

**HARVESTING FLAX CROP**

This flax binder is seen working on a farm in the Augustine Cove area and is part of the operation which saw approximately 1,000 acres produced for processing last year by upwards of 100 farmers from Prince County and the Western part of Queens County.

# Canadian agriculture in transition phase

Canadian agriculture has been, and is, going through a very significant transition. It is a transition from the self-sufficient, general farm enterprise of an earlier generation to the specialized, mechanized, highly productive agriculture which has emerged with particular rapidity since the last war.

Evidence of this can be seen on all sides. The numbers of Canadian farms and farm workers have decreased substantially, reflecting the movement of people from the country to the city. The 480,000 farms recorded in the 1961 census is a quarter of a million less than in 1941. During this same period the average size of Canadian farms has increased by about 50 per cent as many smaller farms have been replaced by larger farm units. And, while the number of farms and farm workers have declined, farm output has increased by about 50 per cent since 1940.

A large amount of capital in the form of machinery, better livestock, better plant varieties and chemicals, has been invested in agriculture with a substantial gain in productivity. In the 1930's it was estimated that one farm worker produced enough food to meet the requirements of 11 people. At present, it is estimated that one farm worker produces enough food for the needs of about 32 people. This change is reflected in all branches of agriculture. For example, the number of milk cows in Canada in the 1961 census was 10 per cent less than the average of the 1930's. Yet dairy farmers are now producing around 18 billion pounds of milk compared to 13 billion pounds in 1930.

**FAMILY ENTERPRISE**  
There is a gradual transition of farming from a way of life to a family business enterprise. The days when farms supplied their own power from horses, fueled them from their own production and provided most of the inputs for both the farm and the family, are gradually disappearing. Today, the farmer has the same expenses for machinery, fuel, and his numerous other requirements as does any other business enterprise.

The pressures to earn enough to meet his operating expenses, and provide a comfortable standard of living for his family, which are present in every business, have led to the substantial increase in efficiency and productivity which have been evident in recent years, and which will likely continue. But, while this change in the structure of agriculture has been taking place, there has been very little change in the nature of Canadian agriculture, in the sense of the foods it produces.

Indeed, there has been very little change in that respect over the centuries. The basic foods are being processed into an increasing variety of forms, but the basic foods themselves are not changing. The cereals, meat animals, animal products, fruits and vegetables which form the

basis of temperate agriculture today have been improved considerably over the centuries but they are still essentially the same commodities as they were a thousand and more years ago.

The agriculture of every country is dictated by its soil, geography and climate. These factors place considerable limitations on the size of the Canadian farming enterprise. Of Canada's total land area of 2.3 billion acres, only about 175 million acres, around 7 per cent, is devoted to farming.

In this relatively small area, in relation to total land size, Canadian farmers produce the full range of temperate climate farm products. There are favored areas in which large quantities of such crops as tobacco, grain corn, soybeans and soft fruits can be produced. And there are many specialized areas where such northern crops as apples, sugar beets, potatoes and other vegetables are grown. These may be expected to expand as plant breeders develop varieties which widen the area of their adaptation and as the pressure of population increase widens the demand for them.

**HARD CORE**  
The hard core of Canada's plant production, however, has been and will continue to be, cereal grains and forages. Livestock enterprises will continue to be based on the animals and their products which can be produced from the indigenous crops of our various regions.

Climate has dictated that the agronomy of the western plains is devoted primarily to cereals and range grasslands. Equally, climate has dictated that in the coastal area of British Columbia and in Eastern Canada agriculture has been developed to a very large extent on a grass economy. This, in turn, has been based historically on dairying, which represents 40 per cent of the farm cash income in Quebec and between 20 and 30 per cent in other provinces except the prairies.

Now, accepting that the efficiency of Canadian farming will continue to improve, and that it will continue to be based on the products dictated by geography and climate, the question of what this implies for the future arises.

There will likely be a continuing efficiency in the use of land resources. While this will be reflected to some extent, in increased production of other crops, its main impact will probably be in greater production of the forage crops which are indigenous to such a wide area—particularly of eastern agriculture. Specialists in the Canada Department of Agriculture estimate that in general, and applying to the broad spectrum of conditions of soil and climate in Eastern Canada, the present annual production of forage crops is no more than half of what it could be under the best possible management.

This applies not only to the production of grasses and legumes for pasture and hay. It applies, also, to improvement in methods of preservation of for-

age to increase the total digestible nutrients. Indeed, one of the great problems of eastern agriculture is the preservation of forage.

**CORN SIGNIFICANT**

It applies, also, to silage corn, the acreage of which is extending steadily in Ontario and Quebec. The acreage of corn in Ontario, which is over a million acres in 1964 and 40 per cent of which is for silage, has doubled in the past three years. It is estimated that this can be doubled again in the areas of Ontario which are suitable to corn. Corn is also becoming a significant crop in south-western Quebec. The significance of this is that corn, while more expensive to produce than hay, will yield 5,000 lb. of total digestible nutrients per acre under optimum conditions as compared to about 4,000 lb. for hay.

As an illustration of what is possible, and, indeed, probable, there is little doubt that corn in Ontario and Quebec is the crop that will allow farmers to intensify their production of cattle to the point where they will be able to carry at least one animal per acre all the year round. With corn silage available, a farmer can stock at a farm to the point where he can carry enough cattle to utilize his pasture fully during June and July and supplement it with corn, where necessary, during the rest of the season.

If, as is expected, the efficiency of agriculture continues to improve, it, particularly in Eastern Canada, this is reflected in a greater forage crop production which must be utilized through cattle: how can this greater production be accommodated in a manner which will maintain the farming industry at a level which is essential to its evolving structure?

**BLENDED BEEF**

There are, of course, already some fairly distinct trends in evidence. Probably the most important of these is the blending of beef operations into what was, earlier, a distinctly dairy economy. This, to the present, has taken more the form of breeding dairy cows to beef bulls than an increase in eastern herds of the beef breeds. Last year, in Ontario, 512,000 cows were bred through artificial insemination services. Of these, 176,000, or 34 per cent, were bred to beef bulls.

The number of both breeding cattle of the beef breeds in Ontario and the numbers of western feeders brought to Ontario have been staying fairly constant from year to year. This can mean only that we are producing more feeder steers from dairy cows and this, obviously, is providing one means of utilizing the increase in forage resources.

To some extent, too, there will probably be an increasing concentration of cow and calf herds of the beef breeds in Northern Ontario and Quebec, and some areas of the Atlantic provinces,



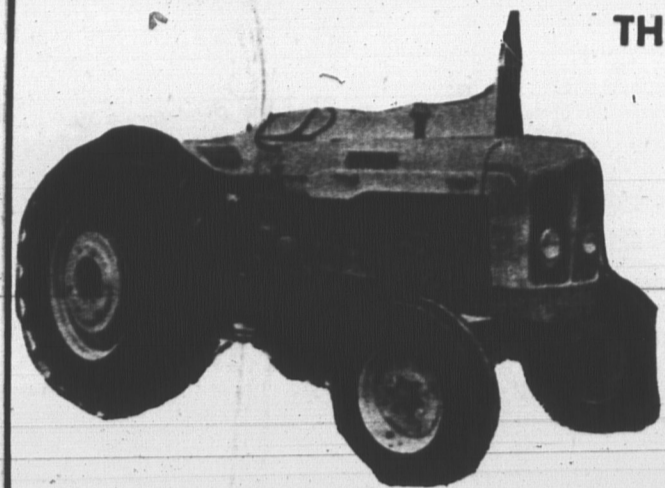
**FIRST RIBBON CAME EARLY**

Coadydale Acme S. Claudette is a young milk cow now, but here she is with owner Paula Coady, Hazelbrook when Claudette was a calf. Her first prize ribbon is held proudly in Paula's hand.

Mr. Farmer - - -

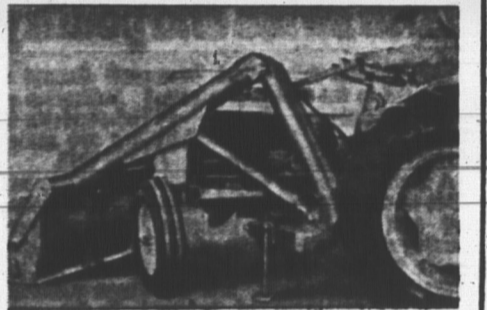
## HERE'S ANOTHER GREAT TRACTOR FROM FORD

THE FORD 5000



Rugged power that pulls four bottoms in most soils, and five bottoms in many areas. In yours with the Super Major. An excellent balance of power and weight, plus stamina for the toughest jobs, have made this tractor a favorite. Operator comfort and convenience are tops. And now the Super Major is better than ever, with extra power, improved PTO, more precise hydraulic controls, more sensitive draft control, and closer spaced ground speeds through the working range.

**THRIFTY FORD "711" LOADER**



The popular 711 Ford Farm Loader is earmarked with quality from attaching points to bucket lines... yet, it's priced to compete with all others. Never before has a farm loader been so easy to install and remove... just three attaching points. This unique, triangular type mounting helps protect the tractor against the strains of heavy loads. Brackets install quickly and can remain on the tractor when the loader is removed.

ALL ABOVE MODELS AVAILABLE AT - - -

# McGOWAN MOTORS

LTD  
Montague Your Ford Dealer Dial 838-2232

Mr. Farmer . . .

## AN ABUNDANCE OF WATER FOR ALL YOUR NEEDS



Electric or Gasoline Operated Models  
**WATER PUMPS AND WATER SYSTEMS**

Superbly designed, well engineered internal mechanism provides a smooth, steady flow of water at high volume and at minimum cost.

All parts are precision machined. Continuous duty capacitor type permanently lubricated motor is moisture proof and trouble free.

# HALL & STAVERT Ltd.

49 Pownal Street Charlottetown Dial 4-3243



## NOW!

With Halliday's Packaged Home, you get all the materials in just one order. No running out of materials, no extra trips to the mill. Here are just three. Many other Packaged Homes available.

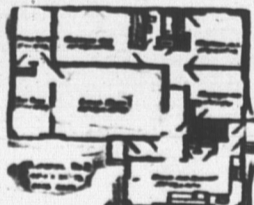
Write for immediate catalogue of homes and lot faces. Ask for free catalogue of building bargains.



**The IMPERIAL**

48'0" x 36'7 1/2"

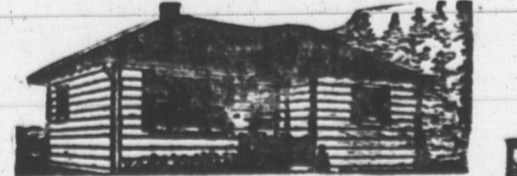
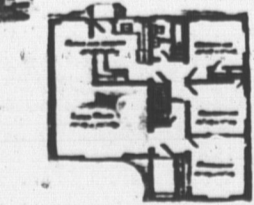
COMPLETE PACKAGE \$5626.00  
READY CUT



**The CORNERBROOK**

37'6" x 31'6"

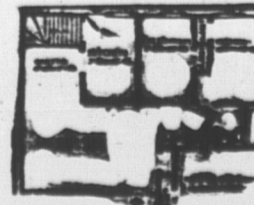
COMPLETE PACKAGE \$4000.00  
READY CUT



**The MAITLAND**

36'0" x 26'0"

COMPLETE PACKAGE \$3624.00  
READY CUT



3 sizes . . . Built Up or Ready-Cut

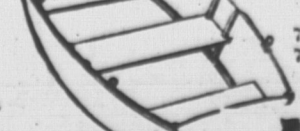
As Low As \$28.60

An ideal boat for the angler. Well made of water-proof Douglas Fir plywood over a sound spruce frame. Designed by Naval Architect Edwin Monk. It's suitable for mounting on outboard motor.



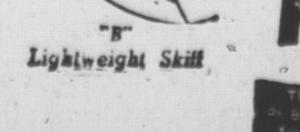
**"A" Fisherman's Skiff**

Boat "A" As Illustrated  
9'6" BUILT-UP ..... 62.35  
9'6" READY-CUT ..... 36.15  
11'6" BUILT-UP ..... 82.15  
11'6" READY-CUT ..... 57.50



**Boat "B" As Illustrated**

7'6" BUILT-UP ..... 51.95  
7'6" READY-CUT ..... 28.60



**"C" Fisherman's Skiff**

Lightweight Skiff

**HALLIDAY Craftsmen LIMITED**



## PLAY IT SAFE!

Get your  
**Farm Accident Insurance**

# "I'm For This \$6.00 Farm Accident Insurance ..."

Complete Coverage for \$6 a year plus your Federation of Agriculture fee of \$5.

**COVERAGE**

Pays for injuries that require out of pocket expenses over \$10.00 up to \$500.00 for doctor, nurses, and ambulance. If hospitalized, for three days, the patient will be paid \$5.00 a day for lost time up to 21 days and commencing on the day after the accident. It pays \$1,000.00 for accidental death.

JOIN TODAY!

# P.E.I. Federation of Agriculture