

about 1906, 1907 or 1908 the compensation paid for glanders alone was about \$40,000 or \$60,000 each year. The minister's latest report, which I have before me, shows that last year in all of Canada only one animal was killed. Just think what that means! It means that glanders has been practically exterminated from Canada.

Mange is another disease with which we have to contend. It was quite prevalent in western Canada, and although not as fatal as glanders among horses and cattle, still it caused a great deal of loss. From the report before me I find that to-day there is very little mange among horses and cattle in Canada. This is important not only from the standpoint of a reduced loss of stock; we must think of the serious results that would follow if the foot and mouth disease became prevalent among sheep and cattle in Canada. It would mean not only the loss of animals but the loss of markets, because probably for a long while we would be excluded from the markets of the world. If there is any curtailment of the work of the health of animals branch I am afraid that when there is another outbreak of foot and mouth disease in the United States—because they seem to come quite frequently—it will come in this country as well. The value of live stock in Canada in 1929 was something between \$800,000,000 and \$900,000,000; to-day it is probably not more than half of that. The compensation being paid to-day is low compared with that of a few years ago, largely due to the activities of the health of animals branch. It is a very efficient department, and I hope that members of this house will not be carried away with the idea that there is any advantage in curtailing its support. It would be a disaster to Canada not to continue to guard against diseases of animals as we have in the past.

Mr. REID: I wonder if the minister has any information regarding research in the Fraser valley in connection with a disease peculiar to cows there, how far it has progressed and what has been done.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): It has been demonstrated that it is not contagious. We have not been able to decide yet whether or not it is due to a deficiency in the food in certain areas.

Mr. REID: Then I want to refer to a disease of poultry that I believe should be investigated by the Department of Agriculture. As the minister well knows, British Columbia is peculiarly adapted for poultry

[Mr. R. McKenzie.]

raising. It is the only province, I believe, that has gone in for poultry in a specialized way. In other provinces poultry is a side line, but on the Pacific coast it is a highly specialized industry, particularly in the Fraser valley and on Vancouver island. We have been baffled there by a disease known as poultry paralysis, and it seems to me that the research work in that connection should be handled by the Department of Agriculture. In the past a little help in the way of money was given by the National Research Council to British Columbia university, and some work was done there in an attempt to find out more about this disease. No one knows its origin; they do not know whether or not it is contagious, but when it strikes a flock hundreds of fowls will die in a night. We heard in the early part of the evening discussions of a grant of \$10,000 and of inspectors and professors being sent to various parts of the country conducting investigations about apples. But here is something affecting an industry in which thousands are engaged, hundreds in the Fraser valley alone, and we believe this should be under the Department of Agriculture and that an appropriation should be given to carry on this research work until the cause and cure of this disease are discovered. At present we have to go to the Department of Trade and Commerce and ask them to be good enough to put through a vote from the research council. I plead very seriously with the Minister of Agriculture to help this work, because it is very, very important to the poultry producers of British Columbia.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): Some five or six years ago the British Columbia government through the university asked that the National Research Council undertake the investigation of this disease. Wishing to avoid duplication, our health of animals branch has not undertaken it. But I will take into consideration what the hon. member has said, although I do not yet very well see how we could interfere in work that they have specifically asked another organization to undertake.

Mr. REID: The reason I ask is that I believe for two years some financial help was given through the research council to the university, but it was stopped last fall. It was said that retrenchment was necessary and they felt they could not carry on any further. They also said that the research work had been carried out but no information had been obtained. I believe that is a very poor excuse, that just because no results had accrued they were stopping the work. I maintain