

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON CONTROL OF TUBERCULOSIS AMONG DOMESTIC ANIMALS.

By M. H. REYNOLDS, Secretary.

IT seems desirable that the public should be given opportunity to know what this Commission is doing in as much as the Commission represents indirectly the Canadian and United States governments, and involves live stock sanitary control work of all of the individual states.

The last session held at Detroit was devoted largely to reports. There were present representatives of Canadian and American breeders, Canadian and United States Departments of Agriculture, American and Canadian veterinarians. The following reported: Committee on Education and Legislation; Committee on Location of Tuberculosis in cattle; Committee on Dissemination of Tuberculosis; and the Committee on Disposition of Tuberculous cattle. The Committee on Education and Legislation made a partial report presenting a critical study of experience of certain states in their efforts to deal with this problem. The purpose of this was to present full information for the Commission concerning mistakes, and failures, and comparative successes of communities that have undertaken serious work with tuberculosis.

The committee on Location of Tuberculosis in Cattle, presented their report under such headings as "Provision for Notification"; "Location By Tuberculin Test"; "Location of Infected Herds Through Meat Inspection Service"; "Most Important Sources of Animal Tuberculosis."

The committee on Dissemination of Bovine Tuberculosis presented its study under such headings as "Introduction of Disease Into the Herd"; "Dissemination By Feeding To Calves"; "Dissemination By Contact At Shows"; "Dissemination By Placing Healthy Animals in Contaminated Stables"; "Dissemination by Transportation of Healthy Animals in In-

fectured Cars"; "Dissemination by Pasture Exposure." The discussion on this report gave considerable attention to the problem of tracing back from the killing floor to the infected farm with a view to detecting the diseased herds and concentrating control work as much as possible on diseased herds.

The Committee on Disposition of Tubercular Cattle reported concerning the necessity of accepting tuberculin for diagnosis as a fundamental; the necessity of voluntary co-operation; and the superiority of voluntary co-operation to measures of compulsion. This committee considered the feasibility of the Bang and Oster-tag methods of dealing with tubercular herds under American conditions. It also made recommendations concerning the relation of indemnity to final disposition of all clinical cases; and a study of the conditions which should determine the disposition of reacting cattle.

A very considerable amount of discussion on this report was given to the question of remuneration for owners, and particularly as to whether this should be regarded as a temporary or as a permanent provision in tuberculosis control work. A number of members held that it must necessarily be considered as a useful preliminary and temporary measure.

Careful consideration was given to the possibility of making either the Oster-tag or Bang method of dealing with tuberculosis in the herd, or a combination of the two, feasible in America and Canada for grade herds. This is along the line of finding some method more economical than slaughter for as many herds as possible.

The next meeting of this International Commission will be held in Ottawa.