

the minister the facts which I wish to bring to his notice. I read the following letter:

Mr. Wm. Irvine:

Dear sir: In answer to your letter of March 30/28. As president of the Blindman Valley Cooperative Association I am speaking for 1,200 farmers who have expressed their desire to have the condemnation insurance either collected by the government on all hogs and cattle going through the yards and to the packer direct whether by farmers, drovers or packer agents and the buyer to be recompensed to the extent of his loss by tuberculosis or to have it abolished entirely, preferably the latter.

We are well aware this is not a government law but it is a practice carried on by the packers which makes it just as hard for the producer to bear, he being at the mercy of the packer who well knows what percentage of tuberculosis there are in the county hogs. Until the cooperative associations came into being the packer was not deducting this insurance, but since the farmers have started shipping cooperatively the packer will pay his agents in full for their hogs and deduct the one-half of one per cent insurance from the farmer shipment.

Our association had several shipments of hogs inspected and had the inspector receipts forwarded to us and out of those shipments which cost us some hundreds of dollars insurance, the loss to the packer was only two or three pigs' heads, not carcasses, but the heads only.

Out of the same district the packer was buying at the same time from his own agents and is doing so at present time, not deducting any insurance. As he well knows there is no loss, but is taking the advantage of this insurance to the discomfort of the cooperative shippers. This is also the discussion arrived at the recent live stock convention at Edmonton, March 20, 1928.

Yours truly,

R. E. CHOWEN.

I want to ask the minister whether he knows just exactly how much was collected in connection with this insurance, exactly how much loss was sustained owing to disease, and whether he is willing that the government should take steps for some supervision over the collection of this percentage on diseased cattle and stock? Will he see to it that the practice is prohibited?

Mr. DUNNING: I am advised by the deputy minister that there is at present no provision enabling the department to deal with the matter mentioned by my hon. friend. I will undertake to see that the letter which the hon. gentleman has read is brought to the attention of the minister immediately on his return, in order that consideration may be given the point raised.

Mr. SIMPSON: There has been discussion from time to time during the session about the number of inspectors employed by this department. I took the trouble to look up the Auditor General's report for the year 1927, because I had intended to say something on this item. However, at this late stage of the session I think all I should do is place the figures on Hansard for the information of the house. Without including the inspectors in the civil service here in Ottawa and exclusive of the officials and men on the experimental farms of Canada, the number of inspectors is as follows:

	Year ending	
	March 31, 1927	March 31, 1922
<b>Dairying:</b>		
Cargo inspectors.. . . . .	12	
Dairy and cold storage inspector.. . . .	1	
Dairy promoters, graders and testers.. . .	89	
Inspectors.. . . . .	10	
	112	33
Fruit and Vegetable Inspector.. . . . .	120	67
Seed, feed and fertilizer:		
Inspectors and analysts.. . . . .	104	58
<b>Live stock and health of animals:</b>		
Live stock promoters and inspectors.. . .	65	
Promoters of egg production and inspectors.	84	
Sheep promotion.. . . . .	21	
Stockyard agents.. . . . .	12	
Swine graders.. . . . .	27	
Veterinary inspectors (full time).. . . .	278	
Veterinary inspectors (part time).. . . .	15	
Lay inspectors.. . . . .	111	
Stock car inspectors.. . . . .	52	
Animal caretakers.. . . . .	9	
Animal pathologists.. . . . .	5	
District supervisors of meat inspection..	5	
	684	623
<b>Destructive Insect and Pest Act:</b>		
Insect pest or plant disease investigators..	124	
Plant pathologists.. . . . .	15	

[Mr. Irvine.]