

CITATION: Editor. (Jul. 26, 1913). CATTLE TESTING STATION AT PIRBRIGHT. BUILDINGS NEARING COMPLETION. ACCOMMODATION FOR 100 CATTLE. Surrey Advertiser.

## **CATTLE TESTING STATION AT PIRBRIGHT**

### **BUILDINGS NEARING COMPLETION.**

#### **ACCOMMODATION FOR 100 CATTLE.**

It is now almost a year since protests from the agricultural community in West Surrey, and from the county and local authorities, were made against the proposal of the Board of Agriculture to establish a cattle testing station at Pirbright. These vigorous protests were, however, ignored, and the station is now well on its way to completion, and by the end of October will probably be ready for the reception of cattle. The object of the station, as announced in these columns over a year ago, is that pedigree and other cattle may be sent there with the object of obtaining a Government certificate of freedom from disease, as required by the import regulations of certain Colonies and foreign Governments.

The huge red brick buildings which will constitute the station cannot by any stretch of imagination be regarded as an acquisition to a naturally beautiful district; however useful they may be they will undoubtedly be considered as an eyesore. A representative of the "Surrey Advertiser" visited the station at Pullen's Farm a few days ago, and was courteously shown over the place by the clerk of the works, Mr. W. A. Wachsmann. Run-

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OF THE works, Mr. W. A. Wachsmann. Running parallel with the road and parallel with each other are two brick-built sheds over 200 yards long, and some fifteen feet high, each containing fifty stalls for the reception of the cattle to be tested. The two blocks are separated by an exercising yard and a roadway, while on the side of the buildings farthest from the road is a similar yard and road. Apparently everything has been designed for strength and stability. The bricks are set in cement, the floors are concrete, the partitions between the stalls and the roofs are reinforced concrete, the latter being covered with red tiles.

At the west end of the two buildings are four "isolation boxes" where beasts will be transferred if found to be infected with disease. Each of these boxes is surrounded by a six-foot iron fence. At the opposite end, and attached to each building are fodder rooms, from which will run a railway line by the doors of the fifty stalls. Above the fodder stores are two rooms for attendants, and above these again one large water tank.

Great precautions have been taken against the spread of any disease which cattle may be suffering from when first taken to the station. There is not a single corner in the whole building, every turning being made either convex or concave, so that germs will not have a chance to lodge in cracks or crevices. Each stall is separately ventilated and drained on modern principles.

A proposal to establish a similar station in Scotland is meeting with considerable opposition.

Full TRANSCRIPT:

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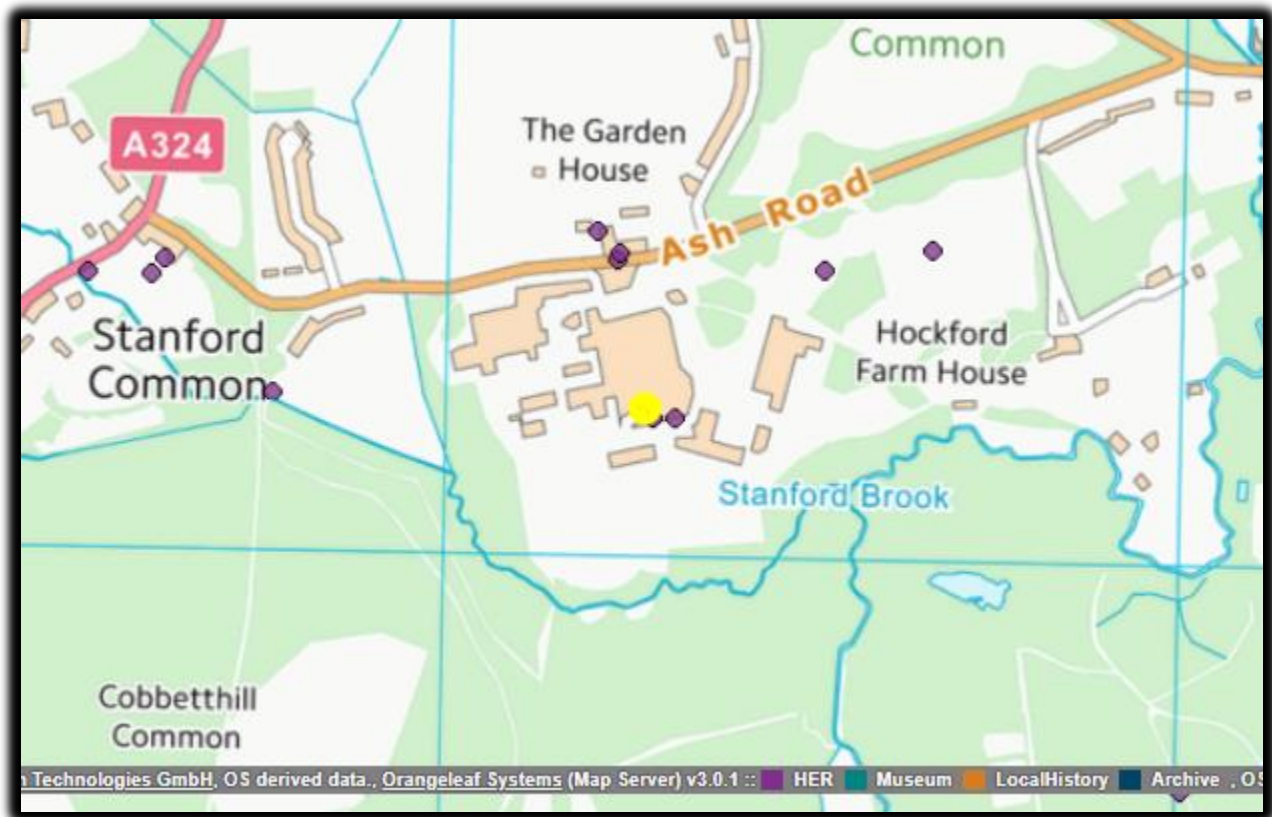
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<sup>1</sup> RESEARCH INSTITUTE, PIRBRIGHT: COLLECTED PUBLICATIONS AND NOTES ON HISTORY. SurreyArchives.org.  
[https://www.surreyarchives.org.uk/collections/getrecord/SHCOL\\_9277](https://www.surreyarchives.org.uk/collections/getrecord/SHCOL_9277)

Pullen's Farm:



[https://www.exploringsurreypast.org.uk/collections/getrecord/SHHER\\_14152](https://www.exploringsurreypast.org.uk/collections/getrecord/SHHER_14152)

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## Development Commissioners

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**21 February 1912**

Volume 34

### Mr. STANIER

asked the President of the Board of Agriculture if he can give the names of the twelve selected institutions which will receive Grants for the investigation of local agricultural problems from the Development Commissioners?

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### Mr. RUNCIMAN

I am not sure whether the hon. Member refers to the provision to be made for research work or for the supply of technical advice to farmers. In regard to both matters negotiations are proceeding, and I am not yet in a position to state the result. I hope to do so at an early date.

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### Mr. C. BATHURST

asked whether any and, if any, what steps have been or are being taken by the Board, in conjunction with the Development Commissioners, to establish a State-controlled cattle-testing station, where British pedigree cattle prior to exportation may be subjected to reliable tests to ascertain their immunity from tuberculosis and other contagious diseases?

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## Mr. RUNCIMAN

The Board are in communication with the Development Commission on this subject, and they are making inquiries as to the extent to which our export trade with the Colonies and foreign countries would be assisted by the establishment of a testing and quarantine station. No decision, however, has yet been arrived at.

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## Mr. C. BATHURST

Is it not a fact that the desirability of this station has already been established by the Report of the Departmental Commission presided over by Lord Strachey?

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## Mr. RUNCIMAN

No, I do not think it has been fully established, but we are going into the matter. It is not being lost sight of.

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# Export Of Cattle

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16 July 1913

Volume 55

40.

**Mr. CHARLES BATHURST**

asked the President of the Board of Agriculture whether he has been in communication with any, and, if any, what **cattle**-importing countries with a view to their accepting as free from contagious disease **cattle** which have passed the British Government test to be applied at the Government **cattle-testing** station at Pirbright, and with what result; and whether such countries, or any of them, have expressed a preference for the **testing** of **cattle** intended for export by their own agents in this country?

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**Mr. RUNCIMAN**

The **cattle-testing** station at Pirbright is intended to be used for two purposes only, namely, the **testing** of animals with tuberculin prior to export, and immunisation against certain tropical and sub-tropical diseases. I have been in communication, both officially and unofficially, with representatives of those countries which at present protect themselves by prescribing quarantine and other conditions against the importation of animals suffering from tuberculosis; they have for the most part shown a ready disposition to consider the withdrawal or modification of the existing restrictions in the case of animals accompanied by a certificate from the Board, but they are naturally not prepared to commit themselves to a definite promise until the arrangements for conducting the test are complete and can be inspected by them. The answer to the last part of the question is in the negative.

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**Mr. C. BATHURST**

Can the right hon. Gentleman say what are the sub-tropical diseases to which he refers?

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Mr. RUNCIMAN

I should like to have notice of that, but certainly red-water fever above all others.

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## Cattle Diseases

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**21 July 1913**

Volume 55

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### **Mr. CHARLES BATHURST**

asked the President of the Board of Agriculture if he will state what are the tropical and sub-tropical diseases against which it is proposed to immunise British livestock by inoculation at the Government cattle-testing station at Pirbright prior to their exportation abroad?

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### **The PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY to the LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. Herbert Lewis, for the President of the Board of Agriculture)**

My right lion. Friend desires me to say that the diseases are Redwater and Anaplasmosis. Work will also be carried on at the laboratory with a view to making it possible to immunise against other diseases which militate against the exportation of British pedigree stock.

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### **Mr. C. BATHURST**

asked the President of the Board of Agriculture if, in the opinion of his experts, the system of inoculation either with live or dead bacilli as a means of immunisation against or as a remedy for epizootic abortion, as practised by farmers in Cornwall or elsewhere, has proved successful or is likely so to do; and whether, in the light of further scientific knowledge of this disease the Board has abandoned the idea of compulsory notification and departmental restrictions in connection with this disease?

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### Mr. HERBERT LEWIS

The experiments and investigations which are being conducted on behalf of the Board are not yet complete, and although there is reason from present indications to hope that the results will prove satisfactory, the Board do not yet feel themselves justified in compelling farmers against their wishes, to accept the recommendations of the Departmental Committee.

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10.

### Mr. C. BATHURST

asked the President of the Board of Agriculture whether the information in the hands of the Board shows that Johnes's disease amongst either cattle or sheep is still on the increase in Great Britain; in what parts of the country is it most prevalent; whether the ætiology and true nature of the disease have yet been determined; and whether any effective means, either of prevention or cure, have yet been discovered?

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### Mr. HERBERT LEWIS

Johnes's disease, not being a notifiable disease under the Diseases of Animals Acts, it is impossible to give a definite answer to the first part of the question, but there is ample evidence that it is a comparatively common disease of cattle in all parts of the country. The answer to the third part of the question is in the affirmative, and to the last part it is in the negative. The disease, however, is still being investigated by the Board.

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11.

### **Mr. C. BATHURST**

asked the President of the Board of Agriculture whether the Committee of Inquiry which was dispatched by the Board to India last year to conduct research as to the nature and methods of transmission of foot-and-mouth disease have completed their labours and returned to this country; if not, how much longer is their inquiry likely to last; who are the present members of the Committee; and whether they have presented any interim or other Report to the Board?

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### **Mr. HERBERT LEWIS**

The Commission consists of Professor Sir John McFadyean, principal of the Royal Veterinary College, London; Professor A. R. Mettam, of the Royal Veterinary College of Ireland, and Sir Stewart Stockman, the chief veterinary officer of the Board, with Mr. Wragg, one of the Board's veterinary officers, as secretary. The investigation in India has been completed, but the further proceedings of the Commission must be suspended until the return to duty of Sir Stewart Stockman, who, I regret to say, has been seriously ill, and is still unable to attend to business. In these circumstances no interim or other Report has yet been presented to the Board.

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## Cattle-Testing Station (Pirbright)

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**30 March 1914**

Volume 60

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### Mr. STANIER

asked whether the right hon. Gentleman can give the charges made at the Pirbright cattle-testing station for housing and feeding, and for inoculation and examination for the different diseases?

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### Mr. RUNCIMAN

A fee of £6 per head is charged for the tuberculin test, and £5 per head for immunisation against red-water, and £10 for the tuberculin test and immunisation combined. This fee includes all charges for testing or immunisation and for feeding and attendance during thirty-one days. If an animal is to be kept for a longer period than thirty-one days at the station to suit the convenience of the owner an additional charge at the rate of 30s. per week is payable.

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