

animals branch, in spite of the fact that a list of available men is in the hands of the civil service commission. Also to urge the minister to see that work is given to these men, when it is available, in their own districts, as soon as possible.

2. To suggest to the minister that the examinations for part-time veterinary surgeons held in future be partly oral if possible.

3. To ask the minister that tuberculosis testing be given to accredited veterinarians in their own districts whether they passed the part-time examinations or not as these men have already passed a special examination held by the health of animals branch in tuberculosis and tuberculosis eradication work, and are quite capable of doing the work.

4. To assure the minister of their continued support in his efforts to try out a system of state veterinary medicine and to ask him to put it into force along the lines suggested two or three years ago, as early as possible.

5. The council of the Veterinary Association of Saskatchewan hopes that the minister will call the meeting as soon as possible looking towards the formation of a Dominion-wide veterinary association. If necessary, Saskatchewan would finance its own delegate.

6. The economic condition of the veterinary surgeons in Saskatchewan is at a low ebb, many of them being unable to make calls any longer from inability to collect fees, which means that sick animals are often dying for the want of veterinary service; this is literally true. The council of the Veterinary Association of Saskatchewan considers that the above measures would materially help to remedy the situation.

The veterinary surgeons in my own district with whom I am well acquainted are finding it very hard under present conditions to make ends meet, and although this examination is probably being held for a quite laudable purpose, it seems to me that the test for tuberculosis, and probably other matters but particularly this test, could be carried on almost entirely by the local man. If it is found that he has become rusty, as the minister imagines, he probably would not be given any of the work, but at the same time, in order to keep these men in their particular districts, I would urge the minister to give them all the work it is possible to give them without the necessity of their taking these examinations.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): I believe in Saskatchewan some seven out of the ten who passed the examination have been given work. No person, veterinary or anybody else, can give me any more enthusiasm than I have as regards the necessity of assisting private veterinarians, especially in western Canada, and every effort is being made to give them assistance and work because I feel that the veterinarian work has been one side of our live stock industry that has been receiving less care than it should because of the circumstances of which I have spoken before.

As regards the conference and our agreeing to pay the expenses of one, some two years ago I got in touch with the veterinary associations to discuss those problems with them and asked if we could have a dominion conference, but for some reason or another each of them named the same man as a delegate and it was a matter of practically this one man meeting with me. He could not speak with the authority of the veterinaries of each province nor on the problems I especially wished to discuss, that is from the practical veterinary point of view, because he had been a specialist and always engaged in research work institutions.

Mr. BROWN: I should like to speak in support of what has been said by the hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. McKenzie). We all know veterinary surgeons have been having a difficult time; indeed, the price of live stock and horses has been so low it hardly pays to employ a veterinary surgeon, even if the man could pay him. One case was brought to my notice of a man who had for some years been employed by the department to test for tuberculosis. He was employed first at a port of entry in connection with stock coming in from the United States. Although he has the certificate which he had received at that time, of late he has not been permitted to practise. I know it is quite true, as the minister says, men may get rusty in regard to their early training.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): Would the hon. member mind giving me the man's name?

Mr. BROWN: Not at the moment. I shall speak again. All of us who have passed examinations in the past realize we would hardly like to be called upon to pass them to-day. A story is told of a professor who said that he had had a horrible dream; it was that he had to pass a freshman's examination. While it is quite possible that men may get rusty on their work it is also possible that the newcomers, smart young men, may set examination papers with which the men who have been in practice for a long time may hardly be familiar. I know when I began to write on examinations my teacher warned me that the worst examiner was a clever young man, and in the course of my experience I found that out to be true. There is just a possibility that examinations may be set on subjects that are rather new and not entirely necessary for the practical work that is required of veterinary surgeons, especially in establishing these tuberculosis areas. I would not for a moment like to interfere with the efficiency of the work