

AUSTRALIAN VETERINARY HISTORY RECORD



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<www.vetsci.usyd.edu.au/avhs>

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The Australian Veterinary History Society is a Special Interest Group of
the Australian Veterinary Association. All who are interested in any
aspect of veterinary history may join. Annual subscription is \$15.
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AUSTRALIAN VETERINARY HISTORY SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE 13TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

CANBERRA 3 MAY 2004

The meeting commenced at 5 pm

PRESENT 11 MEMBERS

Apologies: Jack Arundel, John Fisher, Bill Gee, Geoff Kenny, Mark Lindsey, Bob Taylor, David Wishart.

Report of the President Dr JT Faragher

The annual meeting of the Australian Veterinary History Society was held at the AVA National Conference in Cairns in May 2003. Six papers, which discussed aspects of veterinary work in North Queensland, were presented to the meeting. Abstracts of these papers were published in the *Australian Veterinary History Record* no. 36, March 2003. Office bearers were re-elected at the annual general meeting after the reports of the president, secretary/treasurer, librarian and editor had been accepted by the meeting. In addition, members resolved to recommend to the AVA Board that the name of the AVA library revert to the name Max Henry Memorial Library.

The AVA Board has accepted this recommendation. AVA members will know from scanning the catalogue of this library, which is available to all on the AVHS web page, that we possess many rare and valuable books. Since the AVA Board consigned the collection to a repository in Canberra several years ago, access has been limited and conditions of storage deplorable. Members at this meeting who visited the repository this morning were shocked at the inadequate conditions and surprised that the AVA Board believes that such storage meets its responsibilities. The AVHS, with the good offices of the CEO, Ms Margaret Conley, and the Dean of Veterinary Science at the University of Melbourne, Professor Ivan Caple, has been working to exhume the library and transfer it to a more suitable, secure and accessible home. Discussions with the University of Melbourne continue towards transferring the books to the library at the veterinary school in Parkville. These continuing discussions have delayed consideration of the future of the AVA Historical Collection, which enjoys a similar fate and uncertain future in the same repository in Canberra. The continuing work of the Honorary Librarian, Dr Dick Roe, and the Honorary Curator of the Historical Collection, Dr Bob Taylor, is appreciated by AVHS members and also should be by all AVA members.

The editor of the *Australian Veterinary History Record*, Dr Ian Parsonson, published three issues of the Record during the year. A grant from the AVA Communications Fund has enabled work to start on transferring the content of all printed issues of the Record to electronic files. The goal of this joint project of Veterinary Education and Information Network and the Badham Library of the University of Sydney and the Australian Veterinary History Society is to increase and preserve access to the Record as searchable, archived digital files, which will be lodged on SETIS for public access with links to the AVHS web page and the AVA web site.

The AVHS has provided 18 short biographies of eminent Australian veterinarians and 22 milestones in Australian veterinary history to the Veterinary School of the University of Sydney to be printed on the back cover of the 47 or so handbooks that the staff are writing for the undergraduates. These essays are also published on the AVHS web page <<http://www.vetsci.usyd.edu.au/avhs>>, which is a further collaboration with the school.

Your committee has worked to ensure that our heritage is preserved and appreciated by all members of this society and the AVA; we welcome your comments.

REPORT of the HONORARY SECRETARY Dr JH AUTY

The year was marked by the deaths of several members and there is a need for a recruiting drive that should be carried out person to person. There is a general lack of knowledge of the Veterinary History Society's activities.

REPORT of the HONORARY TREASURER

There was a profit of \$460 for the year with a subsequent increase in accumulated funds. The subscription should remain at \$15.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL RETURN FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 Dec. 2003.

Statement of Financial Position.	2003	2002
Current Assets		
Cash at bank	419	677
Interactivity account with AVA National	6,792	6,182
GST paid	145	40
Total Current Assets	7,356	6,898
Total Non Current Assets	0	0
Total Assets	7,356	6,898
Current Liabilities		
GST collected		3
Net Assets	7,356	6,896
Accumulated Funds		
Retained surplus brought forward	6,896	5,907
Current year surplus	460	989
TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS	7,356	6,896
Statement of Financial Performance.	2003	2002
INCOME		
Membership subscriptions	2,220	1,266
Conferences	2,890	2,701
Interest	173	152
TOTAL INCOME	5,283	4,119

EXPENDITURE		
Conferences	1,856	734
Publications	1,599	1,355
Committee/governance	300	300
Business services		120
Other	1,068	621
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	4,823	3,130
SURPLUS	460	989
Accumulated funds brought forward	6,896	5,907
ACCUMULATED FUNDS	7,356	6,896
BANK RECONCILIATION		
Cash book opening balance 1/1/03	677	750
Deduct	(258)	(74)
Cash book closing balance 31/12/03	419	677
Bank Balance from statement 31/12/03	419	677
Cash Book Closing Balance	419	677

There was a profit of \$460 for the year with a subsequent increase in accumulated funds. The subscription should remain at \$15.

The report and the resolution to maintain the subscription at \$15 was accepted.

Report of the Honorary Librarian Dr RT Roe

The library has been somewhat in limbo since the meeting held in April 2003 between the Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Melbourne, the Librarian at the Gilruth Library in the Veterinary Faculty, the new Chief Executive Officer of the AVA and members of the Executive Committee of the AVHS. At that meeting agreement in principle was reached for the library to be relocated to the Gilruth Library in the Faculty of Veterinary Science, Parkville. Unfortunately, despite repeated prompting by the President of AVHS to advance this decision, there has been no discernable action. As a result the valuable library collection continues to be housed in unsuitable and unsatisfactory conditions.

There have been only a small number of enquiries received relating to the library and very few borrowings during the year. Because of the expectation that the library collection would be relocated and catalogued with the Gilruth Library; during the year the Honorary Librarian has done little to revise, check or update the existing catalogue.

Dr. Roe moved that the AVHS approach the AVA Board to establish their intention in purchasing new national headquarters premises in terms of making provision for housing the Archives, Veterinary History Collection and Max Henry Library.

Moved RT Roe/D Johns: That the AVHS approach the AVA Board to establish their intention in purchasing new national headquarters premises in terms of making provision for housing the AVA Archives, the Australian Veterinary History Collection and the Max Henry Memorial Library.

The resolution was discussed and agreed.

REPORT of the Honorary Editor of the *Australian Veterinary History Record*

Dr IM Parsonson

During the last year three issues of the Australian Veterinary History Society's Record have been published numbers' 37, 38, and 39. Once again members have supplied articles of veterinary historical importance for the Record and there have been opportunities to publish some papers that were delivered during previous Annual General Meetings. However, as editor I need more support and help to find articles of a veterinary and historical content to publish for the interest and enjoyment of all members.

Some documents relating to the early foundation of the Victorian Branch of the AVA that may provide valuable insights into the development of the Victorian Division and the Australian Veterinary Association were recently discovered in the Victorian Division Headquarters in Brunswick Street, Melbourne.

Information of this nature relating to the early days of veterinary practice, the Stock Inspectors of NSW and Government Veterinarians in all States provide wonderful historical background material of the development of the profession and its role in solving national animal diseases problems. All that is needed is a pencil and a blank sheet of paper to get started. Contributors can rest assured there are people who will be very interested to read about the work of veterinarians in Australian animal industries and the efforts required to establish their development to the present. A great deal of this type of information is becoming historical material.

Our Society continues to exchange copies of the Record with the British Veterinary History Society's Journal 'Veterinary History' and we exchange information with this society. Veterinary history groups and journals occasionally contact us for information or help. There appears to be a growing number of Veterinary History Societies especially in Europe that occasionally communicate with notices of meetings and these are advertised in the Record.

As editor I am hoping that the Record can continue in the current format with an increase in material from members and other sources that will raise the standard of future issues of the Record to higher levels.

Ian Parsonson

Election of Office Bearers

Nominations were called for and the following were elected

President	JT Faragher
Secretary/Treasurer	JH Auty
Honorary Librarian	RT Roe
Honorary Editor	IM Parsonson
Committee	P Canfield
	J Fisher
	KL Hughes
	AJ Turner

Location of the 2005 meeting

Agreed that the next meeting be held in Broadbeach, Queensland, as part of the annual conference of the AVA, 15 - 20 May 2005.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 5.45 pm.

GILRUTH – ADMINISTRATOR OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY – WHY DID HE FAIL?

C.M.Bunn, 13 Burnside Street, Watson ACT 2602

Introduction

John Anderson Gilruth is a major figure in the history of New Zealand and Australian veterinary science. At the young age of 26, he was appointed Chief Veterinarian and Government Bacteriologist of New Zealand and eleven years later, in 1908, he was offered the position of Chair of Veterinary Pathology at Melbourne University. In the 1930s, he became the inaugural Chief of Animal Health in the Council for Science, Industry and Technology (CSIR) the newly formed peak research body in Australia. The veterinary profession has generally ignored his time (1912 and 1920) as Administrator in the Northern Territory. He went there initially as part of a scientific expedition, led by Professor Sir Baldwin Spencer under the auspices of the Commonwealth Government. He was introduced to tropical Australia and to its agricultural challenges. Later he was offered and accepted the position of Administrator because of the scientific challenges he saw the position presented.¹ In 1919, the people of Darwin rebelled against his administration and he returned to Melbourne (the seat of Federal Government at the time). For the next ten years he was lost to science and the profession. The following Table highlights his career.

TABLE 1

Timeline

1871	Born at Auchmithie, Scotland. Father a tenant farmer. Mother a teacher 'a woman of character and intellect'
1887	Starred at Glasgow Veterinary College Age 16
1892	Member of the Royal Veterinary College (with Distinction)
1893	Started as Government veterinary surgeon NZ
1896-97	Studied bacteriology at the Pasteur Institute
1896-98	Appointed chief veterinarian and government bacteriologist
1901	Appointed government pathologist to the NZ Health Dept
1902	Made an honorary member of the British Medical Association
1907	Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh
1908	Offered Chair of Veterinary Pathology Melb University (aged 37)
1912	Accepted the post of Administrator, Northern Territory
Dec 1918	"The Darwin Rebellion"
April 1920	Release of the Royal Commission report on the administration of the Northern Territory
1930	Acting -Chief of Animal Health CSIR
1933	Appointed Chief of Animal Health
1934	Retired
March 1937	Died in Melbourne aged 66

The Rebellion

The simmering mood of rebellion against his administration, especially after his re-appointment in 1917, was well evident to Gilruth. By mid-December 1918 the situation had deteriorated to a point where Gilruth appointed 27 special constables to reinforce the police.

On the afternoon of 17 December 1918, stop-work meetings were held in the town and at the meatworks. About 1000 men walked to Government House behind a car carrying an effigy of Gilruth tied to a stake.

A deputation presented a motion to Gilruth that stated in part:

*"We, the citizens of Darwin here assembled ask...that the Administrator address us regarding his administration of the Territory of the last five years. Failing to comply that he be asked if he is willing to leave Darwin by the steamer and remain away until a public commission is granted on his administration. This meeting will guarantee him safe conduct to the steamer..."*²

Gilruth refused to address the citizens only making a statement that he was answerable to the Minister and would not and did not recognize the citizens of Darwin.

The citizens outside were becoming tense and impatient. They demanded that Gilruth appear before them within five minutes to vindicate himself.

Surprisingly Gilruth complied but he was defiant, inviting the crowd to gaze upon him and then ask themselves whether he looked like a man who would back down.² If recalled by the Minister he would leave, but in no other circumstances would he leave his post.

Part of the picket fence around Government House collapsed. The union leader Nelson called out 'Over the fence boys'.³ The crowd swarmed across the garden into Government House. For a few moments Gilruth was roughly handled, latticed windows were wrecked and wire netting removed from the tennis court. Eventually the crowd dispersed, but not before they carried Gilruth's effigy to the front gate of Government House, soaked it in kerosene and set it alight.

Gilruth stated later in a letter to the Prime Minister that 'I was perfectly aware that had I promised to reduce the price of beer (at the expense of the Australian taxpayer) the mob would have departed peaceably, but though this would have been possibly 'diplomatic' I admit I could not see my way to purchase peace at the price; a price that would have promptly been condemned by the Minister and the Treasury'.

The government was alarmed, and a gunboat arrived in Darwin harbour a week later. Another public meeting was held in January 1919 and a telegram sent from the meeting to the Acting Prime Minister:

*We, the citizens of the Northern Territory, beseechingly implore you to recall The Administrator, Dr. Gilruth, in the interests of life and property, as his autocratic administration is fast reaching a grave crisis.*²

Later (February 20, 1919) of his own accord Gilruth boarded HMAS Encounter (a cruiser with eleven 6-inch guns and nine 12-pounder guns) still the Administrator but now prepared to function from Melbourne.

FACTORS THAT LED TO THE REBELLION

Gilruth's personality was a catalyst for the uprising but many other factors, beyond his control, also contributed.

The White Australia Policy

The White Australia policy arose from the Commonwealth government objective of creating and maintaining a monoracial Australia, termed "racial integrity". It was the most important and lasting policy adopted in 1901, described as providing "an impetus to our national life".

Racial discrimination was supported by the labor movement (trade unions and the ALP). It feared that immigrant labour would undermine wage levels, work conditions and the standard of living, creating a subordinate class.

Gilruth firmly believed in a Northern Territory worked by white men; he wanted the Commonwealth government to encourage the immigration of a good class of southern European, accompanied by family, as a proviso for development.⁴

Implementation of the White Australia policy had some significant affects. When the Commonwealth government dismissed the Chinese cooks on the Overland Telegraph there was "almost complete cessation of the production of sufficient vegetables for an isolated staff."⁵

The Constitution

Under the laws and constitution of South Australia the people of the Territory were fully franchised citizens. They were represented in the South Australian Parliament by two members in the House of Assembly, and had their proportionate voice in the election of members of the Legislative Council. On the surrender of the Territory to the Commonwealth, the Territorians ceased, in the true and full sense of the term, to be citizens of Australia, or of any State. They had no voice either in the national affairs of the Commonwealth or in local issues. They were called upon to obey Commonwealth laws and to comply with local Ordinances, in which they had no input, and in most cases of which they knew little or nothing until they were called upon to submit to them. They lost their political rights as citizens, but continued to pay taxes.⁶ Ironically the Northern Territory came under the control of Commonwealth Department for *External Affairs* until 1917.

"No representation without taxation"; was the catch cry, taken up by the Union Movement.

Darwin in 1912

The Commonwealth had acquired a small port town and a scattering of hamlets, a railway that ran to nowhere and the care of mining, pastoralism and pearling, all badly run down.

NORTHERN TERRITORY. Population (1911)

	Male	Female	Total
White	1273	456	1729
Chinese	1177	125	1302
			3031

Aboriginal (Baldwin Spencer)

20,000 -50,000

The population was fluid and the turnover of citizens was rapid: 272 whites arrived in 1910, while 231 left. Chinese numbers were also declining. ⁷ Gilruth estimated an annual one third turnover of the white population and noted "that such a state of affairs is not conducive to the best interests of the community, although it is doubtless satisfactory to the steamship companies." ⁸

A senator visiting Darwin in 1912 described it as "the most squalid, contemptible place I ever saw".

"Gilruth left Darwin cleaned up with Chinese hovels removed, regular public health inspection established, the hospital modernized, and more discriminating care taken of the aborigines." ⁹

NORTHERN TERRITORY EXPECTATIONS

Farming

Chief events in agriculture in 1911 were the continuance of successful experiments with rice and Indian wheat. "I look back upon my efforts to promote cereal cultivation as the beginning of what will eventually prove a large and important industry (S.J.Mitchell, Acting Administrator)." ¹⁰

In Gilruth's first report as administrator he was 'more favourably over-impressed with the potentialities', however, he ruled out the development of tropical products mainly because of the lack of labour.

Before Gilruth's arrival two experimental farms had been approved by the Commonwealth Government at Rum jungle and Daly river. They began operations in 1912. The Daly and Adelaide river areas were subdivided and opened for settlement during Gilruth's first year. The response was poor, only a few applicants had capital or

agricultural experience and none with living in the tropics. "Man without Capital can do little.¹¹". By 1915 only ten farmers remained.

Gilruth started a stockbreeding station at Mataranka where he insisted, against previous experience, in trying sheep. The remnants of the flock were removed in 1920. Another of his initiatives, a dairy, began well and supplied Darwin for a time with fresh milk. This encouraged Gilruth to import 500 cows from Queensland and distribute them to the Daly river farmers and the Oenpelli aboriginal station (East of Darwin).

The settlers provided neither good produce nor effective management. Gilruth queried in an annual report "where are the markets?"

Mining

In 1911 Territory mining was described as moribund. The Tanami goldfields were abandoned, copper fields were not worked and only Pine Creek (gold) showed promise.

Mining flourished while Chinese labour was cheap and heavy equipment unnecessary. Later too much expenditure was outlaid on superfluous heavy machinery.¹²

Unluckily for the development of mining, his Director of Mining, Dr. Jensen, strongly disagreed with Gilruth over industrial issues. He charged Gilruth with 43 offences ranging from slander, misuse of horses, and undue interference with the Mines department. Gilruth was cleared of all charges, and Jensen left the government service vowing vengeance.

High wartime prices sustained the mining of tin and tungsten, but after the war total production was valued only at eight thousand, eight hundred pounds.

Gilruth desperate to bring development to the north, sank some of his own money into two copper mines

Pastoral Area.

During his years as the Administrator, Gilruth traveled widely in his Talbot car – the first car most Territorians would have seen. His extensive traveling impressed on him the necessity of two basic prerogatives to advance the Territory:

Transport – by roads and railways

Water supply – by bores and tanks.

He considered these shared activities involving both government and individuals.

In 1913 he traveled to the Barkly Tableland and MacDonnell Ranges by car and horse, an estimated distance of 4,500 km visiting cattle runs in the Barkly Tableland and the McDonnell ranges. ⁷ He came back with the firm belief that the industry could prosper and that the key for such prosperity was a freezing works to be built in the Northern Territory.

Vesteys

The government announced in 1912 that it would subsidise the building of a freezing works in the Northern Territory. In June 1914 the Cook Liberal Ministry, favouring

private enterprise, announced that the Vestey organization (a private UK company that is still in existence) would build and operate the Darwin meatworks. By 1916, Vestey's controlled 72,000 square km of the Northern Territory.¹³

Major problems due to wartime shortages were the lack of labour, strikes, and the lack of government cooperation in extending the Pine Creek railway that meant the meatworks would never be successful. Over three years from 1917 it operated for only short periods at a loss and then closed. (It opened again briefly in 1925). High transport and abattoir charges played a part, plus a resistance by pastoralists to the new marketing arrangements. The Darwin jetty was also a major problem as it required drastic alterations to allow trucks to be brought rapidly alongside vessels for loading. Darwin was devastated by the closure.¹⁴ Vestey's and the railways had helped double the white population; in 1920 two-thirds of Darwin men were left without employment.

Gilruth was accused of conniving with Vestey's both to enable them to set up the plant and close it down. There is no evidence that he did either.

Telegram from William Vestey to Minister of External Affairs.

14/5/1917

"As one deeply interested financially and otherwise in progress NT should be pleased to hear present administrator reappointed. Consider his experience territory's problems invaluable for further systematic developments."

However, there is one intriguing question. Did Gilruth wish to sell the Northern Territory? Randolph Bedford a Labor member of the Queensland Senate alleged in parliament, in the newspapers and at the Commission hearing, that when he met Gilruth in 1916 the Administrator had told him that "the Territory would never be any good to the Commonwealth and I have made an offer of five million pounds on behalf of a syndicate to buy it". Gilruth denied that he had any connection to a possible buyer but he did admit that he had twice asked his Minister whether the government would be interested in selling the Northern Territory, and didn't deny that he had mentioned a specific price.¹⁵

World War 1

The war caused a substantial delay in the building of the meatworks, encouraging many settlers to leave the Territory to enlist in the Army.

The Unions

Organised unionism came to the Northern Territory in the first year of Commonwealth control (the government insisted that their tradesmen and employees

should be members of a Union). The White Australia policy and anti-Chinese feeling fuelled support for the Unions because of the concern that Chinese would lower the working conditions. Very soon, the Commonwealth was paying wages 25 per cent over southern rates. Vestey's readily yielded to union pressure owing to their dependence upon government railways and wharves, and because of the short duration of the killing season.

Industrial arbitration not only failed to gain industrial peace, but also imposed a ruinous burden on the Northern Territory.⁵ Most workers were single. The cost of living was similar to temperate Australia, but they were granted a family wage and an allowance for climate and isolation. The high labour costs granted in the industrial disputes affected all other industries. In agriculture people found it more profitable to earn wages than to struggle growing crops. .¹⁶

The construction of the meatworks and the extension of the railways brought an influx of labour from many different nationalities. The Union achieved great importance by influencing all the unskilled labour. Isolation became an important factor and those in control of labour could discipline workers. Unionists used very minor reasons to create disturbances, for example, men struck against the long-established practice that coloured crews should land cargo from their own vessels. The union bosses decided who were to be employed and who were not. The chief unionist and implacable foe of Gilruth was Harold Nelson who didn't rest until the Administrator and his colleagues had left the Territory.

The Politicians

Gilruth received neither a free hand nor money.

In 1914, he complained of lack of co-ordination between various government departments. Prime Minister Fisher directed that the Administrator should exercise local control "administering the Government of the Northern Territory on behalf of the Commonwealth" (except for railways and the post office).

The Commonwealth failed to open its purse strings, it had to find large sums of money for defence spending and age, pensions. In 1914-15, Commonwealth expenditure was 30 million pounds; 18 million financed the cost of the war.

Gilruth was finally recalled to Melbourne 2 months after the riot in Darwin although Gilruth was concerned about the safety of his family and had wanted to return earlier. Two weeks later, the Minister arranged that Gilruth would not be returning to Darwin as Administrator. He was told that if he relinquished the position he would be offered one of two positions as a Director in the Institute of Science and Industry, confirmed verbally by the acting Prime Minister Watt who was the Minister for Trade and Customs.

Hotels and Liquor

In 1915, in an attempt to stop sly grog sales, the Federal Government nationalized all hotels in the northern part of the Territory; leaving only four hotels open. This led to considerable agitation, public protests and boycotts. The quality of the beer was also described as 'muck' and Gilruth was specifically blamed for the situation in a public meeting chaired by the Mayor of Darwin. ² .

GILRUTH

Among scientists of similar background and interests, Gilruth's blunt dynamic style of leadership was respected and he was able to demonstrate his personal kindness and loyalty that endeared subordinates to him. Among the heterogeneous population of the Northern Territory, he was seen as merely arrogant and insensitive. ⁷

His forthrightness was regarded as too blunt for an Administrator of the Northern Territory. Gilruth crushed ruthlessly a major strike in 1913 and he imposed, without consultation, new hours of work for government employees. ¹⁷ The men considered this treatment heartless, soulless, and inhumane in the extreme. ¹⁸ With a few minor concessions, Gilruth might have won a respected position as an arbitrator. He refused to see the Union deputation sending the Government Secretary, with a one-word written answer – "NO!".⁷

Extracts from his obituary notices gives us some idea of the man:

"as a Chief he had the rare combination of executive and organizing ability, wide and exact scientific knowledge and broadness of outlook; as a man he was outstanding for his knowledge of human nature, broad tolerance of human weakness, kindness towards his fellow creatures and he was the soul of generosity/" C.S.I.R. Journal May 1937 p 171-172

"A man of remarkable personality and great forcefulness". "Under a rather stern exterior he had a heart that felt for all less fortunate than himself">

A.M. Patterson "The Press" NZ 10/03/37

"He was man of strong character, a pungent and powerful speaker, an exceptionally clever raconteur".

"...no words can convey the extraordinary vigour and staying power of body, the keen original and fertile mind, the dogged tenacity and resourcefulness of purpose and action and the happy spirit which swept all before it..."

(Georgina Sweet, AVJ June 1937).

Gilruth formed strong opinions and occasionally, for he was most eminently human, his opinion was wrong. Then began the battle. No amount of circumstantial evidence, however strong, would shake him. One had to produce a clear-cut crucial experiment or observation to convert him...(Mackerras, AVJ June 1937)

THE ROYAL COMMISSION

Seven months after Gilruth's departure some of the Darwin citizens forced the departure of three of Gilruth's closest colleagues – H.E. Carey (his replacement as Director of the Northern Territory and previously Gilruth's personal selection as Government Secretary); Mr. Justice Bevan, from the Supreme Court and the Government Secretary (R.J. Evans).

The government could not ignore the latest actions. A Royal Commission resulted.

The Commission was asked to investigate:

- The recent upheaval of the administrative authorities;
- any irregularities in Northern Territory administration; and
- examine if any government officers had proprietary interests in certain Northern Territory mines.

Unfortunately the Commissioner's (Mr. Ewing) report, based on the evidence presented was considered unsatisfactory by the newspapers, the defence barristers, and Robert Garran the Attorney-General in the Hughes administration of 1920. Senator Miller later advised the Senate that the government accepted that Commissioner Ewing's findings were not entirely justified from the evidence presented. The Senate also questioned the paying of three hundred and forty-nine pounds, eleven shillings and sixpence by the Commissioner to the Union leader Harold Nelson in order for him to represent the people of the Northern Territory. ¹⁹ Nelson was never called to give evidence.

The report castigated both the Commonwealth government and Gilruth. Commission Ewing found Gilruth guilty of 'highly improper' but not 'corrupt' conduct. "Dr. Gilruth is an able man, and in my opinion within the sphere for which Providence intended him, very much above the average. Unfortunately he was called upon to rule a democratic people, a task for which he apparently is unfitted... He had little toleration for any person who disagreed with him...". Gilruth had failed to make use of his appointed Board of Advice, thus depriving Territorians of their "...slight vestige of democratic government." He also had allowed unsatisfactory accounting methods to exist in the Aborigines department.

The Melbourne Argus found the report extraordinary because it virtually exonerated from blame the citizens who had assembled in force, used threats and *compelled the constitutional representatives of the government to leave the Territory.*

KEY ACCUSATIONS

Treatment of Aborigines

It was the custom to imprison aborigines and half-caste witnesses in the Fanny Bay gaol without any warrant or justification of law. Gilruth explained that this was a long-standing practice explaining 'it was really a question of necessary detention somewhere, if these witnesses were not to return to their own country, consequently

delaying proceedings indefinitely’.

A common practice in the Aborigines Department was to create false vouchers, because the recipients were often a distance from Darwin. Such a system was open to fraud and known to Gilruth. His main defence was that the Commonwealth Audit Department had expressed their complete satisfaction with the system.

Rehearsal of Court Cases

The evidence showed this happened only once and once uncovered was stopped. Ewings reported differently in his report.

Public Activities

Gilruth’s administration was criticized over the standards of policing and promotion of officers.

Personal Investment by Gilruth in Mining ventures.

The Arrino mine. Gilruth admitted to the Commission that he was a partner in the Mine. The mine was subsidised by the government through the loan of some tools and two subsidies totaling one hundred and nineteen pounds, ten shillings. The mine failed and no repayment of the subsidies occurred (as allowed by government regulation).

The Daly River Mine. Initially this copper mine made a profit after gaining government permission to recover copper from the old partly collapsed furnace. Gilruth made a personal loan of seventy-five pounds in 1914 (to Bevan) but by 1916 this money and more had been expended without further result. Gilruth then offered to pay half of any losses to keep the mine open. The mine eventually ran up losses of one thousand two hundred pounds, half of which were paid by Gilruth. Although assumed by the Commissioner there was no evidence at all that Gilruth was financially involved with the initial profit.

Daly River Land. In June 1913 Gilruth bought freehold land at Daly River in partnership with J E Palmer, manager of the government farm in the area. In August 1914, Gilruth dissolved the partnership (lodging a declaration to that effect) but left his money in the land. Nine months later Palmer applied for leasehold over the neighbouring land. Five years later, the land was sold and Gilruth received payment for the freehold land. Despite the evidence, Ewing considered that Gilruth also had an interest in the leasehold land.

GILRUTH’S LETTER

Gilruth defended himself vigorously in a letter to Prime Minister Hughes dated 24 June 1920.

Briefly his key concerns were:

- Hearings were held, especially in Darwin when it was impossible for him to attend
- The Commissioner didn’t take notes and ignored or confused the evidence
- The report bristled with inaccuracies

- The Council of Advice served no useful purpose, because it often had no business Agenda or took up the time of specialists when they were not required
- That his official actions met with the approval of every Minister under whom he served.

Gilruth's behaviour can be explained by his myopic zeal to develop the Territory rather than his seeking personal gain. For example in answer to a question at the Commission, Gilruth replied "*I was wrong, but I was extremely anxious – probably over anxious – to see something done to develop mining in the Territory*".

CONCLUSION

- He was a great scientist
- For a number of reasons (outlined above) he had an impossible task in developing the Northern Territory during WW1
- He demonstrated tremendous drive and stamina
- He displayed very poor diplomatic and negotiating skills in handling people and situations.

After completing some consultancies for the Commonwealth Government, there is little information about his activities during the 1920s. In 1930, after the first choice declined the position, he was appointed the Acting Chief of Animal Health in CSIR (Council for Scientific and Industrial Research). Again, his colleagues held Gilruth in high esteem.

The Australian Veterinary Association remembers him through the annual Gilruth prize, the most prestigious award presented. Nevertheless, he could just as well remind us that great scientists don't necessarily make good administrators!

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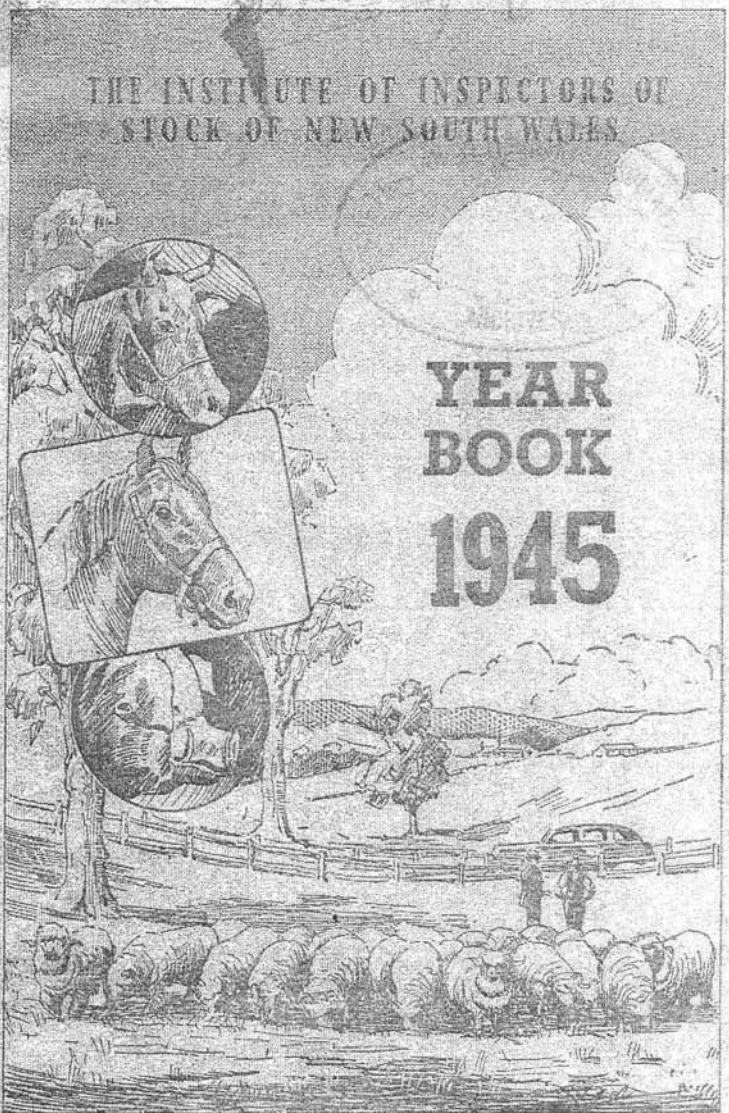
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*See page 2
Stock Inspector*

THE INSTITUTE OF INSPECTORS OF
STOCK OF NEW SOUTH WALES

**YEAR
BOOK
1945**



Editor's note: The following paper was written for the Institute of Inspectors of Stock of New South Wales for the 1945 Year Book

OUR INSTITUTE

A Short History

E.A. Lucas, Inspector of Stock, Maitland. (Official Historian)

Almost completely unrecognizable by comparison with his earliest predecessor, the present-day Inspector of Stock employed under the Pastures Protection Act, originated almost 100 years ago, following recognition of the very great harm which Sheep Scab well might do to the flocks in this State.

A particularly successful campaign, in the circumstances, resulted in the wiping out of this disease by 1866; in which year Sheep Districts were proclaimed under the Diseases in Sheep Act. This Act was superseded in 1880 by the Pastures and Stock Protection Act, which in turn gave way to another Act under the same title in 1898; while, in 1902, the latter was succeeded by the Pastures Protection Act – the progenitor, though similar almost in name only, of the Pastures Protection Act, 1934-43. Under the

Diseases in Sheep Act 1866, provision was made for the election of Sheep Directors annually. The Act of 1880 apparently maintained the status quo so far as the Districts and Sheep Directors were concerned, but following the arrival of the PP Act, 1902, the distinguishing names of the present Boards and Districts were gazetted on 11 February, 1903.

The Diseases in Sheep Act, 1866, provided for the appointment of Inspectors of Sheep by the Governor, on the nomination of Sheep Directors; such Directors or the Chief Inspector having power to suspend an Inspector, with the Minister retaining the power to dismiss or remove. By the Pastures and Stock Protection Act, 1880 provision was made for Inspectors of Sheep to be Inspectors under that Act, and subject to the direction of the Minister.

It appears that by Regulation dated 6 February 1888, the first provision was made for the appointment of Inspectors by examination, and the first available record of such examination is the 23 September, 1895. From 3 October, 1900, it was decided to grant First and Second Class certificates, according to the proficiency shown at examination, and apparently this method of selection was followed until 1921, when University graduates in Veterinary Science first were granted the Stock Inspector's certificate. It perhaps is interesting to note that of the total number of men granted the certificate only 138 have received appointment as Inspectors, to an approximate average of 60 Districts, since the inauguration of the certificate in 1888.

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*Acute Arthritis in Piglets
*Febrile Diseases in Sows

IN SHEEP:

Joint-ill in Lambs.

IN DOGS:

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Editor's note: The following paper was written for the Institute of Inspectors of Stock of New South Wales for the 1945 Year Book

CONTAGIOUS PUSTULAR DERMATITIS (SCABBY MOUTH)

Vaccination as a preventive Measure.

J.T.Hayston, B.V.Sc., P.P. Board Research Officer, Glenfield.

Contagious Pustular Dermatitis is an infection of the epidermal tissues of the sheep that is caused by a filterable virus. Almost invariably organisms such as cocci contaminate lesions, but the typical manifestations of the disease may be seen without secondary infection being present. Young lambs most frequently are affected; more mature sheep are affected less commonly and their protection may be due either to a natural age resistance or to an immunity induced from contact with the virus earlier in life.

Under favourable conditions the virus of Scabby Mouth is capable of remaining viable for very long periods, and on certain properties the degree of infection is so heavy that each year an outbreak of the disease occurs. Intravenous, intraperitoneal or oral administration of the virus causes no ill-effect. The virus can cause infection only by invasion of scarified or damaged skin and the presence of thistles and sharp brambles may assist in the spread of an outbreak of the disease.

When the virus is applied to a scarified area of the skin the traumatic injury heals within three days, but by this time a zone of congestion has appeared around the scarified area. After six days small vesicles appear and the lesions reach the pustular stage by the eighth day. By the eleventh day the pustules have developed into dry scabs that eventually fall away. These scabs have a high virus content.

Since the lesions most frequently occur on the skin of the lips of young sheep the associated pain deters the animal from eating. The inner surface of the mouth may be invaded and lesions may be found on the mucosa of the lips, cheek and on the tongue. The resulting loss of condition is sudden and severe, and even starvation may occur from physical inability toprehend food. Where fly-strike is associated with the lesions of Scabby Mouth the mortality may be considerable.

As is the case in all pox-like infections, the disease runs a regular course that is not affected by any therapeutic treatment. However, the secondary infections tend to prolong the course of the disease; and hence the application of antiseptics, emollients and astringents may assist in hastening recovery. Medicaments that have been

reported to give results are a solution of iodine in glycerine and a mixture of Stockholm tar and kerosene.

Lambs can be immunized against Scabby Mouth by inoculating them at marking time with a 1:1000 suspension of desiccated infective scabs in a glycerine and saline mixture. A scarifying needle is dipped in the virus suspension and the inoculation consists of drawing a line on the superficial layers of the skin on the medial, hairless aspect of the hind leg. Under field conditions the immunity resulting from this inoculation has been found to prevent the occurrence of severe losses from contagious pustular dermatitis.

Alexander the Great

Alexander the Great died in Babylon in 323 BC. His death at age 32 followed a 2-week febrile illness. Speculated causes of death have included poisoning, assassination, and a number of infectious diseases. One incident, mentioned by Plutarch but not considered by previous investigators, may shed light on the cause of Alexander's death. The incident, which occurred as he entered Babylon, involved a flock of ravens exhibiting unusual behavior and subsequently dying at his feet. The inexplicable behavior of ravens is reminiscent of avian illness and death weeks before the first human cases of West Nile virus infection were identified in the USA. After reviewing ancient accounts and modern theories, Marr and Calisher concluded that Alexander may have died of West Nile virus encephalitis.

Marr JS and Calisher CS

Emerging Infectious Diseases <www.cdc.gov/eid> 2003; 9: 1599-1603.

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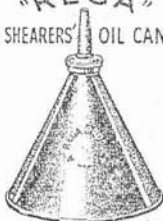
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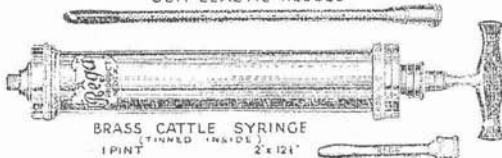
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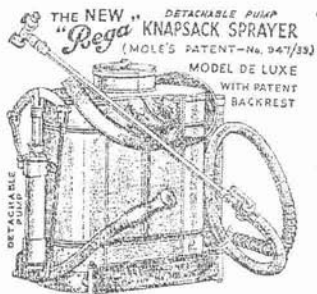
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FIRST CALL FOR PAPERS:

CONFERENCE: 'SCIENCE, DISEASE AND LIVESTOCK ECONOMIES'

VENUE: ST ANTONY'S COLLEGE, OXFORD, UK

Date: 24 & 25th June 2005

(Possibly extending to a 3rd day depending on responses)

The idea for this conference was born out of a post-doctoral project, sponsored by the Wellcome Trust, which explores the history of veterinary science at the Onderstepoort laboratories in South Africa. South African veterinary science was largely state funded and primarily concerned with the control of disease amongst herds, rather than the treatment of individual animals. Given the economic and social importance of the subject, our comparative reading suggests that veterinary science is underrepresented in both the medical and agricultural historiographies. The aim of this conference is to start to redress this gap in the literature by exploring the inter-relationship between livestock economies, disease, science and the environment.

Domesticated animals have been central to many rural economies and continue to be so, especially in many parts of the developing world. Disease has had significant impacts on pastoralism, livestock populations and species distribution. The cost of disease control is still an important economic and political issue as the recent foot and mouth outbreak in Britain demonstrated. Pastoralists and commercial farmers have long sought ways of overcoming environmental disadvantages and devised different coping mechanisms to sustain their flocks and herds. With the expansion of biomedical sciences in the 19th and 20th centuries and the concurrent evolution of bureaucracies in many parts of the world, control of livestock economies has to varying degrees shifted from the concern of individuals and communities to a specific function of the state. Western biomedicine has both challenged and become partly integrated with traditional systems of animal care. In Africa there was strong hostility towards state imposed veterinary regulations in the late 19th and 20th centuries. Broader ecological factors such as the presence of poisonous plants, grassland deterioration and water shortages have at times played a key role in livestock management and generated a plethora of adaptation strategies and scientific responses.

In this vein, we welcome papers dealing with pastoral economies in all parts of the world as the basis for an interesting comparative approach to the development and application of veterinary medicine globally. Possible themes include:

- the impact of enzootic and epizootic diseases
- entomological frontiers
- biomedical sciences and veterinary applications

- traditional medicine and livestock management
- the relationship between wildlife and domestic animals
- poisonous plants and grassland management
- animal nutrition
- species adaptability and selective breeding
- the development of veterinary bureaucracies and their context
- the role of the state in regulating livestock economies

Abstracts should be no more than 300 words long and also provide the name, e-mail address and current institutional affiliation of the participant. The deadline for sending in abstracts is the 15th December 2004 and we will advise applicants in January whether they have been accepted or not. We anticipate pre-circulating conference papers and are hoping to publish an edited volume from the proceedings.

Please e-mail the abstracts, or send any queries to Karen.brown@wuhmo.ox.ac.uk

We look forward to hearing from you.

Karen Brown and Dan Gilfoyle

Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, Oxford.

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