

I remember as a boy helping to drive Canadian cattle from the docks. I remember too such incidents as the burning of carcasses of cattle which were discovered to have foot and mouth disease.

Hon. Mr. Euler: Was not foot and mouth made an excuse for not admitting Canadian cattle? I well remember what happened at that time.

Hon. Mr. Reid: It may well have been an excuse, because it could hardly be supposed that cattle in this country had any connection with cattle in the southern United States.

What I fear in this connection now is the various provincial embargoes which have arisen. I know that some provinces have felt inclined to act quickly, but a chain of circumstances has been started which in my opinion, if it extends, may lead to ten balkanized states. The province of British Columbia has not only shut out live cattle but it has shut out beef. Great Britain never went so far as that.

Speaking of beef, the honourable senator from Blaine Lake (Hon. Mr. Horner) stated that prices had now gone down. He and I have visited a certain part of the United States during this past year, and later on I would like to lay on the table some pertinent figures in connection with beef prices, because when in Los Angeles I was astonished to find that beef prices in the stores were generally far more reasonable than beef prices in British Columbia. What intrigues me is this. How can the Americans buy our beef at high prices and then sell it to their consumers at a more reasonable price than we can sell it to our own consumers? This has nothing to do with the bill before us, however, and I shall not pursue it further at this time.

I heartily agree with the remarks made by the honourable senator from Blaine Lake (Hon. Mr. Horner) about the method of slaughtering cattle. Those of us who have had experience in the killing of animals know that you must stand directly in front of the animal's head, and if you miss by just a little bit with the first shot you may have to put two or three more bullets into the animal before it drops. You have to penetrate the brain, which is right in the centre of the head. I was rather disturbed when I read that members of the R.C.M.P. were given rifles and ordered to shoot these diseased cattle which are held in groups. I know from experience that many of these animals could not be dropped by the first shot unless it was a bull's-eye, and that is something difficult to achieve when cattle are milling around.

This is the first time in the history of our country that this dread disease has struck our cattle, and it is only natural, perhaps, that some people should become a bit panicky. I do not quarrel with them for their feelings, but I do find fault with the undue publicity which has been given to the whole matter, particularly the publication of photographs showing the killing of large herds of the diseased cattle. This sort of publicity and the undue criticism which has been made has not helped to eradicate the disease. On the contrary, it merely leads other countries to believe that perhaps our cattle are in a bad way. I think much of the criticism has been made on a political basis rather than from concern for the welfare of our people.

I also want to agree with what the honourable gentleman from Blaine Lake had to say about immigrants. It seems to me that our import regulations are tight in some cases and lax in others. One regulation which I feel should be looked into affects live plants. Canadians cannot import from the United States a fruit tree or rose bush or any other plant unless the roots are bare. On the other hand, these plants can be imported from Europe with the soil attached to the roots. Anyone who is at all familiar with horticulture knows that plant diseases can and do live in the soil.

Speaking of the danger of our having ten balkanized states in Canada, one province may wish to retaliate against the actions of another. For instance, I am not at all sure that British Columbia might not be thinking of retaliation because of the results of the Newcastle disease which struck its poultry. At that time Alberta refused to take British Columbia poultry, and there was a marked drop in the importation by Ontario of British Columbia fowl of all kinds. That thought might now be in the minds of some British Columbians, because that province is not only refusing to take live cattle but beef as well. While these actions seem simple at the moment, they may have a bearing on the national and economic life of this country.

The matter of trade falls within the jurisdiction of the federal government, and all provinces look to Ottawa for the imposition of regulations controlling trade. It seems that the provinces, on a growing scale, are doing something now which is tantamount to creating a barrier to free trade. When I was visiting my boy in California a prominent citizen there said to me, "What are you people in British Columbia trying to do by keeping out our wines? You want to sell us all your produce, and yet you will not buy our wine". That is something about which the federal government can do little. I understand that there is an agreement