

Farming and Agriculture :-: Special Features :-: Interesting Observations

SEED POTATO INSPECTION SERVICE

S. G. Peppin, senior Inspector gives Annual Report of Potato Inspector

The seed potato acreage entered inspection in 1923 was 32,080 acres, divided into 22,986 Irish Cobblers, 8,849 Green Mountains and 245 other varieties. There were 19,894 acres of Irish Cobblers and 5,816 of Green Mountains which passed both inspections, or more than the total acreage entered in 1927.

Table with 4 columns: Varieties, Fields, Acres, %

The average per cent of black leg in all fields was 2, in those which passed, and in those rejected 6.6. Data was gathered bearing on the value of seed treatment with bichloride of mercury, Semesan and Dip.

This disease is only met with occasionally and is not by any means a serious problem. However, all diseased plants should be removed as early in the season as possible.

The mosaic apparently is the worst offender of the lot. There was an average per cent of .59 in all fields inspected, .06 in those which passed and .24 in the rejected fields.

The figures if given for Green Mountains alone would, of course, be materially increased. Fortunately our Cobblers are more or less resistant to the spread of this trouble, since we have not, to date, found a great deal of mosaic in any one field of Cobblers.

There is, however, room for considerable improvement in our Green Mountains. As I have stated before, in years gone by, we must resort to the practice of Seed Plots if we expect to continue in the market for Certified Green Mountains.

We are fortunate in having one or two strains which are either entirely or relatively free of mosaic. There is still a quantity of this seed available for this year's planting, and it is doubtful if such stock may be purchased at such a low figure as prevails at present, for some years to come.

We sincerely hope such will be the case. Any growers, then, wishing good foundation stock should communicate with the Inspection Service with as little delay as possible as the supply is limited. A word to those growers now possessing this good seed: Maintain a seed plot, removed as far as possible from all other potatoes. Plant it in tuber units, give it the same, or even better care than the main crop, keeping it well sprayed and more particularly, spray for the insects, especially those which carry the disease.

We still find that a large number of fields contain foreign plants. A little more care in preparing the seed prior to cutting would prevent, to a great extent at least, the recurrence of this trouble. Sort over the tubers you intend to plant, and retain only those which come up to the type and standard required for certification. In this way, I am sure we would derive the best results.

LIVE HOGS. We are taking live hogs daily, excepting Saturday, paying highest market prices. Davis & Fraser

Dr. Gussow's Message To Potato Growers

Message to P. E. I. certificated seed potato growers:

First of all we in Ottawa who are interested in certified seed potatoes wish you all a very successful season in 1924, more successful especially as far as prices are concerned. During the past year we had an illustration of what is the result of an attempt on the part of some P. E. I. growers to "get rich quick."

Wilt, lack of vigour. 224 fields were rejected for either wilt or lack of vigour. Wilt, in this case, refers principally to stem streak. This trouble was most frequently found in the poor, sandy, or low lying soils and those lacking humus.

Spindle Tuber. During our annual visits to the seed source tests in the South we have often been confronted with the statement of the pathologists there that our stock contained a small percentage of spindle tuber disease.

In closing I have another message—the levying of fees for seed potato certification has been postponed. No fees will be charged this coming season.

Wishing you every success and with personal regards to all of you. Sincerely, H. T. Gussow Dominion Botanist.

DELEGATES TO FARMERS' MEETINGS

At the last session of the Farmers' Week meetings in the Prince of Wales College, the following were among those present: J. F. Graham, Stanchel; Alfonso Bryenton, R. R. G., Charlottetown; J. J. McKinnon, St. Peter's; J. Justin Larkin, Five Houses; H. F. McDonald, Bristol; Clarence Macdonald, Mt. Stewart; Herman MacFarlane, Bedouque; Willard Ferguson, Suffolk; Oliver Saunders, Winsloe; P. McQuaid, W. W. Owen, Frenchfort; John Stetson, Marshfield; J. F. MacFarlane, W. E. Warren, W. H. Godfrey, James McCormac, Lester E. Profit, Alberton; Hibbert G. Hughes, Covehead; James E. Smith, Rocky Pt.; Mont Anwar, Montague; J. A. O'Keefe, Avondale; Wm. Duffy, Bunbury; Seymour McLennan, Alexandria; Lincoln Wood, Royalty Jct.; F. G. Schaad, York; Quinis C. Schaad, Gattelle Schaad, York; E. H. Bradshaw, Kinkora; Hugh J. McLean, Clyde River; Geo. E. Brown, Kensington; D. S. Campbell, Brookfield; Wendell Morrissey, Royalty East; J. J. Driscoll, Hillsboro; Wm. Younker, Kingston; Gordon A. Newson, North River; W. J. Wortman; D. T. Keays; J. M. McLean; J. J. McDonald; Louis H. Mutart; Wm. E. Johnson; J. B. Saunders; Wm. J. Gibson; E. W. Webster, Morell; Douglas Aitken; C. R. Morris, Bradalbane; D. Wallace MacKay, Stanley Bridge; W. R. McKay, Brackley; Thos. Wigmore, Graham's Road; Gordon Taylor, Rocky Point; Daniel N. Taylor, Stanislaus Dolron; P. E. Lowther; J. A. Clark, Expl. Farm; Clifford McEwen; P. D. McGregor; Angus McLean; W. W. Macdonald; Walter Buntain; J. A. McGregor; Jas. A. Hanlon; M. Foster, York.

These will be mailed direct from our Ottawa office to all growers whose name appears on the 1923 inspection list. I cannot state exactly when these will be mailed you, but most likely early in May or perhaps sooner. If, therefore, any of you do not receive a form by, say May 15th, or at a later date, then write immediately to receive them, then write immediately to S. G. Peppin, Charlottetown, and we will attend to it without delay. Charges will be levied the same as last year on all those who do not apply for inspection on or before June 15th. Don't wait, as a great many did, until the night of the 14th before mailing your application. We have had so much trouble in the past in this regard that we simply must have a definite ruling and time limit for receiving these forms.

For the convenience of growers and others wishing to consult the Inspection Service on matters pertaining to potatoes an office has been opened in the same building as the Potato Growers' Association, where we shall be glad to advise you to the best of our ability.

It is a different task to fathom a shallow mind. The young long to be happy; the old wish to be wise.

If farm produce is high in price, then farmers can afford to buy. M. Dubou and wife recently peddled a tricycle from Paris to Berlin and return.

Coal mines of Upper Silesia, Poland, produced 30,250,000 tons last year.

Final Meetings: Farmers Week

Following is a continuation of the report of the Central Farmers Institute meeting held at Prince of Wales College Hall Thursday morning:

In connection with the resolution re taxation the opinion was expressed by some of those present that the taxes on farmers were already quite high enough. Many seemed to consider that the city people were hardly paying their fair share in taxation for public works.

The thanks of the meeting was extended to Dr. Lionel Stevenson for the addresses and demonstrations given.

The following directors were appointed for the present year: Prince—J. E. Gallant, B. MacLellan, R. A. Profit.

Queens—Peter Brodie, W. W. Crosby, C. E. MacKenzie.

Kings—W. H. Hayden, P. A. MacIsaac, J. E. Dingwell.

The executive held an after meeting at which the following officers were appointed: President, W. W. Crosby, Cornwall; Vice President, J. E. Gallant, Tignish; Secretary, C. E. MacKenzie, Milton.

AFTERNOON SESSION

The afternoon session was occupied by a very largely attended meeting of the Potato Growers Association, the President Mr. J. J. Trainor occupying the chair.

The first business of the meeting was an address by the Secretary and Manager, Mr. Boulter, in which he discussed the situation as regards the growing, shipping and marketing of potatoes. The market he described as in the most deplorable condition he had ever seen it.

He announced that application forms for inspection will not be received later than June 18th.

He read a letter to the potato growers of Prince Edward Island by Dr. H. T. Gussow, Dominion Botanist, written on February 22nd, cautioning the growers against over production, and emphasizing intensive agriculture, similar to that practiced in Denmark. Put quality ahead of quantity, Dr. Gussow advised. He stated that no inspection fees will be charged this year.

Mr. Peppin, in closing, announced that he had opened an office on the third floor of the Tweel building. A discussion ensued as to whether or no manure together with fertilizer gave rise to diseases. Mr. J. J. MacDonald did not find that manure caused disease. Mr. MacQuaid also had good results from the application of manure.

Mr. C. C. Thompson of the Southgate Produce Co. then gave an address in which he described certain aspects of shipping and marketing potatoes in the southern states.

He said that, in fifteen potato growing states in the south the acreage had jumped from 199,000 acres in 1923 to 283,000 acres in 1924. In 1924, however, the prospective acreage was 191,000.

He read a letter from a southern grower, in which it was stated that the situation of the growers in the south, which was now rather bad, showed prospects of improvement.

Mr. J. O. Hyndman after paying a tribute of praise to the executive and directors of the association, felt that what we now needed was the co-operation of the dealers. Next year—even if the United States market is not available he felt that one awaited us in Central Canada. The people there who have tried our potatoes like them, and there are plenty of Maritimers scattered over the country who would want our quality potatoes.

Reports Presented at Central Farmers' Institute

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Gentlemen:—I am sure it is a great pleasure for me, along with your Secretary, to assist in opening this annual meeting of the Central Farmers' Institute of Prince Edward Island. In looking over the week's programme, which is a full one, you will note there has been only three hours allowed us for the transaction of business, or any discussion that may arise.

One might ask the question "Has this central Institute any real function to perform, or might we very well eliminate it from the week's schedule?" To my mind it HAS a very important part to play, and should be the central meeting of the whole week. If you will follow the other meetings, you will find that a number of problems of vital importance are not touched upon at all. Secondly, that this meeting lends itself to greater, more open discussion.

In some of the other organizations, where a large amount of business is being transacted from year to year, the time is partly taken up in detailed reports, and where discussion is allowed at all, it usually ends in criticism, whether just or unjust.

In passing, I would like to say a word in regard to an executive body, and its relation to the organization it represents. I always feel a keen responsibility when elected a member of an executive, for I know one must always be true to himself, and also the larger body he represents. It is right here that the confidence of the people is sometimes lost. I do not care how competent or capable any executive may be, if they fail to recognize the individual, they are bound to breed mistrust. The public must have the truth—it is the only thing that will permanently satisfy. Any executive, then, in order to be worthy of the confidence placed in them, should try to educate, enlighten, and serve, to the best interests of all concerned.

In speaking of agriculture in general in this province in 1923, we are glad to report a very successful year. Of course, if any one spending a few days on P. E. I. should happen to meet some of the men who unfortunately planted 75 to 100 acres of potatoes last spring, they might get a contradictory report. The potato growers, I will admit, have been severely punished this last year, but this punishment may be the means of preventing a greater calamity in the future.

The root rot in general, was quite above the average, which is a great asset to a country boasting live-stock. The dairy industry has been particularly encouraging this year, the market for dairy products holding firm, while export trade in dairy cattle has been remarkably keen. The dairy industry, although in a very flourishing condition, needs a much better system of storing and marketing its products. If the New Zealand butter continues to flood into Canada during the winter months, the dairymen will be forced to cooperate and buy their mill feeds or concentrate in larger quantities. I understand that the farmers around Charlottetown have already secured a carload of feed wheat through the Maritime Marketing Board at Moncton, managed by J. K. King. It might be possible that this Board could handle this situation for us.

In connection with the dairy industry I might mention the work being done by the Dept. of Agriculture with the bull-leasing scheme now in operation in this province. The idea, as I understand it, is to place good bulls in the poorer sections of the province, where the need is greatest. If this work is continued, we shall, no doubt, see great results.

The breeding of good, heavy horses the same diseases as young lambs. Treat in the same way. To avoid "scours" do not feed the sow too much after farrowing. To treat, change the feed of the sow, and give her half an ounce of formaldehyde in the feed three times a day. For colic, hairlessness and rickets give potassium iodide in mineral matters.

Too liberal feeding of pregnant ewes is often dangerous. Overfeeding of these animals for exhibition purposes has killed many of them. A hearty vote of thanks to Dr. Stevenson was moved by Mr. W. J. Wortman, seconded by Mr. T. Wigmore, and supported by Mr. Fulton Simpson.

At a meeting of the executive of the short-horn breeders held after the main meeting, certain matters relating to the extension of the herd in the province were discussed. It was decided to hold the annual meeting in the latter part of June or early in July, notice of which will appear in the local papers and sent to the members.

and after taking two boxes I began to feel stronger, looked better and the color came back into my cheeks, and now I am feeling fine again." Price 50c. a box at all druggists and dealers, or mailed direct on receipt of price by The T. Milburn Co., Ltd., Toronto, Ont.

Dr. Stevenson next dealt with the diseases of young lambs, and described the methods of dealing with them. Many are caused by infection entering the navel cord. Care should be taken to have the place where a lamb is to be born clean and sanitary. When the lamb is born, disinfect the navel cord with carbolic solution. Don't touch it with the hand.

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ment which since the inauguration was noticeable on every hand, both in homes and schools. The family of Governor Hertz now travelling in Europe had written home that they had seen nothing so beautiful as the Island scenery except the Bay of Naples. His Honor felt there was much literary ability latent in the children of the country and the city. He announced his intention therefore, of awarding prizes for short stories, say \$25.00 for the first; \$15 for the second, \$10 for the third and several other prizes of \$5 each, and he proposed to arrange with the editors of the papers to help with the scheme. His Honor expressed his pleasure that two of the winners were ladies. He also voiced his regret that some of the people in the country did not afford him the opportunity of entertaining them at Government House. It was hoped that next year the cups might be presented earlier—if possible at the Provincial Exhibition. His Honor then presented the trophies.

Final Meetings: Farmers Week

dealers to consider better ways of marketing. Just now in Ontario, dealers are selling other potatoes as Prince Edward Island potatoes—thus trading on our reputation.

If we would change our methods and get after the Canadian trade, we could grow more potatoes than ever. But it is a mistake for farmers to grow large quantities of potatoes which they cannot store, and then be forced to dump them on the market, lowering prices. He deprecated price cutting among shippers. What we need, he said, is co-operation all round.

Mr. Hyndman felt that not even the dealers themselves would wish to undermine this organization. We should try to get some arrangement by which we may all act together and not only in this Island, but also the New Brunswick dealers and growers as well. He stigmatized the statistics published at Washington and Ottawa as being misleading. For instance it was stated that 147 cwt. per acre was produced this year as against 90 last year, whereas every one knew that such was not the case.

The President Mr. J. J. Trainor, also deplored the dumping of potatoes on the market at any price which had caused the present sickness in the industry. It is absolutely necessary that we have some arrangement by which either all the farmers belong to our association, or else all the dealers become affiliated with it, so that price cutting will be put an end to.

As an association we must make some further effort to stabilize the industry in this province, and it cannot do so without the co-operation of the farmers. The sooner we realize that we must eliminate competition in selling, the better it will be for us all. He advocated a control selling organization.

Mr. W. W. Crosby asked if it was possible to pool the interests of every farmer so that those who get in last will get the same price as those who sell at the top of the market. Until this could be done, the situation would be a hard one for the farmers.

Mr. Boulter was not of the opinion that there was any way in which sales could be pooled. He felt that the dealers were doing all they could to find markets. Prices were a matter of supply and demand, and if there was over-production, the price was bound to be low.

Mr. Trainor repudiated the story that the Potato Growers Association had lowered the price of table stock. Mr. J. O. Hyndman advocated putting up our potatoes in attractive small packages, labeled with the place of their origin. Marketing in bulk, in large bags, he thought, was a mistake.

He also advocated more extensive storage facilities. Mr. Keefe was very strongly of the opinion that all potato growers should join the organization. Mr. Boulter advocated the growing of Spalding Rose potatoes.

EVENING SESSION

At the evening session, three handsome trophies, donated by Lieutenant Governor Hertz to the winners in each county in a contest for the greatest improvement in farm home-steads during the season of 1923, were presented by His Honour.

The successful contestants were Mrs. Robert Barrett, St. Eleanor's; Mrs. Herbert Poole, Lower Montague and Mr. A. H. MacBeath, Marshfield. Hon. W. M. Lea who presided, told of the inception of the contest. Some twenty people entered, he said, and Mr. H. H. Shaw, Superintendent of Education had a very difficult matter in judging in the competition, so great were the improvements which were effected. Not only were the twenty farms improved, but a valuable stimulus given to farm home improvement in the whole country.

On account of the train connections it was regretted, that the winners of the trophies from Prince and Kings Counties were unable to be present, so their trophies were to be presented to Mr. C. C. Thompson and Mr. H. H. Shaw who represented them.

His Honor Lieutenant Governor Hertz ascribed to Mr. Lea the credit for inaugurating the plan. On pointing out the beauties of the Island to His Excellency the Governor General, it was found that some home steads did not, perhaps, look as well as they should have. So Mr. Lea suggested the trophies, and His Honor gave them. It was later decided to allow each year's winner to keep the cup, rather than try three years in succession.

He announced that three similar cups would be donated to be competed for next year. He was gratified at the large number who competed; also the improve-

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The root rot in general, was quite above the average, which is a great asset to a country boasting live-stock. The dairy industry has been particularly encouraging this year, the market for dairy products holding firm, while export trade in dairy cattle has been remarkably keen. The dairy industry, although in a very flourishing condition, needs a much better system of storing and marketing its products. If the New Zealand butter continues to flood into Canada during the winter months, the dairymen will be forced to cooperate and buy their mill feeds or concentrate in larger quantities. I understand that the farmers around Charlottetown have already secured a carload of feed wheat through the Maritime Marketing Board at Moncton, managed by J. K. King. It might be possible that this Board could handle this situation for us.

In connection with the dairy industry I might mention the work being done by the Dept. of Agriculture with the bull-leasing scheme now in operation in this province. The idea, as I understand it, is to place good bulls in the poorer sections of the province, where the need is greatest. If this work is continued, we shall, no doubt, see great results.

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At a meeting of the executive of the short-horn breeders held after the main meeting, certain matters relating to the extension of the herd in the province were discussed. It was decided to hold the annual meeting in the latter part of June or early in July, notice of which will appear in the local papers and sent to the members.

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