

Foot-and-mouth disease

parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Agriculture, of the hon. member to my left and of several hon. members around here. Farmers have been selling their dairy and purebred heifers to the United States of America for \$400, \$500 and \$600 apiece. Many farmers have been selling \$5,000, \$6,000 and \$7,000 worth.

Mr. McCusker: How much income tax are they paying?

Mr. Rowe: I am not sure, but from the way you send your inspectors around and from the way you hound them for every dollar that they make, and then spend it more recklessly than if it were left with them, I am sure they are paying enough. These men are very vitally concerned, Mr. Chairman. I know the hon. member for Middlesex West is not so much concerned, because he belongs to that class of farmer who can lose \$50,000 or \$100,000 and never bat an eye; but there are many other farmers who are concerned. Many of these people have struggled, their wives have struggled and have milked cows down through the years. I must admit that I have not milked many cows. I can milk them but I do not like it. I always deal with Shorthorn cows because I always boost the breed that I am responsible for—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Rowe: I would rather be responsible for the care of a good herd of Shorthorns than be as irresponsible as some hon. members are with respect to this important matter. I am not going to joke about this. My genial friend to my right, the hon. member for Portneuf, probably would not know a Shorthorn from a Polled Angus. I am not trying to make a joke, Mr. Chairman, and while I am on my feet I am not going to allow any other hon. member to make a joke out of what is going to break financially hundreds of farmers throughout this dominion. Scores of them are in my own riding, and scores of them are in other ridings. Do you realize what is happening in the dairy and the purebred livestock business in this country? I know farmers, I know them well, who have already lost \$50,000 from this tragic disaster. There are scores of them who are at least 1,000 miles, yes, 2,000 miles from where the infected areas are.

It is not a matter of the value of the infected animal. True, I said facetiously to someone behind me I hope that a friend of the Minister of Agriculture who talks to him by telephone, and who he assures us is going to be satisfied when he is through, will be satisfied. If the cattle on my farm are infected and I cannot get close to the

Minister of Agriculture I hope I can get Mr. Beatty to intercede for me. I hope that he gets a square deal. The Minister of Agriculture says he does not know how he will vote. I know the minister is not concerned with how he will vote at the present time because in the face of this tragedy there will be no election this year, Mr. Chairman.

It is not the loss of the value of the animals that are affected. In his usually sound and analytical style the hon. member for Lake Centre this afternoon—

An hon. Member: Oh, oh.

Mr. Rowe: My hon. friend laughs, but I have never known him to be as analytical as the hon. member for Lake Centre is even in his casual style. This afternoon he emphasized what is really going to happen. At the same time, I am not so much concerned as to whether you say that you will give the farmer who has lost a grade animal \$40 and the salvage price, or \$100 to the purebred producer. As the Minister of Agriculture well said today, that was inaugurated in other days. He knows and we all know, and I think it is only fair to say that he was eminently fair when he suggested that it is more or less outmoded. At the same time, I would be very fearful if we left it wide open. I have some interest in the livestock industry. I know a farmer who was paid at least \$5,000 apiece for four animals in that infected area. I have several animals for which I paid a lot more than I could ever get today.

After recalling what has happened in western Canada in the last number of years and with all the confidence that I have in the Minister of Agriculture, I would not like to leave a wide-open gate so that he could pay whatever he liked, because I doubt whether his judgment on livestock, in view of his experience, is as good as his political judgment.

Mr. Gardiner: I will have to show my Shorthorns against yours.

Mr. Rowe: Well, I have observed that neither of us was brave enough to show them against anybody else's. I will say this. If neither of them is as good as it should be it is probably because he and I have been away from home too much. I am not boasting about my Shorthorns. Every week end when I go home I can see where they might be better. This is the first time that I have heard the minister even venture to boast about his. If we were to make a trade "even Stephen" tonight neither of the herds would be worth as much as it was worth last year, because this disease has hit the industry such a blow that it will take it years to overcome it. I believe the price of commercial beef should be up. I