

**THIRD ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
COMMISSIONER OF ANIMAL  
INDUSTRY 1914. FOR THE YEAR  
ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 1914.  
NO.98**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649234905

Third Annual Report of the Commissioner of Animal Industry 1914. For the year ending  
November 30, 1914. No.98 by Various

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**VARIOUS**

**THIRD ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
COMMISSIONER OF ANIMAL  
INDUSTRY 1914. FOR THE YEAR  
ENDING NOVEMBER  
30, 1914. NO.98**



Public Document

No. 98

*Mass. Legislature, 1914*

THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONER OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY.

1914.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 1914.



BOSTON:  
WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS,  
32 DERNE STREET.

1915.

APPROVED BY  
THE STATE BOARD OF PUBLICATION.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY,  
BOSTON, Dec. 1, 1914.

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:—*

In accordance with the provisions of section 4, chapter 608, Acts of 1912, which act is entitled "An Act to abolish the Cattle Bureau of the State Board of Agriculture, and to create a Department of Animal Industry," I have the honor to present to the General Court the third annual report of the work accomplished by this department for the fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 1914.

The Department of Animal Industry has in its life of less than three years grown to substantial proportions, and, from the viewpoints of completeness of organization and the loyalty and all-round efficiency of its field and office staffs, is regarded by those who have had experience and association with similar departments in other States, and are thereby competent to judge, to have reached an enviable standard of excellence. To the staff of agents above referred to there has during the past year been added two men, Dr. Edward A. Cahill and Dr. William H. Shannon, whose qualifications and fitness for special work cause them to rank among the best. Dr. Edward A. Cahill of Lowell, formerly associated with the Live Stock Sanitary Board of Pennsylvania, is, in my opinion, an especially valuable man, because his previous training in laboratory and field work in connection with hog-cholera control in Pennsylvania has fitted him to engage in that branch of work for this department. Dr. William H. Shannon of Boston, a graduate of the veterinary department of the University of Pennsylvania, although the youngest man in term of service, is displaying a highly enviable degree of energy and interest in the work, and gives great promise of becoming an extremely valuable man for the department.

I am confident that the department details are well grounded, and that the policy I sought to establish at the outset of my

282317

Mass. Div. of Animal Industry 4-13-15 g.

administration is the correct one, viz., that the department's principal object is to improve the cattle industry of the State, not to injure or destroy it; to promote and safeguard the health of the domestic animals in the State; to establish a spirit of co-operation between the owners of stock and the department rather than a spirit of hostility; to educate rather than persecute the individual owner, and, while insisting upon law observance, to see that justice is meted out to every one. Under such a policy, with a continuance of the splendid loyalty now existent in the working force, Massachusetts must occupy a leading position in live-stock sanitary control work.

I wish to emphasize the fact that owners of stock, almost without exception, have met the representatives of this department in a spirit of co-operation, and the agents of the department are no longer avoided by them, but are sought for consultation and advice. The activity of owners of barns where neat cattle are housed, in the way of making sanitary changes as suggested by department inspectors, is a marked feature of improvement, and is most commendable. Every succeeding year of this policy of education, of persuasion rather than persecution, must bring results more and more satisfying.

The general work of the department has not differed in nature from that of the years immediately preceding. It has, however, been much more exhaustive in character and complete in detail, as the result of a more perfected organization and efficiency born of experience.

#### RABIES.

The following table shows the extent of rabies during the year ending Nov. 30, 1914:—

	Dogs.	Cattle.	Cats.	Horses.	Pigs.
Killed or died with rabies, . . . . .	250	5	1	1	8
Killed by owners or died in quarantine, not rabid, . . . . .	184	1	—	—	—
Released from quarantine, . . . . .	277	3	1	1	428
Animals still in quarantine, . . . . .	49	—	—	—	—
Totals, . . . . .	760	9	2	2	436
Grand total, . . . . .	1,209 animals.				



At the laboratory, the brains of 108 dogs and 1 cat were examined microscopically by Dr. Langdon Frothingham, and of these, 78 dogs were positive and 24 negative. The cat was also found to have had rabies. The heads of seven other dogs were received at this laboratory too badly decomposed to permit of an examination to determine whether or not the animals were rabid at the time of death.

It is regrettable that there is an increase in the number of cases of rabies in dogs over that of last year, and much to be deplored that animals manifesting strange symptoms are not more promptly placed in confinement and watched until either found to be free from disease, or symptoms of a suspicious character have developed.

At the expense of repeating my former advice along this line, I would say that the early recognition of the symptoms of rabies makes the prompt reporting to the proper authorities possible. Such early reports promptly acted upon tend to reduce greatly the number of outbreaks of the disease, and logically would lessen immensely the number of persons who annually find it necessary to take the Pasteur treatment because either bitten by or exposed to rabid animals. Over 100 people have been so exposed this year, of which by far the greater number were children.

The unknown or ownerless animal still plays a prominent part in this trouble, and this shows the necessity for the proper enforcement of the laws relating to the licensing of all dogs, and the humane destruction of such waifs of the canine world as are to be found in every community.

Some few owners from time to time complain of the irksomeness of the period of quarantine placed upon animals believed to have been exposed to a case of rabies, but the wisdom of the department's action is evident when it is pointed out that animals frequently develop rabies during the latter part of the period of quarantine, and in fact during the past year one animal did develop the disease after the ninety-day period had expired.

## GLANDERS.

Not by any means the least important of the problems that confront this department is that of control of glanders. As a result of the more recently enacted laws and of a more completely adjusted and well-organized campaign against this disease, I have to report most flattering success in this branch of our control work during the past year, as the following figures and statements will emphasize.

Eighteen hundred and seventeen horses and mules have during the past year been reported as suspected of having glanders or farcy, including those dealt with in stable tests. Of this number, 846 were killed or died, and were found to be affected with glanders; 928 were released after examination, and 43 were held for further observation.

Of the 38 cases held over from last year, 5 were killed or died, 16 were released as free from disease, and 17 are still under observation, making a total of 851 cases of glanders during the year. Of this number, 352 were located in the city of Boston.

It will be noted that although 187 more suspected cases were reported and examined by agents of the department, the number of actual cases found was 255 less than in the previous year.

In the report submitted for the year ending Nov. 30, 1913, it was mentioned that as a means of further checking the spread of glanders it was deemed necessary to order the closing of the public drinking troughs in the city of Boston, as in that year 52 per cent. of the positive cases found in Massachusetts were discovered in the city of Boston. The report stated that on November 1 this order had been complied with.

The public works department of the city of Boston, by providing taps at convenient locations throughout the city, enabled drivers to obtain water without great inconvenience either to themselves or to the horses in their charge. Considerable pressure was brought to bear to have these troughs opened during the summer months, but, believing my stand on the matter to be right, I was able to overcome the objections raised, and kept the troughs closed. I have failed to find from reports received that any undue suffering was caused, and in fact the

closing of these public drinking places has not only been beneficial from the standpoint of glanders control, but I have been informed by a great many owners of horses and by several veterinarians that there had been fewer "colics" or cases of indigestion this past summer than ever before.

The wisdom of having taken this step is well proven by the fact that there were killed in Boston this year only 352 horses affected with glanders, against 576 horses killed in 1913, a falling off of 224, or 39 per cent., whereas in the balance of the State there were 497 horses killed in 1914, against 530 in 1913, a falling off of 33 cases, or 6 per cent., thereby showing that the greatly reduced number in the city of Boston must have been due to some cause other than a natural subsidence in the disease itself.

The watering troughs in the following cities were also ordered closed:—

Cambridge	Chelsea	Medford
Everett	Somerville	Malden
Quincy		

The advisability of requiring that all horses arriving from the States of New York, Rhode Island and Connecticut shall be accompanied by a permit issued from this department is shown by the fact that of 268 horses tested by agents of the department after having been admitted under such permits, 21 were found to be suffering from glanders, and were killed.

The ophthalmo-mallein test, material for which is obtained from the United States Bureau of Animal Industry, is proving to be of great value in conjunction with the complement-fixation test in the diagnosing of doubtful and nonclinical cases. It is also being employed in the making of stable tests, with highly satisfactory results.

The subcutaneous injection of mallein has been discontinued, as it has been found to detract from the value of other diagnostic tests.

During the year, 1,688 samples of blood have been taken from 1,274 horses. Of this number, 447 horses were killed, 777 released, 25 died, and 25 are held for further test.