

# Outstanding Developments At Experimental Station

(Continued from yesterday's Guardian)

### Pastures

Pastures were above average in production. The abundant supply of moisture from frequent showers maintained growth through the critical period of midsummer. On the Station, the most consistent production was obtained from the permanent pasture areas which receive either complete fertilizer or manure.

Though the season was not warm enough for a heavy crop of fodder corn, an average crop was grown. The ears were not as mature as in more favorable years. For mid and late fall feeding and for silage the hybrid "Algonquin" is recommended.

The swede crop was above average except on lands where clubroot was present and non-resistant varieties of swedes were sown. The resistant qualities of Wilhelmshagen and Charlottetown Bangholm were outstanding this year.

Experiments with 24-D as a spray for the control of wild radish or "wild turnip" were very satisfactory. They showed that for the destruction of wild radish in grain spraying with 24-D was the most effective method known to date. The best results were obtained when the spray was applied at a time when the wild radish plants were growing rapidly.

### Soil Survey & Related Work

The work carried out during 1948 at the soil laboratory was primarily concerned with soil fertility studies in relation to different soil types. A major project in this field of investigation was a series of experiments, conducted in field plots and in the greenhouse, for the purpose of studying the effect of different fertilizer mixtures on three of the major soil types. The field tests were made possible through the cooperation of several farmers throughout the Province.

While the investigations have not been conducted long enough to provide any conclusive results some interesting trends are indicated. In general, the results obtained indicate that the effect of fertilizer applications on crop yields may be influenced not only by the amount of fertilizer applied but also by a possible interaction between the rate of application and the fertilizer formula.

The results obtained so far suggest that although potash is an important factor in the growing of potatoes, and may in some cases be the limiting factor, greater attention to the nitrogen and phosphorus content of the fertilizer mixture may be necessary for maximum yields.

The responses obtained in both field and greenhouse experiments indicate that beneficial results may be expected from applications of nitrogen and phosphorus. These results confirm the need for these nutrient elements as shown by soil tests.

The program proposed for 1949 calls for the continuance of the project under way. In addition there will be an expansion of the field tests to include a series of grain plots similar to the greenhouse tests.

Along with the field tests for the study of crop responses, a long term program of soil testing will be carried out for the purpose of studying the cumulative effect of different soil management practices. Some of these soil management practices have been in operation at the Charlottetown Station for 35 years.

### Cereals

Nineteen hundred and forty-eight proved to be one of the most successful seasons for grain production that we have had in many years. Seeding was, on the average, later than usual but

abundant moisture was available throughout the growing season. A heavy rainstorm on July 24, lodged many fields badly but even this failed to reduce yields materially. Rust damage was practically confined to late seedings of susceptible varieties.

Variety tests were unusually satisfactory, both at the Station and at country points. Many new strains, particularly of oats, were tried out and several found promising. A considerable quantity of certified seed of Abegweit oats was supplied to Illustration Station operators for this year's seeding. In addition, members of a recently formed Seed Grain Club at Urbanville purchased certified Abegweit Reports from these growers and from many other farmers indicate excellent yields of high quality grain from the new variety.

A new wheat variety, called Cascade, was released in 1947. This strain in the spring of 1948. This seed was distributed in small quantities to Illustration Station operators and other farmers. Reports of yields obtained are encouraging.

The development of new oat varieties at the Charlottetown Station features disease resistance combined with high yield and quality. As the oat crop is by the most important of the cereals in the Province, it is anticipated that future cereal work at this Station will emphasize oat breeding and will also include some barley selection work and routine variety testing of wheat.

### Horticulture Activities

With the exception of tree fruits, horticultural crops were excellent in 1948.

Apple production reached an all time high with practically no fruit, except from a few commercial orchards, being offered for sale. The strawberry acreage is now estimated at 300 acres as compared to 60 acres in 1947. Good yields, combined with increased production which was difficult to handle. Many were shipped out by air and large quantities were sold to processors.

Native fruits, particularly cranberries, produced excellent crops which were sold without difficulty. The demand for cranberries from outside parts, greatly exceeded the supply.

About 650 acres of cucumbers were grown in the Province this year but yields in general were below average. However, quality and grade were superior and many farmers received better prices than in 1947.

The blight and scab plots of potatoes at the Charlottetown Station were of particular interest this season and attracted the attention of many visitors. A number of the seedings under test proved almost entirely resistant to late blight and these are being further examined for quality and yield. The possibility of securing scab resistant varieties for this Province is also bright.

Some 55 named varieties and strains of potatoes were grown for test work this season. Variety tests with cucumbers were again carried out, with Chicago Pickle being noted as the best variety.

Thinning tests with cucumbers showed that close thinning (1 ft. x 6 ft.) gave the best yields. Manure and fertilizer trials indicate that manure applied to furrows will produce better yields than broadcast applications. Complete fertilizers, such as 5-10-10 mixtures, gave excellent yields either with or without manure.

### Tests To Be Continued

These results are for one year only and the tests will have to be continued for several more years before definite information is available.

Some work was undertaken in 1948 to test materials for defoliating tomato plants to induce earlier ripening. These trials were quite promising and further work will be carried out in 1949.

In our variety test work Early Chatham proved to be quite outstanding for the production of ripe fruit.

The dahlias collection maintained at the Station has been considerably enlarged and includes a number of outstanding varieties. A considerable number of inferior or diseased varieties were discarded.

Work with Upland cranberries is underway at Blooming Point and Murray Harbor. At Blooming Point an interesting experiment in broadcast sowing is being carried out. This area was tilled with a vine run through a straw chopper and the cranberry ground and disked in. Vines planted in this way made excellent growth.

Variety trials are also being conducted and the Cassin Cod varieties, Early Black and Howe are being tested along with native varieties.

time ten stations, located on five major soil types and modifications thereof, serve the farmers of the Province. Nine stations deal with general farm problems and one feature special investigations.

Studies associated with cranberry production on upland areas. Illustration stations in this province are located on farms owned and operated by T. Albert Hicken, Alton; Fred Cheverie, East Point; James Dalry, Jones; H. H. MacDonald, Monticello; William E. Johnston, New London; Robert Woodside, O'Leary; Thomas E. Noonan, Richmond; John W. MacKenzie, Rose Valley; John Clark, M.B.E. Rustico and Zevon Gallant, Urbanville. Farm problems are studied under local conditions thereby serving to supplement comprehensive research work being carried out at the Experimental Farm.

### Sequence of Crops

A four, five, six and seven year sequence of crops are featured on illustration stations in Prince Edward Island. In addition, potato rotations have been laid down on those station fields where no mussel mud, ground limestone or light applications of lime have been applied in past years. Naturally, any established sequence of crops must be flexible in order to meet the individual farmer's requirements. A systematic rotation of crops has over the past number of years facilitated field operations and favoured a general improvement in soil fertility as evidenced by increased yields of root crops, potatoes, grain and hay. Associated with rotational studies are recommended cultural practices and soil fertility studies. Illustration stations in this province also serve as testing grounds for new varieties of farm crops and as centers where rotational studies are conducted. In many instances they deal with specific and localized problems of a fact finding nature which demand careful study. They further serve as breeding centers for poultry and livestock of desirable type and quality and as centers where good seed of recommended varieties may be obtained.

Farm woodlot management studies are being pursued at the All Saints and London, Rose Valley and Rustico stations where selective cutting and recommended forestry practices are being demonstrated.

### General Conditions

General conditions throughout the Province have been most satisfactory during the past year for the production of all farm crops and livestock. From the end of winter and spring pastures, where fertilized, made luxuriant growth. During the past two years complete fertilizers have been applied to permanent pastures in the soil with the result that there has been a marked increase in the yield of hay and silage. The early spring applications were made where steep slopes do not prevail, equally good results have been obtained from the application of early fertilizing practices.

At the New London station, the fertilized pasture area which has been continuously in sod since 1938 produced the highest quantity of forage to date. From 100 acres the receiver, 61 pounds ammonium nitrate, 600 pounds superphosphate and 100 pounds potash annually, 26,300 tons of green forage per acre were obtained. This was made up largely of wild white clover. At the close of November over thirty head of feeding steers were still finding succulent forage on the fertilized pasture areas at Mr. Johnstone's station.

In order to correct soil acidity, improve tilth and beneficially influence the availability of other plant food elements, ground limestone is being utilized in conjunction with farmyard manure and commercial fertilizers in the production of field crops at all stations. Prior to the establishment of illustration stations in this province very little alfalfa was grown. Applications of one long ton per acre combined with bacterial inoculation of the seed, has resulted in the favourable introduction of this crop. Farmers in general are finding alfalfa winter hardy and it is becoming commonplace in the regular meadows.

### Hay & Potatoes

The hay crop on all illustration stations was above average during the past year. The heaviest stand being produced at the Rustico station where a clover meadow yielded 432 tons of cured hay per acre. Oat, wheat, barley and mixed grain crops threshed out well at all stations. 35 bushels of Cascade wheat and 40 bushels of Charlottetown No. 80 barley per acre being threshed at the O'Leary station operated by Mr. Robert Woodside.

Growing tuber unit seed potatoes in isolated plots has been generally adopted by illustration station operators. The establishment of an isolated seed plot apart from the regular crop area has resulted in the production of a superior grade of disease free stock which serves as a source of high grade seed the following year. During the winter of 1948 Eye Index tests were conducted on seed potatoes at all stations. The Richmond, Urbanville and Rose Valley stations. Disease free potatoes were returned to the operators and planted in isolated plots by the tuber unit method. Following rigid field inspection, two plots were designated as Foundation stock while the remaining plot passed as Foundation A. Of the total acreage of potatoes, namely 54 1-4, grown on nine illustration stations in 1948, 38 acres were planted by the tuber unit method. Of the total acreage planted,

## THE EASTERN GUARDIAN

AGENTS: MONTAGUE: Harold F. Landry, Albert Althen, Mrs. Bryson, Miss S. A. Llewellyn; St. Peter's: The Post Office. AGENT GEORGETOWN: Waldon Lavera. AGENT SOURIS: Francis Cheverie.

The Guardian may be bought at any of the following places in Montague: Miss S. A. Llewellyn; Mrs. C. J. in Georgetown: The Post Office; in Souris: Condon's and Florence Roper; in St. Peter's: The Post Office.

Mr. Raymond Grant, student of St. Dunstan's University, is spending the Christmas vacation at the home of his parents, Dr. and Mrs. T. V. Grant, Montague.

Miss Jennie MacLaren, member of the staff of the Income Tax Office, Charlottetown, is spending the Christmas vacation at her parents' home in Brudenell.

Mr. and Mrs. Percy MacDonald, Charlottetown, were Christmas day visitors to Montague, guests of Mr. MacDonald's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Louis MacDonald.

Messrs. Malcolm Beck and Arrand Jones, medical and dentistry students respectively, at McGill University, are spending the Christmas vacation at their homes in Montague.

On Thursday the annual Christmas school closing took place at the Montague High School. Each room was decorated with a Christmas tree, and the walls were decorated with many Christmas trimmings. The kiddies were assembled for the Christmas carols, while they sang Christmas carols while awaiting the arrival of Santa Claus. Finally amidst a breathless hush, the ringing of bells was heard, and Santa entered the room, amid the joyful cries of the children. Santa then distributed gifts to all the children, who were unable to take their eyes from him as he called each one for his gift. After the departure of Santa, the teachers treated the pupils to ice-cream, candy, apples, oranges and many other Christmas delicacies. The program included "Angels We Have Heard On High", "Deck the Halls", "O Holy Night", "It Came Upon A Midnight Clear", "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen", and "O Come All Ye Faithful". The program closed with the singing of "God Save the King". Now that the doors of the school are closed until January 1st, the school will be in Montague for a later date when the ice is in the best condition.

During the past week curlers have been anxiously watching the weather, in the hope that there will be sufficient frost to make ice so that curling will open on the usual New Year's Day. Mr. Daniel Semple, the Janitor, is at present taking advantage of the cold weather so as to build up ice. The first scheduled competition will be the Clarkson Trophy, and the teams for this competition will be drawn up early in January. On Saturday several members will be in Charlottetown to play against the Scottish curlers, while others will be playing local teams either in the morning or the evening. It is possible that the Charlottetown curlers will be invited to play in Montague at a later date when the ice is in the best condition.

### Operations Expanded

During the past year illustration station operations have expanded. A new station on the farm of Mr. Robert Woodside, O'Leary was established, and soil conservation practices were intensified at the New London station operated by Mr. William E. Johnstone. A Hummer Ditcher has been acquired by the Division and is being used for the simple modern soil conservation practices will be instituted at the New London station. These will take the form of the construction of a number of diversion ditches and contour farming.

### Georgetown and Vicinity

Miss Rosalie Kiggins of Charlottetown, a recent visitor to Georgetown—Geo.

Mr. Clem Wight of Charlottetown spent the holiday with his mother, Mrs. William Wight.

Mr. Ferdie Batchelder who is employed in the City, visited his home during Christmas.

Stillman Mair who is taking a carpentry course at the Vocational School in Charlottetown and James Mair, Prince of Wales College student, are spending their holidays at their home in Georgetown.

maintained of a high level of production. Investigations have been undertaken to measure the role of trace elements in poultry nutrition and an attempt is being made to measure the improvement in egg laying attributable to breeding and selection (that is breeding) as opposed to environmental factors.

With the cooperation of the new Regional Laboratory of Animal Pathology at Sackville closer and more detailed studies are to be made of the causes of mortality in poultry.

### Apiary

The main project in the bee division is the Charlottetown Station is one comprising Caucasian and Italian bees. Caucasian bees came through the winter with 608 frames covered with bees compared to the Italians with 1077 pounds of bees in both cases during the cool wet weather of May and June. The Caucasians recovered much more rapidly and out-yielded the Italians by 81.5 pounds of honey per colony.

The province there has been a decided increase in the number of farmers keeping bees. 655, 2 pound packages of Italian bees were imported by the Beekeepers of the province during 1948, and while considerable difficulty was experienced with queens early in the season a record crop of approximately 85,000 pounds of honey was produced. In all probability, there will be a decrease in the number of packages imported in 1949.

It is expected that a new project will be undertaken at the Charlottetown Station to compare package bees with overwintered colonies. The general practice at present is to purchase 96 per cent of the farmers seems to be the purchasing of package bees in the spring and destroying the bees in the fall, just prior to the extracting of the honey. This practice necessitates the purchase of package bees each spring.

### Visitors Welcome

The foregoing review gives a brief outline of the many activities carried out by the P. E. I. Experimental Station. To become fully acquainted with what is being done one should visit the station. The members of the staff are at all times ready to welcome visitors and are anxious to be of practical assistance wherever possible.

Students returning from Acadia University to spend the Christmas vacation at their homes in Montague include Hazel Yeo and Malcolm Johnston.

Mr. Thomas McCormack, Halifax, is spending the Christmas holidays in Montague with his mother, who is superintendent at the King's County Memorial Hospital.

Mr. Arthur Carruthers, student at Toronto University where he is studying optometry, has arrived in Montague where he is spending the Christmas vacation with his wife and his mother.

Students returning from Prince of Wales College for the Christmas vacation include Anne MacLaren, Joyce Wigginton, Ray Griffin, Albert Johnston, Abner and Charles Edward Sterling Lane, William MacLynne, Dick MacLean and Katherine MacLean.

On Wednesday night a special party was held at Yeo's Hall where a large crowd gathered to enjoy the pre-Christmas fun. About half-way through the evening, the ladies served lunch, after which the party continued. Before closing the group gathered around the piano to sing Christmas carols, while Mr. Dick Hurst played the piano. It was a very fitting closing to a very pleasant evening.

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Miss Louise Murphy who is employed in Souris is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Murphy, Richmond Street.

Miss Dorothy Jenkins of the firm of W. R. Jenkins of Charlottetown is enjoying the holidays with her mother, Mrs. Florence Jenkins.

Harry MacCormack of the Canadian Bank of Commerce in Montague enjoyed the yuletide holiday at his home.

Miss Madeline McKeehan of Charlottetown, was a guest for the holiday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. N. W. Hanson of Burnt Point.

Miss Dorothy Roche of the Wright Shoe Company in Charlottetown spent Christmas at her home in Georgetown.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Currie and son of Charlottetown spent Christmas with Mrs. Currie's parents, Mr. and Mrs. John C. Gotell.

Pte. Sheldon Ross of the Canadian Army who is now stationed in Halifax, N. S., visited his wife and family over the Christmas holidays.

Donnie MacLean who is taking a carpentry course at the Vocational School in Charlottetown, enjoyed Christmas with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm MacLean.

The writer was an interested visitor to the Charlottetown Station in perfect bloom which were picked by Mrs. Emerson Llewellyn on December 22nd.

Mr. George Martell is at present engaged in the cutting of pil-props on Pannure Island, at which he is expected to be employed for the greater part of the winter.

Mr. Leo Grant, member of the crew of the S. S. Princess Helene which runs from Saint John, N. B. to Yarmouth, N. S., is spending Christmas at the home of his family in-law, Mr. John Delory, Richmond Street.

Mr. Amos Lavandier of Boston, Mass., is spending Christmas with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Lavandier. It has been some years since Amos has been privileged to enjoy the yuletide season at home and he is being welcomed by his many old friends.

Miss Margaret Wood of the Canadian National Telegraph Office, Miss Eileen Wood of the office staff of Stewart's Bakery and Miss Vivian Wood of the Royal Bank, all of Charlottetown, enjoyed the holidays with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Wood, Water St.

Mr. Bernard Batchelder arrived home a few days ago from "Port Hawkesbury, N. S., where the Dominion Government Dredge of which he is captain is laid up for the winter. Mr. Batchelder will return to Nova Scotia at the end of his holidays and remain on the dredge for the winter.

Mr. Nathan Mair, student at Toronto University, arrived in Georgetown on Thursday evening, having made the trip from New England, passing through Niagara Falls, Buffalo, Syracuse, Albany, and Boston. While attending Toronto University

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Nathan is also engaged as assistant minister in St. Paul's Church at Scarborough Bluffs, which is a suburb of Toronto. He also does considerable work at the Church of All Nations in downtown Toronto.

Friends of Mrs. Reginald Kenny will learn with regret that she is a patient in the Charlottetown Hospital following an accident. While returning from this vicinity to the city with her husband last week their truck was sidwiped and rolled over. Mrs. Kenny was injured quite seriously.

Congratulations to the Minister and the good people of Marie Church on their recent installation of new and lovely chime bells in their church tower. Their clear and sweet chimes can and are heard for miles around and are something new in country churches. A new heating system has also been installed in this church, the outside painted white. Now with their new chimes this church is a credit to this vicinity.

Considerable worry was caused here last week when it was learned that little Joe Donovan, four year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Donovan, was lost. Joe was not missed for several hours as his mother thought he was playing in the yard but when he failed to answer the supper call the alarm was sounded and a search started but no trace of Joe could be found until late in the evening when his mother and some other women who were visiting the church heard faint crying in the basement and investigating found the lost child in a section of the basement that was once used as a garage by the pastor and now closed off. The little boy said he got into the basement by a small door that closed after him and could not reach the hatch to get out; he also said he had cried for a long time and when no one came, fell asleep.

WELNETHAM, Suffolk, England (CP)—Alecron Clarke, a stockman, has reared a whole litter of orphaned piglets with milk and cod liver oil. Now they follow him around.

LONDON—(CP)—An appeal has been made to London University students to offer themselves as human guinea pigs in an investigation to determine why people inherit special characteristics like red hair and unusual tastes.

It is understood that an effort is being made to have ice in the new Morell rink at Christmas and all are sorry to learn that the Bristol open rink is falling down and will not be re-built this season.

A report circulated in this vicinity a short time ago that Mr. Luke Dunn, a brother of Mr. Frank

Mr. and Mrs. Eldon Drake, were weekend visitors to the city on business; other business visitors to the city were Charlie Trowsdale, Mrs. Ruben Drake Mrs. William MacDonald and Mrs. James Arnold.

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Dunn had been killed in Boston. On making inquiry, it was learned this information was not true.

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