

Provincial Agricultural Activities Are Reviewed

Gains and Losses In Farm Industry

Satisfactory Progress Reported In Livestock Branches Particularly Horse Production. Serious Butter Price Problem Discussed.

(By W. R. Shaw, Deputy Minister of Agriculture)

The effect of drought and other adverse circumstances in the year 1937 cast its shadow over productivity in the year now drawing to a close.

A large number of farmers entered the year 1938 in reduced circumstances and with inadequate supplies particularly with reference to seed requirements and to a considerable extent, with reduced numbers of livestock. A shortage of seed was particularly a handicap on many producers. In view of the high prevailing cost of seed, the Government, through the Department of Agriculture, in order to relieve the situation arranged for seed distribution under the provisions of the Seed Grain Security Act. In this way the requirements of needy farmers were completely satisfied and approximately sixty thousand bushels of oats and barley were distributed. Fortunately, the 1938 growing season proved favorable and as a result, the grain crop throughout the whole Province was of an exceedingly satisfactory nature. There was one exception, however—that of wheat. Within recent years it has become extremely difficult to secure wheat yields. Rust and attacks of insects and disease have so reduced yield from wheat areas that the bulk of wheat farmers have actually reduced quantities seeded. While wheat is not a large feature in the grain production of the Province, it is nevertheless an important factor in that it provides for the average farmer flour, bran and feeds for poultry and other livestock.

Any hope is centered at the present time on some new varieties of wheat which have been giving excellent results while the old varieties are failing. One of these varieties is "Coronation" and the Department of Agriculture has this year arranged for the purchase of a few thousand bushels of this variety for distribution. It is thought that this and some of the other new varieties are now under way will solve the wheat problem in this Province.

Crop Yields

The following comparative statement indicates crop yields for the past six year period:

Wheat, bush.	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
Oats, bush.	513,700	504,000	435,000	246,000	251,586	141,750
Barley, bush.	6,940,980	3,331,600	5,008,350	5,162,000	3,437,200	4,888,440
Hay, tons	131,240	90,000	96,200	138,000	139,750	195,780
Timothy, bush.	54,540	54,000	60,000	95,000	81,800	1,108,530
Mixed Grains	880,000	861,900	802,000	925,000	831,800	1,108,530
Potatoes, bush.	5,264,000	9,242,000	5,068,000	6,866,000	5,780,000	4,003,000
Turnips, bush.	5,869,500	6,982,000	4,848,000	7,358,000	5,582,400	5,700,000
Hay, tons	336,150	236,986	268,000	356,000	314,711	276,840
Corn, tons		2,900	3,000	2,500	2,700	2,700

DAIRY PRODUCTS

Butter 2,500,000	4625,000.00
Cheese 500,000	70,000.00

LIVESTOCK STATISTICS 1938

Horses	28,685
Cattle	44,180
Hogs	48,700
Sheep	830,220
Poultry	28,685

It will be observed by these figures that the grain crop yielded comparatively favorably with figures for some of our best years. The increase in barley and mixed grains is outstanding leaving in the hands of the farmers large quantities of valuable feeding material. This should place the hog raiser particularly in a favorable position as the market prices have been maintained at a satisfactory level. The price of rough grains is low which should promote the tendency to process surplus through livestock channels. Hay production, due to the previous year's dry weather, to a very great extent, was much lower than in 1937.

Root Crops

Best crops remained practically the same while potatoes, run of field, were up considerably in yield. At the same time, the season was one in which farmers had to contend with unusual blight conditions and, as a result, where spraying practices were not regular, substantial losses occurred from blight rot. Reports, however, indicate that where care was exercised in this respect and rotten tubers graded out at time of storage, that tubers are being maintained in remarkably good condition. The market for potatoes is fortunately much improved over the previous year and surplus stock will continue to be sold to livestock to good advantage.

Producers of turnips did not have to contend with insect attacks to any great extent as prevailed in the previous season. Large supplies of marketable turnips were harvested. The price on this product is unfortunately low up to the present time but this is possibly due to serious hardships as the tubers may be fed to livestock to good advantage.

The livestock industry has, in general, made satisfactory progress. An outstanding improvement has been made in the horse and exhibition branches. The Department of Agriculture is rapidly bringing about a vastly improved horse population. Numbers have been increased and the Province will very shortly be on a

G. N. R. Manager Sees Promise of Improvement

(By W. U. Appleton Vice-President and General Manager, Atlantic Region, Canadian National Railways.)

In looking back over the year that has just come to a close and forwards to the year that is just commencing, there is much that gives promise of improved economic conditions. When comparing the year just closed with the previous year, it must be borne in mind that 1937 was somewhat abnormal in the way of business recovery and a more correct comparison in general trends can be obtained by using the year 1936. On this basis business has been fairly well maintained and progress can be registered.

The abundant grain crop in Western Canada was reflected during the latter part of the year in increased earnings and coupled with a general revival in the United States lent a more optimistic tone to the outlook which should continue into the forthcoming year. One of the bright spots in the picture is the mining industry, particularly gold which assisted greatly in maintaining economic stability.

Insofar as the Canadian National Railway is concerned, at times is concerned, it has shared in whatever measure of progress that has been attained and the facilities have been maintained at a high standard of roadbed and track, afforded smooth and comfortable riding qualities at the fastest speeds, air-conditioned passenger equipment has been introduced along with modern dining cars and there has been extensive re-equipment of all equipment. Regularly has been maintained in passenger train schedules which is now an accepted condition, this despite the fact that it is not possible to provide train schedules that could be properly arranged if there was sufficient traffic to justify. Everything consistent with the traffic offering is being done to make the railway as efficiently operated and its services as attractive as possible.

Inequality in regulatory practices between rail and highway transportation is a matter that requires serious and immediate action on the part of governing bodies, particularly in the Maritime Provinces where coal is one of the major natural resources, the railways being one of the greatest sources of consumption, and where weather conditions during the winter season impose a greater expense of operation on the railways which have to plow out and maintain their own right-of-way and which form the last link in the maintenance of the road from place to place during times of severe snowstorms. While there are proper services that might be operated by buses and trucks, they should be operated where they parallel use of the railway and divert rightful traffic from the railway where there is little or no benefit to be derived in doing so.

Assistance was also given of a technical nature in the culling and blood testing of poultry flocks while the field promoter, Mr. S. C. Wright, spent a large portion of his time in various parts of the Province in his regular duties in charge of cow testing.

In order to further assist the dairy industry, the services of Mr. Edward Larkin of Grand River were made available to the Dairy Superintendent to take care more particularly of the work concerned with cheese production and marketing.

Fox Services

Remarkable development has taken place in fox services and our fieldman, Mr. W. F. Burke, could not fill the demand for services in this particular department. The work was conducted in the form of shows and demonstrations were held in various parts of the Province. A new scheme of grading and inspection of foxes was introduced and members of the fox clubs and a number of special graders were appointed to undertake this work under the supervision of this Department. This work has been highly appreciated and the educational advantages carried to the rancher has had a remarkable effect in the matter of fox control. In addition to the fox Shows and Demonstrations and other work conducted among the ranchers, a Fox Show has just recently been successfully completed. It felt that this feature, the initiation of a scheme which will ultimately be of outstanding benefit. For the first time, possibly in the history of the Province, a Fox Show has been held in the Province. The cost, however, of such a show is considerable and a Fox Show has been held in the Province. A new interest has been aroused in fox production and the average rancher seems to have his ear to the ground to detect every move which is being conducted for the improvement of the industry. While prices of furs are low, a new enthusiasm seems to have been injected into the industry as a result of the work that has been undertaken.

For the past few years, it has been apparent to the Department that the Province has been deficient in its lime content. The cost, however, of ground limestone has been a deterrent influence and in order to bring the lime content of the Province up to a standard, a lime plant was adopted during the present year operative until December 31st by which approximately seventy-five tons of lime were produced. A new office has been opened at O'Leary in which a field representative for Prince County, Mr. Lloyd Lockey, a graduate of Macdonald College at Quebec, has been placed in charge. This representative will do general duties and render services to the farmers in the western end of the Province. The Department of Agriculture has been maintaining and improved during the year. The Department of Agriculture has been maintaining and improved during the year.

Five new cow-testing associations were formed during the year bringing the total now in operation up to thirteen. A great deal of work has been done in the work of the Association by the members. Field services of the Department of Agriculture have been maintained and improved during the year. The Department of Agriculture has been maintaining and improved during the year.

Another phase of activity is the growing of clover and legume crops. The Department of Agriculture has been maintaining and improved during the year. The Department of Agriculture has been maintaining and improved during the year.

REVIEW OF EGG & POULTRY ASSOCIATION

(By I. M. McDonald, Manager P. E. I. Co-Operative Egg and Poultry Ass'n.)

In reviewing the activities of the P. E. I. Co-Operative Egg & Poultry Ass'n for the year ending December 31st, 1938, we find the poultry conditions in the Province in a somewhat unusual situation. Starting off with Hatching operations, we found the demand very good and although feed prices were somewhat higher, nevertheless, there was a feeling of optimism, due of course to the higher price paid for poultry through the previous poultry season.

Feed prices, although seemingly high were helped out considerably in the feeding of chicks by the unusual conditions in the Province where most chickens were allowed to run. In this way many chickens were brought through the full growing period in a healthy and the benefit of plenty nourishing grasses and green foods together with a fairly good supply of late.

The open season during the late Fall months did not seem so beneficial to the industry as would be expected. The birds were not confined and fed sufficient to put the quantity of flesh on the birds so necessary before crate feeding. This was a serious handicap to the industry and is showing a lower percentage of Milkfed birds than formerly.

The production of eggs although below any of the previous years was of reasonably good quality until the warmer summer months when quality began to go down not only in the Province but in the whole of the Province and in fact over Canada. Conditions were very unsatisfactory in that it seemed apparent that laying flocks were not being properly cared for to produce top quality eggs that the market is increasing its demand for. Percentages of top quality eggs were not as high as in previous years. Not only was this very detrimental to the producer but the Wholesale Distributors were continuously under difficulties in the clearing of low quality stock. The Montreal Market were about the only very fortunate in that the heaviest crop of turkeys that has been grown for many years, and as the demand for export has been so good, the quality of production, when there is an abundance of home grown feeds on hand, we look forward to the year 1939 with a great deal of optimism. It is necessary, therefore, for the producer to put every effort forward to produce top quality produce so as to bring back a reputation for the Province as its poultry products.

During the Spring months, the Association made at different intervals a survey of the quality of British Isles, which from reports received from those handling the product, proved to be satisfactory on that market. It is with interest that those making shipments last season are looking forward to a similar survey. It is to put every effort forward to produce top quality produce so as to bring back a reputation for the Province as its poultry products.

Provincial Cranberry Growers' Association. This Association is the result of investigation and projects a national work undertaken by the Department of Agriculture. The work was conducted in the form of shows and demonstrations were held in various parts of the Province. A new scheme of grading and inspection of foxes was introduced and members of the fox clubs and a number of special graders were appointed to undertake this work under the supervision of this Department. This work has been highly appreciated and the educational advantages carried to the rancher has had a remarkable effect in the matter of fox control. In addition to the fox Shows and Demonstrations and other work conducted among the ranchers, a Fox Show has just recently been successfully completed. It felt that this feature, the initiation of a scheme which will ultimately be of outstanding benefit. For the first time, possibly in the history of the Province, a Fox Show has been held in the Province. The cost, however, of such a show is considerable and a Fox Show has been held in the Province. A new interest has been aroused in fox production and the average rancher seems to have his ear to the ground to detect every move which is being conducted for the improvement of the industry. While prices of furs are low, a new enthusiasm seems to have been injected into the industry as a result of the work that has been undertaken.

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Dominion Livestock Activities Reviewed

(LIVESTOCK DIVISION, PRODUCTION SERVICE, DOMINION DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.)

Dr. E. S. Notting, Senior Officer in Charge.
Mr. S. D. Irvine, Senior Fieldman.
Mr. L. W. Roper, Cattle Fieldman.
Mr. H. W. Clay, Grader.

THE CATTLE INDUSTRY FOR THE YEAR 1938

This year has been one which was considered to be very irregular in the cattle industry from a production standpoint. It will be remembered that there was great variation in quantities of fodder in the early part of the year. Prince County had reached the lowest ebb in many years. In many districts, the breeders did not have the required amount of hay, straw or grain. The root crop also was considered a failure in West Prince. This also applied to many districts in the eastern counties. Queen's County and southern Prince were fortunate in having a surplus over their requirements. Owing to the high cost of concentrates, it was very difficult to have sufficient fodder transported to various points; this was a handicap to production of both dairy and beef cattle in the early months. However, the breeders and feeders were very fortunate in having early pastures, and while the cattle went to pasture, the breeders were able to suppress and eradicate this loss-factor. Systematic treatment with worming and other measures, together with a change of pasture when practicable, resulted in a body of cattle of proper feeding practices, and the exercising of caution when such was added to the flock are all helpful.

Sheep have a definite place on many of our farms where ample pasture and a reasonably good soil are available. In addition to the revenue realized from the sale of lambs and wool, sheep are most valuable in the destruction of weeds, and particularly, where the heavy crop of turkeys that has been grown for many years, and as the demand for export has been so good, the quality of production, when there is an abundance of home grown feeds on hand, we look forward to the year 1939 with a great deal of optimism. It is necessary, therefore, for the producer to put every effort forward to produce top quality produce so as to bring back a reputation for the Province as its poultry products.

Trade in Livestock

This year was considered only a fair year for export trade. The demand was as good as the past year in many cases the quality of animals offered was up to standard. Among the pure breeds, the demand was not so marked as in the previous year, but prices were generally good. It is regrettable that the quantity of pure bred stock offered was limited. Such a condition makes it difficult to group car lots without a considerable number of young breeding sires were exported to different parts of the Maritime.

It is very pleasing to note that many districts are making much greater progress this year in their feeding methods, and adopting a more systematic method of herd improvement. Districts in which pure bred bulls are maintained and where Junior Calf and Stud sires are available, are gradually attaining a more desirable standard of mixed farming practices. Owing to the trend of the markets with considerable variation in the early part of the year, we are to time, we have reached the stage where our stock must be produced in a greater quality volume.

Breeders and feeders of dairy cattle should be encouraged to grow as much of their feed as is humanly possible, in order to lessen production costs. They should also practice regular and systematic culling of their herds, eliminating unprofitable animals, and animals of undesirable type in accordance with the breed they are raising. It is to be hoped that a greater number of breeders will keep a greater number of animals, regardless of quality, for the amount of feed which is available to maintain the herd during the winter.

THE DURING 1938

(By F. M. NASH, Senior Poultry Fieldman)

The most obvious thing about the poultry market at the close of 1938 was the fact that producers were generally well supplied with eggs for the most part, had a good year. Egg prices were somewhat higher than in 1937, although poultry prices were not in a position to carry over into the next year. The quality of eggs produced was very poor, so much so that our markets were affected seriously. Unless a better quality product is produced in future, Prince Edward Island producers may look forward to lower prices and diminishing markets. The future of the poultry industry of this Province depends on the marketing of a quality product. The fact that we export ninety per cent of the eggs produced makes it essential that we set a standard which is as good, or better, than can be procured in other provinces. The demand is for Grade A eggs. If we fail to produce this quality of eggs, the position of the poultry industry is seriously jeopardized. High quality eggs, and have educated consumers to the better product. It rests with the producers of this province whether or not we shall maintain our position as a leading source of quality eggs. In 1937, 1,000,000 eggs were received from poultry producers which makes it one of our most important industries. The loss of this revenue would be a serious one to our farmers, and would be felt throughout the province.

The loss of quality is attributed to the following reasons:
(1) Insufficient and improper feeding of hens.
(2) Rotters.
(3) Farm conditions for holding eggs.
(Continued on Page 16)

Island Division Of Railway Shows Traffic Decrease

(Canadian National Railways)

Automobiles Ferried Borden to Tormentine

Jan.	15	189
Feb.	8	2
March	0	24
April	255	45
May	1059	46
June	1069	38
July	2023	180
August	3161	276
September	1885	161
October	1013	97
November	64	67
December	114	11
Totals	10739	9362

Increase over 1937 1377 cars.

It was in the automobile traffic that the huge jump occurred. 1377 more cars going from Borden to Tormentine and 1513 cars more coming into the Province from Tormentine to Borden in the year.

Tormentine to Borden

Jan.	162	197	50	38	13	188	64
Feb.	144	151	51	16	15	126	50
March	187	182	78	17	12	222	89
April	177	77	74	15	26	256	62
May	188	96	30	19	45	621	104
June	199	106	56	16	97	370	78
July	199	84	62	15	108	290	749
August	193	81	62	15	108	282	828
September	189	191	50	23	51	311	882
October	198	226	78	25	62	369	994
November	188	272	78	25	62	369	994
December	156	206	56	15	21	294	748
(To Dec. 26)							
Totals	2180	1829	765	239	631	3704	9848
1937	2309	1858	602	337	430	4255	9781

Borden to Tormentine

Jan.	72	52	212	107	51	494
Feb.	84	42	246	84	32	468
March	85	62	426	98	32	704
April	85	62	171	23	61	409
May	81	72	164	22	97	499
June	94	38	37	1	50	329
July	84	31	10	—	70	109
August	98	75	—	36	106	918
September	106	54	3	191	98	439
October	108	103	86	126	107	830
November	108	104	280	116	83	666
December	108	104	280	116	83	666
(To December 26)						
Totals	1096	758	1824	879	822	5444
1937	1154	665	2698	940	1306	7068

Railway Construction

Construction work on the Prince Edward Island Division of the Canadian National Railways for the year 1938, included the placing of 12,300 cubic yards of ballast, 2,200 cubic yards of gravel, taken from the pits at Conway and 2,800 cubic yards of sand from the beach at McDonald's Pond at Souris.

The embankment along Fullerton's Marsh, near Bunkers, was protected by the placing of 1300 cubic yards of rip-rap.

During the year 46,300 treated ties were put down on Island roads, 30,000 for air conditioning, and 2,000 untreated track ties. Two miles of standard 85 pound rails were laid to replace lighter rails at various points near Bunkers, and 4,000 rail anchors were installed.

At St. Peter's Bay about 4,000 tons of stone were placed at various points along the track to repair damage caused by the storm of November 25 last. At present a portion of the pier at Tormentine, damaged during the same storm is being re-built, chiefly by Island labor.

At Charlottetown a runway track 540 feet long was constructed to facilitate switching operations. A new track section was placed with approach tracks 1,000 feet long to permit weighing of cars of 150 ton capacity.

The east end of Water Street, leading to the loading grounds was paved.

The ice house here was extended by a 56 foot addition, increasing the capacity by 400 tons to take care of 8,000 for air conditioning coaches. Carter's siding was extended and changes made in the yard to provide accommodation for F. B. Clarke's new warehouse.

During the year the old car ferry Prince Edward Island was re-built to accommodate motor vehicles on the upper promenade deck. Through the change 30 to 40 cars can drive on and off the boat under their own power, instead of being loaded on flat cars as was necessary previously.

The station at Montague was rebuilt providing toilet accommodation.

At Mt. Stewart a hydrant was provided, connected with the railway water supply for fire protection in the village.

(By J. A. GILLIES, Secretary, Manager P. E. I. Co-Operative Egg and Poultry Ass'n.)

The live stock phase of agricultural production during the year 1938, should prove to be a fairly remunerative one for the producer, especially to the farmer who applied himself to that end by giving sufficient attention to the business in hand, by adopting rational feeding practices, and by taking advantage of the few breaks that offered, and by the more careful attention to their herd, but take all possible steps to practice sanitation in the piggery and to eliminate this form of infestation from their breeding stock.

Suitable and economical feeding practices in the growing and finishing of bacon hogs consist of a well balanced ration of good quality feed. Hogs marketed during the early part of the year particularly were generally well finished. Since the quality of eggs produced is so essential to most profitable results, it is to be hoped that during the coming year every effort will be made to produce a more desirable market weight and well finished. Grain will undoubtedly play a larger part in arriving at the quality of eggs produced during the early part of last year.

The hog industry is a most valuable one to this Province, continuing to be a source of revenue. It is to be hoped that a greater number of breeders will keep a greater number of animals, regardless of quality, for the amount of feed which is available to maintain the herd during the winter.

It is relatively more advisable and a better practice to raise to maturity and properly finish the quality of live stock now being produced, than to make an attempt to increase production of inferior and poorly finished cattle.

Beef prices have been considerably higher during 1938 than during 1937, but unfortunately, the price was not in a position to carry over into the next year. The quality of beef produced was very poor, so much so that our markets were affected seriously. Unless a better quality product is produced in future, Prince Edward Island producers may look forward to lower prices and diminishing markets. The future of the beef industry of this Province depends on the marketing of a quality product. The fact that we export ninety per cent of the beef produced makes it essential that we set a standard which is as good, or better, than can be procured in other provinces. The demand is for Grade A beef. If we fail to produce this quality of beef, the position of the beef industry is seriously jeopardized. High quality beef, and have educated consumers to the better product. It rests with the producers of this province whether or not we shall maintain our position as a leading source of quality beef. In 1937, 1,000,000 lbs. of beef were received from beef producers which makes it one of our most important industries. The loss of this revenue would be a serious one to our farmers, and would be felt throughout the province.

The loss of quality is attributed to the following reasons:
(1) Insufficient and improper feeding of beef.
(2) Rotters.
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