

THE EVENING TIMES, ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 1909

7

APHTHOUS FEVER, SCOURGE of the CATTLE YARDS

By A. S. MARCH

Found up
of 1200 Steers infected
with foot and mouth disease

Recently the United States authorities were called upon to combat and defeat apthous fever, the deadly and dreaded scourge of the cattle ranges and yards. All the tremendous resources of the national government were exerted to cut off in detail the mysterious forces of this unseen, yet remorseless enemy of our greatest single source of national wealth; for no other end of production equals in value the output of our live stock industry, including as it does, over a dozen important branches of sub and by-products, any one of them involving a trade mounting far up in the millions.

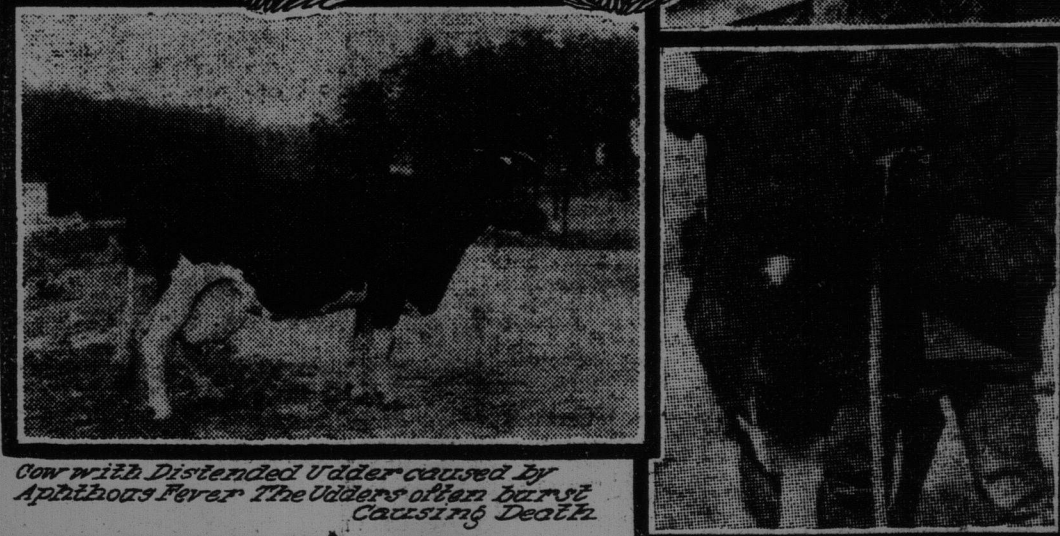
The live stock trade of the United States in a single year runs close to a billion of dollars and when all this has been devoted there yet remains an invested capital of over a million more in the form of actual live stock or products evolved from the varied and various branches of industry, primarily depending on cloven foot animals. In this class are included cattle, sheep and hogs, for each and every variety of animal that walks on a cleft or divided hoof is subject to the dread foot and mouth disease.

TWO OUTBREAKS LAST YEAR.

In 1908 two important outbreaks of foot and mouth disease (as apthous fever is called in the vernacular) were chronicled in the United States. The first was in the Middle West and caused local disaster and was promptly stamped out by sudden extermination of the cattle involved. The second attack occurred in the Middle Atlantic states and led to an embargo of exporting cattle from two great seaports and the destruction of thousands of dollars' worth of stock. In both cases the United States authorities took immediate charge of the situation and the national treasury was called upon to pay the owners the value of the cattle lost and destroyed.

Before detailing the appearance of this dread cattle disease which causes a constant standing expense amounting to several millions annually, the origin of this epidemic is especially interesting. The first outbreaks of foot and mouth disease were simply termed epizootics by farmers hundreds of years back, and the disease, like every other known scourge but two, originated in the crowded sections of Central Asia.

Cattle plagues were just as frequent in the Middle Ages as these frightful epizootics of diseases among men that fre-



Cow with Distended Udder caused by
Apthous Fever. The Udder often bursts
causing Death.

quently swept the entire known globe, starting in far Eastern Asia among the crowded herds of the Mongolian steppe and swinging from nation to nation until it died out in the Arctic regions—not from the cold but merely from lack of material to creep upon.

The foot and mouth disease, known likewise as apthous fever, epizootic apthous, infectious apthous, exanthema epizootic, is, so far as science today is concerned, a closed book, both as to specific germ or bacillus which causes the scourge and the cause or cure thereof.

SCIENCE CAN DO LITTLE.

All that modern science can actually do even to this day against foot and mouth disease is to try to prevent its spread by the use of vaccines of the victims of the fever before other creatures have become infected by it.

Loeffler, a celebrated scientist of Germany, and today perhaps the man most experienced in combating foot and mouth disease, tried inoculating healthy cattle with injections of infected material and produced immunity in a great majority of his cases, but the vaccine thus treated are sources of contagion during their illness and actually this inoculation would merely spread the disease and serve to intensify it more firmly in infected districts.

Root and branch, foot and mouth as it were, all cattle in these United States would be infected, and indeed, when clearly

subjected to infection are slaughtered with no attempt to cure or alleviate.

In Germany, however, the disease has been epidemic for 30 years and has cost the empire a hundred millions of dollars, enough money to duplicate Emperor William's cherished and vaunted war navy. Germany, the disease is so widespread that slaughtering the animals would ruin the farmers of the nation, so that vaccination, which is what Loeffler's inoculation process practically amounts to, has been tried with fairly good results.

While such a dangerous foe to cattle, sheep, goats, hogs and every other animal that treads on cloven foot, the mortality of apthous fever is not as high as that of the plague. It runs from ten per cent as the usual figure, to as high as 80 per cent, where remission has occurred; for one attack of foot and mouth disease does not confer immunity on the sufferer from later attacks of the fever.

In Germany, in 1899, there were of known cases actually located and identified as follows: 431,233 cattle, 233,890 sheep and goats and 133,808 hogs. During this year the foot and mouth disease was rampant in France, Italy, Belgium, Austria-Hungary, Switzerland, Roumania and

Bulgaria. In 1883 in England alone, the losses from cattle infected with apthous fever ran as high as \$5,000,000 and compared to the United States, England produces the little cattle as to be not worth the comparison from a financial viewpoint.

GERM CANNOT BE CAUGHT.

The germ of the plague has been sought by many scientists and in every known manner. Numerous attempts have been made to cultivate the germ and stain it, so as to get a suitable culture for the microscope. Careful experiment has demonstrated that the bacillus will pass easily through all the standard germproof filters and even through some which, at enormous expense, were especially invented to catch and isolate the germ.

While human beings do not get the disease from eating the meat of animals suffering from foot and mouth disease, they readily take infection from the milk. Unboiled milk will invariably convey the dis-

ease to human beings and especially to children. Regions where the fever prevails habitually, show statistics of great numbers of children who naturally are greater milk drinkers than adults. There is in human beings a high fever and intense pain and difficulty in swallowing. Within two days the patient breaks out with blisters in the mouth and on the fingers. These sometimes cause dangerous ulcers, but death rarely comes to the human being from apthous fever. In fact, the disease follows up the findings of modern pathology, which are demonstrated in that the human animal is best fitted to fight and every germ of disease known to medicine. The vast majority of diseases common to both man and the brutes find a far readier prey in the lower animal.

GOVERNMENT WORK SWIFTER.

The work of the government, once the dread foot and mouth disease has been reported from any district, is swift and relentless. An advance guard from the veterinary department hastens to look the suspects over and make a pathological test as to the true nature of the trouble. If the verdict is in the affirmative the national government immediately promulgates a quarantine order that shuts up the suspected territory in a net through which no means of contagion can escape.

This is followed up by the speedy arrival of men who, after killing the infected animals, sweep the district with disinfectants. Even suspected meadows with disinfectants. Into streams, thought capable of having been infected, formaldehyde is poured and not a vestige is left unburned of the hay, oats, corn or any other food which could possibly have been muzzled over by the diseased animals.

No special hardship is worked by this slaughtering of infected animals and the even destruction of every possible source of contagion. The national government has sensibly and justly taken the stand that what the constituted authorities decide must be destroyed for the common good of the nation, should be lost for the good of the common funds. So the dis-

Apparently Healthy
Hardly about to be
Slaughtered on account
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Infected Stables are Cleaned
by Government Health Officials

consolate farmer or stock herder whose valuable animals have fallen a prey to apthous fever is not only protected from future infection, but is promptly paid a fair market price for the animals destroyed.

DIFFICULTIES ARE TREMENDOUS.

Tremendous difficulties are sometimes encountered in getting the diseased animals into such quarters that they can be killed. Even greater difficulty has been experienced in getting sufficient labor to excavate the vast graves which must be dug deep to hold the carcasses of the slaughtered animals and to put an effective layer of earth between the living and the infected that can so swiftly be absorbed from the dead.

It is only in rare cases in this country that the disease progresses to a stage where the animals froth at the mouth. Usually a high fever, sometimes as much as 108 degrees, has been encountered in foot and mouth disease, but where the deadly inflammation of the germ has reached this extreme high point, recovery is out of the question, owing to serious chemical changes in the blood, among them a tendency to coagulation.

The final thought in the pathological search after the germ and the nature of apthous fever, is that the bacillus must be some infinitesimally minute vegetable parasite which defies the ordinary tests for germs like those of consumption, typhoid fever, etc. Its minuteness is probably the cause of the tremendous ease with which the disease can spread itself. Nothing known to medical science is so ready a propagator as foot and mouth disease.

CARRIED INSIDE DOCTOR'S HAIR.

It can be carried on the insides of the very clothing of the attendants employed to exterminate it, so that in recent epidemics the physicians and all attendants have been compelled to wear big white covered coats and have themselves sponged off in formaldehyde to prevent carrying the disease to healthy herds under their inspection. It can linger in a farmer's beard or in his long hair for weeks and can cross the ocean in a diseased herd, torn months before off the steer which died sick of foot and mouth disease.

So that combating this, the smallest of all germs which has apparently the greatest case for transporting itself and its deadly activity unimpeded, medical science confronts a task of tremendous difficulty. Herds in good shape, apparently, with no

signs of illness, speedily become ill-tempered, drop off in their feeding, and die from what the average farmer and cattleman is disposed to term "distemper."

Cattle are subject to many ulcers and foot diseases that closely resemble foot and mouth disease, and it is highly difficult for any layman, however experienced as a cattleman, to diagnose apthous fever. It is only after a certain amount of leeway has been obtained by the epidemic that suspicion is aroused, not so much by the nature and symptoms as the tremendous and rapid increase of the fever. Thus the fever always obtains a big start and this more than any other feature of its course in the United States demands the stern weapon of complete extermination.

It is war to the knife, bitter, bloody and unrelenting, that the scientists of Uncle Sam must wage on the scourge of the cattle yards, for there is at stake an enormously profitable and proud position as not only the world's granary, but also the supplier of the roast beef of old England and the meat stuffs depended on by half a dozen other nations.

The cost of the battle runs into millions but the stake counts up far above a billion of dollars. So far, science has kept the upper hand, but it would only take one serious mistake, only a slight exercise of hesitation and indecision to prevent this dread disease from invading the vast herds that roam the cattle ranges of the United States. In this case eternal vigilance is the one and only hope of safety.

PROSPECTUS.

Oh, I shall write a rural play,
I'll name the village "Gosh,"
And teach the characters to say,
"I want!" likewise "By gosh."

And next a novel I will write—
The seal I will have no longer
Of herod who as they fight,
Say "Edith!" "Gadabout!" and "Zounds!"

And after that a western tale
In its due turn shall come;
My local color cannot fail
If I say "thar" and "Plumb!"
—Washington Spectator.

THERE YOU ARE

Weston—Did you congratulate Bronson on his marriage?
Preston—I couldn't—I don't know his wife.
Weston—Then you might have wished her happiness.
Preston—I couldn't do that. I know Bronson.

ALL THE LATEST NEWS, VIEWS AND COMMENT ON

FIRST OUTSIDE TEAM WAS BEATEN

By Trouncing the Charlotte-town Victorias Last Night the St. John Hockeyists Made an Excellent Start.

A very enthusiastic crowd greeted the hockey boys last evening when the first game with an outside team was played—and won by St. John, who received well deserved applause for the victory over the Charlotte-town team. The St. John won on their ability to shoot and here is where the Charlotte-town Victorias were wanting repeatedly.

The score was St. Johns, 3; Victorias, 2. For the locals, "Jimmy" Phillips was the most in evidence. His clever stick handling and dodging were again and again applauded. Tully at point was a tower of strength and made some brilliant dashes the length of the ice, and checked hard but fairly.

The fast combination work of Patterson, Clawson and Phillips was a special feature and resulted in the goals scored. Kennedy, who shot two of the goals, was well fed by the wings and rover and shot well. McIntyre, at right wing, was steady and kept well on the nets.

For the victors, McIntyre, who played point for the Fredericton Capitals last season, and who was a favorite, played a star game for his team, relieving the pressure many times by good stick handling. He did not play as fast as last year, but this is accounted for by this being only his second appearance on the ice this season. However, he proved a good one. Ramsey at centre is a good man who works hard. He secured the two goals for his team. Burns and Dony were also aggressive and played fast hockey all the time. The goal tender, Campbell, is a dandy and, in fact, is as good as seen here for some time. He had plenty to do and did it in excellent style, receiving much favorable commendation.

H. E. C. Sturdee rendered a good game considering the fastness of the play and the frequent mix-ups, and both teams were well satisfied.

The game started at 8:20, and from the first off things went with a rush. Tully secured the puck and on a nice dash up the ice was about to shoot when he was tripped by Dony. This, however, was unnoticed by the referee. Patterson soon got the rubber and shot a hot one at Campbell who, however, stopped well. Fast hockey was then witnessed for the next few minutes and soon McIntyre made a dash up the ice, passing all but Phillips, who gave him a neat body check and won the excellent chance to score. Harrington took the puck, but was met by McIntyre, who shot a fast one at Campbell. For some time the St. John had it all their own way. Patterson, Clawson and Kennedy shooting repeatedly, but all stopped by Campbell. At ten minutes of play the game was very fast and exceptionally clean. Burns secured the puck and, having passed the St. John defence, shot a hard one, but McIntyre was quite equal to the occasion and, amid much

cheering, cleared the puck from a dangerous place.

Everyone was working hard and checking was much in evidence, to the delight of the spectators. Combination was the first feature. McIntyre getting the first goal for the locals; time 14 minutes.

This seemed to make things faster, for on resuming play the Island boys indulged in many mix-ups. McIntyre getting the first goal for the locals; time 14 minutes. Kennedy soon followed for the same period for shooting.

The play was at this time in St. John territory and McIntyre, on returning to the ice, took the puck around the back of McIntyre's net and scored an easy one—time, 17 minutes.

Soon after, St. John lost several chances to score, shooting badly. Phillips, however, made another rush up the ice and shot a swift one at Campbell, who won much applause for his excellent work.

Here the St. John were playing some real hockey. Patterson, Clawson and Phillips kept right on the nets of the victors, but Campbell was a stone wall. Within two minutes to play, Kennedy was again given a rest for shooting. Just as the goal struck, the Victorias sent a shot at the net. McIntyre was just a few seconds too late to make it count. Referee Sturdee deciding it was no goal. The score now stood 1-1 with the St. John having a little the better of the half.

The second half was whirlwind hockey, the puck being kept going from one end to the other. Tully passed to Phillips who gave a splendid exhibition of stick handling and dodging. Having secured all but the point, he was tripped by Dony, who was given a two minute rest.

After a short delay caused by a broken skate the St. John again rushed matters and kept shooting at their opponents' net, but Campbell cleared them all. For the next five minutes the play was about even, when Burns, by clever handling and good stick work, got away and gave McIntyre a real hard one but "Tom" proved capable and cleared well. Patterson then took the puck up on the wing nicely, passing to Clawson, who in turn passed to Kennedy, who landed goal No. 2 for his team; time, 8 minutes.

This seemed to make the Victorias desperate, but it was of no use. Tully got the rubber and, after some fast passing, he got into a mix-up on the left wing and was given two minutes. This was much resented by the spectators who evidently thought the wrong man was penalized. Referee Sturdee, however, acted fairly.

Phillips again secured the puck and passed to Kennedy, who found the net for goal No. 3 for the St. John; time, 19 minutes.

Immediately on the face-off, both teams went at it fast, the local boys having the edge. McIntyre made a dash up the ice, passing all but Phillips, who gave him a neat body check and won the excellent chance to score. Harrington took the puck, but was met by McIntyre, who shot a fast one at Campbell. For some time the St. John had it all their own way. Patterson, Clawson and Kennedy shooting repeatedly, but all stopped by Campbell. At ten minutes of play the game was very fast and exceptionally clean. Burns secured the puck and, having passed the St. John defence, shot a hard one, but McIntyre was quite equal to the occasion and, amid much

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SPORTS

CURLERS BREAK EVEN IN TWO GAMES

Fredericton Curlers Defeat Carleton by Four Points But Are Badly Beaten by Thistles—Thistles-St. Andrews Play Tomorrow.

The Fredericton men played four rinks with Carleton, two in the afternoon and two in the evening. In the afternoon the West End men had the better of the play but their opponents made gains in the evening so that they finally won by a score of 38 to 24. A large and interested number of spectators watched the games. The following were the players:

Fredericton. Carleton.
R. S. Murray. A. B. Kitchen.
S. D. Simons. W. F. Doherty.
J. S. Greig. J. H. Driscoll.
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SHRUBB GETS A BIG OFFER

\$200 a Week for Twenty Weeks Waiting for Him in London if He Beats Langboat

New York, Jan. 22.—Alfred Shrubbs is waiting up for the impact of his coming Marathon match against Tom Loughboat, which takes place at Madison Square Garden Tuesday evening, Jan. 26. As the following cable message from Charles Cochran, the promoter of London, will show:

Alfred Shrubbs, Madison Square Garden, New York