

Although black-leg has caused many deaths of calves, the disease can be prevented by vaccination. As the disease is an acute infectious one,



PREVENTION OF BLACK-LEG IN CALVES



each case must be reported so that control measures may be taken, and it is essential that each carcass should either be burned or deeply buried.

BLACK-LEG, a microbic disease of calves, is known under several names, such as quarter-evil, quarter-ill, black-leg, black-quarter, etc.

Black-leg is caused by the entrance of a special microbe or germ into the system through scratches or abrasions of the skin or through the food. The germ forms spores, which are very resistant, and may live in the soil for several years, which accounts for the disease appearing again after a lapse of years on some farms. In New Zealand the disease is scheduled under the Stock Act, and each case must be reported to the local Stock Inspector of the Department of Agriculture so that adequate steps may be taken to

ported, so that the exact cause of death may be ascertained.

By the
LIVESTOCK DIVISION

carry out the necessary control measures.

The disease mainly attacks young cattle up to two years of age, but occasionally sheep or older cattle may be affected. Young calves in good condition are the most common victims, and where dairy farmers raise a number of calves annually it is important that any sudden deaths should be re-

Symptoms

The most notable symptom is the development of a characteristic swelling underneath the skin of one or more quarters, in which case the affected calf will be very lame. The swelling may appear on the neck, shoulder, breast, loin, or rump. The animal is dull, loses appetite, and becomes very feverish. The swelling becomes tense, and when the hand is passed over it a peculiar crackling noise is heard, due to the presence of gas. When cut into, the affected area exudes bad-smelling fluid of a frothy

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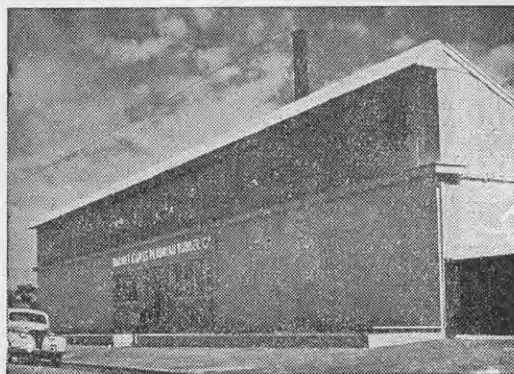
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