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Canada's Farm Exports

Canada's trade in agricultural products is declining in importance relative to total trade but, on a volume basis, it has been higher on the average in the past five years than in any similar peacetime period. This statement appears in an analysis of our trade in farm products written for Foreign Trade, the Department of Trade and Commerce magazine, by Margaret I. Dunbabin, an economist with the Prices Support Board, Canada Department of Agriculture.

From 1935-39 agricultural exports averaged 33 per cent of total trade; in the 1952-56 period they dropped to 24 per cent. Despite this relative decline in the importance of agricultural exports and the decrease in the value of money, our exports of farm products have risen about 48 per cent in absolute terms, which takes account of the change in purchasing power of the dollar in the two periods.

The direction of Canada's agricultural trade differs greatly from prewar. The United Kingdom used to take about 62 per cent of our total exports of farm products, the United States 21 per cent and other countries 17 per cent; the 1952-56 averages show that sales to the U.K. have declined to 29 per cent, but have risen to 24 per cent to the U.S. and to 47 per cent to all other countries.

The United States has emerged as the dominant market for farm products other than wheat and flour. In the 1952-56 period the U.S. bought 50 per cent of these exports against 30 per cent in the prewar period. The United Kingdom share of this trade has declined to 20 per cent from 60 per cent and sales to other countries have risen from 10 per cent to 30 per cent.

Gloomy View

What do the scientists who have first hand knowledge of nuclear force think about the possibility of mankind's escaping its full fury? No doubt, like the rest of us, they are hoping that somehow good sense and moral understanding will triumph over the threat that hangs over the world. That it is a hope that sometimes appears dim was indicated in an address delivered by Dr. Harrison Brown, Professor of Biochemistry at the California Institute of Technology, before the annual conference of the American Society of Newspaper Editors in San Francisco.

"If I were a cosmic gambler," said Dr. Brown, "watching the earth from afar and studying the present behaviour pattern of people and nations, I would be inclined to give rather substantial odds that sooner or later the boat will be rocked and industrial civilization will perish in a nuclear holocaust." He went on to say that he would expect this to happen "within the next century, possibly within 25 years, conceivably within the next five years."

It's a very gloomy view, to be sure. What makes it so hard to dismiss from the area of probability is the fact that at the present time there is not a person in the world—statesman, scientist, philosopher or theologian—who can confidently produce supportable facts to argue against it. All we have is hope. Now, of course, hope is a very strong force; but it was never intended as a substitute for moral action in all departments of life.

A Fine Idea

An undertaking in East-West cultural collaboration has been initiated by Dr. Watson Kirkconnell, President of Acadia University, and Mr. Ferenc Fay, Hungarian poet now resident in Canada. The two scholars are working on the Hungarian translation of 150 outstanding Canadian poems selected by Dr. Kirkconnell. It is hoped that later on other cultural groups may become interested and translate the poems into the various Slav languages.

Mr. Fay's works have been published in Canada, the United States, Britain, Australia, Argentina, France, Germany and some other countries. One of his more recent and interesting works was his short biography of Pauline Johnson, Canada's Indian poet, published in an important Hungarian Weekly. Mr. Fay has also published Hungarian translations of several of Miss Johnson's poems which tell of the sufferings when the white man took over their territories. Mr. Fay's works, too, often reflect the hardships of his people. His latest work is "Lamentations of Jeremias", a philosophical treatise on the Biblical Book of Jeremias.

Dr. Kirkconnell's and Mr. Fay's undertaking is to be commended; for, the more different peoples know about one another's cultural achievements, the more likely they are to achieve a good understanding in other fields. It is an idea which could profitably be extended to include other European ethnic groups. There is not a country in Europe which does not have a fine literary tradition which, if the various works, including the lesser works, were translated into English and widely distributed, would be of great help to Canada in its current program of creating a cultural pattern.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Congratulations to the P. E. I. Recce Regiment on their leading in the final week's training program at Camp Utopia and to the Royal Newfoundland Regiment which took second place.

The statisticians report that farmers' incomes in general have risen for the second consecutive year. They still have a long way to go, though, before farmers can be said to enjoy a just share of the national wealth.

There is good news for the lumber industry. Forestry experts say that within a few years, perhaps less than ten, wood that is now considered useless will be used as an important source of industrial chemicals. It may even take the place of oil and coal in some areas.

The following "filler", captioned "Has Pleasant Summers", appeared in a recent issue of the New York Times: "The average monthly temperatures in Prince Edward Island range from 17 degrees in February to 66 in July." That's good publicity—and free.

The Dairy Department of the University of Maryland has developed a mechanical cow. It consists of a large rumen from a real animal, an artificial heart and an artificial lung. The purpose, according to University officials, "is to learn how foods are broken down into the rumen."

There was a time when the closing of Vladivostok Bay by the Russian Government would have caused a grave international quarrel, perhaps a war. The Soviet action at this time, however, will cause nothing more serious than diplomatic exchanges. The world situation is bad enough; but it must be admitted that wars are not started as easily as they used to be.

A member of Parliament who was elected as an independent Conservative has now entered the official P.C. fold. A couple of independent Liberals have also been welcomed by the parent organization. These potential difficulties having been disposed of, Parliament will be able to get down to business in earnest when it meets in October. Why anyone would want to run as an "independent" Liberal or Conservative is a mystery.

Judging by reports of the recently held county meetings of the P.E.I. Federation of Agriculture, one fact was emphasized during the deliberations: the Federation needs strengthening at county and district levels. No Province has more urgent need of a strong and active farmers' organization, for the simple reason that no Province is as much dependent for its economic wellbeing on agricultural pursuits. But, of course, a federation, whether it be in agriculture or anything else, can only be as strong as its constituent members; and its usefulness can only be as great as the support which is given to it by local group



CASTING ITS SHADOW BEFORE

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

RATES ON FEED GRAIN

Sir,—Now that the shouting and tumult of the recent Federal election has died away and a new Government has taken over the task of governing the country, and which will, in due course, seek to implement its promises to the electorate, would it not be in the best interests to elevate the effect that some of those promises, if implemented, will have on the overall economy of the country, particularly in regard to the Maritime Provinces? They might well be termed an economic depression area, due in part to their geographical relation to the rest of Canada and to the policies of the late Liberal administration.

As one of those promises directly affects the financial status of the Maritime farmers, I am therefore taking the liberty of bringing it to the attention of the elected members of the Government through the medium of your columns. I wish to refer to the Freight Rates Assistance Act on feed grain and mill feeds from Western and Eastern Canada, which the present Government has promised to put on the statute books as a permanent measure.

This measure had its beginning as a war-time Order-in-Council to speed up the production of livestock products in order to meet the requirements of our forces overseas, and the heavy commitments entered into by our own Government and that of Great Britain; and it has since been kept in force from year to year by Act of Parliament at the request of the C.I.A., the railroads, and the Western grain farmers. One must admit that, as a war-time measure, it fulfilled its purpose and has ever since been a boon to the Western grain farmers, the railroads, and the Eastern livestock feeder.

But what it has done over the long run has been not only to bring to an unfortunate end the growing of feed grain for commercial purposes in the Maritime Provinces, but it has destroyed what markets the Maritime farmers had to dispose of their surplus grain, as they cannot compete with what is in reality Government subsidized grain from the West. I would like to point out this fact: that the freight rate assistance policy does not apply on feed grain or mill feed originating on this side of the Maritime border. It is solely a piece of legislation, as far as the payment of subventions goes, for the benefit of the Prairie grain growers, and here one may detect the fine Spencerian hand of the Hon. Mr. Gardiner, former Minister of Agriculture, whose national outlook, where the West was concerned, was bounded on the East by the Great Lakes and on the West by the Rocky Mountains.

If this measure is to be retained—and it should be, then it should be national in scope. However, in common with a great many others, I feel that some of the Maritime share of the money paid by the Federal Government to the railroads in the form of subventions would be of far more lasting benefit to the Maritime economy if it were paid as a subsidy to the farmers to encourage the growing of feed grain for commercial purposes. We in the Maritimes can and should grow every bushel of feed grain required. In so doing it would serve a two-fold purpose, inasmuch as it would mean that the total revenue derived from the sale of livestock products, etc., would be retained in these provinces. This is one of the principal disabilities under which the Maritimes suffer, in that we have to send out of the Provinces monies for the purchase of commodities that, in a great many cases, should be manufactured and grown here, and so build up our

OTTAWA REPORT

Old Age Pensions

By Patrick Nicholson

Ottawa: High on the list of reforms which the new Diefenbaker government is expected to introduce is an increase in the universal Old Age Pension.

This pension was launched in 1951, at the level of \$40 per month for every person over 70 years of age, subject to certain residential qualifications. On the assumption that the cost of living has risen 15 per cent since that date, the Liberal Government raised the pension by that same percentage, namely to \$46 per month, effective the first of this month.

Prior to the election, John Diefenbaker castigated this twenty-cent per day as a "meagre and niggardly" increase. In the past seven years, he pointed out, wages and salaries have increased by about 50 per cent, an "enormous" increase in the responsibility of the old age pensioners.

The Old Age pension cost \$379,000,000 last year. The Liberals' increase of \$6 per month will add \$60,000,000 to this cost.

What further boost will be added on top of that \$6 by the Conservative Government?

That is the question uppermost in the minds of many of the 789,000 senior citizens of this country. But Prime Minister Diefenbaker is not giving away the secrets of the supplementary budget which his new Finance Minister, Hon. Donald Fleming, will introduce probably late in October.

IS UNIVERSALITY A MISTAKE? The problem facing the government of course is that the old age pension is now paid to everyone qualified by age, whether they need it or not. Millionaire oldsters pay most of it back in tax. Yet if the present disbursement were

own economy. In conclusion, I wish to submit a few figures showing the total amount paid by the Dominion Government in subventions to the railroads, and what it would mean to the Maritime farmers if some of it were paid in the form of a subsidy to encourage the growing of feed grain for commercial purposes. The figures which are quoted are authentic, and have been given to me by a dealer in mill feeds, who has the best interests of the Maritime farmer at heart.

Since this measure came into effect in 1941, the staggering total of 251 million dollars has been paid to railroads as subventions (freight assistance) by the Dominion Government. Breaking this total down to everyday figures, it means that on a car load of originating grain from William, Ont., and consigned to Alberton, P.E.I. the Dominion Government pays to the railroads as subventions \$345.00, i.e., \$13.80 per ton or sixty-nine cents per hundredweight. I leave it to all those who are interested in economic welfare of the Maritimes to imagine what it would have meant to the overall economy of these Provinces if the Maritime share of this total had been paid as a subsidy to the farmers for the growing of feed grain for commercial purposes.

It is the wise and proper administration of policies of this nature that will enable the Maritime Provinces to share in the future growth and prosperity of Canada. I leave it to our representatives from the Maritimes to see that remedial action is taken, and that this measure be amended so that feed grain and mill feed originating in Eastern Canada and the Maritimes be eligible for the payment of freight assistance or subventions the same as that originating in the Prairies, and also that feed grain for commercial purposes in the Maritimes be eligible for a subsidy in lieu of freight subventions equal to that paid for commercial grain from the Prairies. I am Sir, etc., LEIGH HODGSON Alberton

to be divided only between those who really need the pension, the monthly cheque could be boosted to \$100.

But there is a popular reaction—quite uninformed and unjustified—against the suggestion that the pension should only be paid to those actually in need of it.

The government could well give humane consideration to the effects of the present regulations. For example, the pension is paid to an oldster of 70 years because he is considered to be incapable of working to support himself. But if he cannot earn his own bread, butter and bed, is he any better able to work to earn his wife's bread and margarine? Yet, until his wife reaches the age of 70, he cannot draw the old age pension for her. This is one obviously harsh anomaly which should be corrected.

Perhaps by some tax gimmick the government could also cut out the social waste of paying the taxpayers' money as a pension to our well-heeled oldsters, who need an extra \$46 per month as badly as they need those second, third and fourth cigar lighters on their new \$7,000 automobiles.

Push-Button Plowing

(Washington Star)

It seems now that we may be moving fast toward a time when the plowman will not homeward have to plod his weary way.

This promise, if it may be called that, is implicit in the announcement that our army has tested at Fort Belvoir a robot tractor that can be governed by remote radio control. That is to say, the machine can be made to do a good job, at ranges up to 15 miles from human contact, merely through a push button procedure.

Militarily speaking, it could be of great value in terms of enabling men in distant jeeps or helicopters to put it to work in radio-activated areas or combat zones. As for its nonmilitary significance, some far seeing observers predict that the thing will soon bring on the day when farmers will plow their fields simply by pressing a button here and there as they sit at home watching television or just lolling around.

The Age Old Story

When thou passest through the waters I will be with thee; and through the rivers they shall not overflow thee; when thou walkest through the fire, I fear not, for I am with thee.

INDIA DITCHES QUEEN

ALLAHABAD, India (Reuters)—A 10-ton life-size statue of Queen Victoria, classed by the Indian government as an offensive statue, Saturday was hauled away from Alfred Park in an army truck. A statue of King George V was uprooted from the same park earlier this week. The large-scale removal of statues of royalty and other Britons is being carried out before the celebration Aug. 15 and 16 of India's independence.

PATTI QUITS UK TV

LONDON (CP)—Patti Lewis, 24-year-old blonde singer from Toronto, is giving up show business in Britain to return to Canada. "Why should I beat my brains out over here when I can earn the same money at home in comfort," says Miss Lewis, who has been starring in a number of television programs. Miss Lewis came to Britain three years ago.

Figures Show Gain Over Polio

By Herman N. Sundeen, M.D. Last year the United States had the lowest incidence rate of infantile paralysis for any single year since 1947. The rate was 9.2 cases per 100,000 population. For the nation at large, it was not a polio year.

Chicago, on the other hand, had the second highest incidence rate (20.2 cases per 100,000 population) for any year since 1911 when we began keeping poliomyelitis records.

LOW FATALITY RATE Yet during this same 12-month period, Chicago had one of the lowest fatality rates (3.2 deaths per 100 cases reported) in the history of polio record keeping.

Throughout a 16-week polio outbreak last summer, the Chicago Board of Health and private physicians administered a total of 14,520 doses of Salk vaccine in an effort to stem the tide of polio and thus had an opportunity to conduct a pilot study on the effectiveness of the vaccine.

RESULTS OF TEST Let me tell you what we learned during this first mass test of this new vaccine under emergency conditions.

First and most important, of course, the outbreak did not reach epidemic proportions. Our yardstick for measuring the seriousness of an outbreak defines an epidemic rate as 35 or more cases per 100,000 population.

There were 1,111 cases of polio reported in Chicago last year. Of this total, 80 persons developed paralytic poliomyelitis.

What value did the Salk vaccine have? Here are the statistics. Of the 835 persons who developed paralytic polio, 285 of them did receive some Salk vaccine.

ONE INOCULATION However, 200 of these persons had received only one inoculation; 85 of them had only two injections. But not a single person who had the recommended three doses of vaccine developed paralytic poliomyelitis.

I know no one likes to read a lot of statistics, but these are important to the welfare of your children and, indeed, the welfare of the entire country. By October, 1956, some 125,000 Chicago youngsters had received only one inoculation; 600,000 had received two; and 330,000 all three. Now compare these with the other figures I have previously cited: 200 cases out of 125,000; 85 out of 600,000; and none in 300,000. The record speaks for itself.

QUESTION AND ANSWER J.R.: Can a cyst of the ovary turn into cancer? Answer: Some cysts do turn cancerous. If you have a cyst, you should be under the frequent observation of your physician.

The Poet's Corner

REPORT ON HALLEY'S COMET

Running dark, invisible, its narrow elongated track, wasted and no longer full from twenty-eight trips out and back, it hurtles that lump of ice and dust that streaked your sky in 1910. Neptune, which holds it firm in trust, sends Halley's comet back again, one of our long clocks, faithful, tame, geared to a now familiar rhythm, but what it is and whence it came questions too deep for us to fathom.

Not even thirty years to wait till news of it begins to stir: fogging the photographic plate from region out past Jupiter, and faster toward the focal sun, drawing a transparent tail, the lump of ice and dust will run and turn the brightest planet pale.

Wait one more generation through the long clock still is running true control. That is to say, the machine can be made to do a good job, at ranges up to 15 miles from human contact, merely through a push button procedure.

OUR YESTERDAYS

From the Guardian Files TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (July 29, 1932)

H.M. Saguenay, Commander L. W. Murray and H.M.S. Champlain, Lieut-Commander Godfrey, arrived in port yesterday at noon. His Honour, Lieut-Governor Dalton paid an official visit to the warships in the afternoon. Later in the day the Commanders returned the visit and also called on Mayor Stewart. Today they will visit the Royal Canadian Volunteer Reserves.

Hungarian partridge, which were introduced into this province a few years ago, seem to be increasing in numbers very rapidly. Many people are commenting on the large numbers seen. Yesterday, Mr. Oliver Sanderson, Winsloe, found a nest containing sixteen birds.

TEN YEARS AGO

(July 29, 1947) The Provincial Government has made voluntary grants to the city of Charlottetown within the last year amounting to over \$50,000. Premier J. Walter Jones yesterday informed the official representatives of the Province's six smallest towns. The meeting, held under the chairmanship of J. F. Connolly, Deputy Minister of Reconstruction, was called for the purpose of discussing the drafting of a uniform incorporation act for the six towns.

Arrangements are being made by the City Council to increase the width by five feet of the North River Road from the corner of Brighton Road to the City Limits. The Maritime Electric and Island Telephone Companies are co-operating by higher and heavier poles along the western side to carry both power and telephone lines.

NOTES BY THE WAY

It's odd, but hachaches come quicker from digging out dandelions than digging for fishing worms.—Brandon Sun.

A man never realizes the variety of insect life until he examines his car radiator after a long trip.—Edmonton Journal.

There's nothing like keeping everybody in suspense. Even with most of the posts filled in the new Conservative Cabinet, there are enough vacancies so that a lot of Conservative M.P.'s will be jumping every time the telephone rings.—Sherbrooke Record.

Dogs are living "high on the hog" in the U.S. These days. Restaurants in Akron, Ohio, report a steadily increasing demand for "Doggy Bags," now being supplied free to diners. The "Doggy Bag" is a grease-proof paper sack into which odds and ends of dinners can be slipped to take home to a hungry-looking big-eyed pooch like the one pictured on the outside of the bag. Restaurant proprietors estimate that one out of every six customers goes home with a small paper sack, tucked away under his arm or carried daintily in milady's glove.—Galt Reporter.

There are two main reasons why a woman buys an article—because somebody has it or because everybody has it.—Moose Jaw Times-Herald.

There's a friendly undertaker in Washington, D.C., who closes all his correspondence with "Eventually Yours." Another in Los Angeles advises: "Use our lay-away plan. Pay now. Go later."—Reader's Digest.

It was thoughtful of the baccalaureate speaker to tell the graduates that their future lay ahead of them, so that none of them will make the mistake of looking for it behind them.—Kitchener-Waterloo Record.

The polar bear (Thalartos maritimus) Subapp. continues to be hunted in the American arctic Circle. Those responsible seem to be the sportsmen who hunt the bear from aircraft, causing justifiable resentment from the local Eskimos for whom the animal provides so many necessities of life.—Nature Bulletin.

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400	71.17	37.63	24.27	
500	88.64	46.73	30.01	
600	105.91	55.67	35.59	\$26.73
700	122.99	64.43	41.65	
1000	166.67	88.11	61.45	

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HFC HOUSEHOLD FINANCE Corporation of Canada 150 Great George St., suite 1, phone 2817 CHARLOTTETOWN, P.E.I.