

AMONG THE FARMERS

Federation of Agriculture Newsletter

THE BEST OF TIMES?

The statement attributed by the press to the Hon. Mr. Gardiner (and we have no reason to doubt that the Minister made it as we are told) that the last five years was the best ever experienced in Canadian agriculture will be received with reservations by a great many Canadian farmers and with something more than skepticism by almost all farm workers or most of the industry in the period under question.

Economists are inclined to class the last five years with a number of previous five-year cycles in which agriculture suffered serious price recessions, such periods existed from 1891-1896, 1920-1924 and 1929-1934. Certainly the past five years has been one in which agriculture has been forced to make very marked readjustments and on the other hand the nature of the cost-price-squeeze has been recognized by all other groups.

In terms of parity prices (a formula for expressing the purchasing power of agriculture of goods and services offered by other groups) the average for the period 1946-1951 was little more than 109 per cent with a high of 113 per cent for 1948. It stood at 110 per cent for 1951 and fell to 84 per cent in 1954 and has remained at that level for almost three years. The inclusion of 1951 and 1952 in the period of course makes a more favourable average but does not do away with the fact that 1954-1955 and 1956 have found the farmer in an awkward position, nor does it do away with the fact that a great many people have been drowned in streams that average only six inches deep.

Agricultural public relations is at a low ebb when the Minister responsible attempts to persuade the public that farmers have never been better off than during the past five years when practically everyone else recognizes the very serious difficulties under which they have operated and the severe readjustments which many thousands of farmers have been forced to make.

MONCTON MEETING

The meeting held at Moncton on November 23 between agriculture Ministers and Deputies and farm organization officials was generally agreed to have been one of the best ever held. Usually such meetings have not lasted more than two or three hours but in this case a morning and afternoon session were used and discussion was still keen.

Particular attention was given to the implications of forth coming freight rate increase on the Feed Grain Freight Assistance

Hold Boyne Lodge Annual Meeting

The members of Boyne orange Lodge held their annual meeting Tuesday evening in their Lodge Rooms on Richmond Street which was well attended. After considerable business was taken care of, the following slate of officers were duly installed by Past Grand Master P.G. MacEachern, and after the newly-appointed officers took their respective stations, the re-elected Worshipful Master gave a short address and made temporary plans for the incoming year.

The following is the new slate of officers: Worshipful Master James Coles; Deputy W.M. Sprague; Recording Secretary John T. Campbell; Recording Secretary James MacFadyen; Financial Secretary Howard MacKinnon; Treasurer R.A. Ince; Lecturer Louis Sherrin; Deputy Lecturer Ewen MacDougall; Marshall James Crabbe; Committeemen Clifford Cooper, Harold Hearts, Roderick Cummings, John D. MacKenzie, Stanley Sherrin; Sentinel George Howard; Tyler Gordon Cooper; Auditors - G.A. Cudmore P.G.M. and J. Gordon Ross Jr. D.G.M.

Trinity Young Adult Group

The regular weekly meeting of the Young Adult Group was held in the social hall with Faith and Evangelism Commission in charge. The recreation period was led by Rita Divan and Audrey MacPhail, which was then followed by Bible Study led by Rev. Mr. Christie. It was decided to study a portion of the Bible each week, commencing next week with the first three chapters of the Gospel of St. Luke. The business meeting followed, led by the President, Frederick Haller, after which the group divided into their various commissions. The worship period was led by Patricia Coffin assisted by Patricia Kelly and Lella Malson. Theme for the service was "The Youngest Shepherd." Meeting closed with hymn "I Need Thee Every Hour."

Potato Board Powers Extended

In the last issue of the Royal Gazette is a minute of the Lieutenant Governor in Council where by the Prince Edward Island Potato Marketing Board is authorized to accept the authority granted by a recent P.C. order under the Agricultural Products, Marketing Act of Canada, granting authority to regulate the marketing of P.E.I. potatoes outside of Prince Edward Island in interprovincial and export trade as are exercisable by the Board in relation to the marketing of potatoes locally within the Province.

It has been pointed out that this is merely a continuation of the authority granted under the previous Marketing Act, now rescinded, and replaced by "The Marketing Act of 1956".

Coming Events

- Dance Afton Hall Saturday Dec. 8. Good Music.
- Crokinole Party Wheatley River Hall tonight, commencing at 8.30.
- Park Corner School Concert in French River Hall, Dec. 20th.
- Attention Horsemen: All interested in ice-racing are requested to attend a meeting at C.B. Orr's, New Glasgow, Tuesday, 8 p.m.
- Unloading car of Co-op feeds and concentrates, Saturday and Monday. Fifteen cents off regular prices. Vernon River Co-op.
- Buying fowl and chicken, Monday and Wednesday of each week. Picking market price. Phone 7386 select for pick-up service. Urban McQuid, Southport.
- Showing at Mt. Stewart Friday and Saturday: "Drums of the South". Super-colour drama of the South starring James Craig, Barbara Fayon and Guy Redden.

Policy. This whole matter was thoroughly discussed and the necessity of holding grain freight at the June 30 level was agreed upon. A committee representative of the Maritime transportation Commission, of the Federation of Agriculture, and of Government was set up to prepare a case and present it in the proper place and at the proper time. Other matters dealt with were potato tariffs, protection for dairy products, monetary policies, farm credit, marketing legislation, hog grading, school milk program, agricultural education, federation aid for education, immigration and U.S. policy in marketing surplus products.

The meeting was attended by the three Maritime Deputies and Ministers including the newly appointed Minister from Nova Scotia, the Hon. E. D. Haliburton. These gentlemen expressed themselves favourably upon the value of the meeting and upon the assistance the discussion would be to them at the Dominion-Provincial Conference.

THE P.M. AND BUTTER

Recent the Prime Minister of Canada in speaking to the Catholic Social Life Conference in Toronto was credited with the following statement and we quote "For a great many of the farmers of eastern Canada, the only thing that has made it possible for them to live is that we, the government paid 50 cents a pound for their butter - and now we have butter coming out of ears." This was an of the cuff statement and not contained in the mimeographed copy of the Prime Minister's speech, for this reason we may assume that the Prime Minister succumbed to the temptation to make humorous remarks not fully realizing its implications.

It is a debatable question whether the floor price has been responsible for increased production, certainly the Hon. Mr. Gardiner has persistently defended it on the grounds that its a non-incentive price support. At the moment the Canadian butter situation appears to be getting on an even keel, consumption has been ahead of production for the past year and the possibility exists that Canada may be short of dairy products within two or three years.

The support price on butter has done a great deal to put a greater degree of stability in eastern agriculture. It is unfortunate that the Prime Minister should have given the impression of criticizing and receding a policy of his own Government.

WHAT OF THE FUTURE

Dr. E. C. Hope, Economist with the Canadian Federation of Agriculture in a recent address to a British Columbia meeting took a look at the future and came up with some long-ranged predictions which should be of interest to a number of farmers. Dr. Hope points out that our farm markets are made up of export demand and domestic requirements, generally export markets have been declining and that trend will continue with the exception of that for wheat which may even increase slightly. Domestic demand for farm products will increase annually at the rate of 2 1/2 per cent and farm production at about the same rate. This will mean that there will be room for about the present labour force in agriculture and only the surplus of natural increase will move into other industries, in other words the export which took place during the past decade will cease.

It is predicted that Canada will have some difficulty in supplying itself with beef and prices will likely rise for this product more than the price of farm products in general. Dairying will continue to expand but not to the same extent as the meat industry. Demand for eggs will continue to increase but bigger poultry farms will likely result in fewer egg farms than we have today. The apple and potato industry will not expand to any great extent.

FARM FORUM NOTES

Farm Forum showed signs of getting into high gear last week when ten additional forums reported for the first time. The reports that came in for that week on the topic "The Soil Bank Idea" indicated that lively interest in the question and suggests that many farm people are much better acquainted with this instrument of U.S. farm policy. For this coming Monday night two newspapermen will question two officials of farm organizations on developments in the Dominion - Provincial Conference and the general outlook for the coming year. For the seventeenth of December there will be another discussion on the "role" of the delegate in the farm organizations.

REBUFF FROM MALK

LONDON (AP)—Soviet Ambassador Jacob Malik refused Thursday to receive a delegation of British peers, religious leaders and members of Parliament bearing a resolution condemning Russian intervention in Hungary. The 13-man group was led by Lord Beesborough.



CHARLOTTETOWN CAMERA CLUB WINNER

A millvale scene, taken by Edith Hume, won first place in the Charlottetown Camera Club, Class B, "Landscape" competition judged by Bob Hamblly. Second and third honors went to Alice Chandler for "Falls at the Montague Power Dam", and a scene on the South Montague Road.

A highly interesting feature of the program was a color competition also on "Landscapes". Many beautiful slides were shown which had been submitted by the members and several guests. The adjudication was made by Dr. Burton Howatt who placed the winners as follows: 1st. Mrs. J. C. Montgomery - A Thatched cottage in Somerset, England; 2nd. Barry MacLaren - Autumn scene on Morell River; 3rd. Eleanor

Low - Castle Combe, England. Also selected for honorable mention were entries by Mrs. J. C. Montgomery, Dr. Eric Pound, Dr. Gordon Lea, Margaret Millett, and Roland Taylor.

Committees were formed to organize the Christmas party which will follow the adjudication of the Classes A and B competitions on "Architecture" on Dec. 17th.

Former Islander's Firm In Alberta Holds Anniversary

Back in 1903 a young Prince Edward Islander, Ernest Poole, set out on the Harvest Excursion to seek his fortune in the "Golden West". When he abandoned the harvest field and sought employment as a carpenter, one of today's major Canadian construction firms was born. The firm, the Poole Construction Co. Ltd., of Edmonton, Alberta, is celebrating a half-century spent "building the West."

Joining forces with an elderly contractor, James Martin, this ambitious young newcomer commenced his contracting career building schools, banks, offices, and other similar small structures, throughout the rural areas of Saskatchewan and Manitoba. At that time they employed only three men. Today 2,000 men are on their payroll.

BIG PULP MILL PROJECT

To mark its fiftieth anniversary, Mr. Poole's firm is engaged on its biggest project to date: a \$35,000,000 pulp mill being built at Hinton, Alberta. In the years between the firm grew as the West progressed; building roads, factories, dams, airports, etc., as the need arose. Among many important projects entrusted to this enterprising company were: the Mac Donald Hotel and the CIL Polythene Plant, both located in Edmonton; The Bearspaw Dam near Calgary; the Ford Parks Depot in Regina; the Naval Barracks at Prince Rupert; airports at Penhold and Medicine Hat; the Mental Hospital at Weyburn and the Penitentiary at Prince Albert.

One project of which Mr. Poole is particularly proud is the seven-month reconstruction of the famous Jasper Park Lodge after it was destroyed by fire two years ago. The job was completed in record time under his personal supervision.

AT WOODVILLE

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Unemployment Fraud Leads To Prosecution

Appearing to answer a charge of making false statements to the unemployment insurance Commission Office at Charlottetown, a resident of Ontario on charges of criminal negligence in the operation of a motor vehicle and with obstructing a R.C.M.P. officer in the execution of his duty. A speeder from Kinkora was fined \$10, and costs while the case of a Try-on resident, appearing on a similar charge, was adjourned for one week.

Most of British Columbia's 500 fishing craft carry radio-telephone sets for ship-to-shore conversation.

MODERN AID

Most of British Columbia's 500 fishing craft carry radio-telephone sets for ship-to-shore conversation.

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THE TRAPPIST FATHERS

North Rogersville, N.B.
Dealers, agents are wanted.

A. R. Howatt Dies In Moncton

The many friends and relatives of Mr. A. R. Howatt, Pettitcodiac, will be sorry to learn of his death which occurred at Moncton City Hospital Tuesday morning, December 4th.

Mr. Howatt was born at Colebrook, P.E.I. 57 years ago, son of the late Thomas and Empress (MacKinnon) Howatt. He spent the early part of his life in Prince Edward Island and went to Pettitcodiac nine years ago. Mr. Howatt spent five years with the P.E.I. Highlanders in World War II. Following the war he represented Lewis Bros. Ltd., Montreal, for the past five years has been associated with the firm of A. R. Howatt and Son, Pettitcodiac.

Mr. Howatt was a member of St. James United Church, Pettitcodiac; Luxor Shrine, Saint John.

Commenting on the case, officials of the local office stated that it was one of several which had been pending for several weeks. The others are expected to have a hearing in court very shortly. Still others are under investigation, and some of these are expected to result in prosecutions.

The local office has let it be known that a vigorous follow-up of all reported cases of fraud in connection with the collection of Unemployment Insurance benefits is now being made. It is also emphasized by the local office that any charges preferred come under the Criminal Code of Canada.

A female resident of Charlottetown was given a two-year suspended sentence for creating unnecessary mischief. A total fine of \$60, and costs was laid against a resident of Ontario on charges of criminal negligence in the operation of a motor vehicle and with obstructing a R.C.M.P. officer in the execution of his duty. A speeder from Kinkora was fined \$10, and costs while the case of a Try-on resident, appearing on a similar charge, was adjourned for one week.

N.B. Steven Lodge No. 37, Pettitcodiac, and Regina Chapter No. 39 Order of the Eastern Star.

Mr. Howatt leaves to mourn his wife, the former Anne S. Easter, five sons Charles and Lorne, Pettitcodiac; Frank, Woodstock; Keir and Douglas, Bathurst; two daughters Sally and Jean at home. One sister, Mrs. Vincent Windsor, Halifax, N.S., three brothers, Keith Bathurst; Charles D., Ottawa; J. Leith, Toronto; three grandchildren and several nieces and neph-

ews. The remains are resting in the Goldarts Funeral Home, Pettitcodiac, until Thursday and will be taken to St. James United Church, where the funeral will be held at 2 o'clock. Interment will be in Maplewood Cemetery.

SAFETY BELT

A "safety zone" by which designers may not own border property was created by presidential decree in Brazil in 1940.

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