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Farmers Of King's County Discuss Varied Problems

The reorganization of the Farmers' Federation and electoral reform were the principal topics of discussion at the afternoon session of the annual meeting of the P. E. I. Federation of Agriculture held at Yeo's Theatre, Montague, yesterday.

The president, Mr. Ernest Underhay, Fortuque, presided.

The minutes of the semi-annual meeting held at Murray River were read by the secretary, Mr. J. B. MacIsaac, and approved.

A resolutions committee was then appointed including: Webb Nicholson, M. J. Kelly, Mrs. Thomas Kenny, Ivan MacDonald, and J. B. MacIsaac.

The president, Mr. Underhay, presented his report on the activities of the Federation in King's

County, and commented briefly on the reorganization proposal to be brought in later in the afternoon.

Secretary's Report

Mr. Lincoln Dewar, provincial secretary, in his report stated that membership had fallen off in King's County, and stressed the need for cooperation and support in the work of the Federation. He went on to say that he had attended the hog and poultry conference at Ottawa, where it was felt that a national poultry marketing board should be set up, with a similar one in each province.

Speaking briefly on trade with Newfoundland, he stated that the Canadian Maritime Board thought it difficult at the present time to obtain subsidy for a larger boat than the motor vessel Eskimo to ply between the two Provinces. In connection with this he mentioned the establishing of a killing plant at Charlottetown for the benefit of island shippers.

He stated that the present Government policy regarding resale price maintenance was of vital concern to the farmers as it affected the cost of machinery, sprays, and all other farm needs, and that manufacturer-determined price would be a detriment to the farmer.

Regarding feed prices, he stated that the high cost was partly due to transportation, and limited supply. Hog prices were higher in July, but later lowered due to consumer resistance and lower export market consumption. In conclusion, he said the Federation supported the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation policies, and hoped for a continuance of the Farm Radio Forum.

long-range policy to deal with these problems. In reorganizing the Federation he proposed the establishing of 26 centres throughout the Island, each of which would incorporate eleven to twelve school districts; each centre would be the focal point for meetings, not only for the Federation, but for other district organizations as well. A qualified and competent secretary would be appointed at each centre to discharge the duties of that organization.

He favoured raising the fees, and from this to supply certain services to the members: Blanket accident insurance, weekly marketing newspaper, central unit to handle co-operatively large farm machinery at the disposal for hire of all in the district. He also stressed the future need of a grass drying and processing plant, a feed which, he said, would partly replace Western feed which is so costly to import.

The Federation, he said, was the means of reaching the farmers, and having them work cooperatively.

Election Act

Whereas public opinion would appear to be favourable to a revision of the Election Act, therefore be it resolved by this annual meeting of the King's County Federation of Agriculture that the Legislature of the Province be urged to revise the above mentioned act at the coming session of the Legislature, and further be it resolved that the Government of the Province be asked to name a non-partisan committee headed by a Supreme Court judge, and on which the Federation of Agriculture would be represented, to review the act and advise on changes.

Resale Price Maintenance

Whereas many Canadian manufacturers and distributors make a practice of setting the prices at which retailers may offer goods for resale, thus introducing monopolistic and restrictive features into our free enterprise system, and whereas agriculture operates almost entirely under conditions of fair and open prices, thus affording consumers the advantages of the operations of the law of supply and demand, and whereas, due to the foregoing, farm prices are flexible and farm costs kept in many instances in a straight-jacket by resale price maintenance, be it resolved by this annual meeting of the King's County Federation of Agriculture that we strongly support the intention of the Government of Canada to introduce legislation to curb resale price maintenance practices by closed corporations, and be it further resolved that this meeting affirm its belief in the necessity and desirability of the enactment of the proposed legislation at this session of Parliament.

THE EASTERN GUARDIAN

AGENTS:—MONTAGUE: Harold F. Landry, Mrs. Byron Stewart, Mrs. Bruce MacPhee, Miss Joyce Wigginton, Miss Joan Johnston. AGENT GEORGETOWN: Waldon Lavers.

The Guardian may be bought at the following places in Montague: Blue Dome Restaurant, and Guardian Office; in Georgetown: The Post Office; in Souris: The Snack Bar and H. Richards & Son.

...ST. PETER'S BAY Red Cross Blood Clinic in Canadian Legion Hall, Tuesday, Dec. 4th, from 2 to 4 p.m. 100 donors needed.

...\$5.00 FOR YOUR old battery when you buy a 17-plate at Bud's Accessories, Montague.

...RED CROSS Blood Donor Clinic at Beaver Club Hall in Montague on Tuesday, Dec. 4th from 7:30 to 10:00 p.m. 125 donors needed.

...Miss Sally Stewart, Caledonia, spent the past weekend in Iris, guest of Mr. and Mrs. John D. MacLean.

...SEE OUR FINE SELECTION OF Mirrors, and Tables, Coffee Tables and occasional furniture for Christmas. Hillehey and Vandierstine, Montague.

...FAREWELL PARTY — On Nov. 19th friends and neighbors gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Campbell, Lower Montague, to tender a farewell party to Rev. M. Watterworth and Mrs. Watterworth. Mrs. Leslie McDonald read the address, while Mrs. Andrew Landry made the presentation. Mr. and Mrs. Watter-

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worth, although taken by surprise thanked their friends and neighbors for their kind remembrance, after which all joined in singing "For They Are Jolly Good Fellows." A social hour followed in which all took part. Prizes for the evening were won by Leslie Mc-

Donald and Mrs. David Wright. Lunch was served by the hostess, assisted by Mrs. Fred Ferguson. The evening party concluded with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

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Evening Session

Mr. Louis MacGuire of Morell presided over the evening session which was taken up primarily with the discussion of resolutions.

Mr. Leo MacIsaac re-explained the proposed re-organization of the Federation using centres incorporating eleven to twelve school districts. Several members expressed themselves as favoring the proposal, in view of the fact that the present small school district units were not sufficiently large for a lively meeting. It was pointed out that the new arrangement would require 26 annual meetings, the dates for which would have to be arranged.

The live issue of electoral reform was discussed at length, the members wholeheartedly endorsing the proposed resolution. Several expressed the opinion that the property vote should be abolished since through holding property in several electoral districts, a property owner has several votes more than the non-property owner. It was proposed by some members that there might be thirty electoral districts, thereby giving the same number of representatives in the Legislature, all chosen by franchise vote. The members also urged that a non-partisan committee be set up to consider the present act and advise on changes considered necessary.

At the conclusion of the evening session it was proposed that the marketing of turnips be set up under the Potato Marketing Board. This proposal was discussed by the members who felt that the idea was sound in that it would maintain a level price on buying markets, and would return more to the producer. At present the market can easily be flooded, it was stated, through heavy shipments of turnips which would depress the present price considerably.

Following the discussion of several other questions the meeting adjourned, after which an executive meeting was immediately held.

Potato Situation

Mr. D. A. MacDonald, chairman and manager of the Potato Marketing Board, stated that the potato acreage had been cut down this year, but that production was fairly high, despite the wet growing season and blight. The market had developed well, and prices for potatoes were good. He said that price reports had indicated a recession, but he felt it would be a temporary one. In view of conditions he urged farmers to continue limited acreage production.

He also discussed the legal position of the Potato Marketing Board, which case, he said, was coming up before the Island Supreme Court on December 11th. The case, it was explained, dealt with the legality of bill 82, passed by the Federal House, and also the legality of the Potato Marketing Board scheme under this Act.

The Board has reserved the services of Mr. R. H. Millikan of Regina and Mr. H. F. MacPhee, Charlottetown, to present its case.

Mr. MacDonald also protested the increase in freight rates which, he said, was killing Island trade, and would virtually drive producers to using truck transportation which was far cheaper.

Rural Electrification

On the question of rural electrification, Mr. Dewar explained that an expansion program would depend in large measure on the facilities of the Maritime Electric Co. plant. The Federation, he stated, supported the rural electrification program, although it proved costly.

Dr. George Fisher, provincial veterinarian, discussed the veterinary policies, and the services supplied to the farmers by the four veterinarians throughout the Island, and also by the laboratory facilities at Charlottetown. He also discussed the warble fly campaign, in which he pointed out that to attain the agricultural future possibilities of the Island, there must be cooperation and unity among the producers.

Mr. MacIsaac Explains

In a brief half hour discussion, Mr. Leo MacIsaac presented a picture of rural problems, and their clarifications through unification of organizations, and a

Resolutions Passed

Resolutions passed yesterday included: Whereas as this meeting has agreed to the plan submitted by a board of directors for re-organization of the Federation on the basis of 26 Federation districts in the Province, be it resolved that this meeting of the King's County Federation members request the Provincial Federation to arrange for meetings at the proposed centres in King's County, namely, Elmira, Souris, St. Peters, Bridgetown, Morell, Carigan, Montague, and Murray River, and the Federation branches established at those centres be based on the following representations and conditions:

A. Each Federation district to have an official committee of three members from each school district included therein on the three-year rotating plan.

B. Each Federation district to be administered by an executive of nine members representative of the Federation district.

C. Membership fee for the year 1951-52 be \$3.00.

D. That the suspension of the county constitution be arranged by a special directors meeting when the proposed Federation districts are all organized and working.

E. That the provincial board continue to be based on three directors from each county appointed by and from the delegates to the annual meeting of the Provincial Federation.

Electricity Rates

Whereas basic electricity rates for rural halls and schools have recently been raised to a point where many of those halls and school boards cannot actually afford to maintain this system and whereas electricity is of great importance to those social and educational centres even though it is not used regularly, be it therefore resolved that this meeting urge the Board of Public Utilities to give this matter further consideration, look at it from a community welfare standpoint, and arrange to have the basic rates for those buildings revised to the lowest possible figure.

Immigration and Land Settlement

Whereas there are many European immigrants coming to Canadian farms quite uninformed regarding the farm practices, the language and the over all picture of rural Canada, and

Continued on Page 15)

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10 Boys' PARKAS, reg. \$9.50 for . . . \$5.95

5 Boys' Plaid COATS, reg. \$9.95 for \$7.75

5 Men's SHEEPSKIN COATS, reg. \$19.95, for \$16.95

6 Men's MACKINAWs, reg. \$7.50 for \$5.50

10 Men's JACKETS, assorted sizes and styles, clearing LESS 30%

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Sizes 38" - 40" - 42"

150 Suits Men's Fleece COMBS., sizes 34 to 44. Regular Price \$3.19. Extra Special \$2.89

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