

in order to make it still easier, in fact almost to force him to make use of this policy, certain of the provincial governments cooperated with this government and agreed to pay the other half of the freight as well as certain incidental expenses.

A further policy in connection with live stock is this: it was felt that due to the low price of wheat and the scarcity of money, especially in the west, farmers would get rid of everything they had in the shape of live stock that would bring in any money. It was also felt by people in the east there would be a tendency in the west on the part of those who were better fixed financially, to buy live stock in the east and ship it to the west. That has been done in the past and has been done very much to the cost of the western farmers. For example, we have in eastern Canada, in Ontario in particular, one disease amongst cattle that I believe, and I know many of the stockmen believe, is more of a damage and loss to the live stock of Ontario than even tuberculosis. I refer to abortion. Yet we know, according to the law at the present time in the provinces—and the Dominion has done nothing so far to counteract that—any animal that may be given the blood test for abortion and reacts, does not have to be stamped, marked or slaughtered. Therefore, with all the due respect for the people of the east, if they were shipping stock to the western people for breeding purposes, they might have a tendency to ship animals that had reacted, and this would have the effect of spreading the disease throughout the west where at the present time it is not very prevalent.

In the first place, to make it easier for the farmers in the west who wish to get breeding females, we made them this offer, that we would pay the freight to bring stock from the western stockyards to a farmer's own farm, provided that the animals came up to the standard set by the men in the stockyards or by the people appointed to make the test. Then we had inquiries in the west as to whether we would not set up breeding centres there. We felt that if we set up public breeding centres as suggested, there would be a great deal of loss in connection with them; that it would be difficult to get men to manage them in the way that we would like, and along with experienced stockmen I felt that the best way to set up breeding centres would be by men who had made a success of farming, but who on account of the price of feed in the west, had been out of live stock, who, however, were well fixed financially and wished to undertake it again. Our idea was that if

we made it easier for them to get stock of high quality, they would form breeding centres from which their neighbours could secure stock. I felt that if in four years ten such breeding centres were established, this would be worth the effort we put into the matter, because in the old country even now, after all they have done in breeding and all the achievements they have made, there are only a few outstanding breeders. I was complimented on this policy in particular at the very beginning of the session by one of the Saskatchewan members, the leader of the opposition, who did me the honour of mentioning this policy, namely, of moving animals from one part of the country to another at the country's expense. I think hon. members will agree with me it was natural that this policy should appeal to him as no one has a better appreciation or understanding of the policy of moving from one part of Canada to another than has the right hon. gentleman.

In connection with fairs, many of us who have exhibited in both the west and the east have had this feeling with regard to grants to fairs in the past—I know this is a problem that has worried the Department of Agriculture for years: that much of the money that was paid as grants to fairs did not achieve the purpose it was supposed to achieve, that is, in creating in the community in which the fair was held an interest amongst the farmers themselves. For instance, there is one fair in western Canada where thousands of dollars have been paid each year. Yet that money was taken by people who were more or less professional showmen and there is practically no evidence within one hundred miles of that particular centre of any definite improvement in live stock due to the money that was paid out for agricultural purposes. For that reason we started this year as an experiment by selecting at one place in each province a fair in the nature of what we were pleased to call a regional fair, where by giving prizes we endeavoured to create a healthy competition amongst the farmers in the community. The grant is \$1,000, the first prize being \$400 to be given to the community that wins the most points at the exhibition. The next prize was \$300; the next \$200, and the next, \$100. We already have returns from some of these, and I am glad to see that the result is much beyond anything that we expected as regards getting the farmers themselves interested in this work.

Another work that we are undertaking throughout Canada and that has been given more or less attention in the past—and an item that slipped through in a hurry the other