

*Animal Contagious Diseases*

some time ago there are about 156 applications still on the waiting list for which the government cannot provide inspection. Am I right in that?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I think that is the number.

Mr. LEADER: In view of that I do not feel inclined to protest against the passing of this bill. I belong to a fraternity that I think cannot be said to be altogether selfish, and if the maximum compensation is placed at \$200, and that is considered too much, as a breeder I can only give my consent to accepting a lower compensation in view of the fact that the government find it necessary to impose this regulation calling upon a breeder to have at least ten pure-bred cattle before he can participate in the benefits under the act. I happen to know something about this business. When I was at home at Easter I attended a farmers' meeting and this question was brought up. One man in that locality said that he had had an application on file since last fall and could not get the government to act. It was the consensus of opinion at that meeting that the farmers in that district, at any rate, were so anxious regarding tuberculosis in cattle that they would be willing to do without any compensation if they could get the government to inspect their cattle for them. I pointed out to them that they could pay a local veterinary and have the work done in that way, but they felt that they would have more confidence in a test made by a regular government inspector. In view of that I shall not protest the right of the government to lower the compensation.

I am sure the minister would be glad to hear the views of the members of this House and especially of the breeders, on this question, and I would like to take this opportunity to make a few remarks. Last year when this bill was up a similar reduction was proposed. Some of us did not believe that that reduction should be made, and I still believe that the minister was well advised when he agreed to make the maximum compensation \$200 instead of \$150. The minister has said that it is a general practice with inspectors to give the maximum compensation irrespective of whether the animal is entitled to it or not.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I think my hon. friend has misunderstood me. That is rather a strange interpretation of what I said.

Mr. LEADER: I think the minister will bear me out that that was the implication of what he said at all events. I wish to state

[Mr. Leader.]

emphatically that as regards Dr. Still and his contingent of inspectors in western Canada, as far as I can find out they have been absolutely fair. I believe they are doing a great work out there, and Dr. Still especially I believe is the right man in the right place. People are becoming greatly interested in this accredited herd plan, and I would be very sorry to see it get a black eye. The minister has indicated that he is going to inaugurate a new system called the free area plan. I am in sympathy with that idea. I believe it is the ideal system, but it is going to cost a lot to clean up these areas and inspect every herd of pure-bred and grade cattle, and I do not think we have come to the point where we can adopt that system on a large scale. There is also a measure of compulsion in regard to it, and some men will always back up against compulsion and will not agree to compulsory measures. I think the best plan for the government in this matter would be the voluntary submission of breeders to the accredited herd plan. I know that it is very popular in the West and has made rapid strides. I would be very sorry for the government to do anything that would give the cattle industry a set back. We in the West and in the portion from which I come especially, have come to the conclusion that we must change our system of farming, change from grain growing exclusively to more diversified farming, and the raising of live stock is the plan we shall have to follow. We are going into that business more and more in the West and are providing facilities to take care of it. In the West already 2,000 silos have been built, and to show the strides this business is making I might mention that 500 silos were built last year. We are trying to supply cattle for the market that is developing in the Old Country and a black eye to the industry at this time would have the effect of discouraging efforts along that particular line. The good health of the Canadian cattle was a very important factor in inducing the Old Country to lift the embargo. In this connection I would quote from a speech made by Major G. Paget, Unionist member for Bosworth, in the British parliament during the debate there on this subject. He said:

They knew that Canada was extremely free from disease.

I will also quote from the speech of the Right Hon. E. G. Pretyman, Unionist member for Chelmsford, who said:

That perhaps the strongest plank in the Canadian case was the absolute immunity of Canadian cattle from any form of virulent disease over a long period of years.