

Mr. BLAIN. According to that cattle coming from Chicago, entering Canada at Windsor and going on down to Montreal, pass over the line without any inspection at all?

Mr. FISHER. They are shut up in the bonded cars.

Mr. BLAIN. They pass into Canada without any inspection whatever?

Mr. FISHER. Yes, in bond.

Mr. BLAIN. They go down to Montreal, and there is no inspection until the time arrives when they are to be exported, and then I understand that my hon. friend applies his inspection to them? Is there not some regulation of the department to take charge of those cattle or are they allowed to pass through without inspection?

Mr. FISHER. They are in bond, and they will not be released.

Mr. BLAIN. Is there no regulation at all?

Mr. FISHER. They are in the hands of the customs officers, and they are in sealed cars. They are allowed to be taken out at certain specified places for feeding and watering if they are long enough in the cars to require it, and that is done under the supervision of my officers who see that they do not come into contact with any other animals. As long as they are in the hands of the Department of Customs we do not deal with them.

Mr. BLAIN. Is there an officer where the cattle are taken out to be fed who inspects them?

Mr. FISHER. Not inspects them, but simply sees that they do not come into contact with any other animal or are removed from the yards. They are in bond. They will not be allowed loose in Canada, and the yards where they are fed are part of the bonded transit through Canada. We do not undertake to inspect them.

Mr. BLAIN. Then, as a matter of fact, the American buying cattle in Chicago is in a better position than the Canadian who brings his cattle in from Chicago?

Mr. FISHER. Not a bit.

Mr. BLAIN. As I understand it, the farmer from Canada going to Chicago to bring cattle into Canada would require to have them inspected at the boundary line?

Mr. FISHER. If they are going to stay in Canada.

Mr. BLAIN. What difference would it make with regard to spreading disease whether they were in bond or not in bond?

Mr. FISHER.

Mr. FISHER. They do not come into contact with other Canadian animals.

Mr. BLAIN. They can bring the disease in here without any interference on the part of the department. Am I right when I say that these animals cross the line without inspection?

Mr. FISHER. Yes.

Mr. BLAIN. And if they are diseased they travel along the railway line in Canada, they are taken out at different points to be fed and watered, they remain a week in Montreal before shipment and it is only when they are shipped that they are inspected by the officers of the Minister of Agriculture. I do not think the minister should plume himself for taking precaution because there is no precaution in that.

Mr. FISHER. These animals are passing through Canada in bond and they cannot come into contact with any Canadian animals in any way. The yards where they are fed and watered are disinfected before other animals go into them, and in Montreal in 99 cases out of 100 they are put on the ship the day they arrive. We inspect them at Montreal because, being cleared from Montreal, they are entered as animals from Montreal when they arrive on the other side, and if there should be disease among them it would be credited to Canada. During their transit through Canada they are in bond and according to a fiction of the customs law they are not in the country at all. The spread of disease can only occur by contagion and precautions are taken against that. The best proof that there is no danger is that a considerable number of these animals have passed through Canada and for many years back there has been no case of disease attributable to the passage of these animals through the country.

Mr. BLAIN. With all due respect to the minister's superior knowledge, in my opinion these animals should be inspected when they enter Canada. Why are they not inspected at one of these feeding points for instance?

Mr. FISHER. That is a matter of convenience.

Mr. BLAIN. Would it not be better?

Mr. FISHER. I do not think there is any danger as it is.

Mr. BLAIN. The minister cannot credit his department with taking precautions because no precautions are taken, and the only defence of the minister is that up to the present time there has been no disease.

Mr. SPROULE. If a carload of cattle is shipped from Chicago to Winnipeg would they come under any regulations