FEDERATION OF AGRIC. NEWSLETTER

Federation Seeing Action On Several Farm Fronts

It is a principle of military action that fighting on several fronts is to be avoided. In the last war Germany's downfall was likely due to becoming involved on three at the same time.

At the present time the Federation of Agriculture office finds itself with action going on at even more points. Farm Forum is demanding attention, the dairymen's meeting in Moncton on the 18th is important, the potato producers committee requires attention, the tobacco growers organization problems are not resolved, the 1964 International Exhibition requires activity, in addition, involvement in the conference on education and numerous committees all keep the situation stirred up.

Finally the real purpose for which the office was established that of furthering the Federation of Agriculture must not be lost sight of. The federation is, of course, not set up to promote itself, but rather to further the general welfare of agriculture. It is under this heading that the previously listed activity can be justified.

FARM FORUM

Monday's visit of Rodger Schwass, editor manager of Farm Radio Forum, was used as the springboard to acquaint a number of key people with what the program has to offer during the coming season and to make arrangements for participation by special groups such as the dairymen, women's institute, 4-H clubs, co-operatives, and rural churches.

The special programs are listed as follows: On Nov. 26—Canada's Dairy Policy, and then on Dec. 17— a further discussion based on questions raised in the forums. On Jan. 14—4-H clubs and regular forums will consider career opportunities for rural youth.

On Feb. 4— Canada's world obligations as women see them will occupy the attention of institute women. On March 4 — the rural church will be a program that is expected to involve the largest number of people ever to take part in a Farm Forum program.

Co-operatives will come in for their innings on both March 11 and March 18.

Finally on Nov. 12— the topic organized action by the farmers will occupy the attention of persons concerned with developing and improving farm organizations.

SEPTEMBER MISERY

Certainly July and August were difficult cold, wet, dark and in many cases dreary too. However, September evidentally decided that it could go one better than her summer sisters, and made a record for lack of sunlight and produced far more than the average rainfall.

If July and August made it rough for hay makers, September earned a reputation which will not soon be forgotten by harvesters. Week after week combines stood idle or in most cases managed the equivalent of only one day's work per week.

So far October seems to have turned over a new leaf and the grain and potato people have a more reason for optimism. Given the right weather both crops can be saved, but October will have a great responsibility to remedy the performance of its three predecessors.

CATTLE PRICES

The cattle prices being released each week by the beef producers through the federation office are what the seller may expect to get on a rail grade basis.

For the farmer who wishes to sell live, by doing some figuring he can arrive at a figure approximating what he should receive. For example if the quotation for a standard or brown brand steer is $44 then on a live basis a steer which dresses 50 per cent should be worth $22, if he dressed 53 per cent the live price would be in the vicinity of $22.75, if the dressing per centage were 55 per cent the live value should be over $24. Should the dressing per centage go up to 60, and this is probably unlikely, then $26 would be indicated. We have used these figures to indicate that the dressing per centage has a great deal to do with determining the value of an animal on a live basis, unfortunately it is quite difficult to predict this figure. Selling on a rail grade basis removes some of the gamble, but evidentally not many farmers are prepared to sell in this way.

RURAL YOUTH

Last week's Rural Youth Fair was in many respects a heart warming and encouraging affair. Without doubt a large number of rural young people are getting training of very great value through the 4 - H movement; training that will be of value should they decide to continue in agriculture; if not, of great value to them as citizens. The various competitions are exercised in sportsmanship. Young people learn to be good losers and what is equally important they learn to be good winners. The prediction can be made that some aspects of Island agriculture and of the Island scene in general will be showing improvements that can be traced to 4-H work.

The P.E.I. Dairymen's Association identified itself with the program by providing prize money for the county contests in public speaking and for the classes at the harvest exhibition for hay and silage.

CORN ASSISTANCE

For the past year the federal government has been paying a measure of freight assistance on corn coming into the Maritimes. As of Oct. 1 this assistance has been discontinued, but due to the fact that this year's western grain is not yet available Maritime feeders are feeling an adverse affect. It is the policy of the Federation of Agriculture to request that such assistance be made permanently available on Ontario corn and that in the interim Maritime interest will press for the continuation of the assistance for at least another month.

CHURCHES

(Continued from page 10)

communion, 8.30 a.m. choral eucharist, 11.00 a.m. confirmation class, 2.30 p.m. St. Elizabeth's, evensong, harvest festival, 8.00 p.m. Rev. Canon T. E. Loder, rector.

SPRINGFIELD — O'Leary—Alma United Baptist Pastorate. Thanksgiving services, O'Leary, 10.30 a.m. special music by mixed choir: Springfield, 7.30 p. m. Alma, thankoffering service in Montrose United Church, 7.30 p.m. Sunday School as sual.

MARGATE Pastoral Charge. New London, 10.00 a.m. Margate, 11.30 a.m. Long River, 7.30 p.m. U.C.W. thankoffering service at Long River. Special Music, soloist, Mr. Lloyd G. Martin of Orwell. Mr. Garth Caseley, student minister.

NORTH TRYON and Breadalbane Presbyterian Churches. North Tryon: Service at 11 a.m. Sunday school and Bible Class at 12.15. Breadalbane: Bible class at 7.30, service at 8 p.m. Rev. G. Killen, minister.

THE PRESBYTERIAN Church. Rev. E. H. Bean, B.A., B. Th., B.D. Minister. Kensington Sunday School, 10.00 a.m. worship 11.00 a.m. Keir Memorial Maipeque Sunday School, 2.00 p.m. Worship, 3.00 p. m. Mr. Donald MacLean, Guest Speaker. Freetown Sunday School, 10.00 a.m. worship, 7.30 p. m.

TYNE VALLEY Presbyterian Charge. Freeland Worship, 11.00 a.m. Lot 14, 3.00 p.m. Tyne Valley, 7.30 p.m. Mr. Donald Ross, Guest Speaker. Rev. E. H. Bean. Interim-moderator.

O'LEARY UNITED Pastoral Charge. Thanksgiving Sunday. 9.30, Bira; 11.00, Bloomfield; 2.30, West Devon; 7.30, U.C.W. Thankoffering Service in O'Leary with Rev. Dewis Rector as guest speaker. Rev. D. H. Hamilton, B.A., B.D. Minister.

BEDEQUE PASTORAL Charge. The United Church. Rev. R. M. Cameron, minister. World Wide Communion Sunday, Church School, 10.00 a.m. Albany—Worship, 7.30 p.m. Bedeque, Church School, 10.00 a.m. worship, 11.00 a.m. Borden, Church School, 10.00 and 11.00 a.m. worship, 3.00 p.m.

TRYON PASTORAL Charge, United Church. Rev. W. A. MacQuarrie, D.D., Minister-in-charge. Crapaud, Worship at 9.45 a.m. Sunday school at 11. Tryon, Sunday school at 10 a.m. Worship at 11. Cape Traverse, Sunday school at 6.30 p.m. Worship at 7.30. Communion will be dispensed at all services.

NEW LONDON Parish. 16th Sunday After Trinity. 8 a. m. Holy Communion. St. Mark's 11 a.m. Holy Communion, St. Marks. 2.30 p.m. Evensong at St. Thomas. 7.30 p.m. Thanksgiving Evensong at St. Stephens. Rev. Ron Parsons, Rector.

ALBERTON Pastoral Charge. United Church. Rev. David MacDonald, B. A. minister. Cascumpec Sunday School, 10 a.m. Worship at 11 a.m. Tignish Worship, 2 p.m. Sunday School, 3 p.m. Alberton Sunday School, 10 a.m. Worship, 3 p.m. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be observed at all services.

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ACROSS THE ISLAND

Souris Doctor Visited Again

By NEIL A. MATHESON
Provincial-Farm Editor

I REVISITED recently my friend A.A. MacDonald, MD, CM, LLD in Souris and learned something more about his interesting career. I also visited A.J. MacCormack, St. Margaret's whose legs the doctor sewed back on 52 years ago. I was surprised to know that "A.J.", as he is called, went to Prince of Wales College with me back in the early twenties.

He was just four years old on that summer day in 1910 when he locked his little sister in the house, and went out to stroll in the field where his father was cutting hay with a horse-drawn mower. He also recalled for me there had been "just a bit of flesh at the back" holding the feet and lower parts of his legs after the mower knife had sliced through them "Dr. Gus," believes that even the Achilles tendon had been nicked by the blade, though he cannot be sure more than a half century later.

"A.J." also recalled for me that he asked his mother "Why is everyone crying?" The child couldn't understand the extent of the disaster that had struck the MacCormack home.

I ASKED Dr. Gus—that's what everyone calls him, and it's term of respect and endearment—"how in the world did you ever come to tackle that unprecedented job of surgery without anyone to help you?".

The answer, I think, is typical of this warm-hearted man who has done so many kind and human things in his 60 years of practice. "I couldn't do anything else, Neil", he told me, as he explained that the mother had met him outside, before he had seen the boy, and "she made me promise I wouldn't take them (the legs) off." "Having made the promise, he just had to try, though he came back two days later, thinking he would have to take them off." But there was heat in them, the blood was circulation "he recalled for me as we chatted in his living room beside the big television set fellow townsmen, and other admirers gave him earlier this year, as they helped him celebrate the diamond jubilee of his practice'.

Splints From Rain Barrel Staves

DR GUS recalls that he smashed a barrel that was under the eave of the roof to catch rain water—he soft water was used on wash days as there were no fancy detergents or soap powders then—sawed several stakes in two, and used them for splints to hold the bones straight, after he had completed a surgery job that required several hours.

Catgut was used to sew the tendons and most other stitching was done with silk thread he had brought from a Souris store. The job wasn't perfect, as Mr. MacCormack was always lame, but I submit it was a miracle of surgery in those far off days, considering the job was performed alone. Modern hospital experts talk in glowing terms of limbs that are attached—it has been done several times. I believe—with teams of surgeons, nurses and many specialists in the most completely equipped hospitals.

BUT "A.J." told me that he walked one and one-half miles to school each day through the ten grades. Then he taught for more than 20 years, 1926-49, after his normal training at PWC, before a cold in the legs added so much to the discomfort that had been developing, that he finally decided he could no longer be on his feet as much as the teaching job demanded.

That was the highlight of the doctors career—he was 36 at the time—but there have been many other unusual performances. A neighbour, Roy MacLean, cut off his thumb in his basement workshop. It was "down in the shavings" when Dr. Gus arrived but it was also "put back on."

My friend was at an afternoon wedding reception when I called recently, and he told me a lady there had asked him if he remembered the time he had put her thumb back on. I'm not sure, but I think she was the one whose thumb had been bitten off by a horse, for there were several of those replaced thumb incidents.

Paling Fence, Soft Grass Used

IN THE early days of cars he found an accident victim at Rollo Bay, several miles away, with a broken arm. The doctor pulled several boards from a paling fence for splints, pulled "soft natural grass" to cushion the bones, tied it with string and sent the man to a Charlottetown hospital for a complete examination.

There's one other thing I didn't tell you before, Dr. Gus was almost equally famous for his skill in confinement cases. "I never lost a mother", he told me and many mothers were dying in the early years of his practice.

I hope my friend will forgive me, for he insisted that I should not say too much about his work, if I ever wrote about him again. But his story is so unusual I just couldn't keep it to myself.

DR. GUS has many souvenirs, but I believe the most highly prized is a Lustre pitcher the MacCormacks gave him after the 1910 peration. It was more than one hundred years old then and had been an heirloom in the family." I'm not a rich man", Dr. MacDonald told me. "But there isn't enough money in the bank downtown to buy that now".

But there are many others. An old table from St. Andrew's College—it preceded St. Dunstan's University—graces his dining room. It's probably more than 150 years old. Bill Ledwell has just told me that part of Rochford Square School was formerly a part of St. Andrew's College that was close to Mt. Stewart. And listen to this:

300 Horses Hauled Old Building

"PEOPLE FROM many miles around gathered together 300 horses, with the necessary chains and equipment and towed the building to Charlottetown. It went through the ice at Apple Tree wharf," Bill tells me. And you can imagine the job those people must have had to get the huge building moving again.

Staff Photographer Bill Taylor tells me that Dr Gus was born on the property where the old St. Andrew's College was located.

A heavy bronze mortar and pestle, a tiny lancet-it was used to bleed people in ancient medicine and is still almost indescribably sharp—and a pair of tiny eyeglasses andsouvenirs of hisgreat grand uncle, Dr. Roderick J. MacDonald who came from Scotland in 1772 to be the first English speaking doctor on the Island.

A heavy gold watch was owned by Bishop Andrew MacDonald, another forbear, who was the province's second Roman Catholic Bishop. There's a candle stick holder and snuffer, another family heirloom, and many others.

Handkerchief From Sir John A.

ONE OF the most unusual, perhaps, is a fine handkerchief used by Sir. John A. MacDonald, the man who led Canada into Confederation and one of its most colorful figures. It has Sir. John's signature embroidered on it. This souvenior came to Dr. Gus through the family of Hon. J.C. Pope who was prominent in the Island's entry into Confederation, and was a one-time minister of marine and fisheries in Sir. John A.'s cabinet.

I want to tell you of one more souvenir. It's a small secretary's table or desk, which he bought from a man who had been a patient and friend for many years. Liking the design of the little piece of furniture, Dr. Gus found the man asked only one dollar. He had bought it for around 70 cents—I forget the exact amount—at sale. Knowing it was worth much more, Dr. Gus paid the dollar and told his friend "you keep it, but leave it to me in your will", then added "in the meantime if you or your wife ever need medical attention, call on me and neither one of you will ever get a bill."

WHEN HE got the table he had a man clean it up, and found it is made of beautiful mahogany. That too is a souvenir he regards as priceless. "There are thing that are worth much more than money", he said as he told me of several attempts that have been made to buy the little item for big prices.

There are many other stories about his career—he told me some of them—but they are for his memoirs which he is writing. They should make most interesting reading.

BREADALBANE

Mrs. Lorne Seaman recently enjoyed a vacation in Moncton, the guest of her niece, Mrs. Colpitts and her sister, Mrs. George Buchanan.

Mr and Mrs. Edward Sellick, Charlottetown, and Dr. Helen Creighton, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia recently visited "The Murrays," Breadalbane. Dr. Creighton is a well known author who is especially interested in folklore and legends.

Miss Lillian Stewart, R.N., Toronto, is visiting her sister, Miss Mamie Stuart, Breadalbane.

Mr Leonard Todd who is a patient in the Provincial Sanatorium, Charlottetown is somewhat improved in health.

Mr and Mrs. George Hickox, and Mrs. Allan Hickox motored to Truro to attend the funeral of their brother - in-law, Mr. Brantford Yeil.

Rev. and Mrs. H. S. Raynor, Elmsdale, Nova Scotia, have been vacationing on the Island. They visited friends in Breadalbane on September 19, and were overnight guests of Mrs. Angus Gillis. Mr. Raynor is a former pastor of the Breadalbane United Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Emerson Murray, Fredericton, Mr. and Mrs. Pomroy Murray and Mr. Wellington Murray, Breadalbane, recently motored to Jacksonville, Maine where they visited at the summer home of Dr. and Mrs. Alfred Murray.

Miss Muriel Haslam, Springfield, is vacationing in Harron, Ontario and vicinity.

Miss Audrey Van Ewyh has returned from several weeks of vacation at the home of her sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Eassis, Truro Heights.

Mrs. Allan Hickox was hostess for the September meeting of the Christian Church Women's Missionary Society. Mrs. James Craig led the devotional period on the topic "Christian Growth," which was supplemented with appropriate readings by a number of the members

As a project for the month it was decided to pack a box of clothing for the Unitarian Service Committee.

The hostess served a dainty lunch during the social hour.

The Crawford Memorial "Christian Church, after having been closed for re-decoration for several months, was re-opened on Sunday evening, September 16. The pastor, Mr. Zimmerman, in his sermon, emphasized the need for spiritual, as well as temporal improvement. Mr. Allan Hickox (Jr.), the organist for the evening, accompanied. Mrs. Zimmerman who sang "I Just Lift My Eyes to Jesus; and Faye and Mary Hickox who sang, "Hark the the Shepherd's Voice."

Mr and Mrs. Myron Matheson have returned to their home in Moncton after vacationing on the Island. While in Breadalbane they were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Cuyler Matheson.

Mr Wellington Murray has resumed his studies in electrical engineering at the University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, N.B.

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