

ANIMAL CONTAGIOUS DISEASES

PROVISION FOR CONTROL AND EXTIRPATION OF
FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

Right Hon. J. G. Gardiner (Minister of Agriculture) moved that the house go into committee to consider the following resolution:

That it is expedient to bring in a measure for the control and extirpation of foot-and-mouth disease and to provide in connection therewith for the payment of compensation, out of moneys appropriated by parliament, to the owners of animals slaughtered, and also in respect of any buildings, fodder, grain or other things ordered to be destroyed.

He said: His Excellency the Governor General, having been made acquainted with the subject matter of this resolution, recommends it to the consideration of the house.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Dion in the chair.

Mr. Coldwell: Is the minister going to make any further statement?

Mr. Gardiner: Perhaps I should read the bill to be based on the resolution. It is as follows:

An Act for the Control and Extirpation of
Foot-and-Mouth Disease

Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Commons of Canada, enacts as follows:

1. The Minister of Agriculture may cause any animal to be slaughtered where he deems it necessary in order to prevent the spreading of or to extirpate the present outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in Canada.

2. (1) Notwithstanding anything in the Animal Contagious Diseases Act the Minister of Agriculture may order that fair and reasonable compensation be paid to the owners of animals slaughtered by reason of the existence in Canada of foot-and-mouth disease, such compensation to be determined in the manner prescribed by regulations to be made by the governor in council, and after a report by a board of valuers to be appointed by the governor in council.

(2) The Minister of Agriculture may also order that fair and reasonable compensation, to be determined as provided in subsection one, shall be paid in respect of any buildings, fodder, grain or other things ordered to be destroyed under the Animal Contagious Diseases Act or the regulations thereunder by reason of the existence in Canada of foot-and-mouth disease.

3. The compensation payable under this act shall be paid out of moneys appropriated by parliament.

4. This act shall be deemed to have come into force on the eighteenth day of February, nineteen hundred and fifty-two, and shall be repealed on a date to be fixed by proclamation of the governor in council.

Now, as to my making a further statement, I repeat that it would be difficult for me to make a fuller statement than the one I made on Friday last concerning the discovery of the disease and the action taken from that time down to the time it was declared to be foot-and-mouth disease. Briefly I can say

Foot-and-mouth disease

that it was found that the animals on the farm of Mr. Waas were suffering from some malady on the 26th day of November. He called his veterinarian, who was ill, and the veterinarian took it for granted that it was a disease known as stomatitis and prescribed accordingly. The animals did seem to recover. At a later time the matter was taken up with a veterinarian in Regina, and on that occasion the question was referred to the federal authorities.

Mr. Coldwell: What date was that?

Mr. Gardiner: It was some time shortly after the 26th, I think about December 2 or 3. I would not be too certain about that, and it is for that reason I say it would be difficult to make a statement now. I would have to obtain all these facts from Regina, but it would be within a reasonably short time after November 26.

One of our officials investigated the disease, and was of the same opinion as those who had been looking at the cases before, namely, that it was not foot-and-mouth disease. That opinion was maintained by all those associated with it up until a certain date, some time after the new year. Then suggestions were made that it looked as though it might be foot-and-mouth disease.

Mr. Coldwell: After the first visit was any quarantine put into effect?

Mr. Gardiner: Yes, quarantine was immediately established on November 26, and it is still in effect. The usual practice in connection with contagious diseases, whether it be foot-and-mouth or any other disease, is immediately to put on the quarantine, just as you quarantine humans who are suffering from measles.

Mr. Coldwell: Was it maintained during the whole of this period?

Mr. Gardiner: I understand the quarantine has been maintained on the individual farm all the way through. There may have been some days when it was off. That is why I hesitate to try to make a statement at this time. In any case, this farmer's stock has been under check during all of the period. Eventually our official, Dr. Childs, who had been out there earlier, went back to check again. He was under the impression that there were more reasons for thinking that it might be foot-and-mouth disease, and the area was put under quarantine. That is, all the cases that had been reported as stomatitis were checked; they were all within the area of nine municipalities, and that area was quarantined a week ago last Wednesday. The virus was brought back to Ottawa. The serum was brought from Britain with which to make