

attention from the main point at issue. That point was that the Minister, knowing the highly contagious character of the disease, was willing to send out animals afflicted with it to the unsuspecting farmers, and had concealed the fact of its existence from them. The charge had been made that the Minister had been informed by the buyer of these two animals that there were grave suspicions as to the health of one of them; but he had taken no steps to isolate them; had allowed them to mix with the rest of the herd.

Mr. Dryden—That statement has already been corrected to-day. They were not allowed to mix with the others.

Mr. Meredith—I am speaking of the two animals first imported.

Mr. Dryden—It is of these first two imported animals that I am speaking. They were not mixed with the others.

Mr. Meredith—Does the Minister admit that he received the warning from the man who brought the animals?

Mr. Dryden—Yes, I admit it. And I am willing to admit more. The men who brought them from quarantine also were of opinion that one of them seemed very unwell. He could not say more as to its condition. On receiving that warning they were kept separate from the others. (Applause.)

Mr. Meredith—But the measures of isolation adopted were not proper. They were kept head to head, with a very few feet between them.

Mr. Dryden—That again is not true. They were kept in another department altogether, separated from the others by a partition, which Prof. Reed thought a sufficient measure of isolation.

Mr. Meredith—Were they not under the same roof?

Mr. Dryden—For a part of the time.

Mr. Meredith remarked that any scientific man would say that this was not enough. There was danger so long as the healthy and diseased animals were under one roof.

Mr. Dryden explained that at first the animals had been kept absolutely isolated in a small outhouse adjoining the piggery and distinct altogether from the place where the other cattle were. When the cold weather came on they were in danger of freezing, and were put in this separate apartment, which, he repeated, had satisfied the competent veterinary surgeon who was present.

Mr. Meredith insisted that they were then under one roof, and there was danger in that. In fact there was greater danger, for they could come up against the partition, doubtless composed of rough boards, and the infection could come through. It can get through in many strange ways, as scientists show.

Mr. Hardy—They might be 50 feet away. There's a building over there to the north of us, and it's under the same roof as we are, and yet no one would say we were close to it. "Under the same roof" does not mean close by.

Mr. Meredith remarked that he was directing his remarks to the Minister of Agriculture, and that he wished the Commissioner of Crown Lands would leave that gentleman to answer for himself.

Mr. Hardy retorted that he was merely giving his friend the leader of the Opposition information which a little child could have given him, though the hon. gentleman did not seem to know it.

Mr. Meredith, in reply, begged Mr. Hardy not to be disorderly.

Continuing, Mr. Meredith asked if one of the animals sold had not been infected.

Mr. Dryden replied that he could not as yet say. A number of curious things had happened during their investigations, and some animals had responded to the first injection of the fluid, showing the germs of disease, and had failed to respond to the second. What that meant no one could at present say. It might prove that the lymph is curative in its working.

Mr. Meredith said that what was needed was a commission of inquiry.

Mr. Dryden replied that the facts were being got at as quickly as possible, and when collected would be published as a bulletin for the use of farmers.

Mr. Meredith was not satisfied with this. He thought that the circumstances of the advertising the calves for sale should be investigated. Why were the buyers not warned? The sale would have been permitted but for the intervention of a bystander, and the animals would have gone out to spread disease. Had an individual farmer behaved in that manner he would almost have placed himself within the pale of the law. Yet it had been done by what should be the model institution for all Ontario. An experiment was a very different matter from sending such animals out as being in good health. He challenged the Minister to have a committee of the House appointed to investigate the matter, and

settle where the blame should rest—whether on the Minister or on his subordinates. At present there appeared no one to blame.

Hon. Mr. Hardy said he could not claim to be an authority on the subject under discussion, but there were some things clear to everybody. He strongly deprecated the action of the leader of the Opposition in insisting that the two cattle specially referred to were within a few feet of a number of other cattle, after the definite statement of the Minister of Agriculture that they were fifty feet away. It was a pity he should endeavor to misrepresent the facts, too, by the statement that the cattle at least were "under the same roof," a statement which, of course, meant absolutely nothing. He thought the hon. gentleman had not inquired properly into this matter, and had not done himself justice. He and other hon. gentlemen opposite had discussed it in the most vehemently partizan way. They had not spoken by the book, but from newspaper articles, extracts from The Empire, and so forth. They either passed over entirely the deliberate statements of the Minister of Agriculture, or put them aside with a newspaper rumor. Tuberculosis was bad enough of itself, but not half as bad as when it was poisoned by political animus. (Applause.) The member for Essex had spoken of Mr. Dryden as being unfit to manage the Agricultural College. He said the man for such a position should be a practical man, one who knew how to breed cattle. Well, the Minister for Agriculture was a practical man, and did know how to breed cattle. He bred them on his own farm. Some people (and the Commissioner for Crown Lands looked hard at the member for North Essex) preferred to breed them in the middle of a river, on a tug or a scow, or something of the kind. (Laughter.) It was really absurd to have such criticisms coming from an hon. gentleman who could hardly tel a muley cow from a female moose. (Laughter.) Now, it could not be shown that anybody had suffered in any way by what had happened at Guelph. The infected animals had been sold, it was true, but by mistake, and had been immediately withdrawn. The Minister of Agriculture could not have been expected to recognize the animals from the announcement of the sale. Mr. Meredith seemed to think the Minister of Agriculture must necessarily have known all about them. He thought the House would, however, be prepared to accept the statement of Mr. Dryden, that he did not know until after the sale that they would be put up. (Applause.) At Ottawa it had not been thought necessary to kill the whole herd because the disease had been discovered, nor was it the custom in other such cases. It was, undoubtedly, difficult to know precisely how to deal with the disease, but it certainly was not necessary to slaughter the whole herd when the disease was discovered. They had called in scientific experts at Guelph, and had done their best to save the herd, instead of going out simply intent on destruction. Everything that modern science and learning could furnish was brought to bear on the question. Mr. Meredith had said the cases were quite different at Ottawa and at Guelph. That at Ottawa the rest of the herd had been sent to different experimental stations to be cured, but that at Guelph they had been sold to farmers. As to the sale at Guelph, they already knew the facts regarding it; but, surely, in the case of Ottawa it was a most extraordinary thing that these animals from the infected herd should be sent on the railway cars into every part of the Dominion for the purpose of "being cured." Why, it was a monstrous proceeding, to take these animals from a herd known to be infected and scatter them in this way and thereby run the risk of scattering the disease broadcast, from one end of the country to the other.

Mr. Clancy closed the discussion. He insisted that the main point was to discover where the blame lay, and, if any fault were found, to punish the offenders. It was admitted that the two diseased cows had been imported, brought on the farm, and isolated, but only for part of the time; he did not know how long. The contagion of the disease, it is established, can be carried an incredible distance, and it certainly was dangerous to have the diseased and the healthy animals under the same roof, even if they were 50 feet apart. Such conduct was not proper, and there was great danger in such a situation. To have them brought into the country while resting under the shadow of a suspicion was unwise and indiscreet on the part of the Minister. He should have investigated the matter, and located the blame. He evidently was to blame in bringing these animals into the country at all.

The motion then passed.