

**FIRST AND SECOND REPORTS OF
THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE
APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE
BOARD OF THE N. Y. STATE
AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY**

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First and second reports of the special committee appointed by the Executive board of the N. Y. state agricultural society by Various

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FIRST AND SECOND REPORTS

OF THE

SPECIAL COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

OF THE

N. Y. STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY,

ON THE

STATISTICS, PATHOLOGY AND TREATMENT OF
THE EPIZOÖTIC DISEASE

KNOWN AS THE

RINDERPEST.

ALBANY:
WEED, PARSONS AND COMPANY, PRINTERS.

1867.

NEW YORK STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, }
ANNUAL MEETING, February 15th, 1866. }

Mr. JUDD, as Chairman of the Special Committee appointed on the subject of the Rinderpest, presented the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the Executive Committee of the New York State Agricultural Society are requested to give special attention to the progress of the Rinderpest in foreign countries, and to the danger of its introduction here. That they be empowered to use such measures as they may deem expedient for obtaining and publishing information in regard to the ravages and character of the disease, preventives and remedies to be used, etc., and that if, in their judgment, it at any time appears necessary or desirable, they are authorized to employ one or more competent persons to make investigations and procure reliable information either at home or abroad.

EXECUTIVE BOARD, February 15th, 1866.

Mr. CONGER moved the following resolution, prefacing its presentation with the expression of his desire that the President of the Society might be named as Chairman:

Resolved, That the subject of the Rinderpest be referred to a committee of five to prepare from foreign papers and other sources a general outline of the statistics and pathological character of the disease, with such suggestions as to remedial or preventive methods, as may be deemed advisable for the farmers of the State to pursue in the treatment of the disease, in the event of its appearance in this country during the ensuing year.

The resolution was adopted, and the President, Mr. GOULD, Hon. A. B. CONGER, Dr. JULIEN T. WILLIAMS, L. H. TUCKER and M. C. WELD were appointed the Committee.

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FIRST REPORT.

NEW YORK STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, }
EXECUTIVE BOARD, *March 29th, 1866.* }

The committee of the Society appointed to investigate the statistics and pathology of the Rinderpest, and to suggest preventive and remedial methods for the protection of the State from its ravages, beg leave, by way of preliminary report, and in brief outline, to submit to the consideration of the Executive Board, those facts and conclusions which, in the judgment of the committee, justify the establishment by law of an efficient system of sanitary measures to prevent the introduction and dissemination of this terrific malady.

Your committee have had access to many foreign journals, agricultural and medical, which in every issue are filled with statements of the destructive career of this plague, and mostly, with humiliating admissions of general failure to arrest its spread or establish any efficient system of cure. Your committee have also been favored through the Secretary of the Society, with copies of the first and second reports of the commissioners, appointed by Royal Commission to investigate the origin and nature of the cattle plague; and the reports prepared on the pathological appearances and symptoms of the disease by Dr. SMART, of Edinburgh, which were with great kindness and dispatch forwarded to the Secretary by Prof. JOHN WILSON, F. R. S. E., Professor of Agriculture in the University of Edinburgh.

It appears that as far back as October 21st, 1865, a period of rather more than four months after the introduction of this disease into Islington, 14,083 animals had been attacked; 8,711 had died; 5,119 slaughtered; only 707 had recovered, and 1,546 remained under treatment. Since that time the statistics of *enumerated* cases had disclosed the appalling figures of 9,120 attacked in one week, ending

January 6th, 1866, and at a later period over 13,000 in one week; in all, *officially reported* up to January 27th last, 120,740. It is believed, however, that at least two hundred thousand animals infected with this plague had been destroyed. Although at the last accounts, the rate of mortality had decreased, still the highest proportion of recoveries was only twelve in each one hundred cases.

In Belgium, where a vigorous system of quarantine had been instituted, and immediate slaughter of animals suspected to be suffering with the premonitory symptoms secured; only three hundred and six cases occurred, seventeen of which died, the rest being summarily disposed of by public authority. One case lately occurred at Antwerp, being traced to a smuggled cow. The market was at once closed, and all egress of cattle prohibited until further orders. The plague was thus successfully checked and Belgium has been free from its ravages ever since.

The disease entered France by one animal bought at Malines, and was arrested by the sacrifice of forty-three head of cattle. In November last, at the Jardin d'Acclimation, it made its appearance in the case of two gazelles, brought from India, which had been for three days in London. It spread rapidly among other animals at the garden, but was suppressed by the destruction of thirty-five ruminants of different species.

In Prussia, which has a long line of frontier, and is therefore greatly exposed from surrounding territory, where the disease has made extensive havoc, it has been kept at bay by the most determined action and instantaneous use of the knife.

Aberdeenshire, in Scotland, a county containing 150,000 head of cattle, adopting at the start a policy different from that pursued in England, has been quite exempt. It maintained a strict quarantine, and authorized summary destruction of all animals infected, under a system of compensation to the owners. Out of a fund of £3,000, raised by private subscription, £1,400 remained unexpended. Other parts of Scotland, which have neglected the precautions adopted in Aberdeen, have been frightfully devastated. Ireland, under a like system, principally of quarantine, established also with reference to persons employed about diseased cattle, has been untouched with these calamities.

The disease appears, from these statistics, and by a general admission of all writers on the subject, to be not only of a fatal, but of a highly infectious and contagious character. It is not only propagated in animals of the bovine race from one to another, but also to all classes of ruminants. The contagion is also conveyed in the clothes

and by the persons of those employed in taking care of, or even of inspecting the diseased subjects. No remedial agencies have as yet been discovered which would justify for one moment the abandonment or neglect of preventive measures. Public policy and private interest alike demand that the pest should, if possible, be stamped out.

Your committee believe that the introduction of this disease into the State of New York, which contains over two millions of horned beasts and three millions of sheep, with no sanitary regulations established by law for its suppression, would result, if the ratio of mortality should be equal to that in England, in a loss to the people of this State of at least five millions of dollars.

Your committee, therefore, recommend that the Society should present a memorial to the Legislature, invoking in behalf of the great interests of the farmers of this State, summary and efficient action by which the disease may be prevented from coming within the borders of the State, and for its extirpation in any locality where it may, by possibility, be introduced; and to this end have prepared a draft of a bill* to be presented to the Legislature for its approval.

AN ACT to prevent the introduction and spread of the disease known as the Rinderpest, and for the protection of the flocks and herds of sheep and cattle in this State, from destruction by this and other infectious diseases.

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. It shall be the duty of the health officer of the port of New York, in addition to the duties now imposed on him by existing law, to examine and inquire whether any animals are brought in any vessels arriving at said port in violation of any regulation of law passed by the Congress of the United States prohibiting the importation of such animals.

§ 2. Whenever any animal is brought as a ship's cow, with no intention of landing the same or of violating any such law or regulation of Congress as aforesaid, the same shall be carefully examined and kept in quarantine for the space of at least twenty-one days, and if any symptoms of the infection or incubation of the disease commonly known as the rinderpest, or of any other infectious or contagious disease, shall present themselves, it shall be the duty of the said health officer

*The bill prepared by the committee was, at the request of the Society, introduced into the Senate on the 31st day of March, by the Hon. EZRA CORNELL, ex-President of the Society, and with slight amendments, became a law, being passed on the 20th of April, three-fifths being present; a copy of the law, as passed, being given in the text.

immediately to cause the said animal or animals to be slaughtered, and their remains boxed with a sufficient quantity of quick lime, sulphate of iron or other disinfectant, and with sufficient weights placed in said box to prevent the same from floating, and to be cast into the waters of the said port. It shall also be his duty to cleanse and disinfect by suitable agencies, the berth or section of the ship in which said animal or animals were lying or slaughtered, and also to cause the clothing and persons of all taking care of the same or engaged in such slaughter and burial, to be cleansed and disinfected.

§ 3. William Kelly, of Dutchess county, Marsena R. Patrick, of Ontario county, and Lewis F. Allen, of Erie county, are hereby appointed as commissioners under this act, and with powers and duties as hereinafter enumerated.

§ 4. In the event of any such disease as the rinderpest or any infectious disease of cattle or sheep breaking out or being suspected to exist in any locality in this State, it shall be the duty of all persons owning or having any interest whatever in the said cattle, immediately to notify the said commissioners or any one of them of the existence of such disease; whereupon the said commissioners shall establish a sanitary cordon around such locality. And thereupon it shall be the duty of the said commissioners to appoint an assistant commissioner for such district, with all powers conferred by this act on the said commissioners or their agents or appointees, which said assistant commissioner shall immediately proceed to the place or places where such disease is reported to exist, and cause the said animal or animals to be separated from all connection or proximity with or to all other animals of the ruminant order, and take such other precautionary measures as shall be deemed necessary; and if, in his opinion, the said disease shall be incurable or threaten to spread, to cause the animals aforesaid immediately to be slaughtered, their remains to be deeply buried, and all places in which the said animals have been confined or kept, to be cleansed and disinfected by any of the agencies above mentioned; and also to cause the same to be carefully locked or barred so as to prevent all access to the same by any animals of a like kind for a period of at least one month. Any animal thus slaughtered shall be appraised under the supervision of said commissioners, and one-half of the value of said animal shall be paid by the State to the owner thereof.

§ 5. It shall be the duty of the said assistant commissioner, immediately on his being notified of his appointment, or at any time thereafter, of the breaking out of the said disease in any place contiguous to the same and within the county in which he resides, to give public notice of the same, in at least one newspaper printed or published in the said county, and to cause notices to be posted up in at least five conspicuous places in said neighborhood; and it shall be his duty to enjoin, in said notice and otherwise, all persons concerned in the care or supervision of neat cattle or sheep, not to come within one hundred feet of the said locality without the special permission of the said assistant commissioner.

§ 6. It shall be the duty of the commissioners appointed under this act, whenever they are advised that any such disease has made its appearance within the limits of the State, to publish in the State paper and in at least one paper published in

any county where such disease exists, a statement of the methods approved by the New York State Agricultural Society for the treatment of cattle affected therewith, for the isolation of the same, for the disinfection of the premises or buildings in which said cattle are found affected as aforesaid, and for the prevention of the spread of the same through any agencies of whatever kind.

§ 7. The commissioners aforesaid and all such assistants as they may appoint, whenever in their judgment or discretion it shall appear in any case that the disease is not likely to yield to any remedial treatment, or whenever it shall seem that the cost or worth of any such remedial treatment shall be greater than the value of any animal or animals so affected, or whenever in any case such disease shall assume such form of malignity as shall threaten its spread by processes either contagious or infectious, or otherwise, are hereby empowered to cause the said animals to be slaughtered forthwith and buried, as above provided, and to do all such things as are mentioned in the fourth section of this act.

§ 8. The said commissioners or their assistants are hereby empowered to enter upon and take possession of all premises or parts thereof where cattle so affected as aforesaid are found, and to cause the said cattle to be confined in suitable inclosures or buildings for any time requisite in the judgment of the said commissioners or their assistants, and prior to the slaughter and burial of the said animals and the full and complete disinfecting and cleansing of such premises; and all persons, whether owners of, or interested in such cattle or otherwise, who shall resist, impede or hinder the said commissioners or their assistants in the execution of their duties under this act, shall be deemed guilty, and on conviction of the same, of a misdemeanor, and shall be punishable with fine not exceeding one thousand dollars, or imprisonment not exceeding the term of six months, or of both, in the discretion of the court before which they shall be adjudged guilty as aforesaid.

§ 9. The commissioners shall have power to establish all such quarantine or other regulations as they may deem necessary to prevent the spread of the disease or its transit in railroad cars, by vessels or by driving along the public highways; and it shall be proper for the Governor of the State, by public proclamation as aforesaid, to enjoin all persons concerned or engaged in the traffic or transit of cattle or sheep, not to enter upon any places or take therefrom any such animal or to pass through any such locality, and within such distances from the same as in the said proclamation may be prescribed.

§ 10. The sum of one thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated to pay to the said commissioners for their services while actually engaged in the duties enjoined upon them in this act, at the rate of five dollars per day to each, and such further sums as may amount to their actual expenditures in traveling to and from the places they may be called upon to inspect or visit, and in the printing or publishing of all regulations or notices mentioned in this act. And the further sum of fifteen thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the treasury, not otherwise appropriated, to pay for animals slaughtered by the provisions of this act, and the Comptroller is hereby directed to pay for the same on the warrant of the said commissioners.