

rates for cattle ordered slaughtered in connection with area or herd eradication programs for such diseases as tuberculosis and brucellosis.

Section 11 of the act reads as follows:

The minister may, from time to time, cause to be slaughtered animals suffering from infectious or contagious disease or suspected of being so affected and animals that are or have been in contact with or close proximity to a diseased animal, suspected of being affected by infectious or contagious disease.

This section gives the minister the necessary authority to order the slaughter of animals.

Subsection (1) of section 12 authorizes the minister to order compensation to be paid to the owners of such animals, and subsection (2) of that section establishes the basis of compensation. The authorized compensation to be paid is the market value of the animal except in the instances of horses and cattle, for which maximum compensation amounts are specified by paragraphs (a) and (b).

The amendment, which is to paragraph (b), limits the exception in the case of cattle slaughtered pursuant to any area or herd disease eradication program. The effect of this will be to permit payment of compensation at market value in such circumstances as the foot and mouth outbreak in 1952. While such circumstances are rare, I am sure honourable senators would agree that in those instances the owners of cattle which are ordered slaughtered should receive full compensation for them.

The most important impact of the amendment will be in relation to compensation paid under the tuberculosis and brucellosis eradication program. At the present time the maximum compensation is \$100 for purebred animals and \$40 for grade animals. The amendment will increase those maximum figures to \$140 for purebreds and \$70 for grades.

The restricted area plan for tuberculosis was introduced in 1922. Areas are established, usually counties in eastern Canada and municipalities in western Canada, on the recommendation of a provincial minister of agriculture and following a request to him by a majority of the cattle owners in the area. All the cattle in the area are then tested for tuberculosis, reactors are removed from herds and if the incidence of tuberculosis is below one-half of one per cent the area is accredited. There is also an individual herd plan, known as the accredited herd plan, which operates on a somewhat more stringent basis and which is also entered into voluntarily by herd owners.

All sections of all provinces are now included in tuberculosis restricted areas. The

programs have virtually eliminated tuberculosis from Canadian cattle herds. As an illustration of that, the incidence of tuberculosis in cattle tested has declined from 4 per cent at the start of the program to only slightly over one-tenth of one per cent last year.

A similar program for the eradication of brucellosis, or Bang's disease, was introduced in 1957. Today it operates practically from coast to coast, and in one or two of the western provinces the first tests have only been made this week.

As I have stated, under the amendment the maximum compensations are raised from \$100 to \$140 for purebred cattle, and from \$40 to \$70 for grades. The present rates of compensation have been in effect since 1923. Everyone will agree there has been a great change in the price of cattle from 1923 to the present time.

I think the last part of paragraph (b) of section 1 of the bill calls for some explanation. It reads as follows:

—and if the sale of the carcass is unlawful an additional amount for purebred and grade animals equal to the value the carcass would have if the sale were lawful—

As I mentioned earlier, if an animal is ordered to be slaughtered under the tuberculosis or brucellosis eradication programs the owner is required to dispose of it for slaughter and he receives the slaughter value. All such animals are directed to plants operating under federal meat inspection, where they are subjected to veterinary post-mortem examination. When the infection is limited the infected portions are condemned and the balance of the carcass is eligible for sale.

The effect of the last part of section 1 is that if the infection is sufficiently general as to require the entire carcass to be condemned an additional compensation may be paid to the owner to the value the carcass would have had if it had not been condemned.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald: Is that in the bill?

Hon. Mr. White: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Burchill: That is in addition to the \$140?

Hon. Mr. White: Yes, in addition to the \$140.

Section 2 of the bill provides that the amended compensation rates will become effective on April 1, 1958. The reason the amendment is made retroactive to that date, I am advised by the officials of the department, is that the testing commences generally on April 1, and the veterinarians from the department move from farm to farm, so the individual farmer has no control or say when his cattle will be tested. It would