

*Foot-and-mouth disease*

15 and the other, I think, is February 15. I am speaking from memory, however. My hon. friend has the answer.

**Mr. Hees:** Will the minister permit a question—

**Mr. Wright:** What the minister has now stated is that they do not know where the infection came from which infected the Burns plant.

**Mr. Gardiner:** Certainly.

**Mr. Wright:** It may have come from a different area altogether.

**Mr. Gardiner:** We have a suspicion that it may have come from the Waas herd. We have another suspicion that it may have come from some other herd, in any one of the twenty-three places where the disease was finally found.

**Mr. Coldwell:** Some young cattle were sold from the Burns plant to farmers. Where did those cattle originate and did the disease appear where those cattle were delivered?

**Mr. Gardiner:** I should not like to go into that detail here, but we will get it when the matter is before the standing committee.

**Mr. Coldwell:** I thought the minister mentioned young cattle.

**Mr. Gardiner:** No. I did not say anything about young cattle. I simply said that, by some means or other, there had entered the Burns plant at least one animal, if not more, that had the disease. The information we have is to the effect that the disease had gone out from that plant. The means by which it went out I have not stated, because I have not information on all the points. I am agreeing with what the hon. member for Lake Centre said this afternoon, namely, that this disease broke out down along the Wascana creek. My hon. friend knows, as I do, that the drainage from the city of Regina goes down that creek; and we have had concern about the matter over a number of years. In the provincial house we had discussions years ago about the possibility of outbreaks as a result of that situation, and the city of Regina has always been concerned about it. There is not any question about it; it could have come from the plant, down the drain, and affected these cattle down the creek.

**Mr. Cardiff:** Will the minister explain why on the first visit of the government veterinarian the test was not taken?

**Mr. Gardiner:** Well, the government veterinarians went out, and I do not know—this afternoon my hon. friend said what they should have done. Maybe they did it. I do not know whether they did or not.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Gardiner:** Don't all get excited at once, because—

**Mr. Cardiff:** The test was not taken until last week or the week before.

**Mr. Gardiner:** You are talking about a different thing. My hon. friend for Brant-Wentworth says it is not necessary to have that test at all in order to determine whether you have got foot-and-mouth disease. He says that he as—

**Mr. Cardiff:** You never took a test.

**Mr. Gardiner:**—that he as a veterinarian, or any other veterinarian, could have done so by injecting the virus into different animals, pigs, sheep and cattle and so on. He said it could be done without getting this serum from Great Britain.

**Mr. Charlton:** I said the diagnosis could be made without the serum, and I still say so.

**Mr. Gardiner:** Yes, and seven different veterinarians—

**Mr. Charlton:** The minister is just running around in circles. He suggests now that this infection, diagnosed on the 17th of January, was responsible for an outbreak first visited on December 2, 1951.

**Mr. Gardiner:** I am only suggesting now that seven different veterinarians out in that district who, with all due respect to my hon. friend, are I think just as good veterinarians as he is—they are seven men who have a good reputation and they have gained that reputation in the area from which some of my hon. friends on the other side come. These men did check the disease in the area, and they found at that time that it was not foot-and-mouth disease.

**Mr. Cardiff:** The director general was there himself. Why did he not take the test?

**Mr. Gardiner:** The director general went out in January and he did some scouting around too.

**Mr. Cardiff:** He just took a look at it.

**Mr. Gardiner:** Well, I do not know that that is all he would do. I think my hon. friends know that Dr. Childs, while he was in Ontario, did a pretty good job. It was because of the good job he did there that he is where he is today, and I am quite prepared to agree, until I know otherwise, that he is still doing a good job. If it is proven before the agriculture committee or elsewhere that he is