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ACROSS THE ISLAND

Beef Cattlemen Await Meeting

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THE MEETING of beef producers here on Tuesday, May 31 should be one of the more important farmers' gatherings held in recent years.

There has been more discussion about beef cattle marketing in the past year than any other single farm item that I can recall. This meeting will hear the suggestions for improvement from a special committee of 13 people named at a general meeting of producers here in mid-April.

Committee Chairman Daniel Gass, Cornwall, has told me several times that he has never seen such sustained interest as has been shown by the committee members as they tackled the job assigned to them. There are a dozen recommendations to be made to the meeting. Committee spokesmen are not permitted to say what they are - their orders were to report directly to the meeting - but I know enough about some of the ideas considered to know there will be several that are really interesting.

Federal Cabinet Representation

I AM using this bit on federal cabinet representation to correct faulty information I gave to a man who phoned me at home sometime ago. I am using this method of telling him simply because I do not know where to locate him. I'm hoping incidentally that it may be interesting also to at least a few others.

I have to thank a number of helpful people including Charles MacDonald, Wood Islands, and Robert L. Cotton, Charlottetown, also the ever courteous library staff here, for help in research.

HON. DAVID Laird was Minister of the Interior in the Alexander MacKenzie government from 1873 to 1876 when he was made Lieutenant Governor of the North West Territories and Indian Commissioner, a post he held until 1881. He returned to edit the Patriot from 1881 to 1898, when he went to Winnipeg as Indian Commissioner, I learned from his granddaughter, Mrs. Avda Rogers, Charlottetown.

Mr Laird had previously served in the legislature here and for a time was one of the strongest opponents of Confederation, Mrs Rogers tells me.

J.C. POPE, who was premier of P.E.I. for four months in 1873, was named minister of marine and fisheries in the Sir John A. MacDonald administration, 1873-91. He had been elected to the House of Commons when Hon. David Laird resigned in 1876 and was re-elected in the general election of October 19, 1877. Mr. Pope had previously been a long-time member of the provincial legislature including a previous term as premier. History credits him with having played a most important part in bringing the Island into Confederation.

Sir Louis Davies Is Recalled

SIR LOUIS DAVIES held the portfolio of marine and fisheries in the Laurier government from 1896 until his elevation to the Supreme Court of Canada in 1901. He had been a member for Queens from 1882. He was named Chief Justice in 1918. He had been Premier here from 1876 to 1879.

Later Dr. Cyrus Macmillan was minister of fisheries in the Mackenzie King cabinet briefly in 1930, and Angus MacLean has filled that portfolio since 1957.

Add John F. Sinclair, Springfield and John A Macdonald, Cardigan who served as non-portfolio members under King and Bennett respectively, and I think you have the complete story of federal cabinet representation by native Islanders. There were others like Mackenzie King and Hon. J.L. Ralston in Prince and Charles Dunning in Queens but they were outsiders who sought seats here temporarily.

Dairy Queen Contest Coming

I'M GLAD to learn that Junior Farmers are reviving the Dairy Queen competition here this year. It will be a feature of their field day at the Experimental Farm, Saturday, July 28.

Janet Jones, Pownal was the first P.E.I. dairy queen and she will crown the new one, I imagine, although nobody has told me so.

They have Queens of lobster carnivals, of the fisheries show at Souris, and I recall the Maritime Winter Fair used to have Queens in the later years. The Junior Farmers are to be congratulated on their initiative and there should be dozens of our young ladies ready to enter. The age limits are 18 to 27 years and married ladies are eligible as well as the single ones.

Here's an opportunity for some young lady to prove she is just as beautiful, charming and talented as her husband believes her to be.

Bears Were Plentiful Here

BEARS WERE plentiful, apparently, in some parts of the province in bygone years. James Robertson, Kingsboro - that's in the area east of Souris - tells me that in his "father's younger years, bears were plentiful in Eastern Kings."

The father was never quite sure how many he shot, but his son thinks there must have been at least 30 of them. "I remember the last bear he shot had killed a sheep, about 80 yards from our house, and that was about 52 years ago", Mr. Robertson told me.

My cousin, Mrs Katie Court, 334 Euston Street recalls that a bear and her two cubs lived in the woods that then covered the present Golf Club land, used to come out of the bush everyday. That would be something more than 50 years ago, she tells me. And I think it was Simon Stuart, Belle River who told there were bears in that general area of the province years ago. Mrs. Court's father worked at the time on the government "Stock Farm" which, I understand, is the same land which is known as Falconwood Farm now.

I have to thank Allie Cutcliffe, Charlottetown for the story I got about a Hazel Grove bear incident. Edward Sellick, a former Fredericton man who lives now in Charlottetown gave me the details. His brother Pope Sellick and John MacKenzie, a Springfield man who taught in Hazel Grove school, investigated one night reports that a bear had been seen prowling in the vicinity at night.

A Man Who Walked Like A Bear

THEY FOUND something in the hollow below the school. MacKenzie grabbed the gun, lined it up on the object and shouted several times "If you are a man speak, if not we're going to shoot." There had been some suspicion that a man had been doing the prowling.

There was no reply but Sellick who was still not satisfied, sneaked up close enough to find it was Pat Flanagan who lived near the school. He had a fur cap on, and a cloth coat, but from a distance he did look like a bear walking upright, reported the stalkers who were thanking their lucky stars that they didn't shoot before that final look.

THE SELLICKS lived in the home where Mrs Ben Weeks resides now and Mr. MacKenzie boarded with Otis Sherry in the Hazel Grove hollow where Stephen Bertram lives now, Mr. Sellick told me.

A vacation time visit to old Rose Valley neighbours Tom and Lester MacKenzie who live now in Greenvale, assured me there was a bear hunt in my old home district once. But, Tom told me, it happened many years ago and nobody ever found a bear.