

# Foot-And-Mouth Disease Hits Farming Body Blow During Peak Crop Year

By Harold Morrison  
Canadian Press Staff Writer  
OTTAWA, Dec. 26 (CP)—Canada produced more food in 1952 than at any time in her history, but a tiny virus threatened to topple that food mountain across Canada's economic back.

It was a good year and a bad year for Canadian farmers: a year of crisis and prosperity; of peak wheat production and the foot-and-mouth plague; of near record incomes and declining prices.

But at the end most farmers were able to squeeze through on the upper side, with total cash income for the year slightly below the peak \$2,200,000,000 reached in 1951.

**Gross Value High**  
And despite declining food prices caused by the closure of traditional markets and increased world production, the gross value of Canadian farm production 1952 almost duplicated the record 1951 total of \$3,500,000,000.

Farm operating costs climbed slightly, but the volume of production reached a peak, with the index, based on 1935-39 equalling 100, rising to about 187, up from 157.1 in 1951 and the previous high of 144.2 in 1942.

Canadian farmers turned out a peak 688,000,000-bushel wheat crop, created records in other field crop production, increased production of pork, milk, butter and eggs.

The time appeared ripe for a big killing in food sales at high prices when foot-and-mouth disease struck in South Saskatchewan, Canada's biggest meat market—the United States promptly shut its doors last February.

**Provincial Embargoes**  
Provincial Governments, fearing spread of the disease, ordered provincial embargoes which threatened to cripple livestock production in Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Meat prices dropped and threatened to pull other agricultural prices down. A big political and economic storm swept right to the feet of the Federal Government.

Federal price props were hastily erected. A big pork canning program received federal support, and an extraordinary barley deal was concluded to ship surplus beef to Britain.

The loss was heavy. Price support for beef and pork was expected to cost the Federal Treasury about \$30,000,000—about triple the total cost of all federal farm support programs since they were first started six years ago.

**Rapid Clean-Up**  
The disease was eradicated in record time. As the year ended the U.S. announced it would reopen the market March 1, 1953. The big crisis appeared to be at an end with most of the credit for averting economic disaster belonging to the farmers themselves.

They had lots of cattle to sell. But they held back sales on the advice of federal officials. The 23-cent-a-pound cattle price support will end when the U.S. market reopens, but the 23-cent-a-pound pork support will continue.

The U.S. market, however, was no longer as attractive as it had been in the past. It likely would absorb all of Canada's beef surplus, but prices were down from the peak levels of 1951. A further decline was expected in 1953.

With one battle over, the farmer faced others. His income has been relatively high all through most post-war years, but 1953 could be a turning point.

A lot will depend on what happens when representatives from 46 countries meet in Washington Jan. 30 in a final attempt to negotiate a new International Wheat Agreement.

The current four-year pact ends July 31, 1953. Federal officials say if the countries don't come to an agreement in Washington then Canada will have to find other channels for selling her wheat.

Canada and other exporters want more for their wheat, more than the maximum \$1.80 (U.S.) per bushel they received in 1952, and the importing countries are resisting every price advance.

There is even some doubt whether the U.S. Congress would ratify any new agreement, even if one is negotiated. There are tremendous wheat surpluses both in Canada and the U.S.

Without an agreement, Canada's wheat prices may fluctuate sharply in the fall of 1953 and that might change the figures in the farmer's bank account.

Meanwhile, the forecasters estimate that total cash income in 1953 will be down from 1952, mostly because of the expectations that farmers won't produce a record wheat crop two years in a row.

**Burlington and Vicinity**  
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Wedlock and family, O'Leary were recent weekend guests of Mr. and Mrs. Keith Adams, Burlington.

Friends will be glad to know that Mrs. Hedley Paynter is gradually regaining her health after her recent illness at her home in Long River.

Mrs. James B. Croken, Summerside, was a recent overnight visitor to Charlottetown, when she was the guest of her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Croken.

Mr. William J. Harrington, Spring Valley, underwent an operation for the relief of pain at Halifax on Saturday, December 20th, and will be returning to his home in a few days.

The many friends of Mr. Murdoch MacLeod, Long River, will be pleased to learn that he is making a good recovery after operations on both eyes at the Prince Edward Island Hospital, Charlottetown, on Wednesday, December 17.

Miss Betty Johnstone returned to her home at Long River on Sunday, December 14th, from an overnight stay in Moncton, where she had the cast, worn for spinal correction, removed and replaced. Miss Johnstone made the trip to and from Moncton by car with Mr. J. L. Davison, in company with her mother, Mrs. William E. Johnstone.

The many friends of Mr. Keith Adams, Burlington will be glad to know that the condition of his injured leg is so much improved that he was able to have the cast removed at the Prince County Hospital on Saturday, December 19th. Mr. Adams suffered a badly fractured ankle while working in his wood lot in September, and was hospitalized for several weeks at that time, but has since been convalescing at home.

Mrs. W. J. Paynter and Mrs. Leigh Paynter were hostesses at St. Stephen's W. A. for the December meeting, when two new members were welcomed. The Dominion annual report, by the provincial president, Mrs. Champion, was read during the meeting, as well as Miss Harris' financial report. The program consisted of a reading by Mrs. W. J. Paynter and "Let Us Keep Christmas" by Rona Paynter. A delicious lunch was served by the hostess assisted by Miss Rona Paynter.

—Bur

# Century Of Progress Under Free Education Act In PEI

By Dr. L. W. Shaw  
Deputy Minister of Education



DR. L. W. SHAW

In attempting a review of educational activities for the year now closing, it seems appropriate to remind ourselves that for one hundred years this Province has enjoyed the privileges of free education. The late Dr. S. N. Robertson in his article, "The Public School System," which appeared in "Past and Present of Prince Edward Island" had the following to say in this connection:

"An agitation more or less organized throughout the Province and sundry petitions from the different districts induced the Legislature to introduce and pass a bill on April 3rd, 1852, which became known as the Free Education Act, and which is, practically speaking, the foundation of the present school system. Its characteristic features were that the Board of Education of seven members appointed by the Governor in Council should have control of all public schools and should examine candidates for teacher's license and should license to teach those found fit who had previously been tried in teaching ability and certified by the headmaster of the Central Academy; that all teachers already licensed should be reexamined at the end of the current year and the period of engagement thereafter should be one of twelve months; that the Board of Education should not establish more than two hundred school districts and the schools should be at least three miles apart. The control of the school was vested in a Board of Trustees of five members. All children over five years of age should be admitted to the school of the district, the children outside the boundaries of any school district might attend the nearest school. No sum or amount per head should be demanded for scholars attending a school whereof the teacher received pay under this act.

**School Assessments**  
"Assessment for school purposes should be on all householders residing in the district for a term of six months previous. There should be appointed at a salary of £200 one visitor of public schools who should visit each school at least annually, and he should cause the grant to be withheld from schools not having thirty scholars in attendance; but in such a case the district was to be permitted to keep the school open and receive from the Treasury instead an allowance of twenty shillings for each pupil in attendance throughout the year. There should be three vacations during the year, viz: one week in June, the second week in October and the period from December 24th to January 6th.

"Alternate Saturdays became holidays. There should be but two classes of teachers, first or lowest, and second or highest. They should receive as salaries, those of the first class £50 and those of the second class £40, and the latter if certified by the Board of Education as competent to teach Latin and the higher branches, should receive in addition, ten shillings for each scholar, up to twenty in number, who prosecuted work in these subjects. Teachers were permitted to use the school buildings for evening classes for their own emolument. French Acadian teachers, if certified by a clergyman and reported by the Visitor capable of teaching in French language and Reading and Writing in English should receive £35.

**Other Recommendations**  
"No grant was to be made to any teacher receiving assistance from the Glebe Land's Fund. The National School was brought under the direct control of the Board of Education. Charlottetown was to have but one teacher of the second or highest class, who should be qualified to teach Latin and should receive £75 as salary; it should have one master of the first or lowest class, to receive £60 and when the attendance at either school exceeded fifty scholars, the Board of Education might establish one or more schools and appoint one or more teachers of either class, at a salary of £50. There should also be two schools with female teachers to receive £40 as salaries, and when the attendance at these schools exceeded fifty scholars, the Board might establish one or two more schools and appoint teachers at £30.

"Scholars in Charlottetown were to pay as tuition fees two and one-half shillings quarterly to provide books, rent and repairs of school houses, and the fees might be doubled if necessary. The Board of Education as School Trustees of Charlottetown should determine the schools at which the pupils should attend. Teachers' salaries were to be paid half-yearly. The Board of Education might on the recommendation of the School Visitor give a grant of £5 to assist needy districts in the erection of a school building. The Board of Education was to receive from the Treasury the sum of £500 to import books, maps and other school supplies which should be supplied to the public schools at cost."

**Basis of Present Law**  
As indicated by Dr. Robertson the Free Education Act of 1852 forms the basis of our present school law which during the present year has been brought fully up to date and distributed to all concerned. Some changes have been made, of course, to meet changing conditions and circumstances, but in the main these changes have been in the superstructure rather than in the foundation itself.

Among the more important changes made in the Act from time to time have been, the following:

1. The Board of Education has given place to the Minister of Education with a Council of Education to advise and assist him.

2. Provision has been made for the establishment of Larger Units of Administration and Regional High School areas.

3. Special sections of the Act have been provided for certain phases of administration of the schools in Charlottetown and Summerside.

4. The sections dealing with teachers' salaries have been amended from time to time as salaries were increased.

5. Compulsory school attendance has been enacted.

Naturally the Department of Education has expanded during the years to meet the ever increasing demands for wider service and new functions through the following offices and divisions: Director, Assistant Director and Director of Curriculum, Finance and Correspondence Instruction, School Supervision, Libraries, Visual Education and Adult Education, Physical Fitness, Vocational Education.

The National School referred to in Dr. Robertson's article is now the Prince of Wales College, offering the final years of the secondary school course, two years of university study, and in addition, the work in teacher training for the Province and a two year commercial course. Secondary school work is also being done in a number of other centres throughout the province.

**Finance**  
The following table indicating as it does a steady and indeed a rapid increase in educational expenditure will be of interest as we look back over the years of educational development in this province:

Year	By Districts	Government	Total Provincial Expenditure
1879	\$ 12,287.25	\$ 76,617.64	\$ 123,923.34
1904	15,725.49	106,137.88	168,765.06
1929	91,921.94	245,610.26	485,137.81
1942	98,855.50	274,054.96	589,994.33
1947	179,681.00	362,422.35	849,559.17
1952	334,337.86	599,900.76	1,807,997.35

**Progress In 1952**  
Turning now to the year under review it is gratifying to be able to report a number of improvements and advances. One of the most important of these was the provision made by the Legislature at the 1952 session for an increase in teachers' salaries which amounts to approximately \$150.00 for every licensed teacher. Districts are becoming more and more generous in the matter of supplements to teachers' salaries so that the general increase is steady and considerable.

In the matter of school property and equipment there is no evidence that interest and activity in the erection of new school buildings and the improvement of school property generally have abated. This is particularly true in respect to the installation of indoor toilet equipment. More than 75% of the rural schools of the province are now equipped and it is not an exaggeration to say that no improvement ever effected in the schools has contributed more to the comfort and health of teachers and pupils.

In comparison with the other provinces of Canada we have been fortunate in that very few schools having sufficient pupils to operate, have been without teachers for any considerable part of the year and none for the whole year. Unfortunately, however, it is still necessary to employ a number of young people who although qualified from the standpoint of academic work have not had professional training leading towards a regular license.

Supervisors' reports indicate that teachers generally are giving faithful and conscientious service. At the time of writing all schools in the province, having sufficient pupils to operate, are supplied with teachers.

**Special Classes**  
The Department works in cooperation with the Provincial Sanatorium authorities in providing instruction in the institution for all who might benefit thereby. This service has now been extended to include victims of Poliomyelitis. Two teachers are employed both of whom are giving excellent service. During the year ending June, 1952, thirty four pupils received instruction, fourteen of whom were in the "polio" section of the school. It can be readily understood that instruction here must be largely individual and very definitely suited to the physical condition of the pupil.

New Canadians who come to the province lacking a knowledge of our language are at a great disadvantage. During the year under

review all such new residents were furnished with material provided by the citizenship authorities in Ottawa. This Department arranges for the distribution of this material and for the services of a teaching supervisor who is himself a New Canadian. Naturally the enrolment varies from time to time. There have been as many as sixty-five at one time receiving instruction under the direction of the teacher-supervisor. Some of these are in classes and others are instructed individually. One group in particular is perhaps worthy of special mention. This consisted of a number of men employed as technicians and mechanics by the Federal Department of Transport. While expert in their technical work, they were lacking in a knowledge of English and evening classes were arranged for them at the Vocational School.

Other evening classes of a special nature were conducted at the Vocational School.

**Kindergarten Instruction**  
For the first time in the history of the province public school classes on a pre-Grade 1 level were operated during the year in West Kent School in Charlottetown and the R. C. A. F. School in Summerside. Fifty-two pupils were attending at West Kent and eighty-eight at the R. C. A. F. School. Pupils range in age from five to six years and towards the end of the year work with words and numbers is given in addition to the usual play and expression activities. Such work is possible and very acceptable in the larger graded schools, but it would be out of the question in schools with several grades and only one teacher.

**Examinations And Grading**  
In attempting to measure the results of teaching and learning, the same procedure was followed as in previous years. The word "attempting" is used advisedly because it is recognized that to measure adequately the work of a school or of a particular grade is an extremely difficult task. Educators everywhere are fully aware of this difficulty and are seeking more accurate measuring procedures. The practice presently followed in this province is:

1. An objective type of test at the end of Grade VIII prepared by the Department and used by the teachers to assist them in evaluating the standing of pupils at the end of the elementary grades and their fitness to undertake the work of the secondary grades.

2. The Entrance Examination at the end of Grade X which is designed to determine the fitness of pupils writing it to proceed to the more advanced work in Prince of Wales College or in any of the institutions completing the High School course. With pupils coming as they do from a larger number of different schools the need for establishing some uniformity of standard is obvious.

3. The Grade XI and XII examinations of the Atlantic Provinces Schools other than Prince of Wales College, offering this work. The results of the Grade VIII tests showed a slight improvement

over those of the previous year but the need for careful and thorough teaching in the elementary grades cannot be too strongly emphasized.

The Entrance Examinations of Prince of Wales College were held during the last week in June. A total of 868 pupils (62 more than the previous year) wrote the examinations. Of this number 529 or 61% were successful.

At the examinations in June, 179 pupils wrote the full Grade XI examination, and 8 wrote the papers of Grade XII. Of those writing Grade XI, 93 were successful in securing a pass certificate. If we included the number writing supplementary papers in Grade XI, a total of 224 actually wrote the examinations in whole or in part.

**Property Valuation Board**  
It is gratifying to be able to report that the work of this Board is steadily growing in popularity. Trustees and ratepayers are coming to realize that a uniform, impartial valuation of property for school tax purposes is essential to any general improvement in educational administration. Approximately 140 districts have now been completed and are operating under the new valuations.

**High School Courses and Larger Units of Administration**  
During the year the Minister announced that a uniform minimum High School course would be introduced in September, 1953. The Department and the institutions concerned are giving attention to this important matter. In this connection it is gratifying to note the number of meetings being held throughout the province to discuss the larger unit of administration and the regional high school. This is a healthy sign and the practice is one that should result in sound thinking in matters concerning education.

**Curriculum and Textbooks**  
Revision of the Programme of Studies has continued to receive attention. During the year the outlines in English and Arithmetic have been revised and extended and modifications have been made in other subject outlines. Teachers generally have indicated their approval of the 1952 revision of our "Programme of Studies for Grades I-X," consisting of 127 pages.

Through an increase in the subsidy provided by the Government to reduce the price of school textbooks, the School Supply Branch has been able to absorb current price increases and to continue to provide substantial deductions in

the retail price of the authorized texts for Grades I to X inclusive.

**Vocational Education**  
The Provincial Vocational School has expanded considerably and both day and evening classes have been well attended excepting in one important phase of its work, namely Agriculture. Those who have taken the short courses offered in the various fields of Agriculture appear to be well pleased with both the courses and the instruction. The difficulty seems to be to convince young farmers that such study is worth while. Plans are being worked out to make the various activities of the School, and especially those having to do either directly or indirectly with Agriculture, better known throughout the province.

**General**  
It is not often that the smaller Provinces of Canada have an opportunity for representation at international conferences and assemblies. The Department of Education and the Province generally were honoured in having the Director of Education selected to represent the Canadian Education Association at the International Conference on Education held in Geneva during the month of July.

**BURGESS BEDTIME**  
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Buster Bear didn't appreciate the loveliness around him. He was feeling out of sorts, very much out of sorts. He had to go look for another place to sleep, and walking on that crust wasn't easy. He was so big, so heavy, that he broke through the crust with most every step. There were places in which he fairly floundered. It certainly did seem as if things were just about as bad as they could be for Buster Bear. Anyway, he thought they were.

He remembered a small cave in a ledge of rocks. He wondered if Mrs. Bear, or someone else, was using it. Slowly he made his way to it. It was empty. Nobody had been living in it this winter. For a few minutes Buster stood looking over the shining, glittering surroundings. In the distance, Blacky the Crow was cawing. Somehow there was cheerfulness in Blacky's harsh voice. From somewhere just above him came a merry "Dee, dee, dee." Tommy Tit the Chickadee was as merry as he sounded. Buster Bear drew a long breath. With it all his troubles seemed to go. Something in the air gave him a feeling of peace with all the world, of peace and good will.

Yes, sir, there was something in the air. What was it? It was the spirit of Christmas. For this was the dawn of Christmas day.

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# Eastern Star Annual Banquet

The Recreation room at Masonic Temple was the setting for the annual banquet of Crystal Chapter No 1 Order of the Eastern Star on Friday, December 5th, when sixty members partook of a full course turkey dinner provided by Spring Park Women's Institute.

The decorations were in keeping with the Christmas season, with everyone receiving attractive souvenir favours.

Mr. T. G. Ives was the capable

master of ceremonies. A toast to the Queen was responded to by the National Anthem. Miss June Foster was guest soloist and sang "Star of the East," and "O Holy Night," accompanied by Mrs. Helen MacEachern on the piano.

Mrs. Florence Lavers, Worthy Matron, gave an inspiring address on the work of the Order and Mr. George Brady, Worthy Patron, spoke briefly and presented Worthy Matron with an Eastern Star Bible.

Mrs. Lavers presented gifts to her soloist and pianist.

A vote of thanks was extended to Spring Park Institute for their lovely banquet to which the president fittingly replied.

A sing song closed the program.

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**LESS 25%**

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**LESS 20%**

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I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU INSISTED ON BRINGING HIM ALONG! HE'S A COMPLETE BORE! ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO SAY! JUST SITS THERE LIKE A THIRD WHEEL!

AW, BE NICE TO HIM, HON. WE WERE IN THE SERVICE TOGETHER. HE'S ALL ALONE IN TOWN AND I CAN'T GET HIM A DATE --

SO A COUPLE OF MONTHS PASS... AND GEORGE WHO'S THE PART OF THE THIRD PART NOW?

THANKS TO HARRY T. ONG, 634 ALICE ST., OAKLAND, CALIF.

POACHLEY JUST GAVE ME THIS! I GENTLY WONDERFUL? YOU'LL BE THE FIRST TO CONGRATULATE US!