

Animal Contagious Diseases Act

difficulty of prosecuting, but recent investigations also indicate serious conspiracies to defeat the whole act. We therefore feel that a more severe penalty should be provided for infractions. One method would be to make offences against the act and regulations indictable offences, but this would be too severe in the case of many minor infractions. Therefore this amendment creates a distinct offence with heavier penalties. This is done by changing section 50 of the act, and the bill is to provide for that change.

Mr. CHARLTON: How many convictions have there been in the last couple of years?

Mr. GARDINER: I am not able to say how many convictions there have been. There would probably have been more started if this particular clause had been drawn as now proposed. In a number of cases we had great difficulty in obtaining convictions, and in some where convictions were obtained, it was thought the penalty was not sufficiently severe to prevent their happening again.

Mr. WRIGHT: May I ask the minister if the same types of tests are used in both countries for Bang's disease and tuberculosis? There was some indication a year ago that different types of tests were used, and that was partly the reason why the cattle were going down that were exported.

Mr. GARDINER: Until about two years ago the tests which we were using in Canada were somewhat different from those being used recently in the United States. Some change has been made in order to make the tests more nearly conform in the two countries. The same is true with regard to Bang's disease. We have now accepted the calf vaccination practice which has been going on in the United States for a considerable time so as to prevent Bang's disease.

Mr. STEPHENSON: Is there an improvement in the situation with regard to the number of veterinarians available to make tests? In my county, cattle shipments to the United States are held up unduly through lack of veterinarians to test the animals. In some cases there is no veterinarian in the county and the exporters have to send out and bring one in to do the work. Is there any improvement?

Mr. GARDINER: The situation has not improved greatly up to the present, although we have made arrangements under which third-year students and up are accepted as internes, so to speak, to go and work under the direction of veterinarians. But there are 500 veterinary students in the colleges at present who will

[Mr. Gardiner.]

graduate within the next four years. The number that will graduate this year is not as great as the number that will graduate in the last two years of that period, but there are approximately 500 whom we expect to graduate within that period of time. That is not nearly enough to take care of the situation which now exists, and we hope that it will be found necessary and possible greatly to increase the numbers as the years go along. I think the only condition that will make it possible to encourage men to go into the practice of the treatment of animals is a continuation of the fairly good prices that are now obtained for livestock, which makes it possible for men who are raising livestock to call in veterinarians in many more cases than they were able to do a few years ago.

Mr. STEPHENSON: I do not think the remuneration which is being paid to veterinarians by the department at the present time will attract veterinarians into the department for this work. I understand that the remuneration paid is \$2,800 a year. I think any veterinarian could go out today and earn a good deal more than \$2,800 a year. Has any consideration been given to raising the remuneration of these veterinarians in order to attract them to the department?

Mr. GARDINER: In recent months there has been adjustment of payment which has been made under the direction of the civil service commission. All I can say in regard to it is that we are informed that our veterinarians are being paid on a level which the civil service commission thinks is sufficiently high to compare favourably with salaries being paid in other departments. I cannot go any farther than that at the moment. We have one or two vacancies on the staff of the department at the present time, which would indicate what the hon. member says is true, namely, that most veterinarians can make more outside the department at present than they can in it. I should just like to say that condition is rather a new development over the last five or six years.

Mr. BRYCE: When a complaint is received that there has been infringement of this act, or when there is a complaint about an animal going to the other side of the boundary, does that matter come to the minister's department? Do the Department of Agriculture and the minister set the prosecution afoot, or is that done by the Minister of Justice?

Mr. GARDINER: We have an arrangement with the United States authorities under which they accept certification from our veterinarians under the conditions that I outlined