following a foot and mouth outbreak in this country. This is something that I do not believe many people fully understand and realize. Exports are essential to the well being of our livestock economy. I think we all realize that the export of livestock is one of the important and fundamental parts of the economy of this country. The cost of eradicating the 1952 outbreak of foot and mouth disease was \$1 million; this is just in respect of veterinarians' fees with regard to destroying the livestock. It is a very conservative figure, with a small "c". The loss of cash inventory in livestock for that year was \$648,278,000. The trade loss in livestock and livestock products amounted to \$100 million. The cost to the government of price support to assure livestock owners of reasonable income amounted to \$100 million. The total cost to the economy of this country in 1952 because of the outbreak of foot and mouth disease amounted to \$849,878,000.

I think we should realize that if there had been more veterinarians in this country at that time we would have achieved a tremendous saving to the country. However, I am not saying this would necessarily have been so had there been extra help at that time, because I think the veterinarians in government organizations at that time deserve a great deal of credit for the swift action they took in handling this problem.

The total slaughtering of beef and veal have increased yearly. Slaughtering of lambs are steadily decreasing, while the slaughtering of hogs vary depending upon a wide variety of conditions. I think we realize that in this country sheep raising is on the decline and we cannot compete with countries such as New Zealand and Australia. I should like to give hon. members some figures on the export of cattle in 1962. In that year we exported 17,128 pure bred cattle. This is to the United States. The total of cattle other than pure bred cattle was 15,603. The total number of cattle exported in 1962, cattle over 200 pounds, came to 448,471.

We heard a great deal about the effect of devaluation on cattle exports. It is interesting to note that 654,944 were shipped to the United States in 1958. The total shipped to all countries does not change a great deal. The difference amounts to several thousands—not a great many, actually. The value of

[Mr. Whelan.]

exports of beef and veal to the United States in 1962 was \$7,918,000. In 1961, it was \$10,005,000. Exports to all countries in 1962 amounted to \$8,603,000 and in 1961, \$10,656,000.

Mr. Nasserden: On a point of order, I know we all find these statistics interesting and we are interested in the hon. member's review of the entire agriculture industry. But this bill has to do with the establishment of a veterinary college in western Canada. If the hon. member would keep a little closer to the question his remarks would be more applicable to the problem we are dealing with at the present time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I think the point is well taken and I would ask the hon. member who has the floor to limit his remarks to the scope of the bill.

Mr. Whelan: I was merely trying to indicate to this nation the importance of the agriculture industry and what it means to our economic life. Perhaps this is not the appropriate time at which to do so.

I only wish to point out that our veterinary colleges are one of the most important ways we have of maintaining cattle exports at a high level, by ensuring that our beef reaches the high standard which has been developed over the years. I think there is a shortage of 170 veterinarians in western Canada. The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Hays) and this government have shown good faith in their attitude to this problem. I understand that Manitoba and British Columbia have accepted the fact that the college should be either in Saskatchewan or Alberta. The former minister of agriculture, the hon. member for Qu'Appelle (Mr. Hamilton) wrote that there was no justification for establishing a second animal disease laboratory in Alberta. This seems to make it more likely that the college will be located in Saskatchewan. It is recognized that this question will have to be settled by agreement between the ministers of agriculture in western Canada. We in the federal parliament can make advice and assistance available but we cannot dictate where the college should be set up.

Mr. Cameron (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): I wonder if I could ask the hon. member a question. I feel it would be most helpful if he would indicate to us whether he was speaking in favour of the bill or against it. I feel his other remarks would be more helpful if we could get that point cleared up.

Mr. Whelan: I am speaking in favour of setting up of an agricultural and veterinary college in the western provinces. I am not an expert in oratory. I am just a farmer from