

U.S. CATTLE EMBARGO: The Minister of Agriculture, Mr. J.G. Gardiner, made the following statement in the House of Commons on December 12 on the lifting of the United States embargo against Canadian livestock, meat and hay:

"Most hon. members will have read in the press or heard on the radio yesterday's news report from Washington indicating the early lifting of the embargo in so far as hay from eastern Provinces is concerned. It will be remembered that on November 28 a news report came from Washington which was interpreted to mean that the embargo against livestock, meat and other products affected, would be lifted on March 1, 1953. The announcement said: "If present favourable conditions continue Canada will be declared free of foot-and-mouth disease on March 1, 1953".

"Since the statement did not actually say that the embargo would be lifted on March 1, and because we had maintained frequent contact with the United States authorities and had reason to expect that the embargo against some products at least might be lifted at an earlier date than March 1, we refrained from making any public comment pending further discussion with the United States authorities.

"Shortly afterward I arranged to meet Secretary Brannan in Washington and actually did meet him on December 5. I can tell the House that the meeting was most favourable, that I was assured that the United States authorities regarded our measures for the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease as being wholly effective, and further that they are anxious to see normal trade in livestock, meat and other products affected, resumed as soon as possible.

"After my visit to Washington, the Acting Secretary of Agriculture published a notice in the Federal Register expressing the intention of the Department to lift the embargo against Canadian livestock and meat and stating that representations on the proposal would be received from the public until January 16.

"As I mentioned a moment ago, yesterday's news from Washington has been taken by some to mean that the embargo had actually been lifted in so far as hay originating in eastern Canadian provinces was concerned. According to information we have from Washington, that is not exactly the case. Yesterday the Department of Agriculture in Washington posted a public notice to the effect that hay for use as feed would be allowed to enter the United States from eastern Canada after the publication of the official notice in the Federal Register. We understand that the official notice may be published within a matter of a few days.

"While no assurance whatever can be given as to what, if any, further action the United States authorities may take to advance the date of the lifting of the embargo, I think the House will agree that the steps already taken by the United States Government are most welcome and support the view that further steps may be taken before March 1.

THE R.C.N. IN 1952: The year 1952 has seen the Royal Canadian Navy continue its support of the United Nations' cause in Korea, its integration within the framework of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and its steady growth in ships and men.

For the third successive year the Christmas season finds three Canadian destroyers patrolling Korean waters, blasting enemy shore targets, guarding friendly islands and helping to screen carrier forces. The destroyers on duty there at the year's end are HMC Ships Athabaskan, Haida and Crusader. For the Athabaskan, it will be her third Christmas in the Far East.

Four other Canadian destroyers saw Korean service during the year, under the rotation plan which maintains a constant force of three Canadian ships in the Far East. These were the Iroquois, homeward bound to Halifax at the year's end, the Nootka, back by way of Suez only a few days before Christmas, and the Cayuga and the Sioux, which completed their tours of duty earlier in the year.

A total of about 2,900 officers and men of the Royal Canadian Navy have seen service in the Korean war and this figure does not include those serving there for a second or third time.

Formation of the NATO naval command was completed early in the year with the appointment of Admiral L.D. McCormick, USN, as Supreme Allied Commander, Atlantic, and the subsequent appointment of sub-area commanders, among them Rear-Admiral R.E.S. Bidwell, RCN, Flag Officer Atlantic Coast, who became Commander, Canadian Atlantic Sub-Area.

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WORLD PLOWING MATCH: The first world plowing match will be held in Canada next October, in conjunction with the Ontario Plowmen's Association annual International plowing match at Cobourg, the Association has announced. At least seven, and possibly ten, nations will send three-man teams, consisting of a horse plowman, a tractor plowman and a coach.

Decision to hold this first world match was taken this fall at an international conference at Falkirk, Scotland, following the second national British Plowing Association match. A Canadian team competed at this match.

Canada's invitation as host country was extended by J.D. Thomas of Toronto, honorary president of Ontario Conservation Association and special delegate to the conference for the Ontario Plowman's Association.

More than 200 plowmen, representing Canada, Sweden, Finland, Norway, West Germany, Eire and Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland), attended the conference, although only one delegate was allowed to speak for each country. It is hoped that Belgium, France and the United States will join the organization in time for the October match.