

HOUSE No. 1467

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, BOSTON, March 25, 1909.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives.

In answer to an order adopted by the Honorable House of Representatives on March 16th last, requiring the opinion of the Attorney General as to "whether the laws and statutes of this Commonwealth permit cattle infected to any degree with tuberculosis to be killed and sold as food in this Commonwealth," the Attorney General has replied that in his opinion "the laws and statutes of this Commonwealth do not permit the sale of meat derived from the carcasses of cattle infected to any degree with tuberculosis or any other disease to be sold as food within this Commonwealth."

In accordance with this opinion I have this day instructed the Chief of the Cattle Bureau and the State Board of Health to see that arrangements shall be immediately made so that the law shall be carried out immediately, strictly and carefully.

I have further asked the State Board of Health to see that all local boards of health and their officers and agents within the Commonwealth who have anything to do with these matters shall be immediately informed as to what the law is and govern themselves accordingly.

I desire further to call your attention to a statement of the Attorney General concerning "the obvious inconsistencies which exist between the statutes of 1908, chapter 329, section 1, and other provisions of the laws of the Com-

monwealth, and the provisions of the laws, rules and regulations of the Federal government in the premises.”

I call this matter to your attention officially so that you may take immediate and proper action to make appropriations, if any are necessary, to carry out the law, and that, further, you may take into consideration for such action as you may deem best whether or not this law (Chapter 329 of the Acts of 1908) does or does not apply as well to cattle slaughtered outside the Commonwealth and brought here for sale as to cattle killed within the State.

EBEN S. DRAPER.