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STATE OF NEW JERSEY.

New Jersey

Commission on Tuberculosis in Animals.

THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE

State Board of Agriculture,

January 13-15, 1897.

PUBLISHED BY THE COMMISSION.

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REPORT

OF THE

State Tuberculosis Commission

For the Year Ending January 10th, 1897.

Bovine tuberculosis is not a new disease, but its prevalence and malignity were not so widespread and severe as to attract or demand much attention by health officers, or such as to require legal enactments for its control, until quite recently.

While in a general sense this disease is no more dangerous to human health, so far as its contraction from the use of the meat or milk of dairy animals is concerned, than it was in former years, the fact that there are dairies supplying these products for market, which are seriously, if not dangerously, affected with the disease, has led to the demand for some system of legal investigation of dairy animals whose product is intended for market, in order to protect consumers against the use of contaminated milk. So far as consumers are concerned, they have the right to demand these products reasonably free from suspicion of disease germs.

The vast population of our large cities, aggregating thousands upon thousands to the square mile, become an easy prey to epidemic diseases, and city health officers do well to guard against any outbreak of such a character; and although tuberculosis, either bovine or human, is not considered contagious, yet the bare possibility of its communication by the living organism from the animal product to the susceptible human victim seems to be sufficient ground, in the view of the officials named, for dairy inspection.

But this demand has its strongest claim for the protection of milk from impurities and disease germs exterior to the cow; sources of contamination, whether of dirt or disease, over which the dairyman

has entire control, if he is intelligent and willing. The vast majority of our dairymen are of this character. With the usual intelligence possessed by them they are willing to be enlightened further as to the possible dangers to a pure milk-supply, and are ready to co-operate with State officials in their efforts to elevate the dairy business of the State.

But the farmers of the State, however honest their intentions, are not so situated as to be able to know the incipient beginnings of every disease, nor the best preventives or cures. They do not know the best system of stable construction so as to secure needed health-giving ventilation, while securing the greatest comfort to the animal. They are not yet generally posted as to the effect of certain foods and drink on the product of the animal. In fact the former, detection of disease, etc., is ever an open question requiring the best educated and the most experienced skill, scientific or otherwise, and even with these the diagnosis is sometimes wide of the mark.

It is along the lines intimated, this Commission, in co-operation with the State Board of Health and the State Dairy Commissioner, is directing its efforts. While removing from all herds it is called upon to inspect, *all animals that are believed to be dangerous*, it gives suitable directions as to disinfection, ventilation, food and drink-supply, cleanliness of dairy utensils, surroundings, etc.

It will be seen, therefore, that the work of the Commission is immediate and positive so far as the removal of dangerous animals from a given herd is concerned, and coupled with this is the larger beneficial work, *educative* in its character, of assisting the intelligent, willing dairyman to better methods, management and care of his stock, in order that the combined product of the dairies of New Jersey shall be pure, healthful and highly valuable as a food. But all men engaged in the dairy business are not scrupulous as to the character of their stock nor as to their methods of producing and marketing their product.

Either they are not intelligent or else they do not care to conform to the just requirements of consumers and of the dairy business. Nor are they willing to receive and follow directions looking to improvement given by State and local officials concerning flagrant violations of proper conditions and laws of health, both of the animals and the product. And they have regard for the consumer only so far as it relates to the money they hope to receive from him. Such men are

a disgrace to the dairy business, a menace to public health; and they are unjust competitors of honest dairymen who are trying to produce a pure and wholesome article.

For the control of such, law is necessary and it will inure to the benefit of honest dairymen to co-operate with health officers and others in securing further needed legislation for this purpose. And such judicious law, with efficient enforcement, will tend more to the purification and health of our dairies and consequently of dairy products.

Such laws, however, should be carefully drawn, so that while power is given to bring the willfully careless and indifferent producer to account, they shall not impose needless burdens of legal requirements upon honest men.

The Commission has carried on its work in a conservative way. It has never believed it necessary in order to have a healthful milk-supply, so far as tuberculosis is concerned, to test all animals with tuberculin, and destroy all that might respond, especially in herds where but one or few suspicious cases are found. In herds, however, that seem to be generally affected, the test is an efficient aid in ridding such of all infected animals; and even in these, many cases that have had suspicious symptoms from a physical diagnosis have been exempted by the test.

The contention that the injection of properly-prepared lymph into a healthy animal is conducive to disease, seems not to be sustained by experience. In one herd of about eighty head in one of our northern counties in which the disease had had a foothold for a number of years, the Commission have made three several examinations, the second one including the test with the lymph of all the animals, at the owner's expense. Later the highest responding animals were again tested and one only condemned. The herd has been again tested by the owner under the supervision of the Commission, and none have shown sufficient reaction to condemn. The owner says he is well pleased with the methods and work of the Commission.

Some investigators are carrying on experiments in the hope of showing that repeated injections of the lymph into a first-time responding animal slightly diseased, may result in counteracting its further development; whatever may be the result of such experiments, it will always be in order and of the utmost importance for

all producers of milk to secure sound stock to start with, and then provide healthy conditions of stables and environments.

And in most incipient cases of the disease named, temporary isolation and careful attention to feeding and sanitary matters will be a great aid in stopping its further progress in an otherwise healthy animal. In their efforts to eradicate the disease from dairies where it is found to exist, the Commission should have the intelligent and willing co-operation of the owners. Their directions should be followed and their requirements heeded if permanent beneficial results are expected. If this course were followed in all cases, we would be able to keep this and other diseases in control to such an extent that danger would be very slight.

As to the use of the lymph test in all the members of a given herd where the owner desires to have this done for his own satisfaction as a guarantee of exemption from the disease, the Commission grants such request, but at the owner's expense of veterinarian and loss of animals condemned. The Commission, in such cases, furnishes the lymph and requires a report of the examination.

Some owners of large dairies have availed themselves of this arrangement with much satisfaction. One owner of about ninety cows requested the lymph test for all his herd, chiefly to satisfy the consumers of the milk. Statement of the position of the Commission in regard to the use of the lymph being made, he concluded to have the test made as stated, the result being two cows only condemned.

The law constituting the Commission restricts its actions in that it is not permitted, of his own volition, to inspect any cattle whatever, no matter how positive the evidence may be of the need of an investigation. The applications must come from the owners of the cows to be examined or from the State Board of Health or the State Dairy Commissioner. Even under this arrangement there is no dearth of applications.

(The best system of inspection would be, perhaps, one that would require the Commission to make a periodical examination of all herds from which milk is exported and sold into the general market. This would insure a degree of watchfulness that would be preventive of danger from contaminated milk and a guarantee to consumers.)

As compared with the appropriation—five thousand dollars—there are more by far than the Commission can treat. Owing to this fact, the work was suspended during about four months of the last fiscal

year, and up to this date, January 12th, 1897, since November 1st, 1896, over one-half or about twenty-seven hundred dollars of the appropriation for the current year is used up.

If this work is to be carried on with a view to placing our dairies in a more permanently healthy condition, it is the judgment of the Commission that the appropriation should be increased to at least ten thousand dollars per year. A few years of work of the character so far done will rid our dairies of this menace, and so enlighten milk producers as to needed sanitary condition, caution as to breeding, etc., etc., that they will be without excuse for maintaining any other. So that our chief point of watchfulness after that will be to prevent the importation of cattle into our State that are not free from disease.

The number of cases examined, stated in round numbers, since our last report, is about twelve hundred head. Tested with tuberculin, 214. Condemned by the test and physical examination, 159. Total sum paid for condemned animals, \$3,637.24; an average of \$22.59 per head, including registered.

The expenses of the Commission in attending meetings for the year is less than \$175.

For the counties making applications for examination, number of cases examined, etc., see table appended.

COUNTY.	Date.	Total Number Examined.	Number Tested.	Total Number Condemned.	Total Sum Paid.
Burlington	March 20.....	20	7	1	\$37.50
“	May 22.....	19	4	1	18.75
“	December 7.....	13	.....	1	30.00
Camden.....	June 10.....	12	7	.....	.....
Cumberland.....	May 4.....	5	.....	3	82.50
“	December 4.....	11	.....	3	37.50
Gloucester	November 3.....	10	.....	.....	.....
Hudson	January 21.....	32	.....	.....	.....
“	“ 21.....	17	2	1	.....
Hunterdon.....	March 25.....	1	.....	1	30.00
“	May 29.....	1	.....	1	.....
“	November 22.....	10	3	1	26.25
Mercer.....	March 26.....	21	.....	.....	.....
“	April 8.....	22	3	.....	.....
“	“ 28.....	28	28	11	273.75
“	May 16.....	12	.....	.....	.....
“	June 3.....	.....	13	.....	.....
“	November 3.....	.....	1	1	30.00
“	“ 4.....	7	4	5	120.00
“	“ 13.....	51	13	.....	251.25
“	December 1.....	.....	.....	1	30.00
“	“ 10.....	10	1	1	26.25
“	“ 14.....	.....	.....	1	30.00
Middlesex.....	February 7.....	13	3	.....	.....
“	March 20.....	20	6	2	56.25
“	April 8.....	13	13	13	332.25
“	May 3.....	1	.....	.....	.....
“	November 6.....	.....	.....	1	26.25
“	“ 16.....	13	6	6	176.25
“	“ 17.....	4	.....	1R.	67.50
“	“ 19.....	6	2	1	27.75
“	“ 24.....	13	.....	7	26.25
“	“ 27.....	2	.....	2	52.50
“	December 7.....	30	.....	1	30.00
“	“ 12.....	11	.....	1	28.75
Monmouth.....	January 23.....	2	.....	2	.....
Morris.....	June 19.....	100	4	1	24.37
“	November 24.....	65	.....	.....	.....
Ocean.....	December 12.....	13	13	13	360.37
Passaic.....	May 8.....	111	1	.....	.....
Salem.....	“ 27.....	12	.....	2	39.00
“	June 15.....	14	.....	1	30.00
“	November 16.....	2	.....	.....	.....
“	“ 23.....	4	.....	1	6.00
“	“ 24.....	10	.....	2	22.50
“	“ 28.....	11	6	3	93.75
“	December 2.....	20	6	6	238.50
“	“ 10.....	31	.....	1	30.00
“	“ 12.....	10	.....	1	7.50

COUNTY.	Date.	Total Number Examined.	Number Tested.	Total Number Condemned	Total Sum Paid.
Somerset	March 9.....	200	.....	3R.	\$45.00
"	" 9.....	.....	3	1	45.00
"	April 20.....	.....	.....	3	65.00
"	June 1.....	10	4	3	75.00
"	" 15.....	9	8	8	228.75
"	July 3.....	20	7	7	52.50
"	October 15.....	.....	.....	8	285.00
Sussex	January 24.....	30	5	3	67.50
"	March 6.....	19	.....	2	.....
"	" 26.....	16	4	2	43.50
"	" 27.....	2	2	1R.	37.50
"	April 13.....	23	10	5	.....
"	May 15.....	36	4	2	.....
"	" 25.....	13	4	2	.....
"	" 29.....	23	3	.....	.....
"	November 14.....	16	4	4	37.50
"	" 20.....	22	.....	.....	.....
Union	January 22.....	2	1	7.50
"	April 23.....	9	1
"	May 11.....	1
"	" 15.....	2	2	2	30.00
Warren	April 23.....	21	4	5	168.00
"	May 15.....	18	2	1	30.00

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