

promise until the Director General of Veterinary Service, had informed him of the amounts which would be at their disposal, in 1932, for the tuberculine test of cattle. In another letter, dated April 7, the hon. Minister of Agriculture informed me of his decision not to proceed to new tests, either under the regulations governing certified herds or under those with reference to restricted areas for the eradication of bovine tuberculosis, except under special circumstances, and the Minister further added, even in such cases, the farmers should accept the tuberculine test of their cattle without requesting compensation from the government.

Not only, sir, do I think I am justified, but I deem it a paramount duty, in connection with the vote asked under item 47 Health of Animals, administration of the Animal Contagious Diseases Act, \$1,654,000, namely a reduction of \$896,000, on the previous year—also with reference to item 49, Administration of Destructive Insects and Pests Act—a cut of half the previous amount—I deem it, I state, a paramount duty to protest, on behalf of the farmers I represent here, against this unjustified decrease, and especially in connection with the item which particularly affects the farmers. Although the government through bonuses and other gifts of all kinds gives to the farmers of the western provinces the greatest advantages possible, it does not seem to realize that the eastern farmers, just like those of the west, have a right to protection and relief from this government.

The Quebec farmers are suffering from the present crisis, just as much as those from the west, and the ridiculously low prices they obtain for their products are hardly sufficient to enable them to subsist with their family. If those who, especially, have depended heretofore on the products of their cattle as their main source of revenue, are to be deprived of the tuberculine test granted to them pursuant to the order in council just referred to, they will find themselves in a very critical situation. That is why, seeing that the hon. Minister of Agriculture—whose kindness I acknowledge—mentioned in his letters that, except under special circumstances, the promises made to cattle owners would not be implemented, I again address myself with confidence to him and I insist that he should reconsider the sad plight of those who surely are to be looked upon as under exceptional circumstances; and if he is unable, owing to the cut in his estimates, to carry out a general tuberculine test of cattle in the county of L'Assomption, let him at least, without further delay, undertake the test of the cattle of

farmers who sell milk and cream in Montreal, and from which markets, at present, they are debarred. Needless to say that, when requesting the hon. Minister of Agriculture to carry on such tests, I mean that they should be done according to the provisions which govern restricted areas, such as my county, and that the indemnity granted by the Act be paid to farmers whose cattle react, even if the payment of the indemnity be deferred. In connection with the delegation to which I referred a moment ago, my opponent, in the last election, who came to Ottawa with it, having noticed that I had also joined the delegation, immediately took every possible step to prevent the delegation being received by the Minister of Agriculture. He went from the Postmaster General's office to that of the Minister of Marine, to induce them to use their influence with their colleague in order that the delegation be not received or, at least, that the results be nil.

Notwithstanding his trips right and left, which hindered this defeated candidate of being of any help to these farmers and many of his friends who formed part of the delegation, I must say, greatly to the credit of the hon. Minister of Agriculture, that the delegates and myself received a most cordial welcome, and that we all left with gratitude in our hearts and filled with the hope, that the minister's promise would be implemented.

Having returned to their homes, the delegates learned that Mr. Jeannotte, repeated everywhere that the delegation having been taken in hand by the Liberal member for L'Assomption-Montcalm, notwithstanding the promise given by the minister, no results would follow, and that the tuberculine test requested would not be proceeded with. I take this opportunity, sir, to denounce this undignified attitude of my opponent and to repeat to the hon. Minister of Agriculture that I have too high an opinion of him to believe that he would lend himself to such intrigues.

I therefore, pray the hon. Minister of Agriculture to dissociate himself from such idle talk originating with the defeated candidate in L'Assomption, and to do the right thing by the farmers and milk producers of the county of L'Assomption, and especially, to assist, without delay, the milk and cream producers, heretofore, doing business in Montreal, and who, since May 1, are deprived of their only livelihood. The question is too serious and momentous not to depend on the broadmindedness of the hon. Minister of