

# TARIFF ON LIVE STOCK AND MEATS

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## A STATEMENT

BY LIVE STOCK, CATTLE RAISERS, AND  
OTHER ASSOCIATIONS SETTING FORTH  
THE REASONS FOR AN AMENDMENT TO  
THE PENDING TARIFF BILL IN RELATION  
TO THE MEAT-INSPECTION LAWS



PRESENTED BY MR. SHEPPARD

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## TARIFF ON LIVE STOCK AND MEATS, SCHEDULE G.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 12, 1913.

HON. JOHN SHARP WILLIAMS,  
*Chairman Subcommittee of the Finance Committee,  
United States Senate.*

MY DEAR SENATOR: Following the directions of your honorable committee, made at the close of the hearings before your committee on the subject of the tariff on live stock and meats, held at your office on Friday, May 9, at which hearing Mr. Ike T. Pryor, of San Antonio, Tex., vice president of the Cattle Raisers' Association of Texas; Mr. J. H. Nations, of El Paso, Tex., member of the executive committee of the American National Live Stock Association; Dr. S. W. McClure, of Salt Lake City, secretary of the National Wool Growers' Association; Mr. L. F. Wilson, of Kansas City, member of the executive committee of the American National Live Stock Association; Mr. J. H. Moyle, of Salt Lake City, representing the Utah Live Stock Organization; and Mr. S. H. Cowan, of Fort Worth, Tex., attorney for the American National Live Stock Association and the Cattle Raisers' Association of Texas, made their representations to your committee in opposition to placing meats on the free list, and at which hearing your committee requested us to prepare and submit an amendment for your consideration with the view, as we understand, of your subcommittee presenting the same to the Finance Committee, to make applicable the meat-inspection laws of the United States to imported meats, we beg to submit the following:

By the act approved June 30, 1906 (34 Stat., 674), entitled "An act making appropriations for the Department of Agriculture for the fiscal year ending June thirtieth, nineteen hundred and seven," commonly known as the meat-inspection law, a complete system of inspection of all establishments engaged in interstate commerce in meats and meat-food products, and in the slaughter of animals entering into those products and interstate commerce, was established. Previous to that time the Agricultural Department had maintained inspection of meats and meat-food products at some of the principal points of slaughter for the purpose of satisfying foreign trade and protecting the commerce of this country against the exportation of unsound and unhealthful meats, but there was no system of the inspection of the animals, the premises, or the products entering into interstate commerce. On account of disclosures of a somewhat sensational character appearing in magazines and newspapers, public attention was directed to the necessity of securing to the public, as consumers, a careful scrutiny by the Government of all meat-food products entering into interstate commerce. Several States and cities had, themselves, provided inspection regulations pertaining to

these products entering the local trade, but no general and uniform system was in existence. The act above referred to established, therefore, for the first time complete Federal supervision of the establishments, and the animals slaughtered at those establishments, as well as the products put out by such establishments, so that all meat-food products going to the consumer and entering interstate and foreign commerce were subject to such supervision.

It was stated before your committee by Dr. McClure, an experienced veterinarian employed for a number of years in the service of the Government in the administration of this law, that no country in the world maintains the high and perfect standard of inspection of animals, premises, and meat-food products which is maintained by the United States under the direct supervision of the Bureau of Animal Industry under the law mentioned and the regulations of the Department of Agriculture provided for its administration.

It is well to state for your information that before the regulations were adopted by the Secretary of Agriculture there was called together a board of the most renowned and impartial pathologists in the United States, and it may be safely asserted that the regulations of the Department under this law are considered the standard by all veterinarians, pathologists, and the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service.

The results of the administration of this law under the regulations mentioned is that the highest standard of meat-food products required to be stamped "Inspected and passed," which, in practice, is "U. S. inspected and passed," obtains in all interstate meat-food products; and that all carcasses and parts of carcasses which are "unsound, unhealthful, unwholesome, or otherwise unfit for human food" are excluded and must be stamped "Inspected and condemned." No establishment, except such as is under the direct personal supervision of the inspectors of the Government from hoof to the final package, is permitted to engage in the business of interstate commerce in animal meat-food products. It results, therefore, that the producer of live stock, the product of which is "unsound, unhealthful, unwholesome, or otherwise unfit for human food," must lose such animals at the market place and can not procure the product to be sold for food.

The Government makes an appropriation to carry out in detail this inspection system to protect the public, which appropriation for the present fiscal year amounted to \$3,200,000.

There is attached hereto, for your information, a copy of the regulations of the Department of Agriculture, providing for inspection and for the administration of the law, and containing a copy of the act referred to.

We beg to call your attention to the result of this inspection and the administration of the law, as shown by the Annual Report of the Bureau of Animal Industry for 1912, by Dr. A. D. Melvin, chief of the bureau, a copy of which report is submitted herewith.

As you will observe (p. 7), 2,410 employees of the Government were engaged in meat inspection alone on July 1, 1912, and the inspection was carried on at 940 establishments in 259 cities and towns (p. 8), at which were inspected 59,014,019 animals, and condemned on post-mortem 203,778 entire carcasses and 463,859 parts

of carcasses; total, 667,637 carcasses wholly or in part (p. 8). So complete are the provisions of this law that the inspection required is not limited to the time and place of slaughter nor to the original point of production, but may be made from time to time subsequent to the original inspection, at the discretion of the department. Hence, as is shown in the report mentioned, in addition to the carcasses and parts of carcasses condemned at the establishments of original slaughter there were condemned on reinspection 18,096,857 pounds of meats and meat-food products.

It is safe to say that the expenditure and work of the Government is more than justified, in that it secures to the public sound, healthful, and wholesome meat and meat-food products, and that the direct tendency is to eliminate disease among live stock, because the producer can not possibly profit by the production of unsound animals, but must suffer a loss therefrom. We think we can safely assert that no such precautions are taken in any other country of the world, not excepting Germany or England. Canada, with no inspection up to very recent years, has seen fit to adopt our system and is now undertaking to put it into effect. No such system exists in South America, Central America, Mexico, Australia, New Zealand, China, or any other country having a surplus of meat that could be imported into this country.

The law and regulations of the department are universally commended in this country, and all establishments of any consequence desiring to enter into the trade of intrastate commerce prefer Government inspection in order to insure the public at home of the high standard of their products.

The question which we submit to your committee is, Shall we invite foreign countries not maintaining such inspection, and as to whose products there is no assurance that it is sound, healthful, and fit for human food, to bring their product here and sell it by paying a tariff or by having it come in duty free? The proposition which we present in answer to this query is, that as a condition precedent to entering our trade with foreign meat products brought here, either by our own packers or those not otherwise engaged in the business here, the Department of Agriculture must be satisfied that at least as high a standard of inspection of animals, premises, and product, up to the time it lands in this country and after it enters the trade here, shall be maintained, as is maintained in this country; that is to say, that if they enter into competition with the product of the American farms and ranges they must do so upon not better terms than could be done under the law and regulations above referred to.

We furthermore submit, for the consideration of the committee, as was indicated at the hearing, that there is very grave danger that in the importation of fresh meats from countries where foot-and-mouth disease and other diseases among live stock are prevalent, those diseases will be spread to the live stock in this country. As an example of this, we point to the fact that once the foot-and-mouth disease should become prevalent in the United States it would practically destroy the cattle raising business here, as it could never be eliminated once it found a foothold on the western ranges. In proof of this we suggest, if the committee desire to inquire, that it call upon

the Bureau of Animal Industry and the Marine Hospital Service to show that the last outbreak of the foot-and-mouth disease in the Atlantic Coast States was traced directly to vaccine points brought here for the purpose of producing vaccine for smallpox, and that the outbreak of the disease was only stopped by the timely action of the Government in buying, killing, and burying all the cattle, hogs, dogs, and other animals on the premises affected. In fact so virulent is the disease, and so dangerous and contagious, that the department is even afraid to experiment with it with the view to discovering a preventive. Therefore the importations of meats and meat-food products, whether with or without a tariff, should be subjected to as strict regulations as exist and are applied in their movement between the States.

In order to make applicable the law and to enable the Department of Agriculture to make applicable the regulations and to provide such other regulations as may be necessary, we submit herewith a draft of the amendment which your committee requested us to present.

Some explanation is probably necessary in order that the proposed amendment may be clearly understood. It will be observed by an examination of the law that its main purpose is to give the Department of Agriculture the power, without conferring on the department legislative authority, to make administrative rulings putting into effect the details. Without going into an analysis or brief on the legality of the proposition, we can safely assert that under this law the department has power to make the regulations which are shown in the attached copy, and that by making applicable this law to imported meats the power will exist to make such regulations as may be necessary. But as the law itself does not apply to imported meats or animals, we have used language in the amendment to make it applicable without reenacting the terms of the law itself, so that the regulations may be lawfully made, and that importers, as a condition precedent to engaging in the trade, must comply with the regulations of the Department of Agriculture, although that department would not have the power to enforce these regulations in a foreign country. No safe method could possibly be inaugurated that depended upon the mere certificate of foreign governments or officials; hence the amendment authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to send its agents to points of production, and if free access to premises and operations is not accorded to such agents, such establishments will be prohibited from importing meats here.

In this connection your attention is respectfully invited to the fact that England, Germany, Japan, and probably other nations, when making contracts for large quantities of supplies of meats or meat-food products from our packing houses, send their agents to inspect the plants and their production.

The action outlined in the proposed amendment is not without precedent, as it is now the practice of the Government, under acts of Congress and the powers conferred upon the Secretary of Agriculture, to make inspections of vegetables, nursery stocks, seeds, and

other importations, with the view to protecting this country against the transmission of injurious fungi and vegetable diseases.

Respectfully submitted.

American National Live Stock Association, T. W. Tomlinson, secretary, Denver, Colo.; S. H. Cowan, attorney, Fort Worth, Tex.; members of executive committee: J. H. Nations, El Paso, Tex.; L. F. Wilson, Kansas City, Mo.; John MacBain, Trinidad, Colo. Cattle Raisers' Association of Texas, Ike T. Pryor, vice president, San Antonio, Tex.; Ed C. Lasater, vice president, Falfurrias, Tex.; S. H. Cowan, attorney, Fort Worth, Tex. National Wool Growers' Association, S. W. McClure, secretary, Salt Lake City, Utah; T. C. Dover. J. H. Moyle, Salt Lake City, representing Utah Stock Raisers. Cotton Seed Crushers Association of Texas, J. J. Culbertson, Paris, Tex., member of executive committee.

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PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO FREE LIST.

To be inserted after the word "meats" or at the end of the free-list paragraph pertaining to meats:

*Provided*, That meat and meat-food products brought to the United States must have been prepared at points of production under laws, rules, and regulations which would make the same healthful, wholesome, and fit for human food, substantially as is provided for by the meat-inspection laws of the United States applicable to meat-food products and animals entering interstate commerce, as provided for by the act of June thirtieth, nineteen hundred and six, and the regulations of the Department of Agriculture thereunder; and that until the Secretary of Agriculture shall be satisfied that animals, meat, meat-food products, and premises where produced or handled, shall have been subjected to inspection equivalent to that provided in said act, and that the same is sound, healthful, and fit for human food, the same shall not be permitted to be imported into this country, and the establishments where the same is produced, as a condition preceded to their products being imported into this country, shall submit to such inspection as the Department of Agriculture shall see fit to make, through its agents or otherwise; and that meats and meat-food products imported into the United States shall be admitted only at regular ports of entry designated by the Secretary of Agriculture into establishments under the supervision of the Secretary of Agriculture and subject to the provisions of the act above mentioned and to the inspection of the Department of Agriculture, in the same manner as are the products of slaughtering and meat-packing establishments in the United States slaughtering and packing meats for interstate trade.

