

Foot-and-mouth disease

two other diseases, as I said before, vesicular stomatitis and vesicular exanthema of swine that resemble foot-and-mouth disease very closely. It is not difficult, however, to diagnose these diseases if inoculations are given, but they are not distinguishable without these inoculations. It is very dangerous, therefore, for anyone to try to make a diagnosis by visual means only.

The present situation has already proven to be economically disastrous to thousands of cattle producers across Canada. It has caused a loss, not only through the fact that many herds have had to be slaughtered—that is where the compensation comes in, and that is where this bill is not adequate. It does not state what the compensation will be. This will lead to people attempting to conceal the fact that they may have diseased cattle. If those cattle were diseased two months ago, you cannot prove now that they once had disease, unless you have the case history or unless the man is willing to admit that he had some sick cattle. In that case they can probably be destroyed. But do you think that a man who has a \$15,000 bull which he has just paid for, for which he probably has a receipt, and who keeps a herd of about forty or fifty dairy cows, is going to admit that he has disease among his cattle when he knows he is going to get about \$200 or \$300 for that \$15,000 bull? You could not blame him if he did not. Yet the mortality rate is only about five per cent. The cattle get over the disease quickly. They show vesicles in the mouth for four to six days and unless secondary infection starts in the feet, then probably you never notice the disease. On the range you probably would not notice it. As I say, the cattle get over the disease. Then it is difficult to do anything at all.

Unless people know that they are going to get the full value for their cattle, they are probably going to try to hide the fact that they have disease, and then get rid of them as soon as they can to some unsuspecting person. It is exceedingly important that the clinical manifestations should be known to every farmer and livestock producer across this country. He should be told plainly and made to understand that he is going to get the full value for those cattle. Otherwise he will be inclined to hide the fact that they have had disease, and might not report it. I would therefore urge the government to make in this new bill some definite commitment with regard to the value. We do not want to hold up the bill. That is the last thing we have in mind. I might say in passing that while the minister was criticizing

us for holding it up this afternoon, I think he has taken up more time in the debate than has anyone else.

Mr. Gardiner: I have not criticized anybody.

Mr. Charlton: The bill is going to go through all right, as far as I am concerned; but I still plead with the minister to put something more definite in the bill. Otherwise I am afraid that he will run into the situation that I have suggested, namely that people will be inclined to hide the fact that their cattle may have had disease.

Mr. Fair: Mr. Chairman, most of the discussion that has taken place so far this afternoon would indicate that this is a family problem in the province of Saskatchewan. In my opinion, however, it is a matter of vital interest to residents of every province in Canada. It concerns not only the farmers but those who live in the villages, towns and cities as well. We have had a good deal of information given to us by the hon. member who has just taken his seat. I believe that is necessary because, as far as I know, this is the first occasion on which we have had any experience with this dread foot-and-mouth disease which is at the present time prevalent in the Regina district. While I am a number of miles from that section, my territory borders on the province of Saskatchewan. For that reason I feel that I should say at least a few words.

Only this morning, from the secretary of one of the feeder associations, many of which are operating in my territory, I received a resolution. He and the other members of the association are greatly worried about the embargo that has been placed on the shipment of cattle between provinces, and on behalf of his members he says he would like to see that embargo removed. He also pointed out that because of the condition of the grain in that part of the country—much of which has been threshed tough, is still under the snow, in the swath and still standing—they are making use of it for feeding livestock, in order to dispose of it. He has pointed out that the farmers have bought much of their stock at prices ranging from 27 cents to 30 cents per pound, and that unless something is done in connection with setting a floor price, many of the farmers who purchased stock may be ruined financially. He has therefore advocated strongly the removal of the embargo as between provinces and also a support price. I hope the support price will not be for the packers only, as has been the case in the past in connection with hog support prices.