

Having visited the infected district, on behalf of the owner of the imported animals, we can confirm the report. The extreme contagiousness of the disease is fully illustrated in this instance, and will explain the necessity for the rigid quarantine system enforced by us here. In the mean time, cattle shipments from Portland are stopped. The disease is now spreading in the vicinity of Portland, and will require energetic efforts to arrest it. (Mr McEachran is now in Kansas, investigating, at the request of the U. S. Government, the true state of the cattle supposed to be suffering under this dire malady.)

A. R. J. F.

April 1st 1884.

The Scourge Obtains a Foothold in the Vicinity of Portland.—Interviews with all the parties interested.—A Complete Diagnosis of the Disease, and the Precautions taken by Dr. Bailey.

Saturday, the PRESS hearing that the Foot and Mouth disease had broken out among the herds of cattle owned by James L. Peirce and James L. West of Falmouth, Samuel Rolfe of Deering, and Mr Shattuck, Superintendent of the Quarantine Ground, made a careful and as far as possible, thorough examination into the matter. As only a short time ago the same rumor prevailed, and Dr. Thayer, the United States inspector, had pronounced the disease other than the scourge now prevalent abroad, the PRESS thought probable that the rumor was only an old story revived. Such, however, did not prove to be the case, and the result of the reporter's investigations will be found below :

COLLECTOR DOW.

Collector Dow said : the steamer Ontario, of Dominion Line, arrived at this port Feb. 2nd, with a herd of 28 Hereford cattle. The government regulations are that the cattle shall be unloaded from the ship under the charge of the United States veterinary inspector, and disposed of as he directs. Dr Thayer, one of the United States cattle commissioners, and as eminent an authority as any in the country, came to Portland and examined the herd before they were removed from the vessel. Dr Thayer reported to Collector Dow that the cattle were free from contagious disease, stating he had especially examined them for the foot and mouth disease, now so prevalent in England.

Under Dr Thayer's direction the cattle were driven to the quarantine at Deering. It is not the intention that cattle shall be driven to the quarantine along the road, but Dr Thayer thought it absolutely safe to do so in face of the careful inspection to which they had been subjected. The disease develops in from three to six days after exposure, and as these cattle had been fourteen days on the steamer without developing any symptoms, the doctor deemed them entirely free from disease, and considered no danger could arise from driving them to the quarantine.

A few days after arrival at quarantine, Mr. Shattuck, the superintendent, reported to Mr. Dow symptoms of foot and mouth disease among the cattle. Dr. Thayer was at once telegraphed for, came to the city, examined, in the collector's presence at quarantine, every animal presented to him supposed to be suffering from the disease, and decided there were no symptoms apparent. Afterwards, Mr. Dow heard that Dr. Thayer then came to the city, pronounced the cattle free from the disease and authorized publication to that effect, and the statement was made in the PRESS. About the middle of last week, Mr. Shattuck expressed fears of the foot and mouth disease, and upon Thursday last, Collector Dow was notified that a yoke of oxen which followed the herd of Herefords (on the latter's way from Portland to the quarantine grounds) had been taken sick with the foot and mouth disease and that

some other cattle, which had come in contact with them, were also down with the disease. Mr. Dow went at once to the quarantine and learned from the superintendent there that the imported herd was very much improved in health, only one or two animals, at that time, showing any symptoms of the sickness, and it has since been reported that these are better. Dr. Thayer was at once telegraphed, came to Portland Saturday noon, and in connection with Dr. G. H. Bailey, the celebrated veterinary surgeon of Portland, made careful examination of the cattle on the farm of Mr. Samuel Rolfe, which cattle were supposed to have taken the disease from the imported Herefords, and they pronounced the cattle clearly infected with foot and mouth disease. They also inspected cattle of Mr West and Mr. Pierce, that were sick, and they were also pronounced suffering from the same trouble. The collector said the cases thus far were of a mild type. The disease is highly contagious. Little sores appear in the mouth, and between the toes. There is a great deal of fever. The disease develops in from three to six or eight days, and while the beasts are sick they should be carefully isolated in buildings by themselves. No hay, other than what they eat, should be left in the building with them, and their droppings should be kept apart from the other manure, and should be carefully disinfected: of course no farmer of principle would ever dispose of milk which he knew came from a sick animal. The disease is rarely fatal. If a farmer notices the disease in any of his cattle he should isolate the sick ones at once and immediately notify the town authorities.

It was introduced into the United States in 1841, from Canada, where it had been carried by diseased cattle sent from England. Apthous fever is an eruptive, highly contagious and infectious disease, affecting the mucous membrane, and the inter-digital space of such animals, as cattle, sheep, goats and pigs, and in some instances it has been transmitted to people, horses, dogs and poultry. We know no more of the causes which develop this malady, than we do of those of varioloid, or pleuropneumonia. Every cause that tends to diminish health has been invoked; but no sooner is it investigated than it is found to be impotent to deal with the disease. The acute symptoms of this disease are characterized by an eruption of vesicles, or blisters, in the mouth, and on the internal surface of the lips, and on parts of the body where the skin is thin, as on the udder and between the claws. It passes through different phases, reckoned as fever, eruption, ulceration, and desiccation. There is always an increase of temperature, the mouth being hot and inflamed, the membrane being covered with viscid mucous, which flows in stringy masses from the lips. There is grinding of the teeth, and a smacking or clicking noise, pathuomonic of the disease. The lesions of the feet are preceded by pain, manifested by restlessness, frequent lifting and shaking of the fore and hind feet, and is rapidly followed by development of vesicæ, generally between the digits, and often extending almost all round the coronet. There is considerable lameness, and the animal prefers to maintain a recumbent position. In the severer forms, too, abortion occurs, and in all cases the animals are very much reduced in condition; 10 per cent. being given as the average loss by death, when the disease is most severe. One attack of this disorder does not secure immunity from another, and from cattle who are especially affected by it, and are the most important bearers of contagion, it will spread to the human subject, and the horse. As a rule, however, the fever runs its course, without much constitutional disturbance in from eight to fifteen days, and its termination is generally favorable under good conditions of hygiene and careful nursing, though convalescence is generally slow. The contagion is both "fixed" and "volatile," according to the opinions of the best authorities, but its volatility is feeble, and it exists in its most