

other things, but we did postpone some things so as to secure efficient work for this branch.

Mr. SPROULE. But all the officers of this branch are not engaged all the year round. During a great deal of their time they are without work.

Mr. FISHER. No.

Mr. SPROULE. There is nothing for them to do.

Mr. FISHER. Our permanent officers are busy all the year around.

Mr. SPROULE. The minister may say so, but it is not the experience of those who know them.

Mr. FISHER. Well, I would like to have it reported if they are not.

Mr. SPROULE. I do not see how of necessity they could be employed constantly. The ordinary veterinary surgeons throughout the country are open to be called here or there to make tuberculin tests, or, in the event of outbreaks, to go and look into them, but those things only happen occasionally. There is no steady work for those people.

Mr. FISHER. We try only to have enough to make pretty steady work for them.

Mr. SPROULE. I am afraid there are a great many of them who are not very steadily employed.

Mr. FISHER. I think that if my hon. friend looked into the matter he would find that they are pretty steadily employed.

Mr. SPROULE. Rabies were pretty prevalent in the western country where I belong, but I never heard of a single case of any employee of this department being engaged in connection with the outbreak. It would be interesting to know just what they did. There were certain notices published in the papers stating what should be done with persons who had been bitten, and with animals affected, but I do not know of any veterinary surgeon being employed in connection with that work. There were mad dogs in that part of the country and a great many cases of bites, but I never heard of a veterinary being employed.

Mr. FISHER. My hon. friend may not have heard of it, but at the same time whenever a report came in or any suggestion of rabies was received an officer was sent to investigate. If there was any breaking of the law or of the regulations there was a prosecution. In many cases dogs were killed and specimens sent in to be tested in the laboratory to determine whether or not it was a case of rabies. Our officers had to carry on the cases against

people who were charged with violating the regulations. There were a great many domestic animals sick and many reports received about cases which did not turn out to be correct. A great many cases were reported which turned out not to be correct, but the officers had to investigate, and they had to travel and spend their time.

Mr. SPROULE. Their time was paid for in their annual salaries.

Mr. FISHER. Yes, but the travelling and other expenses amount to a considerable sum.

Mr. SPROULE. Is there a report in each individual case?

Mr. FISHER. Yes.

Mr. SPROULE. Suppose a case of rabies is reported what action is taken to protect the people? If we know how much was spent on these services we would be able to tell approximately whether the money was properly spent or not. These reports must be available somewhere.

Mr. FISHER. If my hon. friend desires it I can compile a statement of the number of cases reported to the department.

Mr. SPROULE. I would like to get the information about individual cases so that we may know the localities in which rabies existed.

Mr. FISHER. I will bring down the file of the reports. I may say that out of this \$50,000 about \$25,000 was paid in extra compensation for the slaughter of animals which we did not have to pay last year.

Mr. SPROULE. In the case of what diseases is compensation paid?

Mr. FISHER. Glanders, hog cholera and dourine. Most of the compensation was for glanders. Fortunately we have that disease pretty well under control in eastern Canada, but there is still a considerable amount of it in the west.

Mr. SPROULE. No compensation is paid for bovine tuberculosis?

Mr. FISHER. No.

Mr. SPROULE. I understood the government were considering whether they might not wisely extend compensation in respect of that disease.

Mr. FISHER. Part of this appropriation is for the expenses of a joint commission to investigate the subject of bovine tuberculosis. There is an International Veterinary Association for Canada and the United States and Mexico, and at a meeting held some thirteen months ago it was decided to appoint a commission to thor-