

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

SENATE

NO. 345

In Senate, Feb. 19, 1913.

Presented by Senator Dutton of Kennebec, and on motion by same Senator laid on the table for printing pending reference to Committee on Agriculture.

W. E. LAWRY, Secretary.

STATE OF MAINE

RESOLVE providing for an appropriation for control of contagious diseases among domestic animals.

Resolved, That the sum of fifty thousand dollars for the year 1913, and the same sum for the year 1914, be and hereby is appropriated to be used under the direction of the Live Stock Sanitary Commissioner for the control of contagious diseases among domestic animals.

STATEMENT OF FACTS.

The Legislature of 1911 appropriated \$25,000 a year to be used for the control of contagious diseases among domestic animals. For animals condemned the State allows the owner the market value, limited as follows:

For pure blooded cattle	\$100
For grade cattle	50
For horses	50
For other animals half value.	

In 1911, from May 1st to December 31st, during eight (8) months,

451 head of cattle,

29 horses, were condemned, and the total expense

amounted to \$21,416 00

In 1912, during the year,

721 head of cattle,

73 horses,

223 sheep, were condemned, and the total expense

amounted to 36,806 45

Total	\$58,222 45
Amount exceeding the appropriation of	\$8,222 45

Milch cows shipped to Brighton by our cattle dealers are tested with tuberculin, upon their arrival, and if any react, the owner is entitled to an indemnity, provided he reports the name of the former owner and his address.

Butchers in our State, when slaughtering beef animals, if tuberculosis is found by a competent inspector, the owner is entitled to an indemnity, provided also, that he reports the name of the former owner and his address.

Through these two sources, information has been received and reveals the fact that we have at the present time 313 infected herds in the State.

If enough money had been appropriated by the Legislature of 1911 and the work of the Department performed as it should have been, these 313 infected herds would have been tested with tuberculin and the barns properly disinfected. The cost

of testing 313 herds at an average of \$10 per herd would have amounted to	\$3,130 00
The disinfecting of 313 barns at an average cost of \$5 per barn would have amounted to.....	1,565 00
These herds being infected, it would be proper to suppose that an average of one more cow per herd would have been found diseased. The appraisal of 313 head at an average appraisal of \$40 per head would have amounted to.....	12,520 00
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A total of	\$17,215 00
Amount expended	58,222 45
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Amount that should have been expended..... \$75,437 45

Consequently, from May 1st, 1911, to December 31st, 1912, in twenty (20) months the sum of \$75,437.45 (at a rate of \$3,771.87 per month) should have been expended, in order to have carried out our sanitary laws as they read.

In 1912, \$36,806 was expended and the information was received that 208 herds had been discovered infected.

Upon the basis of calculation as illustrated above, it would have required the sum of \$48,246, to accomplish this work with proper economy.

Now the question arises, as to how much money we need for the next two (2) years.

To start with we need \$17,215.00 to clean our 313 infected herds that we know of, and provided that tuberculosis is not on the increase, and I am more than afraid that it is, we need at least \$50,000 a year to carry out this important work properly and in accordance with the meaning of our sanitary laws relating to the control of contagious diseases.

Glanders has increased from 29 cases in 1911 to 73 cases in the year 1912.

Hog cholera is within our border, and many farmers have suffered great losses during the last two (2) years. In Bar Harbor, one farmer alone lost \$2000.00. Something ought to be done, and it seems to me that the State should at least furnish hog cholera serum free, with proper literature and other assistance.

The serum should be manufactured by our State Laboratory.

One of the greatest problems of today, for the veterinary profession and stock owners, is how to prevent, to treat, and control contagious abortion, which has caused to the farmers of Maine more losses than has tuberculosis. Unfortunately the veterinary science has as yet failed to come to our assistance with any kind of practical and successful treatments.