



Major Drop In Hog Prices Slices Deeply Into Profits

By NEIL A. MATHESON
The price of pork here is \$32.00 per hundred pounds for grade A carcasses, and \$31.00 for grade B. The Guardian was told yesterday. This represents a sharp drop from the \$41.75 that was being paid for grade A carcasses not so long ago.

The average price for Grade A carcasses through 1965 was \$32.30. Livestock Director David Peacock told a group of hog producers here in mid-March.

The average price for 1964 was \$26.70, for 1963 it was \$26.50, for 1962 the average was \$28.30 and for 1961 it was \$27.50. Mr. Peacock said at the time.

There's still a fair margin of profit in producing hogs for market. But it must be down very considerably from what was available in recent months to those who were fortunate enough to be in the business in a large way. I'm talking now about the chaps who have establishments capable of handling 1,000 feeder pigs at a time, and others who also have large numbers of hogs.

Hog men will be watching carefully the announcement that's coming this week on carcass prices. The price for each week comes on Wednesday, I'm told by the Canada Packers people here.

The prediction to the hog producers was that prices this year will be equal to what they were in 1965, and that in 1967 they'll level off at around 30 cents per pound, or \$30.00 per 100 pounds, which is the same thing. It will be interesting to watch how these predictions turn out.

OUR FARM BUSINESS
I want to call the attention of all farmers to the "Our Farm Business" series which is being telecast over CBC stations in the Maritime Provinces at 10:30 a.m. today, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Today's show is called "Livestock profits from quality forage" and Wallace Wood, Marshfield is the Island cattleman who is on a panel of three farmers who are heard and seen in the discussion. The same panel participate in the Friday forenoon show which discusses "The use of quality forage for maximum livestock profit."

Charlie Yeo, St. Eleanors is on the panel of farmers who will participate in the program Thursday when harvesting, storing and feeding quality forage will be discussed.

There are no Islanders on the Thursday show which discusses "How to plan a quality forage program and how to grow it." Dave Rogers and Dave Peacock of the provincial department have seen these shows in previews, and they tell me they are really good.

Several farmers who watched a similar series about this time last year were enthusiastic in their comments. I suggest that you take an hour off in the late forenoon and have a look.

There are other people on the show, many of them well known professional agriculturists. I've mentioned the Island men because you know them and I believe you'll be interested in seeing some of your fellow farmers participate.

I should have added that one of the professionals is also an Islander now. He's Dr. Lloyd MacLeod, research officer at the Experimental Farm, who along with Dr. Cecil Brown, University of Maine will talk about perennial grasses, perennial legumes and annuals, among other things. And that is on Wednesday forenoon.

GOLDEN OPPORTUNITIES
If Agriculture Minister J. J. Greene makes as good an impression everywhere he goes, as he did here Friday evening and on Saturday he'll be one of the most highly regarded ministers of agriculture this country has had. Of course that's a big order, and he may never reach that pinnacle of public esteem. But the man certainly did win the respect of the farm leaders who heard him Friday evening at the dairymen's banquet, and talked with him Saturday morning at a breakfast meeting in the Charlottetown Hotel.

Luck was with Mr. Greene in that he was speaking to the province's dairymen on Friday evening, a few days

after he had been able to announce that the government was making sure dairymen would get \$4.00 for milk going into manufacture of butter, for example. So his story had to be good.

But he brought with him S. C. Barry, who is his deputy minister, J.A. Anderson who is the director-general of the research branch (that includes the Experimental Farm) and Bill Bird, in charge of crop insurance.

It was an ideal opportunity for our farm leaders to meet with men who direct the department of agriculture's policies and several who administer the phase of agricultural activity which comes under their direction.

We had top spokesmen from the federation of agriculture, from the dairymen's association, the beef producers' association, the potato producers and the potato marketing board, among others. And, of course our minister, Andrew MacRae, and our deputy minister, S.C. Wright, were there.

This was a "golden opportunity" as several of the men told me later, for our people to discuss subjects which are of vital importance to our province.

The talk was completely frank, yet it was on a basis of mutual respect and the visitors were good listeners. I gather also that they were understanding listeners. So far as I could gather from the men to whom I talked after, the visitors were sympathetic to the arguments our people put forth.

Many important issues were discussed in the two hours or more our people had with the Ottawa men. One of them concerned our Experimental Farm here and the desirability of more emphasis being laid in future on livestock — I believe that's really cattle in this case.

EMPHASIS ON CATTLE
I recall learning in the past two years or so that the emphasis on cattle was being placed at the Experimental Farm in Fredericton. The tendency, I was told, was to reduce the emphasis on cattle here.

Our people were able to develop their opinion that this trend should be reversed. The minister and his top advisors were made completely aware of the position, of the value which our people put on livestock in the future of our economy.

POTATOES TOO
In case potato men think their product was ignored, that is not the case. Potatoes were stressed, along with livestock, as the "bread and butter" items of livestock here.

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land farm economy. But there is a capable staff of federal agricultural officers here who, along with provincial people, are looking after our potato needs. That's why the emphasis on strengthening the livestock emphasis at the Experimental Farm was made so strongly.

Mr. Greene is to be commended for bringing with him those members of his top advisory staff. It would be difficult, almost impossible for so many of our farm leaders to have met all of those people in Ottawa, to say nothing of the expense of travelling there. As several of our farm spokesmen said to me "it was a golden opportunity".

I didn't get to the dairymen's banquet at which Mr. Greene spoke Friday — I did have his speech before it started. So I want to add a few items concerning the dinner.

Arthur MacRae, new dairymen's president, introduced the guests. Greetings came from Premier Shaw and Mayor Cox. Mr. Greene was introduced by Hon. Andrew MacRae. He was thanked by John A. Rodd, Milton. Entertainment was provided by Faith-Marie (Mrs. Doug-

las McKenney) — Miss Jackie Doyle, David F. Hall and The Giddings Twins, all of Charlottetown. The latter consisted of a humorous take-off on the Munsinger case and I'm told it really went over big.

It was Boyd MacDonald, North Tryon who sent me the advertisement in which the American man was asking for Red and White Holsteins.

HOLSTEIN ARGUMENT
And that reminds me that a lady reader has taken issue with the story Lincoln Dewar told me about the original cattle being Red and White, and that black was superimposed on the breed. The idea was that black is a dominant color and it produced the black and white Holstein of today. But Red and White holsteins crop up now and again.

She loaned me a lengthy history of the Holstein breed, and a few quick glances indicate that there is a really good col-
time on it, though I'm not sure yet about that color argument.

Competition For Authors Announced
OTTAWA (CP)—A \$60,000 literary competition on Canada's future was announced Monday by Imperial Tobacco Co. Ltd. First prize for the best written work in French or English—

economic thesis, essay or novel, for example—will be \$33,000. The other nine finalists will receive \$3,000 each.

John M. Keith, company president, said at a press conference that the award is the largest ever offered for a literary work in Canada. The competition is entitled Canada—2,000 A.D. and is the company's centennial project.

The competition is open to all Canadian citizens at home or abroad. Closing date for 2,500-word abstracts is July 15, 1966. The 10 finalists will be announced Oct. 31, 1966, and the closing date for a full-length book or thesis is Sept. 1, 1967. The winner will be announced Oct. 31, 1967.

The judges are Jörn J. Deutsch, chairman of the Economic Council of Canada; Prof. Earle Birney of Vancouver; Mr. Justice Alfred M. Monnin of Winnipeg; Claude Ryan, publisher of Le Devoir, Montreal; and Prof. Peter B. Waite, Halifax.

Run-Off Eases Power Threat
CORNER BROOK (CP)—Higher water storage levels have lessened the threat of a production cut at the plant of Bowaters Newfoundland Pulp and Paper Mills Ltd. here.

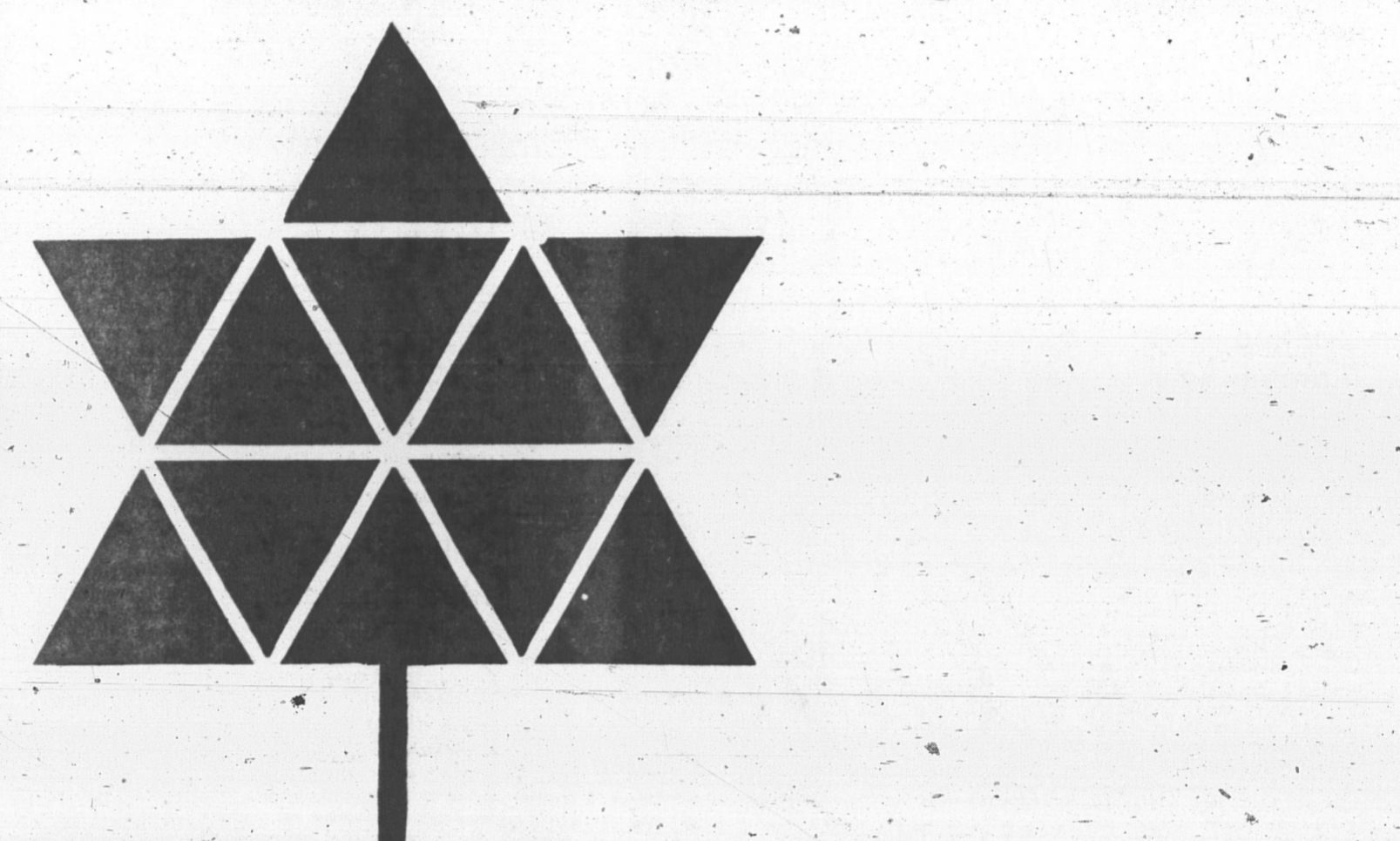
M. G. Green, president and general manager of Bowaters Power Co., said Monday the wa-

ter level in Grand Lake source of Bowaters' electric power, rose one-tenth of a foot in the last few days as mild weather increased the run-off from melting snow.

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