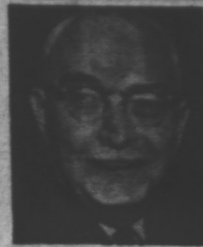


THIS AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY



**Clouds On Matheson
Horizon Clear Slowly**

By NEIL A. MATHESON
So many of you have asked me to say something about Mrs. Matheson is getting along, that I feel I must tell you.

The best thing I can tell you is that we hope to have her home later this week. That's the best news I could have; it's the best I can tell you about her.

She is making definite progress along the long and slow road to recovery from the condition where her entire left side was completely inactive. The progress has been slow. It's been painfully slow for her and for us who are her loved ones. But people who know the condition best, tell me that progress in such cases is always slow.

I know that getting home will bring a tremendous boost in her morale. The hospital is a great place to go when you are sick — and she was terribly ill at first — but I suggest, and this thought is based on talking to many people, in addition to Mrs. Matheson, that a hospital is an even better place to get away from, when home beckons after a long period of hospitalization.

I think that all I should say about her condition now. I hope I can bring you even better news from time to time, as so many have asked me to report on her progress.

I just cannot find the words to fully express our extreme gratitude to the countless people who have written, have sent flowers, have sent personal messages, directly and indirectly, and have talked to me personally, everywhere I have gone in the past four months.

I was ill myself when Mrs. Matheson was stricken in August, but I had the feeling that I was going to send acknowledgements and replies to those who had sent letters, cards and flowers when I became better. But your wonderful response — there were 500 cards and letters — completely swamped me. They are still coming. Right now, for example, there are three beautiful potted plants in her room, and the girls and the kindness that have reached her, all through her illness have completely overwhelmed us both.

I only wish that other chaps I have met at the hospital during the four months I have been going there, could be bringing their wives and loved ones home, as I expect to bring my Margaret home this week.

If I could have the magic power to make that come true for them, it would be one of the most satisfying things that could possibly happen to anyone.

Unfortunately I haven't such power, but I do want you to know that I think of you often, and of your loved ones, whom you visit each day, and night, with little hope, in some cases no hope, of having them returned to you.

I have taken on the chore of mailing Christmas cards, several hundred of them. I know I'm doing the job imperfectly — Mrs. Matheson always did it — so please forgive me if your name is among the ones I have missed. Most certainly it will not be done intentionally.

SPUD PRODUCTION
There were 15.7 million bushels of potatoes produced in the

province this year — that's an official estimate.

I was surprised to learn that approximately 2,000 acres of potatoes are being produced for the plants like the ones at New Amman, Sherwood and Montague. There are some 7,000 acres of crops like Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, cauliflower, spinach, beans, peas etc. produced for the same plants.

Speaking of potatoes reminds me that the total acreage affected by Ring Rot this year will be higher than it was a year ago though I understand the number of growers affected is less.

The term "acres affected" is greater this year because there were a number of large growers who have had Ring Rot discovered on their acreage. It may only have been a small acreage where the disease was actually found. But that turns down the entire acreage they produce. It also turns down automatically, I understand, the acreage planted by others with seed purchased from any of these men.

This disease is a fearsome thing which is being fought with a most serious intensity. That, apparently, is why such apparently drastic steps are taken to eradicate it.

Recalling the series of meetings held last spring to combat an order that would have permitted planting nothing but certified seed, or better, I would expect some battling over the same question in the early months of 1967.

COMPROMISE
A compromise was reached last year. I'm wondering what will happen this time, I said (Continued on page 19)

ic GIFTS FOR HIM

FROM HIS FAVORITE STORE
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THIS SEASON'S MOST POPULAR QUALITY COAT

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SUEDE
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This Christmas most wanted coat by men... Suede carcoat. Soft pliable imported suede with warm zip-in pile lining. This makes this popular coat ideal for three seasons. Choose from brown and antelope tan.

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Jack "Santa Claus Balcom"
Presents The True Version of ---
"Twas The Night Before Christmas"
or
"A Stranger Visits Island Mobile Homes"

*Twas the night before Christmas and while waiting for "Marie",
We sat there just chatting with a good looking girl.
She wanted a trailer, the size did not know,
We carry good stock, so attempted to show.
When out on the lot there arose such a clatter,
We jumped from the deck to see what's the matter.
We saw an old fellow all dressed up in red,
Right from his ankles to the top of his head,
He gave a HO, HO, and the Reindeer a snort,
I thought for awhile that I needed a quart.*

*The moon on the crest of the new fallen snow,
Gave a nice homey feeling to the trailers below,
While we were deciding it must be St. Nick,
He jumped out of his sleigh, into a trailer so quick,
All we could hear was a sigh of delight,
Ringing so loud through the dark crispy night.
My what a beautiful home this would be, (GENERAL)
And Look there's even a place for the tree,
And Look at the carpet from wall to wall,
And that beautiful tile stretched down the hall,
The bright colored fridge and stove to match,
And that beautiful furniture with nary a scratch.
To the bedroom he went and we heard in a snap,
The bed looks so cozy I must have a nap,
But I haven't got time He said with a Jerk,
I've got to get busy, and get back to work.*

*My how his eyes twinkled, as he strolled round the lot
And he spotted a (Glendale) just right for his Tot,
A 50 x 12 and priced way so low
A home that is insulated for ice and snow.
Old Santa looked tired from delivering Toys
So I showed him another to get away from the noise,
A new (Richardson) two bathrooms and all
A place to retire when sick of it all.*

*We then turned to our customer who shouted with glee
What I have just seen, sure satisfies me,
We thought she meant Santa, and started to giggle,
But then she stood up with a cute little wiggle,
I mean the "Homes" she said with delight,
My husband and I will be out Monday Night.*

*Then laying his finger aside of his nose,
And giving a nod, up the chimney he goes,
He sprang to his sleigh, to us all gave a whistle
And away he then went like a shock guided missile,
But we heard him exclaim as he drove out of sight,
For bargains 'GAFORE' see Jack Balcom Tonite.*

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our Old and New Friends.
WALTER GAMBLE. JACK BALCOM
ISLAND MOBILE HOMES Ltd.
GENERAL - 20th CENTURY - GLENDALE
SALES AND SERVICE
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Others
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