

The Guardian, Charlottetown, Fri., Jan. 27, 1961

ACROSS THE ISLAND

Time battle flares anew

By NEIL A. MATHESON
Provincial and Farm Editor

I AM not being political when I disagree with Premier Walter Shaw's suggestion "a mutual agreement could be arrived at" between the rival factions on Daylight Time. Mr. Shaw knows I realize that his job is one of the most difficult a Prince Edward Islander can tackle.

I can well understand his desire that a mutual agreement could be arrived at. I would too if I were in his place. But I think he's too optimistic if he really thinks that can be done.

Getting back for a moment to the difficulties of his job I often wonder how he gets any work done at all. I know something of what at least two former premiers faced, and I have talked with Mr. Shaw about his problems.

When you keep a man busy all day with callers and demand his presence at dinners and other meetings on many nights of the week, the problem of when he can get any work done becomes a real one. And the man has to rest sometime too.

Rival Factions Are Farther Apart

MY OWN opinion is that the rival factions on the contentious time question are farther apart now than they ever were before. I'm talking now about the extremists on both sides. Someone suggests that the extremists constitute about one-quarter of the population. I wouldn't attempt to guess.

There is a large number of people who are either indifferent or who have a much milder preference for standard or daylight time, as the case may be. These are the sort of people, I suggest, who could get together and fulfil the premier's understandable wish.

BUT SO long as the extremists hold the views they express at present, I just cannot see any getting together, at least not for peaceful purposes.

I said sometime ago that the Prince County federation of agriculture gave standard time solid support at its annual meeting. Lloyd Lockerby, Hamilton told me this week the support was not "solid" at the meeting, as there were some who were opposed, although they did not express their feelings by voting. I interpreted the absence of a negative vote as meaning the meeting was "solid" for standard time. Mr. Lockerby understands that, but I want to clear it up in case someone also feels injured by that "solid" reference.

Feelings Run High ON The Question

KING'S COUNTY federation supported daylight time by a small margin and Queen's endorsed standard time but the vote was amazingly small for the number of people who attended, indicating indifference, or perhaps unwillingness to oppose the majority.

And Colin MacDonald said here this week that the King's County vote was not decisive. The vote came up at midnight when many had left, he said. As I have said, feelings are high when the time question is raised.

THE SUBJECT sparked the biggest debate I heard this week at the federation of agriculture meeting here. If anyone wants a really hot debate I suggest he get three standard time supporters, put them up against three fast time advocates – I'm speaking of the extremists now – and sit back and listen. If there is any hotter subject than the time problem now, I haven't heard about it.

Potato Compensation Seen Likely

POTATO MEN who suffered unusual losses from Fusarium rot will likely get compensation from the government. That is the view of just about everyone to whom I talked here this week. The extent of the remuneration is not clear.

Nobody has told me definitely that remuneration is coming, but I would be a pessimist indeed if I thought otherwise after talking with the Agriculture minister and some of the people who placed the problem before the federal minister here.

OUR FEDERATION got national publicity Monday night when the press conference with Hon. Alvin Hamilton was broadcast across the country. Just before dinner one of the panelists told me he feared he might "freeze up" and not be able to talk when the time came. His fears were in vain. Before the conference was over he was just about the most vocal man in the group.

Highs And Lows In P.E.I. Farm Picture

P.E.I. FARM income was ten percent higher last year than it was in 1959 and the sale of tablestock potatoes was responsible for one and one-half million dollars of the increase. The dominion bureau of statistics is the authority which was quoted at this week's agricultural council sessions.

Most people know of the sharp drop in egg production in this province in recent years. E.A.Holland, senior poultry products inspector, said this week that deliveries to grading stations dropped to 95,534 cases from the 120,864 cases five years ago. It's a big drop of 759,900 dozen and is in keeping with the tales of steadily diminishing poultry flocks across the Island