

*Foot-and-mouth disease*

cattle. If that disease had been properly diagnosed within the six days following the first diagnosis on December 7, I believe it is obvious, from what has been said this afternoon, that the area could have been properly quarantined and the disease brought under control. Each year that the United States border is closed to Canadian cattle, it is going to cost this country hundreds of millions of dollars. This loss will be felt by every consumer, every industrial worker, and every manufacturer, as well as every farmer in this country—in fact, it is going to be felt acutely by every Canadian. There will be that much less purchasing power in the country. Retail trade and employment will be seriously affected. The result is going to be great upon our whole economy. This gross negligence, indeed it comes close to criminal negligence on the part of the government, is something for which this government will have to answer to the Canadian people in the near future.

As a businessman, I should like to comment on this bill. It is proposed not to state the basis on which recompense is going to be made to the farmers who declare that they have cattle which may have been infected. I believe it is obvious to any member in this chamber that if one has a choice as to whether or not to declare these cattle, especially if one has valuable cattle, the temptation to refrain from declaring them, unless you know the basis upon which you are going to be recompensed, will be very great. After all, we are all human beings. If one has put thousands of dollars into cattle and may only receive a few hundred dollars in return for them, one is going to think twice before voluntarily turning them over to be slaughtered. I think the only fair thing to do in this respect is to let the farmers know the basis upon which they will be paid for the cattle which they voluntarily declare. Only in that way will you stop spreading carriers right across this country; only in that way will this disease be stamped out at some reasonable time in the future, and the United States border reopened. This is vitally important to our whole Canadian economy. On that basis I do appeal to the government to state the basis upon which payments will be made, so that farmers will bring their cattle forward and all carriers will be stamped out at the earliest possible opportunity.

**Mr. Knight:** For a moment I should like to return to a matter which may seem relatively unimportant when compared to the larger issues, but I think it is important in that there might be some reflection upon the

professional reputation of a veterinarian who resides in my own city. I refer to Dr. J. L. Millar, a veterinarian at the university of Saskatchewan. I want to put the record straight, and I think the minister would desire that I do so.

I do not believe the minister intended to convey any impression that Dr. Millar had had an opportunity to diagnose this particular disease, and then having done so declared that stomatitis in cattle was not a serious matter. It is possible that that impression might be gained from the minister's words. I think it is not probable, but it is possible. The minister mentioned but did not quote the report that he had seen in the Vancouver paper.

**Mr. Gardiner:** I read it into *Hansard* this afternoon.

**Mr. Knight:** The minister will be doing a good deal of talking later on. If he will allow me to do so, I think that I shall put on the record the exact quotation from the *Vancouver Daily Province* of Thursday, February 21, 1952. It originated in Saskatoon. It is a Canadian Press dispatch and it reads as follows:

Dr. J. L. Millar of the University of Saskatchewan animal disease laboratory said Wednesday infectious stomatitis,—

And I would ask you, Mr. Chairman, to note the words that follow immediately.

—as reported in cattle in the Regina area, is not considered serious by veterinarians, although symptoms are similar to those of hoof-and-mouth disease.

That is the relevant part of the quotation from the *Vancouver Daily Province*. Now, if I may, I should like to quote from the *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix* of February 20. The words are not much different, but I would ask you to note the words "such as reported":

Infectious stomatitis such as reported among cattle in the Regina area was not considered a serious disease by veterinarians, Dr. J. L. Millar, of the animal diseases laboratory, University of Saskatchewan, said Tuesday.

That in no way implies that Dr. Millar had himself diagnosed the disease, or had had an opportunity to do so.

**Mr. Rowe:** Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the faint applause, by which I know that there are at least some people who are interested in this great national disaster. I cannot help but think of the seriousness of this problem. There is no one who has had experience in farming or in observing the general economy of this country who has not heard for many years about agriculture being the basic industry of Canada. I have always been a farmer. I have lived no place else except on the farm.