FEDERATION NEWSLETTER

Potato Plebiscite Tops On Calendar

By J. LINCOLN DEWAR

One of the more interesting and important matters on the agricultural calendar is the plebiscite to be held on April 21 for some 15 years. They have Potato Marketing Boards in one form or another have beenhere ranged all the way from active and aggressive to very relaxed and with variations of both.

During the years there certainly has been a strong difference of opinion amonz growers, a difference of opinion largely centred on whether the board should take an active part in marketing and, in particular whether there should be central selling. Legally what the growers are voting on is the present temporary plan which includes the present board members. Actually what they will be registering will be approval or disapproval on the manner in which the present board has fonctioned in relation to the various problems which the industry must deal with. In addition, the voter will no doubt take into consideration any proposals which the present board may bring forward in the form of election promises.

While the Federation of Agriculture will be represented at the meetings being called by the Potato Board it will not likely undertake to influence the voter either for or against in view of the fact that the Minister has already given a committment that a new board will be elected regardless of the outcome of the plebiscite. Of course, there may well be many of the same board members on the new setup.

In a general way we think it is safe to state the Federation of Agriculture's position as follows:

A. There is need for a strong, active, aggressive Potato Marketing Board.

B. Such a board should have a skilled efficient manager who is conversant with the movement, advertising and marketing of potatoes.

C. The primary concern of the board should be the problems of the producer and the protection of his interests.

D. Certainly there is no question that the board has a mandate to concern itself with problems related to quality, movement, and advertising. In marketing it should be receptive to the needs of the industry for efficiency and the demands of the growers.

E. The levy should be continued and the potato growers accept the responsibility for financing promotional efforts.

F. The board should report on its activities to the growers and account financially for all funds.

G. Finally there is the need for a grower's Association which can be a watchdog for the industry, which can take an active part in suggesting policy and which should be associated with other farm groups through the Federation of Agriculture.

WINTER PERSISTS

Winter is holding on tenaciously in the latter part of March and has provided unusually cold weather. In the western part of the province fields are bare and this exposure is hardly favourable to the grass prospects. In the eastern part of the province fields have a good covering of snow and as there has been no ice the prospects look good for the meadows.

We are now moving into the last long month of the winter feeding season. After April is over the miracle of grass may appear in the next month. April is a busy month on the farm, there is extra work related to both the current operation and in preparation for the new season.

We think it can be stated with some assurance that April will see a dramatic movement from winter to a much pleasanter state of affairs.

Certainly one of the highlights of the Dairymen's annual meeting was the address given by George MacLaughlin. A very original and interesting approach was taken in discussing a number of practical problems which must be dealt with by the dairymen. The very simple remark about running a finger around the inside of the inflation drew attention to the fact that in far too many cases inflations are used much too long and beyond their satisfactory life.

Emphasized was the importance of top-quality hay as the real basis of efficient dairy production. Management, husbandry and economics all had their place in an address which was a valuable addition to the present fund of dairying information.

FARM FORUM

Next Monday evening will see the conclusion of Farm Radio Forum as a national program which has been operating for 25 years. The broadcast will take the form of a report on planning which may be on the drawing board in our province to fill the vacuum created by the passing of Farm Forum.

There are, of course, a variety of reasons why Farm Forum is passing away. One of them we think was very well illustrated last Monday by the type of broadcast on the question of land use. We would have expected that this was a topic which would be down to earth but instead the discussion was carried out at such a high level that even a quite intellectual group listening in this city found the material pretty heavy going.

ROAD BLOCK

Our memory, possibly because of the present plebiscite went back to a time quite a number of years ago when an amendment to the Marketing Act was being considered by the Legislature.

In order for the amendment to receive a third reading before the House prorogued it was necessary to suspend the rule of the House that 24 hours must elapse between the second and third reading. In order to suspend the rule unanimous consistent would be required.

As the House went down to the deadline with the Lieutenant Governor and the band approaching in the distance the unanimous consent wasn't forthcoming as a member who wasn't very partial to Marketing Boards withheld his.

When the Premier of the day realized what had happened action was taken which resulted in the Lieutenant Governor appearing in the House giving assent to a number of bills and departing without closing the session.

The House met again early the next week passed the amendment to the Act and terminated its business. Among many others this was a rather dramatic example of the length to which the opponents of marketing legislation were prepared to go in setting up roadblocks.

SELF-RESPECT

MONTREAL (CP) — A meeting of the historical society at the Caughnawaga Indian reserve near here was told the reserve should have a cultural centre to display an authentic picture of the Indian background. "There's more to our culture than war dances and feathers," said William B. Newell, society founder.

ACROSS THE ISLAND

Tales Of Yesteryear Show People Had Fun

By NEIL A. MATHESON
Provincial-Farm Editor

I OFTEN think about the pessimists who continually charge that the young people are so much worse than previous generations, as I recall some of the stunts we used to pull in school days when I was a boy. And that reminds me that Capt. Wally Smith, 95, Pownal, recounted some interesting boyhood experiences for me that I want to tell you about.

On one occasion, he tells me "we were set the task of writing an essay on the subject of 'love' and naturally the word didn't mean much to a boy of 12. So we were rather stumped. I pondered over the subject for quite a time but my thoughts seemed to be out on the playground, or somewhere else.

"Happening to glance at an open school book on the desk, I saw 'A treatise on War' by John Bright, the great English writer. So I thought why not substitute the word 'love' where 'war' was prominent in the treatise, which I did. When teacher read it, the essay sounded like this:

"What is love? I believe that half of the people who talk about 'love' have not the slightest idea what it is—it is a combination and concentration of all the horrors and atrocities that are a curse to mankind, and so on."

Capt. Smith recalls "I didn't get away with it though, as I had to stand on the dunce block for a half-hour." That "dunce block" reference is new to me. I recall that one teacher devised a dunce cap, she would make a student wear at times.

THE TEACHER didn't always win though. "Our old school had an attic", recalls Capt. Smith, "and we boys used to crawl up there and chase each other over the beams. Once one of the boys missed one of the beams and his foot went down through the plaster. Well, we thought we were surely in for a strapping. So we decided on strategy.

"We met the teacher on his way to the school after dinner, and with tears in our eyes we told him that the plaster had fallen down." "'Well, well', he said, 'if the plaster is down, crying won't put it up again, so get back to your school work.'

"Strategy worked that time", my friend recalls with a grin.

Rose Valley Incident Is Recalled

THAT PARTICULAR story reminds me of an attic in the old school at Rose Valley. Several of the more daring boys used to get a long pole, poke one end of it through the trap door into the attic and brace the other against the wooden trim that was around the zinc on which the big stove was placed. Then we would shinny up the pole to the attic.

I stopped several years ago to talk to an old school chum, Willie MacDonald, as I was passing through the district where I was born, and we got to recalling those carefree, boyhood days. It was Willie, I believe, who asked if I remembered when we used to climb into the school attic at the dinner hour, when teacher was away?

The long forgotten incident came back vividly to memory, and then I recalled one unfortunate day when several of us were up in the attic and somebody down below removed the pole, so we had to stay up there until the teacher returned. The recollection brought a look of unusual joy to my old school chum's face and both of us laughed heartily over the recollection.

Then I asked him "Willie, were you up there with us that day?" And quicky came the retort with another outburst of laughter "Who do you think took the pole away?"

Lamentation On The Mountain

CAPT. SMITH told me, too, of the times when the teacher used to have recitations once a week, and the boys always hated them. One of the boys ,Al Gay, who was Smith's seatmate, found the task particularly difficult as he had trouble memorizing the lines. So one week he said his recitation was headed "The Sheep's Lamentation on the Mountain." That sounded like a most interesting subject and there was a note of keen expectation as Alf stood for a few moments with a big grin on his face. Then came his drawnout outburst "B-a-a-a-a-a", and everyone howled with laughter. Even the teacher could not retain the dignity which is normally demanded from a class-room instructor, as the satisfied young man took his seat.

Bailiff's Visit Caused Consternation

I WAS looking this week at a letter which an old schoolmate, Alex Munroe, wrote to me from California away back in 1936. It reminded me that Alex and I could get into more trouble than you could imagine, when we were together, though we managed to stay out of it when we went our separate ways.

One noon hour we succeeded in arousing the anger of a man who managed a shop nearby. We though it was fun then, though long since I have realized how completely inexcusable our actions were.

The man told us he was "going to Breadalbane to have the law on you." "The law" at that time was represented by a justice of the peace.

SURE ENOUGH the man did go to Breadalbane that afternoon. We saw him go past the school. Naturally we wondered if he had carried out his threat. That evening I was completing the barn chores, shortly before dark, when I saw a man coming in a sleigh drawn by a beautiful white horse. When the man tied his horse to a post near the house, I saw that he was a big fellow, and he was wearing a black fur coat. He disappeared inside our house and I stayed in hiding in the barn until he had left.

When I came into the house later, I asked "who was that man?" Imagine my shock when I was told "He's a Sherren man from Crapaud. He's a bailiff". The term was often used as synonymous with the word "constable" and there were a few of these people in the country then, as there were no provincial police which came much later, and the RCMP which are a comparatively modern development.

Worries Prove To Be Unfounded

NOBODY VOLUNTEERED an explanation of what the bailiff was doing at our house. Finally I got up enough courage to ask and found my worries were unfounded. There was to be a case heard in the court of Chancery within the next few days over an undivided property in which my mother had a nominal claim. That was the message Mr. Sherren brought—I never did learn his first name, but people who live in the Crapaud area—it may have been Westmoreland—may know who the man was. But I can recall as though it were yesterday, the terrible feeling that was produced in my mind by the guilty conscience and the coincidence.

I told the story to Alex next day in school. After he had listened with rapt attention, I asked him "what would you have done, had a bailiff come to your house last night?"

The reply was "I'd have put for the woods", and my chum was exaggerating only slightly. I've lost trace of Alex's address. If somebody knows it, I hope they'll send him this column, or let me know so I can get in touch with him again. We could dig up a lot of interesting reminiscences.

Name Is Sought For Tieing Weights

I REFERRED recently to Maurice Blake, retired newspaperman, and his attempt to purchase a button hook. He also suggested that I ask in this column if anyone knows the name of the weights people used in former years to tie horses which were stopped temporarily. Grocery and other stores used horse-drawn delivery wagons in those days. The driver pulled from the wagon a heavy weight with a rope and snap attached. The snap was caught in the bridle ring, or in a halter ring, if a halter was worn.

I asked my friend Arthur King—his wife is a cousin who was May MacBeath from Forest Hill—and he believes they were commonly called ground weights. But there may be other names. Mr. Blake recalls seeing one used once in the Alps country, in the vicinity of the Matterhorn, which is a mountain on the frontier between Switzerland and Italy. And it's his recollection that it was called a "land anchor" there.

SPORT ECHOES

Legionnaires Prove Surprise

By NORMAN MacDONALD

We watched the Ranger-Legionnaire Junior game at Civic Stadium on Monday evening and frankly we were surprised. Guess we didn't realize what stiff, experienced competition the local Juniors were up against all winter. We thought they were weaker than they really are. Not that they had a big edge on the visitors. The teams were pretty evenly matched if you forget about the first period, and in the middle frame the sensational work of Gary Somers in the Legionnaire net kept the Rangers off the score sheet. Somers certainly earned the MacKenzie House of Fashions shirt award. But we thought the Rangers, reinforced by McCarville and Roy from the SDU intercollegiate champs, would clobber our boys—but good. Our humblest apologies, Legionnaires. You were just a bunch of boys in a man's league.

Eagles Will Pull Out Of Series?

The Eagles-Combine game played at the Port rink last Sunday has been thrown out because of an error in ruling regarding the suspension of David Martin, and there were rumblings to the effect that the RCAF squad may pull out of the series and let the Combines take the semi-final series by default. We hope not. We sympathize with the Eagles, but occassionally errors in ruling do crop up and give the victorious team a bad break. We remember one fall a Summerside bantam team was playing baseball against Chatham, N.B. Our boys scored a decisive win, but the umpire ruled in favor of Summerside once, misinterpreting a rule, and the game was thrown out. Was it last year or the year before that the RCAF protested an umpire's ruling, won the protest, and one of the Summerside teams which had won the game, had to replay it. These things happen, and the sporting thing to do is to cuss a little under your breath and put up with it.

Making Long Stories Short

Right now it looks as if the juvenile team from Canberry Corners could beat the Chicago Black Hawks. Will they come to life before the play-offs?

Congratulations to Crapaud Bantams, the first, as far as we know, to be declared champions of the Island in a minor bracket. Take an extra low bow, Teddy MacFadyen, for the "hat trick".

HAS CHECKUP

OTTAWA CP — Veterans Minister Roger Teillet, 52, is in hospital in Ottawa for a physical examination. Mr. Teillet, MP for St. Boniface and Manitoba representative in Prime Minister Pearson's Cabinet, entered hospital last week.

Mayfield Nips Rustico 7-6

Mayfield defeated Rustico 7-6 in an exhibition hockey game at the Kensington rink on Tuesday night. James Platt was the big gun for the winners with the three goal hat trick.

New Annan defeated Spring Valley 4-3 in the second game of the night at the Kensington Rink.

North Rustico Notches Win

North Rustico dumped South Rustico 5-1 to take a 2-1 lead in the best of five finals in the Central Queens Hockey League Tuesday night at the St. Dunstan's rink.

N. Gallant was the scoring star of the game for North Rustico with two goals while B. Doucette, J.D. Gallant and B. MacNeill potted single goals.

E. Doulcette scored the lone marker for the losers.

BASKETBALL

Steads Pharmacy defeated Jenkins Movers 84-64 at Birchwood High gym Tuesday night to tie up the best of five finals in the City Men's Basketball League at two games apiece. The final game to decide the City Championship will be played at Queen Charlotte High tonight at 7:15 p.m.

Dave Hyndman again was the top point man in the game as the star for Steads collected 32 points. Art Strang, of the Movers was the top point getter for the Jenkins team with 23 points.

MacGonnell of Steads picked up 18 points to grab third spot in the night's scoring.

STEADS — Weeks 4, Hyndman 32, H. Ladner 10, McGonnell 18, Diamond 6, James 4, Smith 10 — 84.

MOVERS — Scantlebury 15, Strang 23, MacLean 6, Grant 10, F. Burns 0, S. Ladner 10.—64

'LAST-MINUTE'

(Continued from page one)

his government had no intent to confound the opposition. He pointed out that when the session had opened it was not possible to estimate the exact amount of legislation coming before the House. He invited the strictest examination by the opposition and urged Mr. Matheson not to leave the chamber.

SUGGESTS ADJOURNMENT

Harold Smith (Lib. 4th Queens) wanted to know how the opposition could fulfill its duties under such circumstances. He felt if Mr. Matheson went, the entire opposition might as well follow along. He suggested an adjournment so the Liberal opposition might hold a caucus.

Premier Shaw replied that he had every confidence in the other members of the opposition. He pointed out that they still had a capable lawyer in Alex Campbell (Lib. 5th Prince) and asked for a continuation of the business at hand.

Robert Campbell (Lib. 1st Prince) made no secret of his indignation over the introduction of an act respecting Industrial Enterprises at this time. He wanted to know why the promoter, Hon. Leo Rossiter, had not introduced it much earlier in the session. Mrs. Campbell felt the opposition was being bulldozed. Premier Shaw in reply stated that if the opposition wished to stay a couple of weeks longer, it was all right with him.

The House received the report of the education committee under the chairmanship of Robert Grindlay (PC 2nd Prince) at press time they were considering a resolution of the province's potato industry introduced by Arthur MacDonald (Lib. and the province's potato industry introduced by Arthur (Lib. 5th Kings).

DEPARTMENT of FISHERIES

SEALED TENDERS addressed to the Area Director, Dept. of Fisheries, P.O. Box 550, Halifax, N.S., will be received up to 12 o'clock noon, April 17th, 1965, for the construction of a fire protection system and integrated sewer system on the Dept's property at Ellerslie, P.E.I.

Plans, specifications, etc. may be obtained from the Department at Halifax upon a deposit of $50.00 per set in the form of a certified cheque or money order payable to the Receiver General of Canada. Deposit will be refunded when plans and specifications are returned in good condition.

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Signed A. W. H. Needler,
Deputy Minister.

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