

Western Canada Veterinary College

However, in the interim it has become obvious that since both the provincial and federal governments will be willing contributors toward the construction of a veterinary college, the imposition of this levy may not be necessary.

There are many other aspects of this bill which I would like to discuss, but this is neither the time nor the place for a clause by clause analysis. Suffice it to say that finding personnel to staff a college will be much more difficult than finding the money to build it. With the additional facilities contemplated across the border, it will become increasingly difficult to procure the necessary teachers, already at a premium. In order that justice be done to both the veterinary profession and the livestock industry I would urge that the government give this bill what it has given to many other urgent requests, its active and full consideration.

Mr. E. F. Whelan (Essex South): Mr. Speaker, on rising to speak on this bill I would first like to explain to the house why, having worked in the west and knowing some of the problems of the western farmers, and also being a farmer myself in far western Ontario, agriculture is not exactly a stranger to me. The Minister of Agriculture has made an announcement in the house, and according to the *Calgary Herald* of June 28 and the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* of June 26 the provincial ministers of agriculture for both Alberta and Saskatchewan have condoned this, although at the same time expressing some disappointment with the federal government in not going further.

I would like to review some of the things in agriculture pertaining to veterinarians in this country. Farming in Canada, including the raising of livestock, was not looked upon as the original value or use of this land when first inhabited by the earlier settlers, but it dates back to 1606 when Louis Hebert, an apothecary, or druggist, from France came to Port Royal and started an experiment in farming, mainly for the development of herbs for his druggist interest. Mr. Hebert subsequently moved to Quebec in 1617 and started farming on land granted to him in 1623 by the French government at what is now known as Sault au Matelot, and in 1626 he received further land grants on the St. Charles river in Quebec where he started livestock raising. Mr. Hebert is recognized as the first farmer and livestock man in Canada. Incidentally, Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Hebert is recognized as the first schoolteacher in Canada.

Government in Canada became interested in agriculture as early as 1790 when legislation was passed giving aid through agricultural societies. One of the earlier pieces

of agricultural legislation was passed on March 5, 1803 when it was enacted that swine could not run at large in the towns of York—that means “hogtown”—Niagara, Queenston, and my own home town of Amherstburg, Sandwich which is now commonly called Windsor, and the town of Kingston. Owners letting swine run at large were to be fined 10 shillings. Since this time the livestock industry of this country has continuously grown in size and value until today it is one of the largest and most important sectors of the Canadian economy.

I would like to give the numbers of livestock in Canada and to emphasize the value of this industry. With regard to milk cows, in 1962 we had 2,955,500, with a value per head of \$203, giving a total value of \$600,616,000; calves, 3,407,000, with a value per head of \$65, giving a total value of \$222,936,000; other cattle, 5,712,500, at \$157 per head, giving a total value of \$896,907,000; hogs, 4,973,000, with a value of \$28 per head, giving a total value of \$139,822,000; sheep and lambs, 1,433,000, a value per head of \$16, giving a total value of \$22,158,000; horses, 477,200, value per head \$139—I do not think they are speaking of race horses—giving a total value of \$66,095,000. The combined total of the livestock in Canada at the end of 1962 amounted to \$1,948,534,000.

Total farm cash income including livestock sales has now reached the record high figure of \$2,958,545,000, which together with supplementary payments of \$35,766,000 brings the total of cash farm income for 1961 to \$2,994,311,000. This has steadily risen from \$940,936,000 in 1927, as indicated by a table that I will now read. These figures are large also. I am giving these figures to the house, Mr. Speaker, in order to bring to the attention of hon. members the importance of the livestock industry in Canada. I do not know how many hon. members are aware of this fact, but as I said earlier the livestock industry is one of the most important in this country and if the whole agricultural industry were disbanded tomorrow, 40 per cent of the people of Canada would be unemployed. This may be difficult for many people to realize, but that is the effect it would have upon our economy. I am trying to point out the importance of protecting the livestock industry as part of our agricultural industry.

Cash incomes from the sale of livestock in Canada were as follows for 1955-59 and 1960-62. I will just read the totals for 1955-59 and 1962. These figures go from \$502,843,000 in 1955-59 to \$677,915,000 in 1962. They are for cattle and calves. For hogs the figure for 1955-59 was \$310,016,000; it was \$328,985,000 in 1962. For sheep and lambs,