

Foot-and-mouth disease

quarantined. They will not have the incentive to report their suspicions that their animals are suffering from the disease.

That was the situation in connection with the spread of glanders some forty-five years ago. Until provision was made as to the compensation that would be received, the glanders epidemic could not be met. Those who had valuable horses which, they suspected, were suffering from the disease, failed to report because they felt they would receive only the value of an ordinary work horse, rather than a fair allowance for a purebred animal.

I shall now read a letter from a farmer in Adams, Saskatchewan. It is dated February 27, 1952, and states:

By now you will have heard the tragic news which has struck our district.

In connection with this there are a few facts I would like to bring to your attention. My own herd of 36 purebred Aberdeen Angus are doomed to be slaughtered after having made what appeared to be recovery. My own herd and those of a number of neighbour farmers living along the Wascana creek were stricken with this disease from January 24 to 27. All these farms use this creek as water supply. Even then and on previous occasions we were unable to get action from the department of health of animals. Neither could our own veterinarian get any co-operation from said office.

Early in January Burns and Company stockyards of Regina were placed under semi-quarantine when this disease broke out in their yards—some 200 head. This was never made public. Farmers were permitted to deliver cattle in their trucks, walk through sales office without warning and go anywhere afterwards.

In other words, those farmers who lived in the area affected by the hoof-and-mouth disease were carrying it in and out. The letter continues:

But the public should know where said meat went; also why was this outbreak not made public until their yards were empty of cattle.

Then he goes on to deal with disposal.

Now I would like this matter brought before the house if you see fit. Another thing, if and when we do get compensation for our stock—

Then he deals with another matter which I shall bring to the attention of the Minister of Finance, because he showed his interest a moment ago.

Mr. Gardiner: What is the date of the letter?

Mr. Diefenbaker: He continues:

—will it be classed as taxable income for 1952? Or might it be paid at one lump sum and spread over some few years? Now I will just mention I started in this business in 1937 with one purebred cow, have built up a show herd, and now am cleaned. Trusting you will do all you can in this important matter . . .

The letter is signed by Hubert Beatty. There is a man who has lost everything he

built up from the days following the depression. That letter represents the feeling of the people. They want to know what the basis of compensation will be. Certainly there is nothing to indicate that in the measure we have before us.

The farmers of western Canada are asking that they be compensated for their economic loss on these cattle. In connection with the other matter raised by the gentleman who wrote the letter—and it has been raised by many other farmers in Saskatchewan—they are wondering, in connection with the enforced destruction of their cattle by government action, whether or not provision will be made whereby the sum they received shall not be considered as the current year's income.

Mr. Gardiner: I would ask again the date of the letter.

Mr. Diefenbaker: It is right up to date—February 27, 1952. Nothing that has happened since by way of promises of compensation clarifies the nebulous answer the minister gave the other day when I asked this question regarding the basis of compensation and there is nothing in the bill to clear it up.

Mr. Gardiner: The answer is that I had a wire from Mr. Beatty. I answered it, and have not had a complaint since.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Well, that may be. If the minister was clear in his answer as to what Mr. Beatty is to get, why is he not as clear in parliament when he places a bill before it, so that all will know? I am going to ask the minister when that wire was received, and what he said in his wire that had the effect his communications have so often, of leaving the impression that all will be well, when things do not always turn out that way.

This man, as others in the area have done, referred also to the question of income tax, and the liability of these farmers in 1952.

Mr. Graydon: The Minister of Finance had better send a wire too.

Mr. Diefenbaker: The minister was laughing. I did not realize it was a laughing matter.

Mr. Abbott: I was not laughing. I was listening attentively.

The Chairman: Order.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I have dealt with the question of compensation and income tax. I now pass on to another matter, and point out to the minister and the government that something will have to be done to preserve