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ACROSS THE ISLAND

Montague MLA is record holder

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WE HAVE a National record holder in our provincial legislature, I learned this week. S. S. Hessian, QC, Liberal member for 5th Kings, was first elected to the legislature in July 1919, earlier than any other member serving now in a provincial legislature in Canada. The genial member from Montague was elected for the Georgetown district in 1919 and served until 1923. He was elected in 3rd Kings in 1931, a year when Liberal fortunes were low, and served until 1935. He won election again in 1955 and was re-elected in 1959.

Closest rival I found, in a check through the Parliamentary Guide, is Harry Nixon, a former Ontario Liberal premier who was first elected in November of 1919. But Mr. Nixon must hold the all-time record for continuous service in Canadian legislature as he has won 12 elections without a single defeat and that includes a victory in the most recent Ontario election in 1959.

Mr. Nixon probably holds another record of which he is not so proud. He was premier for just three months when Leslie Frost defeated him in August 1943

I DIDN'T check through the entire Senate membership but I went far enough to find a Senator T.D. Bouchard who was first elected in the Quebec legislature in 1912. He has been in the Senate since 1944. It gives him 49 years of continuous service as a parliamentarian. In the Quebec Legislative Council, I found a man, Hector LaFerte of Quebec City, who started his career in the legislature in 1916. But neither of them affects Mr. Hessian's record because their length of service has been split between two legislative bodies.

I wondered several times these past few weeks as I watched Mr. Hessian from the nearby press gallery, and admired the poise and bearing he invariably shows when he participates in house discussions. There is something that stamps him as a veteran who knows his way around. Perhaps I am biased, for I recall with pleasure and appreciation that he was helpful to me on several occasions during the period 1953-57 when the advice and experience of a veteran parliamentarian were always appreciated. I always enjoyed meeting him for he often had the word of encouragement that temporarily wipes away worry and strain.

Wintry Storm Curtails Meetings

SNOW CHOKED roads followed by Wednesday morning's storm just about ruined this week's farmers meetings here. Attendance on Tuesday was seriously curtailed and they finally postponed the Dairymen's meeting for two weeks when the storm blocked roads completely.

But the sessions that were held were interesting. A potato panel completely changed some ideas on P.E.I. production potential. I had always heard the boast "we can produce the goods, all we want are marketing opportunities". A panel of experienced producer dealers said flatly P.E.I. cannot continue to compete in the potato market unless she can step up her volume of production.

Col. G. Elliot Full talked of 600 bushel crops grown in parts of the United States and New Brunswick that are our competitors in the spud market. Horace Willis talks of 700-bushel production he had seen in Connecticut

THESE MEN are experienced producers as well as dealers. They were talking seriously about an industry in which they are personally interested. They said they cannot get that production or anything close to it. They seek advice on how it can be achieved. Experimental work is suggested. More soil testing is urged to replace a system where one grower uses a certain fertilizer formula just because a neighbour up the road uses it.

There were some startling forecasts on future processing trends. Fifty percent of all table potatoes will be processed in ten years time. The panelists agreed that is likely. But they rejected a more startling forecast that the fresh potato trade will have disappeared entirely in ten years. That came from a correspondent in a trade paper. It was discarded as unrealistic.

F. D. Reid was panel chairman and he had S.C. Wright, deputy minister of agriculture and Ian MacArthur, a Suffolk farmer producer, in addition to the Full Willis pair.

Normally, I believe the potato meeting would have had a good attendance. But this week it was disappointingly small. I would have liked to get reactions from a wider representation of growers to some of the panel suggestions.

Suspense Builds Up In Beef Ring

WE'VE HAD a hockey playoff series here this week that was packed with suspense right down to the final whistle. Yesterday I saw the same kind of suspense build up over the selection of a grand champion steer at the Easter Beef Show at the Coliseum.

I was standing beside a neighbour, Athol Roberts, as show judge Fred Major was comparing the points of his beautiful Shorthorn steer and an equally beautiful Hereford steer shown by the 4-H Club champion, Gloria Ford. The crowd edged in a bit closer as the judge had the two animals brought together so he could study them. Roberts showed the grand champion a year ago, a Ford steer was reserve. Several years earlier the Ford barn had produced the grand champion. The suspense built up as the final decision was delayed. Then the crowd enthusiasm burst forth as they rushed to bounce Gloria Ford who was named the winner.

Then it was Mr. Roberts' turn and he also was bounced as the happy beef men concluded another successful show. I've seen many shows, but I cannot recall one where the interest and suspense built up so high in the last final minutes of the competition.

Angus Sire Brings Record Price

AN ALL-TIME record price was recorded for beef bulls in the United Kingdom recently when an Aberdeen Angus bull from Scotland sold for \$88,000 at the annual Perth show and sale. He was consigned to the sale by W. And W. P. Ross Taylor of Lanarkshire and purchased by Robert Adams from Newhouse of Glamis, Scotland. A total of 514 of the sleek black beef animals were sold for an average of slightly better than \$2,350 per head.