

## Department of Agriculture.

Department, aided by numerous veterinary surgeons, carried out in November, 1892, in all those parts of the Dominion from which the animals shipped by the "Hurona" and "Monkseaton" were traced, the findings of which were sent forward in an appendix to an approved Minute of Council by Your Excellency's predecessor (Earl Derby) to the Colonial Office on January 30th, 1892, established such proof. No trace of any contagious disease was found in any of the localities throughout the Dominion whence the animals in question came; and it is impossible that such a position could exist if there had been present in any of those localities a type of disease "as contagious and fatal" as pleuro-pneumonia is known to be in Europe and elsewhere where it has existed.

Further veterinary investigations were ordered by the undersigned in relation to the "Brazilian" and "Lake Winnipeg" cases, the subject of this correspondence, so soon as they were reported; and also in respect to a later case from the "Hurona" in October last, to which further particular reference will be hereinafter made. The result of the investigations which were conducted under the direction of Professor McEachran are contained in an appendix herewith (marked A). The whole of these investigations established precisely the same position as those made in the autumn of 1892, in relation to the animals shipped by the "Monkseaton" and "Hurona."

It is found by the undersigned, from a careful examination of the reports of the veterinary officers of the Board, that they seriously conflict in important particulars in the definitions which go to establish the type of disease, with the reports of the Veterinary Surgeons, who also made examinations, at the request of the High Commissioner for Canada.

It is not found by the undersigned that the examination of the lungs of the animals in question, as reported in this correspondence, have at all satisfactorily established the fact of existence of contagious pleuro-pneumonia, or another special type of that disease, differing in characteristics from the well known and accepted type, and this conclusion is accentuated by the findings of Professors McEachran and Adami in a later examination which was made in Canada of portions of the lungs of the suspected animal from the "Hurona" in October last, to which further reference will be hereinafter made.

The Marquis of Ripon, in his despatch of 19th July forming part of this correspondence, in relation to the pathological investigations in question, remarks:—

"I understand that three of the four experts who were present at the examination of the lungs of the animal landed from the "Lake Winnipeg" concurred in the opinion of the experts of the Board of Agriculture as to the diagnosis of the disease."

It appears to the undersigned that it would have been more satisfactory, in view of the persistent and important conflict of professional opinion which is manifested in this correspondence, if the several written opinions of the four experts referred to (above named) had been furnished, and especially in view of the fact that they were not unanimous.

In a letter of the High Commissioner for Canada, forming part of this correspondence, (August 1st) the following passage occurs:—

"It is stated, in reference to the specimens of lungs supplied to Mr. Hunting, that 'subsequently specimens of the lungs of the second 'Lake Winnipeg' animals, together with a portion of the lungs of a diseased animal slaughtered in connection with a recent outbreak of pleuro-pneumonia at Hendon, were given him for transmission to Canada for examination there.' I desire to remark in relation to this statement that two pieces of lung were handed to Mr. Hunting in a bottle, but that the veterinary officers of the Board were not apparently disposed to specify which belonged to the Canadian and which to the Hendon animal.

"In these circumstances, I did not feel justified in transmitting the specimens to Ottawa, as I could not understand for what reason the information I desired was withheld."

The undersigned observes in relation to this incident, it is a matter of regret that ample facilities were not afforded to have portions of the lungs of these animals examined by professional experts in Canada; and he is at a loss to conceive any