



EXAMINE CHEESE AT MORELL CREAMERY

## Forecast industry to reach million \$

Some 92 Prince Edward Island farmers produced flax last year worth close to \$100,000 as the opening round in a new provincial industry that its backers say will increase in volume to the stage where it will reach a value of at least \$1,000,000 annually to Island agriculture.

The closer to 100 farmers in production last year earned \$100 per acre—that was the contract amount for an average of a little more than 10 acres each, and Zager Salome, Ross Corners and Melis Visser, Graven-deel, Holland, who was here during the harvesting operation and is still on the island, were both pleased with the opening round of what they hoped would develop into a valuable Island industry.

It should be noted here that there are others who did not share that flax industry enthusiasm. When Mr. Salome applied for government backing late in 1963, after receiving word that test samples of flax grown in the island "were slightly better than anything grown in Europe," the backing was refused on the strength of a report from a research firm whose report was considerably less than enthusiastic.

But Mr. Salome, and others who were the spearheads of the flax industry idea, were satisfied that the production was good—some of it was excellent—they said most of the crop was sold in England even before the harvesting was completed, and they were eagerly looking forward to the arrival of processing equipment which would include the scutchers and other equipment that would produce the linen fibres which would be processed into linen and other materials.

**SOME DELAY**

Processing equipment which was expected to arrive early last autumn was so late in arriving that it was not set up until last month and a temporary breakdown delayed the processing work further. Mr. Salome told this paper he expected to get underway in the early days of this month.

But it is not the intention to process the product here beyond the linen fibre stage. Further machinery would be too costly to make the operation profitable in the foreseeable future, it was explained.

The Arthur D. Little report on economic development possibilities in Prince County said that "considerable additional study must be made to determine the feasibility of the industry here" and added "until the results of this study are known, commercial flax production would not be justified."

But failure to win the approval of researchers, and to get financial backing from the government didn't stop Mr. Salome and his associates. They sold the proposition to a banker who agreed to back them if they did some backing on their own.

One condition was that each producer would invest \$50 per acre, or one-half of his \$100 per acre contract, in the project, and that was done. In all the working capital for the first year totalled \$130,000, Mr. Salome told this paper a few months ago.

**MAY EXPAND**

If the developments of the first year are really successful, the industry people were told, further backing would be available in future.

The eventual goal is something close to 10,000 acres and a plant that in the words of Mr. Salome would provide employment for approximately 200 men throughout the year.

The optimistic outlook stirred the interest of Islanders everywhere and most of them were pulling for the industry to be successful here, though it still has to prove itself over the long-haul period.

## High school undergoes face lifting

The past year saw a number of improvements made to the Georgetown High School and to the surrounding grounds. Repairs were made to both the plumbing and heating systems. A good start was made in ob-

tainning books to stock a library for the use of the pupils and teachers. A new office was opened in the school building for the use of the secretary of the Board of Trustees. It was furnished with modern desks, chairs, filing cabinets and other necessary equipment.

The secretary was placed on regular office hours and this greatly facilitated business and was an added convenience for the tax-paying public.

The grounds in front of the school were graded and landscaped and seeded out which in the latter part of the summer resulted in a very attractive lawn.

As a permanent Centennial Year project a steel building was erected on the school grounds, on a permanent concrete base. Extensive improvements were also made to the school playgrounds. A number in excess of 200 pupils are registered in the school for the grades one to eight inclusive.

ambassador to Canada in here Sunday. Andersen, cur- to India, will succeed John March, a royal ordinance said. Denmark's ambassador Knox, 60.

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## College facilities stretched to limit

Facilities at Prince of Wales College were stretched to the limit in the 1964 term which saw some 779 students registered for high school and university courses.

The increased enrolment sent an overflow of students into the Vocational School wing, where all English, history and commerce classes are being held.

Also located in the Vocational School for the first time is a library for high school students, a move which has helped relieve congestion in the main library in the college. In charge of the high school library is Millie Mullen, and college librarian is Mary Donahoe.

Registration for university years hit an all-time record in September 1964 according to Registrar Gordon L. Bennett. A class of 75 students, the largest in the history of the college, enrolled for the fourth year program, with 192 in third year.

A 30 per cent increase in teacher training students was repeated over the 1963-64 total. 290 IN GRADE 12

Over 200 students registered in September for the Grade 12 program, a 35 per cent increase over last year. In addition, 55 students enrolled in Grade 11, and 99 in the commerce program.

Mr. Bennett noted that 46 per cent of the high school students enrolled this year for agricultural courses.

In addition to students enrolled for regular courses, there are a number of "special" students attending part time.

Teaching staff at the college stands at 44.

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