FEDERATION NEWSLETTER

Certified Potato Seed Can Cleanup Industry

By J. LINCOLN DEWAR

EDUCATION WEEK

This week March 6 to 13 is set aside in Canada as Education Week with the theme of "Changing Education for Changing Times" running through the program of newspaper, radio and television material.

In this province the committee responsible for Education Week is under the chairmanship of Mrs. David Mutch.

Daily on both radio and television speakers will be heard and the press as usual will make its fine contribution. As an extra feature Country Calendar will at its usual time on Sunday, March 13 feature a special program on the Nova Scotia Agricultural College. Country Calendar is always a program carrying both interest and educational value and we would recommend it for next Sunday afternoon.

POTATO DEADLOCK

On Wednesday, March 2, the Federation of Agriculture presented its annual brief to the Premier and Members of the Executive Council.

The hearing lasted over two hours and a large portion of that time was spent in a discussion of matters related to the enforecement of the requirement that certified seed or butter be planted.

First of all the Federation has a responsibility to support what the farmers of the province believe to be in their interests, in addition, it also has the responsibility of providing constructive leadership.

We sympathize with the Hon. Mr. MacRae who has the responsibility of making the hard decision in this connection. The Federation, we must confess, is not in a very good position to make a definite stand on the matter as public meetings are certainly seriously divided on the issue.

The history of the potato industry over the last 15 years has not been one of demonstrating ability to work in harmony and really get down to cases in solving problems or planning for the future. In short there has been no great evidence of forward or long term thinking and sooner or later this lack is going to work to the serious disadvantage of the industry.

Probably this may not be a very good comparison but we wonder why the practices which are applied in the dairy industry to ensure good quality can not be in principle at least applied to the potato industry. If a producer has bad milk, he cleans it up or else. If a dairy plant is not sanitary, it cleans up or else. If the producer has diseased cows, he gets rid of them and replaces them with something better. Why should not the potato people practice the same policy in principle?

Here the writer is now expressing a personal and private opinion and it is that the potato industry in its own best interest and in the interest of avoiding worse than the present trouble should co-operate with and support the Hon. A.B. MacRae in his efforts to enforce the legislation and preserve the industry for the future.

DAIRY PRICE SUPPORT

Last Tuesday the writer attended in Ottawa a one day meeting of the Advisory committee to the Stabilization Board (agricultural prices). The meeting was devoted entirely to dairy matters and as this letter is written prior to the meeting we can only say that the important subject for discussion will be $4.00 milk for the coming dairy year which starts on April 1st. Evidently the hard decision must be made very soon as only the month of March remains.

FEDERATION MEETING

The third in a series of meetings called by the Queens County Federation of Agriculture will be held in the Vernon River Parish Hall on Monday, March 14 at 8 p.m. These meetings are being well attended and lively interest is being taken in the matters raised with particular emphasis on potato matters. Farmers in Southern Queens and adjoining parts of Kings County are invited to attend this meeting

WHICH WAY

Reference has already been made in the press to a statement that Prince Edward Island in common with Algeria and Uruguay are three places which have gone back agriculturally the last 20 years. This sort of situation might be expected in areas indifferently endowed with farming resources. Here where we pride ourselves on living in a garden province it is very difficult to accept this situation and certainly very damaging to our pride.

What would appear to be needed here is a searching examination of the causes which have led to this situation and the taking of steps without delay to reverse the trend.

FARM ACCIDENTS

Wednesday the province saw its first conference on safety and accidents. Involved was the Federation of Agriculture on behalf of an industry which does not have a very good record in this connection.

As farming becomes far more highly mechanized it becomes more dangerous, with fewer workers, more machines and more pressure the inevitable is bound to happen

These accidents apart from the suffering involved are serious from the standpoint of cost and from the loss of time Accidents are certainly deplorable, to what extent are they preventable? Frankly it is not easy to come up with quick answers as to how the situation can be improved. Possibly an extended program of safety education, pressure for safer machines with safety features and increased emphases on much safer practices about the farm and home.

STILL GOOD

We can now look back and say that the four winter months November, December, January and February were practically ideal from a weather standpoint. We are now nicely started into the month of March which often is a cross between winter and spring, so far it has been doing rather nicely and the moisture which came over the weekend was certainly welcome to those people who had been keeping a nervous eye on their wells.

Geologists' Papers Stress Intense Interest In North

By KEN SMITH
Canadian Press Business Editor

TORONTO (CP) — Technical papers presented by government geologists to the Prospectors and Developers Association convention this week point up the intense interest in the mineral potential of Canada's far north.

They also help show that, despite the almost universal belief in the existence of buried wealth, getting it out economically may be another problem.

One paper on the Northwest Territories' Mackenzie Mining District, presented by S. Homolus, a chief mining inspector with the department of northern affairs, deals with the wild staking rush that developed in the Pine Point area following some encouraging drilling results there last fall.

It notes that since Oct. 1 more than 20,000 claims have been recorded in the area, with about 80 mining companies now holding ground.

However, because of the remoteness and number of the claims, it will take at least two years to complete even preliminary studies of all the claims, the paper says.

DRILLING NEEDED

After that, exploratory diamond drilling would be needed to determine whether promising locations shown by surface studies actually contain ore. Allowing time for drilling programs, it's possible some claims won't be properly explored for five or more years.

"Many areas are swampy and inaccessible during the summer months, necessitating winter programs," the paper says. "This creates other problems such a breakdown of equipment due to extreme cold temperatures and lack of water for drilling purposes."

Even the topography of the area presents problems, the paper says. It notes Pine Point "is flat, unsurveyed and devoid of any topographic features to enable the staker to locate himself accurately."

"This inevitably leads to overlapping of claims on the one hand and fractions between claim groups on the other.

"This situation is further aggravated because many of the stakers are new to the game, this being their first attempt at staking claims."

Nevertheless, the paper concludes, results so far indicate increased ore possibilities. "This area could become one of the largest mineral-producing areas in Canada."

Another paper dealing with the Yukon, presented by A. D. Oliver, resident mining inspector with northern affairs at Whitehorse, notes that from last April 1 until Jan. 31 more than 9,000 claims were recorded in the Yukon.

That was more than all the claims recorded in the three previous years.

The paper indicates, however, detailed exploration there too will be a long job. It notes that, despite advances in technology for aerial and surface exploration, no single method has been successful in indicating commercial mineralization.

The use of light bush planes and helicopters, however, had meant that early exploration, staking and development work had been possible throughout the winter without restriction.

Deadly Disease May Face Miners

CLEVELAND, Ohio (AP)—A previously unrecognized and deadly vascular disease may be present in the lungs of a large number of the 450,000 men — employed and unemployed—who mine soft coal in the United States, it was reported here.

The information was revealed in a study of 500 living and 300 dead soft coal miners by Dr. Werner A. Laqeur, chief of pathology at the Appalachian Regional Hospital in Beckley, W.Va., and Dr. Hawey A. Wells, chief of the Beckley research unit of the division of occupational academy of pathology in Cleveland.

"Clinical studies . . . indicate early involvement of the pulmonary blood vessels, causing high blood pressure in the lung," the report said. "This in turn increases the burden on the heart."

A study of 150 unselected soft coal miners dying from all causes showed 40 per cent had a definite enlargement of the heart.

The paper indicated that in 33 per cent of those studied, the heart had to work harder than it was capable of working, leading to heart failure and death.

GOES BACK IN HISTORY

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LEVI YOUNG
Cherry Valley
Phone 62-4 Vernon River

FARMER'S MEETING
VERNON RIVER PARISH HALL
Monday, March 14, 1966
8:00 P.M.
Speakers and Discussion
Taxes, Potatoes and Dairy Policy
Queens County Federation of Agriculture
Knud Jorgenson, President

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