A Page for the MODERN FARMER

- NEWSY NOTES -

By AGRICOLA

The Plant-Hunters (2)

Of modern plant-hunters Dr. Neils Ebbesen Hansen, of South Dakota, deserves special mention, because his explorations were principally for the purpose of finding new and hardy forage plants and fruits. He introduced some ornamentals too, but only as a side line. Dr. Hansen saw that American (and Canadian) farmers were trying to work with forage plants from sections of Europe where the winters were much milder than those of this continent, and because of this there was great loss by winter-killing. Take alfalfa, for instance. The blue-flowered species is believed to have originated in warmer regions of the East — perhaps Persia — to have been carried to Greece by the armies of Xerxes, to have found its way to Spain, thence to the Spanish possessions in South America, and so northwards. When alfalfa was first tried in this island, many years ago, I have seen stands so badly depleted by the hardship of their first winter that the irate farmers plowed them down and planted something else. Whilst one must sympathize with the farmers for the loss of time and money they sustained, it is plain that the remaining plants (so ruthlessly destroyed) actually were possessed of some biological factor that enabled them to withstand the rigors of our climate; and if they had been transplanted and their seed saved, these farmers would have been the owners of a sufficiently hardy strain of this queen of forage plants. Since then the Dominion Experimental Stations, by this method or some modification of it, have produced the needed strain.

Dr. Hansen, however, was impatient; he believed that nature had already done this weeding out and selection among the alfalfas, and that his task was to look for them in the northern regions of the earth. Accordingly he made a preliminary trip to Russia in 1894. He does not seem to have found a wild alfalfa there, but he found a number of hardy fruits, the hybridization and distribution of which has been to him a labor of love for many years.

He could not forget the alfalfa, and accordingly the year 1898 found him on a ten-month's journey through Russia, Turkestan, Western China, and Siberia. As a result of his journey Turkestan alfalfa was imported into the United States for the first time. This was probably **medicago sativa**, the ordinary blue alfalfa. The hardships and perils of this journey are a matter of record.

Still not satisfied, Hansen made a second journey to Siberia in 1908. That country had been disturbed by the Russo-Japanese war, with its succeeding revolutionary conditions, and travelling was very hazardous. During this trip he learned that far to the north, above the limits of the blue alfalfa, were three species with yellow flowers, all growing in the driest and severest regions of Siberia. The earliest settlers in those regions had learned the value of these plants and put them up as wild hay; cattle, sheep, and horses on range, throve on them. As the season was late when he found them it was not possible to get the seed of all, but he secured some seed of one, the **medicago falcata L.**

The intense interest in his discoveries prompted Dr. Hansen to visit Siberia in 1913, his object being to find forage plants able to withstand the peculiar climate of the prairies in the northwest U. S. A. He found all Russian territories suffering under a severe epidemic of Asiatic cholera, and it was the wettest and most backward season in Siberia for many years; but nothing deterred him. He found, too, that **m. falcata** and a clover (**Trifolium luvinaster L.**) flourished almost at the northern limit of plant life, about latitude 63 degrees north, where the recorded minimum temperature was 67 degrees F. below freezing point! In this region the subsoil is perpetually frozen. The time available as well as his own preference, made him collect his seed round latitude 55 north, and by February 10th, 1909 he was again in Washington with seeds of 300 different plants.

At first the seed of **m. falcata** was very naturally reserved for the farmers of the U. S. A., but when their orders were filled, the remainder of the seed was offered to the world at 50 cents an ounce. In 1911 a farmer friend and I each chanced 25 cents, and in due time received the seed. It grew vigorously and as far as hardiness was concerned, was all that was claimed for it. It was rather coarser than the blue alfalfa and the leaves were not as large, but stock were very fond of it, and horses would leave the grass and come across the field for the dry alfalfa when they saw a chance of getting it. Unfortunately for the experiment I found work in another part of the province, and the new owner, who was no farmer, had the alfalfa plowed up! However when, in 1925, I took up a permanent residence, I wrote to my old friend asking about the plant; he replied with a packet of the seed grown on the Island. I planted it in the garden and though it has had little attention it is only now beginning to die out. This fall I hope to divide and replant what is left after 18 years' growth.

Somewhere about a century ago the Botanical Society of Glasgow, Scotland, sent out a Scottish scientist to America to collect plants of merit. His name was Drummond. In Texas he found a plant with pretty little flowers of a pale lilac-blue color, and believed it to be capable of development. He sent seeds of it home to Glasgow, where cross-fertilization was begun. The result was the ancestors of the gorgeous annual found in almost every garden today, the popular **Phlox Drummondi.** Mr. Drummond, sad to say, died of fever in Cuba, before his Phlox became generally known. North America is almost exclusively the home of the genus Phlox, and it is probable that Drummond introduced the "Garden Phlox" (**P. paniculata**) also; but the wide range of colors it now displays, are the work of later plant-breeders.

Our Own Plant-Hunters

Since the "New Flora of P. E. I." was published (in 1941) at least ten plants have been added to our list, but they must wait for cataloguing till a more convenient season.

The other day Dr. W. L. Holman, of Toronto University, visited me, bringing a plant which he had found on the North Shore of the Island. I was puzzled at first but finally decided that it was the Deptford Pink (**Dianthus Armeria L.**) and took down a minute description of it. Not satisfied with that, I sent up a specimen to the Dominion Botanist who verified my "diagnosis", and asked for particulars, since it was the first specimen of this plant added to the National Herbarium from P. E. Island. I then sent the collector's name, the date, and the exact locality where the Dianthus was found. Here is the description:

Dianthus Armeria L.—Deptford Pink. Annual. Stem 1.5 to 4 dm. high, slender, simple, or with few nearly erect branches, **finely pubescent.** Leaves linear, erect, 2.5 to 5 cm. long, 2 to 3 mm. wide, lower obtuse, upper acute, finely pubescent. Flowers fascicled in dense terminal clusters; bracts and bractlets lance-subulate, long-pointed, downy, herbaceous, as long as or longer than the calyx-tube; calyx-tube 1.8 cm. long, cylindric, many-nerved; flower about 12 mm. in diameter, petals small, crenate, pink, with white spots. Summer.

"This plant," says Professor W. G. Dore, "is known from Kings County, Nova Scotia, and is reported by Fernald from Digby County, but we have no specimens from other regions east of Quebec."

Professor R. R. Hurst, of the Laboratory of Plant Pathology, reports the presence of two grasses not previously recorded. They are the Awnless Brome Grass, (**Bromus inermis Leyss**) from Kensington, and the Fringed Brome Grass (**B. ciliatus L.**), from Alberton. The terms used in the study of the grasses are not familiar to the general reader, so that I give no description. However, the student will find both these grasses described (with illustrations) in "The Grasses of Nova Scotia," copy of which, if I mistake not, is in the Public Library at Charlottetown.

Mrs. C. H., Oyster Bed Bridge: Your tall, slender garden plant, with long leaves, and spikes of pinkish flowers, is the "False Dragon Head", "**Physostegia Virginiana (L.) Bentham.** It is native to this continent. The house-plant with trailing stems and short tufts of yellow flowers, is a Sedum of some sort, but is not described in American or English text-books. It may be Asiatic. I hazard a guess that it is **S. sarmentosa**

"Harold", by Lord Lytton

I have just finished reading this classic romance which deals with the events leading up to the Norman Invasion of 1066, and ends with the death of Harold, the last Anglo-Saxon King, on the hill of Senlac. It is a really good story and most of the action is taken from the chronicles of the time, Saxon or Norman. Its principal fault, if fault it be in a romance, is that the characters sometimes talk in a more exalted strain than was usual in those barbaric days Harold, too, is painted whiter, and William blacker, perhaps, than the occasion warrants. For all that, I repeat that it is a good story and one which everybody at all interested in English history will read with a pleasure tempered by sorrow at Harold's untimely fate.

Here and there we meet with sage reflections on the character of the Anglo-Saxons. Lord Lytton wrote this story nearly 100 years ago (1848), but this paragraph might well have been written yesterday: "Enough!" said William, "I comprehend the nature of the land and its men—a land that, untaught by experience and persuaded that a peace of twenty or thirty years must last till the crack of doom, neglects all its defences, and has not one fort, save Dover, between the coast and the capital — a land that must be won or lost by a single battle, and men (here the Duke hesitated) and **men**", he resumed with a sigh, "whom it will be so hard to conquer, that, **pardex**, I don't wonder they neglect their fortresses'. - - - "Truly my lord speaks wisely," said Mallet, "but Harold is a man thoroughly English, and the English are a gens (people) the least suspecting of any created thing between an angel and a sheep." - -

Mallet's remark is pretty nearly true; but there is something to be said for the unsuspecting people; they are happy in their condition, while the suspicious man is the unhappiest of mortals.

Another trait of Harold's make-up is stressed by the novelist: "His earlier slowness of character seemed winged by the occasion into rapid decision — as is not uncommon with the Englishman". —Here was one great difference between the two races; the Norman cunning, full of strategy, dashing, and aggressive; the Anglo-Saxon patient, steadfast and enduring in action, rather than quick and ready. Yet when the occasion demands the Englishman is good at improvising, which in the last war he called "muddling through" — a jocular expression which to his surprise, both friends and foes accepted at its face value. He never uses that joke now!

Allies Use Dogs In Fighting In Northeast India

KANDY, Ceylon, Aug. 9 — (CP) — The Allied drive to push the last Japanese invaders out of northeast India penetrated today to a point 54 miles south of Imphal, where Japanese rear guards were encountered.

It appeared likely that the last of the beaten 33rd Japanese division would be chased over the Burma frontier toward Tiddim within another week. These retreating elements of the enemy still must pass Allied "shadow" troops lodged in their rear and harassing Tiddim road traffic.

Headquarters permitted today the disclosure that the Allies are using a canine corps to advantage in Burma. Another spotted a straggler who was killed by the dog's master. The Japanese also are using dogs to help locate jungle positions.

JUDGING PROGRAM

PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION

August 16th and 17th

The following are the dates for the Judging of the various Classes at the Provincial Exhibition. Exhibitors will note a complete change in the order of the Classes.

CATTLE

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16th

Guernseys, Ayrshires and Any Other Beef Breeds.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17th

Jerseys, Holsteins and Shorthorns

HORSES

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16th

Clydesdales, Percherons and Draft Horses

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17th

Standard Breds and Roadsters

SWINE

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16th

SHEEP

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17th

POULTRY

AUGUST 16th and 17th

LONG RIVER WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Friday evening, Aug. 4 the members of Long River W. I. met at the home of Mrs. Elwood Campbell. During absence of president the vice president, Mrs. Bruce Bell presided and meeting opened by singing Institute Ode, followed by repeating Creed in unison.

Roll call was responded to by 17 members and one visitor. Reports of committees were then given. New committees appointed as follows: Sick, Mrs. Oliver Paynter, Mrs. Eustace Paynter and Mrs. W. J. Profitt. School, Mrs. Murdock MacLeod and Mrs. William Doughart. Program, Mrs. James Bernard, Mrs. Elmer Paynter and Mrs. Elwood Campbell. Ways and means of raising money were discussed and was decided to try and see about getting up an ice cream social if possible and if necessary to call a special meeting to make further plans. Also decided to have organ and piano tuned as soon as possible. It was moved and seconded that all bills including school, etc, be paid. Mrs. W. J. Profitt kindly invited members to her home for next meeting when roll call will be answered by a riddle. Meeting closed by singing the National Anthem. Collection $1.10. Program consisted of two readings, which were enjoyed by all present.

WESTMORE... W. I.

The members of ... W. I. met for the regular monthly meeting August 1st at the home of Mrs. James Moore with eleven members and one visitor present. Meeting opened by repeating first verse of Institute Carol, followed by Collect for Club Women in unison. Collection amounted to 75 cents. Reports of committees were then heard and the following new ones were appointed for the coming month: School, Mrs. Heber Canfield, Mrs. Heber MacVittie.

Sick, Mrs. Verner Moore.

Ed. Program, Mrs. Harold Oakes and Mrs. Llewellyn Gamble.

Social, Mrs. Fred Fall and Mrs. James Moore.

Lunch, Mrs. Roy Crossman, Annie Waddell and Mrs. Harold Harvey.

Correspondence was then read and discussed. It was moved and seconded that Institute pack a sunshine box for one of its members at next meeting. Mrs. Fred Fall invited the members to meet at her home for September meeting. Roll Call, a change I would like to see in a post-war world.

Meeting adjourned and lunch was served by committee in charge.

DISTRICT W. I. CONVENTION

The seventeenth annual convention of the Victoria, Crapaud, Tryon, Albany, Carleton, Cape Traverse, Augustine Cove, Westmoreland, and Maple Plains Women's Institutes was held in the Tryon Baptist hall on July 14th.

The president, Mrs. L. D. McLeod, Victoria, very capably presided at both afternoon and evening sessions.

The afternoon session opened by the singing of the Ode and repeating the Creed. Mrs. Wendell Lea very graciously welcomed the members and was responded to by Mrs. Kenneth Dawson, Augustine Cove. Roll of Institutes was responded to by sixty-seven members, and very encouraging reports given by each Institute.

An interesting feature of the afternoon meeting was a display of dresses by the Albany senior sewing class. These had all been made by the girls who modeled them and showed what can be accomplished with a little effort. The following officers were appointed for the ensuing year: Pres.-Mrs. Elmer Gamble, Albany, vice-president, Miss Nina Wright, Cape Traverse, Secretary, Mrs. Wendell Lea, Tryon.

Miss MacDonald gave a very interesting address on quilt-making. The seven crib quilts on display were then judged by Miss MacDonald and five visitors present, the prize going to North Tryon.

A vote of thanks was tendered to Miss MacDonald for her address, and to the Albany girls for their demonstration. A pleasant tea hour followed, served by the ladies of North Tryon Institute.

The evening meeting opened with the singing of O Canada. The minutes of the afternoon meeting were then read and the new executive introduced. The following program was then rendered:

Drill, "Snow White", by North Tryon children.

Duet and banjo music by Elsie Francis and Gladys Gamble, Westmoreland.

Reading, Mrs. Stewart McMicken, Carleton.

Piano Solo. Peter MacDonald, Victoria.

Address by Mr. MacDonald, an Islander, home from Alberta.

Pictures by Miss Hilda Gillis.

Collection at the evening meeting amounted to $11.08. This goes to the T. B. League after expenses are paid. After a vote of thanks to Miss Gillis, Mr. MacDonald, and the retiring executive, meeting ... with the National Anthem.

"Smoky", Alsatian mascot of the "City of Oshawa" Beaver Squadron of the Royal Canadian Air Force Typhoon fighter bombers in Normandy, is shown receiving the oxygen-treatment which saved his life during a recent attack of bronchial pneumonia. Coaxing "Smoky" to drink, is his master, Flying Officer Anthony "Tony" Frombole, of Alameda, California, who serves with the Canadian squadron in France. The anxious pilots were informed by a French veterinary surgeon near the airfield there was little hope for the puppy, but he provided sulfa drugs from his scanty store and the lads rigged up an oxygen "tent" for their pet. A Canadian medical officer administered the drugs and Flying Officer Frombole acting as day and night nurse, remained as duty pilot for three days until "Smoky" was out of danger. — (Royal Canadian Air Force Photo).

QUICKIES By Ken Reynolds

"Don't cry—I'll get another with a Guardian Want Ad!"

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox Farming

We are glad to be able to present to our readers an address delivered by Dr. W. E. Russell at the annual meeting of the Canadian National Silver Fox Breeders' Association in Montreal June 21. Dr. Russell is well known throughout the United States and Canada as one of the best educated and most practical ranchers. He manages the O. W. Thompson, Ltd. Fox Farms, Kitchener, Ont., which is one of the largest in the Dominion of Canada. Various fur farming organizations have from time to time invited him to address them so it is with confidence that we give you the results in compact form of his experiences over a period of years. The address will be published in two parts — part one today and part two next Saturday. We would advise our fox ranchers to cut them out and keep them where they can be consulted as occasion requires... Now for Dr. Russell...

Mr. Chairman, members of the Canadian National Silver Fox Breeders' Association, it gives me much pleasure to have the privilege of coming to your annual meeting to say a few words to you.

When your worthy Secretary asked me to say a few words on Ranch Management as pertaining to a large ranch, I realized I was taking in a very large territory. However, in the few minutes at my dispesal, I am going to touch on the high points of each phase of our industry, in rotation. I realize, ladies and gentlemen, I cannot tell an illustrious audience such as this one, anything new—but I make a practice of reviewing each year's activity when it comes to a close with the hope of learning something by the experience, and thus formulating our policies for the coming year.

We have just completed another breeding season so will say a few words on that phase from the standpoint of a fellow fox rancher and not as a professional man. That is, from a practical standpoint, not from a scientific one.

I have little use for a scientific paper at a gathering such as this. We have come here with the hope of taking some information home with us that we can change into dollars and cents and we cannot do that by trying to turn ourselves into a group of scientists.

If I can only create enough interest in this address that will draw out some questions for discussion, I will consider my time coming here to Montreal well spent.

Now for a few words on the mating season. The mating season is not often one of our troublesome times. It is not uncommon to hear of ranches getting 100 per cent or close to that figure, of their females mated. Sometimes our males do not come into their rutting period as soon as the females do, then we experience trouble early in the season, but that usually rectifies itself later on. Why do they do that?—possibly over feeding — lack of exercise, or being the offspring of a male with similar characteristics. Males should be fed lightly all through the mating season to keep them active. It is expensive to carry over many males without getting any use out of them, which many of us sometimes do. Do not pelt off too many of your reliable old standbys if they are good individuals. I do not mean to fill up your ranch with old males; but a vigorous proven male is a better investment than a young non-proven male.

Do you get the most out of your males? Is your system of working them the most efficient? Those are questions you want to ask yourself. Remember many males work better when they are acquainted with their females. Others act quite contrary to this. Did you ever have a polygamous male which was most anxious to mate his female but who just could not complete the mating? Try getting acquainted with his females before they come in heat and note the difference. Do you encourage your males to be fast workers or do you allow them to take their own good time? Remember the male often knows better than you when his female should be mated. The slow worker is usually more reliable than the fast worker.

Do you use a microscope for testing sperm? We find from practical experiences of the past number of years, we do not increase our production by the use of this instrument. I know I am laying myself open to criticism by your scientifically minded ranchers for saying this. But actual figures are hard to argue with and that is what I am giving you. Let me ask you, what do you gain by using a misroscope? All you gain is the elimination of the male which will mate a female but which secretes no sperm. How many of these do we find on the average ranch? About one-half of one per cent. Many a male which looks O.K. through the microscope will never produce a pup. We cannot detect, because up to the present none of us know anything about the histology or actions of a sperm. Therefore the misroscope gives you a false feeling of security in your work. The additional handling of your females and general disturbance of the ranch immediately after mating defeats entirely any advantage attained by the use of this instrument. We will discuss this problem more fully later on.

How about the male which takes no notice of his female when in heat? This is where the ingenuity of the caretaker comes in. We all have our own pet theories. The idea is to make him jealous if that is possible. As a last resort, after all other stunts have failed, try putting the female in with two males but watch carefully in case there is an attempted killing. Or another tip—shut the male up in a fox crate for 24 hours. Feed him nothing, then let him out in her pen and he usually is so glad to get out of prison he will mate her immediately.

Just a word about the females. Don't rush around the minute she is in heat to get her mated—the second day is preferable to the first. If mated on the first day, try her again on the second. The female eff is not liberated immediately she shows heat, and anyone that has done much testing sperm knows that the active life of a fox sperm is of short duration. So make sure there will be some active sperm for the fertilization of the ova when they find their way into the Fallopian tubes. However, don't go to extremes and wait till the third day before having her mated. This is not conducive to conception.

Sometimes we run into the situation of having very late matings. This is unfortunate as the males will give you more trouble when the weather warms up than when the temperature is low. However, this does not mean you will have a poor production, although you may have more parasitic troubles with your young puppies when they come late. When you have females which come in heat persistently late you might as well pelt them for you cannot change their dates materially by feed. You have to do this by breeding.

Misses and Small Litters

Why are we getting so many misses in recent years? That is females which are mated but which do not conceive. Our ranch average misses run all the way from 2-8 per cent in adults to 2-18 per cent in pups. Far too many. We would be told by so-called authorities it is in our feed. I do not agree with them, for our percentage is the same no matter what commercial feed we use. I believe our system of management during the mating season has much to do with it, as I have already stated. I am convinced the average rancher handles and excites his females too much immediately after mating takes place to get maximum conceptions. She is in many cases caught, not too gently, immediately after mating is completed—carried into the tower for microscopic examination, then out into a pen—then next day she is possibly mated again either to the same dog or another one—caught again and put into a pen in which she is to whelp.

On one of our ranches we jump the male through to the female pen every third day until she is mated. Then we open up her kennel. This female is never handled or excited during this period and without exception, on the same feed, this ranch's pup average has been higher than the other ranches, run under a different mating system, every year since it was started ten years ago. Misses are practically unknown on this ranch unless we accidentally use a sterile male, compared with—as I have mentioned—a rate of as high as 18 per cent of misses on some of our other ranches. We should also take into consideration temperature — cold snappy weather seems to activate or stimulate the sperm of the male while warm wet weather has the opposite effect. We notice that very definitely on our Northern ranches which outdo in production our Southern ranches annually. We have already mentioned the time of her heat period at which she should be mated. I recently counted one of our ranch misses —35—22 of which came from first day matings. 13 from second day matings (you see that theory is not infallible).

Now for a word on small litters. If we have many misses on our ranch we will for the same reason have many small litters of one and two because they are the next thing to a complete miss. No doubt the introduction of the mutation fox is responsible for many of these small litters. I have tabulated some ranch figures on this phase which are interesting—

Production from straight standard silver females — (1000) 3:4

Production from mutation either mutation or silver from mutation — (200) 2:4.

Some of us forget or ignore the fact that one of the parents in our mating program must be a straight silver fox for maximum production. Our curiosity too often gets the better of us and we mate mutation to mutation just to see what happens (maybe we think we will create some new freak.) One thing we do know will happen before looking into the kennel is that we will get a smaller litter than if we had used more sense in our selection. This of course is due to the lethal factor which comes into the picture and seals the fate of some of the best before or immediately after birth. Then we also have the silver female who takes a dislike to any unusual or highly colored member of her family and she has her own way of solving that problem.

The internal bleeder found in some of the newer strains is another reason for reducing the size of the mutation litter.

(To be continued)

Mr. Douglas Speaks on P.E.I. Problems

The following is from the Hansard report, July 29, of the House of Commons debate on stabilization of farm prices.

Mr. J. L. Douglas (Queen's):

"Since I represent a constituency in a province which is largely agricultural I am naturally interested in this legislation supporting farm prices. It is essential that the farmer, upon whom we depend to so large an extent, should be protected from any collapse of prices of his marketable products during the readjustment period following the war. Through the wisdom of the government in its price ceiling and other measures during the past few years, farm prices have not become unreasonably high, in fact, scarcely high enough to offset, in some instances, the additional cost of production.

"In some instances the farmers have paid twenty-five per cent more in wages than in former years; nevertheless, despite ten years of low farm prices which prevailed prior to 1941, the farmers today are in better financial circumstances. This measure introduced to support the farmer up to or about the level of production is vital to the welfare of the Dominion as a whole. It is a broad one that requires careful consideration, because cost of production varies in different provinces. In Prince Edward Island we are subject to heavy freight rates and other handicaps not found except in a province separated from the mainland. Our principal marketing crops are potatoes, both seed and table stock; dairy products, hogs, poultry and eggs. Fish, of course will be dealt with in another important bill.

No Other Way

"The knowledge and experience I have gained from both farming and marketing convinces me that there is no other way by which we can protect the producer in the annual outlay of cash necessary to maintain production than by establishing a minimum price under the direction of a board so that he will not be made bankrupt. A board wisely constituted should be able to protect both the farmer and the government, or the consolidated revenue fund. This fund should be sufficient to meet all such needs.

"For some time there will be a large demand for most food products. This demand will ensure at least a price equal to any floor that may be set. Other farm products which vary greatly in yield one year with another from the same acreage are in years of heavy yield, sold at low prices. Take potatoes, for instance, a crop that varies greatly, depending on the weather and the infestation of fungus disease. In Prince Edward Island potatoes constitute our main cash crop. We produce a good quality of both seed and table stock and without a reasonable revenue from this crop our farmers are not prosperous.

80 Per Cent

"Honourable members know that eighty per cent of the certified seed potatoes are produced in Prince Edward Island. The production of these potatoes requires special and scientific methods, which are more expensive than growing ordinary table stock potatoes. Production in Prince Edward Island, as in other provinces, has been increased twenty-five to thirty per cent. This is remarkable, especially in my own province where out of a population of 95,000 people 12,000 of our young men and women have enlisted in the armed forces, probably the highest percentage of all of Canada. The fathers and mothers at home have worked long hours, most of them from daylight to dark, to meet the needs of producing more food.

"Since transportation is linked closely with production, we in Prince Edward Island are handicapped by ice conditions in the Northumberland Strait in certain months of the year. February and March are the months in which the greatest difficulty is experienced. We hope that when the new car ferry, which is under construction, is brought into service in a few months' time it will improve the service between our province and the mainland. Our twenty-nine year old car ferry, which was built in Newcastle-on-Tyne, where many great ships are built, has done wonderful work. A great deal of credit is due to the crew who, in some instances, work day and night to keep the freight moving.

"The people of my province have faith in the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner) and in his department, which has dealt fairly with all provinces. We appreciate the relief he has given us in the subventions on fertilizer and feed, the bonuses paid on dairy products, and so on, which, I am sure, all our people in that business appreciate.

"It would be foolish for me or for anyone else to attempt to outline what minimum prices should be set for the various products, and as I have already said, a wisely constituted board will arrive at those conclusions. I wish to say, in conclusion, that I most heartily endorse the principles of the bill."