

Western Canada Veterinary College

of these bills. I should like also to thank the house in general for allowing Bill No. C-16 to stand until today. In view of the difficulty which was experienced in getting a bill acceptable for presentation to the house, it would have been most unfortunate if these efforts had been in vain.

This is not the first time, Mr. Speaker, that there has been a discussion relating to the establishment of a western veterinary college. The same bill, designated as Bill No. C-76, received first reading during the twenty fifth parliament. Up until that time, there had been no definite plan to relieve the shortage of veterinarians, although considerable discussion had taken place at the provincial level. Before proceeding further, however, I note that it has been suggested that the founding of a western veterinary college by the federal government in general, and by the Department of Agriculture in particular, is an intrusion of the provincial educational field. It is difficult to accept that as a legitimate reason for the lack of action by the federal authorities, because there are already many precedents which indicate the federal government is well established in the field of education. First of all, the Department of National Defence supports our military colleges. The Department of Citizenship and Immigration provides educational opportunities for Indians, and the Department of Labour makes a contribution towards technical and vocational training. As a matter of fact, sir, information contained in the Glassco report indicates that 10 per cent of all public moneys spent on education in Canada is provided by the federal government. This participation would certainly indicate that there is nothing new or original in federal support of specialized education.

In the explanatory notes for Bill No. C-16 an effort has been made to bring into focus the great need for another institution in this country to produce graduates in veterinary medicine who will be required in ever increasing numbers as our livestock industry expands. In 1958 an analysis was made by the western Canadian veterinary study group concerning the requirements in western Canada for the 20-year period 1960 to 1980. It was found that while there was an estimated shortage of 164 veterinarians in 1960, this figure might well be doubled by 1980.

This situation is recorded very factually by the publication "Food in Canada" in the issue of December, 1962. The editor, Mr. Philip V. Moyes, brings to light some interesting information when discussing Canada's tragic shortage of veterinarians. In this comparative study, Mr. Moyes points out that in the United Kingdom there is one veterinarian to every 2,300 livestock units, to every

3,000 in Belgium, to every 5,600 in France, and yet in all Canada there is only one veterinarian to every 8,000 livestock units. In western Canada the figure rises to an astronomical 13,000 livestock units. In other words, there are almost five veterinarians in the United Kingdom to every one in Canada on a comparable livestock unit basis.

Then, Mr. Moyes goes on to ask about increasing the facilities for training veterinarians. The United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Mexico, Japan, Korea, U.S.S.R., India, Pakistan, South Africa and many European countries have increased their veterinary facilities in the past decade. The United States had 12 schools in 1945, and now has 19. It has set aside \$5 million for expansion and \$10 million to help establish new veterinary schools over the next ten years. The disturbing factor, Mr. Speaker, is that Canada has not started a new college of veterinary medicine in over 100 years. Existing facilities have been stretched up to and beyond the danger point where efficiency must suffer. Mr. Moyes goes on to say that a recent report prepared by the Alberta veterinary medical association points out that of 68 students registered in the first year veterinary science course in the four western Canadian universities in the fall of 1961, only 11 could be accepted in the second year due to the limited facilities of the Ontario veterinary college and the large number of applicants from other parts of Canada. Then Mr. Moyes continues:

This year 64 have registered in the west; probably fewer than 10 will be able to continue in veterinary medicine.

Their conclusion: a western Canadian faculty of veterinary medicine is urgently needed now.

Finally Mr. Moyes says:

Currently before the House of Commons is a private member's bill "to found and constitute the Western Canada Veterinary College." This bill C-76 deserves close attention—

This was in 1962.

—from all sides of the house. Whatever may be its fate as a private member's bill, it should serve to focus attention on the need and on a practical method for meeting it.

While the feasibility of a western veterinary college has now been accepted by officials of the governments of both Saskatchewan and Alberta, there is naturally considerable rivalry regarding the site of any proposed college. On this whole matter there must have been considerable soul searching because, prior to the introduction of Bill C-76 on November 7, 1962, there was not the enthusiasm for a veterinary college which developed later. As a matter of fact the Lethbridge *Herald* of Tuesday, October 12, 1962 records that Premier Manning of Alberta rejected the idea of