

Foot-and-mouth disease

from the United States of America, with all the international complications of retaliation and so on. It is our problem, so do not blame it on the United States. Do not try to starve the people of the province of Quebec or the people of British Columbia. They are entitled to their provincial autonomy. So far as the province of Ontario is concerned, it does not make much difference because no cattle will enter at 12 cents per pound less. Quebec should not be forced to buy Ontario or any other beef until they are ready to do so.

Mr. Gardiner: Before the dinner hour the member for Nanaimo asked me to put some information on *Hansard*. I have not been able to do so until this moment. I have just been handed the substance of a message which we received from Washington as a result of an inquiry made during the lunch hour concerning furs and fur-bearing animals. The answer is to the effect that the United States embassy advises that, according to a Washington official, furs and fur-bearing animals are not affected by the embargo order. The information we had prior to receiving that message was to the same effect.

There are a few things which I think should be said because of what I am afraid is a wrong impression being built up, not intentionally, but probably because of lack of information which I was unable to give at an earlier time. Perhaps I can give it now in greater detail than I could have given it previously. In the first place, the idea is being built up that somebody discovered foot-and-mouth disease on the farm of Mr. Waas or on the farm of Mr. Smith, who lived in the same area, or on the farm of some three or four others who lived around Mr. Waas. Well, Mr. Chairman, that is not correct. No one has ever established yet that there was ever foot-and-mouth disease upon the farm of Mr. Waas.

Mr. Harkness: Did they not shoot his cattle?

Mr. Gardiner: No, his cattle have not been shot. Some of them may be tomorrow, but they have not been shot yet. It has not been established that foot-and-mouth disease has been on the farm of Mr. Waas. As a matter of fact, Mr. Waas called in a veterinarian for the first time on November 26 to consult him about a disease which his animals had. As I stated the other night, his veterinarian was sick and was not able to go, but he did prescribe for this disease known as stomatitis. The animals recovered.

At a later date, I think it was demonstrated today that that date was about December 2, Mr. Waas became somewhat concerned about something and he sent into Regina for members of our veterinary staff.

I think one of the members went out that day and one on a later day, probably the next day. Altogether Mr. Waas and his neighbours had seven different veterinarians in that district examining their cattle during the latter part of November and the early part of December. Every one of the seven veterinarians said it was not foot-and-mouth disease. It is my understanding that by the 5th of January these men were relieved of any idea that there had been foot-and-mouth disease on their farms.

So far as anyone knows, that would have been the end of the matter had the disease not broken out somewhere else. The disease was discovered, not on anyone's farm, but in the packing plant of the Burns Company at Regina. When it was discovered there—

Mr. Diefenbaker: Who established it?

Mr. Gardiner: I presume a veterinary inspector in the plant.

Mr. Diefenbaker: One of your inspectors?

Mr. Gardiner: I would not say that, but it was discovered by someone in the plant who was competent to deal with the matter. It was found in a very short time, as suggested by the member for Lake Centre this afternoon, that there was an outbreak of the disease along Wascana creek. I think he understands, as I do, that Wascana creek does take some of the sewage from the plants around Regina. We have always been afraid that something or other might break out along that stream as a result of that fact. On this occasion the disease did break out in certain places.

Mr. Charlton: Can the minister give us the date of that outbreak?

Mr. Gardiner: I will give you the dates of everything in a minute, but let me give it in my own order.

An hon. Member: Make sure he does not forget it.

Mr. Gardiner: The disease did break out in the Regina plant of Burns, in so far as we are certain, and might not have broken out on the farm of Mr. Waas at all. The only reason for thinking that it has any association with Mr. Waas is that, seven days before any of his animals were infected with any disease, he delivered livestock to the Burns plant in Regina. It was only after discovery was made of some traces of the disease as leading back to the plant at Regina that thought was given to Mr. Waas and his neighbours. These particular cattle of his were traced back to his farm, of course, and it was found that he had this other disease there. Investigations have been carried on