

Foot-and-mouth disease

very glad to import. During the last five years I am satisfied that from my riding at least \$75,000 worth of dairy cattle have gone to South America alone, to say nothing of the great volume that goes across the border every week into the United States. Now we know that overnight that market is prohibited. We know that overnight the value of the purebred herds in the province of Ontario is almost cut in half.

How long is it going to take to recover? You will recall that I mentioned the Fordney-McCumber tariff and the Hawley-Smoot tariff. They were put into effect because the United States had too much beef at the time, and they thought they could protect the livestock men of Oklahoma, Texas, and other American states. They never had an excuse like this. I venture to say that, while it is to be in effect for sixty days, it will be difficult to remove, and the removal will not be made easier by the fact that we have made such a clumsy explanation of how the disaster started and how it was handled in Canada. I think that it not only means a death blow to the great basic industry of agriculture, the livestock industry, but it is the greatest discouragement to the livestock producers of Canada in the last half century. The discouragement does not arise particularly because of the fact that we have been contaminated with the dreaded foot-and-mouth disease. I am not so much concerned with that now because after you have a wreck there is not much use in talking about who hit you. You had better get your hospital bills paid and get straightened out. I am not so much concerned about that. As the hon. member for Lake Centre said so well this afternoon, you have chased an immigrant up and down this country from Montreal to Fort William and back to Montreal and finally found him in Vancouver. By now you have probably inspected his clothing, his boots and his hat, and found out where he has been. It may be that he worked on a farm in Holland, Belgium, Poland or Germany that was contaminated with foot-and-mouth disease, which we know is prevalent over there. I think the Minister of Agriculture might ask the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration whether the immigration officers who are selecting those who come to Canada are experienced men. He might ask him whether his immigration inspectors do anything about it when they find a group of young farmers coming from an area infected with foot-and-mouth disease, particularly when we know that even in Mexico when coming out of the infected

areas people are required to drive their automobiles through a chemical solution so they will not carry the disease.

Mr. Gardiner: The hon. member apparently was not in the house this evening when the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration dealt with that matter and announced that they were taking action.

Mr. Rowe: I am glad they have begun to take action, but apparently that has been done just recently. I know the department has called back from Europe some immigration officers who apparently were not serving as efficiently as the department considered they should. I am wondering just how loose this whole machinery may be. All down the line we have had what goes with a government that has a top-heavy majority and a top-heavy civil service, a bureaucracy that is almost tumbling over itself. The government has a Pollyanna complacency that often results in the errors and mistakes that I am trying to point out; and I say that in all kindness.

I venture to believe that in his heart of hearts the right hon. minister knows there must have been some laxity in his department. Nothing I have heard yet convinces me that there has not been carelessness, complacency, a disregard for facts and even worse in the Department of Agriculture, to permit this situation to develop though it had sufficient warning three months ago. It is not good enough for the minister to say he spoke to Tom Jones or Bill Smith or somebody else in Calgary, even though they are personal friends of his and excellent citizens, as they all are out there, and that because they did not mention it to him his responsibility ended.

The minister says a quarantine was set up. If that were so, why were Mr. Waas' children allowed to go to school without missing a day? Why were the people of that district allowed to go in to do their shopping, to tramp through the stores and be followed by men and women from farms in other districts? If a quarantine was set up that meant anything at all why were they permitted to send dozens of carloads of cattle to Ontario and Quebec, and to St. Paul in the United States? Where is the section you are going to extend by fifty miles and slaughter all the cattle in order to increase the area of your quarantine? You had better go fifty miles out from St. Paul, or fifty miles out from London, Ontario. Do you blame the people of British Columbia or the people of Quebec for being a little dubious when they know that during January and February cattle were shipped to Ontario and Quebec from the very district that was supposed to be under quarantine?