

**Madawaska Co.
Is Different N. B.**

By DON HOYT
Canadian Press Staff Writer
EDMUNDE STON, N. B. (CP)—
Hard-driving agrarian economist,
organizer, trouble-shooter and
public relations expert—all these
qualities mark the career of Rev.
Augustin Gideon, secretary of La
Federation de Cultivateurs, a regional
farmers' federation.

The dynamic priest from St.
Louis University here during the
last four years has travelled the
roads of northern New Brunswick
spreading the gospel of co-operative
marketing to farmers of 18
communities united in the federation.

"Many farmers remain to be
sold on business co-operation,"
Father Gideon told an interviewer.
"We have a whole mentality to
change in this area."
DISTINCTIVE AREA
The L-shaped area in the upper
Saint John River valley has al-
ways been different from the rest
of New Brunswick, particularly in
Madawaska County, Madawaska,
along with Maine's Aroostook
county and Temiscouata in Que-
bec, comprise the mythical Re-
public of Madawaska where resi-
dents are light-hearted neighbors,
regardless of nationality or provin-
cial pride.

Father Gideon is credited with
the growth of the federation which
has sprouted into a co-operative
providing its members with serv-
ices as diversified as automobile
insurance and a travelling lib-
rary.

Father Gideon's guiding tenets
are freer access to capital and
collective marketing. He says
"collective" and "co-operative"
marketing are the same thing, but
he prefers the former term.

"The farmer," says the 47-year-
old priest, "needs capital . . . to
enlarge his farm, to mechanize
his equipment, to increase his
herds and to pay his debts."
"Lack of credit can be solved
by the establishment of a provin-
cial credit plan with long-term,
low-interest loans to already-es-
tablished farmers."

Instability of farm prices and
rising costs inspire his desire for
a collective marketing scheme
which he says will "accomplish
for the farmer what collective bar-
gaining has accomplished for the
industrial worker."

THRIVING ENTERPRISE
After many months of organiza-
tion the drive for federation mem-
bers began in earnest in the fall
of 1952. Eighteen parish units
were set up early in 1953, and in
June of that year a unifying dis-
trict federation was formed.

Many of the 18 communities are
separated by more than 100 miles.
The federation provides mem-
bers with life, accident and auto-
mobile insurance, an 8,000-volume
travelling library, an enterprising
program of research and educa-
tion in home economics, and plans
call for opening a handicrafts gift
shop this year.

Important aid shoots have devel-
oped. Evangeline Co-operative
Ltd. in Grand Falls, N.B., mar-
kets potatoes, and the Regional
Exhibition Association sponsors an
annual agricultural and industrial
fair.

Membership dues of \$6 a year
and the sale of books are the chief
sources of federation income,
which totalled \$18,000 in 1956. No
financial aid has been accepted in
the past, and no debt faces the
members.

**Insurance Co.
Wins Appeal;
Saves \$100,000**

OTTAWA (CP) — By a three-
to-two decision the Supreme Court
of Canada dismissed Monday an
appeal that it order payment of a
\$100,000 life-insurance policy which
had lapsed.

The Western Life Assurance
Company succeeded in its claim
that its policy on the life of James
G. White, who died May 14, 1955,
need not be paid because the 30-
day grace period for payment of
premium had expired the day be-
fore.

N. J. Firth, to whom the policy
was assigned by the Meridian
Timber Co. Ltd., which had ob-
tained it, contended in appealing
the finding of the Ontario Court
of Appeal that the premium of
\$1,092 was due annually April 13.
But April 13, 1952, being Easter
Sunday and April 14 Easter Mon-
day, he was entitled to pay the
premium April 15. A 30-day grace
period was provided by the insur-
ance act.

Mr. Firth said that when Mr.
White died May 14 he, Firth, went
at 7 p.m. to the company's office
with a certified cheque for \$1,092
and, finding the office closed, put
it in a letter box.

The cheque was returned the
next day with a letter advising
that the policy had lapsed prior
to the payment.

The Supreme Court's judgment,
written by Chief Justice Patrick
Kerwin, said the period of grace
is limited to one month or 30
days, whichever was the greater.

Mr. Justice John Cartwright,
supported by Mr. Justice I. C.
Bland, held that the period should
be computed from April 13, be-
cause Easter Sunday and Monday
were not business days.

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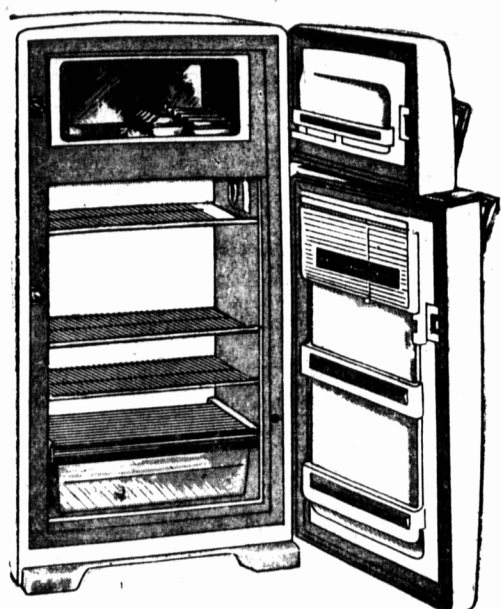
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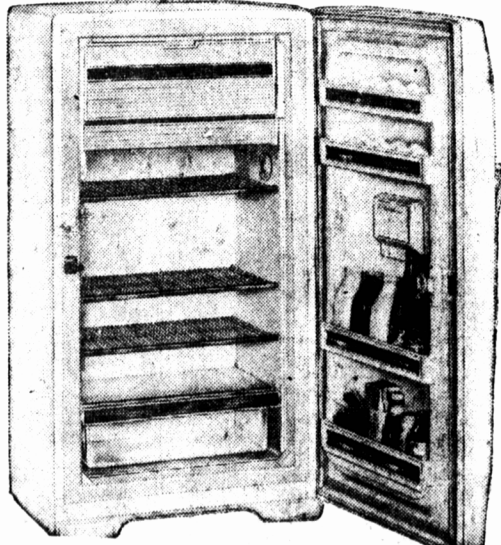
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More Unemployment Claims For March

OTTAWA (CP) — Initial and renewal claims for unemployment insurance benefits totalled 192,365 in March compared to 170,667 a year earlier, the bureau of statistics reported Monday.

Number of claimants at March 3 was 558,881 compared to 511,073 the same time last year.

OLD MENACE
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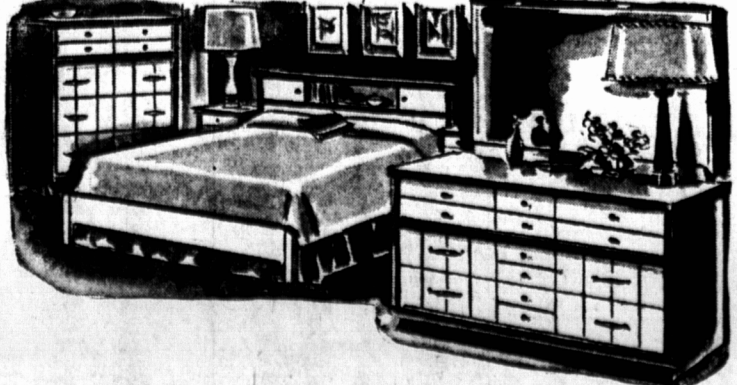
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