

embargo referred to was a regulation passed by the British government, first in 1892 by Order in Council, on the occasion of an outbreak of contagious pleuro-pneumonia in the United States. The British government were afraid that, because of the trade in cattle between the United States and Canada, this disease might be communicated through our cattle to their own herds. Later on, the British government seemed to think that they had found reason for making the embargo more stringent and for referring directly to Canada; and in 1896 the Order in Council was superseded by legislation providing that our Canadian cattle should be slaughtered within ten days from the date of their landing in British ports, and restricted the number of ports to which our cattle could be sent to seven for the whole Kingdom. From that time to this we have contended that this restriction upon the trade of our cattle was very unjust to Canada. The British experts found among our cattle landed in Great Britain three cases of what they held to be contagious pleuro-pneumonia. In that finding our own experts never concurred. Our expert contended that the cases found were not contagious pleuro-pneumonia, but an inflammation of the lungs arising from other causes. And, as a proof that our experts were correct in their conclusion, we have the fact from that day to this, although hundreds of thousands of head of cattle have been sent to the British markets and slaughtered there within ten days of landing, not one single case of contagious pleuro-pneumonia has been found in all these years and among all this large number of cattle. It would be hard to suggest evidence that would prove more conclusively the contention of the Canadian experts that no such thing as contagious pleuro-pneumonia exists among Canadian cattle.

Now, we object to this restriction on the ground that it proclaims to the world, in effect, that Canadian cattle are not sound, that they are liable to disease, so much so that they cannot be admitted into the ports of Great Britain on a par with the cattle of that country. For this reason, we claim that this embargo should be raised. If a rigid inspection is necessary, we do not object to that inspection being maintained. We have at present a rigid inspection constantly going on of our cattle entering these ports; and we have no objection to this being continued, and to every precaution being taken by the British authorities to preserve their herds. We know from the history of the cattle trade in Great Britain and other countries that it is a very risky thing to trifle with diseases among cattle. There have been diseases among cattle and sheep of a very infectious nature and hard to stamp out, so that they have cost Great Britain millions before they were subdued. We, therefore, sympathize with the British

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government in their efforts to keep out disease. But, we say, let the rigid examination continue; we are quite willing that our herds should be subject to that examination; and, if they are found diseased, we are quite willing to submit to the exclusion. But, believing that we have in Canada a healthful climate and herds free from contagious diseases, we ask the authorities of Great Britain to remove this embargo at once, and thereby publicly declare to the world that Canadian cattle are free from contagious disease.

Again we ask for the removal of this embargo on the ground that affects ourselves. We find that when cattle cross the Atlantic it frequently occurs that they meet stormy weather, and so the animals arrive in a more or less bruised and damaged condition; and, as they must be slaughtered within such a short time the meat is often put on the market in a very improper and inferior condition. This is damaging to the reputation of our beef in the British market. Likewise, we contend that if the time were extended—or was made unlimited—during which our cattle could remain alive in the country, bruised animals would have an opportunity to recover from the effects of the voyage, and the meat could be placed on the market in proper condition, thus keeping up the good name of our meat.

Again we claim, that in the interest of our cattle raisers and in the interest of the feeders of Great Britain, the embargo should be removed. Occasions arise among the cattle raisers in this country when it becomes necessary for them to send cattle out of the country that are not in exactly a finished condition; in fact a certain percentage of our cattle are always going out of the country in that condition. We must remember that these cattle have to be slaughtered within ten days after landing, and being in a half-fed condition, this meat which is sold of course as a Canadian product, tends to depreciate the good name of our beef in the British market. Now I am not an advocate of Canadians exporting unfinished cattle, but I will repeat what I have already said, that occasions will arise when such cattle are exported, there will always be a percentage of cattle going forward in that condition, it sometimes becomes necessary for farmers to send out some of their cattle in an unfinished condition; and we contend that on occasions of that kind the Canadian farmer should have the opportunity and the privilege of exporting those cattle in that condition; and we know that on the other side of the Atlantic there are many feeders who are glad to get them. I may say in this connection that in speaking with our esteemed Governor General recently on this matter, who is himself a considerable feeder of cattle, he informed me that in all his experience in feeding cattle he had never had better