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DEPARTMENTAL ARTICLE.

Health of Animals Branch, Department of Agriculture.

The *Civilian* hereunder continues the series of articles it has in hand dealing with the more important Departments and Branches of the Canadian Civil Service. The object of these articles is in part to educate the public as to the nature and importance of the work carried on by the Service, but also to create in civil servants themselves a keener appreciation of the great machine to which they belong.

It is the duty of this branch to preserve and protect the health of Canadian live stock, and also the export trade of the Dominion in bacon and similar products. Unfortunately the proper carrying out of its policies in safeguarding the live stock interests in general, however reasonable, automatically interferes and seriously inconveniences individuals for the benefit of the country at large.

With a view to safety, it is essential to enforce stringent regulations, which cause continual annoyance, irritation, and frequently financial loss to those interested in live stock, the packing of meats and other edible products. Much depends, therefore, upon the individual inspector, who must act promptly, with good judgment, and exercise plenty of common sense in dealing with the public. His duties are often of a very unpleasant nature, and in order to perform them satisfactorily he must be firm, plausible, reasonable, honest and conscientious, as he is naturally confronted with all types and classes of humanity.

It will be readily appreciated that the maintenance of an adequate, effective sanitary force, numbering over three hundred men, is, in view

of the nature of the work, a most difficult problem, and one which requires continual attention.

The steady expansion of agricultural pursuits in the Dominion and the enormous immigration, with the consequent increase in the live stock industry, very naturally place this branch in a most important and responsible position. In view of the geographical situation of the country and its contiguity to the American Republic, with an open boundary of nearly 3,000 miles, it is necessary to enforce suitable measures to guard against infection from the United States, as well as from countries over the seas. Although in many countries infectious and contagious diseases in the domestic animals occur frequently, and with such severity as to cause tremendous financial loss to the individual and state, Canada has fortunately been successful in guarding against the introduction of these virulent diseases. In view of this fact our domestic animals have not acquired an immunity against many of these highly infective maladies, and they would, therefore, form a very suitable medium for their rapid development to a very virulent degree should infection be at any time in-