

forested in the home production of cattle would take advantage of that fact, and use their influence to stop the importation of cattle from Canada, except upon the same conditions as now exist with regard to American cattle. So that I think the hon. gentleman will see the necessity of the utmost vigilance being used with reference to the admission of cattle into the country. Therefore, at Halifax, Lévis, and other points at which they are imported, they undergo a quarantine of three months, so that no disease may be allowed to enter and spread throughout the country; and this fact has its weight and influence on the other side of the Atlantic, in maintaining the advantages which we possess in our cattle trade there.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). I learned myself, from personal enquiry at the Department what the hon. Minister has now stated; and my object in bringing the matter up was that he might state it openly and authoritatively. I think his statement will commend itself to the people of the country. Though there may be some cases of hardship, the people will understand, from the figures he has given of the enormous swelling of our trade in cattle, that the advantage of that trade is so great that personal convenience should not be allowed to stand in the way of its development.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The hon. gentleman knows that in England strong attempts have been made to exclude all cattle, as much as possible, for the sake, it is said, of preventing disease from being introduced into the country; but I dare say there is an *arrière-pensée* there, and that the object is to favour English cattle by keeping out all foreign cattle. We know that legislation has been introduced into the House of Lords for this purpose. So we have to take the greatest care not to give any excuse to the authorities in England, especially to those who examine cattle at the port of debarkation, for killing or destroying cattle coming from Canada as being infected. In order to prevent the possibility of that arising, we must take care of the cattle coming from England; because the Americans have learned the great advantage of our system at Point Lévis. It is most interesting for any person, even though he is not an agriculturist, to visit the quarantine ground there. The fortifications built on the south bank of the St. Lawrence at Point Lévis, and the surrounding champaign lands have been devoted to and fitted up for this purpose. The classification is perfect. I visited the quarantine last season, in company with the Minister of Agriculture, and I saw considerable herds of cattle which were brought there for the western States by one of the largest importers of shorthorns in the western States, who preferred to bring the cattle by way of Quebec, and to feed them for three months at Point Lévis at his own expense, taking them through the United States, where they have the same quarantine, but with greater expense and with less care to the cattle. Our system is so much better that it has got to be a regular branch of business to bring cattle for the western States by the St. Lawrence. The trade, as the hon. member for South Brant (Mr. Paterson) truly says, is of such importance that no precaution too great can be taken to preserve to us the exclusive market, so far as North America is concerned, of the live cattle trade; and our friends, who may occasionally grumble at their cattle being kept too long at Quebec, must put up with it, for the benefit of the trade concerned.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. The hon. gentleman is quite right. It would be a thousand pities if anything were done which would interfere with our live cattle trade, which has grown to such enormous proportions within the last ten years. Have many cases of disease occurred in the quarantine during the last year or two?

Mr. McLELAN. No cases at all have occurred. I may mention, in connection with this subject, that the Minister reports that a cargo of Canadian cattle were sent in

February, through the United States, and became infected in some way. On arriving at the Mersey they were all ordered to be slaughtered; and he points out that this shows the importance to Canadian shippers of shipping their cattle through ports in their own territory.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I think it comes under the authority either of the Minister of Railways or the Minister of Agriculture to see that precautions are taken for the proper treatment of cattle on the railroads. Some short time ago, a good deal of complaint was made of the cruelty with which cattle were treated by neglect to give them water, and so forth. That matter, I think, was brought to the notice of the House, and, if I remember rightly, one or two clauses were put into the Railway Act bearing on the subject. Has the hon. Minister any information as to how far that evil has been remedied? It seems to be a cause of disease.

Mr. McLELAN. Arrangements have been made for the care of cattle on the railways.

Mr. CHARLTON. The Act for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals provides that cattle shall not be allowed to travel more than twenty-six hours without stopping for rest and food. I wish to ask if there is any danger of infection to cattle in Canada from American cattle passing through Canada, from one part of the United States to another.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Every care has been taken to provide against that danger. That subject caused great anxiety to my hon. friend the Minister of Agriculture. On the one hand, he wished to prevent the introduction of disease, and on the other hand, he was very unwilling to deprive our railways of that great source of traffic. But complete arrangements have been perfected, by which these American cattle trains going through Canada are completely isolated; and after the discharge of the cattle, the cars are fumigated and scoured and cleaned; and I understand that there has not been a single case of infection on that account.

Mr. TROW. It is satisfactory to know that the Government have taken such precautions to prevent any disease. This trade has grown to such dimensions and is such a source of profit that it behoves the Government to take every precaution in their power against any injury to it. Our route is much preferable to that of the United States. I have heard from good authority that the cattle get injured to a sea voyage in going down the St. Lawrence, while from New York they are immediately upon the ocean, and the result is, they frequently become sick the first or second day, while ours do not.

Mr. WILSON. Has the Government appointed inspectors at some of the points on the Canada Southern to inspect the cattle when they arrive? Is there an inspector at St. Thomas?

Mr. McLELAN. There are inspectors at three points, Sarnia, Amherstburg and Windsor.

Mr. WILSON. Is there an inspector at St. Thomas? I understand there is a man there, Mr. Smithers, who is officiating in that capacity. I wish to call the hon. Minister's attention to the fact that the Government appointed a man at St. Thomas, apparently, who, as far as I can learn, is not competent for the position.

Mr. McLELAN. He is there merely as a caretaker. The cattle are inspected before reaching that point.

Mr. WILSON. Should any disease break out among the cattle on arriving at St. Thomas, where they are detained some time, there is no one competent to inspect them. There is no one there competent to ascertain whether any disease has arisen on the way.