

I beg to recommend, therefore, that no change be made in existing regulations, which would tend in any way to lessen the advantages offered to American importers to use our quarantines, with the arrangement and management of which they are at present so well satisfied. The extra cost is trifling compared with advantages, direct and indirect, to our steamships and railways.

ROUTINE OF QUARANTINE.

No change has been made in the general routine of quarantine, all neat cattle are detained for a period of ninety days from the date of embarkation. Sheep and swine are allowed to proceed to their destination, if, on inspection, they are found free from disease.

I beg to report that the duties of the quarantine continue to be conducted most satisfactorily by Mr. J. A. Couture, V.S., assisted by Mr. William Welsh and the men under them; in both, the Department has well informed, painstaking officers, who do their duty to the entire satisfaction of those most directly interested, the importers.

Owing to the large number still in the quarantine, it is necessary to keep it open during nearly the whole winter.

I have much pleasure in reporting that the Inspectors have received the most hearty co-operation in carrying out the Orders in Council from the agents of the steamships as well as from the owners and attendants of the cattle.

The only difficulty we had to contend with was in the inspection of sheep. Being aware of the existence of scab in some of the counties adjoining Montreal, we endeavoured to prevent any sheep, from infected places, being exported or mixed with sheep for export, and for nearly the whole season we succeeded. Unfortunately the last two shipments, as we afterwards discovered, contained sheep