

The following is a quotation from a letter addressed by the High Commissioner to the Right Honourable Lord Bledisloe, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries: "I am enclosing a little article which appeared in the Manchester edition of the Daily Mail yesterday headed "U.S.A. Bacon".

You will notice in the last paragraph of this an allusion to potatoes, in case American potatoes should find their way via Canada to this country. As a matter of fact this would be commercially impossible because the duty on potatoes from the United States to Canada is thirty-five cents per 100 lbs. and the United States market is always higher than the Canadian, even in times of plenty like the present year, and if they went through Canada in bond they would be bound to be marked "U.S.A. potatoes."

You are probably well aware of the care taken in grading and marketing Canadian potatoes. They are run over wire screens for sizes, then bagged, and each bag must have a tag attached by a government inspector marked "Canadian A", and "Canadian B" or "Canadian C". I may add that the potatoes are examined by two government inspectors—by the original grader and the potato health inspector at the point of shipment.

The information I get is that it is practically an impossibility for the Colorado beetle to appear in any Canadian tuber because, as you know, the slugs feed on the leaf and they bury themselves in the earth, not in the tuber, and the tuber being run over wire screens for sizes and then run again over hand racks at the point of shipment precludes any possibility of them containing anything that might develop into a Colorado beetle.

These representations were, however, unsuccessful and the embargo was placed on Canadian potatoes. The government was, however, successful in inducing the British government to except from the conditions of the embargo any Canadian potatoes afloat at the time the embargo was put into effect.

A further attempt was made to have the restrictions removed, the following cable having been sent to the British ministry: "The Entomological branch of the Department of Agriculture has just completed a close biological study of the Colorado beetle and from their study of the habits of the insect, there would appear to be no danger whatever of the beetle being transported in shipments of potatoes exported from Canada.

The Colorado potato beetle in eastern Canada disappears from the plants by the end of September and enters the ground for hibernation. In fact, the large majority of the beetles are in the ground a month earlier.

Potatoes exported from Canada to England are dug in October, at which time, as stated, the beetles are inactive, being in hibernation in the ground. After digging, the potatoes are machine graded before shipment and the danger that any beetles could remain in association with the potatoes through all this process is infinitesimal.

Our officers who have made special observations of this insect have never reported the finding of the beetles in bags, barrels, or other containers in which potatoes are shipped.

During the summer months when the beetles are active, there is a possibility of their being transported with any cargo, but it seems almost inconceivable that the beetles could be introduced with shipments of potatoes which are invariably dug after the beetles have entered the ground for hibernation.

We have no records, nor know of no cases in other countries the insect having been distributed through shipments of potatoes.

As the department has an established potato inspection service, Canada would suggest that the Imperial government accept shipments of potatoes from this country subject to their being accompanied by certificates as to freedom from Colorado potato beetle due to having undergone such grading and inspection as would permit of such guarantee.

No reply to this has yet been received.

4. A similar embargo, and for similar reasons, is placed against the importation into Great Britain of potatoes from the United States.

5. Answered by No. 4.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE—OFFICIALS

Mr. LUCAS:

1. How many veterinarians were employed by the Health of Animals branch in Dominion of Canada during 1923?

2. How many were employed during 1924?

3. How many veterinarians were employed by the Health of Animals branch in each province during 1923?

4. How many were employed in each province in Canada during 1924?

5. What was the total amount of salaries paid veterinary employees of the Health of Animals branch in Canada during 1924?

6. What was the total travelling expenses of all employees of Health of Animals branch for 1924?

7. What mileage expenses were paid for motor cars for each veterinary employee of the Health of Animals branch in the province of Alberta, and what was the name and location of each employee?

8. What is the total number of permanent officials engaged by the various branches of the federal Department of Agriculture who are located in the province of Alberta, and what are the names and locations of each?

9. What is the description of the work which these officials are required to perform?

10. What are the names and locations of permanent employees of the federal Department of Agriculture