



GARRISON OFFICERS' BALL

The New Year received a hearty welcome at the Garrison Officers' Mess ball at the Armouries on Saturday night. A jolly group is pictured above. (W. Taylor Photo)

JUNIOR FARMERS REPORT

(Continued from page 11)

"Our first program was on June 13th and ever since every two weeks we have put on a program. The Federation puts on the first broadcast of each month and each group takes turns putting on the other programs each month.

"We organized two new groups about the time of the first broadcast. One at Summerside called East Prince Junior Farmers and another at Charlottetown called Central Queens Junior Farmers. They put on broadcasts as well as our oldest group, the St. Georges Junior Farmers, who put on the first group broadcast June 27th. The radio program was put in charge of the executive (past president, president, vice-president and secretary-treasurer).

"The Federation adopted a crest which it is hoped will be ready for the annual meeting.

YOUTH DAYS

"The Junior Farmers Federation attended the Centennial Youth Day at the Experimental Farm and took part in the parade which followed.

"Many Junior Farmers attended the Rural Youth Fair and those Junior Farmers still eligible for 4-H clubs made a fine showing for their respective clubs.

FEW PUBLIC SPEAKERS

"The Public Speaking Competition was not very successful due to the small number that entered, however, congratulations are due to George Riley and Kathleen Dekker who were the winners of the trip to the Maritime Winter Fair to compete for the public speaking championship of the Maritimes.

"In October, the Junior Farmers delegation headed by their president, Hon. Eugene Cullen, and discussed with him their needs of a fieldman and a larger grant from the Government. He mentioned

such clubs so let us really organize some tractor maintenance clubs this coming year.

"While we are on the subject of clubs, the Junior Farmers groups could certainly try and organize more potato clubs. It is a shame that here on P. E. I. where we grow so many potatoes that we can manage only one potato club. It is a disgrace and I hope that the Junior Farmers will lead the way in trying to remedy this awful situation.

PROPOSED GROUPS

"We had another group organized December 16th. The Mt. Stewart group was organized that night. However, due to the smallness of the meeting it will not get official recognition from the Federation until it has the required number of members enrolled. I would like to warn all other groups in the Province to watch out for this new group when they get going in January. They will be hard to beat as the best group on P. E. I. They have two fine young men at their head and with the leadership that those two will give Mt. Stewart is bound to succeed.

"There will also be another group organized in Cherry Valley in the near future. It is hoped that the group will be organized early in the New Year. I hope that both of these new groups will have a very prosperous 1956.

"The East Prince Junior Farmers held their annual meeting in Summerside on December 15th. They had a very successful year due partially to the splendid leadership given by their president, Urban Laughlin, who is one of the smartest young men in P. E. I. He had a good executive to work with him and their given by any group of young people and the cooperation of all the members was the other factor in the success of the East Prince Junior Farmers.

"They brought in several good resolutions and their president's report was very well prepared. It would seem that with the capable leadership of George Riley that East Prince is due for another banner year and I know that all Junior Farmers join me in wishing East Prince many more years of success.

"The St. Georges Junior Farm-

PEI SUPREMACY MAINTAINED

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some test groups which on the same feed produce carcasses too short and decidedly too fat. This is concrete evidence that if our swine producers would select their young sows from our key breeders who have high scoring stock, we could eliminate much of the loss from over-fat market hogs. Any swine grower should watch his grading slips. If he finds F after any weights he knows that the carcass in question was too fat. This should prompt him to ship leaner hogs thereafter.

It takes extra feed to put fat on any animal. Our Test Station results prove this when we find that the pig which gets too fat when half grown usually is a slow grower and as a rule takes more feed to reach market weight.

ACKNOWLEDGED SUPREMACY

It is acknowledged across North America that in this Province we have the best bacon type hogs in the world. The fact that breeders come from as far west as Alberta to take loads of breeding stock and sows to Ontario and Quebec is proof that our stock is superior to anything available in these provinces. In the face of this situation, we find an odd case where outside breeding stock is brought into the province. The greatest danger in this practice is one of disease. A few years ago, hog mange was unknown in this Province. Now we have it. Not long ago we were free from rhabdosis. Now we have evidence that this disastrous disease is raising its ugly head. In Western and Central Canada, hundreds of swine producers have been driven out of business by this disease. It is still rampant there. All this points to the danger of bringing outside swine stock into this province. It also calls for caution in buying pigs from any source.

During the past fall we have found evidence of a skin condition previously rare in this province. The skin becomes very dirty, even on the legs and ears. The treatment with Lindane for mange has no effect. Similar outbreaks have occurred in other provinces. The latest information indicates that this disease or allergy called parakeratosis, is caused by the hogs. Apparently, dry fed pigs are more susceptible and the condition often disappears when sows are milked. Pigs fed a ration which contains no animal product such as milk, fish meal, or tankage are more prone to this disease. Authorities claim that the condition is not contagious.

A close look at local cases gives some hint that new home-grown grain used before it becomes thoroughly dry may cause this skin condition. Another contributing cause has been pronounced as

the lack of zinc in the ration. The poor quality of the 1954 western grain crops and a similar condition in the 1955 Island crop may be a predisposing cause of this skin condition.

It is interesting to note that a change to slop feeding seems to bring the pigs back to a normal healthy appearance. If the trouble persists, no doubt the feeding companies will consider the addition of zinc to their hog concentrates and perhaps place emphasis on animal protein and less on plant protein. We know that some plant proteins such as that found in cottonseed meal can be very dangerous to cattle and swine if used in certain proportions. Perhaps there are some things we do not yet know about soybean meal which has been used in increased quantities in late years.

HIGH SALES RECORD

During 1955 sales of Island Yorkshire breeding stock to outside points have reached a record high. Carlot and express shipments have been made to Alberta and Saskatchewan. Sales have been made to breeders in

all parts of Ontario. An equally large number of shipments have been made to Quebec. Heavy sales have been made to N. S. and N. B. This increasing business is the result of our leadership in grade A market hogs and our commanding position in high scores of our test sows. The complete results for the year 1955 are not yet available but the figures for last October reveal the merit of our market hogs:

Grade	P. E. I.	N. S.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.
Grade A	57.6%	51.2%	45.6%	29.9%	34.6%	31.6%	30.9%
Grade B	29.8%	30.9%	28.8%	30.4%	30.4%	30.4%	30.4%

This statement is significant when we remember that Ontario ten years ago P. E. I. and Ontario were even with about 37 percent grade A. Our Island improvement from that time has resulted in tens of thousands of extra dollars in the pockets of Island farmers.

The slaughter test scores for test groups from sows completing their tests during the first nine months of 1955 are as follows:

Score	P. E. I.	N. S.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.
90 and over	10	1	0	1	1	1	2
85 - 89	9	3	3	2	1	1	1
80 - 84	10	4	6	4	1	1	1
75 - 79	9	1	2	3	1	1	1
Under 75 (failed)	4	4	27	4	1	1	1
Qualified	38	9	31	103	32	46	33
Failed	4	4	27	4	1	1	1
% Qualified	90	70	52	48	18	21	28

The significant fact here is that Prince Edward Island had 10 sows out of 42 scoring 90 or over. The next best province was Ontario with 4 sows out of 151 scoring over 90.

TEST OF BREEDING

Another glaring result of these test station figures is that at the Charlottetown Station the pigs graded about 85 per cent grade A. At the Alberta station they graded around 40 per cent grade A. These were all purebred Yorkshires and fed identical rations at both stations. The difference is breeding and nothing else.

Another factor responsible for our high percentage of grade A hogs is that we have over one hundred boars in service in this province, all from sows qualified in Advanced Registry with a score of 85 or over. In 1956, with the price of stock lower than average, such breeders should replace their low scoring sows with gilts from dams with high scoring background.

We have reached a level of quality which a few years ago would have been considered impossible to

attain. To maintain this standing, we must practice more efficient production methods. We must eliminate the under and over weight hogs. We must ship our market hogs in a leaner condition and try to have more carcasses dress close to 150 lbs. at which weight we get the highest percentage of grade A hogs. Too many hogs are held to dress close to 170 lbs. In the meantime, they put on so much fat that the carcass grades B or C.

This problem of fat hogs can be solved to some considerable degree by our commercial breeders selecting prospective brood sows from the key breeders who have high scoring stock. It can be solved to a further degree by the use of the judicial use of less fattening rations after the pig reaches 120 lbs. live weight. The importance of breeding stock can not improve our Island strain but it can bring in diseases from which we are now comparatively free. Without much effort we can maintain our present high standard of quality. With a little more effort we can make material improvement.

The picture marketwise may be dim at present but it is inevitable that the sun will shine again for those who maintain a reasonable level of production and in this way be ready to reap the benefit of higher prices, which our increasing population will assure.

N. B. House To Open Feb. 9th

FREDERICTON (CP) — The fourth session of the 42nd New Brunswick legislature will open here Feb. 9, it was learned today from a reliable source. It is the fourth session since Premier Hugh John Flemming's Progressive Conservative party came to power in 1952.

The legislature is made up of 33 Conservatives and 16 Liberals with three vacancies. The vacancies are the result of deaths of Dr. E. T. Kennedy and Walter V. Powers and the appointment of Harold S. Austin C. Taylor, leader of the 19-man Opposition, likely will be using crutches, he fell and broke an ankle Monday at his Salisbury home.

The speech from the throne will be read by Lieutenant-Governor D. L. MacLaren.

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