

REPORT OF THE COLONIAL VETERINARY SURGEON.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Cattle and sheep were scarcer than in 1904. This is attributed by importers to a scarcity of animals in the interior and to restrictions and duties imposed by the Chinese Government or local authorities. The stall-feeding of cattle appears to be gradually increasing in the neighbourhood of Canton but it is to be regretted that Manila by the inducement of higher prices still gets the best of the animals.

The total number of the cattle dealt with at Kennedy Town was 49,412, a decrease on 1904 of 8,993. Hunghom admitted 5,046, a decrease on 1904 of 565. This gives a total decrease over all of 9,558 cattle, as compared with 1904. The rejections as unfit for slaughter amounted at Kennedy Town to 672, against 499 in 1904. At Hung Hom 219 were rejected, against 34 in 1904, and 406 in 1903. The chief cause of rejection is simply emaciation.

DISEASES.

The following are the most noteworthy diseases met with during the year in the Depôt and Slaughter Houses.

Anthrax.—Four cases occurred, one each in January, April, May and July. In all cases but one the animals (cattle) were imported suffering from the disease, and died within twenty-four hours after landing. In the remaining case the animal, a bullock, had been in the Depôt for ten days. Infection is supposed to have been conveyed in the fodder though direct proof is wanting.

Hæmorrhagic Septicæmia.—There was only one outbreak when thirteen cattle in all were attacked. Of these, five died and eight recovered. The disease was of a milder type than that met with in former years and did not extend beyond the lot first attacked.

Foot-and-Mouth Disease.—This disease is practically always present in the Depôts and is freshly imported with almost every lot of cattle. It is always of a mild type and causes, except in very young calves, little or no constitutional disturbance.

Tuberculosis.—There were no cases seen in Chinese cattle. Only one case was met with in a European cow at the Slaughter House and the chief interest in this case lies in the fact that apart from the commoner lesions seen in the viscera, the meninges of the brain round the base, under part of the cerebellum, and medulla, were sprinkled over with small tubercular nodules about the size of a mustard seed. The animal had shown brain symptoms before slaughter but was otherwise in good condition.

PARASITES.

Parasites are daily met with and often in considerable numbers. In addition to those mentioned in former reports the following have been noted :—

Distomum Pancreaticum.—This distome is found in the pancreatic ducts of Chinese cattle and water buffaloes. It appears to cause little alteration in the substance of the gland. The ducts became dilated and are at times so packed full of the parasite as to appear like dilated and tortuous veins running through the substance of the gland. The presence of the parasite even in large numbers appears to have very little effect on the general health of the animal infested. This parasite closely resembles in size and appearance the *Distomum Lanceolatum* of the liver of the ox and sheep.

Distomum Crassum.—This distome was found in the intestine and stomach of the pig but seldom in large numbers. Three to ten or twelve were usually seen.

Echinorynchus Gigas.—This is a round worm found in the intestine of the pig. Its anterior end is furnished with powerful spines by means of which it fixes itself to the wall of the intestine producing a deep ulcer which often extends into the muscular coat of the bowel. It seems to attain an especially large size in Hongkong frequently measuring nineteen inches in length and as thick as a common lead-pencil.

Balbiania Gigantea.—The most common habitat of this parasite in Hongkong is the red muscle tissue of the œsophagus of the Chinese water buffalo. In two cases in water buffaloes the infection had extended beyond this. In one the invasion extended to the muscles of the shoulder, neck and tongue, and in the other case the entire carcass was infested so badly that an incision made into any part of the muscle tissue showed one or more parasites. The carcasses were destroyed.

Trichinosis.—A search for the *trichina spiralis* has been kept up during the year. Portions of muscle tissue from 560 pigs have been examined microscopically, but so far no case has been discovered.

BUILDINGS.

There are no new buildings or alterations to record.

CATTLE CREMATORIUM.

The following is a statement of the working of the cattle crematorium for the year:—

Carcasses cremated.

Cattle including calves,	100
Sheep and goats,	120
Swine,	474
	694

Miscellaneous cremated.

Beef injured and diseased,	9,006 lbs.
Mutton „ „	94 lbs.
Tins unwholesome preserved meats,	474
Biscuits,	17,920 lbs.

Refuse cell.

Street rubbish, experimental burning,	3 tons.
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Coal used.

Cattle crematorium,	Tonz. cwt. lbs.
	30. 0. 0
Refuse cell,	1.15.40

Total, 31.15.40

Reckoning the condemned beef, 9,006 lbs., as equivalent to 14 bullocks of 650 lbs. each, this gives a total of 708 carcasses cremated by 30 tons of coal or about 847 cwts. per carcass. Coal during 1905 cost \$11 per ton which gives a cost of 46 odd cents per carcass cremated. In 1904 the total amount per head was 826 cwts. per carcass and the cost per head with coal at \$11.50 per ton was 47 odd cents per carcass. Towards the end of the year the firebrick lining of the cremating furnace began to get burnt out and this more or less interfered with economical stoking.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

Kennedy Town.—The revenue for the year which shows a decrease on last year's working of \$4,998.80 is made up as follows:—

21,266 Cattle slaughtered	@ 40 cents each,	\$ 8,506.40
16,764 Sheep slaughtered	„ 20 „	3,352.80
148,216 Swine slaughtered	„ 30 „	44,464.80
27,433 Cattle exported	„ 50 „	13,716.50
10,796 Sheep exported	„ 10 „	1,079.60
13,250 Swine exported	„ 10 „	1,325.00
1 Duplicate order	„ 25 „	.25

Total, \$72,445.35

Hung Hom.—The Board collects revenue directly from the Depôt only. The Slaughter House is leased to a contractor. The total fees collected from the Depôt were \$511.98.

Shaukiwan and Aberdeen.—The collection of fees is leased to a contractor.

The total revenue derived from the Slaughter Houses and Animals Depôts was \$90,093.33 and was made up as follows:—

Kennedy Town fees collected,	\$72,445.35
Hung Hom " "	511.98
Contract for the privilege of removing blood and hair at Kennedy Town,	6,744.00
Contract for the privilege of slaughtering at Hung Hom, Shaukiwan and Aberdeen,	10,392.00
	<u>\$90,093.33</u>

The number of animals slaughtered in the Colony were:—

	<i>Cattle.</i>	<i>Sheep and Goats.</i>	<i>Swine.</i>
Kennedy Town,	21,266	16,764	148,216
Hung Hom,.....	5,492	3,010	25,816
Shaukiwan,	8,310
Aberdeen,.....	3,717
Totals,.....	<u>26,758</u>	<u>19,774</u>	<u>186,059</u>
	<u>Grand Total of all animals,.....232,591</u>		

The figures given for Shaukiwan and Aberdeen are got from the contractors' books and are given with only his statement for their accuracy.

The following Table shows the numbers of animals slaughtered during the past ten years:—

YEAR.	<i>Cattle.</i>	<i>Sheep & Goats.</i>	<i>Swine.</i>
1896	19,546	14,693	129,103
1897	20,094	14,226	137,748
1898	21,541	15,956	153,485
1899	23,582	17,353	156,292
1900	23,939	18,364	165,760
1901	24,938	18,544	172,205
1902	25,669	20,780	202,495
1903	28,335	22,918	187,265
1904	30,829	23,736	181,046
1905	26,758	19,774	186,059

The decrease in cattle and sheep and goats took place at Kennedy Town and Hung Hom. Kennedy Town shows a decrease in pigs but this is more than made up by increases in Hung Hom, Shaukiwan and Aberdeen.

DAIRIES AND CATTLE SHEDS.

During the year 572 visits have been made to dairies and cowsheds. No case of infectious disease occurred and the general condition of the sheds, with few exceptions, was good. One dairy was prosecuted for selling watered milk and was fined \$100. The remainder of the milk prosecutions were undertaken by the Medical Officer of Health.

MARKETS AND FOOD SHOPS.

3,120 visits were paid to food shops, that is, premises licensed for the sale of articles of food usually sold in a public market. These shops while they seldom actually infringe the law take more than their fair share of supervision.

There is little that is worthy of note regarding the markets.

Des Vieux Road Temporary Market.—There has been a little improvement in the business done here but the improvement that was expected from the closing in 1903 of the licensed food shops in the central districts of the town has hardly been realized.

Western Market.—There has been no improvement in the sanitary condition of this market nor can much be expected. At the close of the year the new market was nearing completion.

Mong-kok-tsui Market.—A new market has been erected here to keep pace with the growth of the district. It was finished and handed over to the Board at the close of the year.

Dead fowls found in the market during the year were sent to the Government Bacteriologist for examination for plague, but none were returned as infected.

Altogether 14 plague infected rats were found in the markets and were distributed as follows:—12 in the Western Market, 1 in the Sai Ying Pui Market and 1 in the Shek-tong-tsui Market.

Frozen meat to the extent of 618,162 lbs. has been imported from Australia by the Dairy Farm Company, Limited during the year. There can be little doubt that this has had a considerable effect on the amount of meat killed in Hongkong and explains to some extent the decrease in the numbers of cattle and sheep slaughtered.

ORDINANCE No. 15 OF 1903.

Under this Ordinance 155 visits of inspection have been made to ships exporting more than 10 head of cattle from the Colony, and certificates have been granted as to the fitness of these ships to carry cattle. In the great majority of instances the visit is a purely formal one since these ships are nearly all permanently fitted to carry cattle and it is to the interest of the shipowner as well as the cattle shipper to see that these fittings are maintained. The shipping companies have been uniformly kind enough to put a launch at my disposal when going to and from their ships.

NEW TERRITORY.

There were no outbreaks of infectious disease among cattle in the New Territory. At Sheong Sui an epidemic of fowl cholera occurred but on adopting the same procedure, viz., stopping all the traffic in fowls in and out of the village, as in a similar outbreak in the same village in 1904, the disease did not extend further.

STAFF.

Kennedy Town.—The Animals Depôts and Slaughter House have been in charge of Senior Inspector WATSON and Inspector COTTON.

Mr. WONG KIN TSOI resigned his appointment as shroff and was succeeded by Mr. YUNG KAI Ü.

Inspector of Markets, Kowloon.—Inspector ROGERS returned from leave in March and took over the work which was then being done by Inspector BRETT.

Inspector of Markets, Hongkong.—Inspector BRETT went on leave in March and his duties were distributed between Inspector ROGERS and Mr. JOHANSEN, Overseer of the Central Market. At the end of the year, Inspector BRETT was still on leave.

ADAM GIBSON, M.R.C.V.S.

Annexe M.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY SURVEYOR.

NEW HOUSE DRAINS.

1. Plans have been deposited and passed by me during the year for the drainage of 152 houses. The plans of 281 were carried forward from 1904, making a total of 433 in hand during the year.

2. The drainage of 189 houses has been completed and the plans for 25 have been cancelled, leaving 219 to carry forward to 1906.

RE-DRAINAGE AND ADDITIONS.

3. In addition to the above, plans for redrainage of or additions to the drainage of 90 houses were carried forward from 1904 and new plans have been received for 252 houses making a total of 342 for the year. Of these, 193 have been completed and 13 cancelled, leaving 136 to be carried forward to 1906.

4. A summary of the above is appended in Tables I, II and III.

INSPECTION OF PRIVATE HOUSE DRAINS.

5. The drains of 131 houses have been tested and reported on, in consequence of complaints having been received regarding them. Of this number, 129 required re-constructing, and 2 amending.

Notices were served on the owners of the above 131 houses calling upon them to execute the necessary work.

All of these have been complied with. 18,628 houses have been visited by the Drainage Inspectors with the result that 1,900 drainage nuisances have been discovered. 572 houses were found to have inadequate provision for carrying off rain water from the roofs.

Notices have been served in each case, on the owner or occupier, calling upon them to abate the nuisance.

All of these have been complied with. 38 nuisances have been referred to the Medical Officer of Health and 240 to the Hon. Director of Public Works to be dealt with by them.

582 choked drain traps on private property have been cleansed by the Drainage Foremen.

WATER-CLOSETS AND URINALS.

6. During the past year, water-closets and urinals have been erected in the following buildings, by permission of the Board, and have been connected to the public sewers:—

	<i>Water-closets.</i>	<i>Urinals.</i>
Hotel Mansion,	24	7
Royal Building,	15	2
Gas Works New Premises,	4	1
Blackhead's Factory, Shaukiwan,	0	1
2 Pedder Street,	6	3
Kowloon Dock, Hunghom,	2	0
	<u>51</u>	<u>14</u>

NEW BUILDINGS.

7. Certificates have been granted during the year under Section 84 of Ordinance 13 of 1901, for 20 houses, certifying that they have been built in accordance with the entire provisions of that Ordinance.