

Foot-and-mouth disease

there since; but his cattle have not yet been destroyed. That situation has some bearing on the fact that this immigrant has been followed here and there up and down the country. It leaves a different interpretation on the question as to what you would find if you found traces of a virus being carried by this particular individual on his clothes, on his boots or in some other way. It would prove one thing, in all probability, namely, that there is a possibility that animals were afflicted with that disease on the farm of Mr. Waas. It would not necessarily prove that he brought the disease from Germany to this country but it might prove that he himself contacted animals on that place while he was there; and he was there, I think, about a week or a week and a half before these animals were delivered to the Burns plant. That circumstance might suggest that he had been in contact on that farm, in one way or another, with animals that developed the foot-and-mouth disease. Hence, for every reason, the department should follow this matter through to the bitter end and find out if there is any reason for believing that this immigrant was in any way associated with the disease, either on the farm of Mr. Waas or in Germany before he came here, or that he was a carrier of the disease.

I think that leaves a different picture with regard to the situation as related to Mr. Waas. If nothing else had happened except what happened on the Waas farm and in his neighbourhood, I am quite satisfied that we would not be having this discussion tonight at all; because that particular livestock had been treated, and to all intents and purposes had been cured. Moreover, I understand that there has not been any further outbreak on that particular farm. That situation, of course, could change from day to day. Because of the fear that there might have been some association there, the government is going so far as to destroy those herds; but before we destroy them, we should like to determine whether or not we have got to the source of the disease. We are not at all certain that we have done so. Seven different veterinarians said it was not foot-and-mouth disease. Some of them were our representatives. Some of them were veterinarians practising in the community. I am not sure whether any of them were provincial men. In any event there were seven different veterinarians who were called there and who gave the opinion that it was not foot-and-mouth disease.

I am quite prepared to say that I was pleased indeed to listen to the remarks made by the hon. member for Brant-Wentworth

[Mr. Gardiner.]

this afternoon. I think he did all members a great service as he certainly did me. He gave me, with regard to the disease, information which I did not have and I thank him for it. But at the same time I am quite prepared to take the opinion of seven veterinarians out in the Regina district, who visited the area and saw the livestock, in preference to the opinion of a veterinarian sitting in this house as to whether or not those animals had foot-and-mouth disease.

Mr. Graydon: But you are now shooting the cattle?

Mr. Gardiner: We will shoot all cattle in that area about which we have any suspicions whatever. That is a situation which does not justify the kind of discussion we have been listening to for some little time. I am afraid it is misrepresenting the position of some good farmers close to the centre of the area.

There are one or two other matters which have been raised. There is the question of the United States boundary line and the closing of it. Our order in council does not just close the United States boundary line.

Mr. Wright: Before the minister continues, will he give us the date of the discovery made in the Burns plant?

Mr. Gardiner: I think all that information has been put on the record now.

An hon. Member: Oh, oh.

Mr. Gardiner: I put it on the record this afternoon.

Mr. Charlton: You said you would give it to me.

Mr. Gardiner: If my hon. friend sends it over to me, I will give it. I sent my copy over to him. The answer to the question which my hon. friend asked, and which I sent over to him this afternoon, gives the dates on which Dr. Childs went out and visited the Burns plant.

Mr. Charlton: I am sorry, but that was not one of the questions I asked the minister this afternoon.

Mr. Gardiner: The question the hon. member asked me was when our veterinarian went out there, and the answer I gave him was that he went out and visited the Burns plant on a certain date.

An hon. Member: February 17.

Mr. Gardiner: And then that he went back again a month later.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Was that not in December?

Mr. Gardiner: No. In the answer to those questions, one of the dates is, I think, January