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ACROSS THE ISLAND

Plowing Meet Dates Chosen

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I WAS interested to hear the Provincial Plowing Match Association at Bridgetown this week set September 9 and 10, and 11 if necessary, as dates for the 1964 Canadian Plowing Championships.

It's not generally known, but a sharp controversy has been building up here since this paper first announced last fall that the Canadian Plowing Council had approved the staging of the big meet here in our Centennial celebration year of 1964.

Critics have been telling me the Dundas people haven't the accommodations to house the "several hundred people" who will be coming here for the big event. It should be held close to Charlottetown, or to some other center where more accommodation is available for visitors, I've been told.

THE CRITICS have also questioned whether the Dundas people can supply enough land for the competitive plowing, and also for practice work.

But President Leslie Hunter and Secretary Albert Acorn told their annual meeting they've been assured by Souris and Montague board of trade people, that enough accommodation is available in their centers. And many private homes in the Dundas area can take extra people, it was added.

Montague's Arnold Wightman and our own Jim Cudmore assured the meeting that their town can stage the big plowmen's banquet, customarily given on closing night of the competition.

There were 1100 people at the banquet in Ontario several years ago, but only 300 at a dinner in Quebec another year, we were told.

Plowmen's Council In Charge

THE CANADIAN Plowmen's Council is in charge of the administration of the meet. They control everything concerning it so that part is in experienced hands.

Not having had any experience with Canadian Championship meets, I'm not in a position to say whether the accommodations at Dundas are adequate or not. But I'll take their word for it until the Canadian Plowmen's Council passes its opinion.

So far as I'm concerned, I don't care where the match is held, except that I sympathize with the Kings people's view that they should have the right to stage it, for they are the ones who restored competitive plowing to this province. But I would hate to see us lose the championship – and that is possible – just because we persist in fighting among ourselves over where it should be held.

There were some other things I heard at the meeting that did disturb me. I'll talk about them later. I only want to add now that I'm not putting all the blame for them on my Kings County friends.

Reactions On Water Dowsing

LAST WEEK'S item on Hazen Howard and his water switching, or dowsing, brought numerous comments. But the most interesting came from Joe Curran, Charlottetown.

He's been told a man who can find water with the forked switch - he's seen it done with a pair of welding rods - has perfectly concentric rings on his thumbs and fingers, in the area where finger prints are taken. But he's not sure. I've been too busy this week to check with Mr. Howard to see if his are that way.

Best story I heard, though, and it's true, is of the prominent Charlottetown clergyman who was "a confirmed temperance crank" as my informant put it, and one of his parishioners who really enjoyed drinking something more interesting than water.

THE CLERGYMAN had the dowsing gift and his parishioner was having him try for water at his cottage site, across the harbor from Charlottetown. The forked stick turned to find a water source all right, but not before it had first led the minister to a woodpile where my friend had buried a bottle of rum.

The clergyman's observations are not retained for posterity but I only wish I had known the story before the cottage owner died. I would have loved to have him tell it, in his own colorful way.

Obviously it would be unfair to use their names, but the cottage owner was one of the best-liked men I have ever met in this City, and he had a priceless talent, for relating incidents of that kind. I don't want to describe the clergyman, lest someone might recognize him, and I think it would be better to let the estimable gentleman rest in peace.

Liberal Action And Predictions

LLOYD MacNEVIN, Charlottetown, has been named provincial Liberal organizer, I learned yesterday.

If the name is unfamiliar to most Liberal officers and veteran workers throughout the province - and I think it is - that is no reason for concern. He is a very capable young man, I've found, from conversations I have had with him about various other matters.

A number of people are being considered as probable candidates for the Queens County Liberal nomination, and I heard several bets this week that surprised me.

MOST SURPRISING was the one in this office that the Liberals would take three of the four seats in the next federal election. I didn't agree with the man but he came back strongly, when I disputed his theory, with the revelation he had picked four Progressive Conservatives to win here in 1957, when he hit it right on the nose.

Bets in this office are usually for coffee or tea in the cafeteria, but losing a bet entails much more than the price of the coffee, though he bet a supply of several weeks. The real penalty is the razzing the loser takes from the rest of the gang, if he's proven wrong.

E.D. REID, president of the P.E.I. Liberal Federation and a former candidate in Queens has agreed to reconsider an earlier decision he would not offer this time. But there's still no indication what his final decision may be. Allison Gillis, Charlottetown lawyer, is another whose name has been mentioned as a possible candidate.

A young man from the rural area is under considerable pressure to offer, and the name excites me abit. But he's reached no decision, and has personally asked me not to mention his name. As he's a friend of mine, I'll have to comply.

There are likely others. I know there's at least one more being considered, and others may offer. There will be at least four or five candidates, I was told this week by a prominent party man here, when the convention is finally called.

"Only Living Canadian Chosen"

I WAS agreeably surprised this week when department of agriculture people here described Almon Boswall as "the only living Canadian" who has been named to Canada's Agricultural Hall of Fame. I was not aware that he was the only living one chosen.

If that is correct - and these people assure me it is - the honor he has won is that much more noteworthy.

Mr. Boswall was honored Wednesday by the Swine Breeders Association and I'm only sorry that Mrs. Boswall, his charming lady, was not able to be at the meeting, for the association was going to present her with a beautiful bouquet of flowers. As I indicated in a previous column, I cannot think of any lady who would be more deserving of such an honor.

Mrs. Boswall may have thought that she would be the only lady in attendance, but she would have had company for Mrs. H.S. MacEwen, Stanley Bridge was there with her husband and, I imagine, would have welcomed having a second lady in the room.