# Work Of Ass'n Boosting P.E.I. Cattlemen's Income

On Saturday the province will be visited by the secretary of national Farm Radio Forum, Rodger Schwass and by Larry Gosnell of the farm broadcast department of the CBC. Both gentlemen have a marked interest in Farm Forum and will attend a gathering Saturday evening at Montgomery Hall with a view to obtaining the ideas of representative people on Farm Forum.

During the past few years Farm Forum has been changing from a movement made up almost exclusively of groups meeting solely as adult educat i on groups and apsefitically known as forums to one in which groups meet which are joined together by other interests such as 4-H club work, women's institute, the rural church, dairy industry, co-operative m o v e ment, etc. An innovation in the program has been the system of giving groups the opportunity of posing questions to those taking part in the next week's national program. It is in the light of these developments that Farm Forum will likely be judged rather than on the basis of t h e simon pure Farm Forum meeting regularly for listening, discussion and reporting.

**PLOWING CHAMPION**

The writer was one of a very small number of Islanders who were present when Stanley Willis of Cornwall won the Canadian plowing championship o n Oct. 9.

Even to those who are not experts in the judging of plowing it was quite evident that the Island plowman had done a very outstanding job and the feeling was that if the judges were at all smart the Island would have the champion. Mr. W i l l i s's team mate Mr. Mills also did very fine work and shows promise of developing into a champion.

To be a champion plowman requires a variety of knowledge and skills. First of all a knowledge of the soil is required, of what can be done with it and what the affect of various adjustments in equipment will be. Next the contestant must have a very thorough mechanical understanding of his equipment and know what adjustments are necessary to produce the desired results. In addition, an exact knowledge is required of the rules and regulations and of what good plowing should be. Finally the plowman must have many of the qualities of the good athlete, steadiness, coolness, judgment, patience, and really good nerves. When all these qualities and capabilities are combined a champion is produced and there is no doubt that when Mr. Willis represents Canada in Austria next year that the country can expect performance of a very high order.

The champion brought honor to himself, honor to the province, and gave everyone who appreciates a fine performance something to be proud of.

With good prospects of t h e Canadian championship match coming to this province in 1964 we will have the opportunity of seeing what is one of the more interesting spectacles staged by Canadian agriculture.

**BEEF PRODUCERS**

A recent meeting of the directors of the Beef Producer's Association devoted some time to discussing what the apparent results were of the organization's efforts since it was established some 16 months ago. First of all there was agreement that all c a t t l emen had benefited through the organization's efforts to the extent of possibly one cent per pound on all cattle sold. This feeling is based on evidence that the margin between prices here and in Montreal have narrowed to the extent that fewer cattle are being shipped to the more distant markets.

Next it was felt that a foundation had been laid for satisfactory working relationship with the department of agriculture for future developments in the industry. Finally the meeting devoted attention to a consideration of matters related to the proposed stockyards and auction selling of cattle. It is felt that this development if brought to a successful conclusion can be one of the most important ever planned by the cattle people of the province.

**DAIRY PROMOTION**

For the last quarter of 1963 the Dairy Foods Service Bureau is carrying out a three pillared advertising and promotion campaign. As a means of directing the attention of both rural and urban people to dairy products the Don Messer show is being sponsored twice a week for the next 13 weeks. Each show will include a number of suitable commercials related to dairy products.

During the three months over a thousand billboard posters will feature milk, butter, and i c e cream in population centres of over 50,000 people. Advertising in Weekend Magazine and Chatelaine will round out the effort to keep the goodness of d a i r y products before the consuming public.

**WEATHER REFLECTIONS**

Even the hardest to p l e a s e could find little to c o m plain about so far as October's weather behavior is concerned. In fact it has generally been so good that we might expect to h a v e

## ACROSS THE ISLAND

# Linen Made On Island Had Quality, Quantity

BY NEIL A. MATHESON
Provincial-Farm Editor

**THE POSSIBILITY** that the flax industry will be developed here, as suggested in a story I wrote for Wednesday's Guardian, stirs up some interesting possibilities. I'm withholding further comment on the economic possibilities it involves, until the development gets underway, if it does. But the suggested revival of the flax industry sends my mind flashing back into other years when some skilful work was done with linen manufacture right here in our midst.

After talking to Metis Visser of Holland and Zeger Salome Bedeque about modern methods of handling the flax—I'm talking now about the "breaker" that breaks the "shives"—the outer back or shell of the stem, and the "scutcher" that separates the shives from the fibre or linen threads, I understand how the work is don by machines.

But back in the olden days, that work was done by hand and it was done in quantity large enough to weave large amounts, apparently, of the linen cloth. And I wonder just how people of these days managed to do all that tedious work and do enough of it to produce linen in the large volumes they apparently achieved.

**STAFFORD GORDON**, Montague, for example, could tell you how the first Gordons at Brudenell cut down a giant pine that was dug out and fashioned into a great canoe that was propelled by the wind beating against huge sails of linen, manufactured on their own property from flax grown on their farm.

That proves that the linen was produced in quantity. Here is evidence that it was manufactured in a top quality bracket:

James Thompson, Tryon in 1840 presented an eight-yard tablecloth to Government House here, to be used on the long table that was needed to seat the members of the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly; and the entire operation from the sowing of the seed to the finished product of the fine linen was done on the Thompson farm, the story reports.

**VERE BECK**, Guardian news editor, recalls hearing his father talk of using linen bags for wheat. That must have been before jute became available. Other older folk talked of linen in ticks or mattresses that were filled with straw, or chaff. Apparently this would be an inferior or coarser quality of linen. But the linen yarn was spun and the cloth woven in many homes across the country, I gather.

I don't know how long it has been since the growing of flax in quantity was discontinued, but Dane Crosby tells me his mother this week on a drive to Summerside—she lives in Saint John—recalled that she used to see fields of flax growing in this province in the days before the First Great War which would be prior to 1914. I imagine it was grown for the use of the seed then, not for linen manufacture. Flax was grown as a cover crop in more recent years but there was no attempt to use the fibres.

If any readers can tell me something about linen production here in the past I would appreciate hearing from them.

## Oyster Hatchery Is Promising

I HAD a most interesting chat a few days ago with Roy Drinnan, officer in charge of the Fisheries Research Board laboratory at Bideford, about the commercial possibilities of the large-scale production of oyster larvae the new hatchery facilities will make possible. Larvae production will be so tremendously large it is almost beyond comprehension. Mr. Drinnan talks, for example, of hatching up to 40 million in a season. He can hatch five to 10 million at one time.

The hope is, and I gather that Mr. Drinnan is enthusiastic about the possibility, that a large percentage of these myriads of larvae can be raised to seed oyster size, and from there they will grow to market size. The hope is entertained because conditions can pretty well be controlled in the hatchery during the early part of the life cycle.

BUT THE research scientist emphasizes that nobody knows, for the mortality in the natural state runs to 90 percent or more, and nobody has ever learned what causes the mortality. However the experiment should prove most interesting, the hope is that it will also be highly successful.

If the laboratory experiment proves successful, the next step will be to adapt it to commercial production—a pilot commercial hatchery is considered.

## Great Improvement Seen Probable

IF LARVAE mortality can be controlled, vast improvements seem probable. The spat will be "settled" perhaps two months earlier in the year—the normal time is August—and Mr. Dinnan talks of developing strains of oysters that will reproduce more rapidly, that will mature faster and will be more disease resistant.

Much will be known about the mortality problem by late next summer, I should imagine. This is one project I am going to follow as closely as possible. If it succeeds the experiment should mean a great deal to the lucrative oyster industry. Demand now is so far ahead of supply that there is no comparison.

Much has been done on larvae food, finely ground Chinese cabbage has been used, but spinach or even Broccoli might be good. There is much to be learned, Mr. Drinnan emphasizes.

## Two Organists Have Played 125 Yrs.

THIS MAY not be a record, but is must be most unusual. Rev. David MacDonald told me at Tignish United Church, Sunday that he has two organists in his congregation who have played a total of 125 years. Annie Leard, Hills River who started playing in the Alberton Methodist church in 1903, played for two special numbers Sunday at Tignish. The other lady, Mrs. Artemas Cameron, Cascumpec has been playing for the service of worship since 1898. What a wonderful record of faithful service these ladies have given to their churches and communities.

## Stories Gathered In West Prince

I WORKED for three and one-half days in Prince County last week gathering old stories of many kinds for this column. Most of them were intensely interesting and I shall be using them from time to time. But the most intriguing, perhaps, was the one I found at Kildare, just outside of Alberton where Carl Getson discovered an enclosure which is boxed in with field stones, and has no idea, apparently what is down there.

Mr. Getson was digging a post hole in one corner of his roadside field, when he came on the fieldstones. But he quickly filled in the hole and dug nearby for his posthole. There were so many ghost stories told at the time, he told me, that he had no desire to excavate and find what is buried there.

I was directed to Mr. Getson's place by a story that there is an old coffin buried there, and the Lady's Slipper Drive, which goes past his farm, will cover the coffin when the road is widened. There might be an old coffin buried there, though I doubt it. What is intriguing to me is the fact that something evidently is there so close to the highway, and so close to the surface, and nobody has excavated to find just what it is.

BEFORE I end this column I want to express my deep appreciation to the scores of people who stopped in a busy season—the weather was perfect—to talk with me, answer my questions and in many cases to come with me, and travel many miles in some cases, so I could see at first hand some of the more interesting things about which they were telling me. I am particularly happy over the number and variety of ghost stories I picked up, and some of them are real howlers.

And that reminds me that I failed to thank the many people across the Island who have sent me, and keep on sending me tips for column stories, when I thanked Chief Justice Thane A. Campbell and his local committee for nominating this column for an award last June. Now that the international award has been made, I want to say that it is only by the kind co-operation of all of you—I have talked to hundreds of people, perhaps thousands—that the stories appearing in this column each week have been made possible.

## WELLINGTON

A pretty wedding of wide interest took place at the Rohallah Church in Toronto recently when Miss Orpa Ryder, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Ryder, Wellington Center, was united in holy bonds of matrimony with Floriah Stoenica. The couple spent their honeymoon on the Island. While here they were honored at a surprise party at the home of the bride's parents. Among guests present were: Mr. and Mrs. Alden Ryder, Mr. and Mrs. Sterling Ryder, Mrs. Lena Black, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Gamble, St. Nicholas; Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Ryder, Charlottetown; Mrs. Bill McLeod, Mrs. Violet and Miss Joan Ann Whittington and Mr. Joseph Waddell of Toronto. The couple received many l o v a l y gifts. A dainty lunch was served by Miss Ruby Ryder assisted by Mrs. Violet and Miss Joan Ann Whittington. The couple are residing in Toronto where both are employed.

Leonard Arsenault has been ill with virus pneumonia at his home.

Mr. and Mrs. John S. Barlow recently enjoyed a motor trip in Nova Scotia.

Lowell Barlow and his mother, Mrs. Howard Barlow, motored to Nova Scotia over the weekend. They were accompanied here by Mrs. Langille, sister of Mrs. Barlow who will visit here for some time.

Miss Frances Barlow left by plane Monday for Toronto after vacationing with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ira Barlow and other members of her family.

Miss Elaine MacLeod had the misfortune to break her arm in a fall at her home recently.

Elmer MacCausland, Charlottetown, spent the weekend with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Roy MacCausland.

Mr. and Mrs. Gerald MacArthur, Tyne Valley, were recent visitors of Misses Alice and Laurenda Gallant.

Mrs. Alec Gallant had her son Ernest home from Montreal for several days.

Miss Geraldine Arsenault, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Arsenault, recently underwent surgery in Prince County Hospital. Her sister, Mrs. Peter Arsenault, was also a patient in hospital recently. Both have returned to their respective homes.

Samuel MacC a u s l a n d, is spending some time at the home of his niece, Mrs. Eva Day.

Mr. and Mrs. Urban Campbell and son Allan of Southwest, recently visited Mr. and M r s. Fred Johnson, Moncton, N.B.

Mrs. Bessie MacKinnon and daughter Mrs. Peter Kooyman and granddaughter Nadine, all of Galt, Ont., visited relatives and friends in the district.

Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Gamble, Ottawa, spent holidays with Mr. and Mrs. Linus Gamble.

Mr. and Mrs. Don De Christopher and children of Boston, Mass., recently spent their vacation with Mr. and Mrs. Archie Arsenault and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Gaudet had as recent guests, Mr. a n d Mrs. Wallace Wile and son of Dertmouth, N.S. Mrs. Wile is the former Dolly Gaudet.

Miss Velma Arsenault has resumed her studies at college in Moncton, N.B.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Harkness and three daughters left recently for Newfoundland where M r. Harkness is transferred.

Guests of Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Ryder recently were Mr. a n d Mrs. Ezra Allen and Mr. and Mrs. Bill MacLeod.

Recent v i s i t o r s of Mr. and Mrs. Earle Enman were Mr. and Mrs. George F. Pye, Mrs. Jones and daughter of New Brunswick, Don Jones and Miss C l a r e Pye of Moncton. Mrs. R a l p h Campbell, Franklin, Mass.

Miss Carol Ferguson is attending school in Charlottetown this term. She is residing at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Sellick.

Miss Ruby Ryder recently visited Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Ryder, Charlottetown.

Stuart Bernard, Hunter River recently visited Mr. and M r s. Verno Gallant.

The following visitors spent a few days at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Theo. Gallant and Mr. and Mrs. Alphonse Gallant: Rev. Sister Edibert from L'Assomption Montreal; Rev. Sister Simon du Carmel, Valleyfield, Que.; Rev. Sister St. Theodore and Miss Madeline Gallant, Charlottetown.

Mr. and Mrs. Norbert Gallant, Mrs. Armand Gallant, Saint John, N.B., recently visited Mr. and Mrs. Arcade Arsenault, St. Chrysostome.

John Arsenault, Yvan Arsenault, Nitro, Que.; Gus LeClair, Nitro, Que.; Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Doherty, Somerville, Mass., were visitors in St. Chrysostem district recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Andre Arsenault, Calais, Me.; Mr. and Mrs. Gerard Arsenault, Miss Juliette Arsenault, Montreal; Misses Stella and Ella Arsenault, St. Stephen, N.B., were all guests of Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Arsenault and some form of retribution before the fall ends. It just seems to good to last. For farmers concerned with the harvesting o f crops and potatoes in particular the season has been a marked contrast to that of a year ago when every operation t o o k about three times as long as should have been the case. It is not easy to estimate the percentage of the potato crop still in the ground, but certainly t h e last two weeks must have made heavy inroads. Some harvest still remains and a portion of t h e newer processing crops together with the old fashioned turnip as well. Under ordinary conditions a month remains to f i n i s h plowing and for the laying of a foundation for next year's operation.

attended the wedding reception of their brother Zenon. The bride was Zelma Richard and the wedding took place in Our Lady of Mont Carmel Church, Mont Carmel.

Mr. and Mrs. Abel Gallant, Chelsea, Mass.; Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Gallant, Maryland, have returned home after visiting Mr. and Mrs. Fidele Arsenault and relatives in St. Gilbert.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Gallant, Boston, Mass.; Mr. and Mrs. Zoel Gallant, Toronto; Mr. and Mrs. Omer Baivin, N.Y., visited Mr. and Mrs. Agno Maddix also Mrs. Adeline Arsenault.

Mr. and Mrs. Philibert Gallant, spent a weekend visiting daughter Netty, Moncton, N.B., where she is employed. T h e y also visited Mr. and Mrs. Gus Arsenault.

Mrs. Frank Gallant returned home after a visit in Baie Comeau, Que.

Visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph D. Arsenault includes Mr. and Mrs. Jean Guy Riberdi, La Turque, Que.; Mr. and Mrs. Felicien Arsenault, Montreal.

Miss Julie Anne Gallant, Ottawa, recently visited her mother, Mrs. N.O. Gallant, also Mr. and Mrs. Frank Gallant.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Richard, Hamilton, visited parents in Urbanville recently.

Brother Andre C. Arsenault, CSC and Sister Marie Harlene de la Croix, CSC, Montreal; Sister Madeline Sophie, CND, Rustico, visited Mr. and M r s. Frank F. Arsenault, Urbanville.

Mrs. Madline Gallant recently celebrated her 99th birthday at the home of her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Faustic Richard with whom she has resided for some years.

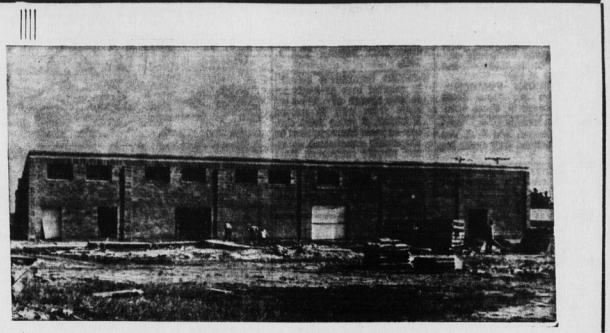
Allan Graham has started his teaching duties at Sherwood.

Mrs. Frank Roper and daughter, Hazel, of Lowell, Mass., recently visited her nephew, Mr. Earl Enman, Mrs. Enman and family.

Miss Stella Gallant has returned home from Toronto, Ont., where she visited her brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and M r s. Francis Arsenault.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Barlow and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Thibideau of Summerside, v i s i t ed with Mr. and Mrs. Fidele C. Gallant recently.

Miss Mary Ann Arsena u l t, Moncton, N.B., spent her vacation with Mr. and Mrs. Sylvere N. Arsenault.

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We are pleased to take this opportunity to extend our sincere best wishes to Langley Fruit Packers Ltd. on the opening of their new food processing plant in Montague area.
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