



**CENTENNIAL TRAVELLERS IN N.B.**

A large group of Canadian centennial youth travellers has arrived in Fredericton. Among them are, left to right: James Norman, Montreal; Marie Andree Leville, Montreal; Jean Jacques Beilanger, St. Jean, Que.; Seidler, Mission City, B.C.; Jacques Beilanger, St. Jean, Que. (CP Wirephoto)

**THIS FARMING INDUSTRY**

**This Story Goes Back To Foot-Mouth Disease**

By NEIL A. MATHESON

One of the most interesting farm stories I ever heard came my way last week when I was talking with Dr. K.A. (Ken) Wells, director of Health of Animals division, Canadian department of agriculture, Ottawa. I remembered among other things, that the job Canada's veterinary-medical men did in stamping out the outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease back in 1952 had been regarded by other countries that knew the disease, as almost unbelievably good. So I talked about it with the man who directed the successful campaign. He admitted that it was good, but explained he couldn't very well tell me much about it because he was the man who had been directly responsible.

For those who may have forgotten the Foot and Mouth disease outbreak, it happened in Western Canada 13 years ago, and there was grave apprehension lest Canada "would have to live with it". Some of the European farmers who have come to Canada, insisted that the disease could not be stamped out once it gained a foothold here.

Stamping out the disease meant that whole herds of cattle had to be destroyed. Huge pits were bulldozed out of the earth, entire herds were driven into them and shot by officers of the law, then the bulldozers covered the pit and that was that. Some 1700 animals were destroyed in all, if I recall the number correctly.

But there was much more than that to the campaign against the disease. The fact of the campaign which developed my story was the tracing of detailed information on any animal that might have come into contact in any way with the disease.

Many of those animals had been slaughtered through normal channels, and Mr. Wells and his staff had to trace down the carcasses, even to the final destination of every piece of meat in some cases.

In one case 200 head of swine had been slaughtered and sold through regular commercial channels. There had been definite contact with the disease and each animal had to be traced so that veterinarians could make sure that a carcass, a

quarter, or even a piece of infected meat was not left around some place we spread the infection. "We were able to find or account for 199 carcasses and three quarters, but we were unable to find the other quarter. It was the hind quarter of a pig, and it appeared to have us licked," Dr. Wells recalled for me, as we chatted at last week's convention of Canada's veterinary medical men.

Finally, he continued, we received an appeal from a farmer who lived some 100 miles away. The man said that some of his pigs were sick and asked that the veterinary men visit his farm.

When the men arrived they found some sick animals, but the interesting part of the story is that they saw some of the hogs chewing or gnawing on the shank bone of a pig. Well, you guessed it. The shank bone came from the missing hind quarter that previously had defied detection. And, Dr. Wells told me, the pigs had gnawed through the bone to the marrow, and that is where the infection would be sealed.

Canada's veterinary medical men did a terrific job in stamping out the Foot and Mouth disease threat more than a dozen years ago, but they had to have some luck too. This was perhaps the biggest piece of luck in the entire campaign.

A lady was seen cutting a cucumber in two and then furiously rubbing the two ends together. She explained she was doing that to get the poison out.

Another lady carefully cut the cucumber lengthwise, in very thin slices. The reason?—so they wouldn't give her family indigestion.

**REALLY SMALL POTATOES**  
A friend of mine came to me this week for information on how he could get a 75-pound bag of small, very small potatoes for his sister from Montreal who was here on vacation and was leaving last Saturday. The lady stayed in one of our cottages.

I called Ernie Reid—he's in the potato business—and the small spuds were found. Also found was a story that a bag of these very small potatoes came all the way from Florida last summer to prepare a dish for the Queen, when she was here to open the Confederation Memorial Complex. The imported

Incidentally the smallest potatoes sold here legally are one and seven-eighths of an inch in diameter. The ones my friend wanted are slightly smaller than a golf ball, he said.

Art MacKenzie of our staff tells me a golf ball measures 1.68 inches in diameter. So the spuds that were sought were something less than one and a half inch. Art should know about a golf ball, he's been the most consistent golf winner I can recall here on the island.

Luckily he found some, a load of new potatoes had been turned back to the producer, as many of them were undersized. Remember the old saying "It's a poor wind that doesn't blow some good."

**HOG BUILDING SANITATION**  
More and more commercial hog producers are adopting the simple safety precautionary measure of locking their pig buildings, and allowing nobody to enter the piggeries unless the owner or the man handling the operation is present. Thus it is possible to prevent other people carrying infection from another farm or plant, or wherever infection might develop.

The observation came last week from Dr. Charles (Chuck) Rowe who is in charge of swine diseases at the Ontario Veterinary College, Guelph, Ontario.

I have to thank Dr. George Fisher, former director of veterinary services here, for meeting Dr. Rowe. The OVC professor believes that sanitation and disease prevention cannot be stressed too strongly in the commercial hog operation. It has been stressed increasingly in recent years.

At the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph, the farm has Large English Whites, Canadian Yorkshires and Landrace swine and "I understand this fall they may bring some Lacombe hogs in", Dr. Rowe told me.

Incidentally L.W. Roper, retired this year as provincial livestock fieldman is building up a herd of Large English Whites on his farm at Brudenell. I hope to visit him soon for a look at his herd.

The first attempt with the Large English White at the OAC didn't pan out well at all. There was an undesirable tendency for the animals to overfinish. "When we cleaned out, though, and established the SPF herd", he explained, the Large English Whites proved most satisfactory. "We like them very well," he added.

It's natural for a man whose speciality is swine diseases, to

stress sanitation and precautionary measures. But Dr. Rowe emphasized two things. Presence of disease, even a very light incidence of it slows development and helps to skim the cream off the profits. The other thing is that though various diseases may be controlled by drugs, eventually the disease organisms develop a resistance and this greatly reduces their effectiveness. No one drug will consistently and persistently be effective in a herd.

"So I think there is a place for SPF pigs, for it is possible to rid yourself of those diseases, and maybe go along for a very long period without reintroducing them," Dr. Rowe suggested. "It depends entirely on the management. If a man is an excellent manager, he can keep his herd free of disease", the OVC professor added.

He added, though, that there's some luck attached to such an operation. It's not entirely in control of the man.

I did a story for Saturday's Guardian on the two big combine pea harvesters which the P.E.I. Frosted Food people have in operation. I said in the cutline for a picture they were "eight-ton" machines, but it came out "eighteen" in print. If George Wright who showed me the machines in action is wondering what happened, I assure you I wasn't drinking. It was another case of a typographical error. There are two machines, not eighteen. The big machines are really something. They pick the peas from the swath, soon after they are cut, thresh the peas from the pods and leave the vines on the ground. They do away with the need for the "winners" at the plant, and save a good bit of trucking among other things.

**BALTIC**

Chester Bruce of Ontario arrived home to spend his holidays at his home in Kingsboro.

Mrs. Marjorie Cameron, Charlottetown, is visiting with her sister, Mrs. William Baker, Lakeville.

Mrs. Carl MacVane is now convalescing at her home in Bothwell following her recent operation in the P.E.I. Hospital, Charlottetown.

Several of the local school teachers are now attending summer school at Prince of Wales College, Charlottetown.

South Lake annual Sunday school picnic was held recently at Campbell's Cove park.

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