

Western Canada Veterinary College

a veterinary college. The news release from Edmonton reads in part:

Premier E. C. Manning Monday rejected the idea of a school of veterinary science at the University of Alberta. It would be a "white elephant," he said.

Canada has only one veterinary school, at Guelph, Ontario, and with the increasing emphasis on livestock in western Canada, there has been increasing agitation for such a school in the west.

The Lethbridge chamber of commerce at one time pressed for Lethbridge as the site, but the veterinary profession felt it should be attached to a university. Edmonton and Saskatoon were considered the most likely sites, with the other three western provinces supporting whichever province decided to build it.

But such a school would cost approximately \$2,500,000 to build, Mr. Manning told the delegation from the Alberta federation of home and school associations, and it would house only 100 students. "It's cheaper to give each student \$1,500 and send him away," the premier said.

However, I must admit, sir, that later on in that year Mr. Manning, in his 17 point program which was brought out some time before the Alberta election, did mention that he anticipated the construction of a faculty of veterinary medicine in Alberta, with the support of the other provinces.

Possibly as a result of the premier's remarks there is found in the *Western Producer* of November 8, 1962, the following heading, "Alberta Vets Will Discuss Need for College in West," and under that headline is the following item:

Dr. Glen Weir of Lloydminster, Alberta, president of the Alberta veterinary medical association, said in an interview he will call a meeting of the association council to discuss Premier E. C. Manning's recent rejection of proposals for establishment of a veterinary school at the University of Alberta.

Dr. A. E. Lewis of Calgary, western representative of the Canadian Veterinary Association, said, "a veterinary college in the west would pay dividends to the livestock industry."

Canada requires another veterinary school to provide sufficient veterinarians to service our livestock industry. In addition to practising veterinarians there is a need for more veterinarians in every related field.

The article then goes on:

The veterinary school at Guelph, Ontario, he said, turns down qualified students each year for lack of accommodation. The course at the other Canadian college in Ste. Hyacinthe, Quebec, is in the French language.

Another Alberta veterinarian Dr. D. C. MacLennan of Lethbridge, said by 1980 there will be a need for 4,000 veterinarians in Canada. At the present time, a total of only 100 were graduating each year.

"Establishment of a veterinary college in western Canada will be discussed by agriculture ministers of the four western provinces at an Ottawa meeting next month," I. C. Nollet, Saskatchewan's agriculture minister, said in Regina.

Mr. Nollet said in an interview the four western agriculture ministers agreed last January to recommend concerted action by their governments to set up a veterinary college in the west. He said the federal government was invited to participate.

[Mr. Ormiston.]

Mr. Nollet said Saskatchewan has offered to contribute to the capital cost of a college, wherever it might be located in the west.

Other comments by Saskatchewan ministers are cited under the heading "Move by Ottawa Awaited on Site for Vet College" in the *Regina Leader-Post* of June 3, 1963. The article goes on to say:

Little progress has been made toward a solution on the question of locating and constructing a western Canada Veterinary College.

The Saskatchewan government's proposal for having it located in Saskatoon is under consideration by Agriculture Minister Harry Hays, according to I. C. Nollet, minister of agriculture for Saskatchewan.

Mr. Nollet has proposed, by letter, that the federal government give a definite answer concerning what share it will accept of operating and construction costs.

"I still have not heard anything definite from them," he said in Regina Wednesday.

Both feel they are most suitable as a site for the establishment of the college.

The last major step toward a solution of the problem was the acceptance by the board of governors of the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon, of the proposal to set up a college there.

Just prior to this, during the 1963-64 Saskatchewan budget, provincial treasurer, J. H. Brockelbank, allotted \$1,000,000 toward a college in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Brockelbank said the grant would only be made eligible if the other western provincial governments would agree to share operating costs of the college and the federal government would contribute to operating and construction costs.

The grant is also contingent on the fact that Saskatchewan be chosen as the college site.

Both Mr. Nollet and H. E. Strom, minister of agriculture for Alberta, feel the indecision of the federal government has left the question in "a confused state."

Another question Mr. Nollet wants answered by the federal government is that of the location of a proposed animal diseases laboratory in western Canada.

It is fairly obvious from statements already made by provincial cabinet ministers, officials of farm organizations, members of veterinary associations, municipal councillors and individuals in the community at large, that they are favourably disposed toward the building of a veterinary college in western Canada. The financial commitments of the Saskatchewan government and the federal government indicate a willingness to proceed with this project on a co-operative basis.

Here is an opportunity for the senior government to take charge and show initiative and direction, and at the same time draw on the support of the provinces concerned to provide this academic institution which is essential to all concerned.

When this bill was first drafted there was no indication of any financial help from any quarter, so it was decided that the only means of raising the necessary funds was by a 10 per cent remission of all taxes, fees, etc., granted by the governor in council under the authority of the Financial Administration Act.