

that should be adopted to establish firmly an industry of paramount importance, and so secure for this country a fair share of a valuable business and steadily increasing trade.

Danger of
relying
solely on
existing
method

In connection with the live cattle export trade, the only method at present adopted by Canada for disposing of her surplus stock; there is another matter that may perhaps be pertinently referred to at this stage of our report, and that is, the danger always present, even if remote, of having the ports of the United Kingdom closed to the imports of cattle from Canada should any infectious disease show itself in the herds of this country. That actually happened in the case of the Argentine, owing to the outbreak of foot and mouth disease in 1900, and her cattle were prohibited from entering Great Britain. Fortunately for her, she had a well established dead meat trade to fall back upon, and the consequences therefore were not serious. But in the case of Canada should such a thing occur, the results would be disastrous, and an export trade to the value of \$10,000,000 per annum would be paralyzed. It would be impossible for this country to suddenly switch over, as the Argentine did, to the system of exporting her stock as refrigerated meats, for time is necessary to build up and establish such an industry; in the meantime the consequences would be ruinous, and would seriously affect not only the ranching and farming industry throughout the country, but all branches of mercantile and financial activity as well.

Embargo

The failure of the attempt on the part of the Dominion Government to induce the British Government to remove the embargo, shows the strong opposition that exists to the removal of restrictions upon our present method of transportation.

Mr. Asquith, speaking at Levan on Oct. 7th said: "He had always recommended strongly the view that, assuming Canada to be free from disease, and that she could be kept so by reasonable precautions, there was no reason why Canadian cattle should be kept out, but he was sorry to say a very large majority of the present House of Commons were of opinion that no precautions now taken, or likely to be taken, could give reasonable assurance that Canadian cattle were free from disease or possible infection." Sir E. Strathey, speaking at the Dairy Exhibition declared, "That the Board of Agriculture would continue its present opposition to the importation of foreign live cattle."

Without the privilege of grazing or feeding our cattle after landing on British soil, we can never hope to compete with Scotch or Irish beef. On the other hand, even with the embargo removed, we would be continually exporting in the face of the danger of disease. That this danger is no myth, but an unpleasant reality that may have to be reckoned with at any time, is strikingly shown by the recent outbreak of foot and mouth disease in the State of Pennsylvania. The disease is reported from districts widely apart, and prohibitory orders have been issued against the States of New York and New Jersey, in addition to Pennsylvania where the original outbreak occurred.

It seems, therefore, that whichever way the live cattle trade is looked at, a very strong argument can be found for the urgent necessity of providing without delay another method of marketing the surplus stock of the country.

Application
to Canada

We propose to deal next with the question, as to how far the systems and methods adopted by other countries for handling their meat surplus, can with advantage be applied to Canada.