

Inspection of Cattle.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,

OTTAWA, 24th March, 1884.

Prof. ANDREW SMITH,
Chief Inspector,
40-42 Temperance St., Toronto.

SIR,—I have an instruction from the minister of agriculture to request that you will give the strictest possible directions concerning the inspection of cattle from the United States, in transit, in view of the rumors in the newspapers of the prevalence of foot and mouth disease in the western states. You will further please report whether, in your opinion, it is safe to continue the night inspection; as in view of your professional decision adverse to this, it would be necessary to give notice to the railway companies.

I have, &c.,

J. LOWE,
Secretary of Department of Agriculture.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,

OTTAWA, 24th March, 1884.

Prof. ANDREW SMITH,
Chief Inspector, Toronto.

DEAR MR. SMITH,—In addition to the official letter which I wrote to you to-day, I may tell you privately that I heard from an M.P. that the inspection at Windsor and Amherstburg is quite *pro forma*. In fact, my informant told me that the inspectors had given signed blanks to the railway company to send their cattle along.

Believe me, &c.,

Yours truly,

J. LOWE,
Secretary of Department of Agriculture.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,

OTTAWA, 29th March, 1884.

Prof. ANDREW SMITH,
Chief Inspector, Toronto.

DEAR SIR,—I wrote to you some time ago to ask for your opinion respecting the continued importation of cattle in transit from the western states, in view of the reported existence of foot and mouth disease in the west, and I also asked whether you considered it advisable or safe to continue the night inspection.

Since writing to you I have a letter from Mr. Pope, in which he suggests that you should be advised to proceed to the western states to ascertain whether the reports that have been published in the newspapers of the prevalence of foot and mouth disease are correct. Of course, the department will pay your expenses, and we should be glad to get your report as soon as possible.

I should tell you that the accounts which have reached us respecting the existence of that disease are certainly very conflicting, and the weight of evidence is against the alleged fact. I understand that those two veterinary commissioners who were sent by the Washington government to inquire, have reported that it is not the foot and mouth disease, or in any way a contagious one. The matter is, however, of sufficient importance for the facts to be accurately ascertained.

Believe me, &c.,

Yours truly,

J. LOWE,
Secretary of Department of Agriculture.