

The Guardian, Charlottetown, Mon., Aug. 16, 1971

ACROSS THE ISLAND

Raymond Innes Picks 543 Boxes Of Berries

By NEIL A. MATHESON

TALK ABOUT champion strawberry pickers, I have a real CHAMPION. Raymond Innes – he lives now on Bunbury Road – picked 543 boxes of strawberries in a single day on the farm of Elmer Jay at Mount Stewart.

Mr. Jay told me about it by telephone a month or six weeks ago, but I thought about it so much, after I hung up the telephone, that I didn't use it at the time for fear I had heard incorrectly over the telephone.

I forgot about it then in the rush of other interesting items that come to my attention. But Sunday afternoon I called Raymond's mother and found after she had checked with her son, that he had picked 543 boxes in one day. And that's what Mr. Jay had told me when I talked with him back in strawberry picking time, and various other pickers were being advanced as champions.

I know the feat is almost unbelievable but that's what the famous lad really did. Raymond is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Red Innes, Bunbury Road.

PRICES PAID in other years have proven to be a popular item for this column, so far as reader reaction is concerned.

An old notebook proves a thought I have had in mind for years, that horses were valuable in cash some 50 to 60 years ago, and later than that.

For example, I found some notes I took in the Agricultural Museum at the Experimental Farm here. The name is now changed to the Research Station, and the museum is gone, but the notes are still in my book.

For example back in 1913 a draught mare, eight years old, was valued at \$400, a five-year old driving horse was valued at \$300. A nine-year old Express horse listed at \$240.

Ten years later a draught mare seven years old was valued at \$500, so was a draught mare six years old. Two other mares, nine and seven years old, were listed at \$300.

Milk Cow At \$50

COWS ARE the valuable items on a farm, now – I know that good horses of certain types are also valuable – but in 1913 my old notes tell me a milk cow was worth \$50. A one-year old steer was worth just \$20. And that would likely be a right good one.

Five steers weighing 6,395 pounds sold at seven and one-half cents a pound for a total of \$479.62 and three steers weighing 2,800 pounds were worth \$200.20 at the same rate of seven and one-half cents a pound.

They must have been grade cows, for in 1913 an Ayrshire cow was listed at \$200. And an Ayrshire calf, one day old, was worth \$25.00.

In 1917 an Ayrshire cow was worth \$250, a one-year old heifer \$75, and a two-month old calf, \$25.

But steers for feeding were worth only six and one-quarter cents a pound, so five steers with a total weight of 5,520 pounds were worth just \$345.

Nine breeding sheep were listed at \$180 or \$20 each. Six lambs were worth \$60. (?)

Feeding lambs were worth seven and one-half cents a pound. Nine of them weighed a total of 794 pounds for a total value of \$52.80.

Lambs At \$1.00 Apiece

PURE BRED Leichester shearlings were valued at \$24. Lambs – these must have been very young – were listed at one dollar each.

In machinery. a Frost and Wood binder cost \$185, which makes sense for I heard my mother say that my father had paid something a little more than \$100 for his Frost and Wood binder and that would be about 1907 or 1908, he died in 1909.

A thresher “complete” was worth \$105, a manure spreader was worth \$110. A disc harrow was worth all of \$25.00 and a scuffler cost \$6.00. A turnip pulper cost \$13.00. A steel rake was \$23.00.

A shot gun with two boxes of cartridges was listed at \$22.00. A road grader was 70.

A cutaway harrow was \$46.28 and I don't know what kind of a harrow that was.

Potato planters were available back in those days and the price was \$80.00.

Iron Plow Cost Two Dollars

AND HERE is really something – an iron plow was listed at \$2.00. A horse drawn mower was \$45.00.

Talk about your big tractor plows of today, they had nothing on the old Gang Plow which was a real wow when it came out first.

With the gang – three horses pulled it – a man could plow three acres, especially if it was stubble, and that was really something in those days.

A gang plow cost \$20 on 1917, or that might have been a depreciated value.