



BACK TO WORK AT KAISER PLANT

A group of steelworkers trudges through the fog toward their jobs in the Kaiser Steel Corp. plant at Fontana, California.

The men were among 1,000 recalled to work after the Kaiser company signed a new contract with the United Steelworkers

union for the first break in the 104-day strike.

(AP Wirephoto)

AMONG THE FARMERS

Federation of Agriculture Newsletter

FIRE PREVENTION

Farm buildings are very vulnerable to fire and in the absence of adequate fire fighting equipment total loss usually results. A serious hazard about any farm are gasoline engines which can and very often do burst into flames on short notice. Only ex-

perience with a gasoline fire will demonstrate how difficult it is to control one. Farm tractors usually have the gas tanks over the motors and carelessness in filling when the motor is hot can set the stage for real trouble. Once the tractor goes afire it is difficult to move

it and if the gas tank is close to a building the stage is set for a real disaster.

There are some simple precautions and simple equipment which can be on hand and which may be used quite successfully. For gasoline fires the proper type of extinguisher or a supply of baking soda can be used and sand is also helpful.

Water is no good on a gasoline fire. Next a simple stirrup pump with a bucket of water can do wonders in controlling many fires. If some thought is given to these

problems, most people will take precautions.

Both the Kings County and Queens County Federations of Agriculture plan for their annual meeting to have a speaker from the New Glasgow Junior Farmers, a group that has done an excellent job in setting up a rural fire fighting department. These County meetings are to be held in Pownal and Montague where it is hoped to have a speaker from Nova Scotia who will deal with the programs of County Federations in that Province.

HOG PAYMENTS

On January 9, 1960, the Dominion Government will discontinue its "offer to purchase program" on hogs. On Monday January 11, the Canadian Hog Market for the first time in some years will be free to seek levels dictated by the law of supply and demand or whatever other factors serve to determine the price.

January 11 has likely been chosen for a number of reasons: it is a Monday, it is near the start of the calendar year and is also about the end of the fall marketing period when hog offerings should be at a relatively low point. The basis of the new system stated as briefly as possible provides that in the event the national average price on hogs

in Canada for the year falls below the agreed or support prices all farmers will receive the difference on up to a maximum of A and B quality hogs.

This system does not provide for uniformity of prices, for example should any farmer market hogs at \$20 he will receive the same deficiency payment as the farmer who has sold for \$22. It is planned to make the deficiency payment only once a year unless the market price falls considerably below the support price when consideration will be given to an interim payment. In order to qualify, hog producers must register and registration will be limited to bonafide farmers with commercial organizations being excluded.

WESTERN CRISIS

Heavy snow, sodden fields and early winter has produced a situation in Western Canada which resulted in the Prime Minister calling a meeting to be attended by himself, other cabinet Ministers and representatives of the various farm organizations. Certainly the man who depends on the sale of his grain crop for his livelihood is in real difficulty when the crop remains under the snow.

Not only is the grain crop affected but in Manitoba a large

percentage of the potato crop will be dug and in Alberta much of it was damaged by frost. Livestock has suffered hardship and shortages of straw for bedding will be quite general with feed also posing a problem in some areas. This winter will be the bleakest for many western families since the '30's.

Newspaper reports of the Monday night meeting of the Potato Producers Association indicated that one speaker called for more freedom for potato growers to grow as they wished and sell as they wished. Now while in theory this is an admirable philosophy it is nevertheless in practice a very dangerous one.

If there is one particular disability under which the industry has been operating for some time it is that of allowing too many people to do as they please with respect to disease control, packaging and marketing. If the industry and its markets are to be maintained then the grower must be aware of and cater to the likes and requirements of the buyer.

This certainly could not provide freedom for the farmer to

grow and sell as he pleases. Farmers should certainly not be guided by nor should they be expected even to listen to the type of nonsense which suggests that they have freedom of choice in the manner of offering their product to the public.

NEXT MONDAY NIGHT

Next Monday, November 2, Farm Forum gets underway with groups meeting throughout the province in farm homes for study, recreation and community planning. More than the usual amount of effort has gone this fall into the promotion of Farm Forum. November will tell the story on what the results will be.

The fact that Farm Forum is generally recognized as being a good thing does not mean that it will be automatically accepted as widely embraced. Not every community may have the necessary equipment to make a forum function but there are many that have in this province and there is certainly room for more forums.

Those whose lives are fortified with concrete and asphalt under

foot and who work in clean and dust free surroundings with materials and objects incapable of soiling even the whitest of hands could have little understanding of the pleasures indulged in by those who carry on farm operations at this time of the year in mud, rain, cold and snow.

It is certainly an impossibility to be on terms of familiarity with mud and wet and at the same time retain anything approaching elegance of dress and person. Mud has a very effective way of forcing itself upon the person and of following him about wherever he moves. For coming to grips with earthy basic essentials there is nothing to compete with picking potatoes in a cold rain shower or pulling turnips in mud and snow. Only the real farmer can triumph over nature in its rawest of forms. The urban worker must be protected against the intrusion of such annoyances.

Railway Makes 2 Appointments

MONCTON, N.B.—Two senior appointments in the CNR's Atlantic Region accounting department have been announced by G. Homer Betz, regional auditor. Eric A. Ash, formerly chief accountant, Newfoundland district, St. John's, has been appointed administrative assistant regional accounting officer, Moncton. Mr. Ash will be succeeded by Victor Burns who has been special accountant in the Regional office.

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