

from the United States than before, what protection is he going to give the Canadian farmers against those animals bringing disease into Canada that have hitherto been unheard of here? Has my hon. friend considered this? I am speaking from a farmers' standpoint, as I represent an agricultural constituency, and my farmers are interested. I want to know whether my hon. friend is taking some precautions in regard to the health of the large number of hogs, cattle, sheep, horses and other products that will come in from the United States under that agreement? My hon. friend has not taken very good care of the farmers in the agreement, because everybody is to have protection except them. What provision is my hon. friend making for looking after the health of these animals, or has he overlooked that part of the agreement altogether?

Mr. FISHER. I do not propose to be drawn into a discussion on the reciprocity question, and will therefore merely say that our present quarantine regulations are sufficient to protect animals in Canada. Should any outbreak of disease occur in other countries, we may have to make special provision to meet it, and shall do so, as we did a few years ago, when the outbreak of foot and mouth disease occurred in the United States. We then took exceptional precautions; and notwithstanding that disease prevailed all along our southern border, no contagion came across.

Mr. BLAIN. There is protection now, and therefore they could not get through.

Mr. FISHER. The question of duty or no duty does not affect our quarantine arrangements in the slightest degree. My hon. friend wants to know if I am going to make any special provision to meet the large increase of trade.

Mr. BLAIN. If there is to be such an increase.

Mr. FISHER. I say that the increase in trade will make no difference in the regulations. Should any outbreak of disease occur or any special danger arise, we shall take the necessary precautions. If the health of animals in Canada is good, as I understood my hon. friend to admit, that is largely due to the efficiency of our quarantine arrangements which prevent the entry of disease from foreign countries. Our machinery is quite able to do that work. Should extraordinary circumstances arise, we shall have to spend more money; but until they do, I am not going to ask parliament to vote any more.

Mr. SPROULE. I would like to know what the regulations are with regard to the importation of animals, cattle, horses, sheep, swine and poultry?

Mr. FISHER. I cannot give in detail all that information. I may say, however, that cattle from across the line, which come in for immediate slaughter, are allowed entry without hindrance.

Mr. FISHER. Cattle for immediate slaughter.

Mr. SPROULE. What does the hon. minister mean by immediate slaughter?

Mr. FISHER. When fat animals are brought in to be slaughtered at their destination.

Mr. SPROULE. In a given number of days?

Mr. FISHER. I do not know that there is an exact number of days stated, but they are to be slaughtered at their destination.

Mr. FOSTER. Within what distance of the border?

Mr. FISHER. Without transshipment. When they reach their destination they have to be immediately slaughtered. Cows for dairy purposes and animals for breeding purposes have to be accompanied by a certificate that a tuberculin test was made within one month or possibly two months before shipment. Hogs have to be detained at the frontier for supervision during 30 days, so as to check hog cholera if there should be any. Every horse that comes across the line has to be subjected to the mallen test for glanders.

Mr. SPROULE. Under the reciprocity regulations, animals may come in any time, how then can you detain them 30 days? Would that be carrying out the understanding?

Mr. FISHER. Yes, it is thoroughly understood that quarantine matters are entirely above treaty obligations. The life of human beings and animals have to be dealt with regardless of tariff questions or anything of that kind.

Mr. PORTER. That is not made a part of the agreement.

Mr. FISHER. It is a general understanding among all nations, and the United States authorities thoroughly understand that. It is not in the agreement because it is a matter of course.