

cattle from Kentucky, and therefore, no bovine animals were allowed admittance from there except under rigid and burdensome restrictions. These restrictions, maintained for nearly two years, are estimated to have caused a loss to the cattle breeders of the State of from \$10,000,000 to \$12,000,000, a loss which would have been entirely prevented if there had been authority for this Department to cause the prompt destruction of the infected herds when the plague was first discovered."

They go on to tell us here how many cattle were affected, how many were destroyed, and at what cost. They have another disease there which is called Texan fever. It does not seem to be so serious in the Texan cattle, but it is very fatal in other cattle affected by it. Other cattle take the fever from the Texan cattle, and this explains, to my mind, why we sold to the United States last year 37,000 head of cattle. We sold them because many feeders of animals were not prepared to run the risk of buying cattle that might be diseased, and they bought ours because they felt sure that they were sound. For these 37,000 head we received a little over \$13 per head, which was a very low price. We sold the raw material for which we might have found a better market. I am inclined to think that we made no profit on them at all, and it would have paid us better to keep them. But a new disease has broken out in the United States among the cattle within the last two or three years. It is known as the cornstalk disease. Professor Burrill says that it cannot be stamped out in any way except by fire. He says it is caused by a microbe which is found on the corn stalk. The cattle eat it, and die in a very short time. He says:

"The disease in the growing corn may commence at any time during the warm season, frequently after the corn 'shoots'; very often it occurs only on patches in the fields. The corn fails to grow in the healthy parts. The lower leaves become yellowish green, then yellow, then wither away. Upon close examination spots will be seen—brown, watery-looking. These spots vary in size, from mere points to those of several inches across. In such diseased parts the microscopic organism, believed to cause the trouble, can be easily found. A feature of the disease readily noticed is that the roots are affected; they die and decay in the ground; the plant is easily pushed over, or pulled up from the hold it has. If the brown spots on the leaf sheaths be closely looked at, there will be seen little collections of gelatinous-like exudation. Crush a bit of this under a microscopical cover-glass, and examine with a high power, and the living organisms, to which we ascribe the disease, can be seen in innumerable numbers. Wherever such a disease has occurred, every stock and leaf on the field must be burnt, the field ploughed and put to another crop, or, better still, seeded down. Ploughing down the corn will only make matters worse. The disease is communicated to the cattle when diseased leaves, containing these microbes, are eaten. Medical treatment, in a curative sense, is the height of absurdity in any

disease of this class, so some say; others recommend purgative doses of Glauber's salts to every member of a herd of which some have become ill. The herd must be carefully quarantined, and all the manure and litter destroyed by fire. It must be borne in mind that, if the manure from a cattle yard, where animals have had this disease, be put upon a field, ploughed in, and the field planted with corn, it is very liable to become invaded with the germ, and thus spread the disease. All such manure, and all animals which die, must be cremated—every particle burnt. No other remedy is known at present but fire, and that must be unsparingly used if the infection is to be checked.

"A farmer from Salina, Kansas, writes:—I have lost four head this winter of stalk disease. They die in from twenty-four to forty-eight hours after showing that they are sick. They groan pitifully, do not bloat, are not costive, but are somewhat laxative. They were salted the day they went on the stalk field and had free access to clean, fresh water. They were in the corn field three or four hours daily. On the fourth and fifth days one died each day. They were put on a fresh field. On the third and fourth mornings two more were down. We cannot afford to let the stalks waste, for heretofore we have nearly wintered the cattle on them. Others are losing cattle here.

"Every thing possible must be done to keep this cornstalk disease out of Canada. It has spread with wonderful rapidity the past summer in the Western States. It may now be closer than we think. Better stop corn growing for a time entirely than risk the spreading of such a scourge. Nothing yet seems to be known as to its effect in ensilage, though it is not likely that the microbe would be affected by the amount of heat generated in a silo. Careful vigilance is needed—it is the price of safety—let it be exercised. Our frontier quarantine regulations for cattle will be useless against this disease, which is carried, not by the cattle but by the corn. There will be danger in seed corn from infected districts. Forewarned is forearmed."

One of the professors says that he had fifty letters on one day upon this subject. It is evident that the disease is something new. I have mentioned the reasons which I have considered sufficient to justify me in troubling the House on this subject as I have done. As I have said, there is a desire in England to place this country on the same footing as others. Agriculture in England is depressed, as it is all over the world, and when the farmers of the United Kingdom see Canadian cattle brought in to compete with theirs they look around for relief. As this report says:—

"I am extremely pleased to see that, with the necessarily strict regulations in force in Canada, no disease whatever has appeared there this season, particularly as there is an agitation being again started by some agricultural papers against the introduction of Canadian cattle into this country under the present system."

That is in Sir Charles Tupper's report of last year. The Government have asked for an appropriation of £150,000 this year, and last year a large amount of money was expended, the result of which is given in this report. If we are not alive and