A Feature for Every Friday

Among The Farmers

Federation Of Agriculture News

Christmas Greetings

As this is our last newsletter before Christmas, we take the opportunity of conveying the season's greetings of the Federation of Agriculture to its members, to other Farm Organizations, to officials of Governments with which we have worked, and to everyone in fact who reads or has read this column for the past year.

Christmas, in spite of commercial modification, is still a great force in the hearts and minds of people; it is a season when many of us, perhaps forced by necessity to concentrate throughout the year on the personal problem of existence, look with a little deeper feeling and a keener appreciation on the problems of others.

In many a rural schoolhouse throughout the Province, the teacher nobly backed up by the pupils will stage the usual Christmas concert, an excellent means of developing native ability and bringing an evening of joy and good fellowship to young and old alike.

And so to all—a Joyous Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Free Enterprise

A substantial number of groups and organizations in Canada, while stoutly epousing and commending the free enterprise system, at the same time close their eyes to, or condone practices which would hardly appear to be compatible with the word free.

Does the word "Free" really mean that manufacturers can fix the retail price for his product and compel a local merchant to sell his goods not below such a level, with a penalty of non-supply if such a price is not maintained? Does it mean that a professional man in one Canadian Province cannot practice in another without paying an exorbitant fee and undergoing another examination? Does it mean that the Canadian Branch of an American Automobile Manufacturing Company must obtain a higher price for a product manufactured in Windsor, Ontario, than for the same product manufactured in Detroit?

In short we would like to see an explicit definition of what is meant by "Free Enterprise."

Toronto—Not So Hot

We have recently received an interesting letter from an Islander who sold his farm and moved to Toronto to work in a large manufacturing plant. This farmer in the short space of six months has come to the conclusion that such work from the standpoint of satisfaction is definitely lacking and has decided to go back into agriculture at the first opportunity.

He describes his existence as a purposeless one and himself as a very minor cog in a very large machine.

Bright lights in a large city do not necessarily make for a better life, but those who will develop their natural capacity for living can find their widest outlet under the sun and the stars, and in the fields among the growing things of the earth.

Idependence of thought and action is not necessarily provided by the hourly wage for the number of hours worked. We hazard the question that those who remain on Prince 7dward Island live a fuller, happier life than those who move to the industrial centres of the nation.

Price Fixing

Apparently the legislation now before Parliament to prohibit fixing of retain prices by manufacturers is developing into a full fledged political battle.

We wonder if members in Ottawa realize how politically significant such a question as this may be. From the standpoint of vote production any question which lines up a host of little people against a few big people cannot fail to be politically important.

Hogmen Meet

This week a representative group of Island swine breeders met to consider questions relating to advanced registry and changes in standards of rail grading.

Even with the large new swine barn at the Experimental Farm, Island farmers have been placing on test more groups than the Farm would accommodate and have had of necessity to do a substantial amount of testing at home. The possibility that the latter practice was to be discouraged or not to receive equal recognition with the test barn group was naturally a cause for concern.

We feel the Swine Breeders are perfectly justified in questioning the continuation of the present system until such time as the test barn can be enlarged.

Their request that there should be a Maritimer on the Advanced Registry Board also seems reasonable.

The question of railgrade standards is quite a technical one, but there is evidence to indicate that the weight range should be widened out to include more hogs that have the desirable quality and confirmation. In short, many B 1 hogs are of "A" quality, but are shut out by reason of weight. It is the generally accepted fact that within the A classification certain weights produce cuts which are preferred by the consumer, this is the reason for the suggestion that price differentials might be established within the A Grades. The proposed grades would be called A 1 and A 2 with each class being divided into sizeable light and heavy, with a weight range extending from 125 to 175 pounds. The B Grade would take in hogs from 125 to 185 pounds with length of side and thickness of shoulder and loin fat being the determining factor.

Ribbons Galore

In the show window of the Rogers Hardware Company are displayed the ribbons won by Island hogs at the Royal Winter Fair, and an imposing display it is.

All farmers in general and swine breeders in particular who participated have good reason for satisfaction in this demonstration of swine breeding superiority.

Farmers Go To School

Are rural people interested in continuing their education as they keep the farm, tend the livestock, and send their own children off to college. Or, are they content to let their knowledge of the world about them, stay the same as the day they left school? Pessimists would have you think so, but the recent discussions and opinions gathered from the three Counties by Farm Forum show that the farmer and his wife are anxious to widen their outlook on practical farming, community living, and in general, associate themselves with the cultural activities in the province.

Farm Forum divided its study into three topics—Opportunites for Cultural Activities—Educational Outlets for Adults—and Folk Schools for Farm People. Questions and material for discussion were sent the members, nearly 400 strong, and they carefully recorded their answers and returned them to the local office.

Culture and the Community

What did they think about it? The majority of P. E. I.'s rural citizens felt they contributed to provincial cultural life by "Doing any job thoroughly", wrote Morell Rear Farm Forum. "This should be considered artistic and would be an outlet for talent, such as using taste in improving buildings, making hay stacks, fencing, or in general, keeping everything snugged up around the home and farm."

Fairview Forum added a few more suggestions saying, "Beautification of homes inside and out; handicrafts and the improvement of livestock and finishing these herds for exhibition."

Many admitted though, that they wished for choral clubs, dramatic societies, and debates to flourish in their own districts but lacked leadership, music teachers and community halls.

Lower Freetown Forum felt that, "A farmer should have a hobby if it does not interfere with his general efficiency." They recommended practical hobbies which centred on farming, such as a special interest in seed potatoes, pure bred stock and oats. They concluded that the National Film Board would have to help them out by sending out educational films to direct them in their preferred hobby.

Folk Schools

P. E. I. farmers were asked "If you had your choice, what kind of short courses or community schools for adults would you like to have in your community?

Fifty per cent wanted courses in repairing farm machinery and agriculture. After they felt satisfied that their farm was in good working order, they would like to take courses in leadership and public speaking, and hobbiecrafts, manual training. Their wives wanted sewing and instruction in leatherwork.

Asked if they thought a Folk School would benefit their community many answered as Malpeque did. "Very definitely, yes" It would create a much greater interest in the community and be a help to keep young people on the farm. We would suggest a sort of night school to be held once a week in which two or three communities could get together and have outside talent come in and give talks and show films on different phases of farming.

This series of discussions has already developed community projects. Urbanville is sending a young man from their district to take a short course. Malpeque is thinking about buying a film projector, and many are organizing concerts and plays to put into practice their new outlook on community living.

BONN, Germany, Dec. 17 —(AP) —Hans Hedtoft, former prime Minister and leader of the Danish Socialist Party, said today that Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Iceland soon will establish an inter-parliamentary "Nordic Council." Its purpose will be to deal with common problems and suggest solutions to the four national parliaments.

LONDON—(CP) —An excavation party says it has no doubt that treasures of Roman London are lying below the surface, but before reaching that level the party hopes to find relics previous to the great fire of 1666.

Your Last Call For Christmas

Men's SHIRTS	2.25 to 5.50
Men's PYJAMAS	2.95 to 5.95
Men's GLOVES	1.50 to 7.95
Men's TIES	1.00 and 1.50
Men's BRACES & GARTER SETS	2.00
Men's HOSE	75c to 2.75
Men's DRESSING GOWNS	5.95 to 14.95
Men's SWEATERS	4.50 to 8.95
Men's SCARFS	1.25 to 3.95

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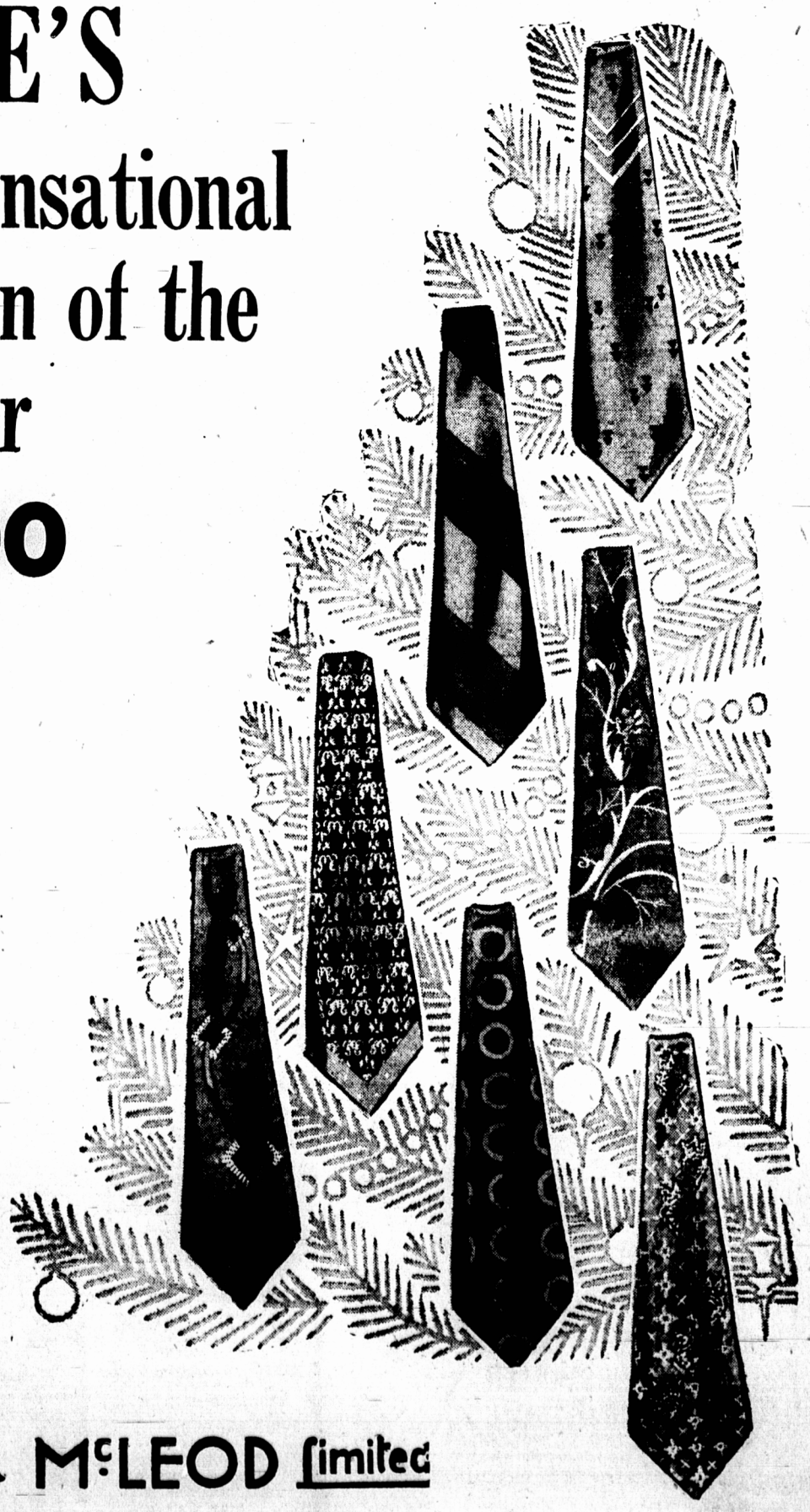

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