

REPORT OF CHILLED MEAT COMMITTEE

we would be able to put the stock question on a different footing. We would be almost able to export as much beef as we export wheat; because a farmer in this country is not farming unless a man keeps enough stock on his farm to consume the coarse grains and straw. If every half-section was fattening ten or fifteen steers each year, see the enormous amount we would have for export. So that if we had a rate to the Old Country cheap enough, we should get a fair value for our stock in a very short time.

In the report of the Beef Commission where the conditions are analysed and the testimony of the different witnesses weighed, the following words are used:

"We find many producers reducing their herds, while others are going out of stock-growing altogether."

In the report of the Beef Commission in Alberta in June and July 1907 we find the following remarks by the Commissioners:

Beef Commission in Alberta
 "We have made an exhaustive investigation of the meat industry in Alberta, and we find that there is a universal complaint that it is not on a paying basis. We have heard the evidence of most of the large cattle raisers in the Province, many of whom we have found to be very familiar with exporting conditions, and with the exception of one or two who are favorably situated, their evidence goes to show that there is something seriously wrong. Almost without exception the small shipper has exported at a loss."

"Throughout our sittings in the southern part of the Province, there were many witnesses who advanced the argument that the establishment of a chilled meat trade with the Old Country was the proper method by which to solve the export problem. We are given to consider the view of one, Dr. Duncan McEachern as those of a man who carries considerable weight. Dr. McEachern has been manager of the Waldron Ranch since 1883, a veterinary surgeon by profession, and has occupied high positions throughout the Dominion of Canada. He was at one time surgeon in Montreal Veterinary College, dean of the faculty of comparative medicine, having organized the quarantine system and conducted it for 25 years. Dr. McEachern states that for a number of years he has been greatly interested in the establishment of a chilled meat trade, but he believes that the difficulties in the way are insurmountable. The sum total of his lengthy argument is that the capital necessary would be enormous. Nevertheless he states that if a dressed meat trade could be established successfully, it would be a great benefit to the producer. It would increase the value of his cattle easily from 25 to 30 per cent. He is of the opinion that if the Government would undertake the enterprise, and could see their way clear to bringing it to a successful issue it would mean the placing of the meat industry of Western Canada on a new basis."

"Undoubtedly there is considerable in favor of the chilled meat system. In the first place there would be the advantage of shipping the carcass to England in a dressed form, which would cost considerably less than shipping on foot, and would do away almost entirely with risk. Our meat would not be in a bruised condition as a result of the abuse the animals are subjected to incident to the long train haul. If the system were brought into operation it would do away entirely with the present