

PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE FULL REPORT

(Continued from Page Four.)

them after the moulting period would tend to save the industry from extermination, is not worthy of very much attention. The moulting period is the breeding period of the lobster, and immediately after the moulting period, the ovaries begin to form within the body of the lobster. These develop very rapidly, and during the months of October and November are exuded and become attached to the fibrous matter on the swimmerets of the female lobster, beneath the tail.

These gradually mature, and are deposited the next season, before the moulting period begins, so it matters not if the female lobster is taken in the spring or the fall; the effect upon the industry is precisely the same. The proposed change from spring to fall would have this effect. It would save the spawn for one year; the set of that year would be preserved. After that there would be not the slightest difference.

It has been asked that the Government give assistance to fish curing stations, but it has not been suggested what form this assistance should take. The fisheries of P. E. Island are of great potential value, and sooner or later will be developed. The development must take place by the employment of the capital of organized companies or individuals. If we wait for the Government to do it for us we will have to wait a long time indeed. Governments can assist the development of industry by scientific investigation which they have opportunities to procure with greater ease than private individuals or corporations. They can ascertain with little expense through the various departments of foreign governments, what is being done in certain branches of industry in other parts of the world. Their scientists can experiment in the laboratories and the knowledge thus acquired can be given to the producer, but all industry, to be successful and permanent must be the product of individual or co-operative enterprise. The Government could assist the fishing industry by establishing in suitable places, small curing stations, merely to demonstrate what may be done in the catching and curing of fish. No large development can take place unless curing rooms are established. It is one thing to catch fish and entirely another thing to cure them, and in this day of scientific investigation when pure food laws are being enacted and enforced more rigidly each year, it is necessary that to have the product meet with the favour of the consumer, and in compliance with the law, up-to-date, hygienic establishments should be erected.

There is no difficulty in educating the fishermen of Prince Edward Island to fish cod; it is only a matter of education. When once a market is provided a large fishery will be developed in this province which will give employment to thousands of people who are now seeking homes in other lands. To illustrate the rapidly with which a fishery may be developed, I may say that I tried an experiment myself in a small way at Rustico during the years of 1914 and 1915, and I received during 1915 more than double the quantity of fish I received in 1914. This was due to the fact that the fishermen realized that they had a market where they could sell their fish and get cash for them, just the same as they sell lobsters.

To bring the full results of the fishery to this province, the producer should be prepared for market here, instead of being shipped in the rough to form employment for labor elsewhere. To do this, those entering into the industry must be prepared to spend considerable money in advertising and putting their brands on the market. Competition is keen, and the large concerns now in existence have, to a certain extent, the monopoly of the trade. They have what they paid for and worked for in advertising and canvassing. Nevertheless if a superior quality is put up here, and it can be put up here if proper care is used, and if those interested in the business care to spend sufficient money to advertise and place the product on the market, there is no doubt that Prince Edward Island can compete in fish products with any part of America.

Now my advice to the people of Prince Edward Island is to organize a strong company under efficient management, financed by local capital, and go ahead without Government assistance, relying on their individual efforts to develop their own industries, and keep the money accruing therefrom in the province, so that the fishing and other industries may develop. If you do not take hold of it, foreign capital will come in and take the business from you, and after they get established it is hard to displace them.

It is highly desirable that the industries of a country should be developed by the people of the country, and the profits accruing from such industries should be kept in the country where they originate.

Therefore I would say; Put your shoulders to the wheel. Do not depend on Government assistance but go ahead and develop this great industry that has been lying dormant at your doors for years.

MR. MORRISSEY'S OPINION.

Mr. C. F. Morrissey, Tignish, the next speaker, said:

I am in the lobster business making a living out of it as best I can, and I can tell you it is a hard way of making a living. We might go into this matter a little more closely. It is a hard thing to put up an argument against a man like Mr. McFadyen or Mr. Tidmarsh, but I wish to put my views before the meeting nevertheless. Some years ago the lobster season in our section started on April 20 and ended on 15th July. After a while it was changed to the 26th April, closing on 10th July; then it shortened up until last year it closed on the 25th June. This was done through the Government, and the elements also played a part; and it was set back until the 17th May and, I understand, in the lower section of the province it was considerably later. The first storms of the year are disastrous and we are in danger of losing all our gear. A few years ago it put a lot of our gear out of commission. Another objection to the lateness of the season is that we have to take our labour—girls especially, and young boys—down to the shore, and at this time of the year, when it is almost zero, it is well nigh impossible to work among the cold lobsters. You can gain from that some idea of the difference there would be if we had lobsters in August and September, when we could get twice as much out of our labour, then we could pursue the other branches of the industry.

If this lobster business becomes established, as I understand it will, suppose the lobstering is given a way as to make it good catches food—it will be something that we can handle to advantage. Mr. Tidmarsh said, when speaking of the spawning of lobster, that it was a matter of killing the female lobster or anyway? That may be the case, but give us this year and when the time comes around we will be that much ahead. Out of a catch of seven thousand pounds of lobsters we had to liberate four hundred pounds of spawners. The enormous expense attached to the lobster business, operating in the way we do and the short season we have been up against, leaves it impossible for any legitimate industry to be carried on. Give us the month of August alone, and we will get more out of it than in the space allotted to us now; and if this question got aired the people would ask for it. Mr. McFadyen said that the experts were responsible for the shortening of the season. Well, the experts can easily make mistakes, and I think the season ought to be changed.

MR. A. E. McLEAN.

Mr. A. E. McLean said:

Our fishing interests are diversified and there are many different lines. I think the lobster fishing season is very short, and it is almost impossible for the packers and fishermen to make their business pay. I have been in the lobster fishing business myself and know whereof I speak. On the North Shore of Prince Edward Island now it is very difficult to make the business pay. I think perhaps our friends have asked too much, when they suggest to change the season to the fall months but if it were talked around among our public men and our Local Government represented to the Federal Government the conditions that exist on the North Shore, they would realize how extremely short the season is on account of ice conditions and the ten days taken off would be put back. I wish to bring this to the notice of the meeting, as possibly our public men are not all aware of the conditions. It has been pointed out by a number of speakers, and I hope the Dominion Government will be asked to restore the season. Though it might not suit one section of the Island, still, as we have been talking co-operation, one part of the province must consider the welfare of another, and I trust some action will be taken along this line.

(To be Continued.)

The Central Guardian

IT PAYS to buy in this Province

POVERTY PARTY.—Young and old are invited to the Poverty Party at the Hertz Memorial Hall, Kum there Thursday Nite, March Thirtieth. 7924

THE PLAY entitled "The Deacon's Second Wife" will be given in Boush Hall on Friday evening, March 31st. Admission 15 and 25 cents. Proceeds for Patriotic Funds. 7923-3-30m21

SOME BAD ROADS.—Mr. McNeven, mail driver between Charlottetown and Hampton complains that some sections of his itinerary have not been properly attended to after the recent thaw and snowstorm. At Bell's Hill, North River, yesterday, he had difficulty in saving the life of his horse and that only after considerable damage was done to the harness. The dangerous condition of this piece of road is such that he will not undertake it this morning but will take the mail from Charlottetown to North River Bridge. There are other sections also so which have been neglected. The Road Masters should exercise greater care at times like the present as neglect means a serious inconvenience to the public as well as an injustice to the mail drivers, who are expected to make their daily rounds. The Guardian understands that the mail driver purposes taking action against those Roadmasters who have neglected their duties.

The concert which was to have taken place in Millview Orange Hall last week has been postponed until Thursday, March 30th. A special train will leave Charlottetown at 7 p. m. Return fair only 45 cents. Admission 15 cents. Ladies with baskets free. 7283-3-29-M31

THE MARKETS

CHARLOTTETOWN MARKETS

(Corrected on Tuesdays and Fridays)

Butter (creamery) in prints	35
Butter (Tub) lb	28
Butter, fresh, lb	30
Eggs, doz.	24
Beef lb, (retail)	12 to 13
Pork lb.	13 to 14
Chickens, lb.	12 to 15
Hay (pressed), ton	\$13 to \$14
Straw (pressed) ton	\$6.50
Pork lb.	12 1/2
Turnips, bus.	18 to 20
Potatoes, bus.	70 to 75
Oats (white) bus.	52
Oats (black) bus.	52
Beets, bus.	40
Carrots, bus.	45
Wool, lb.	60
Parsnips, lb.	15
Geese	15
Hides	14 to 15
Turkeys, per lb.	20 to 22

SIDE MARKETS

(Corrected Wednesday.)

Buckwheat per bushel.	75 to 100
Butter, (dairy) per lb.	30 to 32
Butter, (creamery) per lb.	34 to 36
Calfskins, per lb.	14
Chickens, (dressed) per lb.	12 to 15
Ducks, (dressed) per lb.	12 to 15
Eggs, per dozen.	18 to 20
Fowl, per lb.	10 to 12
Geese, per lb.	12 to 15
Hides, per lb.	14 to 15
Hay, (pressed) per ton.	\$10 to \$13
Hay, (loose) per ton.	\$10 to \$12
Lamb pelts, each.	40 to 60
Oatmeal, per 100 lbs.	\$2.75 to \$3
Oats, (black) per bushel.	54
Oats, (white) per bushel.	56
Potatoes, per bushel.	60
Pork, (Organ att.) per lb.	9 1/2 to 12 1/2
Straw, per ton, (pressed)	\$6
Turnips, per bushel	20
Wheat, per bushel,	\$1.20 to 1.40
Wool, per lb.	26 to 40

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POVERTY PARTY.—Everybody invited to the Poverty Party that us fokes are a-goin' to hav at the Hertz Memorial Hall. Kum there to-night. Silver collection. 7924

STRIKING MUNITION WORKERS HEAVILY FINED

(Special to the Guardian.)
GLASGOW, March 29.—Twenty-two munitions workers who were concerned in strikes promoted by the Clyde Workers' Committee, whose operations were exposed in the House of Commons yesterday, were fined five pounds each to-day for quitting work in violation of the Munitions of War Act. They declared they would not resume work until the leaders of the strike agitation who were deported from the district by the military were permitted to return. Other strikers are returning to work in large numbers.

Five Americans Cannot be Found Among Survivors

LONDON, March 26.—Although there is still some uncertainty as to the loss of life in the disaster to the cross-channel steamer Sussex, last Friday, there is no longer any doubt that the death list is much larger than the earlier advice indicated. The latest figures compiled in London show as many as 102 persons missing, including five Americans.

The Sussex had 436 souls aboard, of whom the following have been accounted for: landed at Dover, 72; landed at Boulogne, 250; dead at Boulogne, 9; dead at Dover, three.

PARIS, March 25.—The Ministry of Marine, in an official statement issued to-night, declares that the Sussex was torpedoed, and estimates the number of victims at about fifty.

The text of the communication, which was issued Saturday, reads: "The British steamer Sussex, which carried about 380 passengers, was torpedoed on the channel on the 24th by an enemy submarine. The captain observed a torpedo about one hundred meters from the side and immediately manoeuvred to avoid it, but the vessel was struck in the forward part, which was destroyed.

"The vessel, however, remained afloat. The fall of the mast destroyed part of the antennae of the wireless, moreover when an aerial wire was improvised, the operator, by an error, reported an incorrect position which misled the torpedo boats and patrol boats, and as a result retarded the arrival of help.

"The patrol boat Marie Therese, nevertheless, managed to find the distressed vessel, and brought back to Boulogne a majority of the passengers. Other survivors were rescued by British torpedo-boat destroyers, which had arrived at the scene of the disaster at about the same time as the Marie Therese.

"The Sussex was towed to Boulogne by a steamer from that port and is now there in security.

"Unhappily, the explosion and the beginning of a panic among the passengers resulted in some victims. The exact number at this hour is not known, but it is estimated to be about 50."

One American at the station, who would not give his name, said he had seen a torpedo coming toward the Sussex. He added: "There was no warning from the submarine. The Sussex, after being struck, sent up British signals. In ten minutes ten British torpedo boats had responded to the signals and were steaming quickly to aid us."

Six Were Killed In Halifax Fire Others are Hurt

HALIFAX, N. S., March 26.—Four Canadians and two Russians were burned to death, and an Italian woman and a Russian were so badly injured that they had to be removed to hospital in a fire early Sunday morning that completely destroyed the building on the Canadian Bioscope Company, and for the past four years rented by an Armenian, A Dombalagian, as a boarding house. The place went up like a torch.

It was shortly after midnight, and the sixty or so boarders, mostly Italians and Russians, employed at the new terminals, had retired when flames suddenly shot up through the floor. So quickly did the fire spread that the inmates had no time to get even dressed, but made a wild scramble for the doors and windows.

In a rickety wooden place was ablaze for it was made of nothing but wood, and every window and door gave outlet to frantic and screaming men.

There were but two women in the building. One was hauled through a window. The other appeared at an upper window, and to the horror of all

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Canadians Gave Over \$2,000,000

TORONTO, March 26.—Canadians have contributed in money and kind \$2,238,256 for the relief of sufferers of the war in Belgium, according to an announcement by Hector Prudhomme, treasurer of the Belgian Relief Committee.

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