

# TO THE FARMERS OF P.E.I.

The undersigned, as Producer Members of the P.E.I. Potato Marketing Board desire to state our position with respect to certain statements made in the public press over the signature of three Dealer Members of our Board:

- Neither the Potato Board nor its Chairman was responsible for or had anything to do officially respecting the questions on the Ballot used for the Plebiscite last spring.
  - The proposed marketing plan of the Potato Board is not a one man plan. It is a policy based on the principle that not by establishing uniform costs for our potatoes when selling them to the trade is it possible to maintain any degree of uniformity and stability in prices when they are being sold in markets outside the province. In other words, such is the principle of collective bargaining being applied in the belief that cost price will have an effective influence on selling prices. This policy would and must be flexible according to market demands and will, if accepted by the farmers, be administered by persons experienced and qualified in the potato trade. Such personnel can be secured and the general policy would be supervised by the Potato Board and an Advisory Committee of competent persons as was the case last year. The Board meeting held on September 7th, which approved in detail the proposed marketing policy, was called by agreement of all members of the Board at a meeting held on September 3rd.
  - The entity of D. A. MacDonald as a legal means to operate a Selling Agency was used last year as either a corporate or personal entity has to be designed as a Selling Agency in order to carry on a business of this kind. It is the feeling and intention of the Producer Members of the Board that if this policy is approved the Board will seek to have incorporated a separate legal entity which will be controlled by the Board and through which the actual business or marketing operations can be carried on. We, as Producer Members, do not favour the system of license fees now in effect, but under the present system of marketing this is the only known legal way such funds can be secured. If a Central Selling Agency was in effect the present licensing system could probably be eliminated by arranging a levy system which would be fair to all producers.
  - Yes, the Dealer Members sought to have the compulsory feature, which they like to call it, deleted from the policy. This they know and some have so stated, would render the policy ineffective and put the pool in the same position as just simply one more dealer in the Province. We, as Producer Members, want an effective Marketing Board that can do a worthwhile job for you over a long term period. We supported our Chairman on this point and will continue to do so.
  - As Producer Members we have told our Chairman and Manager to proceed to arrange or attend meetings or give any information or assistance required by you farmers during the present campaign. Those meetings are not the sole action of the Board Chairman. We fully endorse what he has done. We have attended meetings ourselves and have asked other people more familiar with details to attend the farmers' meetings with us. Mr. MacDonald does not propose to handle or sell all our potatoes. He is solely a member of our Board who has been appointed Chairman and Manager by us, and this Board proposes to hire competent people to carry out the marketing policy if it is approved. Mr. MacDonald is only the Chairman and Manager of the Board which will supervise this operation on behalf of our farmers. We know we will have the help and co-operation of many experienced and sincere people in the potato trade.
  - We were told by our Chairman that the Premier of the Province was giving a compromise plan and that the Government was giving it some further study as they did not have any details worked out. No concrete plan has yet been formally presented to the Chairman or any Producer Member of the Board.
  - With reference to the new Agreed Freight Charge Contract recently announced, it was publicly acknowledged that representatives of the Government, dealers, and others assisted in the negotiations for this Agreement. We have examined the file in connection with this matter and can state definitely that our Chairman certainly did a great deal more than confirm the Agreement. In fact, he did all the groundwork for both its signing and approval. We also state that only by having an overall organization authorized to represent the industry across the province and to carry out the provisions of this Agreement could such be secured.
  - No one has stated that our marketing policy must be compulsory in order to get assistance from Ottawa. The following Section of the Co-operative Marketing Act outlines the intent of that, namely:—  
"2. (4). No agreement shall be made under this section unless the co-operative plan applies to such a proportion of the primary producers within a certain geographical area or to such a proportion of an agricultural product produced in such area that the Minister is of opinion that the marketing of the aforesaid agricultural product under the co-operative plan will benefit the primary producers."
- After discussions with officials administering this policy and after our experience of the past, we, as Producer Members, agree that the only way the intent of the policy could be carried through to the benefit of our island producers was by having all our potatoes bargained for by one collective agency.
- The Board applied to Ottawa on August 26th for a Marketing Agreement for the coming season. Since that time negotiations have taken place at Ottawa with respect to it. The only authority that can decide what initial payment can be guaranteed is the Dominion Cabinet and there is evidence to the effect that no definite decision may be made on this point until the position of the Board and Selling Agency with the producers of this province is clarified. If, however, the initial payment which the Government will guarantee is not considered by us to be high enough for this season then other financial arrangements, which will pay a substantial initial payment, can be worked out with the banks. The persons administering the Co-operative Marketing Act in Ottawa have indicated that an application on file for this year shows the willingness of the Board to work under their policies and, should we require a guarantee for next or any future year, we should be in a much better position than if we completely ignored their policies after receiving assistance last year through not applying again or designating the Selling Agency setup which was established to work in conjunction with them last year.
  - The suggestion on the part of our Dealer Members that the Dominion Government assistance policies to farmers "IS JUST BLUFF" can hardly be substantiated after our experience last year and in view of what they are doing every year to assist farmers in various parts of the country who get into market trouble because of unforeseen circumstances. Surely it is not necessary for us to cite examples of the various types of assistance that are being given to growers of different commodities across Canada!
  - We agree that the great majority of our potato dealers in the Province are experienced and competent and have always tried to do a good job for themselves and the farmers with whom they deal. Unfortunately, this is not the case with all our dealers. We contend that we should get much higher returns for our producers through a Pool Selling Agency organization than could be obtained through the open market as they suggest. We base this contention on the FACT that other producers of perishable products in various parts of Canada are realizing considerably higher net returns for their products after realizing their boards and selling organizations. This is admittedly true in British Columbia and Ontario, and we quote the following public statement from Mr. Bonham, President of the Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association, in reference to the new Ontario Peach Marketing Scheme:—  
"There have been problems and the Marketing Board has not had an easy time but a job has been done." Mr. Bonham continued, "There can be no further arguments about the value of the effort. It gives every peach grower from 10 cents a basket upward for all his peaches over what he would have got. Even dealers who were opposed are now friendly and, have come to a realization of what can be done. The peach industry has been put in the position where it belongs."
  - We agree with the production figures of our potatoes as have been published. We state that the records show that both Prince Edward Island seed and tablestock can command a premium on our chief markets. By requiring each dealer to pay the same cost for the product a certain degree of con-

## CAN STORE CANADIAN WHEAT FOR YEARS SAYS GRAIN BOARD CHEMIST

WINNIPEG, (CP)—Canadian granaries are building with millions of bushels of unsold wheat but provided it is high-grade, dry and free of pests, it could keep for years without much loss in weight or quality.

"There is not another country in the world where wheat can be better stored than in Canada," said Dr. J. A. Anderson, chief chemist of the board of grain commissioners, in an interview.

Grain storage for even 10 months is impossible in many tropical countries due to a combination of insects, rodents and excessive heat, although the Egyptians of biblical times stored the harvest from seven fat years for seven lean years. Wheat stored in the P. E. I. is approximately 4,000 years ago was discovered last year still good enough to grow.

### GOOD FOR 20 YEARS

Dr. Anderson said that if necessary any amount of high-grade Canadian wheat, free from dirt and insects and stored under ideal conditions, could keep a good 20 years. Actually Canadian wheat has never been stored much more than five years.

Some Western farmers might

## Dealers Preview 1955 Chryslers

WINDSOR, Ont. Nov. 4.—Chrysler Corporation of Canada, Limited this week presented its complete line of the much-anticipated 1955 models at a special preview showing and dealers' convention held here.

Among those attending were F. R. McLaine of F. R. McLaine Limited, H. H. Cameron of W. G. Barbour Ltd., and E. K. Johnston of Johnstone Motors Ltd., Murray River.

Close to a thousand Chrysler of Canada dealers from every part of Canada were on hand to have a close-up look at the new Plymouths, Dodges, DeSotos and Chryslers. The cars were elaborately displayed in a section of the newly-enlarged passenger car plant, the setting amid spotlights, rich drapes and carpeting accenting the sleek styling and brilliant colours of the vehicles.

At their meeting here the dealers learned that V-8 engines will be available for the first time in all five of the company's lines this year. With the engines and completely re-styled bodies will go a considerably enlarged range of colours and interior fabrics.

Addressing the initial business session, E. C. Row, president and general manager was highly optimistic concerning the future of the Canadian economy. A comprehensive economic survey of Canada covering the period 1951-1971 had been undertaken three years ago, he said, and for these three years the forecast had proved to be very conservative.

"I can tell you that the outlook for Canada's future prosperity is excellent, both on a short- and a long-term basis," Mr. Row asserted.

ence will be established in the trade which will result in more stable markets. The curbing of selling futures will allow the law of supply and demand to work.

- It is unfortunate that the Selling Agency was not allowed to operate for one year to prove that such a marketing system will not divert customers to other areas. It certainly did not do so last year.
  - The proposed marketing policy is so different from the operating policies of the Potato Growers' Association that predicting what may happen to the pool based on the history of that organization is not sound. The Potato Growers' Association tried to sell all the potatoes direct, the proposed pool proposes only to maintain a degree of uniformity in the cost of the farmers' potatoes to the dealers, and if the established trade cannot sell all those potatoes at the proper price then the pool will be in a position to move them direct.
  - The policy does not propose to take away personal contact or good will. It provides that any person having special contracts or putting up a special pack of potatoes for which they can obtain a premium will be able to do so. We ask our fellow Dealer Board Members if they disagree to be fair at least in making comparisons.
  - The financing of such a policy can easily be arranged. Prompt payments can and will be made when potatoes are shipped either through the dealers or direct to the growers—just as the producers want it.
  - Respecting errors in judgment—these undoubtedly will be made but we are going to make sure that the most competent men available are secured to do this job for us. No person who is involved in a private potato business of his own will be again given the opportunity to work in the Selling Agency. Errors in judgment in marketing surely must be made from time to time now and we, as producers, feel that eventually we always pay for them.
  - The Prince Edward Island potato crop will not be withdrawn from the free market. The proposed policy is designed to make our marketing system free from many of the defects and unethical practices which have existed and which honest dealers admit now freely exist in the trade. The law of supply and demand on a free market will be allowed to function and establish the cost price to the trade from time to time or as the market changes, but small surpluses or rumours will not be allowed to drastically reduce prices to farmers as often happens at the present time, nor will any person with ample finances and storage space be permitted to buy potatoes from producers when the price is low, store them, and sell them when the price increases. The pooling system is designed to give the true average price for each variety to the producers who ship their potatoes during that particular pool period.
  - Respecting the attempt to regulate markets and prices as was attempted several years ago, the proposed policy is designed to supplant that type of regulatory Board which cannot be or ever has been effectively implemented in a marketing operation of this kind. What is proposed is a smooth working operation which will not require constant court action or enforcement of regulations. It is simply based on cost being adjusted as the market changes to determine the proper selling prices.
  - We are not going to attempt to answer accusations of autocracy, loss of freedom, personalities, etc. We regret that farmers did not have the opportunity to do this pool system work for a couple of years before being asked to decide whether or not they wish to maintain it.
  - Think carefully before you vote, but vote so that we whom you have elected to do something for you in this controversial matter can be guided by the wishes of the majority.
- (sgd.) IRVING HOGG, Wilmot Valley  
(sgd.) RICHARD A. MacPHEE, New Haven  
(sgd.) DONALD MacLEOD, Victoria Cross  
(sgd.) DAVID WRIGHT, Lower Montague  
(sgd.) ALLIE MacNEILL, O'Leary.

## Strange But True

By F. R. MacArthur

Drinking to the health of a guest dates back to the time when the host drank the first sip of wine to prove to his guest it was not poisoned.

The most dreaded of the flesh-eating king lizards of prehistoric days towered 20 feet in the air, and during the Mesozoic Age, four-legged lizards with flaps of skin that stretched from shoulder to shoulder, and with a wing spread of 12 feet zoomed through the air.

These terrible creatures together with monstrous reptiles and dinosaurs disappeared from the earth when the shifting of the continent took place millions of years ago. They flourished as long as conditions were right for them. Extinction overtook them when winter cut off their food supply.

The zipper fastener was invented by W. L. Judson, because he was tired of lacing his shoes.

Snow falls at the rate of two to three miles per hour.

The three signs of a counterfeit coin which can be most easily recognized are these: A dull sound when dropped, a greasy feeling, and an odd weight.

Believe it or not but the food we eat in the course of a day weighs less than the air we breathe during the same time. The average individual breathes in 30 pounds of air in a day—more than seven times the amount of water and food he consumes.

Do chipmunks bury the nuts they stock up in winter like squirrels? No, the little mink piles his provisions beside his bed—enough food to last him through the winter.

Convicted of stealing a dime from a newspaper boy's collection box in Charlotte, N. C., Charles Timmons, 84, was fined \$10 and court costs.

A cat owned by Bertha Olson, of Rock Lake, N. D., recently gave birth to twin kittens, each of which had two tails.

Let me tell you about the town that boasts a museum of rare and beautiful teapots. The town is Trenton, Tenn., and the collector is Dr. Frederick Freed of New York City.

Nearly all the teapots are of foreign manufacture and were collected by Dr. Freed in Europe. Some have detachable bases that have tiny oil lamps and others have an electric unit for brewing tea.

Old-fashioned ice trays can be made stickproof by keeping wax paper on the bottom of the dish.

They spent the past week-end as the guests of Mrs. MacKenzie's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. B. MacConnell.

Master Gerald Solomon, young son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Solomon, entered the Charlotte-Town Hospital on Nov. 7, and all wish him a speedy return to good health.

Mr. Charlie MacLean is at present relieving station agent at Georgetown, during the absence on holidays of Mr. Norman Thompson. AC.

### TEN MILE HOUSE W. I.

The regular monthly meeting of the Ten Mile House W. I. was held on October 5, at the home of Mrs. Bernard McQuaid. The minutes of the previous meeting were read, approved, and signed. The roll call was answered by a fee of ten cents. Proceeds from guessing contest amounted to \$2.90. Playing of blanket and other articles amounted to \$11.80. The blanket was donated by Mr. Bernard McInnis.

It was moved and seconded that five dollars be sent to the Cancer Campaign.

The annual meeting is to be held at the home of Mrs. Jos. MacIntyre on November 2. Mrs. McQuaid then served a delicious lunch assisted by her daughter Theresa.

The meeting adjourned with "God Save the Queen." A social hour followed.

### WANT POLICE GUARD

VANCOUVER (CP)—The Vancouver Herald was requested police protection for chief photographer John McGinnis and his family after two men described as "hoodlums" visited his home. McGinnis said he was threatened with violence Wednesday when he took a picture of Mrs. William Semenic. Her husband had been wounded in a Stanley Park shooting earlier that day.

## CZECH AIRMEN WHO ESCAPED FROM REDS NOW RESIDENTS OF MONTREAL

MONTREAL, (CP)—Two of three Czechoslovak airmen who "borrowed" a plane and flew to the British zone of Austria 18 months ago now are residents of Montreal. The third decided to remain in England after getting that far away from the Iron Curtain.

Lieut. Vladimir Krman and warrant officer Joseph Fleischhacker said they have no immediate plans apart from settling down as good Canadians, but they hope to be able to return eventually to aviation.

"Just now we are too happy enjoying our freedom to think too far ahead," Krman told a reporter. It was early on March 13, 1953, when Krman, Fleischhacker and WO. Gustav Molnar took off from their base at Piestany, Czechoslovakia. They were determined to escape the Communist regime.

"We passed Bratislava safely but near Vienna we were picked up by Russian radar," said Krman. "I descended, flying only a few

yards above the ground and making a sharp turn to the south. A few minutes later we saw Russian MIG fighters flying in the direction of our previous course. The radar had lost us. After an 80-minute flight we landed at Graz."

The three airmen were granted asylum in Britain. Krman and

Fleischhacker decided this summer to try their luck in Canada. Molnar remained in London.

The two who came here are members of the Ascension Lutheran church in Montreal. It was religious persecution by the Communists that first made them think of escape, said Krman. In the Czech air force Communist officers ridiculed all religion as "superstition."

## RADIO BROADCASTS

In order that producers may be more fully aware of all the issues involved in the Plebiscite the following Radio Addresses have been arranged for Tuesday, November 9th:

CFCY—7:00 P.M.: MR. R. L. BURGE  
CFBY—10:45 P.M.: MR. E. W. CAMPBELL  
CJRW—9:30 P.M.: MR. E. D. REID

P. E. I. POTATO & TURNIP DEALERS ASSOCIATION

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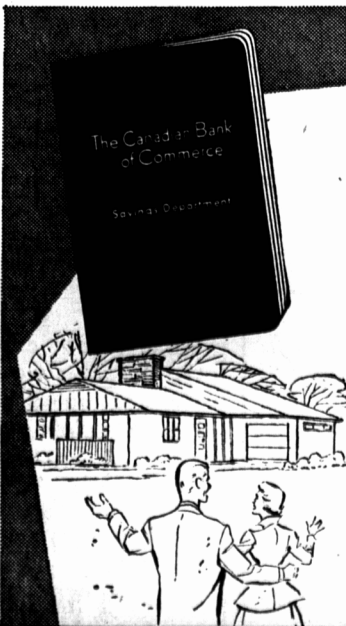
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