

Grain Growing In P.E.I. Presents Some Problems

By J. LINCOLN DEWAR
WESTERN GRAIN

In last Thursday's *Guardian* a writer signing himself "Ardie" makes a case for eliminating assistance on Western grain as a means of bolstering the Island farm economy.

It is not an uncomplicated problem, certainly we must endorse a policy of increased grain production through better varieties, better husbandry, etc.

Again after making judgment on the possible advantages of growing other crops we should produce all the grain we can. It is doubtful that it makes economic sense to be breaking up really good sod that can produce heavy grass and hay to grow grain. On our better livestock

farms the soil tends to improve in fertility to the point where grain growing is to some extent eliminated by the advantages of grass.

Generally we think it will be agreed that a very high percentage of the grain produced in this province is produced by livestock farmers who plan to feed it at home. They are not concerned with the market value of that grain, their concern is with the finished product be it milk, beef, pork, eggs, etc.

Most livestock farmers would not agree that Western grain is cheap, certainly without studying the matter very carefully the casual observer would expect that the grain grower here should be able to compete with

the Western product even though a portion of the cost of getting it here is subsidized.

Why does not Island grain command as high a price as the Western product? Three factors are involved, feeding value, processing and storage qualities.

If there is a problem here of the interests of grain growers and livestock people being in conflict, then we must suggest that the law of supply and demand should not take precedence over "The greatest good for the greatest number."

This province went through, a number of years ago, an era of growing grain as a cash crop and the results were disastrous.

Finally there is more involved than Western grain, a very high percentage of the freight assistance is paid on bran, shorts, and screenings, none of which are very likely to be produced in commercial quantities.

We would like to propose for consideration as policy in this province that we keep all the livestock we can, that we grow all we can to feed them and that we buy all we can if the latter can be established as profitable.

DOANE ADVICE
We are now receiving in the Federation office the Doane Agricultural Report. In the last issue of December 2 the follow-

ing comment on potatoes is omitted. It should be borne in mind that this item relates entirely to the American crop and American conditions. Judgment as to the Canadian picture must be based on different conditions.

Here is the report, "Potatoes: Harvest prices were very favorable considering crop size because of labor shortages and delayed harvest. From here on, it's doubtful price grains will pay for storage. Winter crop is currently estimated at 26,000 acres—compared with 19,400 acres last year. USDA recommendations call for an 11 per cent cut in spring acreage. But it's likely spring acreage will increase rather than decline. These larger crops for winter and spring make gains for storage spuds look very doubtful. Start moving storage spuds to market."

DOWN UNDER
The report from the Island representative recently returned from New Zealand creates thoughts of envy on the part of dairymen.

What New Zealand has is practically summer conditions the year around. This is quite a contrast to the almost seven months of frost, snow and mud typical of this country.

With buildings practically eliminated as well as the handling of manure, of the feeding of milk feeds as well, costs are dramatically lower down under.

Where difficulties in this country have led cattlemen from cold drafty old barns to tight warm new ones with expensive stanchions and plumbing to loose housing both free and controlled and adjust again to free stalls the latter again introducing the need of cleaning the stable.

Calves from the United States are being shipped by air to Italy. The freight charge is 41 cents per pound which makes a calf cost about 70 cents a pound landed in Italy. Already 2,000 calves have been shipped in this manner and there are prospects for the trade expanding.

WEATHERWISE
This week has produced the first worthwhile snowfall and served notice that the quite satisfactory weather of the past six weeks may be giving way to a period of snow, winds, drifting snow repeated over and over. For those who are worried may we point out that 100 days will bring us to the 25th of March and that if this period can be disposed of one day at a time the hope of survival improves.

MEETINGS
Next week the Board of Directors of both the Fluid Milk Association and the Dairymen's Association are meeting for the consideration of a number of year end problems. The dairymen are thinking in terms of their own annual meeting in March and of representation at the annual meeting in Toronto in January. The fluid milk people have been making submissions to the Milk Control Board and are assessing progress being made in straightening out a number of problems.

All dairy matters are now being considered in the light of a much better national balance in supply and demand and in the very definite prospect of Canada being soon in a deficiency position. The very demanding nature of dairy farming—coupled with years of indifferent rewards—are now starting to tell. In Western Canada with the grain economy booming dairy

SECOND SECTION

stock is being moved to the packing plants and Saskatchewan already finds itself short of fluid milk.

Ontario is moving into a complete milk marketing board set up, Quebec is showing signs of a similar move and a national dairy commission or authority appears to be a certainty. An intelligent guess would suggest that the dairy industry—no stranger to regulation can look forward to an increased dose of state intervention.

SUPER DRIVERS ARE REQUIRED

OTTAWA (CP)—Police Chief Reg Axcell suggested in a memo to board of control here that it may be desirable to restrict use of the cross-town Queensway to drivers who prove themselves competent to use it.

The 10-mile Queensway, more than 90 per cent complete and due to be finished next year, has been the subject of continuous complaints about its accident rate.

In his memo Chief Axcell says the Queensway is far beyond the driving ability of many Ottawa motorists and drastic measures are necessary to cut the accident toll.

"On some days chaos is rampant and drivers using this freeway are the major contributing factor."

Then came his "special freeway licence" suggestion—believed to be first for Canada. It might be desirable to issue special licences to drivers who prove themselves competent, and restrict other motorists to the standard roadway.

Board of control will study the proposal and report to city council.



MECHANICAL REINDEER

Santa uses a Canadian Pacific Airlines jet to make his rounds in northern British Columbia. The DC-6B will be used for Prince George Lions Club's annual trip with presents to the Lower Post Indian school, 400 miles north of Prince George.

ELMSDALE

Mrs. Stuart MacDonald and daughter Sharon of Covehead have returned after spending a pleasant visit with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Merrill Wallace.

Ray Williams, employed on "The Tupper" spent Sunday with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. David Williams.

Mrs. Myra Callaghan, Mrs. Wilfred Callaghan, Mrs. Gerald O'Brien, Mrs. Dale MacKinnon were recent visitors to Summerside.

Mary O'Halloran and Archie O'Halloran and Kenneth McCarthy, Brockton, have recently gone to Toronto.

Mr. and Mrs. James Adams had as recent guests their daughter Mrs. Lynne Miesner and family, Stanhope.

Mrs. Charles Barnett has returned from Charlottetown where she visited her sister Mrs. Calvin Lewis.

Congratulations and best wishes are extended to Mr. and Mrs. Neil MacKenzie of West Royalty on their recent marriage. The bride is the former Hilda Hardy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hardy, Rosebank, P.E.I.

Congratulations and best wishes are also extended to Mr. and Mrs. Clair MacNeill on their recent marriage. The bride is the former Lorna Hardy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Hardy, Elmsdale. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lina MacNeill, also of Elmsdale.

Frank McKenna was a weekend guest of his daughter and Mr. O'Brien, St. Eleanors.

Congratulations are extended to Mr. and Mrs. Heber H. Hardy Summerside, former residents of Elmsdale, on the occasion of their Golden Anniversary.

OLD EMPIRE CHANGES
The Commonwealth has a population of about 700,000,000 people, of whom 90 per cent have attained independence since the Second World War.

B.C. Cost-Price Squeeze Causes Growing Concern

VANCOUVER (CP)—The public looked into the minds of 300 British Columbia industrialists Wednesday and saw a picture of increased production, sales and capital expenditures contrasting with a forecast for no change in employment or profits in 1966.

The industrial executives predicted increased capital investment to \$2,100,000,000 from \$1,850,000,000 new manufacturing production records unabated development of B.C.'s natural resources and high in the trade and service sectors of the economy.

However they pointed a finger at the cost-price squeeze in which they were being caught.

They said they are concerned over inflationary pressures brought about by near-capacity utilization of many existing facilities, by the escalation of operating costs, continued shortages of skilled labor and the general tightening of credit.

The industrialists were polled by the provincial government's bureau of economics and statistics.

SQUEEZE OF CONCERN
"Cost-price squeeze is of concern to many executives and some industries will undoubtedly have deleterious effects in the coming year," says the poll.

About 40 per cent of the companies reported increase in prices of their products to the public in 1965. For next year, 5 per cent are predicting no change in consumer prices.

Forty-five per cent see prices going up and the other five per cent forecast a decline.

Employment increased by 27,000 persons this year to a high

of 698,000. Two-thirds of the companies polled said they expected the employment figure to remain stationary in 1966. The others predicted an increase.

Despite the differences of opinion on many of the questions put to them, the businessmen were unanimous on one point—there is a shortage of skilled workers.

Mining companies reports lack of skilled miners, electricians, heavy equipment operators, diamond drillers and mining engineers. The construction industry reported a lack of skilled supervisory staff and labor and the story was the same from the forest and manufacturing industries and utility companies.

EARNINGS REDUCED
The mining industry spokesman said higher labor costs tended to reduce earnings, but there was considerable exploration and production stimulated by relatively high metal prices.

The forest industry reported an 18-per-cent increase in investment in 1965. About \$250,000,000 was spent for expansion, most of it in the pulp mill industry.

Industry spokesmen anticipated stronger markets for lumber and plywood next year and a firmer demand for newsprint.

Lumber, plywood and newsprint prices were expected to remain steady but weakening in the price of pulp was forecast.

The report said in light of tighter money it was "fairly significant" that half the firms surveyed indicated current and projected capital expenditures were being financed from cash

flows and retained earnings without recourse to outside borrowings.

Sixty-one per cent of the 300 businessmen saw increased sales in 1966, and 56 per cent predicted increased manufacturing production.

SAW NO CHANGE
On the profit side of the picture, 51 per cent saw no change for the coming year. Forty per cent thought profits would increase while the remainder saw a decline.

An increase in capital and repair expenditures was expected by 40 per cent, but 40 per cent saw a decline. The remainder forecast no change.

Exporters pointed to a continuing increase in the U.S. gross national product as an indication that demands for B.C. lumber products and industrial raw materials would remain strong.

However, the report said that problems faced by the United Kingdom, Japan and other countries may adversely affect overseas trade in 1966.

EAST BALTIC

Loyman Rose returned to his home in Lakeside having recently undergone surgery in the Charlottetown Hospital.

George MacDonald Kingsboro and Mr. Forbes Young, Charlottetown returned from a trip to Boston, Mass.

Miss Eveleen Crouter, Alberton, B.C., was the lucky winner of the car lotteried recently by the Souris Line Road 4-H Club members sponsored by the secretary Anne Campbell, Little Harbor.

BOYF of the Kingsboro group held a variety concert in the Kingsboro Hall on Thursday night and was largely attended and greatly enjoyed. Mr. Smith was chairman for the occasion and Mr. Russell Garrett was auctioneer for the pie. A large sum of money was realized in aid of the BOYF group.

Mrs. Birdie Ching, matron, Souris Hospital resumed her duties there having been convalescing at her home for two weeks with an injured ankle. Her host of friends are happy to see and have her back again.

Charlie McCormack, North Lake is a patient in the Souris Hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence MacDonald, Souris attended the BOYF variety concert held in the Kingsboro Hall on Thursday night.

Mrs. Daniel Jarvis, Souris, is a patient in the Souris Hospital. Mildred Chiny, Barbara Bruce, students PWC spent the weekend at their homes in Black Pond and Bothwell.

Rev. Smith, Kingsboro attended a ministry meeting in Annerst on Saturday and Sunday. He was accompanied by Mrs. Smith and two children who will visit with their relatives in N.S. and St. John.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Robertson, Kingsboro attended the 25th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Bruce, Mt. Mellick on Saturday night, Dec. 11.

Mrs. Charles Ching, Red Point is a patient in the Souris Hospital. Her host of friends do wish her a speedy recovery.

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