

Farm returns high despite dry season

The driest year on record at the Experimental Farm, where weather observers have been keeping records for more than a half-century, caused wide variations in the quantity and quality of agricultural products in Prince Edward Island.

Figures for the full year were not available at the time of writing but official DBS (Dominion bureau of statistics) figures indicate that the total cash farm receipts for January through September 1965 are at an all-time high of \$30,299,000. This compares, for example, with \$22,608,000 for the same period in 1964 and with \$18,563,000 for the corresponding figure in 1963.

There was an excellent strawberry crop, for example, though veteran observers had been forecasting a near disaster less than a month before harvest time. But the year ended with many cattlemen worried about the lack of fodder and grain for their cattle, and there are more dirty stables this winter than there have been for a long time. The reason is simple, there just isn't enough straw for bedding. In no case is the situation gen-

eral. There have been really good crops of grain, some people even have enough straw, though that, apparently is unusual. Many people have enough feed, though many are really short of fodder, and grain too.

Production of grain was down by more than 2,500,000 bushels an official estimate indicates. The 5,950,000 bushels of barley, oats and mixed grain last year compares with 8,481,000 bushels the previous year.

Broken down the estimates indicate there were 3,519,000 bushels of "oats for grain"—that's the official term—in 1965 and

that compares with 5,272,000 in 1964.

There were 1,998,000 bushels of mixed grain last year. There were 2,627,000 in 1964. There were 433,000 bushels of barley last year. This compared with 582,000 in 1964.

POTATOES DOWN

It's difficult to get an estimate for the quantity of potatoes last year but it has to be down considerably from the 1964 crop year. But the estimated value of 15.6 million dollars for the calendar year 1965 rates it at near record volume.

Surprisingly there were some fields of potatoes that produced close to record quantities with 500 bushels to the acre reported in a few cases. At the same time many fields were well below normal production, it was reliably reported.

The entire season of production revealed many unusual spreads between the high and

low yields, as some areas received more moisture than others, and some seemed to survive the drought period better than others.

MORE TOP GRADES

Cattle marketed in registered slaughter houses showed an improvement in quality with more animals in the two top grades, red and blue brands, and considerably fewer animals in the undesirable "utility" grade.

Of the 17,821 animals slaughtered last year in registered killing plants, for example, there were 254 in the Red or top brand, and 1,131 in the Blue Brand, the one next to the top. This is a marked improvement on the performances in other years. It's not so long since it was only a comparatively slight exaggeration to say the only Island cattle to make the two top beef grades were those in the annual Easter beef show and sale.

Most of the straight beef breeds of course get into one or other of these top grades, but owners of dairy crossbreeds—dairying is the main cattle use here—should aim at Standards, Beef Fieldman Glen Cotton advises. Some of the crossbreeds will get into a top grade but the main objective should be for Standard or Brown brand, he advises.

PLOWING CONTESTS

Plowing competitions continue to attract some top rank competitors. Dr. Carl Willis, Sherwood, represented Canada in the world match in Norway last year. He won the Provincial championship here last fall and thus will compete this year again in the Canadian match. The other Canadian competition plowman from P.E.I. is Edwin Mills; Bay Fortune, a

perennial in this type of competition.

The Willis-Mills pair will leave early in April for the Canadian meet in Chilliwack, B.C. The meet is set for mid-April. There is hope the team members can leave early so that they will have a few days of practice plowing.

It's the first time the Canadian match has ever been held in April, but out in sunny British Columbia spring plowing matches are the normal procedure, competitive plowmen here reveal.

TAKE OVER BUSINESS

French casinos are believed to have lost 80 per cent of their business since gambling was legalized in Britain.



MARINE RAILWAY AT ALLERTON



VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE

Museum welcome addition to attractions in Alberton

By A. C. GREEN
ALBERTON — The opening of a museum was one of the outstanding events of the past year in Alberton.

Mrs. W. R. Oulton converted an unused barn into a centre of attraction for everyone who is interested in things of the past. The barn, divided into room areas, contains furnishings and household utensils that were once common in homes of the community.

By means of much energetic endeavour and with the cooperation of many people, Mrs. Oulton has assembled a wide variety of interesting exhibits within a short period of time, and the collection continues to grow. Adjoining the museum is a gift shop where local handicrafts are made available to tourists and to residents of the community. Through government sponsored adult education classes women of the area have learned a number of handicraft skills during the past few years, silk screening, pottery, weaving, and several others.

Two other top tourist attractions in the town added to the interest of their establishments during 1965. Evalyn's Handicraft Studio Workshop opened to the public the basement area where Island stones are cut, tumbled and polished in preparation for mounting. In the studio additional showcases permit more satisfactory viewing of the Jewellery Evalyn assembles with Island stones and

also with gem stones from many countries.

SIMPLICITY ACCENTED
"The Home of Maple Tree Craft" formally opened its hospitable door to the public last summer with the addition of a display room. The accent is on simplicity and it is in such a setting that the beautiful work of Herbert Leavitt and his helpers is most impressive.

The establishment of Vocational School classes in Alberton and the widespread response to opportunities thus offered, are, without doubt, one of the most beneficial and progressive activities for adults the area has known in recent years. For the accommodation of these classes a very fine building has been erected by Erskine Clark. At the Regional High School a Home Economics course was added to the curriculum last fall.

Myricks Alberton Ltd. found it necessary last year to build additional warehouse space at the back of the store which houses what appears to be a continually expanding business. All units of the Senior Citizens' Home are now occupied by tenants who are comfortable and happy in their compact, convenient living quarters.

OLD HOUSES GO
The dismantling of four dilapidated houses has made an improvement in the appearance of the town. During the past year more homes have been connected up with the town sewerage system.

Name markers for the streets, provided by the Women's Institute, have added to the appearance of the town and to the convenience of strangers who may need direction.

A great improvement was made in the "Old Dock" cemetery when the headstones were straightened, repaired and cleaned. As a result of this work a prize was awarded in the Rural Beautification contest. At Hillcrest cemetery an attractive name marker was erected.

MARINE SLIP

At Alberton South a new 200-foot marine railway slip of 100-ton capacity was officially opened in October. With this facility Alberton Industries can now build and service boats up to 85-feet in length.

The boat building industry at Alberton South continues to prosper and to provide employment for a number of local men. Both Alberton Industries and Hutt Brothers turn out an excellent type of fishing boat. Last year the output at Alberton Industries included eleven boats for the Department of Northern Affairs.

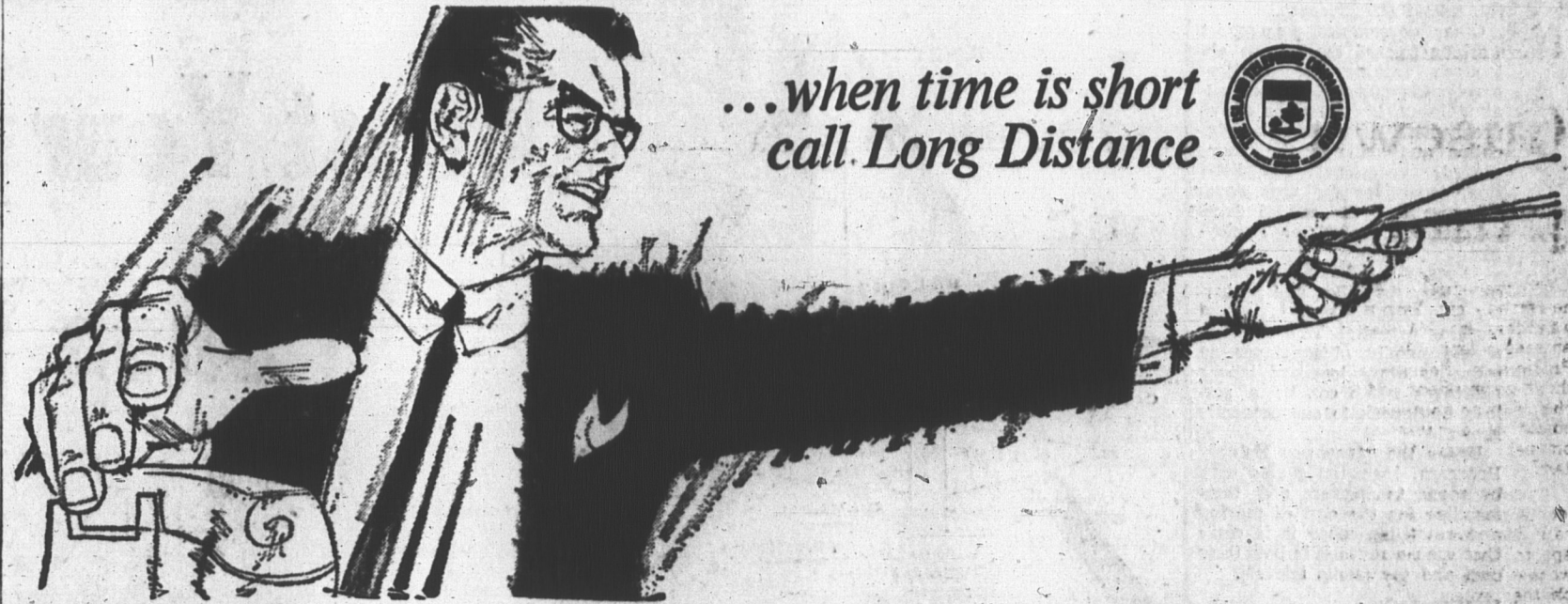
It would appear that in 1965 Alberton showed progress in tourist attractions, appearance, business, educational facilities and opportunities, skills and industry.

The year concluded with an event which showed consideration for others and which resulted in so much happiness for so many that it might be said

there has been progress in kindness.

The Alberton Fire Department, headed up by Chief Herbert Leavitt, organized a bus tour for everyone who did not have transportation of their own to see the beauty of the Christmas lights. By courtesy of the Regional High School Board the school buses were made available. Following the tour there was an hour of entertainment at the Fire Hall.

For guests and firemen it was a highlight not only of the Christmas season but of the whole year.

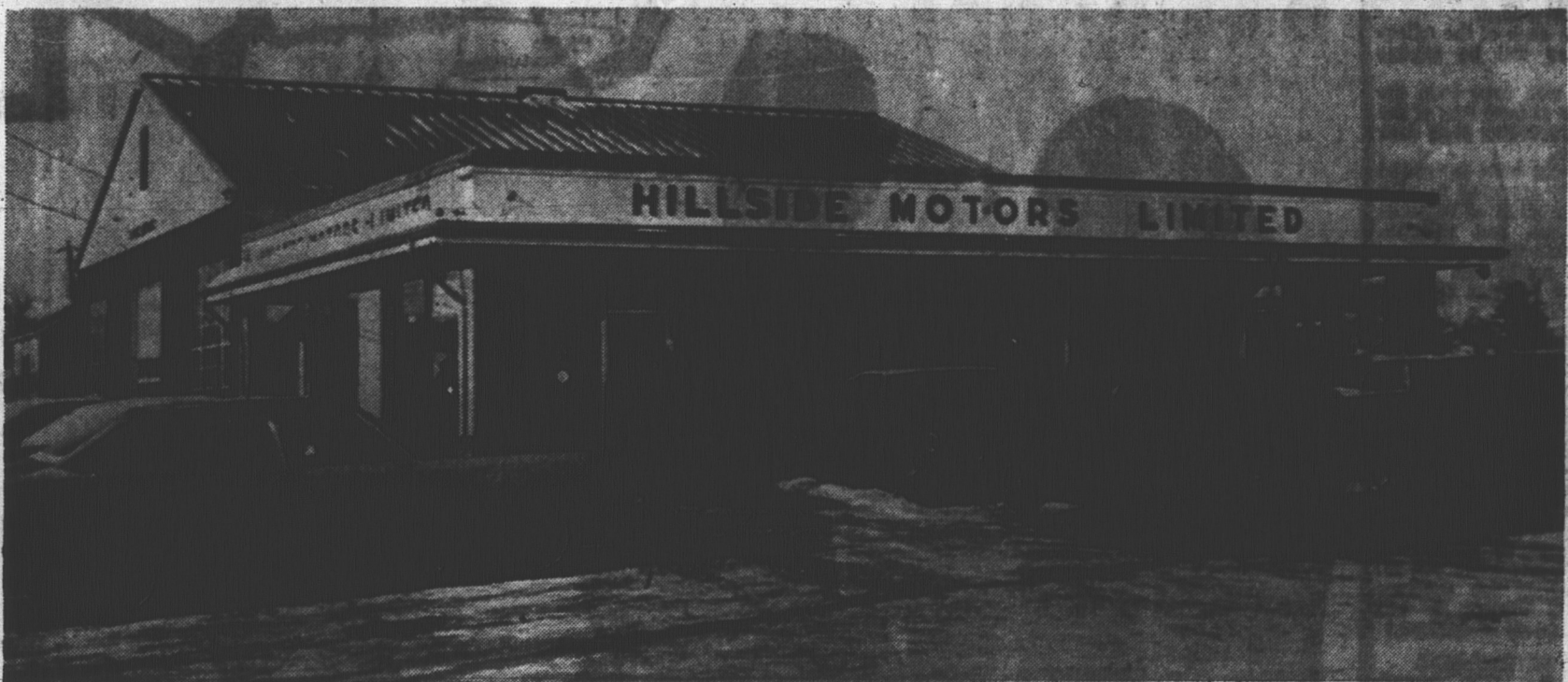


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