

oughly investigate and make a report on the matter. Dr. Rutherford veterinary inspector general of Canada was made chairman of that commission, and we appointed Senator Edwards, and Mr. Torrance, Veterinary Surgeon, of Winnipeg, and two or three others to be members of that commission, along with representatives of the United States. That commission has held meetings in San Francisco, St. Louis, Buffalo, Washington and Toronto, and it has prepared a report which is ready for presentation. I have been very carefully considering with the veterinary director general what we can do to carry out the valuable recommendations made in that report to prevent the spread of the disease.

Mr. SPROULE. Does that commission meet more than once a year?

Mr. FISHER. Yes, there were three meetings held in one year.

Mr. SPROULE. When was the last sitting of the committee?

Mr. FISHER. Quite recently. Speaking from memory, I think that was the fifth meeting.

Mr. SPROULE. That committee has made a report to the Department of Agriculture. Has that department, which the minister says has been carefully considering this subject, reached any conclusion yet as to what should be done, and, if so, what is it?

Mr. FISHER. I am not yet in a position to make any announcement. I will lay the report on the table in a few days, and I think my hon. friend will see that there are some recommendations in it which will require very careful consideration before we can undertake to carry them out. I would like to carry them out, but I fear that some of them are not feasible or practicable in the present condition of affairs in Canada.

Mr. SPROULE. We have been discussing this question for the last 12 or 14 years, and from time to time the minister has told us that he has been considering it. During that time all these inquiries have taken place, and a report has been presented to the Minister of Agriculture. How long does it take him to carefully consider the report and determine what should be done? I do not see why it should take so much time. It seems to me that the subject is worthy of better consideration. This is considered one of the preventable diseases, and it is too

Mr. FISHER.

important a matter to be dealt with in this slipshod way. Some people think it is a great injustice for the department to order animals to be slaughtered without any compensation to their owners, whereas animals slaughtered for hog cholera must be paid for.

Mr. FISHER. We have never ordered the slaughter of any animals for this disease.

Mr. SPROULE. Does the law not provide that animals affected with infectious or contagious diseases must be slaughtered?

Mr. FISHER. The law provides that a list of the diseases for which animals must be slaughtered shall be made. Tuberculosis is not one of them.

Mr. BLAIN. Is the minister making any provision for the greater protection of live stock in Canada under the reciprocity arrangement, which I presume will come into force before the next session of parliament?

Mr. FISHER. No.

Mr. BLAIN. Why not?

Mr. FISHER. Because I think that our provision at the present time is ample. The question of reciprocity does not enter into the question of the health of animals in Canada. We have certain rules and regulations for the protection of animals which we enforce whether a hundred or a thousand animals come in.

Mr. BLAIN. According to my hon. friend's remarks on the reciprocity agreement, we are to export our hay, and therefore the cattle will be fed in other countries.

Mr. FISHER. I did not make that statement.

Mr. BLAIN. My hon. friend made the statement that it was a splendid arrangement because the farmers of Quebec would have an excellent market for their hay, and if the hay goes out of the country it will be fed out of the country. Keeping that in view, and keeping in view the fact that we are to have a greater exchange of animals with the United States, I ask the hon. minister, whom I have always understood to claim that the health of animals was better in Canada than in the United States, if we are to have a larger number of animals coming into Canada