

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FOR THE YEAR

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VOLUME II.

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AUGUSTA  
KENNEBEC JOURNAL PRINT  
1900

REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS  
ON  
CONTAGIOUS DISEASES  
OF  
ANIMALS

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Under the Law of 1887, Chapter 138, of Public Laws of Maine.

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HON. F. O. BEAL, BANGOR, President.  
HON. JOHN M. DEERING, SACO, Secretary.  
HON. F. S. ADAMS, BOWDOIN.

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AUGUSTA  
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1900



## REPORT OF 1899.

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*To His Excellency, the Governor of Maine:*

We present our biennial report of the year closing December 31, 1899, with an account of our appraisals of horses and cattle destroyed under the provision of the law of 1887, chapter 177, relating to the contagious diseases of this State and amended in 1892, chapter 194.

There have been, during the year 1899, one hundred and fifty-three animals, including cattle and horses, condemned and destroyed at our appraisal of \$6,271.50; expense incurred in making examinations of herds where no disease was found to exist, looking up cattle shipped into the State contrary to the quarantine law, and all other expenses in carrying on the work of the board, \$2,503.69. One-half of \$6,271.50 is the amount for the State to pay to the owners of cattle, or \$3,135.75.

Total expenses incurred during the year of 1899...	\$5,729 44
Received from State treasurer.....	5,000 00
Deficiency .....	
	\$729 44

There have been 114 cattle, 38 horses and 1 hog destroyed. Total, 153. The average amount received by owners of animals destroyed, including cattle and horses, was \$20.42 each.

There has been a decided increase in the work of the Board during the year of 1899.

The Cattle Commissioners' Report for 1898 gives the number of cattle condemned and destroyed as 48, at an appraisal of \$1,520.00, and 34 horses at an appraisal of \$1,420.00, the total appraisals for the year being \$2,940.00.

There seems to be an increased confidence among the live stock owners in the work of the Board.

This state of affairs can only be explained by the fact that cattle owners have become better educated to the existing disease and better realize the financial loss to them if diseased cattle are allowed to remain in their herds.

The prejudice against having their herds examined is passing away, and there is a growing sentiment among the live stock owners in favor of suppressing tuberculosis in our State.

It is fortunate for us to be able to report that of the several contagious diseases that afflict domestic animals the commissioners have had only two to deal with, namely tuberculosis and glanders.

Anthrax, foot and mouth disease, hog cholera and several other diseases that are considered contagious that afflict animals in other states have not made their appearance in Maine during the past year.

Tuberculosis exists among cattle in all the thickly populated countries upon the globe. It exists to the greatest extent in the United States along the Atlantic coast. Prairie and mountainous sections are practically free from it. Every state in our country has its sanitary laws, and nearly every state has a direct law in relation to contagious diseases among cattle, and it is well to note that those who have the work in charge are carrying it on practically upon the same lines.

#### HOW THE WORK IS DONE.

The commissioners make examination only upon written application of the owner or boards of health or veterinarians.

It would be impossible to do more under the financial limitation of the Board. It is the sense of the Board that compulsory measures do not enlist co-operation of the owners of live stock and without co-operation the measures directed against tuberculosis cannot be successful. We believe that the most essential agency necessary to obtain the co-operation that is needed is to more generally disseminate knowledge of the facts in regard to the disease and to prove to the owners that they are fairly treated by the State.

Frequently owners complain that they are obliged to lose one-half of the appraisal according to the law. The commissioners are led to believe that the owners of condemned animals receive

as much and even more than owners do in other states where the appraisals are made upon what the animals look to be worth at the time of destruction. In Maine animals are appraised upon the value of what they would be worth if they were healthy.

The state of Massachusetts pays the full appraisal, and the average price paid to the owners of six hundred cattle destroyed during the last six months of 1899 was \$21.60 per head.

The limit of appraisements in Pennsylvania is for unregistered stock \$25.00 and for registered stock \$50.00, just one-half what the limit is in our State. Yet it occasionally seems to be a hardship where cattle are subjected to the tuberculin test, as the test will call out the mild cases as well as the bad ones, yet upon the whole we think there is no reason for complaint on this line.

#### TUBERCULIN TESTS.

The Board does not test cattle themselves; they consider that it is the veterinaries' business and they are the proper agents through which this work should be done. Neither do they order tests to be made. Testing is only done by the owners employing veterinaries on their own account, and occasionally by the advice of the commissioners, and then only by the owner's consent, the owner agreeing to pay for all animals proving to be sound and the State paying for all those diseased.

Public opinion seems to be crystallizing about the leading facts in relation to tuberculin tests. There have been many extravagant statements made, some of them coming from sources that are looked upon as reliable. Now the facts in regard to tuberculosis are important, and it is detrimental to the public and also to our live stock interests, to exaggerate them. It is also injurious to minimize them.

It is a recognized fact that tuberculin is not infallible, but in the hands of careful men its mistakes or errors are few. Yet in cases where tuberculosis has existed in a herd for years, the owner occasionally losing an animal, living in the herd all through the different stages of the disease, the only method to be pursued to clean up the herd and stamp out the disease upon the premises is by the tuberculin test. The commissioners have recently cleaned up a herd under these same conditions. The

owner employed a veterinary to test five cows, all of which reacted and were condemned. The post-mortem disclosed the following results: two showed the disease to a very marked degree, two to a marked degree and one to a very slight degree. This caused the owner to complain and object to the tuberculin test. Two more cows of the same herd were tested and both reacted and were condemned. The post-mortem of these two cows converted the owner, and five young cattle were tested. Three reacted and were destroyed. This consisted of the entire herd. The ones that did not react were cattle recently brought in from outside herds. This is only one case with many others that have come under the observation of the commissioners.

Tuberculin is not infallible but it is far reaching. It is a firmly established fact that it is the most successful means of detecting tuberculosis among cattle that is at present available, if handled by careful and experienced men.

It was conceded by the Cattle Commissioners of Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island at the New England Cattle Commissioners' Conference held at Boston on December 8, 1899, that Maine cattle were freer from tuberculosis than cattle from any other New England state. This record should be gratifying to the breeders and dairymen of our State, coming as it does from such a reliable source. This knowledge was obtained on account of Maine being a seller of dairy stock and the three named states purchasers.

Nearly 13,000 cows have been shipped out of Maine into the markets of these states during the year of 1899, selling upon an average of \$40 each, bringing to the farmers of our State nearly one-half a million of dollars. This, in connection with nearly four millions of dollars worth of dairy products produced from our dairy herds this last year and nearly all sold in the New England markets, should stimulate the farmers of our State to a higher appreciation of our dairy interests and to realize the fact that no higher qualification could be stamped upon our dairy products than for the consumers to know that they are produced from healthy herds.

What remedies can be applied to hold in check or eradicate tuberculosis among our herds? When we take into consideration that we have at present only  $2\frac{1}{2}$  or 3 per cent diseased, it



seems almost insignificant, yet it is far too many when we take into account the importance of our live stock interests and the value of a reputation that our herds are above suspicion. The importance of the work of the Maine Cattle Commissioners should be expressed by every good citizen, whether he be producer or consumer.

The total valuation of our domestic animals at the present time is nearly \$12,000,000, and it is an interest well worthy of being taken care of and there is no one so responsible for the health of our live stock as the owners themselves, hence it becomes the duty of every breeder and owner of domestic animals to throw around them all the safeguards possible and always be on the watch. It would be unwise for us to say that an animal in an advanced stage of tuberculosis could be cured. She cannot, and as soon as discovered should be removed from the herd. Sunlight, pure air and cleanliness are enemies to tuberculosis, and the more sunlight, the better ventilation and the more care is taken in keeping stables whitewashed, clean and pure, the less liable we are to have a case of tuberculosis developed in our herd. And in order to retain the good name of our State we advise as remedies for tuberculosis: First, close examination; second, the removing of all suspicious animals from the herd; third, an abundance of sunlight and sufficient exercise, good ventilation and clean habitation, and co-operation with the Cattle Commissioners.

#### GLANDERS.

During the past year there have been thirty-eight horses condemned and destroyed, diseased with glanders. This seems too many, to be in proportion to the number of horses in our State as compared with some of our neighboring states.

The disease has been found in different sections of the State, and generally among team or work horses. The veterinarians of the State should be quick to recognize this insidious disease and prompt to report it to the commissioners. The public should be alive to the importance of eradicating it, it being considered more dangerous to man than tuberculosis, and at least not give it a chance to spread.

It is the public sympathy and co-operation that all sanitary measures need in order that the work may be carried on with efficiency and economy.

Our quarantine law is still in force and while no cattle are allowed to enter our State without a permit from the commissioners yet there are some smuggled in against the law, in some cases causing the commissioners some trouble in hunting them up and making examinations. We consider this an important factor in keeping our herds healthy. There is no New England or Middle State at the present time that allows cattle shipped into that State without a certificate of health or being subjected to a critical examination after being brought in. If any state did not require it, it would be the dumping ground for all diseased cattle in the surrounding states.

Disinfecting the stables is considered to be very essential by the Board wherever one or more animals have been found diseased.

There are several different kinds of disinfectants, all good under certain conditions. We find by looking over the report of the Secretary of the State Board of Health, and also by personally consulting with him, that certain disinfectants are only good for certain diseases, and by his advice we recommend the following solution which is considered perfectly harmless, containing no poisonous matter, and is also very reasonable in expense.

Solution of formaldehyde (formalin): Six ounces to one gallon of warm water.

It is the intention of the Board to see to it that in every case where tuberculosis or glanders is found the stall and manger shall be thoroughly disinfected with formaldehyde solution.

F. O. BEAL, *President*,  
JOHN M. DEERING, *Secretary*,  
F. S. ADAMS.