

I have had fewer cases of complaint in that regard than of almost any other department of government affecting my constituency. Generally speaking, I think the Unemployment Insurance Act functions smoothly. Can the minister clarify the position I have mentioned?

Mr. MITCHELL: I do not want to read the regulations; I shall put them in a few words. Where a man works for several employers each day, the commission can make arrangements as to who shall be assessed for the payment. Failing that arrangement, the first employer pays the assessment.

Resolution reported, read the second time and concurred in. Mr. Mitchell thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 203, to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1940.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

#### ANIMAL CONTAGIOUS DISEASES

##### EXTENSION OF TIME FOR PROSECUTION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE OFFENCE OF CONSPIRACY WITH HEAVIER PENALTIES

Right Hon. J. G. GARDINER (Minister of Agriculture) moved the second reading of Bill No. 149, to amend the Animal Contagious Diseases Act.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time, and the house went into committee thereon, Mr. Golding in the chair.

On section 1—Short title.

Mr. CHARLTON: Will the minister make a statement?

Mr. GARDINER: This bill has been considered in the Senate, passed by the Senate, and is now before us in the form of Bill No. 149 of the Commons. The bill is to provide protection for the considerable trade that has been built up between this country and the United States in purebred and dairy cattle. We had an export of dairy cattle to the United States, just prior to the war, of about 9,000 head per annum and about the same number of purebred cattle. That export has grown from the figure of around 9,000 to 68,000 in dairy cattle in 1946, which dropped to 45,000 in 1947, and of purebred cattle the trade was built up to 28,000 in 1947.

It will be seen from these figures that this is a considerable trade and probably one which brings a great deal of wealth to the farmers in certain sections of Canada, particularly to the group who raise this type of cattle for sale.

We have experienced some difficulty in connection with the export of these cattle, partly perhaps because of the profits which can be made from the sale of cattle of this type in that market, and we feel that we require heavier penalties than those provided for in the act as originally drawn, in order to make certain that we can maintain this trade.

Cattle cannot be exported to the United States without a certificate of tuberculin test, blood test and freedom from contagious disease, signed or endorsed by a veterinarian inspector under the health of animals division.

In the second place, stock owners can employ accredited veterinarians at their own expense to take such tests and issue such certificates. The certificate of the accredited veterinarian is taken to the veterinary inspector for endorsement. He endorses the certificate, relying on the integrity of the accredited veterinarian.

We have had some difficulty in the matter, in that there appears to have been, and in some cases has been proved, a certain amount of conspiracy in connection with the issuing of certificates. It was found when the cases were heard, that there was great difficulty in securing conviction and the kind of penalty we feel ought to be provided. Complaints during the past three or four years have been received from the United States department of agriculture, as well as from different state departments of agriculture, indicating that tuberculosis cattle and cattle affected with Bang's disease were arriving there from Canada, covered by proper certification.

On investigation it was found that there were infractions of our regulations. In the first place, there had been removal of the ear tags which mark cattle, and there had been substitution of animals; that is to say, the tag would be taken from one animal and put on another. Then there had been inadequate and improper tests for disease. There had been false certificates by accredited veterinarians.

In order to meet these cases and to prevent their happening in the future, this act is being amended to provide greater penalties. The time limit under the code was previously six months and the period is being made longer. The limit must be increased to give time to make full investigation and to have reports made back with regard to the stock.

To overcome this difficulty, conspiracy charges were laid, some of which were dismissed because the offences under the act were not indictable. The solution which is being suggested under the act is to extend the time limit for prosecution. This removes the