

FARM POLICIES

(Continued from page 7)

add on credit, the World Food Bank will be encouraged. Deficiency payments will be made on hogs and eggs and on a quarterly basis. Marketing boards and co-operatives will be encouraged on a national basis and co-operative facilities made available to the side of farm development. UNDA will be promoted in the provinces with emphasis on woodlots, tourism and agriculture.

The New Democratic party consults itself to preserving the family farm and will encourage the formation of producer controlled marketing agencies on a national or regional basis. Party prices will be guaranteed in advance and related to average costs of production. Food distribution programs to aid low income groups will be set up and efforts made to expand exports. Co-operatives will be encouraged and new program of farm credit for smaller scale farmers and young men will be undertaken. A program for improving rural living standards will be undertaken.

Finally the Social Credit party sets out a policy designed to: (1) Maintain a substantial and adequate domestic price for farm products, (2) Guarantee a fair share of domestic prices to all farmers irrespective of the size of their farms, (3) Promote export sales.

QUOTA FOR FARMERS

In order to guarantee a fair share of the domestic market each farmer will be given a quota irrespective of size at a price based on average cost of production plus a reasonable profit. Any production over and above domestic prices will be sold to overseas markets at world market prices. In addition Social Credit proposes to use a part of Canada's income from tariff to subsidize prices of exports to foreign nations. This "parity pool" it is hoped will avoid the necessity of selling to Communist countries and

direct our surpluses to the hungry of the free world. We realize that the above is a sketchy and very condensed analysis of what each party proposes. Any politician could probably spend hours elaborating on the platform of his particular party. Farmers who wish to dig deeper into the matter no doubt have available to them in more detailed form information on these matters.

U.K. POTATO IMPORTS

A spokesman of the British ministry of agriculture has announced a definite and final policy that the ministry will not relax plant health restrictions to permit imports of potatoes from North America and other countries that are a disease risk. Any such relaxation, stated the spokesman, would be "a pale measure of the worst possible kind which could do damage to the potato growing industry for years, perhaps for ever."

The president of the National Association of Seed Potato Merchants recently claimed that despite the ingenuity of the Potato Marketing Board and all its sources of information it had not yet found the solution to the yearly fluctuations in supplies. In one year potatoes were in such abundance that the human and animal population could not consume it. In another year, such as this one, "the potato virtually disappeared from the face of Europe."

Latest figures indicate that stocks are sufficient for another two or three weeks, by which time it is hoped that the new crop will be harvested in south west England. Prolonged cold weather with northerly winds has retarded growth, however, and the harvesting of these crops is likely to be about two weeks late. Source: Canadian Agricultural Councillor, London.

MORE COLD

A real pessimist could probably convince himself that the possibility exists that we will have no summer this year. While for a few days over the weekend the weather got on its good behaviour it fell from grace

suddenly on Tuesday night when frost was again in evidence. In checking records of two years ago we find that grass slugs was started on June 16 with a good crop.

Only the very best fields have satisfactory growth on them at the present time, and there are still cases where cattle have not yet been turned out to pasture. Complaints in this respect appear to be more prevalent in the western part of the province.

NEW MONSTERS

Gardening is not one of our main skills, however, last week we undertook to set out some strawberry plants and on returning two days later found that the leaves had disappeared. In daylight there was no evidence of what had caused the trouble, but on returning with a light in the dark we found very busily employed large numbers of what resembled a small sized potato bug without the stripes. Even plants which had been set out that evening were well supplied with the monsters which indicated that our modest gardening intentions had received advanced publicity in the insect world.

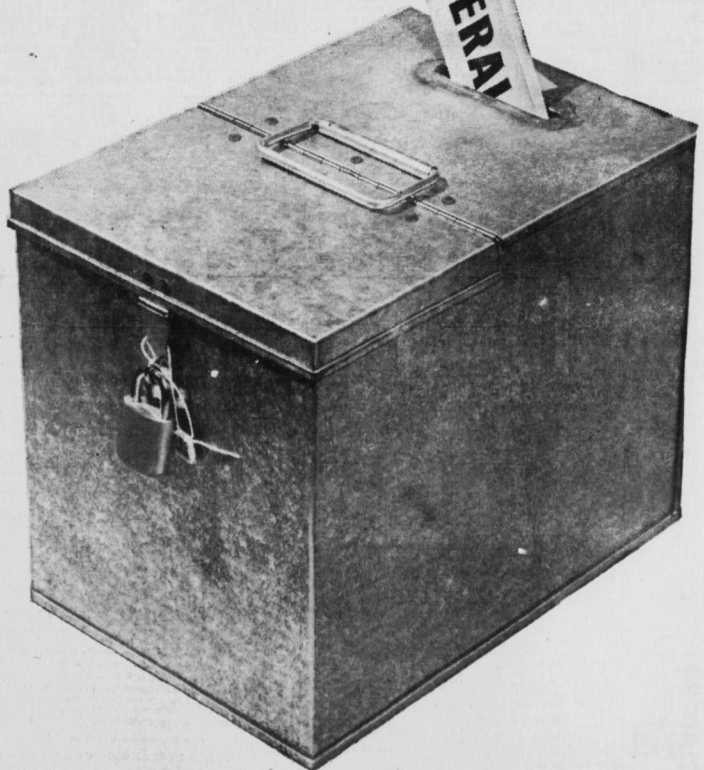
In our ignorance we had been assuming that nothing would eat the leaf of a strawberry, not even a goose, but apparently this definitely has now been remedied. The scientific world has identified our enemy as the strawberry leaf beetle and suggests that DDT is good or bad for them depending on whose side you are on.

FEDERATION MEETINGS

Next Wednesday will see a meeting of the Provincial Board of Directors of the Federation. On the lengthy agenda are such matters as the planning of meetings in the county, potato problems, report from the beef committee, report on the insurance program, and possible reactions to the proposal to organize (a farmer's union) in the province.

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