

suggested to lower the quarantine period on cattle entering this country from Great Britain.

I remember when the period of quarantine was discussed in London in 1921, it was claimed by one of the commissioners that Canada should be ready to deal with Great Britain on a fifty-fifty basis in regard to the quarantine period. I pointed out in the strongest possible way that that would be unfair, for the reason that we had had no foot and mouth disease in Canadian herds since 1884. During that year two shipments of cattle arrived from Great Britain—one on a steamer called the Mississippi, and the other on the steamer Oxenholme. One arrived in the month of May and the other in the month of June. Foot and mouth disease was discovered in these two shipments, but they were stopped at Point Levis station in Quebec and dealt with there. Both of these shipments, I repeat came from Great Britain. I pointed out to the British commissioners on the occasion referred to that in Great Britain during that particular year they had had twenty-two outbreaks within the first six months of the year, showing that the conditions in Canada and in Great Britain were not equal on the point of disease; and that while it was necessary to have a quarantine for a period of thirty days against the British cattle owing to the danger of foot and mouth disease, there was not the need for the same long quarantine period on cattle going to Great Britain from this country.

Now, let me make this particular point very clear: In the regulations that at present prevail between Canada and the United States for the handling of cattle crossing the boundary north and south we have a very satisfactory arrangement. This arrangement has been based very largely on the regulation of Canada guarding the entrance of cattle from other countries. In the same way the United States has adopted a similar system as a precaution in the matter of cattle or other live stock coming from outside countries. The result is that in accepting each other's conditions we are able to make regulations that are mutually satisfactory to both countries. If the quarantine period on breeding cattle from Great Britain had been lowered in Canada to a period of less than thirty days, the Americans would have become interested immediately. Why? Because letting in those cattle on a shorter quarantine than had been in existence certainly would increase the danger of American herds being infected by the infection of Canadian herds through this particular source. For that reason Dr. Torrance had every cause to feel the gravest

possible alarm at any suggestion along those lines, and it was only to be expected that he should bring this matter to the notice of the minister.

It has been stated that Dr. Torrance in his correspondence with Dr. Mohler, chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry at Washington, used the word "political." What if he did? Does the minister say himself that he has never been troubled with political interference since he took office, or any of his officials? Although I was Minister of Agriculture for a period of two years only I had that experience on several occasions, and I think it is the experience of almost everyone who holds the position of minister in this country.

Referring to the letter to Dr. Mohler, let me say that these two men occupy similar positions, one guarding the health of animals in the United States and the other guarding the health of animals in Canada. They were on very familiar terms. They met every year at the annual meeting of the American Veterinary Association held on either side of the boundary. They were on the closest of terms, and these familiar relations between these two officers have been of great benefit to this country on many occasions. In my own experience I have known shipments of mangy cattle, although carefully inspected before leaving Alberta, to develop the disease at South St. Paul and in Chicago. At the particular period I am speaking of now there was a great agitation springing up in the United States to keep out Canadian cattle. Hon. gentlemen will remember in 1919 we sent over something like 540,000 or 550,000 head of cattle, and in 1920 we sent over something like 365,000 head, with the result that the Americans were becoming somewhat alarmed at the Canadian competition, and whenever any mange would appear in any shipment, there was a hue and cry to keep out Canadian cattle. The good relations existing between the two officials were useful in getting over any difficulty which might arise. On every occasion Dr. Mohler has acted in a fair way in dealing with his Canadian friend in cases of that kind, with the result that no further restrictions were placed on our cattle. In the discussion last Friday the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Motherwell) is reported at page 2238 of Hansard as saying.

Let us get back to the document itself. I say with all respect that I have never seen an officer in any department, and certainly have never had anything to do with one, who would write a letter of that character, especially to a foreign government in whose files it would be kept. There is no question that all the members of the staff would know about it.