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BIENNIAL REPORT

OF THE

State Veterinary Sanitary Board

AND THE

State Veterinary Surgeon

OF THE

STATE OF COLORADO.

1899-1900.



DENVER, COLORADO
THE SMITH-BROOKS PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS
1901

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL.

The State Capitol,
Denver, Colorado, December 15, 1900.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY,

CHARLES S. THOMAS,

GOVERNOR OF STATE OF COLORADO.

Sir—Herewith we have the honor to submit to you the
biennial report of the State Veterinary Sanitary Board.

Hoping the same will meet with your approval, we are,

Very respectfully,

B. H. DU BOIS,
President.

CHAS. S. OWENS,
Vice-President.

E. R. STARK.

SOLOMON BOCK, Secretary.
State Veterinarian.

BIENNIAL REPORT
OF THE
STATE VETERINARY SANITARY
BOARD.

INTRODUCTION.

We have the honor to report that there has been a marked increase in the number of cattle and sheep shipped into the state during the past two years, and a marked improvement in the breed of both native cattle and sheep. Owing to the increased demand for horses caused by our recent wars and the demand from foreign countries, the native horses have increased in price beyond anything we could have expected. Both our own and foreign governments have concluded that the best type of cavalry horse is raised in the western part of America and have been willing to pay for them. Colorado has exceptional advantages for providing this class of horse, and nowhere in the world can a better cavalry horse be raised.

The hog industry is not of much importance in this state and an effort should be made to stop the feeding of garbage and offal.

The increase in the number of our live stock, and the departure from old-time methods of handling it, has increased the duties of this board and added to its importance as a conservator of the wealth of the state. Losses from disease are always an important factor, and can not be estimated in this state at less than five per cent. per annum of the gross valuation.

This percentage can be greatly reduced or allowed to increase, according to the manner in which the statutes em-

powering the actions of this board, are executed. The proper execution depends largely upon the provision made for the payment of salaried help and other expenses. As matters now stand, the owners of stock imported from other states and territories pay these costs, and if it were not for this provision absolutely no protection could be given to the stock owners of this state against imported disease, which on several noted occasions would have caused heavy losses.

DETAILED REPORT.

CATTLE.

TEXAS FEVER.—It is a matter of great satisfaction to us to report that no case of Texas fever has been communicated to Colorado cattle during the past two years.

TUBERCULOSIS.—Owing in great part to the natural climatic advantages of this state against tuberculosis, the occurrence of this disease among our live stock is wholly confined to dairy cattle where the stables are not well ventilated. It is practically unknown on the range. Its importance, therefore, here lies more in the danger to the public health and the contamination of the milk supply. Its suppression comes more under the jurisdiction of the State Board of Health. Wherever we have been able to render the said board any assistance we have gladly done so. The use of tuberculin as a certain test of the existence of this disease is endorsed by all authorities, and the discovery of the disease is now simply a question of trouble and expense. There is one danger to be guarded against, however. Where an animal has reacted under the test and the temperature is again normal, if a second test were applied it would probably not react, and therefore probably pass the state line as a healthy animal, whereas it is a diseased subject. This is a hard matter to guard against. Therefore the only absolute test is a post-mortem examination.

Tuberculosis is, unlike most of the other contagious diseases, so much influenced in its spread by general conditions of breed and management, and those conditions in Colorado are so generally unfavorable to the propagation of the germ and favorable to the partial cure of the affected animals, that the subsequent danger to our live stock interests from a