

Farm Edition

1959

50 GOLDEN YEARS

Farm Quality Is Rated As Island's Top Asset

\$30 Million Set As Yield

The pioneers who came to Prince Edward Island at the beginning of the 19th century were quick to discover the rich productivity of the soil. With forests growing to the water's edge they soon busied themselves with the task of clearing the forest to make way for homes and the planting of seed which would eventually sustain them throughout the rigors of winter. Grain gave excellent yields and one account of early pioneer life states that potatoes planted between the trees in August gave a crop sufficient to last the family throughout the following winter.

STEADY ADVANCES

As the years advanced larger areas of forest land were cleared and it was not long before this small island became an exporting area of note. Sailing ships loaded with products of the soil, left island ports for all corners of the globe. Chief markets were in the Atlantic provinces and in the New England states.

From this small beginning, agriculture in Prince Edward Island has steadily increased in importance until today its products give an annual yield of some \$30,000,000. Of this amount, potatoes account for about ten million dollars.

For the most part, farming on Prince Edward Island is of a mixed variety. A few may specialize in beef cattle, dairying, hog raising, potato growing or the raising of small fruits and vegetables, but generally speaking, each farm will carry on a variety of such operations.

FARM SIZE DOUBLED

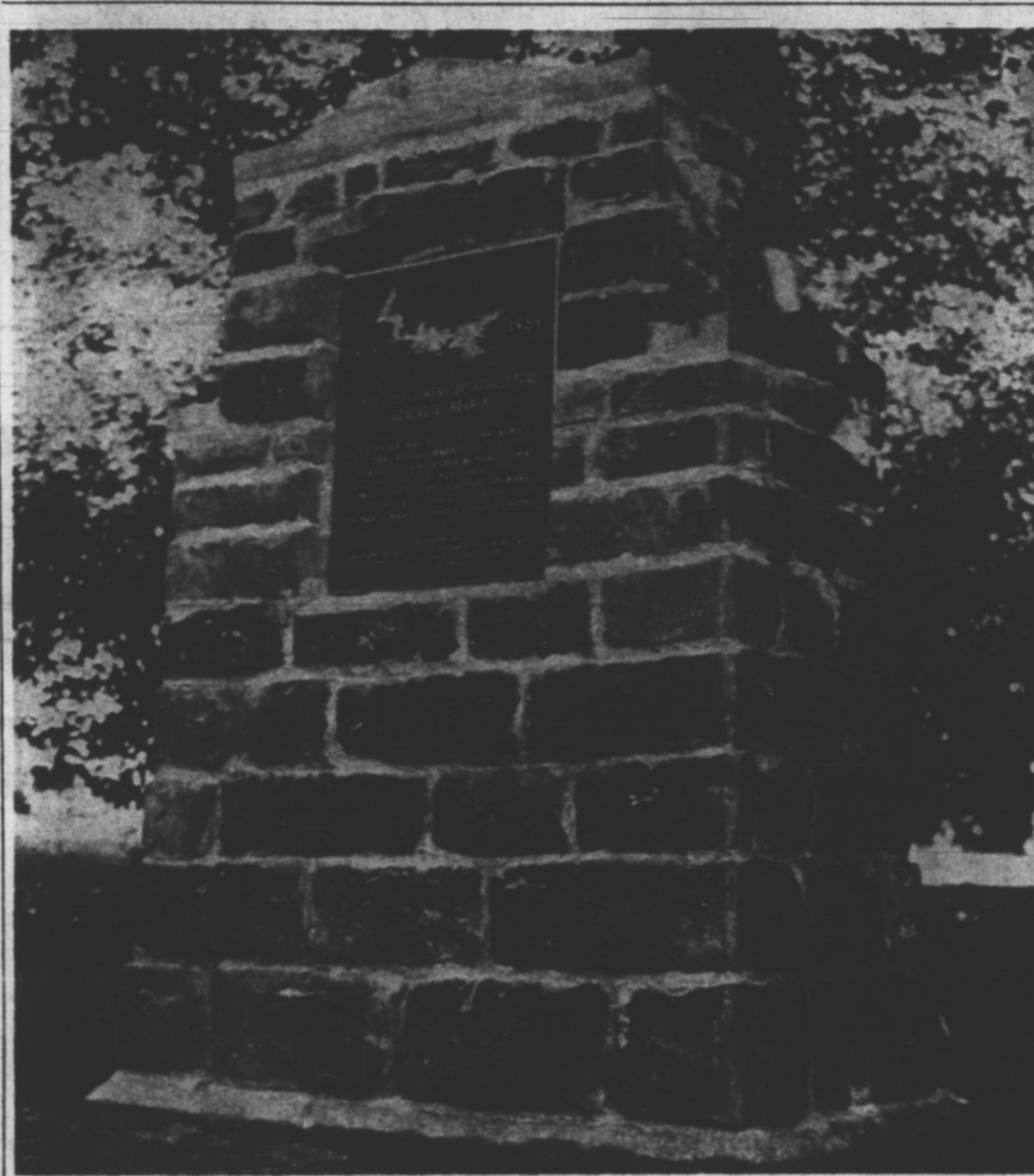
Farm mechanization during the past 15 years has seen the average size of the island farm increase from 80 acres to 160 acres and many farmers are now handling from three to four hundred acres.

In 1951, there were only 2,776 tractors. Today there are more than 5,000. Likewise the number of combines has increased from 18 in 1951 to about 250 today.

This trend toward mechanization, while it has substantially increased productivity, has added to the cost of farming and the farmer has seen the need to turn more and more toward scientific methods, not only in production but in marketing.

He looks farther afield for a market and island potatoes, turkeys, beef and hogs are being shipped in ever increasing quantities to the central Canadian market, and new outlets are being developed in Northern regions.

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UNVEILING OF THIS CAIRN IS TO HIGHLIGHT ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

Agriculture Leaders To Be Heard Monday

A day-long program is scheduled on Monday to mark the observance of the golden anniversary of the Charlottetown Experimental Farm, which came into being just 50 years ago, in August 1909.

The program is scheduled to open at 10 a.m. Since the anniversary celebration comes at the start of Old Home Week in Charlottetown officials at the Experimental Farm are hopeful the event will attract a large attendance, from both rural and urban regions.

Among the distinguished visitors taking part, will be the Hon. Douglas Scott Harkness, federal minister of agriculture. He will be the guest speaker, and unveil a cairn in the afternoon anniversary celebrations commencing at

1:30 p.m. The Hon. Mr. Harkness will be introduced by the Hon. J. Angus MacLean, federal minister of fisheries.

PROVINCE-CITY

Bringing greetings from the Provincial Government will be the Premier, Hon. A.W. Matheson and from the City of Charlottetown, His Worship Mayor Edwin Johnstone. Kenneth MacLean, president of the P.E.I. Federation of Agriculture, will speak on behalf of farm organizations.

A welcome, and review of accomplishments, will be given by Farm Superintendent R.C. Parent, who will also extend thanks to the speakers. Following this hour long program there will be tours of Upton Farm at 2:30

In the morning and until noon, visitors will be met by members of the Farm Staff and taken on tours of barns, laboratories, greenhouses, poultry plant, museum and grounds. Lunch will be as arranged by individuals and groups. Tea and coffee will be provided.

BAND PROGRAM

Following luncheon between 1:00 and 1:30 p.m. there will be a program of band music by the band of the Prince Edward Island Regiment (R.C.A.C.)

On this 50th anniversary the Farm is on the threshold of another step forward, its elevation to a Research Station. This is brought about by incorporation

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Experimental Farm Marks Anniversary

Prince Edward Island, with agriculture as its largest industry and the quality of its agricultural products as its greatest economic asset, has a special enthusiasm to carry into its celebration Monday of the 50th anniversary of the Charlottetown Experimental Farm.

The top rankings held by Island agriculture—for production records, quality records, the introduction of "famous first" in dairying and other fields and for the consistent and continuing raising of standards—are to be numbered in the scores and are far out of proportion to the size and population of the province.

In all these things, as well as in the steady raising of the levels of the industry, it is recognized that virtually every scientific advancement in the field of Island agriculture in the past half century has been linked with the Experimental Farm, which has established a goodly number of

"famous first" in its own right. PURPOSES STATED

The plaque on the cairn to be unveiled Monday, to mark the anniversary, expresses the purposes of the Farm in these simple, clear terms: "1909-1959 Canada Department of Agriculture Research Branch. This cairn was built to commemorate the establishment of the Charlottetown Experimental Farm fifty years ago, and to honor those who labored to make it of value to agriculture in Prince Edward Island and all Canada."

The cairn was constructed of red island sandstone by Col. E. W. Johnstone and Ernest Dunning, Burlington, assisted by Bayfield Shaw, of the Farm staff.

In order to bring the work of the Farm closer to the farmer and at the same time carry out experiments in various parts of the province, illustration stations have been established. There are

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AN INVITATION

I invite all farmers and their families, and City people as well, to visit the Experimental Farm on Monday, August 10th, to celebrate with us the establishment of the Experimental Farm at Charlottetown fifty years ago.

An interesting program has been arranged for the day and is to be highlighted by the unveiling of a cairn by the Hon. Douglas Scott Harkness, Minister of Agriculture for Canada. The full staff will be available to show visitors about and to explain our work.

The first fifty years have been interesting ones and the results of our many experiments have helped to shape the pattern of agriculture for the province. We are now better equipped and staffed to handle the many new production problems which present themselves and we are conscious of the fact that agriculture in Prince Edward Island will play an ever increasing role in the economy of the Atlantic region.



R. C. Parent, Superintendent.

Royal Recognition Given Top Role Of Farming On Island

It is an established tradition for Royal visitors to Prince Edward Island to give clear recognition to the premier position agriculture occupies in the economic life of the province.

Just a few days ago, of course, this tradition was upheld strikingly by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. During her 24 hours in the province, accompanied by her husband, His Royal Highness Prince Philip, she devoted far more time to events related to agriculture than she did to other public appearances.

Highlights of her island stay included a visit to the plant of P. E.I. Frosted Foods, Ltd., and to the farm home of Mr. and Mrs. Willard Prowse on the Braekley Point Road.

JUST TWO FARMS

It is considered significant that Her Majesty visited farms in just two provinces—Prince Edward Island and Saskatchewan. In both these provinces, agriculture is the top industry; perhaps they are the only ones of which this remains true in Canada.

But the tradition of Royal attention to island agriculture began long before the recent visit of Her Majesty. Evidence of this will be easy to find for those who take part in the celebration next Monday of the 50th anniversary of the Charlottetown Experimental Farm.

During the past 47 years, starting at a time when the Farm itself was not quite three years old, four members of the Royal family have planted trees in what

is now described as the Royal Orchard. In keeping with this record, there is a striking floral crown in this area—a replica of the fam-



ous crown in Edinburgh, which was admired by the superintendent, R.C. Parent, and Mrs. Parent, when they visited there in 1953.



GOLDEN SHOVEL. Also in the offices of the Experimental Farm, near the main entrance on the right wall, there hangs a glass enclosed case containing a golden shovel suitably inscribed with a list of prominent persons who have planted trees.

First member of the Royal family on the list is His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, who planted a tree on July 30, 1912, while he was Governor General of Canada.

Last Royal name on the list is that of the Queen, who planted a tree on November 9, 1951, while she was still the Princess Elizabeth.

In between, other members of the Royal family to plant trees were His Royal Highness Edward Prince of Wales, on August 19, 1919, and his brother, His Royal Highness, the Duke of Kent, on September 3, 1943. The Prince of Wales, of course, later became King Edward VIII and is now the Duke of Windsor.

PROMINENT NAMES

Other prominent names on the list, and dates of tree planting, include the following:

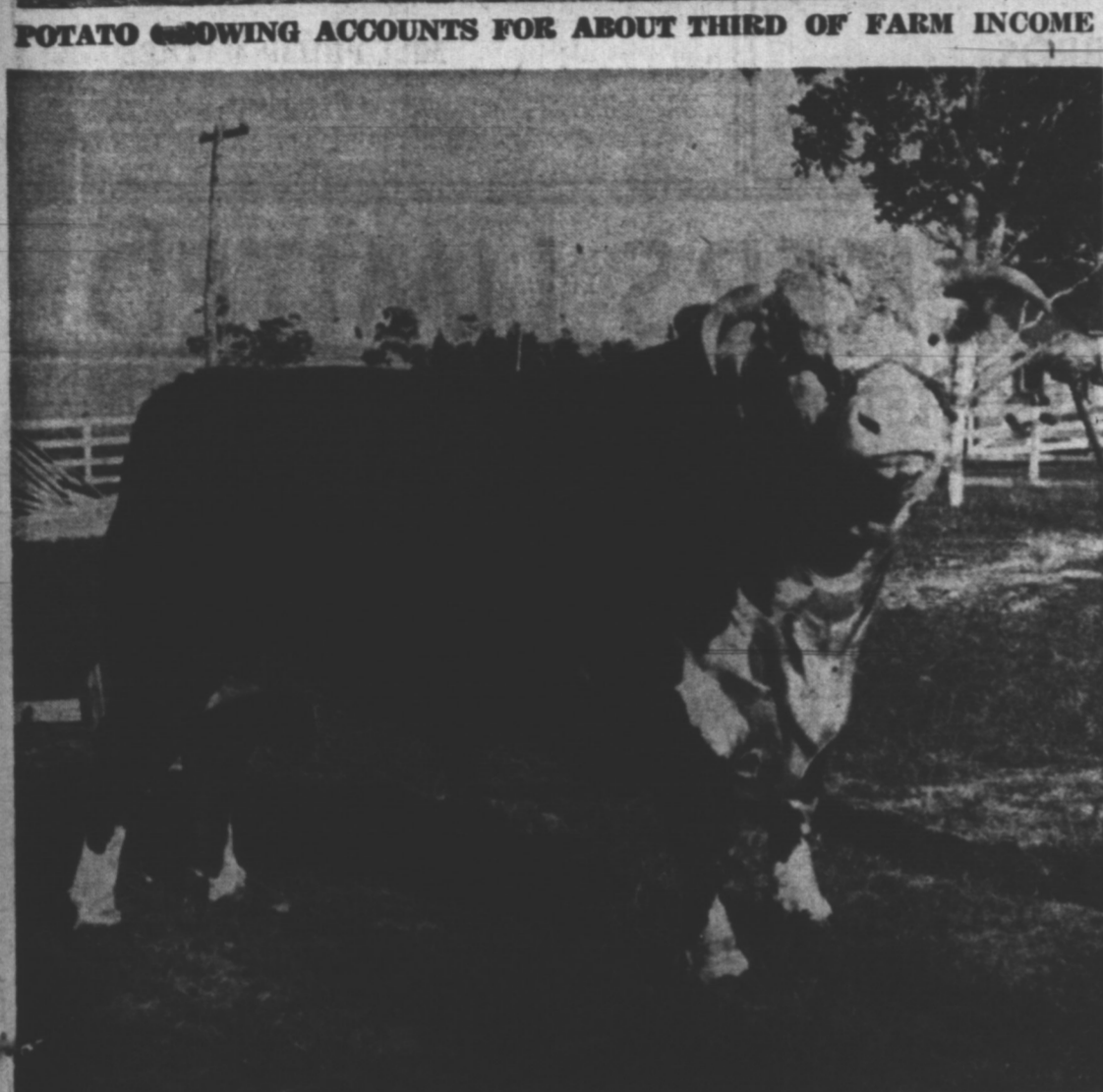
Duke of Devonshire, July 16, 1920; Lady Byng, August 23, 1923; Earl of Besborough, October 5, 1931 and July 27, 1935; Lord Tweedsmuir, September 23, 1937; Earl of Athlone, August 31, 1941; Viscount Alexander, September 23, 1946.

Dr. L.H. Newman, September 10, 1947; Dr. F.J. Greeney, June 27, 1950; Sir William Ogg, July 10, 1950; Dr. J.A. Clark, August 12, 1952; Rt. Hon. Vincent Massey, August 28, 1952; Dr. E.S. Archibald, July 5, 1956, and Lord Rowallan, November 10, 1958.

Names of all of Canada's Governors-General since the founding of the Farm are included on the list.



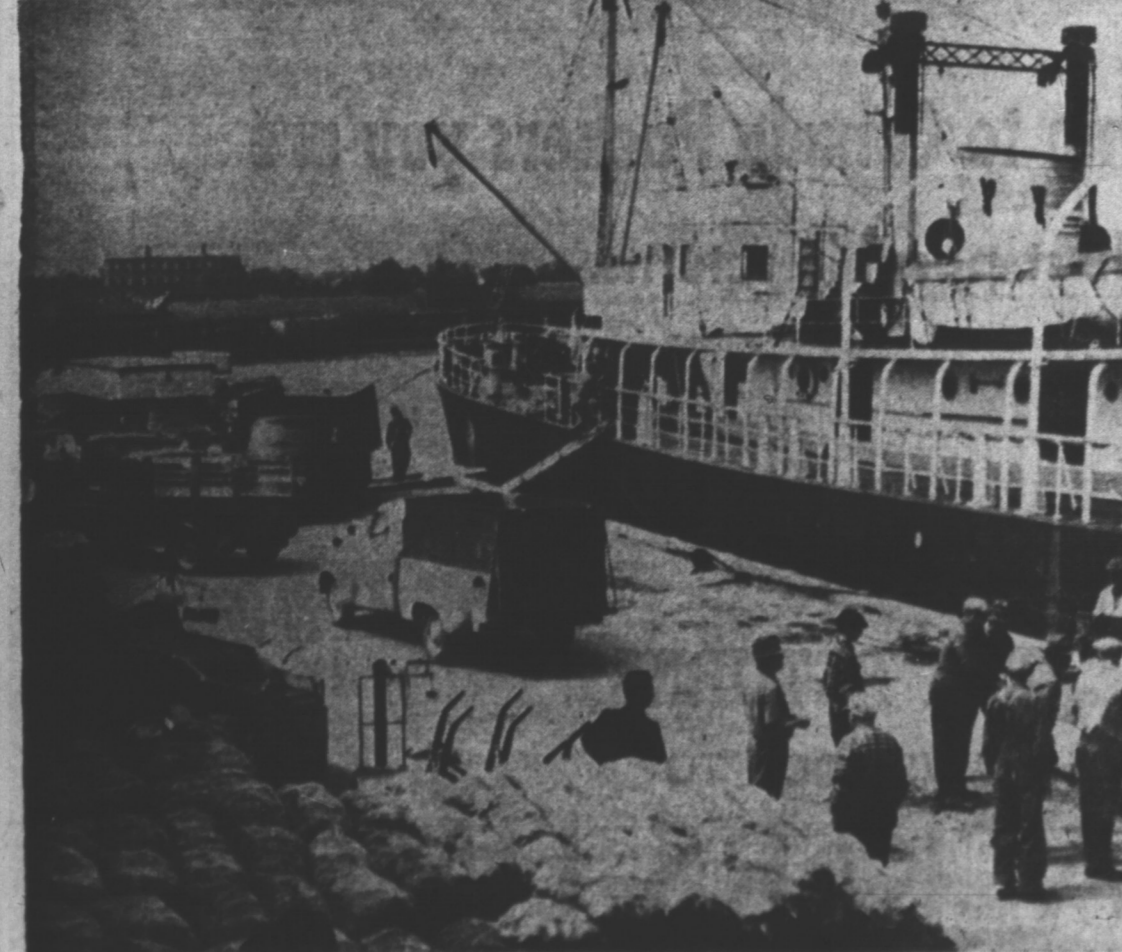
FLORAL CROWN, TREE PLANTED BY QUEEN AS PRINCESS (RIGHT) FEATURE ROYAL ORCHARD



THIS HEREFORD SIRE TYPIFIES HIGH STANDING OF P.E.I. LIVESTOCK



ISLAND YORKSHIRE HOGS ARE CANADA'S FAVORITES AT BACON TIME



DEVELOPING NEW NORTHERN MARKETS IS LATEST FARM OBJECTIVE