

Reviews Activities In Agriculture Dept.

Policies of the Department of Agriculture were reviewed by the Minister, Hon. W. F. Alan Stewart, in speaking in the Legislature on Monday in the Draft Address debate. Mr. Stewart stuck closely to the work of his own department and avoided controversial issues.

The department, he said, has been getting along with a very small staff. The only permanent additions were Mr. Adams as assistant to the Dairy Superintendent, and Mr. Leo McIsaac who has been taken on as a general duties man.

The exceptionally dry season last year had had an adverse effect on practically all lines of farming, and was particularly noticeable in pastures and hay crop, Mr. Stewart said. He was afraid the situation would be serious if showers are lacking during the coming June.

Asked by Mr. Strong how much hay was brought into the Province within the last two or three months, the Minister said the quantity was not as great as might be expected.

Some farmers, he added, have been trying to overcome the hay shortage by feeding potato culls to cattle, but this requires a certain amount of grain to make up the required protein content.

Herds On Increase

There has been a very satisfactory increase in the number of small herds established last year. The Breeders' Association gives a grant of \$1,000 to each cattle association, which has to be approved by the Department. They use this money to very good purpose.

An artificial insemination of small nucleus has been established at Felonwood Farm. In co-operation with the Dominion Government this policy is to be very much expanded this year.

Hog production has not increased to any great extent, but it is estimated during the coming season that there will be an increase of 100 per cent. Mr. Stewart thought this estimate a little high, but the representative of the Dominion branch assured him it would be at least this great.

Last fall a trial shipment of purebred P. E. I. type Yorkshire hogs was shipped to the Western Provinces, and has proved satisfactory. This is a much better paying business than raising hogs for slaughtering.

The animals do not require any more feed. This Province has a very outstanding type of hog, which may be due to the boar bonus policy followed in recent years by the Department.

"We have in this Province over 70 per cent Class A hogs for slaughtering compared with some of the Western Provinces which are as low as 40 per cent," the Minister noted.

One reason why the sheep industry has failed to thrive to a greater extent is the menace of dogs, he continued. The Department has a protective policy and from one district in eastern King's they paid out \$780 on account of sheep killed. They are now trying a policy of paying the bonus not on the sheep killed but on the dogs that are killers. This may prove a better solution to the problem.

Last year, Mr. Stewart noted, was a poor one for honey production. He gave some details in this connection.

The agricultural laboratory was busier than ever during 1946. 60,000 hens were tested for pullorum. In post mortems they did not find one case of pullorum, which is evidence of the manner in which this disease is being eradicated.

He dealt with the difficulty of handling fox distemper. 25,000 foxes were inoculated last year, and the Department has to handle all the serum in this connection.

Soil survey is being continued, there being a Dominion official in charge of the work with two assistants supplied by the Provincial Department. During the coming year it is intended to carry on in connection with the different experimental stations.

Rural Beautification

Commenting on the success of the rural beautification contest last year, Mr. Stewart credited Colonel Johnstone with initiating the movement, in which over 160 contestants participated. The total cost to the Department of Agriculture last year was \$2,600, and it is generally conceded that the money was well expended. This year consideration is being given to attaching the programme to the Tourist Bureau.

Another small departure in poli-virus disease agent, called a virus, and it is generally conceded that the money was well expended. This year consideration is being given to attaching the programme to the Tourist Bureau.



Hon. W. F. A. Stewart

terminate the warble fly. It is a simple thing to apply the mixture and it is 95 per cent effective. The same policy is being carried out this year.

Mr. Stewart reviewed assistance given to the Fish and Game Association. He also referred to the skunk and owl bounties. In the case of owls the difficulty was that people failed to distinguish between the harmful and the beneficial birds, and brought in heads of barn owls and screech owls which belong to the latter category.

The skunk bounty is to be paid only for the four months of the year. The Minister instanced the difficulty of handling and identifying skunk snouts in hot weather. Each specimen is examined carefully by Mr. Jenkins. In one case they had 110 snouts brought in, and the circumstances being suspicious the Mounted Police investigated, with the result that they were found to have been "bootlegged" in from New Brunswick.

Dr. MacMillan: "Did you have a lot sent in that were made of cowhide?"

Mr. Stewart said they sometimes received cat snouts and kitten snouts. They found that by doubling the bonus on the adult skunks in the month of April the results were more satisfactory.

He reviewed briefly the activities at the Souris, Egmont Bay, Alberton and Charlottetown exhibitions, also the Central King's plowing match. In Charlottetown they expect to accentuate the livestock exhibit, also to rebuild the main building for handicrafts, etc. The latter he regarded as very important, and the Department might make it conditional on giving the grant that handicrafts be encouraged.

He referred to short courses given in blacksmithing, carpentry, agriculture, motor mechanics, and domestic science, which were attended by 100 boys and 70 girls during the past season. They had an exceptionally good class of students. The absences did not amount to 1-2 of 1 per cent, which showed that the classes were popular.

Dairying

Dealing with the dairying as the most important farm industry in the Province, Mr. Stewart said the Island had a wonderful record for milk production and he was sorry to think that it might be on the down grade. The chief difficulty was the lack of labor. He referred to the fine work done by Mr. T. Fraser Milroy, now retired as government grader, who had again offered his assistance to the department if required; also to the work of the dairy inspector, Mr. MacDonaid, whom Mr. Stewart described as an outstanding man.

It had been noted that the small dairy factories were tending to disappear. There was a reason for this, Mr. Stewart said. Milk can now be taken longer distances than in the old days, and the large factories have been paying increasing prices for butter fat quantities.

Mr. Matheson asked what effect the ice cream business had in this connection.

Hon. Mr. Stewart said this did not enter into the picture, as the factories that paid the highest prices were not making ice cream.

He concurred in Mr. Saville's reference to the welcome which should be extended to the Old Country wives of returned soldiers in this Province.

Mr. Strong asked the Minister if his Department had any policy regarding refrigeration for butter factories.

Mr. Stewart said the Department had been doing what it could to advise dairymen on this subject, but the financial assistance has been a matter for the Dominion Department. Some factories have put in refrigeration with the aid of Dominion grants.

TINY COLD PEST

The primary cause of a cold is a tiny cold pest, called a virus, and it is generally conceded that the money was well expended. This year consideration is being given to attaching the programme to the Tourist Bureau.

PROVINCIAL GASOLINE

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the \$2,100,000 minimum subsidy had been arrived at. The amount of \$1,356,000 represented the per capita payment of \$15 which was offered to all the provinces. The amount of \$656,932 represented the statutory subsidies payable by Canada to this Province during 1947. There was an extra amount of \$93,088, stated to be an additional amount agreed upon between Canada and Prince Edward Island. He asked how the latter item was arrived at. Over and above our \$15 per capita and statutory subsidies it was all this Province was getting as a fixed minimum.

Hon. Mr. Hughes said it was the amount sufficient to establish the \$2,100,000 minimum. It represented special consideration.

Messrs. Hunter and Strong maintained that the \$15 per capita was based on the 90,000 population estimate. Hon. Mr. Hughes maintained that the population figure had nothing to do with the amount. There was considerable argument on this point.

Further Argument

Mr. Hunter asked in the event of the Province not signing the agreement, what amount we would receive.

Mr. Hughes: "Our statutory subsidy of some \$650,000."

Mr. Hunter: "All we are getting in this agreement then is the \$15 per capita for our tax suspensions, plus this \$650,000."

Mr. Hughes: "We are getting \$1,650,000 in addition to our subsidy, in round figures."

Mr. Strong said the Opposition contention was that the door should be left open for further subsidy settlements, and that this had not been done.

Mr. Hughes maintained there were sufficient safeguards in the agreement as it stood.

Dr. MacMillan asked with regard to the \$656,932 given as the statutory subsidies payable to the Province. This amount had never been paid, according to the Public Accounts.

Mr. Hughes said there was some \$9,000 interest annually deducted on account of Hillsboro bridge.

Dr. MacMillan: "Did you get that changed?"

Mr. Hughes: "That agreement still stands."

Dr. MacMillan: "They paid us the subsidy less the amount for Hillsboro bridge. Therefore the agreement is not carried out, it specifies the sum of \$656,932. The \$2,100,000 we get includes no special concession, but just because it was the absolute minimum."

Mr. Hughes: "Two million was the absolute minimum, and not geared to gross national production. We got it raised."

Mr. Strong: "You paid interest on Hillsboro bridge for forty years. Don't you think you have paid for the bridge now?"

Mr. Hughes: "You didn't bring that up when you were in power."

Mr. Strong: "It is not too late now. You had the chance to do something and you failed."

Dr. MacMillan asked what year was taken in the Public Accounts, in making up the agreement.

Mr. Hughes said it was the statistics that were used, not the Public Accounts.

Dr. MacMillan: "I am interested to know what Public Accounts were used, because your Public Accounts were astray to the extent of nearly a million dollars, and that condition existed for six or seven years."

Mr. Hughes: "If they were astray they were straightened out."

dard time, for such period of time during each year as may be deemed advisable; and when so instituted such time shall be deemed the official time during the period so specified."

Mr. Strong asked for an explanation. Was it proposed to do away with Daylight Saving time or not? Under this bill the Government can bring in Daylight Saving at any time. The farmers were opposed to Daylight Saving and they should have some assurance on this score.

Premier Jones did not reply. Mr. Strong: "Are we on Atlantic Standard time now; will the promoter tell me that?"

Premier Jones: "I am anywhere."

Hon. Mr. Wright said he thought it would be quite safe to leave the matter with the Government. The bill provided that municipalities could not introduce Daylight Saving time on their own initiative. He quite agreed that the farmers are opposed to Daylight Saving time and the Government could be depended upon to bear this in mind.

Mr. Strong pointed out that there would be no uniformity of time if Daylight Saving were introduced by order-in-council, as the banks would have to remain on Standard time.

Mr. Morley Bell disagreed, but Mr. R. R. Bell supported Mr. Strong in this contention.

After further discussion the bill was reported agreed to.

Floral Emblem Bill

On motion of Hon. Mr. Stewart the House went into committee on an Act respecting a floral emblem for Prince Edward Island.

It provides that the "Lady's Slipper," botanically known as the *Cypripedium hirsutum*, be adopted as the floral emblem of this Province.

Mr. Stewart said every Province except Prince Edward Island has its floral emblem, also every State in the Union. Nova Scotia has the trailing arbutus or Mayflower, New Brunswick the wild rose. The bill had been brought to his attention by the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, and he understood that the teachers were supporting it. The flower selected is one of the most beautiful we have, and is probably the only orchid native to the Province. It is a wild flower.

Premier Jones said he knew where two good patches of the flowers grew, but he would be afraid to tell anyone now, because there would be a great demand for them when this bill goes through. The flowers are very beautiful but they are hard to find. He was afraid if the bill went through they would disappear altogether.

Mr. Strong: "You are opposed to the bill, then?"

Premier Jones: "Oh no."

Dr. MacMillan: "Why shouldn't we adopt the potato bloom?"

Hon. Mr. Stewart: "It is not a wild flower."

Mr. R. R. Bell asked whether the flower had any special significance.

Mr. Stewart said the gentleman who had advocated it was Mr. Blythe Hurst, Sr., who writes the very interesting Newsy Notes in the Guardian under the name of "Agricola." Mr. Stewart read correspondence on the subject.

Mr. Philip Matheson said if it were nothing else but a tribute to "Agricola," who made such fine contributions in the Guardian, this bill should go through.

It could be a nice gesture towards Mr. Hurst, who had contributed so much to the instruction and entertainment of nature lovers.

Mr. Saville thought it might be wise to let the bill stand over to get the opinion of organizations like the Women's Institutes.

Premier's Tribute

Premier Jones said Mr. Hurst had done a great work for this Province in his articles as "Agricola." He was an old gentleman now, and it would be fitting for the Legislature to recognize his work in some way. He had done "most distinguished" writing in his own field.

Mr. Saville agreed with the Premier. He said he always read "Agricola's" articles and found them very interesting and informative.

Mr. Matheson recalled that some ten or twelve years ago, a contest about birds was put on in the schools. One teacher, who did not know very much about the subject, wrote to "Agricola" personally. In reply he ran a series of articles on birds for two or three months. "What he didn't tell about our native birds was not worth telling." Mr. Matheson would like to support the Premier's suggestion that Mr. Hurst be recognized in some way by the Legislature.

Hon. Mr. Stewart: "It might be a gesture of appreciation to adopt this measure."

Mr. Matheson: "That is one reason, yes."

The bill was reported agreed to.

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BREAD BILL

(Continued from Page 1)

use elsewhere in Canada," such standard weight to be 20 ounces averdupols.

Asked by Mr. Heath Strong, K.C. what the present standard loaf was in this Province, the Premier replied, twenty-four ounces.

Mr. Strong: "We are cutting it down to 20 ounces. Is the price being cut?"

The Premier replied that there was no mention of price.

Mr. Strong said this meant an increase of four ounces to the bakers. It meant higher bread to the consumer.

A Serious Matter

Hon. Dr. MacMillan said this may be a very serious thing to those who buy bread. There should be some assurance that the price would be cut along with the loaf.

Premier Jones: "We are not interfering with the price."

Hon. Mr. Stewart: "I think the Wartime Prices Board would have something to say about that."

Dr. MacMillan: "Well, do they?"

Mr. Strong: "Isn't it a fact that the 24 ounce loaf is sold both in Charlottetown and Summerside? You propose to cut it to 20 ounces, and they can sell that for the same price."

Mr. Stewart: "You don't have to buy it."

Consider System Unfair

Mr. Eugene Cullen said the local bakers considered the present system very unfair. At least there should be some regulation compelling mainland baker to plainly mark the weight of their bread on the wrappers.

Dr. MacMillan: "Why don't you legislate to that effect?"

Mr. Cullen: "The point is that the present system allows the outside bakers to ship their bread in here at the same price and make more money than our bakers are doing."

Premier Jones thought the price would find its own level. This bill probably would force outside bakers to stay in their own Province.

Dr. MacMillan: "What is the weight of bread that supplies our provincial institutions?"

Premier Jones: "Twenty-four ounces."

Mr. Barbour said it would cost the same to wrap the 20 ounce loaf. "It will mean an increase in the price of bread. I guess," he admitted.

Mr. Strong: "There is no doubt about that."

Premier Jones read the petition received last month from the Island branch of the Maritime Bakers' Association, setting forth their reasons for asking for the bill.

Mr. Linkletter said he didn't notice any promise in their statement about a price reduction.

Cites Wheat Subsidy

Premier Jones said that bread prices at present are kept down by the Federal subsidy fixing the price of wheat at 78 cents. This will not continue, and the price of bread is bound to go up. He thought that might be a good time to proclaim this Act.

Dr. MacMillan: "Who asked for this legislation?"

Premier Jones: "The bakers asked for it."

Mr. Strong: "Of course!"

Dr. MacMillan thought this provision too drastic.

Mr. Barbour said it read like the Prohibition Act.

The bill provides a penalty of \$10 for violation of the law.

After some further discussion, and on the Premier's assurance with regard to deferring proclamation of the bill, it was reported agreed to.

GORDON LISTS

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Agricultural machinery, implements, equipment and supplies—Articles of hay and brooder, poultry feeding and watering equipment; stationary gas engines; harness and harness hardware; barbed wire and other fencing wire and fences;

Blender (twine); wheelbarrows; feeds and feed products of all kinds except horse meat, pet foods, straw, clean shell and poultry grit; fertilizers of all kinds, but not including humus, muck, manure, sphagnum moss or peat moss; gophers' poisons; seed beans and seed peas;

Grains as follows:—wheat; barley; oats; flaxseed; buckwheat; rape seed; sunflower seed; grain screenings.

Raw and Processed Materials—Basic iron and steel products and alloys, including pig iron, cast iron, scrap, ingots, bars, plate, rods and wire; primary, secondary and fabricated mill forms of the following non-ferrous metals and their alloys: copper, lead, tin and zinc; all fats and oils, including vitamin A oils, of animal, vegetable or marine origin but not including refined medicinal cod liver oil; glue; stock, glues and adhesives of animal origin; starches; fibres, raw or processed, as follows: cotton, hemp, jute, sisal, all synthetic fibres and filaments excepting glass; yarns and threads of, or containing any of the fibres listed above; fabrics, over 12 inches in width whether knitted or woven or containing any of the yarns and threads referred to above; bobbinet, dress end curtain and netting; elastic yarns, fabrics and webbing;

as a leather; leathers and synthetic leathers of all kinds; sheepskin shearlings, tanned, but not further processed than combed or sheared and colored on the flesh side.

—Pulp and Paper—Woodpulp, except:—(a) Dissolving grades, (b) "Alpha" grades of bleached sulphate, (c) "Duracel," (d) Groundwood and unbleached sulphite grades sold for the manufacture of newsprint or hanging paper.

Newsprint paper except when sold by manufacturers thereof; paper board used in the manufacture of solid fibre or corrugated shipping cases; boxboard grades of paperboard, except for wrapping newsprint paper or making newsprint cores.

—Containers and packaging materials—Containers, packaging and wrapping devices of a type used for the sale or shipment of products, when made from a textile fabric and including bags, cases, envelopes, folders and sacks.

—Services—Transportation of goods and services associated therewith; warehousing; dry storage of general merchandise and household goods other than wearing apparel; cold storage, including rental of lockers and ancillary services such as processing charges in cold storage plants;

Supplying of meals or refreshments for consumption on the seller's premises; the supplying of beverages (except alcoholic beverages) by purveyors of meals or refreshments; the supplying of meals with sleeping accommodation for a combined charge, but not including the supplying of meals, refreshments or sleeping accommodation by an employer to his employees, directly or through a servant or agent;

The packing or packaging or any other manufacturing process in respect of any goods subject to maximum prices, when performed on a custom or commission basis.

—Used goods—Used bags and used bagging and baling material.

Additional Foods: Tea, coffee, coffee concentrates; malt, malt extract, malt syrup; black pepper and white pepper, and substitutes containing black or white pepper;

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BARKING, Essex, England—(Reuters)—When many residents of this town faced hardship during the fuel crisis, the Barking Borough treasurer, R. F. Waterfall, carried sacks of coal from house to house in his own car and even carried them up several flights of stairs to top-floor tenants.

The birth of twins is considered unlucky by many West African natives.