

Provincial Agricultural Activities Are Reviewed

Increased Crops Shown In Comprehensive Review of Agricultural Activities

By W. R. SHAW

Survey of Prince Edward Island's main industry during the past year.

Greatly increased areas were seeded in unimproved varieties of other cereal crops. Unfavorable harvesting weather, however, decreased quality to a very great extent on the potato crop. While some exception may be made in some of the best years, the comparative table below indicates the acreage and production of farm crops. In all cases the figures were arrived at after careful survey. While some exception may be taken to some of these figures, particularly in potato production, a check with actual acreages and yields from the ordinary farm conditions indicate the statistical records as submitted to be reasonably accurate.

FIELD CROPS		1939		1940	
Crop	Acres	Production	Acres	Production	
Wheat	9,700	168,730 bus.	12,500	237,500 bus.	
Oats	145,300	4,942,300	142,800	4,998,000	
Barley	3,000	252,900 "	12,000	372,000 "	
Buckwheat	3,300	79,950 "	3,700	83,150 "	
Mixed grains	36,800	1,225,000 "	11,500	1,103,000 "	
Potatoes	36,800	6,904,000 "	40,000	7,400,000 "	
Turpines and Manisels	10,800	4,320,000 "	10,800	5,022,000 "	
Hay & clover	226,400	280,360 tons	236,000	321,660 tons	
Corn	430	3,010 tons	440	3,080 "	

Livestock		1939		1940	
Horses	28,960	28,960	28,650		
Cattle	99,600	99,600	93,820		
Swine	48,100	48,100	53,900		
Sheep and Lambs	46,300	46,300	43,900		
Poultry	528,500	528,500	806,100		

Dairy Products, 1940

Butter (Creamery) 2,000,000
Cheese 596,000

During the year, Departmental representatives held conferences with representatives from other eastern provinces and presented to Federal authorities a plan through which necessary feeding grains and other feeds might be placed in the hands of Island producers at decreased rates. At a recent conference at Ottawa, a definite plan was submitted to Federal officials in this connection. This plan would provide for the laying down in Prince Edward Island of a stock of 525,000 bushels of grain and hay. At the present time, there has been

no reaction toward this proposal. In any event, the successful carrying out of hog, dairy and livestock production to a very great extent upon the cost of feeds that have to be imported into the province.

Potato Yield Heavier

The yield of potatoes and field crops was heavier than in 1939. There was a very distinct increase in the area devoted to certified seed. Twenty-four thousand acres. Unfortunately a very poor market for seed and tablestock prevailed during the fall season. A feature of the present development involved legislation providing for rigid regulations to protect the potato crop from the ravages of Bacterial Ringrot in tubers. A close check has been kept on potato areas in the province by the Federal inspection staff in co-operation with officials of the Federal Fruit and Vegetable Division and the Provincial Department of Agriculture. An excellent harvest and will assist materially in winter production.

Foxes

During the year the fox industry substantially increased. It has been estimated that the number of pelts taken off in 1940 will be less than that of the previous year. Demand for pelts seems to be keen and higher prices are in prospect. The Fox Show at Charlottetown was held as usual and was one of the best in years. Added interest was developed by the inclusion of H&K-neck and plaiding types. The newer types of foxes have become quite popular, and have developed quite a measure of enthusiasm in the industry. The remarkable death of Mr. W. Burke Fox Fieldman of the Department of Agriculture, removed from active service a man of great strength to the fox industry and a popular and valuable citizen of the province.

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Deputy Minister of Agriculture

Prince Edward Island farms, in 1940, produced abundantly of both raw and finished products. The farm program of production was modeled to a very great extent to meet emergency conditions. A distinct change was noticeable in the variety and kind of grain produced. This was due in a great measure to Departmental policy which involved the distribution of seed of seed barley. The result was an increase of some thousands of acres of barley and mixed grains, and the production of feeding materials of improved quality. In response to the Departmental educational program,

More Butter and Cheese

Owing to good pasturage conditions, butter and cheese production was higher than the previous year. Up till the end of November, the increase was approximately 3.5 per cent in butter, while cheese production was up approximately 27 per cent. A considerable quantity of cheese was exported to the Old Country during the past season. The prices were somewhat in excess of the previous year's levels. During the greater part of the year, butter and cheese prices were higher than the previous year. In the late season, however, the market rapidly advanced but the advance came at a time when dairy production was rapidly decreasing. The rise in price, however, brought about an instant response. Dairy cows were fed more generously, and an increase in the creameries was immediately noticeable. It is felt that if natural conditions were not in basic industry, it is questionable if the prices they will now receive under increased feed and labor costs will exceed the prices received under open pasture conditions.

Produce Prices

MONTREAL, Dec. 30.—(CP)—Produce Market prices here today, as reported by the Dominion Department of Agriculture, follow: Creamery, first grade creamery prints, jobbing price, 36-36 1/2; first grade solids, jobbing price, 36-36; second butter, unblended, 14-14 1/2; white and colored, current receipt price, 13-14; whole milk price, 14-14 1/2; Eggs, graded, selling price, A—large 31; A—medium 29; A—pullets 27; Potatoes: Que whites no 1 75's 65-65; no 2, 40-45; No. 1 medium, no 1 75's 65-70; PEI main, no 1 75's 70-75; Bermuda reds no 1 150's, 200.

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CATTLE

The general aspect of the cattle industry for the year 1940 was greatly improved over that of 1939 throughout the province. As at the beginning of the year there was quite a shortage of home grown grains and hay in many parts of the province. Nevertheless, the district was able to produce very successfully with the result that cattle went out on pasture in a much better condition than in the previous year.

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Dominion Livestock Activities Reviewed

PRODUCTION SERVICE—DOMINION DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Live Stock Division:
Dr. E. S. Notting, Supervisor.
Mr. S. D. Irvine, Senior Live Stock Fieldman.
Mr. F. W. Roper, Fieldman.
Mr. H. W. Clay, Live Stock Grader and Assistant Fieldman.

Health of Animals Division:

Dr. E. S. Notting, Supervisor.
Dr. S. A. Hill, Senior Veterinarian Inspector.
Mr. W. R. Thompson, Junior Veterinarian Inspector.
Mr. W. T. Ennis, Assistant Inspector.

There has been considerable increase in the movement of live stock from Prince Edward Island during the past year. Newfoundland after adopting more rigid import regulations with regard to live stock, provides an active market for cattle, horses, sheep, swine and poultry throughout the season when navigation was open. Carload lots of horses and mules went forward to St. John's, by rail via North Sydney. Domestic shipments of cattle, calves, hogs and lambs for slaughter have gone forward to local abattoirs to Montreal in increased numbers.

Westerners are Critical of Butter pegging

REGINA, Dec. 30.—(CP)—Criticism of federal action in pegging the maximum wholesale price of butter at 70 cents per pound, Dec. 12, was made today by Agriculture Minister Taggart and by George H. Williams, Saskatchewan leader of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation. Mr. Taggart commented: "If the action is accompanied by the fixing of a minimum price during the months of May to September, inclusive, then it may be acceptable to the producers. Otherwise it will bear every appearance of discrimination against the producer."

Mr. Williams charged in a statement that the action constituted discrimination against farmers. "The fixing of maximum wholesale butter prices by the federal war-time prices and trade board will be yet another blow to the stability of agriculture," Hon. D. S. MacMillan, Alberta minister of agriculture, declared here today.

The arbitrary fixing of prices at levels that discourage production may have a serious effect on Canada's war effort and arouse discontent among producers who already see farm labor flocking to industry where wages are more attractive," said the Minister.

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commercial dairy cows have been shipped to various points in Upper Canada and in increased numbers to Newfoundland, but owing to the great difference in exchange between the United States and Canada, we were unable to accept orders of any consequence from that country. Generally speaking, there was an increase in the number of pure bred animals of the various dairy breeds exported this year.

The market for beef cattle has been limited to some extent. The largest export trade for beef has been to Newfoundland. At the present time the outlook for export trade for our island live stock particularly the dairy breeds is much brighter. Every breeder should prepare his stock in proper condition before offering them for export trade, as the competition has become much keener and the purchaser demands type, quality and finishing. This pertains to both dairy and beef breeds.

The year of 1940 has been a very profitable one for the Junior Cattle Club workers for this province. Ten Clubs held their competitions this year. This is a joint policy sponsored by the Production Service, and the Junior Cattle Club. In co-operation with the Provincial Department of Agriculture of this province. A much keener interest has been taken in these Junior Cattle Club workers for this province. In which they are functioning, in most cases there has been a much larger attendance than in previous years. The object of this policy is to create greater interest among the Junior farmers in caring for, feeding and developing a better quality and type of beef and dairy cattle, and to encourage the effective use of live stock breeding operations. We have organized a community breeding system known as the Junior Cattle Club. This works jointly with the Junior Cattle Club, making an excellent combination of herd improvement by the development of cattle of one breed and the other of another breed. The Bull Loaning Association Policy with an outstanding herd sire. Following a program of this kind over a period of years, the breeders can develop a more uniform type of cattle in various breeds.

Judging from the present prices which are about 25 per cent higher than last year for live stock, and the fact that the market for live stock in this province, together with a much greater demand for butter and cheese for the United Kingdom, the present prices paid for butter fat at creamery points should be encouraging to the dairy farmers of this province for the coming year. Not forgetting, when this war is over, we should be prepared to obtain a share of the market for our surplus breeding stock and live stock products in Europe. This of course will demand stock of the highest quality and our breeders should realize that it takes more time to develop good dairy cows. This matter should receive serious consideration and preparation for the future.

After making a careful survey, it might be well to bring to the attention of the Island farmers, that owing to the scarcity of farm help, that a great many of our breeders are unable to attend to their cattle holdings, to a considerable extent, as so many of our young men have enlisted for war services. This will also have considerable effect on the improvement of the number of cattle available next year. Therefore, it should be advisable that all breeders and feeders who are fortunate enough to have an extensive herd should help to carry on and increase their cattle holdings to a greater extent. Every feeder and breeder should start now to lay out a program for the coming year, and to use the most economical ways and means possible to produce all he can at the lowest possible cost, bearing in mind to select carefully bred for better lines and absence from heavy growth obtainable to arrange his itinerary in every way towards a greater quality cattle production.

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There has been little or no change in the livestock industry in the province during 1940—that is, change of any moment, Mr. J. A. Gillies, Manager of the Provincial Livestock Marketing Board reveals in a summary of the activities of 1940. A superficial estimate would indicate production and marketing of cattle, hogs, sheep and lambs as having maintained a somewhat steady keel during the past year. Cattle production seemed to gain slightly in popularity towards the latter part of the season, with hogs losing ground correspondingly. We do not think there was much justification for the prevailing attitude in either case, nor that any encouragement in the situation affecting the cattle industry was of sufficient consequence to swerve hog men from their chosen line of animal production.

Lamb prices were probably higher than those prevailing a year ago, but producers failed in many instances to cash in on their opportunity to the extent they were possible, owing to the fact that they allowed their marketing machinery to become disorganized.

Livestock husbandry has not been a money-making proposition for our farmers, in fact if they broke even on their efforts they were fortunate. The situation created by the present war was not improved conditions for the agricultural worker. It has made his lot harder. The prices of main commodities he produces have been pegged as to maximum, and in instances, this pegged price has been lower than that existing at the time pegging was applied. On the other hand the raw material required in the industry has been permitted to advance in cost, which together with increased freight rates makes purchasing a problem. Extra costs have been added from time to time to obtain relief with respect to securing lower priced grains used in livestock feeding without advantage.

Others here in common with other parts of Canada, are asked to produce from the soil, to feed and sustain the millions of soldiers and sailors who are being sent to the ocean. Although anxious to do so they find, under present conditions, the financial sacrifice involved is considerable. It is not being considered by the Government to hope for the livestock industry as we face the New Year, are not yet sufficiently impressive to justify using the word "prospects,"—but there is a ray of hope.

The early part of the summer season, and after lambing is particularly recommended. In addition, there is room for a more complete control of external diseases of sheep than is exercised by many of our flock owners at the present time. The ordinary sheep tick can be most injurious to the flock, and create greater interest among the Junior farmers in caring for, feeding and developing a better quality and type of beef and dairy cattle, and to encourage the effective use of live stock breeding operations. We have organized a community breeding system known as the Junior Cattle Club. This works jointly with the Junior Cattle Club, making an excellent combination of herd improvement by the development of cattle of one breed and the other of another breed. The Bull Loaning Association Policy with an outstanding herd sire. Following a program of this kind over a period of years, the breeders can develop a more uniform type of cattle in various breeds.

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Katherine E. MacPherson—Teacher.

Anglo Rustico School

Report for November and December.
Grade X—Eaton Bulman.
Grade XI—Athol Bulman.
Grade XII—Ruh Bulman.
Grade VII—Doris Hare. 2. Amy Toombs.
Grade V—Hazel Bulman. 2. Cleane Nunn and Ira Caswell (equal).
Grade IV—George Toombs.
Grade III—Athol Toombs.
Grade II—Athol Caswell.
Perfect attendance.—Amy Toombs and Doris Hare.
Highest Average Senior.—Alvin Nunn 82.4 per cent.
Highest Average Junior.—George Toombs 85.1 per cent.
Prize for Department since August.—Ruh Bulman.
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Marketing of Livestock is Same as 1939

There has been little or no change in the livestock industry in the province during 1940—that is, change of any moment, Mr. J. A. Gillies, Manager of the Provincial Livestock Marketing Board reveals in a summary of the activities of 1940. A superficial estimate would indicate production and marketing of cattle, hogs, sheep and lambs as having maintained a somewhat steady keel during the past year. Cattle production seemed to gain slightly in popularity towards the latter part of the season, with hogs losing ground correspondingly. We do not think there was much justification for the prevailing attitude in either case, nor that any encouragement in the situation affecting the cattle industry was of sufficient consequence to swerve hog men from their chosen line of animal production.

Lamb prices were probably higher than those prevailing a year ago, but producers failed in many instances to cash in on their opportunity to the extent they were possible, owing to the fact that they allowed their marketing machinery to become disorganized.

Livestock husbandry has not been a money-making proposition for our farmers, in fact if they broke even on their efforts they were fortunate. The situation created by the present war was not improved conditions for the agricultural worker. It has made his lot harder. The prices of main commodities he produces have been pegged as to maximum, and in instances, this pegged price has been lower than that existing at the time pegging was applied. On the other hand the raw material required in the industry has been permitted to advance in cost, which together with increased freight rates makes