

Animal Contagious Diseases

or leaving Canada or being transported within Canada, and provides for humane treatment of animals. Over the years there has been an increase in the percentage of livestock losses sustained during long transportation across the country. In order to reduce and, if possible, eliminate these losses, regulations must be introduced to cover the movement of animals by truck, rail, air and ship within and out of Canada.

The bill, as set out on page 6, clause 4(3)(p), extends the Animal Contagious Diseases Act to regulate the construction, operation and maintenance of animal deadyards and rendering plants. It is important that the carcasses of animals that have died do not enter the human food chain. The bill provides us with such authority, including the important authority to regulate packaging and marking of the products of such yards.

The provisions for compensation payments to livestock owners whose animals must be slaughtered under disease eradication programs must also be amended. I am referring to clause 9 which amends sections 12(1) and 12(2) on pages 10 and 11. The present system provides for compensation values with the owner also receiving the slaughter value, where this is permissible, of the animal. The current compensation rates have created inequities. Many cattle have varying values due to various factors including breed, genetic value and resale value. The present system is also inequitable because dairy cattle have lower slaughter values than beef breeds. Those changes are also included on pages 10 and 11 of the bill.

The proposed amendment will change the basis for compensation to be the fair market value of the animal up to a maximum amount prescribed by the governor in council, less the gross slaughter value received by the owner. The change in the act provides for more equitable returns to the owners of livestock ordered destroyed under the provisions of the act.

Another area added to the Animal Contagious Diseases Act is extended authority for the control of artificial insemination centres. The artificial insemination industry in Canada has undergone marked growth in recent years, to the point where approximately 52 per cent of dairy cattle and 10 per cent of beef cattle are bred by artificial insemination and, in addition, exports of frozen semen have in recent years exceeded \$13 million annually. In its present form, the Animal Contagious Diseases Act provides for the control of the health of all bulls entering artificial insemination units; but because of the rapid development of the industry, both in domestic and foreign markets, it has become necessary, in order to further eliminate possible disease spread, to extend the control of such units to include the collection, processing, storage and identification of animal semen.

At present, Mr. Speaker, there are no regulations requiring disease-free certification of animals exported from Canada. While we do test and certify the health of all animals being exported, it is considered that if we are to keep the foreign markets we have on the basis of our high health status—and people all over the world recognize that we have one of the healthiest animal populations in the world—there must be adequate authority to require such certification should we be faced with a situation where

[Mr. Whelan.]

someone wishes to take animals out of the country without adequate disease certification.

● (1210)

Animal by-products, fodder and other articles are sometimes ordered destroyed to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. Bill C-28 extends compensation so that appropriate payments can be made to owners when this occurs.

As new or different methods of feeding livestock are introduced, there are new threats for spreading contagious diseases. The practice of feeding garbage to swine and poultry, for example, threatens to spread many diseases. The food that people in Canada throw away could feed our total hog population. Some of this is used to provide energy, but most is thrown away in the form of garbage. This could be used, but we must be certain that the disposal of both domestic garbage and garbage brought into Canada on ships and aircraft is adequately controlled in so far as possible livestock usage is concerned.

While the control of garbage is presently, and has been for a number of years, carried out under the provisions of the Animal Contagious Diseases Act, our legal advisers tell us that authority for such control is not sufficiently clear in the present act. Therefore, the necessary authority is being more adequately stated in this bill. Again, while control of veterinary biologics, both domestic manufacture and imports, is carried on under the present act, it is considered that clarification of this authority should be more explicit.

The changes to the act will also allow for the setting up of health and disease control standards for zoos and game farms, make provision to require dairies, creameries and cheese factories to provide product samples for disease testing, and require foreign ships to seal their meat lockers and use Canadian meat while in our waters. This may seem rather extreme, but several years ago some sausage was illegally imported into western Canada and then thrown away. It cost this nation about \$881 million to clean up that mess. Therefore, we feel that ships using our inland waterways should be forced to use Canadian meats. In this way, no meat from foreign countries will be dropped overboard or given to friends in ports.

In addition, a number of existing areas of authority under the act are being amended to make them more clear and effective. For example, Agriculture Canada has been working under the act to eradicate tuberculosis, brucellosis and other diseases on an area basis for 40 years. The existing legislation does not clearly provide for the establishment of such areas and this, therefore, is being corrected. In the same vein, animal semen, poultry, other birds, bees, reptiles, hatching eggs and fertilized ova are specifically included in the jurisdiction of the act in order to eliminate confusion or misunderstanding with respect to definitions.

I have recently received correspondence from some members of parliament and others with regard to the spraying that took place in Winnipeg, Windsor and other areas which caused damage to the bees. Under the present act, there is no way for the owners to be compensated for the loss of their bees. This amendment will allow compensation to be made. Imported hides and wool as a possible disease source are already dealt with under the act and the