



Hog Breeders Probe Problems Of Industry

By NEIL A. MATHESON
Provincial and Farm Editor

Three Prince Edward Island men were expected to leave today for the Canadian hog conference which is to be held in Ottawa on Wednesday and Thursday of this week. They are Stirling Willis, Kingston who is president of the Canadian Swine Breeders' Association, L. W. Roper, Brudenell, former livestock director for the province, and David Peacock, who recently was named acting director.

Several problems are expected to be discussed. But I'm interested particularly in the approach to the record of performance (ROP) scoring qualifications.

Several things are wrong with the present qualification methods, and how the emphasis is placed on certain aspects of the scoring.

Sows are tested in advanced registry (ROP) by putting four of their litter into a test station where they are fed to maturity. The standard practice is to put two gilts (females) and two barrows (castrated males) in as the test litter. The thing I'm opposed to, and I have backing from men who know swine, is that at present eight extra or "free" points are possible by putting four barrows in the litter, instead of the two barrows and two gilts.

This means that the possible slaughter test score is 108, instead of the 100 points which is normally taken as perfection in any other kind of test. There are several sows in Ontario, for example, that have slaughter test scores of 107, which is just

one short of the silly possible of 108.

L.W. Roper, Brudenell, retired livestock director for the province, has a boar on his farm out of a sow that scored 106 points, which makes him the highest qualified boar in Eastern Canada, so far as that part of the score is concerned. But "Lou" doesn't like the "free" points any more than I do. He'll definitely vote against it on Ottawa, he told me yesterday, if the subject comes up.

Stirling Willis will also oppose the "free" points idea. He told me that emphatically, a few days ago. I didn't see Dave Peacock, so I can't report on his views.

But there's more than wrong with the emphasis that is put on ROP scoring. Mostly everyone I've heard talk about the scoring has emphasized the "slaughter test" score. It's based on the type of bacon side and other cuts that are obtained from the carcasses of the test litter.

Two other items are measured that are equally important. They're even more important, in some ways, from a practical standpoint. One item, measures the "feed conversion" and that's a fancy way of indicating how many pounds carcass weight are put on for every 100 pounds of grain consumed. The other is usually referred to as "days to maturity" and this indicates how long it takes a test litter to reach the desired carcass weight for top carcass requirements.

Practical hog men pay strict attention to both of these factors, for it's money in their pockets if the animals they feed respond properly in weight gain,

both from the feed and days stressed just as much as the slaughter test scoring.

The "Farm Edition" of this paper will appear on Friday of this week. There are several stories you'll find interesting. Of general interest to all livestock men is the information on the changes that are being made that are equally important. Classes available at the Provincial Exhibition which will be held here in August. They are explained in detail.

Another story deals with the need of classification in the Swine industry, and this should interest all swine breeders in particular. There is information on the items that are considered in classifying a hog, and how the total body conformation score is arrived at. They have classification in Ontario now. They're talking about in several other provinces, and our Island swine breeders have already said they want it.

There are a half-dozen or more stories featuring Island cattle breeders I visited and interviewed. They include J. Eric Hurry, West Royalty; E. A. Myers and Paula Coady who are Hazelbrook neighbours; Sterling Wood and Son, Mt. Herbert; Stirling Willis, Kingston and Keith Boswell and Sons, Victoria. Mr. Hurry likes Guernseys, Mr. Myers and Miss Coady are Jersey breeders; the Woods breed Dual Purpose Shorthorn cattle. Mr. Willis is one of Canada's best known breeders — he's Canadian president right now — and Mr. Boswell thinks there's nothing else like his Ayrshires.

I had hoped to visit others but a two-week bout with the flu showed me up and I simply didn't have time to carry out my good intentions.

For today's offbeat story I want to tell you about a Collie-Hound-cross pup we raised at the Matheson establishment that learned to talk Dutch.

You don't believe that? Well, I didn't expect you to. But we did raise a dog a few years ago that went to our neighbour J. Hendrik VanOmme. A few weeks later I was visiting the VanOmmses and he was talking to the dog in Dutch. I hadn't a clue as to what Hendrik was saying, but the dog knew, for he was obeying commands that were voiced in Dutch. Which suggests to me that a dog doesn't go by language when he listens to his master, but by the sound of his voice.

But here's an even better story. Neighbours of ours, the Alyre Gallants, have a dog that is bilingual. He must have heard of Quebec people and their desire to have all Canadian bilingual.

Again my story is only half true, but Alyre and his wife, "Sine", talk to their dog in both English and French — both languages are spoken in their home regularly — and the dog responds equally well to both. Again it would seem as though your dog responds to sounds, rather than words.

Next week I want to tell you about the most unusual livestock breeding story I've ever heard. It's most unusual. It will interest livestock men, and I think the average reader should like it too.

SUSPECT ARSON

LIVERPOOL, England (Reuters) — Police said Monday a fire that badly damaged part of a synagogue here Sunday night was a clear case of arson. About 30 firemen worked for an hour to control the blaze in the Greenbank Drive Synagogue, regarded as one of the most beautiful synagogues in Britain. A police spokesman said the synagogue had been broken into, desks ransacked and their contents strewn about.

Ottawa Lawyer Puts Interest In Bills From Private Members

OTTAWA BUREAU OF THE GUARDIAN

OTTAWA — Federal legislation is usually regarded as serious stuff—the austere product of justice department legal brains. But there is at least one civil servant who is doing his best to offset this impression.

R. J. Batt, a tall, balding lawyer, is assistant to Commons' law clerk Dr. Maurice Ollivier, and one of his main jobs is to draft bills which are sponsored by backbench MPs. Most of these never become law and are "talked out" in the few hours allotted each week for their debate. Occasionally, the government will adopt a bill and translate its principle into legislation.

The third session of the current parliament is only a few days old, but already there are 33 such bills on the order paper. Many are hopeful hold-overs from the last session and some are repeats of bills introduced every session for the past several years.

Mr. Batt's job is to write the bills in acceptable form, often

with scant information supplied by the sponsoring MP. But he manages to add interest to some bills with unusual sub-titles or racy explanatory notes.

One MP is sponsoring two amendments to the Criminal Code and Mr. Batt has sub-titled one "The Judas Tree Amendment" and the other "A Purge for the King's Evil". In neither case is there much visible connection between the purpose of the bills and their eye-catching titles.

His explanatory note for the Judas Tree Bill, which deals with conflict of interest in business agreements, reads: "For the January of Mammon who has everything; for the con-man confessor of the Bay Street boardroom; for the investment double-I dealer in cosa nostrums, securities, salves qui-put, and pink pep pills for the anaemic income lils of widow and pensioner, this bill provides a Judas Tree."

Mr. Batt shines when the bills are like the two favoring hockey and lacrosse as Canada's national game. His notes suggest

the lacrosse bill is designed to rectify an oversight by the Fathers of Confederation, who were so preoccupied with drafting sections 91 and 92 of the BNA Act, that the question of declaring a national game escaped their attention. Hockey buffs are reassured that "Hockey, with its dash, crash and smash, truly represents the very tempo of Canadian youth."

It is unfair to suggest that Mr.

Batt performs all his duties with such a tongue-in-cheek style. He produces many such learned bills as, "An Act to provide for control of the use of collateral bills and notes in consumer credit transactions", without a hint of levity. But there is little doubt par-

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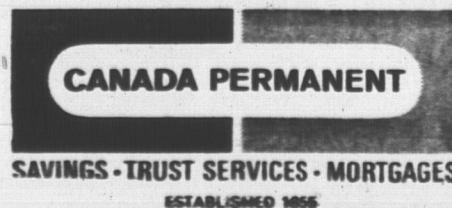
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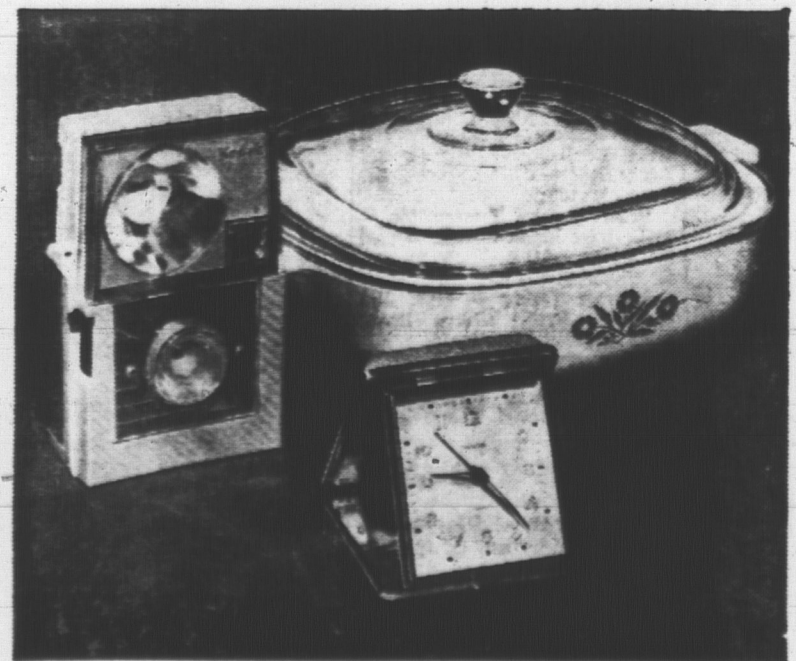


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