

regulations made thereunder, but the authority for this control is again being clarified with the new definition of animal by-products.

I know all hon. members recognize that a strong act, with adequate authority to control and eradicate animal diseases and to prevent the possible introduction of contagious and infectious animal diseases into Canada, is absolutely essential for the well-being of our livestock industry. I am sure that members of this House, when giving consideration to this bill—and I must say we have waited a long time, as it is over a year since it was introduced in the House—will recognize the essentialities involved in order that it can be put into place as soon as possible.

I am convinced that Bill C-28, involving the control of infectious and contagious diseases of animals, including a number of such diseases transmissible to man, will be of benefit to all Canadians.

Mr. Gus Mitges (Grey-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege for me to take part in this debate on Bill C-28, an act to amend the Animal Contagious Diseases Act. The Animal Contagious Diseases Act is administered by the Contagious Diseases Section of the Health of Animals Branch of Agriculture Canada. For the knowledge of hon. members, it does not have anything to do with the inspection of meat; it is a different section of the act.

The objective of the legislation and of the division is to keep and protect the nation's livestock population from contagious and infectious diseases. The division, operating under the authority of the act, controls and regulates the importation of animals and animal products, eradicates exotic diseases when they gain entry into the country, controls and eradicates established diseases, and is responsible for the certification of livestock for export.

Such an act, or something similar to it, first made its appearance in 1865. Since that time it has had many revisions and changes. Up to 1970, when the last revision was made, there had been 25 revisions and changes. The act has not been amended since that time except for the coming into force of section 14 on January 1, 1972. That is the date on which the Pesticide Residue Compensation Act came into force.

The Animal Contagious Diseases Act confers very wide powers and regulations for the achievement of the objectives of the act, namely, to prevent the entry of animal diseases into Canada and to eradicate or control those that are already established in this country.

It would be, perhaps, more convenient to summarize the legislation within the context of the three classic procedures for combatting disease, namely, exclusion, eradication and control. Under exclusion, the procedure includes measures to reduce to a minimum the means by which disease is introduced. Such measures include compulsory quarantine and inspection, embargoes, the importation of animals, animal parts and products from places where diseases are known to exist or not known to exist.

The act provides for the establishment of quarantine stations and for the destruction of imported animals known to be diseased or suspected of being diseased. Inspection is also carried out in ports on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, along the Canada-U.S. border, and airports, to enforce the provisions of the act. With regard to eradica-

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tion, the legislation recognizes that in spite of the most rigorous inspection procedures, disease will from time to time be introduced into Canada from abroad. The act, therefore, confers very wide powers to test and, if necessary, destroy infected animals and animals suspected of being infected with or exposed to disease. If possible, destruction is avoided by quarantine of animals within designated areas, and subsequent treatment until authorities are satisfied that the disease has been eliminated.

All affected areas and premises are included under the legislation, as are all infected vehicles and vessels associated with the disease in question. The requirements of the law make it incumbent on all owners, breeders, dealers and importers of animals to give immediate notice to the Department of Agriculture of the appearance of any disease. Veterinary surgeons are also included under this requirement. The marketing, sale, exhibition, and so on, of animals is covered by the legislation, as is the removal of animals from an infected area. Where the diseases are eradicated by the slaughter of animals, the legislation provides for compensation to the owners.

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Under control, where a disease has become established in Canada the legislation facilitates the investigation and reporting of outbreaks. Quarantine procedures can be instituted, and therapeutic measures, including vaccination, are carried out where possible. More than 600 individuals, including veterinary inspectors, are employed by Agriculture Canada to carry out the provisions of the act. Inspectors have full power of entry into "any place or premises or any steamships, vessel or boat, or any carriage, car, truck, airplane, horse-box or other vehicle used for the carriage of animals." Inspectors are empowered to make official declarations as to the presence of disease, and they also have the power to arrest offenders.

The foregoing is just a brief introductory summary of the main provisions of the Animal Contagious Diseases Act. Bill C-28 calls for the changing of the name of the act from its previous name to the Animal Disease and Protection Act, which more clearly describes the purpose of the act as amended. Much of the preliminary work regarding Bill C-28 was undertaken by the Senate Committee on Agriculture back in the spring of 1974 when it was introduced there as Bill S-2. At their hearings, which lasted for several weeks, the Senate committee heard representations from Mr. Charles Gracey, manager of the Canadian Cattle-men's Association, from Mr. C. G. Munro, president, Canadian Federation of Agriculture, as well as from representatives of Canadian Pacific Railway, a representative from the Health of Animals Branch of the Department of Agriculture, representatives from the Canadian Council on Animal Care, the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies, the Canadian Association for Laboratory Animal Science, the Department of Justice, and others. In my opinion, the Senate Committee on Agriculture did a very thorough and excellent job and should be commended for their hard work. Much of Bill C-28 as it is now written has resulted from findings and information compiled by that committee on Agriculture.

Most of the changes advocated by Bill C-28 are progressive and timely. The new provisions call for the examination of all animals prior to being loaded in aircraft, railway