

The Guardian, Charlottetown, Sat., May 24, 1969

## ACROSS THE ISLAND

Incidents Recalled By Retired Deputy

By NEIL A. MATHESON

STEWART WRIGHT left yesterday with Mrs. Wright on a trip that will take them as far as Ontario and Minnesota in the United States; it might take them to the Pacific Coast.

Thus my long-time friend begins a life of relaxed retirement from his work that started in the early 1930's as a tester for cow-testing associations in this province, and ended in mid-May with his retirement as deputy-minister of agriculture. Mr. Wright became deputy-minister in 1954.

The federal government financed the cow-testing associations work in those early years. But the province got interested in 1935 when Mr. Wright went with the department to revive the cow-testing associations. He had worked for the federal government from 1931 to 1933.

There have been high spots in Mr. Wright's career; there have also been unusual incidents that he recalls now with amusement.

HE RECEIVED an award certificate last year from Governor-General Roland Michener for his contribution to the work of the 4-H Clubs. He had twice been national president. He headed the council – it had been called Canadian Council for Boys' and Girls' Clubs – the year the name was changed to 4-H Clubs.

Only this month, Mr. Wright received an engraved certificate from the Dominion Bureau of Statistics for his work over a period of many years in supplying statistics voluntarily to DBS for their statistical reports on this province.

### 'Tester' Was Tested

GOVERNMENT-SPONSERED testing of milk cows was in its infancy when Mr. Stewart commenced that work. Some cattlemen were dubious that the tester knew his stuff. They showed it in various ways.

Mr. Wright recalls, for example, the time one man sent a sample of milk – it was supposed to have been milk – that tested more than the 10 percent of butterfat the testing bottle provided. Another time he received a sample that tested barely one percent.

In the first case the man had either filled his bottle with cream, or had milked the strippings of a cow into the testing bottle.

In the latter case the farmer had either put some milk, and added water, or he had taken the first few squirts of milk in the milking, that would have had little butterfat in them.

In both cases Mr. Wright discussed the samples with the farmer. He never told the man he was crooked, but he did let him know that the man doing the testing was not being fooled.

Became More Interested

INVARIABLY THE cattleman became a more interested participant in the testing routine. He had learned that the tester – in this case Mr. Wright – really knew what he was doing.

The man who is now enjoying his retirement had many interesting travelling experiences back in the horse-and-sleigh days. Once John A. MacLeod's son, Howard, Bridgetown met him at Cardigan and took him to his home. The sleigh was the vehicle used on Monday night, but it rained steadily and they couldn't put a horse on the road. Finally, on Friday, the MacLeod's took Mr. Wright on his return trip and by that time they used a horse and driving wagon.

That was in the spring when the snow was going fast after a long driving rain.

### Cold At Wellington

THERE WERE plenty of experiences in cold weather and heavy snow roads. He recalls taking three teams to get from Souris to Elmira. The roads were so heavy that one animal couldn't last even half the distance.

There was a cow testing association in the Wellington area and Mr. Wright recalls leaving there one morning when the thermometer registered 35 degrees below zero.

Yet he never owned a fur coat, and never wore a cap with ear lugs, though he did wear one that he could pull down over the tops of his ears.

### Embarrassing Moments

THERE WERE interesting sidelights to his career. "One of my most embarrassing moments", he told me "came once when I left home, went into the station at Emerald to buy a ticket to Charlottetown.

"I put my hand in my pocket," he recalled, and his purse was missing. Suddenly he recalled that he had left it on the top of his bureau.

"I happened to have enough change to buy a one-way second-class ticket from Emerald to Charlottetown," said the man who could laugh when I saw him Wednesday afternoon, over an incident that hadn't seemed a bit funny at the time.

In Charlottetown he was able to borrow some money from a friend, while he wrote Mrs. Wright at North Carleton to send him the money from home.