



MORELL REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

## Lowly spud holds spotlight, crop down but value rises

The potato industry held an agricultural news spotlight through a large part of 1964, due largely to a demand for a plebiscite that would allow all provincial growers to say whether they favored an all producer potato marketing board and a central selling agency that would exercise marketing control over the industry.

But the year had other highlights. One of the really bright spots for Prince Edward Island potatoes was the favorable advertising that resulted when Sylvia MacAulay, Campbell's Cove, won the reserve world championship in seed potatoes at the Royal Winter Fair, Toronto. The 4-H Club member won with a sample of Katahdins and became the third member of her family to win world honors in seed potatoes.

The marketing demand came from one of the largest meetings of agricultural producers ever held here, and it had solid backing from the producers, with probably less than one dozen who failed to support the demand on a standing vote, though one or two farmers openly voiced their disagreement.

The meeting was sponsored by the P.E.I. Federation of Agriculture and a federation committee was named later to carry the request to the minister of agriculture, Hon. Andrew MacRae.

The result, after several meetings and consultations, was that Mr. MacRae announced the government would not go along with the idea before federation, or potato spokesmen answered a few specific questions.

Details were requested regarding the ideas as to how the agency would operate and perhaps the most pointed question concerned the financing of the operation. "Who would supply the financial backing?", the minister asked bluntly.

**NOT TOO LATE**  
The reaction from the federation spokesman was that it was

not too late in the year to organize a central marketing agency for the current year's crop—1964—and action was postponed for the time.  
An apparent attempt to renew the central marketing demand, or at least to examine it further, resulted in another meeting called at Summerside in mid-November. This time, though, there was no concentrated demand for the type of thing the late-March meeting had requested; indeed it was impossible for an unbiased observer to determine just what the meeting did want, and that has been the last heard thus far on the always controversial subject of potato marketing.

Several federation executive members suggested that the potato producers lost interest in marketing problems because the price prospects for the 1964 crop were good. And the early marketing indications were borne out as the price rose until it had exceeded \$3.00 per bag in late January delivered at Charlottetown.

The estimated production of potatoes in 1964 of 7,892,000 hundredweights compares with the

**Improved service provided**

An improved mail service between Georgetown and Charlottetown was inaugurated in March of 1964 with the incoming evening mail arriving in Georgetown at 4.10 p.m. and the outgoing mail leaving immediately afterwards.

The new service which is carried by motor transport under contract to the Postal Department results in the evening mail arriving here about 50 minutes earlier than under the former system.

production of 8,300,000 hundredweight reported by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics for the 1963 crop. In the more familiar terms of bushels the figures work out to roughly 13,135,000 bushels in 1964 and 13,800,000 the previous year.  
But the indications at the present time are that the value of the marketable portion of the crop will be much greater this year with the much higher prices available.

For a number of years the only out-going mail service has been restricted to each evening. This had proven very unsatisfactory and resulted in many complaints from business officials and citizens. Twice a day service was then instituted, along with the earlier and improved evening service, the Canadian National Railways mail and express truck has since Feb. 1964, as well as bringing the in-coming mail also taken the out-going mail.

The new evening service facilitated out-going evening mail making contact with the night plane leaving Charlottetown for mainland points.

Also in 1964 an improvement and extension of the rural route from Georgetown, which served Georgetown Royalty was instituted with the route being extended to include those householders living in the Burnt Point area.

The year 1964 saw the placing in the local Post Office of a new safe, which replaced the old and cumbersome safe that had done service there for more years than anyone cared to remember. The old safe weighed approximately five tons, in contrast to the 1,800 pound weight of the new safe.

The transfer of safes was carried out by Murphy's Towing Service of Charlottetown, who used their tow truck to lift and transport the safes.

The Washington Monument, in the U.S. federal capital, is 555 feet high.

Prices were disastrously low in the first part of the 1963-crop marketing year, and it was this dissatisfaction, it has been suggested, that led to the mass meeting of farmers last March and the almost unanimous demand for a producer controlled selling agency. Prices rose sharply near the end of the 1963 crop marketing year, but most of the spuds had been sold by that time so that comparatively few growers benefited.

## Fire hall proving its value

During 1964 a new fire hall was built in Georgetown on a location east of the town hall and facing on Grafton Street. Previous to the start of construction on the hall a large concrete reservoir was constructed to provide a large quantity of available water for fire fighting purposes. It was over this reservoir that the new fire hall was built.

The contractors were M. F. Schurman Co. Ltd. Its erection was made necessary to provide more space for the storage of the tank truck and other fire fighting equipment.

Built under the winter works program the hall is supported by creosoted piling which was driven around the outside of the reservoir. The hall mounted on the piling is of wood frame construction and measures 35 feet by 30 feet.

Externally the walls and roof are covered with aluminum sheet metal, and the building is provided with four windows and two large sliding overhead doors with an additional walk-in door. It is spacious enough to house

## Telephone subscriber boost tops in Canada

The year 1964 was another of growth and expansion for the Island Telephone Company, Limited. The number of telephones served increased by 1,833, from a total 23,319 to 25,202. This is one of the fastest rates of telephone growth in Canada and illustrates the increasing demand for telephone communications on Prince Edward Island.

There are a total of 28 exchanges on the Island. Four of these, Charlottetown, Summerside, Kensington and Montague are dial operated. They serve 17,170 telephones, 68.2 per cent of the total.

A new exchange was established in 1964 to serve Georgetown and its surrounding area. This fast developing centre was served from Cardigan, but, in view of the industrial expansion planned, it was considered necessary to locate an exchange in Georgetown to provide the service needed to meet the industrial growth.

both the fire engine and the tank truck.

The section of floor over the reservoir measures 25 feet by 15 feet and the reservoir is 10 feet in depth. The hall was electrically wired and insulated. A well was bored within the building and close to the reservoir from which water is obtained by use of an electric pump to maintain a full reservoir.

Heating is provided by the installation of an oil space heater. Considerable grading was carried out in the immediate area and the hall in its shining aluminum finish and new and modern equipment presents a very good appearance and has already proved its worth during several fires since its completion.

For the Royal Visit to the Island the company was involved in the "one-time" project of providing microwave systems, pay stations, exchange lines, sound juags and telephone lines for press, radio and television coverage of the event.

Ten microwave networks were set up, four of these had to be removed from Summerside immediately after the broadcast from there and set up again in Charlottetown for other broadcasts.

The press had 22 pay stations at their disposal, there were 69 exchange lines for the press radio and TV, and 17 teletype lines for the press. All these systems required the laying of many thousands of feet of exchange and coaxial cable.

During 1964 the company's plant was extended considerably. Over 170 miles of buried cable was installed, providing expanded rural facilities by a method which renders the service almost immune to weather hazards. Almost 100 miles of aerial cable were added in the urban areas.

Proof of the growing demand of the Island for phone communications is plainly seen in the record increase. Long Distance calling. Over 1,434,000 messages were completed, increase of 11.4 per cent over 1963.

The company is forecasting 1965 to be another year of strong growth, particularly in the rural areas of the province. For the last number of years the growth trend in these areas has been increasing and it is expected that 1965, and succeeding years will see this trend continue.

Similarly, the growth of Long Distance demand is expected to continue into the future. This

condition is to be expected of an Island province, particularly in view of increasing industrial activity. To meet this demand, an extension of toll operating facilities, including four new switchboard positions, is planned for Charlottetown in 1965. Extensions of facilities are planned for almost every area of Prince Edward Island in 1965. Total capital expenditure will approximate \$1,300,000 for the year.

### SCROLLS IN U.S.

The Dead Sea Scrolls, discovered first in 1947 in Jordan, are on display in the U.S. in 1965.

## Big year for co-op

Tignish Co-operative Association Ltd. reports a boost in operation with a total increase of \$5,807 in volume over the previous year. Total assets for the year were \$205,467.32 total gross profit was \$152,786.28.

A feed mill was put into operation during the past year. The Myrick and Macintosh store on Main Street was purchased by the co-operative association during the past year, and during the winter months education study programs for the members will be made available.

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**TARGET FOR CARS**  
WINNIPEG, CP—The Manitoba government has decided to relocate litter cans on the highway because of the damage done to them by passing motorists. Public works officials report that since their installation several months ago the cans have needed repairs twice a week.



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- Edmundston
- Fredericton
- Dartmouth
- Summerside
- Moncton
- Charlottetown
- Halifax

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