

STATE QUARANTINE FOR IMPORTED LIVE STOCK.

Dr. S. B. Nelson, at the Dairymen's Convention.

At the recent international stock show held in Chicago Hon. Grant Copeland, of Walla Walla, said in an address delivered before the International Stock Association that there existed in this Northwest one of the finest stock countries in the world, because of the many special advantages to be found here, such as favorable climatic conditions, variety of natural forage plants, fine water supplies and because the outbreaks of contagious diseases of animals were seldom experienced, unless they were imported from other sections of the country. Since the Northwest, of which Washington is an important factor has these many natural advantages, and since the citizens of the State are second to none in natural activity, it is only a question of time when the stock industry will grow to such proportions that it will be one of the most important, if not the most important, of the industries.

I would like to bring before you the question of preventing outbreaks of contagious diseases. We are indeed very fortunate in our geographical location, in which we are protected on the west by the Pacific, on the other three sides by mountain ranges. This leaves importation as practically the only means by which diseases can be and are introduced. In importation we are even at present amply protected from the west and north by Federal regulations, so that only importations from the east and south need to receive attention from us.

History has conclusively proved that proper quarantine regulations thoroughly enforced have lessened the frequency and severity of epidemics and in many cases they have entirely prevented outbreaks.

Our Government has kept cholera of man, and pleuro-pneumonia, rinderpest and foot and mouth disease of cattle out of the United States for nearly a quarter of a century. The outbreaks of yellow fever in the South are now generally confined to a few localities. In the more civilized countries of to-day there are no such occurrences as the "black plague" that swept over Europe in the fourteenth century.

The fundamental principle underlying governmental control of any subject, whether Federal or state, is "the greatest good to the greatest number," and in discussing this subject the above principle must constantly be borne in mind. Among the epidemic diseases of domesticated animals which may be considered as being controllable through quarantine regulations are Texas fever, tuberculosis, pleuro-pneumonia, foot and mouth disease in cattle, glanders and farcy in horses, hog cholera and swine plague in swine and scabies in sheep. All of the foregoing diseases have at one time or another existed in the United States and all except pleuro-pneumonia and foot and mouth disease, which, as before stated, strict Federal regulations and inspections have kept out of the country for over twenty years, are present in our herds and flocks to a greater or less degree at the present time.

The Government, through the Bureau of Animal Industry, controls the importation of animals into the United States, having employes abroad whose duty it is to inspect the various kinds of animals intended for importation into this country, and if found affect-

ed, to exclude them. In addition to this foreign work the interstate traffic of cattle and sheep from certain sections of the United States is controlled, cattle for Texas fever and sheep for scab.

State authorities are also employed along similar lines, for instance:

Nearly every State and Territory in the Union has passed statutes tending to restrict and control outbreaks of contagious diseases in animals and some even have gone so far as to try to regulate importation of live stock by legislative enactments. These States are Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Massachusetts, Oregon and Pennsylvania.

Some of these States have been able to enforce their laws, while others have, for various reasons, failed to do so. Noting so much legislation along this line, it will be of interest to review briefly the outbreaks that have occurred in our own State during the the importation of animals, such outbreaks as have come under my personal observation.

In 1897 twelve horses were inspected and eleven were affected with glanders which had been contracted from a horse purchased out of a railroad grader's outfit brought into the State from east of the mountains. During 1900-01 five horses were brought from near-by points of a neighboring State to the free clinics of the veterinary school of the State Agricultural College. Last year a band of horses from the South were brought north through Idaho to Montana. Some of the horses of this band were affected with scabies or mange and were dropped along the range, where they attached themselves to the local bands of horses; as a result one band of 128 horses became

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