

I think it well to say to you, in this connection, that our cattle quarantine regulations will have to be revised in the direction of increased restriction. There is a very serious question whether we can continue these transit regulations and at the same time continue to enjoy the immunity we at present possess from being placed on the scheduled list in the United Kingdom. This is the position even upon the understanding that the most vigorous observance of the present regulations is at all times maintained, and it is certain that any looseness in the observance of such would be simply fatal. I am moved to write you this in consequence of some misrepresentations which have reached the department, and to ascertain the truth of which we ordered, some days ago, Mr. John Smith, our agent at Hamilton, to make an inspection on all lines carrying cattle in transit and to report the facts to the department.

I think it well in this connection to say to you further and confidentially, at this stage, that we have asked Mr. Wright, respecting whom we had some trouble in 1883, the facts in regard to which we have on record in the department, to send in his resignation. Dr. Wright has been giving blank forms of certificate of inspection on which custom entries have been passed, without even seeing the cattle.

There is still a further point. You are aware that under an arrangement which was desired by Mr. Hickson, when these transit arrangements were first made, the department agreed with respect to collecting inspection fees, as is prescribed by our regulations in the case of other animals inspected, that your company should be exempted from paying them, and that it should instead pay the salaries of the inspectors, direct, and nothing more. Where there are many animals carried this is of course an arrangement very much in the interest of the railway. I believe that on the tariff of fees levied elsewhere for the inspection of horses, neat cattle, swine and sheep, the aggregate on all such animals would amount to a figure very much greater than the salaries you now pay direct.

There is not, however, even a thought of asking you to pay more, as there is no intention to constitute these fees a source of revenue, but you will probably be asked to deposit the amount paid monthly to the credit of the receiver general of Canada, and send the deposit vouchers to this department, we paying by official cheque the salaries of all officers acting under the direction of the department. We are about to make an arrangement with the auditor general to enable this action to be taken, and we find that the step is rendered necessary by the Dr. Wright incident.

Believe me, etc,

J. LOWE.

*Deputy Minister.*

DETROIT, 3rd March, 1890.

To the Minister of Agriculture, Ottawa.

SIR,—I am in receipt of your letter and much surprised at the contents. I am quite sure from the wording of it that you have in some way misunderstood my explanation in regard to the matter referred to, therefore I will be in Ottawa on Wednesday or Thursday, and trust that you will allow me the privilege of an interview, that I may explain the whole matter in detail, that you may be assured of the position I have always taken with the railway company in regard to the inspection of stock.

I enclose to you a copy of a letter to Mr. Stiff, in regard to attempted irregularities on the part of his employees in the transit of stock, since which date no attempt has been made to evade in any way the regulations or to take advantage of the possession of the blanks, and move the stock without immediate permission from me. The stock has been in every instance inspected as required.

Yours respectfully,

J. B. WRIGHT,

*Inspector for Department.*