

A Feature For Every Friday Among The Farmers Federation Of Agriculture News

The Sun Shines

The weather for the past five days has been ideal for the harvesting of crops, the hunting of game, and for those who have the time to enjoy a drive through a countryside, beautified by colored leaves, a hazy atmosphere and mellow sunshine.

The beauty of the day has been followed at night by the hunter's moon rising on successive nights at very close intervals and affording the ambitious farmer an opportunity of extending his field operations into the evening hours.

Price Resale Maintenance

In his recent speech at Milton, Ontario, Dr. Hannam of the C.F.A. stated that price resale maintenance by manufacturers was a practice not in the interests of the consumer or our economy and should be discontinued.

The announcement at Ottawa that the Government's plan to enact legislation to forbid the practice of manufacturers setting retail prices indicates that Federation thinking and policy meets with the approval of government. Unduly high margins on many manufactured products have put these beyond the reach of many consumers.

A case in point, are plumbing supplies; there are thousands of farm homes in Canada which would be equipped with modern sanitation facilities could these be obtained at reasonable cost. Every farm home in Canada is a potential market for a bathtub and other facilities, but artificial price maintenance, if tolerated, will unnecessarily delay this very necessary and practical improvement in our rural living standards.

Reasonable profits mean greater sales, equally profitable business and fuller employment.

Should We Grow Grain?

There are those who in the past have maintained that from an economic standpoint, grain could not be grown profitably in the east and that eastern farmers should produce more and better grass to get increased summer production and then buy western grain for winter feeding. Economists can submit figures that are quite conclusive in this regard, but the trouble with figures is that you can't bed cattle and hogs with them and it is quite likely that the straw will keep our eastern farmers producing grain for a good many years to come.

The Unhappy Hog

No one interested seems to be very happy at the present time over the hog business. Certainly not the farmer who has taken a 30 per cent reduction in the last three months, nor the consumer who rightly expected a substantial reduction in his meat prices, reductions which have apparently not materialized and the retailer under pressure from the consumer is certainly not enjoying himself.

The statement by the packers that during the high price period they were losing money is difficult to swallow; these prices were brought about by scarcity and the competition to obtain a product to satisfy consumer demand.

The packers owe both the producer and consumer a more satisfactory explanation and also a readjustment in the selling price of pork products in conformity with present market values.

Marketing Legislation

There are those who conscientiously and others who for selfish reasons oppose the efforts of the farmer to improve his economic lot through marketing legislation and legally recognized marketing agencies. In this regard the farmer has lagged behind other groups in our economy. Organized labor has established the right to bargaining agencies and has exercised that power to the marked advantage of its members, although not always with reason or in the general interest.

Professional groups have set standards of remuneration to which their members adhere. It should, therefore, be apparent that agriculture has the same right and should take steps to exercise it, hence the necessity of marketing legislation and producer marketing plans for various commodities.

How Much Protein?

We have always maintained that the most important factor in reducing net profits on livestock production particularly with cattle was the apparent necessity of purchasing large quantities of expensive protein feeds.

At the same time due to weather difficulties and adherence to time honored methods of saving our grass and clovers, very substantial amounts of valuable protein were being lost. Samples of clover and grass ensilage recently submitted for analysis by Island farmers to the chemistry department of the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture averaged over twelve per cent protein on a dry matter content of twenty eight per cent. This would indicate that fifty pounds of the ensilage would provide the same amount of crude protein as twelve pounds of sixteen per cent dairy ration costing approximately forty five cents. On this basis, from a protein standpoint, ensilage produced on an acre of heavy clover could be worth approximately \$150.00; the

competent body immediately to undertake a continuous study of the position of the various economic groups in the nation and make recommendations looking towards the most equitable basis possible upon which to impose controls, if and when such are needed."

At the 15th annual convention held in January at Calgary, the C.F.A. policy on price control was outlined in the following resolution: "The farmers of Canada are anxious to see implemented sound monetary and fiscal policies to prevent further inflation and protect the value of the consumer's dollar. It may be that in the near future the Government will introduce general price controls. If so, such controls should be made effective clear across the board on all profits, prices and wages. To exempt the economic returns of any group would be to grant a privilege which cannot be justified."

Farm Forum

The first Farm Forum broadcast will be on the night of October 29th and deal with the question of efficiency in co-operatives, a question certainly of practical importance to co-operators and of academic interest to those who are not.

Farm Forum provides not only an opportunity for study but one for sociability and community improvement. Individual members have an opportunity of studying problems of common interest to all rural people in our far flung

country, to become better acquainted with their neighbors, develop tolerance and confidence in themselves and to promote organized community improvement.

Every individual can benefit from a Forum group and through it, every community lay a foundation for community progress. Canadian Farm Forum is the largest organized listening group in the world today and its possibilities recognized to the extent that the United Nations has this year voted a substantial grant to carry out research work on the project with a view to development in other countries.

HISTORIC INDUSTRY

A tiny factory started by Gilbert Staffordshire, was the fore-runner Wedgwood in 1612 at Burslem, of the great English potteries.

Higher Earnings For McColl-Frontenac Oil Company Reported

MONTREAL, Oct. 18.—Mr. J. M. Pritchard, President, announced today that estimated net earnings for McColl-Frontenac Oil Company Limited and subsidiaries for the six months ended June 30, 1951 after all charges and after providing for estimated income taxes and dividends on preferred stock, amounted to \$2,880,909 or \$1.03 per share on 2,607,963 common shares outstanding as compared with \$2,562,581 or \$0.98 per share for the first six months of 1950.

Profits for the first half of 1951 before income taxes and preferred dividends were \$5,802,909 as com-

pared with \$4,355,581 for the first half of 1950. Provision for income taxes amounted to \$3,002,000 and \$1,673,000 for 1951 and 1950 respectively, with dividends on preferred stock amounting to \$120,000 for each period.

A special dividend on common stock of \$0.75 per share has been declared today, payable December 1, 1951, to shareholders of record November 1, 1951. The Company intends in future to pay common dividends quarterly and it is presently anticipated that such dividends will be on the basis of \$1.00 per share per annum.

Mr. Pritchard further announced that it is the intention of the Company in future to publish estimated earnings on a quarterly basis.

The river Forth in Scotland rises on the slopes of Ben Lomond and flows about 107 miles to the North Sea.

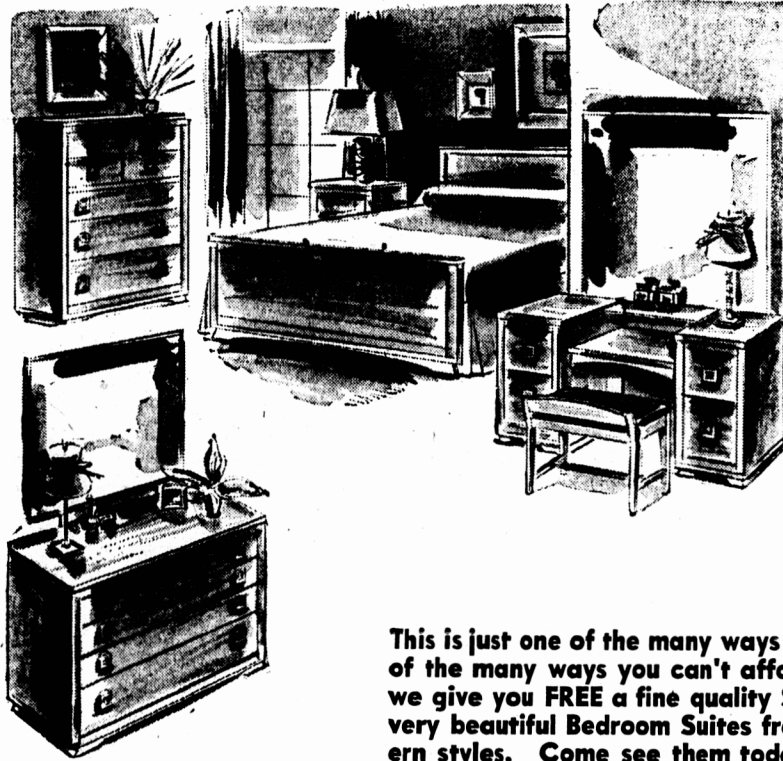
Consider 5-Day Week For Banks

OTTAWA, Oct. 17.—(CP)—Finance Minister Abbott said today that a request from the banks for permission to operate on a five-day week is being considered. "I hope to be able to make an announcement at an early date," said Mr. Abbott.

Replying to David Croll (L.—Toronto Spadina), he said the Canadian Bankers Association asked some time ago that the Banking Exchange Act be amended to allow the banks to close on Saturdays, particularly in areas where the five-day week is generally operative.

The banks said they were having trouble getting employees in competition with industries working a five-day week.

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