

LIVESTOCK IN POST-WAR EUROPE: RESTORATION OF HERDS

Immediately after the war there is likely to be a dearth of meat throughout Europe, and because of this the Technical Advisory Committee on Agriculture, at a meeting in London, has discussed plans whereby excessive slaughter of cattle needed for breeding might be avoided.

The Committee is made up of official agricultural experts representing the Allied Governments in London and the Governments of the United States, Great Britain, and the Dominions. It is under the Chairmanship of Sir John Russell, director of the Rothamsted Experimental Station.

If livestock herds in Europe are to be reconstituted as soon as possible, uncontrolled slaughter is undesirable, and the Committee recommends certain measures which it is hoped will tend to ease the situation. Among these are: the conservation of breeding stock; the importation of supplies of meat in chilled, frozen, dehydrated or canned form in sufficiently abundant quantities to bring the price to a level which would discourage excessive slaughter; the control of prices to the National authorities concerned and to the producer, distributor and consumer, and the provision where necessary of financial assistance; and the planned distribution of adequate supplies of feeding stuffs at reasonable prices.

The success of such measures will, of course, depend upon the willing and intelligent co-operation of farmers in the countries concerned.

It was revealed at the meeting that there is little likelihood of being able to recover livestock which the Germans have "requisitioned" from occupied countries. Foot and mouth as well as other diseases are so prevalent in Germany, in spite of the fact that the Germans have cared for the interests of their own agriculture before that of any other country, that the movement of livestock back to rightful owners might be attended by grave dangers.

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