

under which the officers acted, and I think in view of the circumstances they acted quite properly. Section 2 reads in part:

Such compensation may be withheld—

I agree that sometimes "may" is not permissive, but is rather mandatory and might mean may or shall; but I do not think in this case any such discretion can be exercised in respect to the use of the word "may":

Such compensation may be withheld in whole or in part whenever the owner or the person having charge of the animal has, in the opinion of the minister, been guilty in relation to the animal of an offence against this act, or whenever the animal being a foreign one was in his judgment diseased at the time of entering Canada.

It is evident to my mind it was this latter proviso upon which the officer acted. Notwithstanding that, I have lost enough animals myself during the last almost fifty years in the west, before there was any compensation, to know exactly how a farmer feels when he finds his animals have to be slaughtered without reservation on account of any kind of contagious disease like glanders, cholera or the like. My disposition would be to err on the side of leniency if the circumstances of the case warrant that conclusion.

Mr. FANSHER (Lambton): In western Ontario last fall there was an outbreak of hog cholera in some of the counties such as Essex and Kent. The hogs were inspected and slaughtered. Recommendations were sent in for compensation, but this spring I received communications from different farmers complaining that as yet they had not received compensation for the hogs. I should like to ask the minister whether all those claims have been paid?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Yes.

Mr. FANSHER (Lambton): Could some means not be provided whereby the compensation could be paid more promptly? It seems a hardship to many farmers, at a time when they are expecting this money to meet fall expenditures for taxes, payments on implements and other things, that they should lose their entire herd and then have to wait until the spring before they can receive from the department the money which is granted as compensation for losing their hogs.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: This is the first time for many years—and we simply did not anticipate it—that we have had such a large amount of bovine tuberculosis in a certain area in the province of Quebec along the United States boundary. This ate up our money so rapidly that we ran out of funds

and the payment of those overdue accounts had to be extended into the current year. The reason was an underestimate of our requirements. It was due to the fact that we had these outbreaks of hog cholera in Essex and Calgary quite beyond our anticipations. In addition to that, there was the large percentage of bovine tuberculosis that was quite beyond any of our experience during the last seven or eight years. We shall be more on our guard this year. We shall simply have to stop the work if we find that we run into an unexpected lot of diseased animals of any kind that is going to take up our money. We will simply not contract the debt and we will let the work stand until the current year comes around, rather than contract the debt and have the people complaining of not being paid. With the additional amount provided in the supplementary estimates I do not think we shall have any difficulty this year.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): The minister would be very unwise to carry out a policy of that kind and I do not think he is serious in his suggestion. If he finds an outbreak of hog cholera anywhere, I am sure he will take all necessary precautions.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I did not mean to suggest that I would not take care of hog cholera outbreaks.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): I am sure the minister did not. How did the difficulty ever arise? Would it not have been possible to secure the necessary money by governor general's warrant? Has that not been done in other cases?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: The hon. gentleman is asking a rather awkward question. I had no thought of discontinuing the work in connection with any contagious disease such as has been referred to, but in the case of the large areas in which we eradicate tuberculosis, we can stop the operation of that at any time. I would not suggest not dealing with an outbreak of hog cholera. As regards governor general's warrants, the government do not like to exercise that option any more frequently than they have to.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): I agree with that, but there are occasions when they have been used.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: If my hon. friend knew how valiantly I endeavoured to meet these accounts, I do not think he would complain.

Mr. FANSHER (Lambton): When were the farmers recompensed for the slaughter of those hogs?