



FARMERS AND AGRICULTURISTS FROM ALL ACROSS THE ISLAND TRAVELLED TO ONTARIO IN APRIL TO SEE UP-TO-THE-MINUTE DEVELOPMENTS IN LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY

Ontario visit of P.E.I. agriculturists termed by director as 'best ever'

A group of 66 P.E.I. agriculturists had a useful visit to Ontario farms and industrial plants in April, that wound up with a breakfast in the Parliamentary Restaurant, guests of the four P.E.I. members of parliament and two members of the Senate. The tour was termed one of the best island agriculturists have ever participated in by Livestock Director Lou Roper who says it was sponsored by the provincial department of agriculture in co-operation with the Canadian National Railways, assisted by a number of nationally known feed and machinery companies, the Ontario department of agriculture and several Ontario farmers all of whom did everything possible to make it an outstanding success.

The tour was of unusually high educational value, Mr. Roper said, to breeders and producers of livestock, and poultry, particularly to those interested in beef cattle and swine.

BONA FIDE FARMERS

Those making the trip had to be bona fide farmers or members of a father-and-son farm combination. In addition several local representatives of national companies were taken to Ontario by their firms for the tour.

Aiming at greater knowledge of simplified feed lots and careful selection of stock, the agriculturists were taken to farms where they could see lots where various types of steers were being prepared for market at the lowest possible per-unit cost. They also saw public stockyards where the cattle are sold in rapid-fire style.

The Islanders visited the farm of Bill Sheards, Bolton where 300 feeder steers were being fed by a man who grows 60 acres of silage and grain corn, and the farm of Allan Cook at Cooksville where 300 head of

steers, purchased mostly in Northern N.B., were seen.

There were more than 300 head of Angus cattle on the farm of Tom Jackson, Malton who was here last fall with a consignment of Angus breeding cattle. Mr. Jackson, who also had 150 steers in his feedlot, said he is planning another shipment of the black beef cattle here this coming fall.

FEEDING EXPERIMENTS

The Islanders saw feeding experiments carried out at the Ontario Agricultural College feed lot with about 200 head divided into a large number of pens.

Some 1,200 steers were seen in the feedlot of the B.H. and F. Ranch where Clare Burt, M.H. Farm commentator owns one-third of the animals. These cattle, Mr. Roper explained, are fed no hay but pea and bean vines hauled from a large canner 22 miles away, and mixed grains. The animals are not so heavy in the stomach, and are heavier in the valuable meat portions, and are much more desirable to the butcher or packer, it was explained.

The manure from this huge feedlot - it covers perhaps four acres with asphalt flooring - is pushed up onto a side hill of sand where it dries out and is then reloaded, put into a drier where it is heated to 350 degrees Fahrenheit, then put through a hammer mill where it is finely ground and then mixed with a potent perfume as it is bagged for large chain stores and other distributors for sale to gardens, flower gardens and lawns.

"WHITE SHIRT" JOB

"The whole thing is done up so fancy you could handle it with your white shirt on," Mr. Roper explained.

The Massey Ferguson farm herd is all fed by a huge feed augur which takes the feed from

the main assembly point, and distributes it to the feed troughs without being touched by a human hand. Two huge silos hold 700 tons and the feed is taken from them by an automatic unloader, which feeds the stuff through chutes and into the worm gear where it is thoroughly mixed with coarsely ground barley, oats and corn and the entire mixture is automatically carried into the troughs where 300 steers can feed at once, if they desire.

It takes one man only 22 minutes each morning and night to feed the stock. The asphalt yard is scooped out once a week by a front-end loader and fresh bedding is put in.

The feeders are put in to the lot about the first of November and the lots are emptied by May 15.

They get 93 per cent Red Brand carcasses at this feed lot, said Mr. Roper who had a spe-

cially warm word of appreciation for Farm Manager W. A. Sutherland and M. F. Cockburn "who gave me wonderful assistance in arranging and planning the tour."

The Maple Leaf Milling Company and Toronto Elevators have combined but they still manufacture Master Feeds, and Mr. Roper also had special praise for Ivan Kerry, P.E.I. representative who "was of tremendous assistance on the tour," particularly in the last few days when the livestock director became ill with a heavy cold and had to ease up on his own effort.

HOLSTEINS SHOWN

They have established a splendid herd of Holstein cattle there and it was shown by Paul Crouse, assistant general manager who explained that this year they built a loose housing shed for all young and dry cattle.

This has been a tremendous asset to the farm and they can highly recommend such yards as being beneficial to the development of the cattle, particularly to the feed and legs of the animals. They are also getting greater body development in these open faced sheds, the Islanders were told.

They put all the hay in a building in the middle of the yard, under a separate roof with cribs on both sides. No grain at all is fed to the heifers, or to the dry cows during the winter, and the animals were all in splendid condition, Mr. Roper reported.

They were carrying 60 head in this run and it took one man 20 minutes a day to feed and check the animals. They were fed all green alfalfa hay which had been cut in June and crimped so it could be gathered while it was still green. The livestock director told of

several Ontario men whom he had seen cut the green hay in morning, crimp it and bale it later that day.

The Island visitors saw a Holstein dairy herd of some 300 animals in all, counting young cattle and calves, at Aubrey Livingstone's, north of Brantford, that were all kept in loose housing with open faced fronts.

This is contrary to all generally accepted rules which state that a dairy herdsman must keep his cattle warm or they can't produce milk. But this man produces 3,000 pounds of milk daily and milks not less than 85 animals. Three men look after the entire operation, and the cows eat everything outside, except the meal. The open-faced shed has a big roof overhang which provides considerable shelter, and the yard is located so that it is not draughty for the animals.

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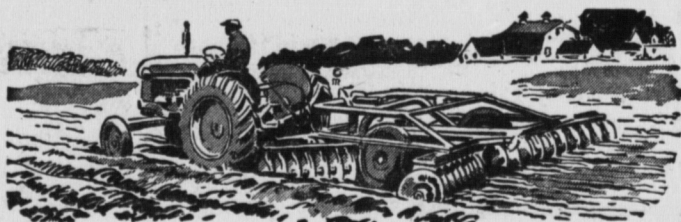
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