

A Feature for Every Friday— Among The Farmers Federation Of Agriculture News

Newfoundland Survey

At the request of a number of our members and for the information of our readers we are publishing a copy of a letter to the Hon. Eugene Cullen written by L. P. McIsaac, following a visit to Newfoundland by Messrs. McIsaac, Wright, and German. This letter very briefly analyses the situation as seen at that time in respect to Newfoundland meat trade, and a public killing plant.

June 2nd, 1950

Hon. Eugene Cullen Minister of Industry & Natural Resources Charlottetown, P.E.I.

Dear Sir—

I have been asked by Mr. Woodrow Wheatley and others interested in the much discussed project of a Custom Killing and Cooling Plant for livestock in Charlottetown, to state the stand of the Federation.

You may recall that we expressed our opinion in this respect in the Annual Brief presented to the Government last March. Since that time I have visited Newfoundland in a delegation from the Province. We have looked into this meat question particularly and find that the St. John's market could absorb six to seven hundred quarters of chilled dressed beef from the Province weekly.

There are other markets in the nearby provinces that could also be served, providing arrangements could be made for refrigerated boat service from Charlottetown to St. John's and perhaps Sydney, at regular intervals.

The saving in freight between the costs of shipping live cattle and dressed beef is significant, also the offal which is wasted under present slaughtering conditions in Newfoundland, could be utilized to great advantage here.

The rail grading and inspection of this beef would be a guarantee of quality and would safeguard distributors in consuming centres. If we are to compete with other provinces in the marketing of eggs, butter, cheese, canned meats and other such products it appears that a custom killing arrangement for livestock and refrigerated boat service, that would facilitate the boat service of these products, is most essential.

However, at the present time we have not made a survey of the feasibility of operating such a plant. We also feel that some definite control should be maintained over the operation of such a plant so that it will always function in the best interests of our farm producers.

We are very anxious that something be done in the very near future to provide this service and would be very pleased to assist in any way possible with the organization of it.

Yours very truly L. P. McIsaac

Render unto Caesar

The recent Federal budget, like most past budgets, is one of mixed blessings. Some tax payers will pay more. Purchasers of cigarettes and automobiles will definitely benefit. The prices of both these articles had certainly reached the point where the law of diminishing returns had started to apply so far as

taxation revenue was concerned. Housewives will no doubt approve the removal from the category of luxuries the power washing machine. We always found it difficult to regard Monday's wasday operation as a frivolous and the necessary machine as a luxury.

Housewives may now go about their Monday business unhampered by the necessity of rendering tribute to Caesar for the pleasure of producing that cleanliness which ranks next to the highest of all human attributes.

Uneasy Hog

Since the 17th of March, changes in hog prices and premium standards have followed one another with a rapidity which must certainly be confusing to the hog producer. Non payment of premiums on hogs under 150 lbs, the payment of premiums on hogs over the standard weights and finally the payment of basic prices for these same weights has been more than a little for both producer and handler.

It is important to bear in mind that April 19th is the final date for further payment of premiums on heavy hogs. A very nice bonus should be on its way to farmers who sold heavy hogs after the new premium standards went into effect. In some cases this bonus could amount to more than \$10.00. For the two weeks previous to April 8th, Moncton and Charlottetown hog prices have been out of line with Montreal quotations and for no apparent good reason, except the desire of Maritime packers to protect themselves against lower returns on a surplus which might never materialize. The fact that prices have been adjusted upwards in relation to Montreal levels indicate that for the two weeks in question Maritime hog producers took an unjustified loss.

As adjustments seem to be fashionable in the Hog Industry, one more adjustment would appear to be in order at the moment.

Grass Silage

Down through the history of agriculture there has from time to time been developments which stand out as significant and which have produced effects of far reaching consequence. For example the invention of the steel mould board for the plough and the knoter for the grain binder were revolutionary. On Prince Edward Island around 1900 the development of Cheese Factories and before the first Great War the Fox Industry, followed by the seed potato industry, all resulted in great changes. 1951 has, we think, turned the spotlight on a development which can be equally, if not more important, than the three already mentioned. We refer to making of silage out of grasses and clovers, and predict that within the next few years the cattle industry, both dairy and beef will receive an impetus that will be startling.

The cattle population will increase, profits will be enhanced, the soil will be improved and the economy of the province placed on a much sounder basis. It is dangerous to prophesy, but for the record we are taking the chance.

Marketing Case

The importance of the Marketing

Sherbrooke P.E.I. Farm Forum



Concluding a successful Farm Forum season, Sherbrooke Forum was photographed at a recent Monday night meeting. The members have a record of citizenship locally and nationally as a pre-testing group in Canada's now famous Farm Radio Forum. Sherbrooke has contributed to the editorial and research questions of Farm Forum Guide, and this summer will assist, as will other P. E. I. groups, in gathering information for the UNESCO study of Farm Forum. From left to right the members are, standing, Eric Madsen, Nelson Mugridge, Mrs. Eric Madsen, Alec Chappell, Earl Thompson, Mark Cosgrove, Ralph Compton, Carl Chappell, and Adrian Dekker. Seated, Howard Livingstone, Mrs. Mugridge, James Harris, Charles Yeo, Mrs. Yeo, Mrs. Livingstone, and Arnold Madsen. — Photo by Heckbert.

Board Case and the significance attached to it is indicated by the calibre of the legal counsels who will oppose one another. To assist the local lawyers will be an outstanding representative of the legal profession on each side. We understand on good authority that the opponents of Marketing Legislation have retained a member of the Senate who has been head of the Canadian Bar Society and who has in the past represented the interests of British Columbia before the Privy Council.

Warble Fly Campaign

There is still ample time to strike a deadly blow at the destructive Warble pest, and communities are urged to act promptly in an organized effort to have this important job done. Send the orders to Box 99, or call at our office for supplies.



THE JOHN DEERE DAY SHOW POSTPONED FROM MARCH 7-52 will be held in the Prince of Wales College Auditorium TUESDAY, APRIL 22nd AT 7:30 P.M. Free Tickets will be available at our Malpeque Road Showrooms.

Your whole family is welcome to this show—come and have a good time. Tickets issued for March 7/52 are still valid. A. PICKARD FARM TRACTORS LTD.

Make your appointment early when you buy your chicks to avoid disappointment. Best age for Cross Breds 5 to 6 weeks; for Barred Rocks 6 to 7 weeks. For appointment phone 1591-23 or write

KEITH MUTCH, Southport.

FERGUSON TRACTORS

Now is the time to buy for your Spring Work. See This "POWER FULL TRACTOR" at our Showroom. W. G. BARBOUR LTD. Euston Street Charlottetown Ask the man who owns one.

DRY DOCKING - MARINE REPAIRS

Specialists Arrivator & Electric Welding GENERAL MACHINE SHOP VESSELS up to 100 tons Displacement. Cranes, Motors, equipment for work on steel and wood Hulls—Diesel Engines—Anchor Bar towers—Marine Hardware and Lubricants NORTH SYDNEY MARINE RAILWAY CO. LTD. NORTH SYDNEY - NOVA SCOTIA

-NEWSY NOTES-

By J. A. Clark, D.S.C.

CROP PROSPECTS

The mean temperature during March 1952 was 27.9° F.; this is only a degree and one half above a 43 year average and would indicate a normal spring season. Meteorological and crop data gathered a quarter of a century ago by the writer established that the average mean temperature 26.8° F. was very generally followed by average spring conditions and normal crops on Prince Edward Island. Should the mean temperature for March be three or more degrees above the average mean, an early spring could be expected and reduced yields from most of the general farm crops.

When the mean temperature for March was three or more degrees below the average mean then a late spring might be expected and farm crops much above average. There are two indications that the spring of 1952 might be a little earlier than the data given would suggest: The past winter was mild; the lowest temperature was ten below zero in December, there were only nine dates when the thermometer reached zero or went below zero. There has been a heavy blanket of snow on the fields most of the winter and there was very little frost in the ground at the end of March. The absence of ice along the North Shore of the Island, as recently reported, also may indicate an earlier spring season.

The total snowfall during the past winter was 130 1/2 inches. This has been exceeded during several previous winters. The heaviest snowfall recorded came in the winter of 1933-34, when over 163 inches fell. During the first winter that the E. A. F. was at the Charlottetown Airport, over 58 inches of snow fell during January 1941. This year, the January snowfall was 31 1/2 inches, with 40 inches in February, and 22 1/2 in March.

Weather Forecasting

There has been a great improvement in weather forecasting.

CAPONIZING

Make your appointment early when you buy your chicks to avoid disappointment. Best age for Cross Breds 5 to 6 weeks; for Barred Rocks 6 to 7 weeks. For appointment phone 1591-23 or write

KEITH MUTCH, Southport.

ly, and with almost all of the frost out of the ground, there has been very little runoff, and almost all of the melted snow has soaked into the ground. The precipitation inches, or five inches more than the previous winter. The 1952 season is starting with very much more reserve moisture than average, and very much more than the early spring of 1951. The growing season of 1951, however, more than made up for the early deficiency of moisture, as 20.65 inches of rain fell from May first till the last of August, which was eight inches more than a 46-year average for these months.

This heavy precipitation made seeding, haymaking and early harvest very difficult, and caused considerable deterioration in the quality of hay and grain, but gave the Province its greatest all round crop for many years. With a normal rainfall during the growing season, all crops should do well during the coming summer; but every effort should be made to conserve moisture by early planting and the use of contour work for all hoed crops.

A further improvement in securing essential weather data for Prince Edward Island is being considered, we are told. We have recommended for years that there should be a weather station for West Prince, and another for Eastern Kings County. These lie in different climatic areas from those served by our present weather stations, and weather forecasts have to be adjusted by the people in these areas to meet their local needs. Many have not taken the trouble to note the lag in the arrival of storms in their area from the times given in the forecasts; or it may be that the storms arrive several hours before the forecasts state they are due.

Our people are becoming more weather conscious and by seeding a few hours earlier, they may be able to gain one or more days in their spring seeding operations.

Farm Crops

Early reports so far indicate that clover and alfalfa have wintered well, and that new meadows are promising. The danger of heaving by frost is not over, but up to the present the clover plants have not been lifted by frost. As soon as the meadows and pastures are firm enough to carry equipment, without injury, they will benefit greatly by being rolled. On old pastures where the droppings were not scattered before winter, a stiff brush drawn over the pasture to scatter the old manure droppings, will prove very beneficial.

The early seeding of cereals, once the land is ready, has always given the best returns in this Province. Early sown wheat is not injured by a late frost, and a snowfall after it is up usually proves quite beneficial, as it induces stooling. Oats may be sown almost as early as wheat, but barley sown later usually gives excellent yields in this Province.

Moisture Conditions

The mild weather about the middle of January melted much of the snow that had previously fallen. During the last week in March, and up to the present time, the snow has melted rapid-

ly, and with almost all of the frost out of the ground, there has been very little runoff, and almost all of the melted snow has soaked into the ground. The precipitation inches, or five inches more than the previous winter.

The 1952 season is starting with very much more reserve moisture than average, and very much more than the early spring of 1951. The growing season of 1951, however, more than made up for the early deficiency of moisture, as 20.65 inches of rain fell from May first till the last of August, which was eight inches more than a 46-year average for these months.

This heavy precipitation made seeding, haymaking and early harvest very difficult, and caused considerable deterioration in the quality of hay and grain, but gave the Province its greatest all round crop for many years. With a normal rainfall during the growing season, all crops should do well during the coming summer; but every effort should be made to conserve moisture by early planting and the use of contour work for all hoed crops.

PIONEER TRADERS

The first arrival of white traders on the Peace River is believed to have been in 1786.

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox and Mink Farming

Fur imports from Communist Russia to the United States were sharply reduced in January this year because of the government embargo on seven types of furs produced in Russia. January fur imports from that country were valued at \$678,000 as compared with import figures in December, 1951, of \$1,853,000 and \$2,869,000 in November, 1951.

Misleading ads are held the cause of declining sales in Buffalo, N. Y. An old-line furrier commenting on this says: "Spectacular and circus type advertising not backed by true value has the public completely confused and is killing the business for the majority of retailers. True, the stores that are using this type of advertising are doing business but everyone else is suffering and in the long run the fur business as a whole will be hurt." Another retailer commenting, states "The average consumer no longer regards the average furrier reliable. Unfair and unethical advertising is the reason. Shoppers misled by one ad immediately conclude everyone else is suffering and in the same manner. This type of advertising is not confined to the newspapers but similar policies are being used over radio stations. It is only the best known dealers whose advertising has been tested through the years that have held the confidence of the public."

The House of Representatives at Washington approved a bill last week to pay \$17,840 to a New England fox farmer because low flying military aircraft frightened the foxes into killing their young. In a previous Congress a similar private claims bill was enacted to provide for a government payment to a fox farmer in Alaska. However, the House Judiciary committee has not managed to win House approval for another bill to pay approximately \$55,000 to Henry J. Kreuger, an Illinois mink rancher. Mr. Kreuger contended that he suffered losses after hormones had been fed to his minks on the recommendations of the Department of Agriculture. Commenting on the above, we remember where a fur farmer in Nova Scotia made a claim for losses incurred because of a low flying plane over his ranch. It was thrown out by Chief Justice Isley.

Last week standard ranch mink sold well at the New York Auction Company's vendue. The offering was from the Great Lakes Mink Association and described as an ordinary to poor collection. Males were reported to be 5 per cent above the recent market, females up to 5 to 7 1/2 per cent. Eighty per cent of the better merchandise in the first section was sold. The other sections containing the poorer quality goods did not sell as well but did attract fairly good activity. The top price was \$29 for males and \$16 for females. The quantity sold was a surprise to most mink men who did not feel that such goods would change hands. As it turned out well over half of the

approximately 130,000 standard skins offered on two sales have been taken by the trade. Once again foreign buying was evident. Buyers for continental firms have been taking on mink skins lately, considering them good buys.

While one section of the United States such as Buffalo area mentioned above, finds the going hard in the fur stores, other parts are getting good results. In Dallas, Texas, the trade today in fashion is towards smaller furs and current layaway buying has contributed to greatly increased sales volume in Dallas department and specialty stores. Increases from as high as 30 to 60 per cent since January were reported by furriers in a state-wide survey recently. Best sellers this year are mouton and mink. Few other furs have seen as much activity. Oddly enough mouton coats measuring 32 to 38 inches in length have found great favor at \$400 retail. They are primarily sought by young high school, college and career women who prefer them from muskrat because of their quality and price. This is the first boost on mouton we have seen for a great while. A few years back it was being advertised and promoted very extensively and one Canadian firm believing that it would be a big seller in Canada was badly hit by its slump in sales.

A small and ordinary collection of various mutation mink pelts attracted some interest at the New York Auction Company's sale last week. Eighty per cent of dressed pelts were sold at prices up to \$43. Sixty per cent of the 900 Aleutians were sold at a \$45.50 top. 95 per cent of the 750 whites were sold up to \$68 and 400 Sapphires were all sold, reaching \$70. Platynums including Stewart and Breath of Spring were in good demand and 90 per cent sold. Regulars reached \$30. Breath of Spring \$45.

Lampson, Fraser & Huth, New York, are offering 80,000 select mink at auction next Monday, April 14th. The merchandise is described as top quality goods from some of the finest ranches in the country. Included are 35,000 select pelts from Great Lakes Mink Association, 20,000 select pelts from United Mink Breeders Association and 25,000 selects from other shippers. In addition about 30,000 raw and dressed mutations from independent shippers will be offered, making a grand total for the sale of 110,000 mink pelts—probably one of the largest offerings in history. Several pages of advertising have been taken in the latest issue of Women's Wear Daily by many of the mink ranchers whose skins will be on the sale. Island mink men will remember Franklin Langemack, Milwaukee, Wis., W. A. Granquist, Sandy, Utah, William B. Erickson, Sandy, Utah, J. J. Cernak, Zion, Illinois, Perry B. Slack, Bristol, Indiana, James R. Kennedy, Maple Plain, Minnesota, A. W. Klammer, Stewart, Minnesota, W. R. Holt, Magna, Utah. Os-

Continued on page 16

Write or Phone for our Special Service

TRACTOR TIRES LIQUID WEIGHTED RIGHT ON YOUR OWN FARM!



CHECK THESE ADVANTAGES OF Firestone HYDRO-FLATION

- 1 Weighing tires enables tractor bars to bite into soil and get better grip... speeds up work... lowest cost.
2 Because slippage is reduced to minimum, Hydro-Flated Tires last longer.
3 Retains the pneumatic principle... air pocket left in the tire absorbs bumps and shocks.
4 Gives improved rides.
5 Hydro-Flation is least expensive method of tractor tire weighting.

Just phone for speedy on-the-spot service or drop in next time you're in town and get further information.

FIRESTONE BRYENTON & MACKAY CO. 187 Great George St. Charlottetown NOW IS THE TIME

Outstanding Economy

One more reason why John Deere is first choice of the tractor-wise!

- GREATER DEPENDABILITY
LONGER LIFE
GREATER COMFORT
OUTSTANDING QUALITY
EASIER HANDLING
EASIER MAINTENANCE
COMPLETE INTEGRAL EQUIPMENT
UNEQUALLED VIEW
GREATER ADAPTABILITY
HYDRAULIC POWER-TROL
ROLL-O-MATIC
LUGGING POWER

Ask any owner what he likes best about his John Deere Tractor. Sooner or later he'll stress the remarkable economy. It's more than a claim; it's economy you can measure in dollars and cents. You get greater fuel economy with a John Deere. The cyclonic-fuel-intake engine assures better combustion, increased efficiency. In addition, the John Deere has more built-in weight. Heavy engine and transmission parts are located well toward the rear to provide better traction and prevent loss of power and fuel through excessive wheel slippage. Maintenance expense is less because there's less to go wrong with a John Deere. Exclusive two-cylinder design greatly reduces the number of parts. Remaining parts are larger, heavier, stronger. As a result, trips to the repair shop are few and far between... much less costly when you own a John Deere. A. Pickard Farm Tractors Ltd. MALPEQUE RD. KENSINGTON Dugal MacNutt Clark and Bonyman ALBERTON JOHN DEERE Two-Cylinder TRACTORS - First in Modern Design and Proved Performance