

were located. Quarantine restrictions were immediately imposed controlling the movement of pigs, and the risk of spread was thus minimised.

The pig farms on which the disease occurred were all of the same type—viz., pig farms on which pork was produced for sale to Wellington butchers. In every instance the pigs were garbage fed, the garbage being collected from hotels, etc., in Wellington. It thus became evident from the start that garbage feeding was the means by which the infection was spread, as interchange of garbage tins from farm to farm was common. The closest inquiry failed to decide the manner in which the infection reached Wellington. The inference is very strong, however, that the virus was introduced in garbage from an overseas ship. Although it was not possible to prove the point, a strong suspicion exists that garbage from an overseas ship had in some way reached a piggery, thus conveying the virus infection in meat scraps. This remains the only feasible explanation, in spite of the fact that the removal of garbage from overseas vessels has been prohibited by regulation for some years.

The existence of the disease at Johnsonville was confirmed on May 12, and from then to July 7, when the final slaughtering took place on a farm in the Lower Hutt area, 13 pig farms were discovered to be infected. All affected and in-contact pigs, totalling 1,920, were slaughtered, and buried in deep trenches. All piggeries were demolished and destroyed by burning, compensation being paid on stock and buildings according to valuation.

The cases met with in Lower Hutt in July proved to be the last, as, although careful inspection was still maintained in the quarantined areas (Hutt and Makara Counties), no further evidence of swine fever was discovered. The first restocking with pigs took place in January of this year, and by the end of March five of the previously-affected pig farms had resumed operations. Regular inspections of those premises have been maintained, and it is satisfactory to record that all pigs introduced have remained healthy. The outbreak was successfully stamped out in a short period, thus removing the existence of a disease which, had it persisted, would prove a menace to the pig-breeding industry.

The longevity of swine fever virus in the animal tissues has long since emphasised the danger of garbage feeding to pigs, and it is now realised

in countries in which the disease is endemic that garbage feeding is undoubtedly the means of perpetuation. Realising this danger, Canada some years ago introduced very stringent measures relating to garbage feeding. An experiment carried out in the United States of America in 1917 showed that in places where meat inspection was maintained it was impossible, even with the severest interpretation of temperatures, symptoms, and lesions, to remove from market all carcasses of hogs that contain hog-cholera virus. In an examination of 21 cured hams from infected no-lesion hogs virus was found in 12. The vitality of the virus persists for three months in pork and bacon and possibly much longer under certain conditions. The danger of meat scraps being brought ashore as garbage from overseas ships is very obvious. In 1930 regulations were brought down under the Stock Act prohibiting the landing of garbage from ships, and these have been enforced with as much thoroughness as possible. In 1934 entry of all meats (except cooked meats) into the Dominion was prohibited, a measure which resulted from the discovery that cured bacon and ham from England were actually on sale in Wellington. Needless to say the war years brought serious difficulties, and the dread that American pork or bacon would be brought in was ever present. In this respect we were more fortunate than Australia, which country experienced a costly outbreak of swine fever in 1942, originating in Western Australia and extending to New South Wales.

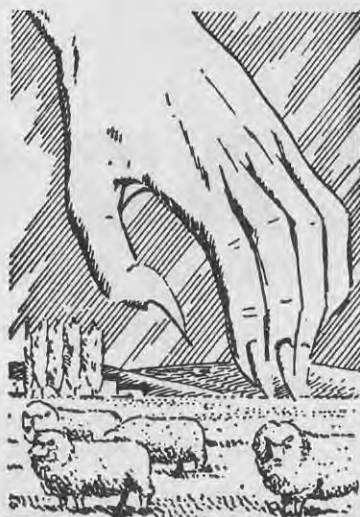
The internal control of garbage feeding in the Dominion was strengthened in 1943 by the introduction of regulations which make it compulsory on all pig-feeders to possess a licence from the Department of Agriculture to feed garbage to pigs, the main conditions of the licence involving the cooking of garbage prior to feeding.

### Rinderpest

One of the most ancient cattle plagues, rinderpest, another virus infection and fortunately now confined to certain localities in Europe and Asia, was introduced into Western Australia at the end of 1923. A ship in port at Perth, from India, was believed to have had live animals on board as ship's stores, from which the infection was in some way carried ashore. Prompt recognition of the disease, with adoption of drastic measures by the veterinary authorities, resulted in eradication, and is another instance of a debt due to the value of veterinary control. During a visit to the Dutch East Indies in 1937 the writer observed the activities of the veterinary authorities there in coping with the introduction of rinderpest from Malay, in which country it is endemic. The disease had occurred in Java, but owing to adoption of vigorous methods had been eliminated, and the Dutch Islands kept free of it for some 10 years.

### Rabies

Another anxiety of the war years has been rabies, which has never been seen in Australasia, which must be



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