FEDERATION OF AGRIC. NEWSLETTER

Cool Weather Slowing Crop Growth On Island

The past week has been far from favorable so far as cropping and growth is concerned. Temperatures have been low with frost at night and cold winds, even now during the day. Soil temperatures are too low to promote growth and even fertilized grass is making very little progress.

However, in southern Queens and southern Kings some cultivation has gone on and potatoes have been planted. Fields are much firmer than at this date last year, and will bear equipment but the land is still cold and dead for satisfactory cultivation.

The first crop of the season is being harvested - the May flower-and has appeared for sale on the streets of the city. The May flower may not be an important crop in an economic sense, but it is a brave flower and brings the first evidence that nature's guarantee of a new season of growth is to be honoured.

ACROSS THE ISLAND

Fisheries Pose Huge Problem

BY NEIL A. MATHESON
Provincial-Farm Editor

THIS WEEK'S stories of Lobster fishermen along many miles of our Northern coastline worrying about possibe heavy losses to traps and other fishing gear from ice which has covered it completely emphasizes a feeling that something is wrong with a situation that creates such a situation.

The severe ice conditions which have existed now for two years in a row in Fisheries District 7B have caused some serious speculation among veteran fishermen as to the feasibility of attempting Lobster operations as early as May 1.

I talked to Fisheries Minister Leo Rossiter yesterday and find he is deeply concerned about the losses so many of the fishermen face, and I know he would like to see something done to remedy the situation, although he recognizes the difficulties.

THERE ARE indications that late ice may continue to cause trouble to the Lobster fishery, for "oceanographers tells us the average sea temperatures in this part of our fishery have cooled five degrees in the last 18 years," technical fisheries people tell me.

And almost every year, lobstermen are beset with the problem of abnormally high costs for bait with prices running as high as $16 to $18 not at all unusual in the early days of the season. And this abnormal cost—it compares with bait at six to seven dollars later—certainly plays a major role in cutting profits on even the best season.

Sea water is usually so cold in early season that Lobsters trap poorly and the returns per tray are much lower than they are later when the water gets warmer.

So fishermen often incur the highest operational costs over a period when returns or landings are much lower than they are later on.

More Money In Short Season

FISHERMEN also recall the experience of last year when they were confined to approximately a five-week lobster fishery by ice conditions that were even more severe than they are this spring. Yet many fishermen insist they cleared more money than they did in many of the other years.

This, practical fisheries men tell me, was due to the fact that their operations and expenses extended only five weeks, instead of eight. In the five weeks they used less bait, less gasoline, and had consistently good fishing pretty well through the entire period.

On the other hand they maintain that in warmer springs, when the season gets in full swing by May 1, the final two or three weeks of fishing are merely an expense, since most of the lobsters are caught by that time.

IT IS for reasons like these that many of our Lobstermen think it is time responsible people took a serious look at this question of fishing seasons. They suggest a frank and widespread discussion of the problem by fishermen in the 7B area might very well result in a recommendation to the federal department of fisheries, to consider a later opening of the lobster fishing season in the area.

The district extends along a large part of the N.B. and N.S. coastlines. As the hard-working minister said, there are many difficulties in the way of reaching a solution. I know, though, the minister, and other people in his department, are interested in their ideas of practical fishermen.

Your Ideas Are Being Sought

IT'S BEEN suggested the season could be shortened by cutting a couple of weeks off at the first of May. There may be other suggestions.

Parts of New Brunswick and of Cape Breton have been hit hard at times by ice. I'm told, so the problem extends beyond our shores. It seems silly to say merely that nothing can be done, when the situation is so serious—and it is serious to those people who suffer heavy trap and gear losses—unless a real effort is made to find a solution. I know our department people here are interested in your ideas.

Gallup Polls Are Discussed

GALLUP POLL figures released this week indicate that 45 percent of Canada's voters favor the Liberals at present, with only 38 percent supporting the PC's. The figures for the March election in 1958 were 54 for the PC's with only 34 for the Grits.

The figures are impressive, and Liberals are making the best possible use of them as they campaign across the nation, even though their elation must be sobered by the information that 21 percent are listed as "undecided", and they could well swing the election.

But even at that the Liberals are happy, although they should realize that their joy must be tempered by memories of the past.

I RECALL when I was running in the 1957 election that Campaign Manager Ben Rogers shouted to me from his car on Saturday June 8, two days before the election, that he had "good news" for me.

A telegram he handed me said latest Gallup Poll figures assured the Liberals of at least 166 seats. It was good news, for that was only four less than the 170 they took in 1953.

Voters' Poll Was Different

BUT THE joy was short lived. Canadians conducted their own poll on Monday June 10, and the Liberals just had 105 seats when they completed their voting. The PC's had 112. It paved the way for the PC sweep in 1958 when the Tories took an unprecedented 208 seats on March 31.

The Liberals ended up with 48, three less than the PCs had managed less than five years earlier, although it was still seven more than the PCs had won in the General Election of 1940.

Mr. Rogers and I laughed over it this week, as we met and chatted for a few minutes in front of the library on Grafton Street.

Sometimes We Wonder

AND THAT reminds me that the Library people are wondering when they are going to be moved out of the building which must be destroyed to make way for the new Fathers of Confederation Memorial building that is to come. I remember when it was built back in the early Thirties, and it does seem destructive to tear it down, along with the Cabot Building (old Post Office) which was renovated only two or three years ago, for Provincial Government offices.

AS A chap who grew to manhood out in Rose Valley, in the days when dollars, and pennies also, had to be watched most carefully, I wonder at times just where we are going in this thing we sometimes call "progress". I'm sure many of you must have similar thoughts.

Liberal Leader Will Remain

ALEX MATHESON is going to stay as Provincial Liberal Leader, I found when I talked to him at his home yesterday. I thought my old friend would give over the leadership and accept the quieter, much easier job of running his law office and earning the living which normally comes fairly easily to a lawyer who is as well known as he is.

But that's not for the man who is just recovering from a bout of illness that took him away from the Provincial Legislature late in March and is still keeping him away from work, though he "feels fine" and is only waiting for the day when his doctor will give him the green light on getting back into harness.

Politics is in his blood and it would be a dreary life without it, I suspect. I recall that he was deeply interested in politics when I first met him back in Prince of Wales College days, and that was at an age when few young men had any interest in that sort of thing. The man would probably be lost if he broke the connecting link with active politics which he forged more than 30 years ago at a byelection in Second Queens, after some years as an active worker in his party's district and country organizations.

Montreal Milk Producers. Mr. Dickson brings to his new position valuable experience in the dairy industry and undoubted interest in its welfare.

RED THURSDAY

Thursday, May 3 was a day of unusual activity in Charlottetown with respect to packing house activities.

FirGst of all the quite firmly established Canada Packers organization was engaged in a public relations effort designed to acquaint some 125 persons with the facilities and services provided. Considerable importance was attached to this effort as demonstrated by the fact that President MacLean and number of associates had travelled from Toronto to be present. In addition, both Premier Shaw and the Hon. Andrew MacRae were in attendance at the different functions. The latter two gentlemen had during the course of the afternoon very forcibly brought to their attention that another group of livestock people were supporting another abbatoir as yet unbuilt, as a competitor for the national company.

No one questions the great importance to livestock producers of efficient well operated packing houses. In addition, livestock producers who think about the problem are aware of the necessity of being in a bargaining position in the sale of what they produce. This bargaining position can be achieved in a variety of ways. The construction of a producer controlled packing plant is one of them. In Nova Scotia, Quebec, and Ontario, farmers have some experience in this field. Marketing boards, selling agencies, and co-operative auctions are other alternatives probably less costly and less complicated.

In addition, to the above mentioned efforts a committee named by the beef producers was quietly engaged in studying the problem of marketing, in gathering information on it and considering what might be done to improve the situation.

To summarize it all a great deal of pressure was released on the livestock world on red Thursday.

PASTURE COMPETITION

This is another reminder of the pasture competition sponsored by the department of agriculture and the Dairymen's Association. To make matters more attractive this year three different classes will be arranged. First those entering for the first time. Second those who have competed before, but have not won the first prize and the third class for the professionals those who have won the first prize or a championship in the past. At the end of the season Canada Potash Ltd. will tender a complimentary banquet for those who have been involved in the competition.

While there isn't much evidence of grass growing at the moment, there is still a long summer ahead of us and attention to this important crop can mean increased revenue on livestock. Entry forms may be had by writing to the P. E. I. Dairymen's Association, Box 846, Charlottetown.

MAY 15 MEETINGS

With the farming season ge-

CHURCHES

(Continued from page 8)

RICHMOND BAY Presbyterian Church. Rev. L.M. MacNaughton. BA, minister. Lot 14 at 9 a.m.; Tyne Valley 11 a.m.; Freeland 3 p.m.; Victoria West 8 p.m.

ALBERTON AND West Point Presbyterian services. Sunday May 13. Rev. L.M. MacNaughton, interim-moderator. West Point Sunday School 10.00 a.m.; worship 11:00 a.m.; Alberton Sunday School 7:00 p.m., worship 7:30 p.m. Both services at advanced time, will be conducted by Mr. J. Donald Ross, student minister.

MONTROSE Pastoral Charge, the United Church. Brock Jardine, lay minister. 11:00 a.m. Campbellton; Elmsdale 3:00 p.m.; Montrose 7:30 p.m. All services advanced time.

CHURCH OF CHRIST, Summerside. Minister, Rev. D.L. Howlett. Bible School 10:00 a.m., morning worship 11:00 a.m., evening service 7.00 p.m. Rev. O.W. McCully, official delegate to world council in New Delhi, India, will be guest speaker for the evening service. Everyone is welcome.

KENSINGTON United Church, minister — Rev. Lewis M. Murray, BA, BD, Christian Family Sunday. Church School 9:30 a.m. Morning worship 11 a.m., evening 7:30 p.m.; Summerfield service 9:30 a.m.

PRINCETOWN LOT 16 Pastoral Charge, United Church of Canada. Minister, Rev. Ralph E. Johnston. Services Lot 16 — Worship 11:00 a.m., Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Malpeque, worship 8:00 p.m. All services advanced time.

BEDEQUE UNITED Baptist Church. Rev. H.L. Estabrooks, associate pastor. Sunday School 10.00 a.m., morning worship 11.00 a.m.

NEW LONDON Parish, third Sunday after Easter. Rev. Ron Parsons, rector. 8:00 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Thomas; 9:30 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Mark's; 11:00 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Stephen's; 7:30 p.m. Evensong at St. Thomas'

FUNDAMENTAL Baptist Church, Central Bedeque. Morning worship 10:45. Sunday School 12:00 noon. 7.30 evening service. Mr. Gordon MacKenzie, special speaker.

NORTH BEDEQUE Pastoral Charge, United Church of Canada, minister Rev. Angus Brown, North Bedeque 11:00 a.m.; Travellers Rest 2.00 p.m.; Freetown 8:30 p.m.

TRYON Pastoral Charge, United Church. Worship, Tryon 11:00 a.m.; Crapaud 7:30 p.m.; Cape Traverse 3:00 p.m. (All advanced Summer time). Lester MacFarlane, student minister.

FREE CHURCH of Scotland, Minister Rev. J.A. Gillies. Somerside 7:00 p.m. advanced time.

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Remand Is Given In Police Court

Evidence given by the accused completed testimony Wednesday in the case of Gordon Stanley McInnis, Charlottetown, charged with impaired driving in Queens County Magistrate's court. Magistrate J.B. Johnston remanded the accused for one week for judgment.

Only two other cases were on the docket, both accused of being in possession of intoxicating liquor in places other than their residences. Each of the accused was fined $20 and costs or 30 days.

Certificate Is Received

A West Royalty man, J. Eric Hurry, has received a long term production certificate for Patosie Dorraine's Lassie who pro-duced 114,280 pounds milk, 8.-203 butterfat in eight lactations.

A daughter of a former Canadian leader, Lassie produced 18,322 pounds milk, 801 fat for her best record at eight years. She had a breed class average of 171 in milk, 150 in butterfat. She is classified Very Good which is the second highest classification.

Her dam, Patosie Dorraine, topped Canada as a 4-year-old in 1946 when she produced 12,-107 milk, 674 fat. Records given are for 305 days.

Dorraine produced 9,927 pounds milk, 483 fat as a two-year-old heifer.

CROPS THREATENED

HONG KONG (Reuters) — Drought is again threatening crops in many parts of China. Peking radio said Monday in a broadcast monitored here. It said drought has hampered the sowing of spring wheat in the provinces of Kiangsu, East China, and Heilungkiang, Manchuria. To forestall a possible food shortage, peasants are being urged to cultivate more vegetables, especially melons, beans and peas.

BIG DISADVANTAGE

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