FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE NEWSLETTER

Feed Grain Legislation Is Of 'Major Importance'

A week ago Thursday evening the special feed grains committee representing the Federations of Agriculture and other farm organizations of the five Eastern provinces met with the Hon. Mr. Hamilton, Federal Minister of Agriculture to discuss matters related to the handling of Western feed grain for Eastern feeders.

While Mr. Hamilton was unable to reveal the nature of the legislation which he proposes to introduce in parliament, he did assure the committee that the Legislation would be in his opinion of major importance in helping to place the farm economy of the Maritimes and Eastern Quebec in particular all of Eastern Canada generally on a better basis.

The Eastern provinces have attached great importance to the freight assistance policy on Western grain and have been concerned that changes might be introduced which would impair their position. In any event there appeares to be legislation in the offing during 1963 will mean a new and different approach to the movement, storage, and handling of Western grain for Eastern feeders.

FEDERATION MEETINGS

Looking back over 1962 we recollect that among the meetings which were arranged during the year by the Federation of Agriculture was the one held in Montgomery Hall in March with attendance of approximately two hundred. This meeting was important for from it came the move to organize beef and frozen food producers. For the statistical record we are setting down a list of the more important meetings, their location, and the month held.

March - Montgomery Hall marketing meeting, attendance two hundred.

April - Charlottetown Hotel Beef-Producers meeting, attendance one hundred and twenty-five. Potato Producers meeting at O'Leary, attendance five hundred.

July - Tobacco Growers meeting Kingsway Motel, attendance twenty-five.

August - Beef Producers meeting Prince of Wales College, attendance one hundred and fifty.

December - frozen food meeting Charlottetown Hotel, attendance one hundred.

These six meetings produced a total attendance well in excess of a thousand persons, a fact which indicates that meetings that deal with matters of pressing concern will bring out attendance. In addition, to these meetings the Federation also held a large number of directors, executive, county, and committee meetings, these were the meetings that planned the larger meetings and initiated movement towards change.

IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT

During the year the Federation of Agriculture has assisted the Beef Producers, Frozen Food Producers, and the tobacco growers in organizing for a better approach in dealing with their own particular problems. The number of meetings involved has increased the work of the Federation office, but has certainly given the officers the feeling of a year of accomplishment.

More and more it becomes evident that the Federation has an important part to play in providing assistance for other groups in dealing with their particular interests.

RESOLUTIONS

During the past eighteen months the Federation of Agriculture has initiated resolutions on the following matters which appear to have produced favourable reactions.

(1) Removal of 6 cent tax on farm gas.

(2) Removal of hospital insurance premiums.

(3) Provision of additional processing plants.

(4) Improved parking in the city.

(5) Waiting room at Borden open twenty-four hours.

(6) Special assistance on movement of feed grain.

(7) Consumer subsidy on butter.

A HARD YEAR

At this season of the year it is probably more fitting to be considering our blessings and admitteds they are great and many. However, in this concluding newsletter of the year realism suggests that we take a look back over agriculture conditions.

In the beginnning of the year the Western part of the province due to drought in two previous years, poor potato crop, poor prices, and shortage of fodder was in a difficult position. Generally the first part of the year was an unsatisfactory one for potato growers throughout the province. During the winter months dissatisfaction developed not so much with the prices offered for cattle, but with lack of demand for them. Generally livestock, dairy, and poultry prices have been satisfactory though the year. This fall's potato crop is quite a satisfactory one although prices up to the present time have not been rewarding.

The year distinguished itself for the unusual quality of the weather through the growing and harvesting season. When it should have been hot it was warm, and when it should have been warm it was cold. When it should have been bright it was dark. For five months beginning with the first of July the weather never really managed to clear up and the longest spell of good weather came during the last of November and the first of December. From the standpoint of grain no greater difficulty was ever experienced with the harvest and a substantial acreage both uncut and in stook will spend the winter in the fields.

To compensate, the pasture has been excellent throughout the season and quality has been built into the grass sod. Next year should be the year. Finally cattlemen are now putting up with (or perhaps we should say their cattle) the poorest quality hay that was ever harvested from one of the best crops. Certainly it was not an easy year, but we have the impression that conditions are improving and that prospects for 1963 are somewhat more encouraging.

ACROSS THE ISLAND

Long Sermons In Other Years

By NEIL A. MATHESON
Provincial - Farm Editor

I HAVE seen a number of interesting "Grandfather Clocks" in various parts of the province. One of the most interesting stands in the home of William Johnston, Kensington who farmed successfully for many years in Long River.

It was brought to this country by his great grandfather more than 125 years ago, but some people have estimated that it must be at least 300 years old.

The attractive clock stands some seven feet high, keeps time so accurately that there is not a minute's variation in a month Mr. Johnstone told me. It has a sweep second hand and even tells the day of the month. Only the striking machanism is a casualty. It also had the phases of the moon, but they were removed some years ago while the clock was in a jeweler's shop for repairs.

ANOTHER INTERESTING clock with Island background is the one owned now in Calgary by David Johnstone. It was buried once in an old saw pit at Long River and covered with clay and saw dust, as a fire that started in Norboro swept through to the shore at Park Corner. The clock is still keeping time. The Johnstones told me.

I saw another interesting old Grandfather Clock in Alex McFarlane's home in Annandale recently. Like the others, it's much more than 100 years old, although Mr. McFarlane couldn't estimate just how old it is.

Unusual Things Heard In Church

I'VE HEARD some interesting tales of unusual happenings at religious services in other years. William Johnstone recalled two for me recently.

In Clifton a church goer was in the habit of talking out loud at times as he agreed, or sometimes disagreed with the minister. On one occasion the minister was telling the story of the rich young man who said he would pull down his barns and build greater to store his bountiful crop, when the voice from the pews blurted out:

"The darn fool, why didn't he do like my son, John, did last year. He cut his barn down the middle, pushed one end out and built the addition in the centre." And that made sound common sense, although it was offered in an unusual place.

ON ANOTHER occasion a clergyman was referring somewhat uncertainly, apparently, to a man who had shot a bear in previous years, when a voice from the pews interjected emphatically:

"Don't you know that it was William Johnstone who shot that bear?" The reference was to another Johnstone, not to the man who told me the story.

Mussel Mud Value Extolled

CHARLIE MacKENZIE, a former Grandville man who lived for some years in retirement at Winsloe, but now resides in Charlottetown, told me one about a prominent farmer who made an unusual outburst in a church not too far from Granville

A tremendously hard worker, the man hauled mussel mud practically every hour of the day in winter, and often fell asleep in church. This time he blurted out in the middle of the sermon, "You can say what you like, but you can't beat mussel mud for the land".

And that reminds me that Robert Parent has had an old mussel mud digger reconstructed on a miniature scale at the agricultural museum he has developed at Birch Court. He has a few parts of the original digger, including the shovel and would like to get a picture or some pictures of a mud digger in operation, so he could add it to the museum.

Book Of Job Was Long Story

A STORY from Stafford Gordon, Montague completes this list for today. The first dwelling house of the Gordons of Brudenell was used as a meeting house for worship, and one evening an English professor was reading "The Lesson" from the book of Job. Becoming deeply absorbed in the chapters he lost track of time and forgot that he was reading to a group of worshippers.

He went on and on until finally he came to a most interesting passage and blurted out "God bless me, I never knew that was in the Bible", then glanced up as the general outburst of laughter reminded him where he was and "overwhelmed with embarrassment, beat a hasty retreat."

Service Lasted Over Five Hours

CHARLIE MacKENZIE brought me a short sketch on "The Pioneers of South Granville" which has a couple of interesting items on long sermons, written by the late Robert McKay shortly before he died at his home in Stanley Bridge on Feb. 20, 1942.

There was suitable reference to the old-fashioned "Communion season" when "Sacrament services" began on Thursday morning and ended with a service of "thanksgivig" Monday morning. There was some variation as to the number of services but the McKay account tells of three services on Thursday, three on Friday and on Saturday the Rev. Alexander Stirling would preach for over three hours in the forenoon.

"He didn't always preach long sermons", Mr. McKay explained, then recalled that the Rev. John MacLeod on a certain Communion Sabbath in Clifton, "commenced service at 11 o'clock and pronounced the benediction in a very solemn manner after four o'clock in the afternoon.

I RECALL those "Sacrament" services as they were called in our area. I recall with particular pleasure that they were an occasion for visits from family members, and more distant relatives from long distances away. The visitors would come Wednesday and stay over until Monday afternoon or longer. I've often heard Premier Walter Shaw and others talk of the fellowship in the Ceilidhs (Pronounced Kayless) and other customs of the time. I would add to the list the visits at Sacarament time.

Our people in Rose Valley travelled with horse and wagon to Valleyfield, for example. And that's one place I hope to visit next year, for I've long since wanted to re-establish the connections of my parents, even though I've delayed long in making that visit.

Thanks, Greetings To Many Folk

THAT BRINGS me to the end of this column, and the end of the year, and that reminds me that I must express most sincere thanks to the many people across the province, who have been so helpful to me in getting out this weekly column.

The traditional greeting at this time is for "a Happy and Prosperous New Year", but I know that for all too many the season is not happy, and for many others prosperity is beyond their immediate reach. My wish at this time for all of you is for all the good health and happiness that is possible under the circumstances.

I've had many wonderful visits with you in your homes and I'm looking forward to many more. I want to thank, too, the many people who have written., telephoned or dropped in to see me with suggestions and comments. The suggestions have been helpful, the comments kind. See you next year.

Vitamin Case Is Settled

NEW YORK (AP)—A $500,000 suit charging that a vitamin-deficient baby milk formula caused a child to become mentally retarded was settled Thursday for $125,000.

Brooklyn Supreme Court Justice Benjamin Brenner announced his approval of the settlement offer, made earlier this month bp American Home Products Corporation.

The baby formula involved was known as Liquid S-M-A which was produced and distributed by Wyeth Laboratories, a subsidiary of American Home Products.

The formula was withdrawn from the market in 1953 after the U.S. Food and Drug Administration reported that it was deficient in vitamin B-6.

A Brooklyn couple, Frank and Mildred Cervo, brought the suit, claiming their daughter Jo-Ann, now 10, became mentally retarded after being fed the milk formula.

Takeover Deal Hits New Snag

TORONTO (CP) — Another snag has hit the Gunnar Mining Ltd. - McNamara Corporation Ltd. takeover deal.

Charles LaBine, dissident member of the Gunnar LaBine family opposed to the plan to acquire the heavy construction firm, has filed a writ seeking an injunction to prevent Gunnar shareholders' meeting here Jan. 9.

It is the second move that Charles, an uncle of Gunnar President Joseph LaBine and a vice-president and director of the company, has made to stop the proposed plan.

Shortly after Gunnar announced last month it planned to acquire McNamara, Charles joined forces with the Teck-Hughes Gold Mining Group and offered $11 a share for 1,500,000 shares of Gunnar.

He is soliciting shares to vote against the acquisition of McNamara at the Jan. 9 meeting called to consider the plan.

Fish Processing Firm Reports Record Sale

HALIFAX (CP)—Ocean Fisheries Ltd., one of Canada's largest fish processors with headquarters here, has reported an all-time high sales of $25,263,503 during 1962. This is an increase of $2,057,643 from 1961.

The company said in its annual report that a more favorable exchange rate with the United States and higher buying prices during the year improved the return on heavy investment in the U.S. market. A high percentage of the company's total business is in the United States.

Consumer acceptance of exported products increased in the United States, the report said. The high sales total was in spite of a drop of 5,000,000 pounds in the production of fish.

C. J. Morrow, president of the company, said in the annual report that the demand for seafoods was on the increase on both sides of the Atlantic.

Mr. Morrow said he was concerned with fishing vessels from many foreign countries exploiting "what we consider to be our fishing grounds." He said that since the waters were international the best the industry could do was keep abreast of modernization and other methods to get the most from the stock of fish available.

BUYING PRICES UP

Higher buying prices for fish throughout the year resulted in better trawler earnings than in 1961. The trawless did not earn normal depreciation from their own operations either during 1962 or 1961.

The company operates 24 vessels in Nova Scotia and seven from Rockland, Me. These include two new trawlers accepted during 1962 from Holland.

A change in government subsidy policy has resulted in ocean fisheries ordering three side trawlers from Lauzon, Que., yards.

A new $300,000 plant was completed at North Sydney, N.S., replacing one destroyed by fire three years ago. Operations are scheduled to begin early in 1964 at the company's Lunenburg works. These wharves and facilities are considered to be the most modern on the continent.

The report said the firm may need public financing within the next year or two. So far the firm had financed out of capital needs for company service and bank loans.

Common dividends paid during the year amounted to 37½ cents per share. The company paid 20 cents a share on common stock in the fiscal year 1961. Net profit for the year was $841,451.

Slow Year In Chemicals Predicted

OTTAWA (CP)—The Chemical Institute of Canada says that 1963 will be a slow year for the Canadian chemical industry unless there is a sharp reduction in chemical imports.

A report to be published in chemistry in Canada, monthly publication of the institute, says the industry may find the Canadian market less expansive in 1963. However, expected shifts in foreign trade suggest that chemical producers may see production gains in 1963 as great as those of 1962.

"It is in the import sector of chemicals where we must find opportunities for growth in Canada," the report says.

"In 1962, Canada imported an estimated $360,000,000 worth of chemicals, or as much as $110,000,000 more than we exported. It is confidently expected that such imports will decline to about the $310,000,000 level in 1963, thereby pushing $50,000,000 worth of chemical orders into Canadian plants.

"If this kind of import replacement does not take place, it will be a much slower year for the Canadian chemical industry unless there is a sharp reduction in chemical imports.

STRIKE FOR DAY

BUENOS AIRES (AP)—Some 270,000 Argentine transport workers organized by Peronists and Communists walked off their jobs Wednesday night in a bid to paralyze for 24 hours government-run land, air and sea transportation facilities. The protest strike was called to back a series of demands for higher wages, bonuses and pension benefits.

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children's wear Sleepers — 2-pc. flannelette, sizes 1-4, pink, blue, maize. Reg. 1.19 99c

children's wear Lined Jeans — Boxer style, olive green, sizes 2 - 6. Reg. 1.29 99c

children's wear Leotards — Sizes 3 - 6, black only. Reg. 1.98 88c

hardware Alkyd Latex Paint — Easy to apply. Washable. Full range of colours and white. Reg. 1.79 quart. Special 1.29 qt.

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housewares Plastic Laundry Hamper — Hinged cover. Reg. 7.49 4.49

housewares 4-pc. Bowl Sets — Ovenware heatproof glass. Reg 3.29 2.29

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men's wear Boys' Corduroy Pants — Sizes 6-16, olive, black, charcoal. Reg. 7.98 4.99

men's wear Boys' Flannel Shirts — Sizes 6-16, checks in green, blue, red, olive. Reg. 1.49 - 1.98 99c

men's wear Chino Pants — Tapered style, olive, black, sizes 30-36, reg. 4.98 - 5.98 3.99

men's wear Men's Sweaters — Pullovers with V or round neck, olive, blue, grey. S-M-L. Reg. 9.95 6.99

shoes Women's All-Rubber Snow Boots — Black, brown. Sizes 5-9. Reg. 5.98 4.98

shoes Pullovers — Men's lightweight rubber, black. Sizes 6-11. Reg. 4.98 3.98

BOTH STORES OPEN TONIGHT TILL 9 P.M. S'SIDE STORE OPEN SAT. TILL NOON, CH'TOWN STORE TILL 4.30 P.M.