

in every respect, free from pleuro-pneumonia or any other infective disease whatever. It was found that the other animal came from Pilot Mound, in Manitoba, and that also was traced to a herd which was found to be healthy in every respect. What need had the Government to go further? There would not have been a man in this House more ready to condemn the Government if they had gone beyond that and slaughtered the cattle belonging to the settlers after it was found there was no pleuro-pneumonia or any other disease whatever among them.

The hon. gentleman has overshot the mark in his anxiety to eulogize the present Government for the concessions they have obtained with regard to quarantine. The late Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Montague) began negotiations with this object in view, and had the late Government remained in power a little longer, there is no doubt we would have obtained the same relaxation, with better regulations than are made to-day. I regard the regulations that have been made on this quarantine question as very lax, and I do not wonder that the people in the North-west Territories are apprehensive of danger arising from them. It is no wonder that they dread the bringing of the sheep scab into that country, as one of the results of these lax regulations. There is another reason why they are not satisfied, and one which is worthy the serious attention of the Government. It is this: At certain seasons of the year, the pasture south of the boundary line is very sparse, and the American ranchers are disposed to bring their cattle north for grass, and the regulations are so lax that there is nothing to prevent their doing this and possibly importing disease. But even if they do not import disease, the Americans will obtain a very important consideration in being allowed to graze their cattle in our country where the pasture is good at a season of the year when with them the pasture is bad. Some hon. gentlemen may deny this but here are the regulations:

Fat cattle and cattle for feeding, including range cattle for stocking ranches.

Section 22. This class of animals shall be accompanied by a certificate of inspection, signed by an official veterinarian showing that the animals are free from contagious diseases and that no contagious disease of cattle (excepting tuberculosis and actinomycosis) exists in the district whence they came.

It is the easiest matter in the world to get that certificate. Men bringing in cattle from the ranches can get it at any time. How are the parties charged with the authority of administering these regulations to know whether the certificate is official or not? An American ranchman brings that certificate along and his cattle can feed in our country the whole season. Some of our ranchers think that this is going to be very injurious to them. If it does nothing else, it

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gives the use, free, to Americans of our pasture lands for which our ranchers pay an annual rent, and which our ranchers think ought to be preserved for the use of our own cattle. Our ranchers therefore do not think these regulations are stringent enough to secure to them the consideration and protection they ought to have in their own country. Then the Americans can bring in horses without any inspection:

Section 40. Horses may be admitted for general purposes, for sale, or for stocking ranches, and also cow ponies for cattle ranches, or horses which form part of settlers' effects, on inspection at port of entry only.

N.B.—Inspection of horses admitted under the above clauses shall not be enforced unless ordered by the Minister of Agriculture, when deemed expedient or necessary.

Therefore, it is quite clear it is not deemed yet expedient or necessary, and American horses may come in without any inspection or examination. Our settlers object to this. I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) to this, if he were in the House or the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton), because I think it is worthy of serious consideration, and it appears to me more stringent regulations will have to be made before you can secure to our settlers what they are entitled to in their own country. Then I take the question of sheep. Now it is true that the importation of sheep for breeding and feeding purposes may be permitted subject to inspection. But inspection at a port of entry will not always show whether sheep are troubled with scab or rot. The disease may be in its incipient stage, and in that case, it cannot be detected by the best veterinary surgeon. I find that sheep for slaughter will be admitted without certificates or inspection. What is to prevent people representing that their sheep are brought in for slaughtering purposes? They may be brought in in large numbers and no record will be kept of them. They may mix with the ranch sheep of our North-west, and cause a repetition of the same trouble that the ranchers had to meet in 1892, when they suffered severe losses through the scab. To my mind the regulations are too lax, and I am quite sure it will be found that they will have to be changed before very long, or else there will be practically no security for the settlers in the North-west and nothing to prevent the mixing with their flocks of sheep from south of the boundary line.

While I am quite satisfied that it is of great benefit to us here at some seasons of the year to be able to send our stockers off to the United States under better quarantine regulations to Canada than we had, still I do think this system will lead to evil in the future which will necessitate a change in the regulations. Then, with regard to Manitoba and the North-west Territories, especially the North-west Territories, I think