

Canadian Gov't To Probe Farm Machinery Prices

By J. LINCOLN DEWAR
 CFA SEMI-ANNUAL
 The semi-annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture will be held in Nova Scotia, the last week of July. The N.S. Federation will be hosts for the occasion. The actual place for the meetings will be selected soon, but is expected that the Directors from across Canada will gather in or near Halifax. A committee from the NSFA Board will be responsible for

arranging hospitality for the visiting Director and their wives.
 The closeness of the meeting this year will make it convenient for our Island representatives to attend. It will be recalled that the semi-annual meeting was held in Charlottetown in 1959.

FARM MACHINERY

Recently the Honorable Mr. Greene has announced the setting up of a one man commission to inquire into different aspects of the farm machinery business.
 Next Monday the president of the Island Federation, John A. Rodd will be attending a meeting in Ottawa to assist in planning the manner in which CFA representations will be made.

The setting up of this commission is in keeping with recommendations made by the Federation of Agriculture, recommendations which are in keeping with the importance and magnitude of the investment in farm machinery. The concern is related directly to two aspects:

- (A) The cost of machinery and (B) The cost and availability of parts. For most people a \$5,000.00 car is luxury and only the affluent ride in \$10,000.00 chariots, however, farm tractors costing \$10,000.00 and in fact very much more are becoming common. In short, farm machinery does seem to cost more than cars and trucks if materials and workmanship are used as gauges.
- There may, of course, be very good reasons why farm machinery costs so much, if there are, the buyers are certainly entitled to the information.

AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS
 This year for the first time the Nova Scotia Agricultural College is offering a two year course in the business principle and practice of agriculture. The course is planned to prepare students as farm managers or as managers in farm related business.

Our feeling is that this type of courses makes very good sense and fills a gap in the program of agricultural colleges. Many of the more successful farmers have been pointing out that the

instruction given by agricultural colleges very often became obsolete in a short time due to rapid advances. However, instruction given in business practices would remain current for a much longer period and might represent a more valuable training than the emphasis on production etc.

BEEF CONFERENCE
 The Canadian Federation of Agriculture and the Canadian Cattlemen's Association are co-operating in the setting up of a National Beef Conference, this conference will be patterned along similar lines to the Hog Conference which proved to be of very considerable value to the industry.

On loan from the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool to assist in setting up the conference is A. D. MacLeod who has an Island background - his father William MacLeod was a director of the Wheat Pool for some years.
 Later on Mr. MacLeod will be meeting with Maritime people to consider and plan different aspects of the Conference.

CATTLE PARADISE
 At this time of year for the dairyman work is usually at its lowest and production at its highest. Temperatures are about ideal for cattle, pests are at a minimum and feed at its most abundant. Mention has been made of some of the management aspects of pasture and the writer's observation with respect to rotation is that cows are interested in fresh pasture every two days, if they are left in the same area for the third day, they are staging a mild sit-down strike.

CROP REPORT
 While cropping is still going on it can be assumed that quite a high percentage of sowing and planting has been completed. Grain germinated very rapidly and is making excellent progress. The hay is very promising and will be early this year. Pasture is excellent and generally there are grounds for optimism. So far no potatoes have been observed above ground but no doubt there must be some.

LAND VALUES
 Generally this province has

been noted for the low value placed on agricultural land. In some cases sales have been made as low as \$10.00 an acre of arable land. A visitor now doing an agricultural study on the province has suggested that he could see the possibility of land being worth \$300.00 an acre.
 Actually we have heard reports of such sales and recently a farm in a potato area with ninety acres clear and not including the dwelling house sold for \$25,000.00. After many years of being in the doldrums there is evidence that land values are starting to move and that money invested in land will over a period of years provide good capital returns.

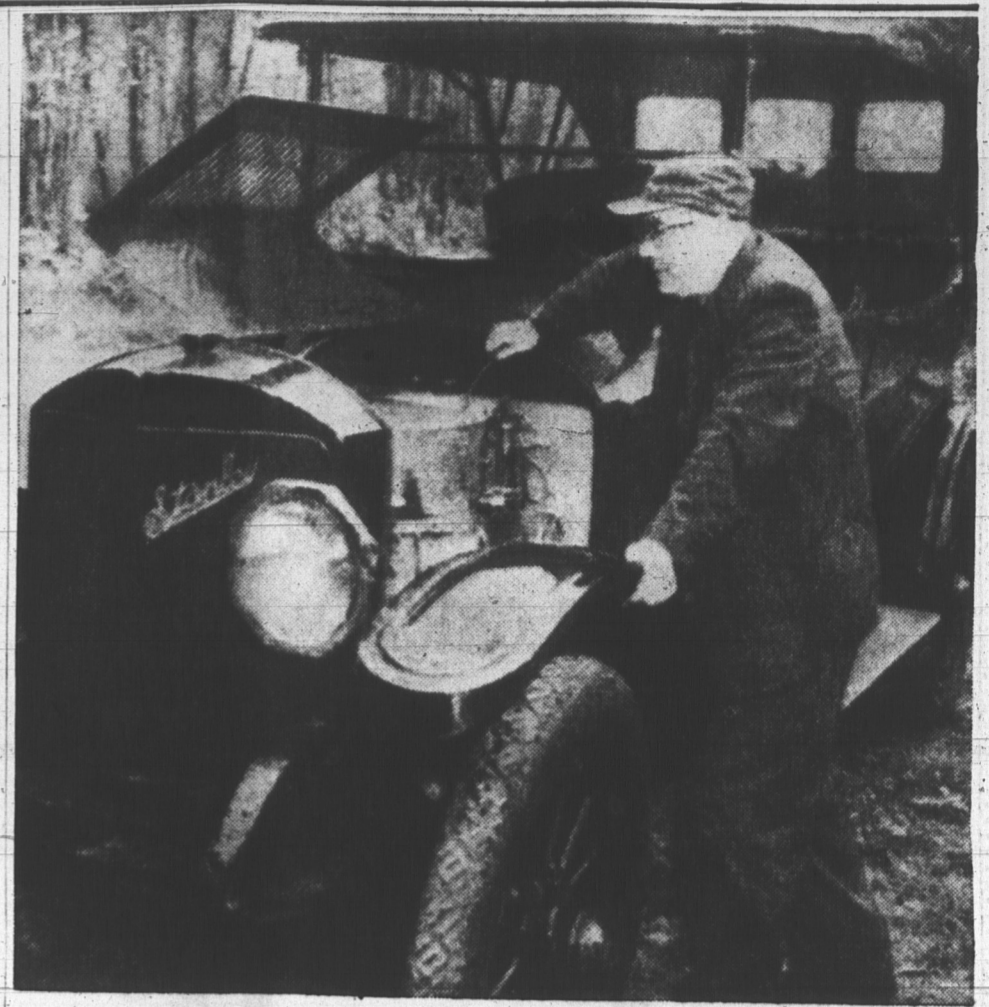
VISITOR
 A visitor somewhat out of the ordinary on the writer's farm is a muskrat that appeared in the cattle barn in January and is still about. The little animal is about as tame as a strange cat and apparently enjoys his new found life of ease with plenty to eat and no work. Whether he is just off the track by accident and likes his new surroundings or is possibly on the outs with muskrat society is difficult to determine. In any event, he appears to be satisfied with his bachelor role.

B.C. Bull's Price Tag Is \$168,000

WINDERMERE, B.C. (CP)—Lloyd Wilder and Winston Wolfenden, who run a ranch near this eastern B.C. community, have \$168,000 on the hoof and that's a lot of bull.
 This mobile gold mine is a French Charolais bull named Apollon, which originally cost \$10,000. They spent another \$12,000 to bring it over from France.
 Last week, they sold half interest in the 15-month-old bull to the Western Charolais Association for \$84,000.

Presuming both halves of Apollon are equal, his full worth today is \$168,000. And he hasn't done any work yet.

JUST A BABY
 "He's just a big baby, and gentle as a kitten," said Mr. Wilder. "But he's an excellent animal from a long line of



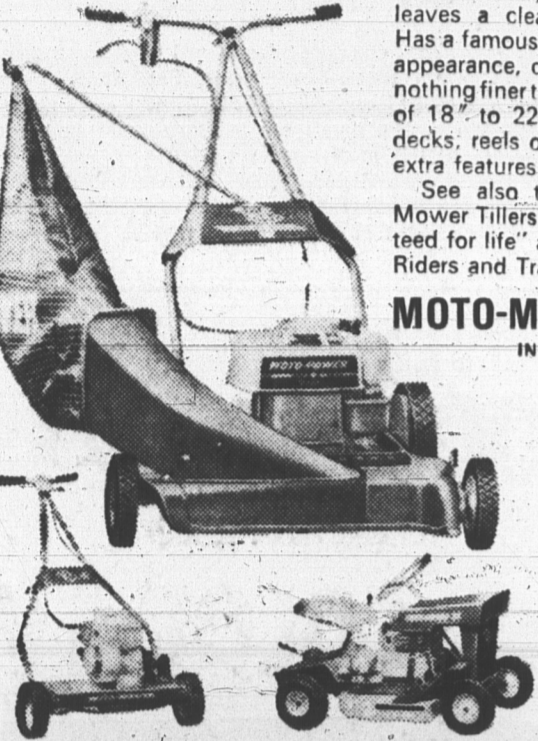
ADJUSTING HIS ANTIQUE AUTO

Gordon Armstrong of Harvey Station, N.B., makes a minor adjustment to the engine of his 1917 Stanley Steamer. The old car was minus its original engine when he acquired it, so Mr. Armstrong combed North America for parts and assembled his own engine.

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 (CP Wirephoto)

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