

Dr. BARTON: Directly; but I believe that anything which facilitates the movement of cattle from the West to the East, and to the Old Country, is in the interest of the cattle business as a whole.

Hon. Mr. RILEY: Is that rate on feeders in operation now?

Dr. BARTON: It is to come into effect in April this year. I am not positive of the date at the moment.

Hon. Mr. HORNER: Was there not an arrangement made about two years ago, that a person could get the through rate and be allowed to stop off and feed the cattle, yet be charged only the same rate as if he shipped right through from Calgary to the Maritimes?

Dr. BARTON: I do not think so. There was an arrangement somewhat similar to the one we have now, but it was on a rebate basis and did not work out very well. This is a straight cut in the rate.

Hon. Mr. SINCLAIR: If the feeding farm is in a disease free area—

Dr. BARTON: I am glad you mentioned that. That is another thing we dealt with. We realized that in some cases there was a hardship imposed on people bringing cattle East to feed in an area free from tuberculosis or under control. We made an arrangement whereby the cattle could be shipped to destination and tested there. Of course they have to be kept separate from other cattle.

Hon. Mr. SINCLAIR: Is there any cost to the farmer?

Dr. BARTON: No, but he does not get any compensation for loss. One factor is the transportation; another factor is the feed cost. I think we ought to do everything we can to facilitate the movement of surplus coarse grain from the West to the East. It seems to me that there will be a large production of coarse grains in the West which could be shipped to the East; but the cost of getting it here is too high.

Hon. Mr. SINCLAIR: For many years we have had sufficient feed in the Maritimes to take care of that.

Dr. BARTON: Yes, and I think you could develop some cattle feeding down there.

Hon. Mr. SINCLAIR: The reduction of the rate to the port means very little to us, the distance is so short.

Dr. BARTON: It is quite a consideration even in the East.

Hon. Mr. BURNS: With so much grain in the West it would be foolish to ship cattle some place else to feed.

Hon. Mr. SINCLAIR: It is not possible for the small eastern farmer to produce cattle and finish it for the British market; but if he can buy young cattle he can ship with a smaller degree of shrinkage.

Hon. Mr. RILEY: I think it is more profitable to finish in Ontario, Quebec, or the lower provinces than to finish in the West, because it is the last hundred pounds you put on a steer that puts the bloom on him. When you ship him to Montreal for export the bloom is gone, whereas if you put the bloom on him down here it still remains when he gets over there.

Hon. Mr. BURNS: I do not agree with that. The thing to do is to feed the cattle where they are, and feed them well. During the three or four days or the week that they are on their way to Montreal they will shrink, say, ten per cent, but they will recover half of that in the yards, and the remainder on the boat.

Hon. Mr. RILEY: But you have to put that hundred pounds on them twice.

Hon. Mr. BURNS: Someone has spoken of shipping the cattle and the feed to the East.