

Supply—Agriculture

few cases it constitutes discrimination against those farmers who are affected.

I know it is difficult to prove that it was the vaccine, but nevertheless a change of vaccine was made at that time. It seems to me that if the government are to change the vaccine, which means the very basis of the test of the cattle, and that change of vaccine means that the farmer's herd goes down when normally it would not react unfavourably, the government and not the individual farmer himself ought to bear the difference in the loss.

As I say, I regret having to raise the question again because I had hoped that before now some adjustment would have been made in connection with it. I have not been in touch with either of the parties for some considerable time but my understanding is that the government has not done anything about it. I would be glad to hear the minister say that something has been done. I do hope he will take into consideration the representations which I have now made. Neither of these people happened to be in my riding so I hope the minister will understand that I am putting forward something that is not of personal interest but rather a matter of general and public concern. For that reason I hope that the department will give consideration to it.

Mr. Blair: Mr. Chairman, last spring I referred to an item somewhat similar to that which has just been mentioned by the hon. member for Peel. I do not think the department is satisfied yet as to what caused that outbreak. Those cattle were tested about eleven months before, but the whole herd went down.

I raised certain points at that time. I have inquired into the matter deeply, and I felt at that time and I still feel that the feeding of dairy ration might have had something to do with it. However, I shall ask a question about that later. In the county of Lanark we are proud of our herds. It seems to me, however, that the better they get in developing blood lines, or perhaps it may be through inbreeding, the less resistance they seem to have to brucellosis, and particularly to tuberculosis.

Grade herds are passing all right. But every once in a while one of these good herds is seriously affected with tuberculosis, which wipes out the whole herd. Many of these herds are built from the ground up and represent the lifework of farmers. The compensation given does not begin to cover the loss suffered by the farmers. If a cow is worth a thousand dollars and the farmer

[Mr. Graydon.]

receives the ordinary compensation from the government it does not begin to cover his loss incurred in building up a herd of that type.

The three chief diseases affecting those cattle are mastoiditis, tuberculosis and brucellosis—and I have talked about brucellosis in this chamber for the last four years. These diseases make the raising of purebred stock a hazardous occupation, so far as a farmer's finances are concerned.

I would appeal to the minister to have something done to help out these farmers. I saw an excellent propaganda film last spring dealing with mastoiditis. This film was put out by the government, and I am wondering if the Department of Agriculture could not make some arrangement whereby farmers might obtain some of the sulphha drugs at drug stores simply by signing for them. They could be given instructions how to give early treatment to these cattle. They could be instructed in the use of penicillin.

The situation in regard to brucellosis or Bang's disease has not changed. For four years I have advocated that something further be done by way of vaccination to help these people. Tuberculosis is another hazard—and a big one when we find farmers whose purebred herds are wiped out. There is no redress, except the minor compensation given by the Department of Agriculture. I realize the department could not possibly pay a thousand dollars for every cow destroyed but I am wondering if it could foster some form of insurance. It appears that the better the strains of cattle we get the more diminished is the immunity against these diseases.

As I have said, the grade cattle seem to get along all right, but when the blood line is developed, and possibly because of some inbreeding, it becomes apparent that the cattle are more susceptible to these diseases. I leave these suggestions with the minister: Something has to be done; otherwise it would not pay a young man to spend his life developing a herd of cattle. I realize that the government could not be expected to pay the true value of these cattle, but something could be done to help out the farmers so that they would get higher compensation for animals destroyed.

Mr. Gardiner: As the hon. member for Peel pointed out, after he got under way, he was really discussing item 18, rather than item 17. We have not yet called item 18, and have had no discussion on item 17. Item 16 has been passed, and I am wondering if we might revert to item 14 so that we may discuss items 14 and 15. I have the infor-