

Hon. Mr. Horner: There is, however, the question of the length of time that elapsed following the discovery of the trouble, and the failure to properly diagnose it. For this the government might well be criticized. Also, there was a period when the quarantine was taken off for a time. As this is to be a subject for discussion before the committee on agriculture in the other place, more information as to what actually happened may be forthcoming.

I have not been able to ascertain the exact number of animals that were moved from the stockyards in Regina, where the disease was detected. As many honourable senators know a buyer for a large packing plant very often conducts a feed lot in his own name. This is necessary if the plant is to provide continuous employment for a large number of men. In other words, the same number of cattle do not come in each day or each week, and it is necessary to have a large herd close by in order to keep the supply flowing steadily. Apparently the Burns company owns a stockyard and a feed lot, but I have not been able to ascertain the number of cattle located there or what became of them.

A further point on which the government might well be criticized is the method adopted for destroying the animals. We have all seen pictures in the newspapers showing four or five policemen standing near a great ditch, and the cattle being driven broadside to it, and there being shot. When this procedure was taking place the cameramen were on hand to record it. For my part, I think they should have been barred. If we are going to stoop to that kind of sadistic culture, the pictures could be enhanced, I suppose, by showing men and women weeping over the loss of individual animals. To my mind such pictures are poor advertising. The experience is heart-rending for those who have lost their stock.

Having been associated with and fond of animals since I was a small child, I know full well that a farmer does not look upon his herd as just so many head of cattle. To him each member of his herd is an individual. Had such a tragedy as some farmers are experiencing occurred on my farm, I am quite sure that I would find it difficult to go about the place. I extend my sincere sympathy to those men, women and children who are losing their cattle. Although in the future they may again get into a good line of stock, at the moment they feel that the particular qualities of their dairy or beef cattle will not be reproduced in another herd.

As to the provincial embargoes, I regard them as most unusual and perhaps unreasonable. Saskatchewan and Alberta are the great meat-producing areas of Canada, and I have been advising my fellow cattlemen in the West not to fall victim to panic selling of their herds. My judgment is that we will not have any more than enough to meet the demand. Indeed, we have recently imported many carloads of beef from the United States to meet our domestic shortage; and I understand that there is now on shipboard several thousand tons of New Zealand meat on its way to Canada. We should also realize the fact that Canada had more sheep when her population was half what it is today. It is quite apparent that the raising of cattle has not kept pace with our increasing population.

The area between where I live and where the disease broke out would be as big as some European countries. I have been amazed at the quantity of shipments from the Lloydminster stockyards and from the stockyards at Battleford. In Alberta also there are some large stockyards and packing plants. Surely cattle could be inspected and shipped via the northern line of the Canadian National Railway, and not come within 200 miles of the infected area. However, my advice to all the men in my area is to keep their cattle and avoid panic. We in our area are very fortunate that we have an abundance of feed, and the world needs all the meat we can produce.

One of the nonsensical ramifications of this outbreak is the announcement in the press that we are to curtail immigration or refuse admission to farm workers from certain areas. It would seem to me a very simple matter to disinfect the person and clothing of anyone who happened to emigrate from an infected area. By this means we would be perfectly safe from infection.

Hon. Mr. Euler: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Horner: We have had no report on the results of the tests made on the clothing of an immigrant whom I understand came from an area where the disease was prevalent. There was at first a rumour that the germs of this disease were intentionally placed in Canada. As a matter of fact, it is somewhat of a coincidence that at the time of the outbreak the Communists were accusing the United Nations troops in Korea of spreading germ warfare. That subject seems to be in the minds of the Communists all the while.

In this connection, the examination of emigrants prior to entry to this country is a question for consideration. I have mentioned the serious position in which this outbreak has placed my own province; and if other