

Mr. STEVENS: I think I am in position to give complete information to the committee. As hon. members well know, this article refers to the withdrawal by the British Government of certain restrictions upon the importation into the United Kingdom of live cattle. The matter is covered fully by a letter dated August 19, 1932, from the Hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir) to the Right Hon. Sir John Gilmour, Minister of Agriculture for the United Kingdom. It is a fairly long letter, but I think it might be well if I read it. If hon. members will follow my reading I believe they will find that virtually every question is answered therein. It reads:

Ottawa, August 19, 1932.

Rt. Hon. Sir John Gilmour,
Minister of Agriculture for the
United Kingdom,
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Sir John,—On behalf of the Dominion of Canada I do hereby agree to the arrangements which we have heretofore made in regard to the admission of Canadian cattle into the United Kingdom, and of pedigree stock from the United Kingdom into Canada, and also in regard to restrictions on the importation into Canada from Great Britain of fertilizers and feeding stuffs containing animal matter, and which agreement is in the terms following, that is to say:—

1. It was agreed that it was desirable to modify the existing restrictions on the admission of Canadian cattle into the United Kingdom as follows:—

(A) Slaughter of cattle at the port of entry

The parliament of the United Kingdom should be invited to amend the Importation of Animals Act, 1922, so as to provide for the admission to interior markets and other premises of all Canadian cattle shipped to Great Britain irrespective of condition and sex subject only to regulations similar to those which at present apply to the movement to interior markets and other premises in the United Kingdom of Irish cattle of the same classes. The United Kingdom would, however, retain the right to require the slaughter at the port of entry of any male or female animal considered by them to be below the desired standard for breeding purposes.

(B) Requirement that a federal veterinarian accompany each shipment of store cattle

Action proposed—Amendment of the Importation of Animals Act, 1922, by the elimination of clause 1 (2) (c) (IV), which reads as follows:—

“That the cattle were during the voyage kept separate from other animals and daily examined by a duly authorized veterinary officer of the Dominion of Canada, and that on such examination no animal examined was found to be affected with cattle plague, pleuro-pneumonia, or foot-and-mouth disease.”

(C) Three-day quarantine in Canada prior to shipment

Action proposed—Amendment of the Importation of Animals Act, 1922, in respect of clause 1 (2) (c) (1), by modifying requirement “That [Mr. D. M. Kennedy.]

the cattle were for a period of three clear days immediately before shipment kept separate from other animals, and were examined from time to time during that period by a duly authorized veterinary officer of the Dominion of Canada,” by substituting “one clear day” for “three clear days.”

(D) Branding on the cheek prior to shipment

Action proposed—Amendment of the Canadian Cattle (Marking) order of 1924, in respect to clause 1 (1) by the elimination of the words “as hereinafter provided,” in line 1 and of all the words in that clause following the words “stamped thereon.”

The clause at present reads as follows:—

1. (1) “Canadian cattle, except as hereinafter provided, shall, as a condition of landing in Great Britain, be marked before shipment by securely affixing to the right ear of each animal a tag of a pattern approved by the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries with the letter C and a serial number stamped thereon, and also by branding the animal on the right cheek with the letter C, or tattooing that letter on the left ear, unless the animal is already branded with a brand registered by the government of a province of the Dominion of Canada: Provided that this provision shall not apply to cattle to be landed at an imported animals wharf for immediate slaughter.”

2. (A) Modifications desired by the United Kingdom relating to the Canadian regulations governing the entry of pedigree cattle into Canada from the United Kingdom

Action proposed—

(1) Recognition of the London quarantine station by Canada.

(2) The completion of the 14 day period of quarantine in the London quarantine station.

(3) The reduction of quarantine at Canadian sea-board to a 14 day period in the case of ruminants and swine passing through the London quarantine station.

This procedure is intended to facilitate importations into Canada during periods when the United Kingdom is not entirely free from foot-and-mouth disease. Importations may nevertheless be shipped direct during recognized periods of freedom from disease, subject to the existing quarantine period at the Canadian sea-board.

Because of the existing agreement between the United States and Canada (December, 1896) with reference to the maintenance of uniform conditions of entry of live stock from overseas countries, the acceptance of the proposed amended regulations will necessarily depend on agreement to them by the United States. The attached correspondence with the United States Bureau of Animal Industry would indicate that the United States will accept the conditions.

(B) Restrictions on the importation into Canada from Great Britain of fertilizers and feeding stuffs containing animal matter

These restrictions were discussed and after the United Kingdom officials had heard the views of the Canadian representatives as to the preferential treatment now accorded the United Kingdom and the desirability of retaining the regulations in their present form, they decided not to press further their suggestions under this head.