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## ACROSS THE ISLAND

P. E. I. beef men will organize

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THE WEATHER was terrible and most of the roads impassable but Lou Roper got his beef producers' association launched at Summerside this week, in spite of the elements.

The dinner meeting was sponsored by the provincial department of agriculture and the move has the blessing and the backing of the minister, Hon. Andrew MacRae, but he told me "It's Lou's idea" so I am giving the credit to Mr. Roper for the effort.

The numbers were far below the anticipated 100 people but they came from as far east as Uigg and Kinross and as far west as Alberton and O'Leary, so they were representative of the province despite the weather.

Driving to Summerside through a blustering, drifting snow I frankly wondered if anyone would show up and was amazed to find upwards of forty people made it.

### Advantages Are Stressed

GUEST SPEAKER Bill Sutherland of the Massey-Ferguson farm at Milliken, Ontario stressed the advantage of an association of breeders and feeders who could keep the packers, and other buyers, aware of what was coming onto the market and have the information ready several weeks ahead.

There is "a sharp demand for brandable beef" and Mr. Sutherland said that the profit could be increased by one per cent per pound by raising the animal by one grade. The M-F farm manager runs a feedlot which carries up to 300 steers each year, so he speaks from experience.

AGRICULTURE MINISTER MacRae told the group "We're not expecting to get all of our cattle in the Red or Blue brands – the two top grades –but he did see a chance for improvement, and also getting more of the present "plains" into the Standard or Commercial categories.

Of course the raising of brandable beef is only partly feeding. The breeding has a lot to do with it, fifty percent, one agricultural department man told me last week. So some undesirable dairy type steers or heifers are not good prospects for brandable carcasses.

RALPH ADAMS, O'Leary; Chesley Hughes, Covehead and Norman MacMillan, Alberry Plains were chosen as a committee to suggest names of good men for a slate of officers and a board of directors. They were to report to a second meeting in Charlottetown in mid-March when "Farmer's Week" is being held

All three of these men have experience as breeders or feeders of top notch beef animals, so the next step in the organization of the beef producers appears to be in good hands.

#### Landrace Sow Has High A. R. Score

SOME UNUSUALLY high scores are being achieved by Landrace sows in advanced registry.

I talked to Bill Sutherland, Massey-Ferguson farm manager, this week and learned that an Ontario sow has achieved the previously unheard of score of 101. She is owned by Joe Bernard of Waterford and the score of more than 100 was possible because Mr. Bernard put four barrows into the test litter which allows him eight extra points.

Breeders are permitted to enter two sows and two barrows from a test litter but the bonus of eight points is allowed if the owner enters four barrows because female pigs traditionally score higher in the carcass score than do the males

#### 4 Are Coming To Panmure Island

FOUR OF Bernard's Landrace hogs are being brought to P.E.I. Paul MacDonald, an agricultural college student who is specializing in swine husbandry, is bringing four gilts to the farm of his father, Edwin MacDonald, at Panmure Island, I am told.

MR. SUTHERLAND told me of nine other Landrace sows he knows that have scored 96 points.

An Island Landrace sow has scored 91 points for George Boswall, Frenchfort and his test litter illustrates the fact that barrows are lower on carcass score.. Boswall had two females in the test litter and both scored 100. His barrows scored only 82 points.

Carcass score points are given for length of bacon side, for back fat, belly and loin. The two barrows in the Boswall litter fell down on back fat score with only 18 out of a possible 30.

THE COMPLETE advanced registry scoring is based on the number of days it takes the test litter to reach the required weight, the amount of feed they consume and the carcass score of the test litter when slaughtered.

A P.E.I. Yorkshire was the highest scoring sow in Canada up to this year. She scored a 98 for owner Judson MacPhee of Clyde River last year. She was bred by John and Stanley Colville, Colville Road.

But there have been many Island sows that scored in the nineties.

#### Remedial Action Seen In Poultry

I TALKED this week to Fred Nash, district director of poultry services who was here to attend the Approved Flocks meeting.

Low egg prices and the steady disappearance of the small farm flock from the countryside were discussed. Mr. Nash agreed that the trend is most undesirable and suggested something will have to be done about it.

A GROUP of Ontario producers are working on the problem at present. I'm shy on details but I believe the idea is to organize the little fellows, so far as marketing is concerned. The aim is to help them compete with the big producers who can take on a supermarketing contract and supply it themselves.

This is something we expect to hear more about here in the near future.

George Saville, MLA of Annandale was in for a chat this week and he told me "there isn't a hen for miles in my area where there used to be good flocks on mostly every farm". As matters stand now, poultry husbandry is rapidly becoming a thing of the past.

### Sheep Are Stressed at Roberts Farm

SOUTHPORT NEIGHBOUR Athol Roberts is thinking of selling his herd of Shorthorn cattle at a disposal sale this year and stressing sheep in his farm operation.

One of the province's best known breeders of Scotch Shorthorns, Mr. Roberts has a herd of more than fifty head. But the years are advancing and the work is getting him down a bit.

There is no work by comparison on sheep. Mr. Roberts says. He has twenty-two pure bred sheep at present and they were purchased carrying lambs. "I may breed them pure for a time, or I may do some cross breeding", he told me this week.

He has North Country Cheviots, Leicesters and Suffolk sheep in his foundation herd. It is hard to imagine a Roberts' farm without some showy Shorthorns, but right now he is thinking of sheep and less work.