Scholarships Available; Butter Output Shows Dip

By J. LINCOLN DEWAR

Once again the Canadian Federation of Agriculture advises that two Nuffield scholarships in agriculture are available — one for Eastern Canada and one for the West.

The scholarships provides travel for six months in the United Kingdom and the opportunity of studying British agriculture. All expenses are covered and the winner leaves in February returning the following September. Scholarships are open to either men or women in preferably thirty to thirty-five years of age.

Island farm people interested in applying should write to the Federation of Agriculture Box 546 for application forms and further information October 19th is the deadline for applications.

BUTTER SITUATION

For the month of July butter showed a slight (2 percent) drop in total production over the same month last yeor, amounting to 43.7 million pounds as compared with 46.1. Thus for the dairy year to date butter production is almost identical with that of last year.

Once again disappearance showed a remarkable gain over last year, up some 23 per cent (7.1 million pounds). These figures, however, are only preliminary and might well be revised downwards when final figures are available. It is understood that the estimated disappearance for the month of June, reported in the last dairy situation report, may also be adjusted downward. Considerable difficulty is being experienced with monthly disappearance figures at the present time due to the relatively rapid change in stock positions caused by the export sales of Board butter and butter oil.

Butter stocks at 127 million pounds (including trade stocks) showed a decrease of almost 20 million pounds over last year.

WHAT'S WRONG?

Some time ago Dr. A.F. Laidlaw secretary of the Co-op Union of Canada had some pointed remarks to make about mental attitudes and the economy of the Maritime provinces. More specifically we quote a few paragraphs from his remarks. While we do not necessarily endorse them we believe them to be worthy of study and some thought.

"This region of Canada has a deep and ingrained opposition to desirable and advantageous forms of socialization; the people in these provinces do not take sufficient advantage of useful and indeed obvious forms of organization; there is an unconscious but strong tendency to old-fashioned individualism which is not good for this region.

"I firmly believe that much of the retarded economic development of the Alantic provinces stems from our stubborn resistance to good and desirable kinds of socialization. The salt air of the region seems to have infected us with some kind of anti-social virus.

"I think I can prove to you—and I am going to try to do so—that it is much easier for someone from outside the Atlantic provinces to come here and organize us to his own advantage and purpose, than for Atlantic region people to get together and organize themselves to good advantage.

"The reasons for this attitude or frame of mind — if it does exist — are not easy to pinpoint or explain, and I don't think we should spend much time on conjecture and theory. But how the attitude can be uprooted and the frame of mind changed should be the concern of all of us."

CREDIT SERVICES

A variety of credit services are available to the general public banks, small loan companies, Credit Unions. It may be of some interest to note that in the Maritimes with our less active economy we are much more partial to the use of small loan companies as a source of credit than are we to Credit Unions. For instance in the province of Quebec for each member of the population Credit Unions claim assets of $184.70 in Saskatchewan the figure is $153.00 in this province $17.50.

On the other hand Prince Edward Island borrows on the average per person $41.70 from small loan companies, Saskatchewan $12.90 and Quebec $26.02. It is not our intention to moralize on these figures but rather leave them for consideration by thoughtful people.

PLOWING SUCCESS

Now that it is over the general opinion appears to be that the Canadian Champion Plowing Match was really a success in all departments. In the opinion of Mr. McKinney it was the best Match ever and that knowledge should be some satisfaction to all who had any part in making the arrangements and to Kings County where it was held.

The location appeared to be very satisfactory, well arranged with ample room and not spread too widely, the soil was in ideal condition and the weather practically perfect. The plowman's banquet at Montague was one of the largest of the Centennial Year and certainly a notable event.

The agricultural interests of the province certainly have no apologies to make for the way in which the Match was carried out and certainly the public responded magnificently with very satisfactory attendance.

SYNDICATE LOANS

The legislation now under consideration in the House of Commons which will enable groups of farmers to join together in obtaining credit for the purchase of equipment is the progressive piece of legislation. For some years farmers have been advised to keep down machinery costs by joint purchases or working together. This advice was generally sound but there were roadblocks to its implementation. Now with the means being afforded for joint financing it will be possible to acquire on a joint basis some of the larger and more expensive pieces of equipment.

HEALTH HINT

Unless you get milk in some form every day, there's a good chance you won't get enough calcium and perhaps riboflavin, two nutrients you need throughout your life.

A TRIBUTE OF TEARS

His eyes half closed and tears running down his cheeks, former Prime Minister Harold Macmillan pays tribute to a friend, the late President Kennedy, at Forest Row, England, Wednesday. The occasion was the dedication of a plaque, background, commemorating the visit of President Kennedy to the little Sussex village 15 months ago. (AP Wirephoto via cable from London.)

EVALUATES COWS

A new computer-like gadget, the Milkograf, evaluates a cow's production and decides whether she's destined for honors or hamburger.

ACROSS THE ISLAND

Old Ghost Tale Is Most Unusual

By NEIL A. MATHESON
Provincial-Farm Editor

ONE OF the most unusual ghost stories, or "tales of the occult" as my friend, Charles S. MacDonald, Murray Harbor, calls them, came to my attention recently in the eastern part of the province.

I haven't permission to give you the name of my informant who is an unusually modest gentleman, but I can assure you of his complete reliability. And he tells me the old story is true, names used are family names well known in that area.

Joe Campbell and Felix MacPhee grew up together in the area of Campbell's Cove; indeed they were school chums, I am told. When Joe developed into young manhood he travelled to Gloucester, Massachussetts, and signed aboard a fisherman that was going to the Grand Banks, off Newfoundland.

A YEAR or so later Felix left his home and travelled the same route. The boat on which Felix had shipped encountered a bad storm off the Banks one night and the captain dropped anchor to ride out the blow. Felix was in his bunk below, when he saw a figure come down the companionway clad in oil-skins. Getting up and approaching the nightly visitor, MacPhee recognized his old boyhood pal from the Island.

"Good Lord, it's Joe", he exclaimed in amazement, and the figure replied "that's who it is".

When Felix enquired "How are you, and how in the world did you get here anyway?" Joe replied "I have a serious problem and I want your promise you will help me set it right".

"My Body Is At Bottom Of The Sea"

THEN JOE explained "My ship is at the bottom of the sea, directly below where yours is anchored. It was sunk a year ago in a storm similar to this one. My body is down there, and my soul cannot go to heaven unless you can do something for me.

Assured once again that Felix would do anything possible for his old friend, Joe continued:

"I bought several bags of potatoes from Philip Rose, Elmira, before I left the Island, and I never paid him for them. If you can pay him what is owing him, I can be relieved of this sin which is hanging over me."

Felix told his captain about the incident early next morning. After he had assured the captain that he didn't just have a bad dream, the captain told him, "I'll sail for Gloucester just as soon as this storm abates, and I will give you the money to go back to your Island and pay the bill."

The rest of the story indicates that the captain did that, and the Elmira man was paid the bill that Joe Campbell came back from the dead to talk about.

I told this story at the official opening of the Dundas Plowing match when my old friend, Leslie Hunter, called on me to speak. As I stepped down from the platform, I met a man who had told me about a year ago of an experience he had had when he saw the forerunner of his grandfather's death almost 40 years ago.

"I believe the story you just told", he said to me. "It's different when you have had a somewhat similar experience yourself", he explained.

Islander Qualified For Olympics

I TALKED here recently with a long-time friend, George Walker, a former athlete here in Charlottetown who retired a few years ago from his YMCA secretary's work in St. Thomas, Ontario.

It was back in the early 1920's that George distinguished himself as the best long distance bicycle rider in the Maritime Provinces. He won the 45-mile Windsor to Halifax race three years in a row and broke the record every time.

George also broke down his bikes with monotonous regularity—there were no paved roads in those days— but that didn't stop him smashing the records at the same time.

The best story I recall is the one where he broke his starting bike, then broke his spare, and rode the last three miles on a boy's bike he borrowed from a youngster, and when that one broke down, he ran the last 100 yards carrying, or pushing the bike along with him.

Best of all he set a record of 2 hours, 14 minutes for the distance.

SO IT was natural that George should be sent to Montreal for the Olympic long-distance trials in the summer of 1924. Money was always scarce for sending athletes on such costly trips and Walker arrived Saturday night, got a bit of sleep and forked his bike early Sunday to start the 105-mile race that called for covering a 35-mile course three times.

The Islander had had no chance to study the course he would have to cover, though the two top men had been riding it for several weeks, and they were paced by motorcycles and the man who finished first was fed oranges and other refreshments from the motor bike.

By some means which George never did find out, the top man managed to escape a stop for refreshments that was enforced on the rest of the riders after they had covered 75 miles of the gruelling distance.

Performance Made Fine Impression

I'LL PASS over wearisome details and say George finished third and was offered the chance to represent Canada in the Olympic games in 1924 when the second man was disqualified. The offer from the Olympic committee carried the requirement that he should pay one-half of his own expenses.

George didn't have that kind of money, few youngsters did at the time—but he told me this summer that the late Chester McLaire and Lt.-Col. D. A. MacKinnon, former owners of this paper, offered to put up the money so he could make the trip.

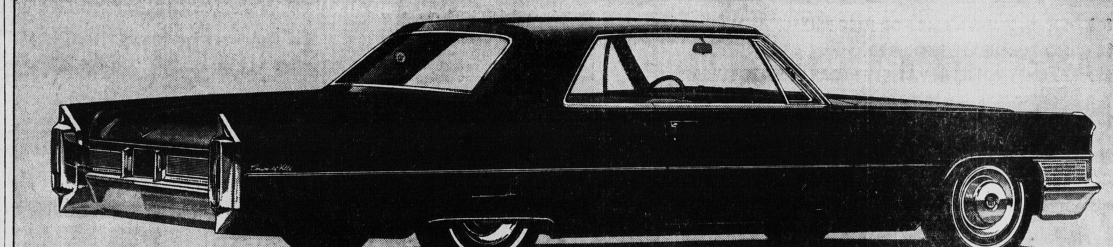
But it was about the time that George Walker had to make up his mind about the "Y" work that was offering then as a career. So he looked to the future and declined, with some regret, the chance to be a member of Canada's Olympic team.

THE PERFORMANCE of the Charlottetown man made a deep impression on the top bicycle racing men of that day. I saw a letter a few weeks ago that had come to George from William Gladish who was the district chairman of Canada's Wheelman's Association. It said in part:

"Taken on the whole your performance was astonishingly good and quite the most meritorious of the entire field". The letter noted further that the winner had been breaking the rules when he was paced by a motor bike and fed by the rider.

I should say here that the Charlottetown man was not alone in his big test. Alderman Louis Rubenstein of Montreal took George under his wing and did everything possible for him while he was in the big city.

George Walker was active in many other sports but the incident I remember best is the time he was nozzle man on the Charlottetown Fire Department's Hose and Reel team that won the Maritime Championship here in 1925 and set a record of 1 minute, nine and four-fifth seconds for the quarter mile run, pulling a 500-pound reel, that has never been equalled. The department claimed it was a world record at the time. The details are still fresh in my memory after 39 years because I had the privilege of running on that team.



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