

Inspection of Cattle.

Dr. Wright was at that time only retained in his position by the intercession of Professor Smith and Mr. Patterson, the member for Essex, on his behalf, and the assent of the then minister to retain him was given most reluctantly, as will appear from the facts in the correspondence subjoined. It is abundantly evident from all this correspondence that Dr. Wright's anxiety was how to extort more pay, not how much more efficient he could make the inspection. He was quite willing to undertake any sort of inspection if he got money enough to satisfy him for it.

10. That all cars used in the transit of such cattle through Canada should be thoroughly cleansed and disinfected before being used for the transport of Canadian cattle. That this regulation was not carried out.

13. That the cars used for the transport of United States cattle were not properly cleaned and disinfected before being used to carry Canadian cattle, to the great danger of the health of the cattle in Canada.

These allegations (nos. 10 and 13) respecting the cleaning and disinfecting of the cars which have carried American cattle in transit, have no foundation. It is not true that cars which have carried American cattle in transit have been permitted for the carriage of Canadian cattle, such practice would be direct violation of the regulations. It has happened when the Grand Trunk from time to time desired to withdraw any cars from the service, they have asked for special permission which has been specially granted, the cars so withdrawn from transit service have been disinfected with particular care.

12. That the government had not always employed qualified veterinary surgeons as the regulations required; and that they had at one time employed a butcher, and at another a shoemaker to do the inspecting, when properly qualified veterinary surgeons offered their services.

This allegation (no. 12) is a pure invention and entirely without any foundation. The government never employed in this inspection service any persons except Dr. Wright, V.S., Mr. Matthews, V.S., and Mr. Westell, V.S. It is for Dr. Wright to say whether he classifies himself as a butcher or a shoemaker. The qualifications certainly could not apply to either of the other two gentlemen named.

8. That he now informs the farmers of Canada and the English government of the farce of inspection, which he states has so far served the purpose of the railway companies, in return for which they gave the government an equivalent in the way of political support.

17. That Canadian farmers are entitled to the same measures of protection as the English farmers by the quarantine regulations relating to the importation of cattle, which can only be afforded by prohibiting the importation of American cattle.

The allegations (nos. 8 and 17) have no foundation in fact and are besides mere generalities. There is no political consideration whatever involved in this transit; and as to the protection of Canadian farmers in the regulations relating to the importation of American cattle, there is no importation in the simple sense of the word, the animals only coming in, in transit, and going out again in a few hours, in strictly isolated cars, used exclusively for this service.

J. LOWE,
Deputy Minister.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, OTTAWA, 23th September, 1891.

Correspondence referred to in the above memorandum, may be found on preceding pages.

(Private.)

TORONTO, 26th December, 1893.

J. LOWE, Esq.,

Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, Ont.

DEAR SIR,—Yours of the 20th enclosing copies of correspondence re Dr. Wright duly received. I enclose copy of letter withdrawing his threats etc., before I communicated with Mr. Hickson. Would like to know if you think it is sufficient. He still makes demands for back pay.

I am yours truly,

ANDREW SMITH.