

Livestock Sanitary Commissioner's Office, correspondence, 1926-1929

Section 60, Pages 1771 - 1800

This collection contains correspondence regarding indemnities for cattle killed by tuberculosis, concerns over the findings of veterinary inspection, discussion of an outbreak of rabies among Kansas dogs that affected cattle, complaints of veterinary treatments killing animals, and general discussion about livestock diseases. The correspondence is mostly between the Livestock Sanitary Commissioner and various livestock owners throughout Kansas.

Creator: Kansas. Livestock Sanitary Commission

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June 13, 1928

Dr. R. V. Rafnel,
State Veterinarian,
Jackson, Mississippi.

Dear Doctor:

It has been brought to my attention that in order to comply with the shipping requirements of your state as applying to horses and mules, the temperature of the animals must be taken within 24 hours before shipment. This is a great inconvenience and entails in many instances heavy losses to the shipper.

I am advised that large numbers of horses and mules are shipped from Kansas to your state. Kansas has not had a case of glanders of record in five years and generally speaking the health condition of the horses and mules of the state is very good. Shippers advise me that in many instances they are not familiar with the requirements and the veterinarian inspector fails to meet the temperature requirements and by reason of this their shipment is held up for temperatures in transit.

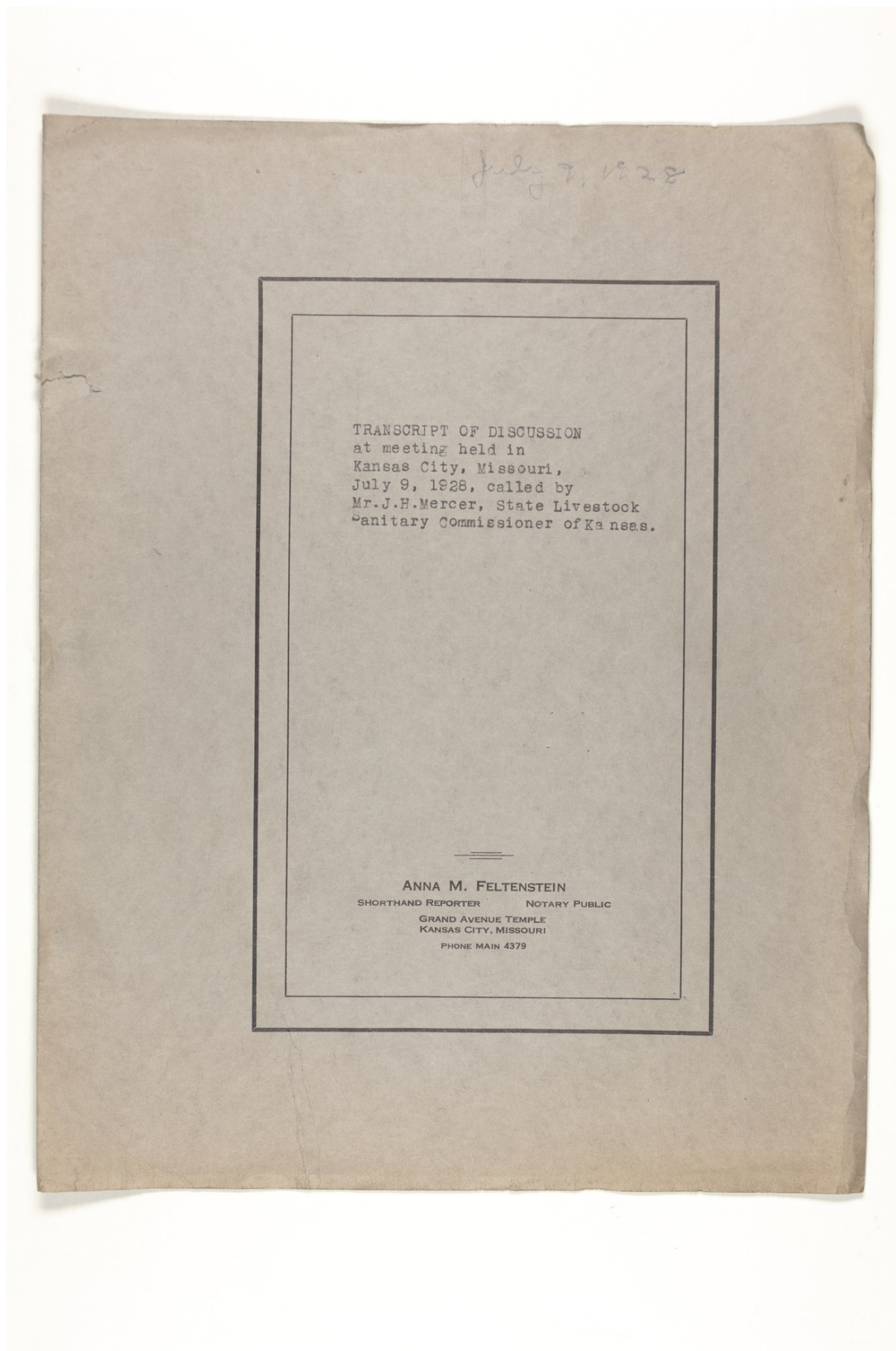
I am calling this matter to your attention for the reason that it is the policy of this department to instruct all inspectors and local veterinarians to comply strictly with the sanitary requirements of the various states. I am wondering, however, why the requirement that the temperatures of the animals must be taken? From our knowledge of these matters it seems to be an unnecessary requirement. I am calling your attention to this with the hope that if you can remove the temperature requirement from your regulations, especially as it applies to Kansas, I would certainly appreciate it.

Thanking you in advance for an early reply, I am

Very truly yours,

JHM/M

Commissioner.



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TRANSCRIPT OF DISCUSSION at meeting held in Kansas City,
Missouri, July 9, 1928, called by Mr. J. H. Mercer, State Live-
stock Sanitary Commissioner of Kansas.

PRESENT: J. H. Mercer, State Live Stock Sanitary
Commissioner, Topeka, Kansas.

J. F. Daniels, Traffic Manager,
Kansas City Stock Yards Company,

F. H. Betton, General Superintendent,
Kansas City Stock Yards Company,

Dan Smith, General Manager Wichita Union
Stock Yards Company, (the market
that satisfies.)

Dr. A. W. Miller, Chief, Packers and Stock Yards
Administration, Washington, D. C.

Dr. J. Fleming, Bureau of Animal Industry,
Kansas City, Kansas.

Dr. B. J. Stockler, Bureau of Animal Industry,
St. Joseph, Missouri.

Dr. J. L. Felix, Bureau of Animal Industry,
St. Joseph, Missouri.

J. V. Akins, Traders Exchange, St. Joseph, Mo.

G. R. Collett, President, Kansas City Stock
Yards Company,

Bryant Poole, President Kansas City Live
Stock Exchange,

Dr. R. R. Dykstra, Dean Veterinary Department,
Kansas State Agricultural College

F. A. Imler, Bureau of Animal Industry,
Kansas City, Missouri.

Dr. J. Dixon, Bureau of Animal Industry,
Kansas City, Missouri.

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Dr. Dyson, Packer and Stock Yards Administration
Kansas City, Missouri.

Dr. W. J. Imbree, Western Weighing and Inspection
Bureau, Chicago, Illinois.

William Wilkins, Traders Exchange,
Kansas City, Missouri.

B. C. Biggerstaff, Secretary, Kansas City Live
Stock Exchange, Kansas City,
Missouri.

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MR. MERCER: Gentlemen, we are ready to start with this conference. For the benefit of some that are here, that did not attend the conference in Topeka on the 5th of June I might relate briefly just what took place. Going back of the June conference we have had this matter of livestock diseases, which in a measure goes back to the public markets as the origin, up for three or four years. There has been considerable investigation made on the part of some. Dr. Miller is here from the Washington office and he will give us some records in connection with it but it seems to me, as a sanitary officer, that there are a lot of things connected with this trouble that we do not understand or know about, and while these bacterins or serums that are being used are claimed to be of merit and consequence yet we know of so many bad results where they have been used that we are not sold entirely to their use. There are several things connected with this problem that are of consequence to the livestock industry and all branches of it, especially as to marketing. There is a sort of evolution going on now in connection with the marketing system that we have been under for the last sixty years, and in order to maintain our markets as they now exist I am of the opinion that we have got to remove everything we can that is objectionable to the people interested in livestock production and this is one of them. I am not here to discuss any of the things connected with this

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disease from a scientific standpoint because I am not a scientific man. We have some people here that will probably give us more enlightenment along that line. I have been engaged in the livestock sanitary work for well on to twenty years and I try to handle it from a practical standpoint, connected with the assistance of research people and scientific people who are continually working on these problems and that is why we are having this continuation of this little meeting, to try and work out some plan that we might follow to fully convince ourselves of what is the best thing to do.

Recently we have had no complaint from the shippers or the purchasers of livestock from the market but occasionally we have a bad outbreak or a bad condition where men take cattle out from these yards and the stockyards of other markets and lose twenty-five, and in some instances we have known where they have lost fifty percent of the shipment. Now, that disheartens any person, regardless of whether he can financially stand such a loss or otherwise, and here is the point that I want to leave with you men that are not directly engaged in sanitary work: They have paid, perhaps, for the administration of some serums or bacterins; they come to us with the inquiry as to why they have not received beneficial results. Now, if we have no answer we cannot give them any answer and consequently we have not recommended in any instance the use of bacterins or serums for yard diseases

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other than what we know is all right. We know, gentlemen, and you do too, that hog cholera serum is a preventative against hog cholera disease. We know with the proper administration of anti-hog cholera serum it is all right. We also know by experiment that the black leg vaccine is all right. We have no hesitancy, therefore, in recommending its use, hog cholera serum and the black leg serum. Very seldom in the past years we have found where hog cholera serum and black leg serum, if properly used, and proper care taken in the vaccination of the animal, of any bad results. We have no record, we have nothing to assure us or warrant us in telling our people that there is merit in the use of bacterins to prevent what we call stockyard fever or hemorrhagic septicemia. I think there are probably a multitude of things covered in those expressions and that is what I have got this conference for today.

Now, going back to the Topeka conference on the 5th of June, your industry was represented, the Agricultural College representatives were there and some yard men who are engaged in feeding livestock and we discussed the matter for quite a while and we did not reach any conclusion other than if we could decide on some program whereby we could definitely decide about this it was the thing to do, and hence we adjourned to have another conference and this is the conference. I want to leave this with you before I stop discussing

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the subject, that I am very frankly of the opinion that there is nothing for sanitary officers, either Federal or State, but to demonstrate by actual experiment what there is behind these bacterins and serums that are being put out, advertised as being of great consequence as a preventative of these diseases, whatever they might be, and it seems to me that that should be the object of this meeting, to determine upon a program, not a big program but make it a small unit of experiment, commencing maybe on the farm and coming through the yard or commencing in the yard, or whatever we may determine done, but I think that is the only solution we have because I am frank to say to you that I am not sold to the idea that there is very much merit in it the way it is being used. Since we have some representatives in sanitary work here today that have had a good deal to do with these matters I believe I will call on some of these gentlemen to get their viewpoint. Dr. Miller of the Washington office of the Bureau of Animal Industry is here and I know Dr. Miller has had a lot of experience and I would like to hear Dr. Miller's viewpoint upon this particular subject this morning.

DR. MILLER: I think I will start out by drawing a picture of what the Bureau is doing. Some of this work I have personally observed, some of it I have not, and when I stop then we can kind of discuss what further experimental or research work might look as though it would be advantageous.

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My first experience with this disease or these diseases or these conditions, whatever you may want to designate them, dates back, I think, to about 1912. Then along about 1916 I think it was, hemorrhagic septicemia, if that is the proper name, seemed to be quite prevalent throughout a good part of the country. There were many sick animals not only in these yards but practically all of the big markets, and out of one of the markets they figured that the cattle that went into the state in which that market was located, which was a northern market, that more than six percent of them died, that is of all the cattle that went in there. Some individual shipments would have a death loss as high as you mentioned, twenty-five and possibly fifty percent in exceptional cases, but the first work that we did in the stockyards on any scale was in 1923. Then through a cooperative arrangement with the exchanges at a number of the markets we started out on a very comprehensive experiment with the bacterins. I think most of you gentlemen know the different agents, there are the bacterins and then later aggressin and then the serum. Now, this was with the bacterins that we started in 1923. We treated about one hundred fifty thousand cattle that year at the large markets, and as checks to those cattle that we treated we followed up shipments that went out untreated, and obtained records on those as well as the treated animals. There apparently was nothing gained

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through the treatment of this large number of cattle, one hundred fifty thousand, with bacterin. The death loss, in fact, was a little bit higher in the treated cattle than in the untreated cattle.

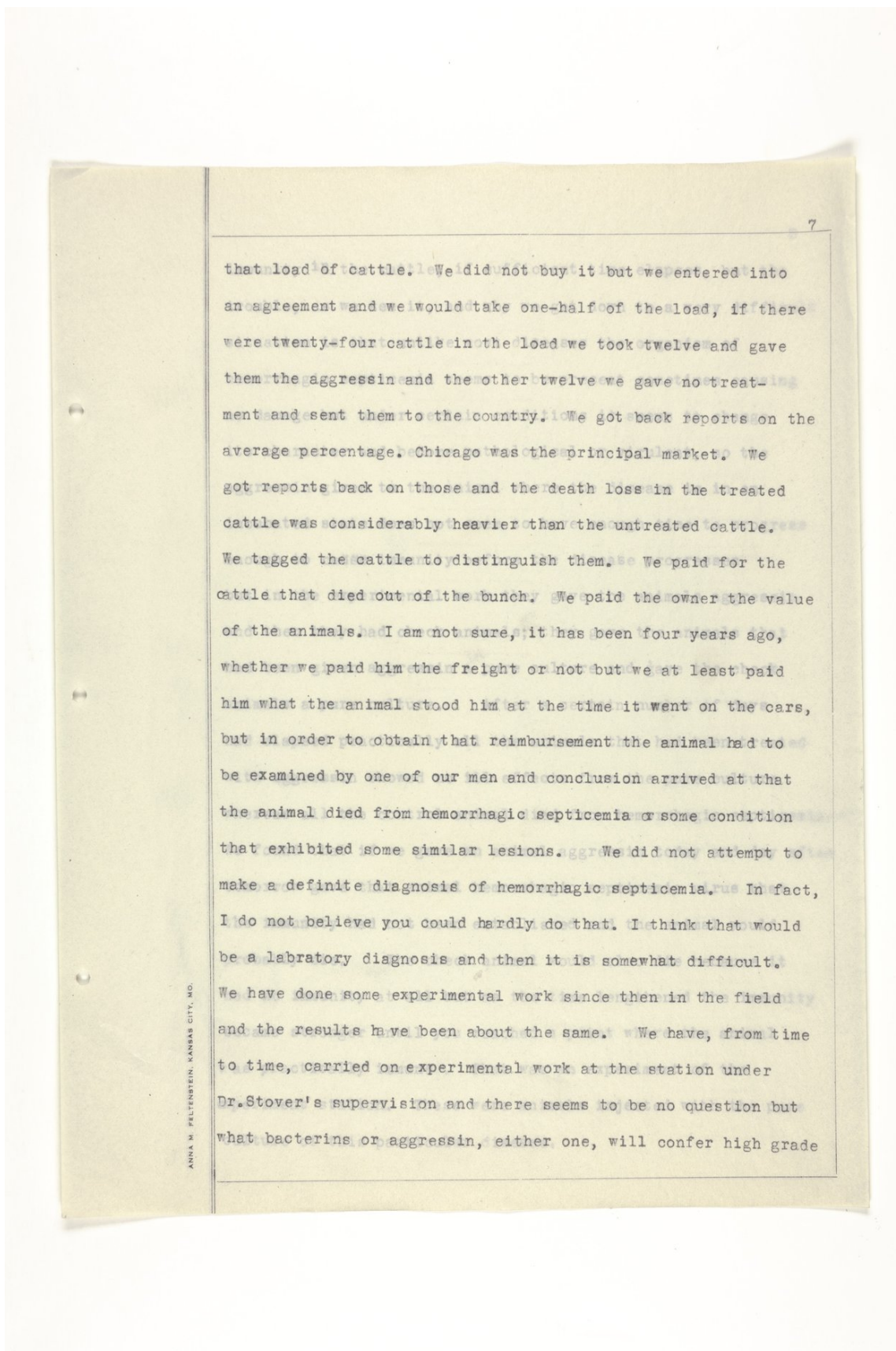
MR. MERCER: As to these untested cattle, were they given about the same scope of territory and the same quality?

DR. MILLER: Yes; we were very careful about that. We tried to trace about the same quality of cattle, consisting of cattle that were fresh, that came in and stayed a short time and went out quickly, cattle that came in and stayed there a good while and then went out; those were the same classes to treat so there would be a comparable basis. The death loss on the whole was not extremely heavy in those cattle. As I recall it it ran about 1.16 percent on the treated. The untreated cattle, the death loss was a little lower. Then the aggressin treatment had just about at that time apparently been perfected and the next year we took up that treatment. In treating the cattle with aggressin we took a carload lot of cattle; we would enter into an agreement with the shipper; we found we had to do that in order to carry on the experiment successfully because the theory was that the aggressin might aggravate the condition if it happened to be given to an animal who was in the incubated state, so we entered into an agreement with the owner of the cattle through the commission firm that in effect we bought

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that load of cattle. We did not buy it but we entered into an agreement and we would take one-half of the load, if there were twenty-four cattle in the load we took twelve and gave them the aggrassin and the other twelve we gave no treatment and sent them to the country. We got back reports on the average percentage. Chicago was the principal market. We got reports back on those and the death loss in the treated cattle was considerably heavier than the untreated cattle. We tagged the cattle to distinguish them. We paid for the cattle that died out of the bunch. We paid the owner the value of the animals. I am not sure, it has been four years ago, whether we paid him the freight or not but we at least paid him what the animal stood him at the time it went on the cars, but in order to obtain that reimbursement the animal had to be examined by one of our men and conclusion arrived at that the animal died from hemorrhagic septicemia or some condition that exhibited some similar lesions. We did not attempt to make a definite diagnosis of hemorrhagic septicemia. In fact, I do not believe you could hardly do that. I think that would be a laboratory diagnosis and then it is somewhat difficult. We have done some experimental work since then in the field and the results have been about the same. We have, from time to time, carried on experimental work at the station under Dr. Stover's supervision and there seems to be no question but what bacterins or aggrassin, either one, will confer high grade

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immunity in the cattle, if sufficient time elapses, but the trouble, as we see it, and why we get down to a very difficult situation is that unlike most diseases the organism of hemorrhagic septicemia seems to be present sometimes causing no damage but under certain conditions it seems to change its character and become pathological or virulent, so the aggressin given to the animal where the disease is in an incubated state does not seem to have enough time to progress enough to cause immunity before the disease progresses but in the experimental work they gave the animals aggressin and then they had check animals; they gave the animals that had been given aggressin a pure culture and gave the check animals a pure culture. After a certain number of days had elapsed practically all the animals that had been treated with aggressin showed no ill effects from the pure culture whereas all the control animal died from hemorrhagic septicemia. We found that if we gave an animal aggressin today and day after tomorrow gave that animal hemorrhagic septicemia virus that the immunity had not been established and the animal would probably die. The check animal would also die because it had no immunity at all but as the time lengthened the immunity became stronger until you reached a point where the animal was practically immune. That was an experiment of the experiment station. These were animals injected with the pure culture of this particular disease.

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DR. GIBSON: Dr. Miller, at the laboratories what time did these experiments indicate was sufficient to produce a safe immunity before exposure?

DR. MILLER: They considered it absolutely safe in seventeen days. That was long, of course, but they did have some cases where in five days they seemed to establish a pretty good grade of immunity. Five days was the shortest that they established any immunity that they considered enough to say that it was of value. I think they say a week or ten days. That is my opinion, as a general rule.

MR. MERCER: Did that experiment show that by immunizing or vaccination that susceptible animal prior to exposure it produced immunity? For instance I am going out here to protect my herd of cattle and calves and I vaccinate them today, they are not exposed. Did your demonstration show that I could immunize against this disease?

DR. MILLER: If you would immunize long enough before the bug began to work.

MR. MERCER: So if I had my calves immunized ten days before they were exposed to this bug then you would consider the vaccination of consequence?

DR. MILLER: Reasonably good, yes, sir.
It is reasonable to suppose that the immunity would last for a long period of time but we are not certain of that; we know it will last several months.

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DR. IMBREE: Doctor, don't you think the immunity holds longer with the aggressin than the bacterin?

DR. MILLER: I think theoretically you could answer that in the affirmative.

MR. WILKINS: What time of year and what grade of cattle did you experiment with?

DR. MILLER: They vary. They try the experiments that will be fair and they take different age animals and different qualities and in different years.

MR. WILKINS: It seems to me we have more trouble here in cold weather than we do in warm weather with the disease.

DR. MILLER: Certainly there is no question about that. We had great difficulty last fall with the cattle that came down from Winnipeg. I know one shipper that took about nine hundred out of Winnipeg and they did not go through any public stockyards and he lost about ninety-five head in the course of thirty days after he got them home.

MR. WILKINS: Is it very difficult to tell the difference between hemorrhagic septicemia and pneumonia?

DR. MILLER: That is a kind of puzzle. There is a pneumonic form of hemorrhagic septicemia. I would say it is practically impossible in the field to tell the difference between hemorrhagic septicemia and perhaps a certain other type of pneumonia. That would be your opinion, Mr. Mercer?

MR. MERCER: Yes, it is my opinion based on the infor-

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mation I have gathered in connection with this, and that is a point you have got to school the profession in, as I take it, and I bring the question up here because we are all here for whatever we can get out of this. As I take it you cannot diagnose a case of hemorrhagic septicemia without a laboratory analysis.

DR. MILLER: I would not want to base my judgment on it.

MR. MERCER: Here is what I have to deal with as a sanitary officer. I have got hundreds of reports in my office from the profession in Kansas that these cattle died with hemorrhagic septicemia, from the local veterinary's examination. If he cannot diagnose the case he is wrong and that is the point I want to get forcibly before you because if these boys cannot determine it I will just say "No, you don't report any of that to me because you don't know what you are talking about until you send it to the laboratory and find out".

DR. MILLER: We find a great many samples sent in to Washington to the laboratory that are supposed to be from animals affected with hemorrhagic septicemia but they are absolutely unable to confirm the diagnosis. On the other hand they get a great many of them that have it, but some of those lesions, microscopically I cannot differentiate between.

MR. MERCER: One of our very brilliant professional men made the statement that he was taught in school to believe

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that they could diagnose hemorrhagic septicemia and if he was not properly taught he admits he is wrong, if it is not possible for him to determine hemorrhagic septicemia by visible lesions. I take it from statements that I have heard that you cannot accurately diagnose a case of hemorrhagic septicemia by a post mortem examination.

DR. MILLER: Not in all instances. You can make a diagnosis of hemorrhagic septicemia and then you can submit a sample to the laboratory and they may tell you you are wrong about it. I don't think it is safe to rely on a field diagnosis.

MR. MERCER: I would like to have your opinion and recommendation as to how we might proceed further, if at all, to determine a system under which we might correct this.

DR. MILLER: I would like to complete my other statement. Serum is supposed to be curative, not so much preventative, and we had what we considered a very excellent demonstration of the possible value of serum in the experiment in 1923. Our boys systematically combed the yards for animals that were sick, and while they did not select an animal that they figured would not live more than thirty minutes or an hour, they picked out a lot of very sick animals and in varying degrees, up to an animal that was just droopy and had a high temperature and the yard company furnished us hospital space, the traders largely donated the cattle for the experimental

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work and they took those out to the hospital and treated half of them and let the other half go without treatment. We found that apparently serum did have a great deal of value. The percentage of recoveries were far greater in the treated animals than in the ones we did not treat, but serum you have got to give in large doses. Serum is quite expensive and if it was used as a preventative proposition, when you use it that way you would use it on the theory that you would get results, where you would not get it with the bacterins, on account of sufficient time elapsing to confer immunity, and it would be quite expensive. In fact I made the statement this morning and I will repeat it now that I believe if you treated all cattle that went out of public stockyards for feeder and stocker purposes with serum it would cost the live stock men more money than it would to let the animals go out without any treatment at all and let those die that might be affected.

MR. MERCER: I rather think that way myself. Just one question about your experiment. You put the non-vaccinated animals right into the pen with the others?

DR. MILLER: No; they were put in separate pens but handled in the same manner and they were in a great big string of sheds under exactly the same condition.

MR. AKINS: What would be the cost of vaccinating a sick animal with this serum?

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DR. IMBREE: I think a dose of serum, not including the administration, would run around thirty cents. That would be twenty-five to thirty cubic centimeters.

DR. MILLER: We gave some of them as high as fifty centimeters.

DR. IMBREE: I am basing it on an animal that is not sick. If you are going to give it to a sick animal you would give probably a double dose.

MR. AKINS: Would one dose be sufficient?

DR. IMBREE: No.

MR. AKINS: Then the cost would be about fifty or sixty cents.

DR. IMBREE: I would not want to say. I saw a quotation the other day from one of the market where the veterinaries have a price list. The price on bacterin there varied from 1.8 to three cents a cubic centimeter but there was no price given on serum at all.

DR. MILLER: We made all our own serums. All these experiments were conducted with aggressin, bacterin and serum that we made down at our station.

DR. IMLER: The price of serum now would not be any criterion to go by if it was used generally, because there is very little hemorrhagic septicemia serum used now. Consequently there is very little produced and that adds to the cost of it.

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MR. MERCER: It seems to me that there was some serum treatment applied to a bunch of cattle in Leavenworth County and they charged \$1.00 or \$1.10 a head for the treatment.

MR. IMLER: I imagine the cost at the present time would compare very favorably with the cost of immunizing hogs.

DR. GIBSON: I would like to ask Dr. Miller if the Government laboratories make any statement as to the length of time of immunity produced by the serum.

DR. MILLER: They have not conducted experiments and carried the test animals over a long enough period so as to be able to make any definite statement with anyone of the three. The immunity seems to last for a good long period of time, at least long enough to go through the feeding.

DR. GIBSON: I recall a statement by Dr. Icorn in a discussion of this subject where they had failed to inoculate aggressin treated cattle for as long a period as fourteen or fifteen months; that is the immunity produced by the aggressin of the buffalo strain but I do not know what term of immunity they are willing to credit to serum.

DR. MILLER: I never heard any definite statement. Theoretically it should be shorter.

DR. GIBSON: In addition to that, isn't it very often thought wise, after using serum, when you feel you must use it to prevent immediate losses, to later give aggressin treatment?

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DR. MILLER: It has always looked to me this way, that if you give an animal serum and get them home and they start on feed in good condition that there should be no necessity of giving further treatment.

MR. MERCER: What suggestions have you to make of anything we can continue to do that you would be willing for the Department to take part in?

DR. MILLER: We have reached the conclusion that under stockyards conditions we are not willing to recommend the general use of the bacterins or aggressins but we do feel generally speaking that this disease or these diseases or these conditions manifest themselves generally owing to the fact that the animal vitality has become low and that is the method of attack that we have been trying to follow. In our program would be sanitation, that is, we would try to keep the yards as clean as it is possible to do under stockyards conditions. We not only do that but I think you know we go back to the feeding places and have them cleaned and disinfected each year before the heavy runstarts, and in addition we feel that much could be accomplished by a better method of feeding and watering animals from the time they leave the home farm or ranch all the way along until they get to their destinations, and we have had that up with the Livestock Exchanges since the meeting at Chicago. We took that up at that time to see if something could not be done along that line. Some markets

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are doing a good deal along that line; others have not given it so much support. This national system of feeding them water from the time they leave their home ranches until they reach their destinations, I am not blaming that on the stockyards. The trouble is due to the animal's vitality becoming lower largely, and here is an organism that apparently is present in the system; the animal may have the organism in his system and look just as slick and clean and not show any symptoms of disease but if something happens to the animal where the animal becomes weakened and that organism changes over to the virulent type, then you have your trouble.

DR. IMBREE: Doesn't the shipper demand the way the cattle are fed?

MR. AKINS: We are all human and these shippers who are bringing the cattle to market naturally want to get the most fill and the best weight they can. They take that way of getting it, filling them, and of course it certainly is a detriment to the health of the animal.

MR. MERCER: There is a way to get at that, and that is to discuss it and decide.

MR. AKINS: I wonder if it would not be a fine idea if these farmers and stock men would vaccinate their cattle on the farm before they left home?

MR. MERCER: It would be but that is just as remote a possibility as for me to jump out that window right now.

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You cannot get them to do it. You can get the large ranchman to do it but the man with the few heads that sells to his neighbor or puts in his cooperative shipment to send to market, it just could not be done except by an order and quarantine and put men out and make them do it. It would not be properly done because ninety percent of them would not know what the requirements were.

The question in my mind is this, if this bacterin has got any merit I want to be in a position to endorse it to be used. If it is not I am going to say "You are fooling away your time and money if you use it".

MR. WILKINS: I believe if it is properly administered it is a good thing.

MR. MERCER: We have some pretty large ranchmen out in Kansas that buy large strings of calves in the south; they are sold to the idea of this particular treatment, hemorrhagic bacterin treatment. They move them to their pastures and winter them and raise them and some of them come to market here and some go on to feed lots elsewhere. They have kept a record in a way on their cattle, especially those that have gone on from their feeding ranches and the feed lots in Iowa and Illinois and Kansas and Missouri. They claim that there is very seldom any loss. Of course if they bring them to the markets they don't keep a record of them unless they are sold in one bunch and go to the same feed lots, but if they are

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sold to speculators they lose their identity. They are sold to that idea. The question is would it just happen the same if they did not do it. That is the question in my mind and that is why I want to get into it.

DR. MILLER: You raised the question that we have been considering and we think we are going to do something along that line, and that is to go to the country this fall and treat feeder cattle that are going to be shipped long distances. The majority of the loss seems to be in those animals that move to more than one point, and we hope to go out there and treat the animals in two lots; move one lot not through any large market and move the other lot through large markets altogether and see if there is any difference in the loss. My personal opinion is that it does not make much difference; that if the animals undergo the same degree of hardship you will probably have the same amount of trouble, regardless of whether they unload in large public stockyards or if they do not, but we are already planning for that experimental work.

MR. MERCER: I know the condition exists about people holding cattle for not only one day out here at these feed yards, but they do it back home, too, and there is some way to get at it. If we can't get at it here we can by legislation, that cattle cannot be handled that way. It is not natural to handle a brute that way, so we can reach them maybe in that direction. It does not make so much difference

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as to disease in slaughter cattle because there is no disease developed before they are slaughtered. I do not believe that cattle are handled as naturally on the yards as they might be, I mean by that fed as naturally. We might have some little different kinds or methods of feeding. I have no suggestions to make as to what it should be, but we bring cattle in, for instance, off the nutritious green grass and we bring him in here and he is bought and put into the pens and he is fed maybe dry hay entirely; that is an absolutely unnatural change and it may be we could arrange some other system of feeding and that is one of the things to think about.

MR. WILKINS: I would like to say that the custom of the traders here in the stockyards is that they water their cattle, turn water on them in the morning, in cold weather at nine o'clock in the morning and in warm weather at eight o'clock in the morning and usually take the water off them about three o'clock in the afternoon, every day in the week.

MR. AKINS: You were speaking about dry feed. All traders nowadays use more or less alfalfa and I think that would eliminate the dry feed danger.

MR. COLLETT: Dr. Miller spoke of making tests, shipping from the country to a common point and to the stockyards market. Are you going to follow those cattle, Dr. Miller, so as to see what kind of treatment they get at the stockyards in order to avoid what Mr. Wilkins has said?

DR. MILLER: We hope to have a man follow each load

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from the time they load until they get to destination. The destination is not going to be a public stockyards. It is going to be way back in Indiana and Ohio. They are going to move long distances, from New Mexico and Texas back to Indiana and Ohio.

MR. COLLETT: Those that come from the stockyards might be stopped out here at some place where they would have very unnatural treatment.

DR. MILLER: We expect to follow the cattle through and know just how they are fed and watered.

MR. COLLETT: Those that go to New Mexico will have to be stopped once or twice or three times in transit and fed in the railroad yards where Government sanitation jurisdiction does not exist and does not extend.

DR. MILLER: I would not say that, Mr. Collett. I am standing up for the railroads right now. They have done everything we asked them to do and I am satisfied they will do anything in connection with these shipments.

MR. WILKINS: From your observation don't you feel that public stockyards are a more sanitary and better place to keep cattle when they are in transit than the feed yard in the country?

DR. MILLER: We are cleaning and disinfecting all these feed and watering stations this year, that is where there are any signs.

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DR. IMBREE: Any place that you would start to feed and accumulate these cattle you would get the same condition as you would in any large stockyards because you would have cattle from all over the country landing there.

MR. MERCER: Yes. You might have cattle that were diseased and those that were not diseased but that is the question.

DR. MILLER: I want to say that the treatment we did in this experimental work in the public stockyards was not carried along on the lines you have indicated. We used sanitary precautions and know they have got the requisite dose and that the animals are carefully handled and it was not a case of bad effect; it was a case of lack of effect; that is all it was.

MR. WILKINS: What effect would it have on a load of cattle where some of them were vaccinated and some were not?

MR. MERCER: It would not have any, as far as good results are concerned, because if you inject this one and let this one go you are not doing a service that you are getting paid for. We have two men doing that work and our men are instructed to do it in accordance with what their profession teaches them to do. They are veterinarians, skilled and trained, but if they go out and do something of that kind I want to know it.

MR. SMITH: Are all the cattle going into Kansas vaccinated by the Kansas men?

MR. MERCER: No.

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MR. SMITH: How many vaccinating companies and institutions do they have?

MR. MERCER: I don't know. I know we do not require any certificates of vaccination on the use of black leg or bacterin. We have no records of that. We do not keep a record of it. We have no record of that. The same thing would apply to hemorrhagic septicemia; if anybody would go down and vaccinate the hemorrhagic bacterin it is just a voluntary act on his part of wanting it done and there is no record made in our office either here or there excepting the number of cattle that are vaccinated. They would go just as free without that vaccination as they would with it. There is no restriction on it but these men that are stationed here to do certain sanitary work, so far as we are concerned, they should do it and if they do and they charge their service and are not doing it right they cannot stay here and do it for Kansas.

MR. WILKINS: Can a man go out through a pen of cattle and jab each one in the hip and do a satisfactory job?

DR. MILLER: I would not think it would be satisfactory.

MR. WILKINS: I know that some of that is done here in these stockyards and I imagine it is in other stockyards as well. I am very much interested in this thing because there seems to be a tendency to work to the country instead of to the stockyards and I think it is the wrong attitude.

MR. MERCER: I do not think you can charge anything of

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that kind so far as Kansas is concerned. The stockyards are more interested in this than I am because you have got some very big problems to deal with at the stockyards and I am trying to help you correct the condition that would be of benefit to your stockyards here. We want to eliminate anything of the kind that we are holding up anything against the stockyards or the trader but we are not but there are many things that could be said either way, so we will just decide that.

There is a condition, and you know it and I know it and if we can correct it we are all glad to do it and that is why I am getting in on this. I am frank to say to you that if it is demonstrated to me that this hemorrhagic bacterin and aggressin and serum is of no consequence men that represent the state of Kansas cannot use it on these yards and I am going to find out for my own satisfaction regardless of what they might do. I cannot say what other people can do but they can not. So we want to find out for sure, if we can say to these men "Yes, by treating your cattle with a certain remedy or a certain serum, that it has meritorious benefits and a certain percentage at least of safety" then we will be glad to do it but right now I am of the opinion you might just as well inject so much water into the cattle. I want my opinion changed.

DR. MILLER: That is, you mean if you do it out here in the yards?

MR. MERCER: The way it is being done.

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DR. IMBREE: You might supplement that by saying if it is done any place after the animals are subjected to the transportation reduction of resisting power, not necessarily in the yards but any place.

DR. MILLER: Yes.

MR. WILKINS: I would have to disagree with you. We have it under observation right out at our alley at different times and when we get a bunch of cattle that looks like it has a sick steer developing we cut him out and vaccinate him and our experience has been very favorable, and we keep him here until he gets well.

DR. IMBREE: I am speaking of cattle that are in transportation that are going on to a farm some place, are going to be transported further, after the animal had his resistance power reduced by having been shipped and handled in the manner we have talked about and then have the aggrassin or bacterin, and then give him further transportation.

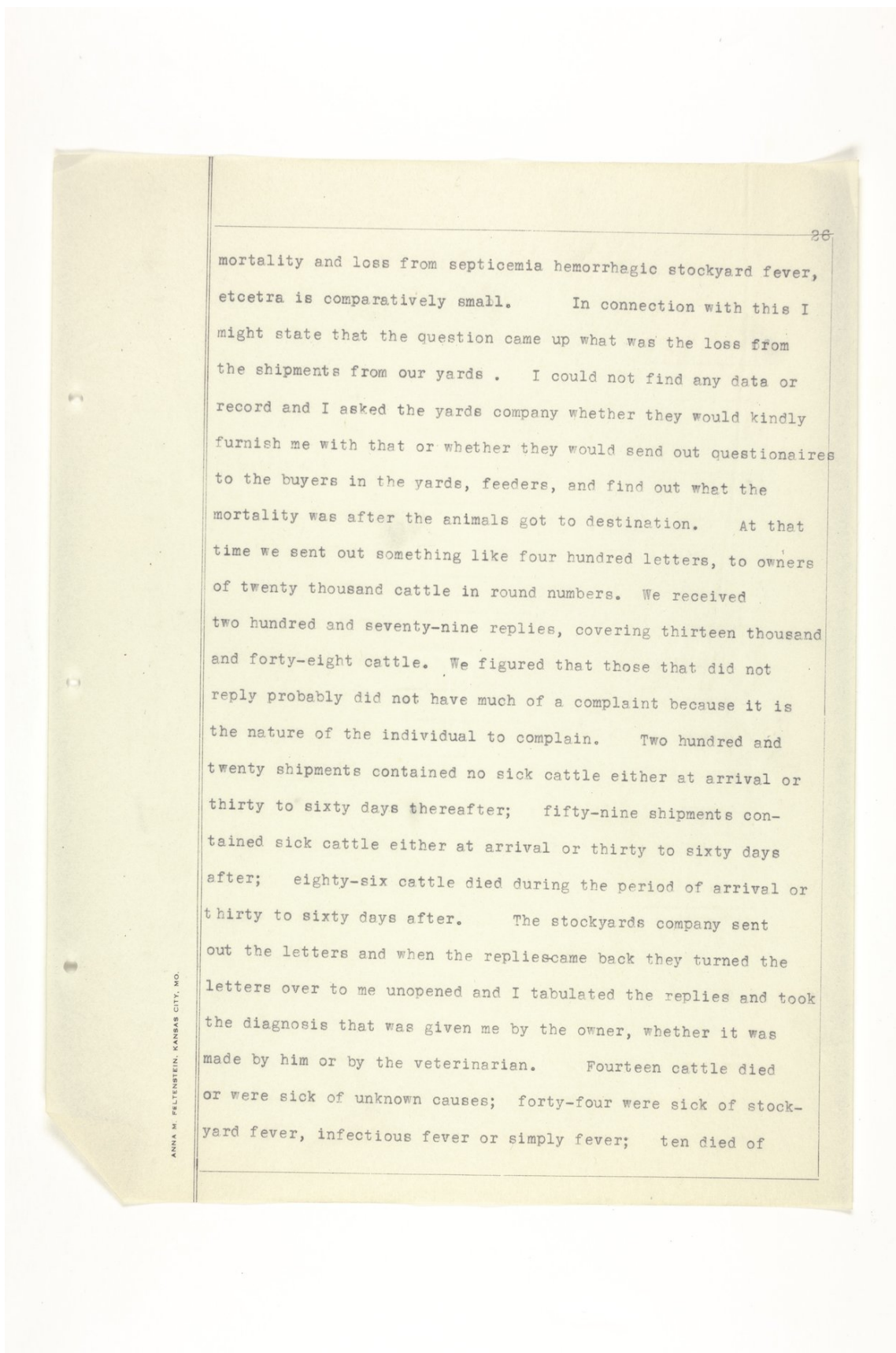
MR. MERCER: I would like to hear from Dr. Stockler. I think, Doctor, you wrote me and told me that there was a segregated feeding yard in St. Joseph, and that you have some data.

DR. STOCKLER: I said at the time, for your information cattle are fed in lots adjacent to the stockyards and in some instances in a portion of the yards proper rented for this purpose. All such cattle are treated with septicemia hemorrhagic aggrassin or bacterin and from investigation I find that the

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mortality and loss from septicemia hemorrhagic stockyard fever, etcetra is comparatively small. In connection with this I might state that the question came up what was the loss from the shipments from our yards. I could not find any data or record and I asked the yards company whether they would kindly furnish me with that or whether they would send out questionnaires to the buyers in the yards, feeders, and find out what the mortality was after the animals got to destination. At that time we sent out something like four hundred letters, to owners of twenty thousand cattle in round numbers. We received two hundred and seventy-nine replies, covering thirteen thousand and forty-eight cattle. We figured that those that did not reply probably did not have much of a complaint because it is the nature of the individual to complain. Two hundred and twenty shipments contained no sick cattle either at arrival or thirty to sixty days thereafter; fifty-nine shipments contained sick cattle either at arrival or thirty to sixty days after; eighty-six cattle died during the period of arrival or thirty to sixty days after. The stockyards company sent out the letters and when the replies came back they turned the letters over to me unopened and I tabulated the replies and took the diagnosis that was given me by the owner, whether it was made by him or by the veterinarian. Fourteen cattle died or were sick of unknown causes; forty-four were sick of stockyard fever, infectious fever or simply fever; ten died of