

in Picton, which had been sick, was turned loose on the highway, and having wandered near his farm, where it died on the roadside. It was allowed to lie unburied for days, till at last Mr. McDonald and some neighbors piled some wood over it and burned the carcass. Within a week, two of his young cattle were sick with the same disease; both died, and within a year, he lost twelve animals. Mr. Fraser further states that after losing all his stock he completely renovated his stables, and since then he has not lost any. His neighbour, Mr. Grant, loses some every year.

Mr. James Foot, who has been a heavy loser by the disease says:—"Fresh cattle taken into a building in which the disease has been, will take it."

Mr. Matheson was of the opinion that it reached Abercrombie Point by a cow dead of the disease having been thrown into the harbour, and having floated on to the shore carried the disease to the cattle on the Point.

At New Glasgow it first appeared in Squire McKay's barn, about twenty years ago. For a number of years it was confined to that locality, not extending west for years. He lost nearly all his stock (fifteen in number); after which he built a new barn, but the disease broke out again in the new building, caused, he thinks, by his having retained some of the old stock. Three years ago he got rid of all the old stock, and since then he has had no disease.

Mr. McKay remarked that, of cows from New Glasgow which were regularly quartered with his, some took the disease while others escaped.

From these statements it would appear that the disease, if not communicable by direct contact, it is communicable by mediate agents, notably infected buildings, and by the animal fluids and decomposing bodies.

If it is contagious, contagium does not form a marked feature in the disease.

Notwithstanding that these facts are generally known, and its spread is referred to these causes, I found that they still continued to turn the sick animals on to the commons and highways, allowing them to mix with those of their neighbours, and to throw the carcasses on to the shore in summer, or draw them on to the ice during winter to be floated off by the tide in spring.

Others living at a distance from the shore drag them through their fields out to a common or swamp and leave them unburied, for dogs to eat and drag piecemeal through their own or neighbour's fields. Even in cases where they do bury them it is seldom that they are covered by more than a sprinkling of earth, consequently dogs easily dig them up.

By the above careless and illegal practices the disease is spread and continued in the affected counties.

SUPPOSED CAUSES OF THE DISEASE.

As already stated, a belief exists extensively that the weed ragwort has something to do with it, which idea, however, is erroneous. (See Dr. Lawson's Report.) It is also believed by some that the water supply has to do with it, by the presence of some poisonous element. The incorrectness of this theory is proved by the fact of its occurring under all conditions of water supply, thus: On some of the farms on which I found the disease the water supply was very scanty, in others it was abundant and good; in fact it was met with where they were watered from the family well, where they had access to running streams, where the water was good and where it was bad. By reference to the report of Professor Lawson, it will be seen that the very careful microscopical and analytical examination of water from the different farms on which the disease was found to exist, shows it to be in most samples good water, and in a few instances containing such impurities only as are nearly always present in unfiltered water in ponds and streams of pasture lands.

Professor Lawson's report on the soil does not point to anything abnormal or indicate anything which would lead us to suppose that it had anything to do with its production. In fact we find it appearing on all kinds of soil; it prevails on the high rolling land, on the swampy soil, on the uncultivated common, and on the best tilled farms.

Until a careful clinical report from continued observation repeatedly made by a competent veterinary, and a properly conducted series of experiments, by placing healthy and sick together, by inoculation, by placing healthy animals in places supposed to be infected, to prove or disprove its contagiousness, and by thorough microscopic examination of the fluids and solid tissues of diseased animals, are made, we must remain ignorant of the true nature of the disease, and hence of the causes which give rise to it.

(To be continued.)

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