

THIS AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY



N.S. Berry Output High Despite Soil Appearance

By NEIL A. MATHESON

Last week's trip to the farms of several Nova Scotia strawberry growers proved a most interesting experience. It was revealing to see the quantity of berries these Nova Scotians can produce on land that just doesn't compare with what we normally expect to see in our own province.

If any Nova Scotians read this I want to emphasize that I'm not belittling their soil. It just doesn't compare, so far as outward appearance is concerned at least, with what we have come to take for granted in P.E.I.

Several of the berry patches we saw are planted on ground that is almost covered with stones. I can't see Island growers planting berries in soil that looks like that.

But don't start feeling sorry for the men from the sister province, they're doing a terrific job with what they have. Indeed, they're outproducing us by a tremendous margin.

We have a few growers here, I am told, who sometimes get five to seven thousand boxes of berries per acre. But most growers are far below that. The N.S. growers the Island group visited are getting eight to 12 thousand boxes to the acre.

IRRIGATION DISCUSSED

The men we visited use irrigation and that, of course, adds greatly to production. Island growers sized up this part of the situation and most, I felt, discarded the idea of irrigation as being too costly, unless they can get more money for their berries.

The men to whom Island visitors talked last week, in the Lakeland and Westbrook area, both are close to Parrsboro — got an average of 30 to 32 cents per box for their berries last year. They sold them on the fresh market, and the markets ranged all the way from Moncton to Sydney. They have an advantage in Nova Scotia where there are many centres of population.

Some of our growers told me on the way to Nova Scotia "we would be happy if we could get an average of 25 cents for our berries." Here most of the berries — one man estimated 90 per cent — are sold for processing. And that means 21 cents a box. I was told.

I gathered the N.S. growers fertilize much more heavily than we do here. And they pay attention to details. They soil test

regularly, and make the recommended applications. I'm talking, of course, about the men we visited on our trip arranged by Doug Kilpatrick, provincial horticulturist.

GEESSE ARE WEEDERS

Among the more interesting things we saw was the weeding being done by geese. I've heard for years about this. I was told the geese will eat the grass but not the berries. I was told they are efficient weeders. But this was the first time I saw the feathered weeders at work.

All of us were interested, of course, when we heard the geese came from Roberts hatchery at Tryon. They get the goslings in the spring, turn them loose in the berry patch when the right time comes, and take them out before picking time.

The geese are fattened late in the autumn, and are sold at Christmas time. So they earn some more when they're sold as Christmas treats.

There's good news for tobacco growers, I believe in a sort of fog spray that's available to protect the crop against frost. Doug Kilpatrick heard about this on our strawberry trip last week, and it sounds as though it will be well worthwhile.

As soon as he gets the details on the stuff, Doug will be passing on the information.

THIBERT'S ENTHUSIASM

My friend Charlie Thibert has lost none of his enthusiasm for Prince Edward Island, and its agricultural potential. Charlie writes to tell me of the 280 acres of Long Strain Marketeer cucumbers the West Prince farmers are growing for him this year. Charlie is the P.E.I. representative for an international, well known food company; he really believes in the agricultural potential.

The most beneficial and largest industry in the United States, Charlie tells me, is agriculture, not automobile manufacturing, or any of the more widely advertised industries.

Mr. Thibert came to the Island first back in 1960 to assist with the tobacco crop which was then a new industry here.

He was born in Essex County, Ontario and he says his people have been in the agriculture and food processing industry since 1900.

Having it getting underway in some sections of the province and the crop looks good; as one might expect from the abundance of moisture and rainfall we have been getting during most of the growing season.

Our grandfathers wouldn't recognize so much of the heavy harvesting machinery that is in use now, but it all adds up to repeated demands the present \$75 old age pension be increased to \$100 monthly without a means test.

Dief Announces Opposition To Means Test For Pension

Ottawa (CP) — Opposition Leader Diefenbaker said in the Commons Monday his party will oppose any government plan calling for a means test to increase old age pensions.

"There is nothing meaner than a means test," said the Conservative leader as the opposition parties continued debate on second reading of the Canada Assistance Plan to coordinate and extend existing welfare measures.

The bill has been before the Commons for a week. Conservative and New Democratic Party MPs have blocked passage of the measure with repeated demands the present \$75 old age pension be increased to \$100 monthly without a means test.

Mr. Diefenbaker referred to press reports Health Minister MacEachen will announce \$30 extra to old age pensioners whose income falls below a certain level.

The press reports had made Mr. MacEachen's expected announcement "as public as the sun." But the Conservatives were against any plan involving a means test.

Staley Knowles (NDP—Winnipeg North Centre) said his party too is opposed to a means test for the extra payments.

David Lewis (NDP—York South) urged that pensions be raised to \$100 a month immediately, without a means test.

Air Raids Continue In Viet Nam

SAIGON (AP) — U.S. air power continued to hit enemy targets in both North and South Viet Nam, spokesmen reported Monday. Key targets were a strategic oil depot near Haiphong and a missile site near Hanoi in the North and Viet Cong guerrilla concentrations in the South.

Navy planes from the U.S. 7th Fleet carrier Constellation struck Sunday at the Do Son fuel depot 12 miles southeast of the North Vietnamese port of Haiphong for the second time in five days and four U.S. Air Force Thunderchiefs wrecked a

surface-to-air missile site 18 miles west of Hanoi, the North's capital.

China's official New China news agency reported in a later dispatch from Hanoi that the North Vietnamese government has decided to evacuate residents "non-essential to fighting and production" from the capital.

Miss Canada Becomes Ill

HAMILTON (CP) — Miss Coulter, 18-year-old Miss Dominion of Canada, taken ill in Grand Falls, N.B., will be released from hospital.

agreement shooting would start in October or November on location in Washington, D.C.

Miss Lamarr was last in the news May 12 when she filed a \$5,000,000 damage suit against a department-store chain for her Jan. 27 arrest on a shoplifting charge.

A jury acquitted her April 22 of allegations she took \$86 worth of merchandise from a store. Her suit charges false arrest, false imprisonment, assault and battery and malicious prosecution.

The nature of her illness has not been disclosed.

placed for the Miss Universe contest at Miami Beach, Fla. July 8-18, a spokesman for the Canadian pageant said Monday.

Miss Coulter was the winner Friday of the Miss Dominion of Canada beauty pageant in Grand Falls, Ont. She will be replaced in the Miss Universe contest by runner-up Marjorie Schofield, 18, of Burlington near Hamilton.

Miss Coulter was in Grand Falls to take part in the potato festival when she fell ill. She is still in hospital there.

Do your appliances have to take turns at the little 'ol' wall plug?

Better call your electrician can eliminate these time-consuming bottle-necks.

Improved Caribbean Links To Be Aim Of Ottawa Talks

By KEN CLARK

Ottawa (CP) — Conferenceable diplomacy begins here Wednesday to forge a stronger link between Canada and its Commonwealth brethren in the Caribbean.

A 30-member Canadian delegation led by Prime Minister Pearson will meet with the chief ministers of 13 Caribbean countries for three days of largely private discussions.

Officials have made clear that it's the first step for Canada in developing a special relationship with these underdeveloped countries.

Three countries are independent. The others are gradually shaking off their restrictions of colonial status. British influence therefore is declining.

The Canadian means to fill the gap are largely trade and aid.

As a result the 1926 trade agreement between Canada and these countries will come under review.

Canada shipped \$90,000,000 worth of wheat flour, salted fish and other commodities to the 13 countries last year. In return Canada got \$81,000,000 worth of bauxite for making aluminum, sugar, rum, fruit juice, petroleum and molasses.

AID INCREASES

Canadian aid to the Caribbean has risen through the years and now runs at \$10,000,000 annually. There's little doubt the visitors will want more.

The old diplomatic chestnut about whether to join the Organization of American States is also on the agenda. Canada has been fence-sitting on this one.

Migration of Caribbean people to Canada also may become a hot topic. Immigration in all categories reached a peak of 8,000 last year.

But easing of immigration laws could raise questions of developing a color problem in Canada similar to that in Britain.

Whatever Canada hopes to get out of the conference, it is pulling out the ceremonial and social stops to help achieve it.

No Protest Made On Bomb Testing

Ottawa (CP) — Canada has not made any formal protest to France regarding that country's recent atmospheric test of a nuclear weapon in the South Pacific, External Affairs Minister Martin said in the Commons Monday.

Mr. Martin told David MacDonald (PC—Prince) Canada had already said in the past she hoped both France and China would adhere to the international test-ban agreement, even though they had not signed it.

"We still wish they both would."

BRIDE TOSSED TORCH

The Roman bride, after lighting a symbolic fire on the hearth of her new home, tossed the torch to guests.

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