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ACROSS THE ISLAND

Cross Bred Trend Developing Rapidly

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LIVESTOCK AND poultry breeders are moving steadily toward more crossbred or hybrid stock, it seems. We know that this is causing protests from some of our agricultural advisors. Yet the practice develops as the years roll by.

Yesterday we talked to Charlie Scranton of the federal department of agriculture poultry department. He told us about the cross breeding of strains of pure bred pullets to get more vigorous, thrifty layers for hatching flocks. These pullets are crossed again with yet another strain of the breed when cockerels are introduced into the flock. There is another cross breeding between breeds but this particular business of crossing is kept within the breed, only using different strains.

And the results have been apparent, Mr. Scranton says, in the vigor of the flock, the laying qualities and markedly in the hatchability

EARLIER THIS week, we talked to T.J. Inman, Bedeque, a former farmer and sheep breeder who retired some five years ago. Recalling that he was prominent in the P.E.I. Sheep Breeders Association some years ago, we got to chinning about breeds of sheep. His experience goes back before the days when cross breeding became so popular in livestock. But he used it even then. He had a basic flock of Leicesters. He used to breed them pure for several seasons and save his ten ewes. Then he'd cross them with Oxford rams for better beef lambs. He found the crossing successful and would do that for four or five years, then go back, get some more pure bred Leicesters and begin the cycle again.

PREMIER WALTER SHAW, and some of his department of agriculture officials have strenuously denounced the cross breeding of good dairy cows to beef bulls. In the Premier's opinion it's a waste of good dairy blood to cross it that way instead of breeding to the excellent dairy sires that are available through artificial insemination. But many of our best dairy matrons are still being crossed with beef bulls, despite the protests. Whether enough high class dairy cows are being bred to dairy sows to maintain production is something that only the passing years will show.

However a story on today's farm page indicates that production per cow has almost doubled in Island herds in the last 19 years. Perhaps our Island cattlemen are on the right track, after all.

4th National Poultry Award Sought

PRINCE EDWARD Island is looking for its fourth grand championship in the Canadian poultry world when poultry judges place the entries at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto later this month

Dingwell MacLeod of Vernon and Urban McQuaid of Southport are the Island exhibitors this year. It's McQuaid's first try but MacLeod has been showing top grade products for 11 years. In that time he has had the overall poultry grand championship on three occasions. That means the top award over any type of poultry at the Royal.

MacLeod won the grand ribbon the second year he showed. Since that time he has won the E. D. Bonnyman Challenge Trophy twice. The trophy is emblematic of Canadian dressed poultry supremacy. It wasn't available when he won his first grand championship but he has had his name inscribed on it twice since it was put into circulation.

DURING THOSE years Mr. MacLeod has had the best box of special grade capons eight times which must be something of a record in itself.

The Island won at least one other poultry award of which we are aware. Some years ago Ralph Jenkins of Charlottetown packed a box of poultry from his packing plant and won the award. They were grown by Frank Clark of Southport. Mr. Jenkins said yesterday that Mr. Clark "had so many top quality birds that year that we could have packed a dozen boxes of equally good quality". Mr. Clark left Southport and died in Ontario some years later. But the yen for poultry lingers on. His daughter, Margaret and her husband, William Wood, operate a modern poultry plant in the Keppoch area.

RAILWAY STOCK cars were being spotted in Charlottetown this week to load the large number of Island cattle and other livestock being shipped from this center. Additional stock was being shipped from other centers. Some of the stock cars were to move out over night.

As we have noted in this farm page in recent weeks, the Island's Royal entry of livestock this year is an unusually large one.

Will Display Island Potato Exhibit

R. L. BURGE of Five Houses is going to Toronto to set up the Island's potato exhibit. With more than one hundred entries in seed and table stock, the province is going to have its potatoes prominently on display. Mr. Burge is going along to see that the product is displayed to the best advantage. Glen Ramsay, District seed potato inspector here, will be one of the judges at the Royal.

William MacLennan, Provincial potato board chairman, will be in charge of the Island booth where Island potato praises will be sung, tourist literature distributed and questions answered regarding the province in general. With him will be Miss Margaret MacMillan of the marketing board and David Rogers, provincial department of agriculture.

L. W. ROPER, provincial livestock director is going to the big fair where he can keep an eye out for livestock developments and help Island showmen when possible.

It is probable that Hon. Andrew MacRae, minister of Agriculture, and S.C. Wright, the deputy minister, may also spend some time at the fair, although it could not be learned definitely last night.

Both men are going to the Dominion-Provincial agricultural conference in Ottawa next week - dates are November 8 to 10 - and the big Toronto fair runs through the following week.