

# FARMERS' BULLETIN.

## HOG CHOLERA AND SWINE PLAGUE.

The growing importance of the swine industry in Canada, and the prospect of its rapid extension, more especially in Manitoba and the Territories, render it necessary that those now engaged in hog raising, and those about to commence this profitable branch of live-stock breeding, should be informed of the nature of their diseases and especially the measures necessary for the prevention of hog cholera and swine plague, two allied diseases which, in other countries, occasion enormous losses. It is estimated that in the State of Iowa alone, in a single year the losses amounted to from \$12,000,000 to \$15,000,000. They are preventable diseases, requiring only the exercise of common-sense precautions against the causes which operate in their dissemination. These I have endeavoured to outline in the following pages.

The Minister of Agriculture trusts that the farmers to whom this bulletin is addressed will read it carefully and preserve it for future reference, for their own and their neighbours' information.

### HOG CHOLERA.

Hog cholera is extremely contagious and infectious. No other disease is more so; it can be conveyed to healthy swine in an endless number of ways, both by direct contact and intermediary agents, buildings, railways, platforms, wagons, crates, clothing, boots of attendants, &c. &c.

The pathogenic (disease producing) agent is the hog cholera bacillus. This bacillus has been demonstrated to possess different degrees of pathogenic power under different conditions, which are not always equally favourable for its development. Dr. Theobald Smith has shown, experimentally, that the bacilli become more pathogenic the oftener they are passed through the tissues of experiment animals, increasing in virulence up to the twelfth of the series. They will live in water from two to four months, and may remain alive and active in the soil from two to three months.

Our experience goes to support the result obtained by experiments. We know that when the disease first appears in a district it is often so mild, and the usual symptoms so undefined that it is difficult for even men of experience to recognize it as genuine hog cholera, hence we are not surprised to find not only farmers, but often veterinarians, also, protesting that in the absence of the usual text-book symptoms they cannot believe it to be genuine hog cholera.

From his experiments, Dr. Theobald Smith deduces the following conclusions:—

"(1.) The chief carriers of the infection are the swine themselves. This disease, having its chief seat in the intestines, a discharge of bacilli from the ulcers of chronic cases, or of such as have survived an attack, may take place long after the subsidence of an outbreak, or after they have changed hands. Infection may be thus carried over in the herd until a new susceptible generation of young pigs appears to continue the losses. Outbreaks occurring without any traceable importation of infection from without, are very probably due to latent infection in the herd itself.