

disease. This was the condition when he left the department. During the time of the cattle embargo inquiry in London in 1921 there was no stronger argument that we could offer to the commission to induce them to give a verdict in our favour than the fact that we were maintaining our herds in a way that no other country in the world was able to do.

Then, too, Dr. Torrance during his period of office has made history in the veterinary line in Canada. In the first place we had mange for twenty-five years in a district in southern Alberta and in southwestern Saskatchewan covering an area larger than Scotland. This whole area was under quarantine. You could not move a hoof out of that district without inspection. Dipping was carried on from time to time, and the whole thing was a great nuisance to the farmers and also a source of great expense. In 1919 the eradication of this disease was undertaken. Plans were carefully laid during the fall and winter months and in the summer of 1920 I think some 220,000 head of cattle were subjected to a lime and sulphur bath twice, a very big job indeed, and the work was so perfectly done that at the end of that year we were able to cancel the quarantine in that area for the first time in a quarter of a century, all this being done at the time Dr. Torrance was Veterinary Director General. I am not going to say that he did not receive excellent assistance from his very efficient staff during that period—he certainly did.

Just at this particular point I might refer to one of the charges against Dr. Torrance which was brought in a letter presented by the minister. It was not a charge on which the dismissal of Dr. Torrance was based but it was one of the charges mentioned—about his taking his golf sticks out to Calgary when he went out there to attend the cattlemen's meeting at that time. This is surely a joke. I do not see that there is anything in the regulations to prohibit an official from carrying his golf sticks with him as long as he attends to his business. Surely there was no harm in carrying golf sticks both ways, more particularly when the railway company does not charge anything extra for doing so. Dr. Torrance also handled very skilfully the outbreak of dourine in southern Alberta. This disease appeared among horses and threatened to become very serious indeed. During one year it cost this country about \$46,000 in compensation alone. The work of eradicating it was undertaken during the period that Dr. Torrance was Veterinary Director General and, with the

[Mr. Tolmie.]

co-operation of his able assistants, it was entirely wiped out.

In the United States in 1914-15 there was a very serious outbreak of foot and mouth disease which manifested itself in some twenty-two states, a number of which are contiguous to Canada's southern border. Although this outbreak cost the Americans some \$10,000,000 our veterinary service along that boundary line was so efficient that not one single case of foot and mouth disease appeared in Canada. I am only mentioning this to show that Dr. Torrance could not be blamed on the score of inefficiency. He maintained the cleanest herds in the world, showed himself to be a gentleman in every way and a man of ability. He could be sent anywhere and win appreciation. He was frequently invited to speak in the United States at large gatherings, and was well known all over this continent for his ability. Under those conditions I do not think his dismissal was fair. Here was a man holding a high and important position discharged as though he was a mere nobody. I do not care how lowly a man's position in the Civil Service may be he is at least entitled to fair play and decent treatment from his superior officers, and more particularly from his minister.

The minister says that Dr. Torrance was a little disappointed at not having been included in the commission which went over to Great Britain to fix the regulations with the British government for the entrance of store cattle into Great Britain. Why should he not be? Was he not one of the proper officers to have gone? It was quite right to have taken the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, a man of ability, a man whose ability is recognized all over this country; but when on earth did Duncan Marshall graduate as a veterinary surgeon? When it comes down to a matter of regulation every veterinary who has had experience in administering the regulations of the Health of Animals Branch must appreciate the difficulties that are continually arising in connection with those regulations. I know when appearing before the Embargo Commission on several occasions cases came up and questions were raised which only a veterinary surgeon could intelligently answer; and in that particular connection I claim that Dr. Torrance should have been included in the body that went over to Great Britain at that time. Why should he not have been? Seeing that he was at the head of the Health of Animals branch in this country, and that he felt his responsibilities very keenly why should he not have been included immediately it was