

## AMONG THE FARMERS

Federation of Agriculture Newsletter

The recent hearing on the application of Canadian Pacific Air Lines to operate services duplicating those already provided by TCA have produced the usual statements to the effect that competition will provide better and cheaper transportation for the Canadian public.

Before accepting this as gospel we would do well to take a careful look at the railway situation in this country where two large railway systems, one publicly and one privately owned, are ostentatiously competing. We pay for the duplication on overhead but certainly there is little or no real competition so far as the rate structure is concerned.

When freight rates are to go up application is made on behalf of both railways through the Railway Association and usually the wealthy CPR used as the yardstick for determining rates. Canadians would do well to take a careful look at the myth of competition in transportation bringing them any real benefits.

**BRITAIN IMPORTS POTATOES**  
It was stated that it is now beyond doubt that the home crop of potatoes, will not be sufficient to meet all requirements throughout the season. Despite the improvement of harvesting conditions, which has resulted in supplies being a little easier, prices have fallen only slightly and it was stated that they have remained unduly high for the season.

Imports will continue to be permitted as long as they are necessary, subject to balance of payments needs and to plant health regulations. The latter prohibit imports from North America.

**BARTER DEALS**  
Probably the worst news farm wise to come out of Washington this year is to the effect that United States is planning to increase its barter deals for American farm surpluses with other countries. Certainly Canadian farmers, especially the grain farmers, will find some actual and prospective customer switching over to the American barter deals. Under these deals the United States will take, for example so many tons of manganese, nickel or zinc in exchange for wheat, corn, or what have you the imported materials going into the Government-owned stock pile.

As late as last June the President of the United States when in Ottawa assured us that these barter deals would be cut down. Now they are back in business and farmers all over the world will find themselves competing with the United States Treasury.

**ONTARIO FEDERATION**  
At the recent annual meeting of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture the President, Gordon Greer, made some hard-hitting statements which are worthy of wide circulation and study by all farmers.

"But don't blame the politicians for all of our troubles. Agriculture has probably obtained a larger share of the available dollars through various government programs than it might otherwise have done. We farmers have failed — failed to be as effective as labor in collective bargaining; we have failed to be as effective as other groups in lobbying production to the demands of our markets; we have failed to keep abreast of industry in the field of administered prices."

We have alibis for our failures;

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**CHRISTMAS** from Adella's *Charmers!*

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farmers are widely scattered and are individualists, or try to be—management of agriculture is in the hands of hundreds of thousands compared to only hundreds in industrial concerns. It is impractical to use the disciplined, aggressive methods of labor to keep industrial employees in units; up to the present it has been impossible to rigidly control total production to suit our markets, or to place management in the hands of a few, such as occurs in many industrial fields where mere dozens may control a high percentage of the total output.

Alibis will not solve our problem, however, and we should not content ourselves with alibis as a way out of our difficulties. We should stop right now, view the situation and ask ourselves what we can do about the state of agriculture. This is where I conceive that the Farmers' New Role in Marketing enters the picture.

**ORGANIZATION PROGRAM**  
Every organization should have a program, but the same program may not be suitable year after year without change. For this reason organizations should be constantly asking themselves the questions, "What is our purpose?" "Is this what we should be doing?" "Have we changed our program in keeping with the changing times?"

At least one farm organization—the Women's Institute of Ontario—is doing something constructive along these lines and is having a survey done by competent persons to determine the value of their program and how it might be changed in the light of present conditions. For some time there has been the feeling among the Ontario farm women that parts of their program which were valuable and necessary in the beginning are now being provided by other agencies either public or private and that the time has come for the development of new avenues of work.

**NUFFIELD SCHOLARSHIPS**  
Once again two young Canadian farmers, one from the east and one from the west have been chosen to receive the Nuffield Foundation Travelling Scholarship. These scholarships provided six months of expense free travel in Great Britain and the opportunity of visiting outstanding farms and studying methods and techniques that might be used in Canada. This year's winners are Mr. Harvey Homar of Corbyville, Ontario and Harold Elshenberg of Neepawa, Manitoba. It will be recalled that two young Island farmers have already shared in these honours—Mr. Archie Johnson and Mr. W. C. Cairns.

**TOURISTS, FARMERS**  
Recent statements to the effect that the tourist industry either is or may be of greater value than agriculture, in this province will be received with mixed reactions. Certainly it is a commendable ambition to boost tourism to the point where it compares with agriculture. Every agriculturist who is not an agriculture about as much as other groups provided the tourists continue to consume our farm products and contribute in taxes to the building of roads, etc. The ideal situation is of course to keep on expanding agriculture and to keep the tourist people chasing it along at top speed.

**MARKETING DIFFICULTY**  
For some of the numerous marketing boards in Ontario a new problem has arisen where they are handling price supported products. Marketing Boards are set up to bargain on behalf of the producer and to obtain the best possible price. However, when prices go down to floor there is very little latitude for bargaining and Boards may find some difficulty in explaining the value of their functions to producers.

**Hon. B. W.**

(Continued from page 1)

May of 1939 the contest for the Second Queen's seat resulted in an appeal which eventually reached the full bench of the Supreme Court. A deadlock resulted and the seat was declared vacant by a bill enacted by the 1940 session of the legislature.

Mr. LePage was a member of three successive Liberal Governments as a member without port-

folio in the Saunders Administration from 1927 to 1930, and in the Lea Government from 1930 to 1931 and again in 1935. He was appointed president of the Executive Council in the Campbell Government on January 14, 1936.

**SEAT VACANT**  
He was also a member of the Treasury Board, chairman of the Fishermen's Loan Board and director of the Provincial Travel Bureau. In 1937 he represented the Prince Edward Island Government at the Coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth.

On several occasions he was delegated to Ottawa with others on matters of finance, public works, transportation, unemployment, fisheries, and other provincial business, all being of considerable importance to the province.

On October 1st, 1939, Mr. LePage was appointed Lieutenant-Governor of the Island and held office until 1945.

When proroguing the legislature on April 9, 1945, Mr. LePage made local history by withholding assent to a controversial bill designed to amend the province's Prohibition Act.

Known locally as the Cullen Amendment, the measure was intended to loosen some of the more stringent clauses of the old act.

It was assented to by Hon. J. A. Bernard, who succeeded Lieutenant-Governor LePage in office but this action was later held invalid by the P.E.I. Supreme Court. In the meantime, however, the original act had been further amended by the 1948 session of the House.

Mr. LePage was married in 1897 to Harriet E. Christie, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. James A. Christie of New Glasgow, P.E.I. Their family consists of a son William Reuel, who is president of the LePage Shoe Company Limited and a daughter, Hilda Ruth, Mrs. Lloyd Wannacott.

A senior presiding elder of Trinity United Church at the time of his death, Mr. LePage took an active interest in church work for many years.

The late Mr. McCormac was a member of St. Dunstan's Basilica parish and the parish's Laymen's Association and the Char-

lottesville Council of the Knights of Columbus.

Surviving are his wife, the former Marguerite MacLanes, Halifax, and two sons and two daughters Bruce, with the Supply and Accounting department of the Royal Canadian Navy, Ottawa; David, accountant with The Royal Bank of Canada, Parrsboro, N.S.; Lorraine and Margie at home.

Two brothers and three sisters also survive. They are: Mrs. Mae

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**P. R. McCormac**

(Continued from page 1)

He was vice-president for several years of the National Liberal Federation, was several times president of the Queens County Liberal association and also served as president of the 5th District Liberal organization.

It was during Mr. McCormac's term as president of the St. Dunstan's Alumni Association that the present gymnasium was turned over to the university as a gift of former students. This was on June 20, 1951. Mr. McCormac served as alumni president from 1947 to 1948 and again from 1949 till 1952.

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