

that this work should be carried on by the health of animals branch. Surely there can be no conflict of jurisdiction in the matter of diseases of animals.

Mr. RHEAUME: Why has the minister reduced by \$255,000 the estimate for health of animals?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): It was felt that there was sufficient to keep the staff occupied in such work as retests. It is the conduct of initial tests that really takes the money.

Mr. RHEAUME: Tests were made in 1930 in St. Johns-Iberville and in the constituency of Laprairie-Napierville and neighbouring districts. Why have no tests been made since 1930?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): The size of staff has been the chief reason why we have not got at it. We are going at it this year, and also in other areas, especially where the first test had been very heavy. In one district, for example, the first test showed around forty per cent reactors, indicating that the disease was very prevalent, and we feel that that territory should be checked very closely. There are other territories where the initial tests showed a very small prevalence of the disease. That is the general policy of the branch as to the order in which they do these tests. But I am informed that St. Johns-Iberville is to be one of the first areas to be retested this year.

Mr. RHEAUME: I know there is a lot in Chambly-Vercheres, Laprairie-Napierville and Brome-Missisquoi. I do not know why the government spent so much money in 1928-30 and did not go round each year following. I think it is best to watch that test to get good results.

Mr. BRADETTE: Speaking of the tuberculin tests in northern Ontario for the last three years, the municipalities getting the milk from the farmers have been asking for the test, and as we do not belong to any federal zone it means that the tests are sometimes not very satisfactory to the settlers on account of the fact that the veterinarians are not under the jurisdiction of the federal government. It is true that the stock which is rejected could be sold to some packing house in Toronto, but I remember the case of my own brother who sent twelve head of cattle and received a cheque for fifty cents each, showing that it is an absolute loss to the settlers in our section. Of course the municipalities have a perfect right to a supply of milk free from tuberculosis, but the federal

government, considering that they are not creating any new zones, should find it possible to have at least proper inspection. I refer to the fact that we have a certain doubt of the ability and capacity of some of the veterinarians coming out there. Some of them will say it is a simple test, but that does not satisfy the settlers unless they know he is a man officially appointed by the federal government. I believe this anomaly should be corrected now. If it is not possible for the government to establish these tuberculin zones, which I believe to be the solution of the problem, at least they should have one or two well qualified veterinarians who could be given certificates from the federal government conferring the right and power to make these tests. There is one man whose name I cannot remember at the moment who said he was fully qualified to do this work. I do not doubt his qualifications but his tests were not satisfactory to the people because he did not have a certificate from the federal government.

This is a very important matter to our section of the country. I know of one man who lost seventeen out of twenty-two animals in one examination, and that shows how far tuberculosis has spread in northern Ontario. When one remembers that the original settlers had to buy scrub stock from the older part of Ontario it will be seen why this is so, and this means so much to our settlers and to the milk supply of the centres of population such as Timmins, Kapuskasing, Cochrane, Kirkland Lake and so on, that I believe the federal government should take a hand. I repeat that I think the best solution would be the establishment of a zone embracing the whole of northern Ontario, but if that is not possible then it is the duty of the federal government to see that proper inspections are made.

Another anomaly, due to the fact that we are not in a tuberculin zone, is that the people who do not supply milk to the different centres of population need not have that inspection; it is optional. A herd which has been duly tested and weeded out may be contaminated by a neighbouring herd, so that it will be polluted again in a year or two; this has happened in several instances. It is the duty of the federal government to see that our section of the country, which is still in the pioneer stage as far as agriculture is concerned, gets proper inspection and that good herds are maintained. I hope the Minister of Agriculture will find it possible to say that this situation will be remedied as soon as possible.