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PROFESSOR EVALUATES CHILD HEALTH PROGRAM

Kampala VOICE OF UGANDA in English 9 Aug 78 p 4

[Excerpt] The president of the epidemiology department and deputy dean of the higher institute of public health at the University of Alexandria, Professor Mchamed Hilmy Wahdan, who has just been awarded the Fondation Jacques Parisot prize, has been able, thanks to this award, to set up an evaluation programme on child health. His study is to evaluate the Egyptian system of obligatory vaccinations against six childhood diseases: Diptheria, whooping cough, tetanus, measles, poliomylitis and tuberculosis.

In the words of the chairman of the 31st World Health Assembly, this minute study being carried out by Professor Wadhan, the first person to receive this award, represents an excellent example of fruitful cooperation between the university world and those experts involved, on the ground, with public health.

Professor Wadhan's inquiry has brought to light several basic facts. It has shown, for example, that except for diptheria, all the diseases for which vaccinations are given, persist despite preventative medicine. His inquiry showed that poliomylitis has continued to appear in two per 1,000 of 500,000 children, aged under ten, who live in Alexandria. And all these children had been given the obligatory vaccination.

Ten percent of children aged six were affected by tuberculosis, while new-born children continue to be affected by the dread diseases of tetanus and whooping cough. During the first few days following birth, three out of 1,000 children contract tetanus.

However, there has been more success with diptheria. Thanks to vaccination, this disease has affected considerably fewer people and has almost been eradicated in recent years.

One fact the study has shown is that some of the reasons for the failure in the compulsory vaccination campaign have been administrative rather than the fault of the quality of the vaccine.

CSO: 5400

BRIEFS

DDT SPREAD IN VIENTIANE--Working under the spirit of the 5th Resolution to turn public health work to serve production in order to give the people strong health to win victories and obtain good results during this growing season, the Vientiane public health committee has been sending health teams out since May to work with health cadre in three districts, Meuang [district] Phon Hong, Meuang Thoulakhom, and Meuang Hom, Vientiane Province to spread DDT. This is being done in order to suppress mosquitoes which could appear during the rainy season when the people actively start to work their rice-fields. The work in these three districts was completed within a short time. The Vientiane mobile medical teams are now working actively and tirelessly to spread DDT to suppress mosquitoes in production areas in Vientiane. [Vientiane SIANG PASASON in Lao 6 Jun 78 pp 1, 3]

CSO: 5400

LEPRA REPORTEDLY HAS LEPROSY UNDER CONTROL

Blantyre MALAWI NEWS in English 27 Aug 78 pp 9, 16

[Text] **Malawi is one of the few African countries which have, and continue to demonstrate to the world that, for all practical purposes, the disease of leprosy can now be controlled. This is the view of Dr. B.D. Molesworth, Director of LEPRA Control Project in Malawi.**

"By 1980," Dr. Molesworth predicts, "the whole of Malawi should be fully covered with the activities of our work, with a network of treatment delivered by all sorts of methods in order to reach the very farthest parts of this country."

Already, in the original project area where intensive treatment has been running for twelve years the load of cases of leprosy has fallen from 14,000 to 2,800.

"Such new cases as are found are very early and in this state respond rapidly to the treatment. Severe cases are nearly always from across the border," Dr. Molesworth says. "Some 8,000 cases have been reviewed and discharged as needing no further treatment."

However, despite all this action against leprosy, Lepra still needs more help. As Dr. Molesworth explains: "What is needed now is more effective and rapidly acting drugs which must be cheap enough to treat everyone, possibly as many as 40,000 more patients in Malawi."

Dr. Molesworth believes that a simple skin test which could tell whether a person has leprosy or not should be extremely valuable. And a way of prevention should be found.

"We are hoping and praying that someone, somewhere, will somehow make the discovery and come up with the ideas that will ease these problems," Dr. Molesworth said.

In the agreement drawn up between the Government of Malawi and the British Leprosy Relief Association (LEPRA), one of the main objectives was to show how best leprosy could rapidly be brought under control.

The selection of Malawi for this project depended on certain major factors. These included a fairly high leprosy prevalence of between 10 and 20 per 1,000; a high population density with reasonable communications passable at most seasons. Also, a relatively untouched area; and most important of all, the full co-operation of the Government with the personal interest of His Excellency the Life President, Ngwazi Dr. H. Kamuzu Banda, without which the project could not be carried through.

But with determination and enthusiasm to succeed, Lepra was able, only after a few years of its establishment in Malawi, to fulfil these conditions in its initial projected area in the Southern Region.

This is an area of some 2,000 square miles, 15½ degrees south of the Equator, with the inhabited parts lying between 2,000 and 4,500 ft. above sea level. Rainfall is heavy but is confined to the first four months of the year, during which rivers — normally almost dry beds — become impassable and earth roads become treacherous and slippery.

Yet, Lepra braved all these

conditions, when they started their work in the region, with a relatively small field team. But by 1973 their operations had succeeded and it became obvious that the way of treating leprosy patients was effective and prompted the Government to ask them to expand the work into other regions.

With financial assistance from DAHW, a West German version of LEPRA, the Malawi project was able to set up work in the Central Region, by starting its operations first in Lilongwe and Mchinji districts. Chilumba in the Northern Region became the headquarters of Lepra's project to cover that region.

The Government, having been impressed with Lepra's hard work, also asked the Association to co-ordinate all leprosy work that was going on in Malawi. Now, after a further five years, leprosy control has spread or is being spread throughout the country, with only a few areas remaining uncovered.

One of these areas yet to be covered is the eastern side of the Viphya and some areas of Mzimba district and Likoma Island in the Northern Region.

In the Central Region, Lepra's activities have expanded from Lilongwe and Mchinji, and have spread to Salima district, extending northwards towards Nkhotakota district.

"So far," explains Dr. Molesworth, "we have reached Benga area and we are extending into parts of Dowa and Ntchisi districts. But the northern parts of Dowa, Ntchisi and Kasungu have yet to be covered."

South of the Central Region Lepra's work has extended to Biriwiri in Ntcheu district and with the assistance of the team from Mua in Dedza district, Lepra has now taken over the northern part of Mangochi peninsula.

The old-fashioned Leprosarium at Utale has been rebuilt as an acute hospital for leprosy at Balaka and from this base outpatient work covers the rest of Mangochi peninsula.

The work there also extends southwards to Shire River area and westwards to Mwanza district, while the border area of Mwanza and Neno are only just being covered.

To the east of the lake and the Shire River, from Makanjira to Domasi is being covered from Likwenu in Kasupe district with an advance base at Malindi in Mangochi district. Coverage is now complete. All this work links up with the original project area.

In the Lower Shire the work is undertaken by the Seventh Day Adventist Church working from Ngabu and reaching the whole area up to and including Chikwawa district.

Asked how Lepra manages to do its work in certain difficult areas, Dr. Molesworth said: "We have a boat at Malindi and another at Chilumba where treatment is taken to more inaccessible places by launch."

In some areas we carry out our work by Landrovers, in others by workers on bicycles and even on foot such as in the Misuku hills of Karonga.

The network of delivering treatment and controlling patients and their contacts will very soon cover all Malawi. "As I said, what is needed now apart from everything else is a formula whereby we can determine who needs treatment or who is in need of protection against leprosy because their own immunity is insufficient and some method of correcting this deficiency," Dr. Molesworth said.

Indeed, given these weapons leprosy could cease to be a problem affecting not only Malawi but many lands throughout Africa. Many countries of the world, not only in Africa, are struggling to find means of overcoming the necessary disability and wastage of manpower.

It is heartening to note that in Malawi the work of Lepra which is intended to control this disease is forging ahead progressively. It is hoped that when all its efforts are complete, Lepra will bring leprosy in Malawi almost to a zero.

CSO: 5400

BRIEFS

NEW CHOLERA CASES--Kuala Trengganu, Sat.--Another 10 cholera cases have been reported in Trengganu. A General Hospital spokesman said today five victims and four carriers were detected here and another carrier in the Dungun District. A total of 41 cases are receiving treatment in the State. --Bernama. [Text] [Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 30 Jul 78 p 3]

CSO: 5400

OUTBREAK OF MENINGITIS REPORTED, TWO DEAD

Windhoek WINDHOEK OBSERVER in English 12 Aug 78 p 1

[Text] **WINDHOEK: An outbreak of meningitis in Katutura has been reported to the health authorities. Of the seven cases reported, two had already resulted in death.**

A spokesman of the Administration's Health Department said the Department was alerted and all precautionary steps had already been set in motion. The spokesman said an outbreak of meningitis in South West Africa at this time of the year's seasonal change was not unusual. It had happened in the past, and must be ascribed to the rise in temperature and dusty conditions worse than during winter and summer.

It was a very serious disease, the incidence of which was more frequent in places where there was a dense population, such as hostels or army barracks.

Reports were also received from places in the Windhoek district of a few cases of meningitis. Although the spokesman would not say exactly where the seven Katutura cases occurred, it was learned that the outbreak came in the remaining part of the old Ovambo hostel, known as the "compound."

The City's Department of Non White Affairs razed the bulk of that "old compound", an unsightly and unhealthy abode where thousands of young Ovambo speaking citizens had to live for years. The bulk of the people now live in far more pleasant quarters, at a cost of nearly R10 million, but a section of the "old compound" remained standing.

CSO: 5400

HEPATITIS AMONG U.S. TROOPS STOPS EXERCISE IN WAIOURU

Christchurch THE PRESS in English 3 Jul 78 p 6

[Text] An outbreak of hepatitis in the Schofield Barracks in Hawaii has forced the cancellation of a big United States Army exercise at Waiouru.

Altogether, 550 troops from 1/27th Battalion, 25th Infantry Division, based in Hawaii, were to fly to Ohakea Air Force Base aboard 11 Starlifters over the next week, in preparation for the three-week exercise (code-named "Captive Lighting 5").

An advance party of 60, and six quarter-tonne vehicles, flown to New Zealand last Thursday to prepare camp, are expected to return to Hawaii.

Defence Headquarters in Wellington has confirmed that it had received advice of the hepatitis outbreak and the cancellation of the exercise.

It is believed (though not yet confirmed) that eight F-111A aircraft, which were to have provided "combat air support during the three-week army exercise, as well as other navigational and bombing exercises, will still arrive as planned on July [indistinct].

CSO: 5400

WAIOURU CAMP FLU EPIDEMIC MAY BE A NEW VIRUS STRAIN

Attempts to Identify Strain

Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 3 Aug 78 p 1

[Text] Virologists in Wellington Public Hospital are trying to determine whether the influenza epidemic which has hit the Waiouru Military Camp is caused by a new strain of virus.

Unconfirmed reports last night suggested that a strain previously unknown in New Zealand could be the cause of the outbreak which has restricted movement into the army training base in the central North

An army spokesman confirmed that specimens had been sent to Wellington Public Hospital and that late last night there had been no positive identification of the strain.

He said samples had been sent to Wellington over the past three days.

The epidemic reached its peak on Monday with 130 confirmed cases of influenza, but the spokesman said it now seemed on the decline. Seven new cases were reported yesterday.

The army medical staff at Waiouru—only one doctor and about 24 other staff—have been worked to capacity by the outbreak but there has apparently been no attempt to isolate victims in the small base hospital.

The Army could, if necessary, quarantine the sick in a tent field hospital, but married soldiers who have fallen sick have been sent to their homes which surround the camp.

A warning went out from the camp early this week prohibiting the movement of large groups of men into the area and individuals have been asked to delay visits to Waiouru if possible.

A combat firepower demonstration was cancelled because of the outbreak.

Leave has not been cancelled, but movement out of the camp is likely to be restricted if the virus is confirmed as a new strain.

"We can't do much," the spokesman said, "until we find out from the virologists if we are dealing with a new strain."

Russian Flu Suspected

Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 5 Aug 78 p 44

[Text]

MEDICAL authorities believe that the sickness that has spread rapidly among Waiouru people is Russian flu.

Tests aimed at confirming or countering this belief are continuing in Wellington today at the National Health Institute's virus laboratories.

The Health Department's deputy director of public health (Dr R Campbell Begg) said conclusive results were expected on Monday.

He said the symptoms appeared to indicate the Waiouru soldiers and civilians were suffering from the Russian flu which has circulated widely throughout the Northern Hemisphere durin gthe northern winter.

He said the symptoms—which included headache, temperature, a dry cough and muscle pain—persisted for about three days.

A further indication that it was Russian flu was that it appeared to be more prevalent among young people.

The reason for this was that many people over the age of 20 still had antibodies in their systems from the last time a similar strain of flu was prevalent—from 1947 to 1957.

Dr Begg said that although many people over 20 had residual immunity to Russian flu, many older people could still contract it.

Dr Begg said that it was inevitable that the Russian flu strain would arrive in New Zealand sooner or later.

He said that, so far this year, there had been a very low incidence of what he called "true flu."

Some people were, however, suffering from flu-like illnesses.

He said returns from district health offices last month showed only one or two areas were experiencing high absenteeism rates in schools and workplaces.

But there had not been much suspected flu, few swabs had been taken, and no flu viruses had been isolated.

Possible Outbreak in Papakura

Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 7 Aug 78 p 3

[Text] The mystery virus that has knocked out nearly 200 soldiers at the Waiouru army camp may have infiltrated the Papakura camp.

Three soldiers at Papakura were suffering from a similar illness over the weekend. One was sent home and two were admitted to the camp hospital. They are expected to be discharged today.

An army spokesman said it had not been confirmed whether the same bug was responsible, and no one was particularly worried. A combined services rugby tournament beginning at the camp today would go ahead as planned.

At Waiouru, the illness seems to be on the wane. Only three new cases were reported yesterday and only 10 soldiers are in hospital.

At the height of the outbreak there were 30 cases in hospital, with another 50 confined to barracks. None of those who have had the illness have suffered any complications.

Group travel restrictions in and out of the camp have now been lifted, but the mystery bug has still not been identified.

A report by Wellington virologists is expected today.

"The situation," said the army spokesman, "is that now we are waiting to see what it was, rather than what it is."

CSO: 5400

TYPHOID CASE TRACED TO SHELLFISH

Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 1 Aug 78 p 1

[Text] A serious case of typhoid contracted by a Turangi man has been traced to shellfish collected on the Petone foreshore.

And after receiving news of the case the Hutt District's Medical Officer of Health (Dr Alan Paul) has repeated a warning that nobody should eat shellfish collected anywhere in Wellington Harbour.

Few

Dr Paul said the infection was apparently contracted by the Turangi man when he ate cockles collected on the Petone beach on Queen's Birthday weekend.

Dr Paul said he had only just been informed, as it had earlier been thought the source of infection was in another district.

The Health Department official involved in the case, Wanganui's Medical Officer of Health (Dr Kenneth Thomson) said today the 47-year-old man had apparently only eaten a few cockles.

When he became ill it was at first thought that he had a serious bout of gastro-enteritis.

He was admitted to Taumaranui Hospital and subsequent tests revealed typhoid.

Dr Thomson said that the man's illness meant a delay in getting a detailed account of his movements and what had been eaten.

He was very sick for several days and in hospital for at least two weeks before being allowed to go home.

Difficult

Dr Thomson said that, as the man had travelled around and eaten elsewhere, it was difficult to be absolutely certain about the source of his infection.

However, it was felt that the cockles were most likely to have been the cause.

The organism responsible is harboured in human excreta. Where sewage is discharged into seawater shellfish are likely to be contaminatel by the organism as they feed by filtering large quantities of water.

Other fish with different feeding habits are less likely to pick up the organism.

It takes from seven to 14 days before the typhoid symptoms of fever and diarrhoea become apparent.

Other symptoms can include headache, sore throat, chills, sweating, loss of appetite, and red spots on the body.

In severe cases patients may lapse into delirious muttering. Typhoid can be fatal.

CSO: 5400

BRIEFS

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES--Five cases of notifiable diseases were reported to the Health Department in Christchurch last week. They were two cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and one case each of brucellosis, hepatitis A, and bacillary dysentery. [Text] [Christchurch THE PRESS in English 4 Jul 78 p 3]

CSO: 5400

MEASLES OUTBREAK KILLS FOUR, STIRS IMMUNIZATION EFFORT

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 25 Aug 78 p 13

[Article by Friday O. Paul, Port Harcourt]

[Text]

FOUR children died during a recent measles outbreak in Ikata Village in Ahoada Local Government area of the Rivers State.

The disease also spread to Ogbele and Ihugbo villages of the same local government area.

However, a large number of health officials had been drafted to the affected areas to carry out immunisation exercise in a bid to combat the outbreak.

The health officer in charge of the area, Dr. Paradelia disclosed to the New Nigerian that a total of 9,688 persons including children of the area had been immunised against measles, cholera, and smallpox, within April and July, this year.

A breakdown of the figure showed that 4,957 people were immunised against cholera, 3, 049 against measles and 795 against small-pox.

Dr. Paradelia said more than one thousand children of the affected areas had received treatment.

He said children whose ages were between six months and six years were mostly affected by the outbreak.

About 1,000 people who were badly affected by the measles were cured by the health officials, he said.

However, the health officials are still working to ensure that the people of the area were immunised against the epidemic diseases, he added.

CSO: 5400

BRIEFS

CHOLERA KILLS SEVEN--Rawalakot, Aug 25--Cholera has claimed seven lives in the Poonch district of Azad Kashmir. All the victims of this deadly disease belong to village Tai Mandmol. The names of the dead persons could not be determined. The people of the area have appealed for speedy measures to control the epidemic. They say that the public health department with its limited resources, would be unable to control the disease, in case of delayed action. It will be recalled that recently, a veterinary epidemic had resulted in the annihilation of lakh of rupees worth of livestock, in the Poonch district. [Text] [Karachi THE SUN in English 26 Aug 78 p 6]

CSO: 5400

CHOLERA OUTBREAK FEARED

Salisbury ZIMBABWE TIMES in English 18 Aug 78 p 2

[Text] **THOUGH the advent of the hot season has come as a relief to the squatter community at Musika in Harare, the new season, however, could lead to a spate of diseases which increase to epidemic proportions in hot weather.**

Water and fly-born diseases are already a threat, considering that the community gets water for both drinking and cooking purposes from nearby toilets, which are frequented by the public at Harare Market Square daily.

The rains are still a long way off but they could bring about a complete breakdown of public health when they come — as has been pointed out by Salisbury City Council.

Many squatters approached by the *Zimbabwe Times* on the subject were guardedly wary of the impending danger. A number of children, according to some mothers, are already suffering from diarrhoea and other stomach troubles.

Mrs Nyakutsika Mugwagwa, a new arrival at the squatte camp from Uzumba TTL, had it all summed up in a nutshell: "We have had it in the way of cold, hunger and fear of death from where we come from, but we shudder to think of what might befall us in such dusty and overcrowded quarters. Disease will surely take its toll among us soon."

Most of the campers felt that more health facilities should be made available for their children at once. Though food was their first priority, they said, their health must be just as well assured.

CSO: 5400

BRIEFS

POLIO VACCINATION RESUMES--Paysandu (by Luis A. Nollo). After a 4-month interruption because of a shortage of vaccine, polio inoculations have been resumed in our department. We would like to emphasize the widespread support of this program by the large numbers of parents who have brought their children to the Health Center of the Escuela Hospital. The anti-polio program resumed with the arrival of a shipment of 2,000 doses at the Hospital del Litoral. In the first 48 hours, 500 children were vaccinated, thus revealing the interest the parents are taking in this program. In accordance with procedures outlined in communications from the Ministry of Public Health, the vaccinations must be completed before the age of 10, and they should be begun before the age of 5. After this age, and up to 10, boosters must be given so that the children will not lose their acquired immunity. Logically, priority is given to those children who have not yet received their first dose. [Text] [Montevideo LA MANANA in Spanish 2 Aug 78 p 8] 7679

CSO: 5400

BRIEFS

CATTLE DISEASE--Veterinarians treated 5,463 heads of cattle suffering from foot-and-mouth disease and inoculated 472 heads of cattle with antianthrax vaccine at 48 villages in Kyauktaga Township, Pegu Division, during the last 2 weeks of August. [Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 3 Sep 78 BK]

CSO: 5400

BRIEFS

SWINE FEVER ENTRY PREVENTION--The Agriculture Ministry is enforcing drastic measures to prevent the outbreak of African swine fever in Chile. In view of the imminent danger the Agriculture Ministry is enforcing severe protective measures. Military veterinarian (Jorge Benavides) has stated that the only way to confront this threat is preventative measures. This means strict control at airports, ports and border crossings. One of the first measures enforced was control of pork and pork product imports from those countries affected by this epidemic. The greater part of this control, however, is in the hands of the producers and businessmen. If the African swine fever broke out in Chile, it would attack about 900,000 pigs, concentrated mainly in the sixth and seventh regions, and the damage could be up to $150 million. The National Livestock and Agricultural Service is to conduct a census on the number and distribution of pigs. [Summary] [Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 29 Aug 78 PY]

CSO: 5400

BRIEFS

SWINE FEVER DISCUSSED--President Silvestre Antonio Guzman Fernandez has declared that African swine fever has caused a considerable reduction in the country's meat production. The chief of state gave this information to OAS Secretary General Alejandro Orfila when they met at the National Palace. Orfila was accompanied by Dominican Ambassador to the OAS Marcos de Pena. Guzman Fernandez noted that we have the qualified personnel to eradicate the disease. [Text] [Santo Domingo Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 17 Aug 78 FL]

CSO: 5400

BRIEFS

SARAVANE VETERINARY WORK--Between January and late June 1978, fraternal members of the Meuang [district] Vapi, Saravane Province veterinary unit went out on numerous occasions to innoculate domestic animals belonging to people in the district against disease. During this period they treated 57 sick animals and gave preventive innoculations to over 1,000 animals, including over 200 head of cattle and a number of ducks and chickens. [Vientiane SIANG PASASON in Lao 7 Jun 78 p 1]

VIENTIANE VETERINARY WORK--Between late May and mid-June 1978, cadre from the Vientiane Provincial Veterinary Office worked urgently and vigorously with the Meuang [district] Hatsaifong mobile veterinary team to innoculate domestic animals belonging to people in the 11 communes in this district. This was done to insure the complete and good health of draft animals for timely use during the annual growing season. Within only a short time the fraternal veterinary cadre innoculated 5,645 head of cattle and over 450 water buffalo used as draft animals. They also innoculated a number of pigs, ducks, and chickens belonging to the people. [Vientiane KHAOSAN PATHET LAO in Lao 21 Jun 78 p A 2]

CSO: 5400

BRIEFS

CATARRHAL FEVER IN CATTLE--Okahandja: The disease of malignant catarrhal fever among cattle on the farm Otjomasso, has been confirmed. Recently a number of cattle died and samples were sent to Onderstepoort for analysis. A reply was received confirming the disease and subsequently steps have been taken to combat it. Cases of rabies in the area have been decreasing but the biltong factory is still not accepting venison from farms just west of the main Windhoek-Otjiwarongo road. [Gail Visagie] [Text] [Windhoek THE WINDHOEK ADVERTISER in English 1 Sep 78 p 3]

CSO: 5400

WAR ON BRUCELLOSIS NEARS END

Movement Controls on Cattle

Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 31 Jul 78 p 12

[Excerpts]

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is preparing to enter the final stages of its war against brucellosis disease in cattle.

From September 1 next year it plans to bring in movement controls on cattle from herds which are still infected with the disease.

Cattle from such herds will be tested before they can be moved and again on arrival at their destination.

Planning is still under way but the director of the ministry's animal health division, Dr G. H. Adlam, says overseas experience indicates that some movement control is necessary in fighting brucellosis, particularly in the difficult, latter stages of eradication.

Most of the 42,500 herds placed under test for tuberculosis have now been accredited as being clear of brucellosis.

"But they include many unvaccinated animals which are highly susceptible to the disease," says Dr Adlam. "Controls are necessary to ensure these are not reinfected at the eleventh hour."

He believes it is vital that New Zealand should learn from the experiences of Canada and the United States, where outbreaks have badly upset the final stages of brucellosis eradication campaigns.

"These outbreaks were attributed mainly to the complacency of farmers, veterinarians and government agencies during the final stages of their campaigns," he said.

"Since then, both countries have found even more strict controls have been necessary, so that now cattle from brucellosis-infected herds are only allowed to leave farms for slaughter."

Cattle Slaughter Ordered

Christchurch THE PRESS in English 27 Jul 78 p 7

[Text]

Groups of cattle suspected of brucellosis infection will be bought compulsorily by the Government and then slaughtered.

The Minister of Agriculture (Mr MacIntyre) yesterday announced this scheme, aimed at ridding cattle of remaining "residual pockets" of brucellosis infection.

The cattle would be bought at ruling market value and, in cases where milking animals were involved, dairy farmers would be compensated for any loss of production.

The scheme was expected to cost no more than $125,000 a year.

CSO: 5400

SCRAPIE DISEASE OUTBREAK, CONTROVERSY

Mana Sheep To Be Destroyed

Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 26 Jul 78 p 14

[Text]

A START will be made next week on the slaughter and deep burial of Mana Island's 2000-strong exotic sheep flock, the Minister of Agriculture (Mr MacIntyre) announced yesterday.

The slaughter was decided upon after symptoms of scrapie disease were found in a ewe, and has been delayed only by the problems of disposing of the carcasses.

At the same time, Ministry officials are organising a means for destroying sheep at Crater Block, Rotorua, should that be decided upon by a world expert on scrapie (Dr J T Stamp).

Dr Stamp will be visiting New Zealand as soon as he becomes free of personal commitments on August 7.

Earthmoving equipment will be shipped to Mana Island to dig a trench 200 to 300 metres long. The barge necessary for the shipment should be available by the end of this week.

Preparing the trench will take about two days, and slaughter and burial another two or three days. A team of 16 Ministry officers have been selected for the job.

Each of the sheep will be identified and checked off against a master list. The carcasses will be covered by about 2.4m of earth, and precautions taken to see that the surrounding area was left undisturbed.

Mr McIntyre said it would be impractical to burn so many carcasses.

Sheep May Be Sent Abroad

Christchurch THE PRESS in English 28 Jul 78 p 3

[Text]

Some of the sheep which have been in the crossbreeding experiment where scrapie has occurred may be sent overseas to a country such as Britain, which has a long record of the disease.

The experiment, begun in 1972, has been based on sheep imported from Britain.

The Minister of Agriculture (Mr MacIntyre) said this week that this would be one of the aspects he was interested in finding out about from Dr J. T. Stamp, the world authority on scrapie in sheep, who is due in New Zealand next month.

Mr MacIntyre said that Dr Stamp might even see some advantage in some of the sheep being sent to Britain where he could keep an eye on them.

The aim of the exercise would be to determine the ultimate fate of the sheep — irrespective of whether they showed any evidence of scrapie.

Mr MacIntyre said that some of the sheep might also be kept in a shed on Somes Island, in Wellington harbour.

He has already announced that sheep on Mana Island will be destroyed next week. But Dr Stamp's opinion will be sought about the sheep on Crater farm in the Rotorua district, although preparations are being made for their disposal, too, should he recommend it.

Mr MacIntyre said that discussions would be held with Dr Stamp about the best way to dispose of the Crater block sheep — if it was so decided — and also what to do with the land afterwards.

Government Charged With Disregard

Christchurch THE PRESS in English 28 Jul 78 p 10

[Article by Oliver Riddell]

[Text]

New Zealand faces economic disaster if the sheep disease, scrapie, becomes established here, but the Government and Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries have been accused of "callous disregard" of the very real possibility that it might.

This is the opinion of the secretary of the New Zealand Romney Sheep Breeders' Association, Mr C. Martin.

The association, representing New Zealand's largest stud sheep breeder group, has fought for 10 years to alert everyone to the risks to the sheep population from importing exotic breeds of sheep which might be carriers of the disease.

In April, 1975, in reply to a question in Parliament, the then Minister of Agriculture, Mr Moyle, gave a categorical assurance that—"if at any time there is evidence of the disease the entire flock will be slaughtered."

On the copy of this reply given to the member of Parliament who asked the question there is in the margin beside Mr Moyle's assurance another signature: "G. H. Adlam." Dr G. H. Adlam is director of the Ministry's animal health division.

Mr Moyle also said in his reply, that because of the quarantine precautions being taken with the imported sheep, the risk of scrapie being introducted into New Zealand flocks was "considered to be negligible."

But late in October, 1976, scrapie was diagnosed in a ewe on the offshore quarantine station of Mana Island.

The association had expected that all the exotic flock would be slaughtered, in the light of the assurance given by Mr Moyle, countersigned by Dr Adlam, but after setting up a committee to look at the problem, the Ministry only killed about 700 sheep.

Mr Martin criticised this, because it allowed many sheep which had been in contact with sheep among the 700 slaughtered animals to keep on breeding. He also asked if a change of government had caused a change of veterinary opinion.

"At that time it was suggested that if scrapie broke out again then there would be no doubt that all the sheep would be destroyed, and with that we had to be satisfied," he said.

In the meantime, many descendents of the original imported exotic sheep have been transferred from Mana Island to Crater farm, near Rotorua. This double-fenced and padlock-gated farm may be all that stands between New Zealand and scrapie.

Dr Adlam has assured the association, in reply to a question whether the disease can be transferred by seagulls carrying infected afterbirth from Crater farm over the double fence, that it has never happened before.

Mr Martin said that Dr Adlam might think this, but he could not know it, and so a high level of risk was being run.

The world authority on scrapie, Dr J. T. Stamp, who was being brought to New Zealand to advise on measures following the second outbreak on Mana Island on July 6, had already been reported as saying that the afterbirth of ewes is known to be a source of infection—but not always. The disease is known to enter the animal around the eyes, by contamination of a wound or orally. The possibility of biological transmission has been suggested.

"How can Dr Adlam and the Director-General of Agriculture (Mr M. L. Cameron) go on television and say that a double fence on Crater farm would stop the spread of the disease?" asked Mr Martin.

"I think that all New Zealand sheepfarmers expected that all the exotic sheep and their crossbred offspring would be slaughtered as soon as possible when the occurrence of the second outbreak on Mana Island was announced. But no, there is more procrastination," he said.

"The people who imported the sheep in the first place, in the face of warnings of the risk of introducing scrapie, now that scrapie is here do not feel competent to act on the veterinary advice available and slaughter the sheep.

"They try to save face by bringing a world expert —Dr Stamp—and appear to be in no hurry to get him here," Mr Martin said.

"The advice against importing the sheep was given. A gamble was taken with New Zealand's sheep flock, and it has been lost. The exercise has already cost New Zealand millions of dollars, and the country faces economic disaster if scrapie gets established here."

"The sweeping statements are not entirely responsible and are charged with an element of panic," replied Dr Adlam. "It is fortunate that not everyone panics."

No-one could convince those who did not want to be convinced.

It was impossible to prove that anything was 100 per cent safe: it could only be proved that something was not safe when something went wrong.

It was overstating the matter to say that New Zealand would face "economic disaster" if scrapie did become established in New Zealand, he said.

Australia and New Zealand were the only major sheep producing countries free of it. Plenty of other countries had it and raised sheep successfully and profitably, so while its presence here would be very unfortunate, it might not actually be a disaster.

In was incorrect to say that what happened in 1976 was an introduction into the national flock. Mr Moyle had described the chances of this happening as "negligible" and so they were.

The 1976 scare did not lead to all the sheep being slaughtered because it had never been conclusively established that it was scrapie from which the sheep was suffering, Dr Adlam said.

Only the sheep's relations were killed, because the value of the research being done was such that the ministry wanted to give it every chance.

However, the committee which had investigated the matter had said that in case it was scrapie, all the sheep must spend a further five years in quarantine. This period was needed to give scrapie a chance to develop, if it was there.

"There has been no change of Government policy on scrapie, as Mr Martin suggests," Dr Adlam said. "This is a veterinary matter, not a political matter, and our veterinary policy has not changed."

He explained why there was far less chance of scrapie appearing among sheep at the minimum quarantine Crater farm near

Rotorua than on the maximum quarantine Mana Island.

Only crossbred descendants of the original sheep imported had been allowed to go to Crater farm. The descendents of the exotic females mated with New Zealand rams had stayed on Mana, and only the descendents of New Zealand females and exotic males sent to Crater farm. This was because, as far as was known, scrapie can only be transmitted by females. All females on Mana had been lambed indoors and their afterbirth destroyed, so even if seagulls could carry infected afterbirth, they could not gain access to it.

"It is not true to say we are in no hurry to get Dr Stamp here," Dr Adlam said. "He is coming as soon as he can, and at some inconvenience to himself."

Farmers Want Sheep Slaughtered

Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 29 Jul 78 p 4

[Text] **ALL sheep at the Crater Block quarantine station near Rotorua should be slaughtered unless there are exceptional reasons for not doing so, Federated Farmers decided at its annual conference this week.**

The sheep are a second generation of crossbreds from the experimental breeding programme on Mana Island, where the disease scrapie has been detected.

In proposing the resolution, Mr G W Hall said scientists could not agree whether there was any danger of the disease spreading from the quarantine station.

There was still no way of detecting a carrier of scrapie, and if sheep were released from the Crater Block at any stage, there could be disease-carrying sheep moving around the country for four or five years.

Mr B C Smith said the experts now agreed that there was a chance that the disease could be spread through birds or vermin at lambing time.

"No country has ever eliminated scrapie after it has become endemic," he said.

Mr M R Barnett said there was now no question of waiting for a world authority on scrapie, Dr John Stamp, of Edinburgh, to arrive before the sheep on Mana Island were slaughtered.

Dr Stamp could not be in New Zealand until August 6, he said.

However, the Director-General of Agriculture, Mr Malcolm Cameron, had given a guarantee that all placentas from sheep at lambing time would be picked up, and any exotic sheep would lamb indoors.

Rotorua Sheep To Be Slaughtered

Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 15 Aug 78 p 22

[Text] **ABOUT 5000 sheep on the Government quarantine station near Rotorua are to be slaughtered and the country's exotic sheep breeding programme halted after advice from world scrapie expert Dr John Stamp that it would be the only possible way of keeping the disease out of New Zealand.**

Slaughter of the sheep would begin today, the Minister of Agriculture (Mr MacIntyre) said last night. They would be killed and deep-buried and he expected the operation to be completed by the end of the week.

Scrapie, a debilitating disease which affects the nervous system of sheep, was discovered in an imported finnish landrace ewe in the Government's breeding flock on Mana Island. Last month the breeding flock was slaughtered but the Ministry of Agriculture was awaiting a recommendation from Dr Stamp, before deciding the fate of the Crater Lake Farm sheep, also part of the breeding programme.

Mr MacIntyre said Dr Stamp had confirmed the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries' diagnosis of the clinical scrapie case in the Mana Island flock.

He said Dr Stamp had also considered the question of using some of the quarantine sheep for scrapie research, but had concluded they had no value for this purpose.

Dr Stamp did not rule out the possibility of the disease having spread, possibly through lambing after birth, from Crater Lake Farm but said the chances were "miniscule."

And, he said, it would be several years before any spread would become apparent.

Mr MacIntyre said both sheep breeding programmes on Mana Island and Crater quarantine stations would be halted.

Both Mana and Crater Lake quarantine stations would not be stocked with sheep for a further quarantine period, and other forms of land use were being investigated, he said.

It was a great disappointment to him and all those involved in "a very promising and worthwhile" research programme, he said.

Nobody involved in the breeding programme would be out of work as a result of the slaughter, he said, and he pledged to "step up" the breeding programme of New Zealand sheep.

Dr Stamp said once there was a method guaranteeing sheep semen and ovum were free from scrapies, then the exotic programme could be resumed using artificial insemination.

"But that's a tremendously expensive research programme which will take a number of years before we know if it is safe."

Such a programme would involve not only New Zealand, but the United States and Britain.

The problem was that there was no known diagnosis of the disease. But he believed the ability to diagnose the problem was in sight

"It seems [illegible] we might be getting there. There's quite a bit of optimism," said Dr Stamp.

Dr Stamp said he had suggested three other ways to use the quarantine stations: cattle could be farmed and slaughtered on the farms, deer could be reared, or forestry planted.

He recommended forestry, but Mr MacIntyre had said no decision on the land had been made.

Sheep, Dr Stamp said, should be kept off the land for five years at least.

The announcement was welcomed by the chairman of the meat and wool section of Taupo-Rotorua Federated Farmers (Mr Alan Johnson). He said the decision to kill the sheep was "the only logical conclusion."

CSO: 5400

BRIEFS

FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE AT FARM--An outbreak of a cattle disease known as "foot and mouth" has broken out at the Agege dairy farm on Lagos. The disease had reduced production of milk in the farm by about 50 percent, the officer in charge of the farm, Mrs A. O. Oremusu, said. She made this known when Commander Ukiwe visited the farm. The administrator had asked why the farm with 69 animals at present produced only about 190 litres of milk a day. Mrs Oremusu said under normal circumstances each animal was expected to produce about four to eight litres of milk a day. Veterinary officers were seen giving routine medical treatment to some of the animals during the visit. Visitors to the farm were strictly requested to dip their feet in a germicide provided at the entrance before entering the cattle breeding areas. The Agege farm is one of the country's oldest dairy farms and supplies fresh milk to hospitals and supermarkets. [Text] [Lagos DAILY TIMES in English 25 Aug 78 p 11]

CSO: 5400

BRIEFS

HOG IMPORTS PROHIBITED--Lima--The Peruvian Government has for the time being prohibited the import of hogs in order to prevent African swine fever. For some time now Peruvian officials have been treating chemically the waste from airplanes which come from Brazil, where the disease was discovered. [Text] [Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 2150 GMT 18 Aug 78 PY]

CSO: 5400

RABIES DEATHS, SHORTAGE OF VACCINE REPORTED

Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 31 Aug 78 p 2

[Text] The government has not yet ordered the urgently needed anti-rabies vaccine for dogs, cattle and sheep, because applications for import licenses and foreign exchange allocations made by the Ministry of Lands and Agriculture have not yet been approved.

A spokesman for the ministry said yesterday that until this was done there was nothing his ministry could do.

This means that animals affected by rabies, particularly sheep and cattle, are in danger of being wiped out.

Earlier, the spokesman said reports of cattle and sheep being infected by rabies had been received from different parts of the country.

In Lusaka Province recently four cattle and two sheep died from rabies at two different farms.

"Unfortunately the Department of Veterinary and Tsetse Control has run out of rabies vaccine for cattle and sheep," he said.

Last month there were only about 1,500 doses of the vaccine for dogs and cats left, and nothing for cattle and sheep.

"Due to unforeseen circumstances our tender requirements for vaccines and drugs were submitted late and this, together with subsequent delays in obtaining import licenses and foreign exchange, has led to problems in requirements of rabies vaccines," the spokesman said.

CSO: 5400

BRIEFS

SMUT SPREADING--One month after the first discovery of smut disease in sugarcane in a small canefield at the edge of the frontier with Mexico, Belize researchers have found infestations in three widely separated areas of the Orange Walk District, and for the first time in the Corozal District. The most recent infestation of smut has been found in the village of Libertad, but infected canefields have also been located in San Luis, Guinea Grass and, the place where it was first noticed, at San Antonio, Rio Hondo. Two species of cane have been infected-the popular HJ 5741 and now the EJ 5721. Representatives of the BSI research team, the Belize Sugar Board and the Cane Farmers Association have got together to prepare a campaign against smut. This means burning all infected canefields but the longterm plan is to introduce smut--resistant varieties of sugarcane to Corozal and Orange Walk. [Text] [Belize City THE REPORTER in English 10 Sep 78 p 9 FL]

CSO: 5400

ACTIVITIES OF PHYTOPATHOLOGICAL LABORATORY REPORTED

Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 6 Sep 78 pp 1, 5

[Text]

Herbicide Experiment Yields Good Results

The Scientific Phytopathological Laboratory at Ambo has obtained satisfactory results in experiments conducted during the year to control weeds through the application of herbicides. Dr. E. V. Glinka, Director of the Laboratory told The Ethiopian Herald **earlier in the week.**

The herbicides were tried on wheat, maize and *teff* and the experiments are to be extended on farms belonging to peasants' associations in order to enable the masses benefit from it. He said peasants will be able to increase the yield from their farms and get improved quality of crops at the same time. The director added that positive results have also been obtained in controlling potato disease, mainly light-blight, through the application of chemicals and the introduction of new varieties received from the International Potato Centre. The director said the laboratory at Ambo intends to try these results on state farms next year.

The Scientific phytopathological Laboratory, inaugurated one year ago, was built and equipped by a 10 million Birr grant provided by the Soviet Government following an agreement concluded in May of 1972. He said the laboratory began initial operation in 1973 with a small group of Soviet scientists, that were mainly studying the agricultural situation in Ethiopia including research work carried out by local units. The director stated that from 1976 onwards, the laboratory was engaged in field experimentation using different types of cereal crops, especially, wheat, *teff*, maize, sorghum and horticultural crops covering pepper, tomato, potato and tobacco.

As further revealed by the director, the laboratory is carrying on research activities with the objective of studying diseases, weeds and pests affecting cereal and horticultural crops. He said the studies will allow scientists at the laboratory to identify the diseases, both of bacteriological and of virus origin and formulate the proper methods of controlling them. He said this equally leads to the selection and introduction of resistant varieties of crops. The director pointed out that the laboratory is fitted with the latest scientific equipment and enjoys the services of bacteriologists and virologists. He said so far the laboratory has been able to identify lots of diseases attacking wheat, *teff*, potato and pepper. He said the laboratory is presently experimenting with more than 200 cereal varieties, planted on experimental plots within the premises of the laboratory.

Dr. Glinka said the laboratory at Ambo maintains is manned by 10 Soviet and six Ethiopian scientists, all of whom are involved in research activities. The laboratory is running a two-year training programme, combining theory and practice in favour of the Ethiopian specialists. In the meantime the scientists at the laboratory hold lecture sessions at the Agricultural Institute at Ambo and students are regularly invited to the laboratory for practical training. The programme was launched last year and will continue in the future as well.

Relationship with Other Centres

The director said the laboratory also maintains close working relationship with local research centres located at Bako, Nazareth, Debre Zeit and Awassa and the Institute of Agricultural Research, with whom it exchanges scientific information. Results of the laboratory's research work are published in annual reports. The laboratory submitted a report about its results of its research work at the Third General Conference of the Association for the Advancement of Agricultural Sciences in Africa (AAASA), held in Ibadan, Nigeria, in April of this year. Ten of the Soviet and Ethiopian scientists serving at the laboratory are members of the AAASA. Both Soviet and Ethiopian scientists at the laboratory are also members of the Ethiopian Phytopathological Society.

The Scientific Phytopathological Laboratory at Ambo is also closely collaborating with field personnel of the Extension Project Implementation Department (EPID) assigned to the area. The laboratory organizes quarterly meetings with the EPID people, in which they are given orientation on wheat diseases and pests existing in the area including methods of controlling them. Starting this year, the laboratory has introduced a "peasants' day" programme, in which peasant farmers from the Ambo area and its surroundings are visiting the demonstration plots and acquaint themselves with the successful experimental work in progress. Lectures, film shows and social events are held at the laboratory in favour of the inhabitants of the town.

Referring to the development of agriculture in the USSR, Dr. E. Glinka, noted that a considerable increase has been recorded in the production of major agricultural items. He said the annual grain production in 1959-1965 was 128.1 million tons, while the figure for the 1971-77 period reached 189.6 million tons.

Future Plans

According to plans for the future, it is envisaged to harvest between 238 to 243 million tons of grain in the 1981-1985 period and by 1990 increase it to an average of ton per capita. Meat production is expected to rise to 19.5 million tons by 1985. At present the USSR has 8,000 inter-farm and agro-industrial enterprises and associations functioning throughout the country. On the basis of a speech delivered by L. I. Brezhnev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee on July 3 of this year on the further development of agriculture in the Soviet Union, it is planned to elaborate principles of planning and incentives conducive to favourable conditions for extended production in agriculture. In his closing remark Comrade Brezhnev declared:- "It is not only production, but relations between people, their everyday life, their cultural education, mentality and consciousness that are an object of the Party's unfailing attention. One of the major tasks before us today is to combine agricultural production with culture, seen in the broadest possible sense as the culture of work, everyday life and human relations".

CSO: 5400

BRIEFS

PLANT DISEASE, PEST CONTROL--The British firm Minister Agriculture has recently completed recommendations for an integrated pest and disease control programme in Lofa County, Liberia. There is little data available on pest and disease incidence on these crops and the programme includes a system of monitoring their incidence to make pest control measures more effective. The use of pesticides is limited at present. Thus choice and degree of usage has been designed to minimise change in ecological balance of pest and predator. This involves integrating chemical and cultural control techniques. The programme is aimed at controlling berry borer and stem borer in coffee and blackpod and capsid damage in cocoa. It is expected to be the first of a number of such programmes in Liberia. [Text] [London WEST AFRICA in English 28 Aug 78 p 1704]

CSO: 5400

WARNING ISSUED ON SPOTTED ALFALFA APHID

Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 3 Jul 78 p 16

[Text] First it was the garden slug—reported to be rife on hill country. Now it is a dandruff-sized jumper called the spotted alfalfa aphid, capable, it seems, of leaping the Tasman and decimating New Zealand's 220,000 hectares of lucerne.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries has issued a warning that people who have been in or near an Australian lucerne crop could be carrying the aphid on their clothing.

A leaflet distributed to travellers arriving from Australia says the pest is expected to cost Australian lucerne growers $50 million this year. And that, it says, is a price New Zealand would rather not pay.

Mr J. Brown, superintendent of the port agriculture service, said yesterday that the campaign was aimed specifically at people who had recently been on Australian farms—returning New Zealand farmers and technical people involved in agriculture.

"The aphid is tiny and has a great capacity to jump," he said, "so anyone who has been in or near a lucerne field in Australia could easily—and unwittingly—be carry-it.

"As the aphid can survive up to 10 days without food, we advise washing or drycleaning clothes before wearing them outside.

"We also advise thorough cleaning of footwear and storing clothes that cannot be cleaned for two weeks in a closed cupboard or room."

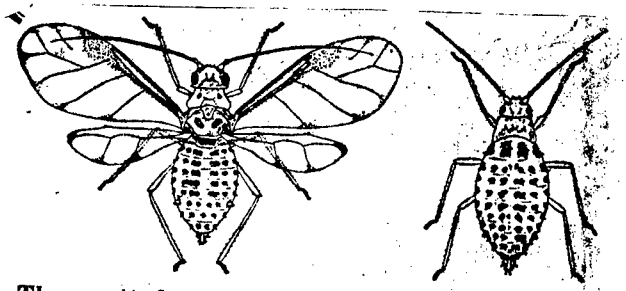
Thought to have arrived on an aircraft from the United States, the spotted aphid reached Australia early last year. It rapidly devastated lucerne crops in the Hunter Valley and damaged crops elsewhere.

Lucerne has become one of New Zealand's most valuable crops for grazing and cutting and has greatly lessened the impact of drought on the pumice lands of Rotorua, Taupo and the Bay of Plenty.

The total area in lucerne is reported to have jumped in the past two years from 191,000 hectares to 220,000 hectares, or more than 500,000 acres.

South Auckland has 20,000 hectares of the 33,000 in the North Island, while Canterbury has 112,000 hectares and Otago 53,000.

As New Zealand lucerne is already plagued with two serious pests and diseases — the blue-green aphid from northern China and Japan and verticillium wilt—the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries figures that it can well do without the devilish newcomer, spotted or otherwise.



The spotted alfalfa aphid many times actual size.

CSO: 5400

ANTI-LOCUSTS OPERATION IN FULL SWING

Peshawar KHYBER MAIL in English 23 Aug 78 p 6

/Text/

HYDERABAD, Aug. 22: Ground and aerial operations for destroying locusts in Tharparkar and Sanghar districts is in full swing. This was disclosed by the officers of Plant Protection Department in a meeting held at Umerot about 100 miles away from here.

Mr. A. Soomro, Divisional Commissioner Hyderabad presided over the meeting.

The meeting was informed that two more air-strips have been set up at Wehi Jat village in Tharparkar District and Juna Tar village in Sanghar District to enable plant protection authorities for carrying aerial spray.

The meeting was told that locusts, have been kept away from the cultivated area and efforts were baing made to eradicate the menace completely.

The meeting was also informed that Tharparkar District has been divided in seven sectors and 41 "locust information centres" have been established in the district.

Besides the aerial spray, ground spray was also being carried out to destroy eggs and hoppers. For this purpose, ten field units in Tharparkar district and six in Sanghar district are engaged in destroying bands of hoppers and eggs of locust.—A.P.P.

CSO: 5400

SWINE FEVER CANCELS EXPOSITION, BORDER STATIONS ERECTED

Montevideo EL PAIS in Spanish 3 Aug 78 p 5

[Text] Ten veterinary monitoring stations have been set up along the border with Brazil to check any possible outbreaks of swine fever. Strict inspection of vehicles and persons entering Uruguay from Brazil is being done. The disease has been reported in the Caribbean. The pig show at the Padro Rural Exposition has been canceled.

A widespread preventive operation has been set up by the Uruguayan health authorities in order to prevent the entry of swine fever, which has decimated the pig stock in Brazil. It was reported to DINACOSE yesterday that ten veterinary monitoring stations have been set up along the border.

If diseased animals are found, a series of measures will automatically be applied, including the slaughter of all pigs found within 5 kilometers from the point of detection. It was also reported that the showing of pigs in the forthcoming Prado Exposition has been canceled.

Disease Drawing Near

Swine fever has already been detected in the Brazilian locality of Don Pedrito, which is very close to the Uruguayan border.

There is some fear that the present heat wave may serve to spread this disease, since high temperatures are known to favor its propagation.

Faced with this situation, the removal of all pigs located in a strip of land 50 kilometers wide along the border has already begun. The 500 thoroughbred pigs comprising the stock of the municipal breeding facility of Rivera will be transferred to Paso de los Toros, and similar measures are being adopted in other departments along the border.

In the Chuy area, trucks entering Uruguay are being washed and their occupants are being checked to keep pork products out of the country. Experts feel that these steps may not be sufficient, since the disease can also be transmitted through the air and by a house sparrow called the "black tie" which acts as a transmitting agent.

Slaughter

As reported, the authorities have taken the steps needed to handle the situation that will be created by the widespread slaughter of pigs now approaching. The Nacional and Melilla cold storage facilities have been authorized to start work and to "stock up." It was further reported that the head of the National Port Authority, Col Roberto Ramirez, has been contacted, in order to consider the possible use of the cold storage facilities of Hangar 11 of the Metropolitan Port.

All those pigs that must be slaughtered as a preventive measure will be purchased by the government, which will pay 4.20 pesos per kilo for healthy animals.

Producers suffering the consequences of a possible epidemic will not receive any compensation for the loss of their animals, since there are no provisions for this.

In the Caribbean

A report from the EFT [expansion unknown] agency from Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, states that the fear of a spread of African swine fever has arisen in all the nations in the area, and that the disease has been reported in eight provinces of the Dominican Republic.

The authorities have already ordered the elimination of all the pigs affected by this disease.

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BRIEFS

LONG AN RICE INSECTS--Nearly all the summer-fall and 10th-month rice in many districts of Long An Province have been affected by brown flies and leaf-rollers. The peasants have zoned off insect-affected areas and used all available facilities and means to save nearly 23,000 hectares of the summer-fall and 10th-month rice. More than 90 percent of the rice area in Tan Chau District has been saved from damage by insects. [Ho Chi Minh City Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 23 Aug 78 BK]

HA TUYEN LEAFROLLERS--After detecting the appearance of leafrollers damaging the 10th-month rice, Vu Xuyen, Ha Su Phi, Bac Quang, Na Hang, Chiem Hoa, Yen Son and Son Duong districts in Ha Tuyen Province have concentrated manpower and insecticide on eradicating them to save more than 1,500 hectares of rice. [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 26 Aug 78 BK]

HAU GIANG RICE INSECTS--The peasants in Hau Giang Province have used fuel-oil in killing insects to save 44,000 hectares of summer-fall rice. The insect-affected area of summer-fall rice in the province is still rather large. Localities are being guided in killing insects to protect rice. [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 24 Aug 78 BK]

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END