

ACROSS THE ISLAND

P.M.'s Promise Poses Problem

By NEIL A. MATHESON

PRIME MINISTER Diefenbaker's announcement on compensation for low potato prices has complicated the task which a committee named here to deal with appeals from several Island localities. The demands came from the area around Kings and the area around O'Leary in West Prince, although there were also strong indications from the East Prince area that growers desire assistance.

The committee representing the areas officially demanding help, the Potato Producers Association, the Federation of Agriculture and the provincial department of agriculture meets Monday, I am told, to consider the problem.

I have no inside information, but I would expect that the Prime Minister's statement here last week will widen the demand for assistance.

He said in part, "I know you depend on potatoes shall not be required to face difficulties brought about by large surpluses elsewhere" and added "there will be more of this in a few days."

KNOW from talks I've had with men like Malcolm Bradshaw and Rowan Sberry in the Sourtooth-Albany area, for example, that they and at least some of their neighbours don't know how many are demanding some compensation for low prices. There will likely be many others, now that the Prime Minister has put himself on record so definitely.

If demand is as widespread as I expect it may be, I'm wondering what standard the government will use to determine the extent of compensation payments. Perhaps Agriculture Minister Alvin Hamilton can enlighten us when he comes here next Wednesday to sign the agreement on Crop Insurance.

Junior Club Winners in P.E.I.

A FRIEND told me recently we neglected to record the names of Junior Club winners from this province in the All Canadian Holding judging competitions released some time ago. I have to thank my long-time friend Cecil Stewart of Hampshire, secretary of the P.E.I. club, for sending me the names for making the names available and here they are with related congratulations.

Five tied for first place in the P.E.I. standings with 126 points were Alan Godfrey, New Wilshire; David Thompson, Dunstaffnage; Albert Cormier, Earl Rowal; Donald Dunstaffnage and Pauline M. Cormier, Earl Rowal.

Tied with 123 points were Ivan Cormier, Redwood; Heather and Janet Jones, Pownal; Wynne, Helen and Carol Dickson, New Glasgow. The winner in Canada scored 123. The possible was 140 points.

Old Agreement Was Strict

MY BARBER, George MacLean, brought me this one which indicates how strict the apprenticeship agreements were here in other years. The young man was required to serve faithfully, carry out all his master's commands, protect him from damage at all times and serve warning of impending danger to his person. He was unable to marry unless with his master's consent. He could not "play at cards or any other unlawful games whereby his master might suffer loss." He was not to "have taverns, playhouses, or any other houses of resort."

The master in this case had to teach the apprentice the art of curing or tanning leather and provide "food and sufficient drink, washing and soap" and pay thirty pounds for the term of five years. There was a penalty of 50 pounds if the master broke the agreement.

The old document found in the home of Stewart MacKinnon at Highfield, is 112 years old and was signed by William Benjamin Dunstaff, tanner and Donald MacKinnon, the apprentice, who was the son of Hugh MacKinnon.

When Industries Dotted Island

LACK OF industries has often been stressed as one of our biggest problems in this province, but small industries were scattered all over this province in the days that are gone, and are now being long ago at that. I talk about the development of a few of my old Rose Valley neighbours some time ago. Rose Valley was chosen because I know that area best and remember enough of the history of the area to raise some sensible questions about the past. But I believe, from what folks in other communities tell me, the story I'm going to tell about Rose Valley should be told about some other places across the province.

There was a woodworking plant, a carriage shop, a brick yard, a large and small mill, a saw mill, a blacksmith, a ball mill radius of the area where the church, the hall and the school still exist. And there was a tanner at Springton just up the road a few miles from the mill.

I RECALL the man they used to call "Tanner" MacDonald when I was a boy but that was long after the shop had closed. The brickyard was going when I was a boy and I can recall sneaking glances out the school window at the trucks travelling around in his circle, working the clay mixed to make the bricks.

Malcolm MacKenzie was the senior member of the family then and his sons John W. and Norman working with him made a money pile as tanners. Malcolm MacKenzie was the deputy minister of education in a member of the family. "Tanner" MacDonald was the grandfather of John W. MacKenzie and Malcolm, the education deputy minister.

Up To 35,000 Bricks Annually

SLABS THAT furnished fuel for the kiln in which the bricks were dried, came from nearby Dixon's Mill which was run by water power at the time. The mill was later changed to steam and the slabs were used as fuel for the engine. That, I gathered, was the beginning of the end for the old brickyard, as regular firewood fuel added materially to the cost of operation. The last bricks made were in 1915. The MacKenzies made 25,000 to 35,000 bricks annually in the months between spring seedling and haying. They brought 60 cents to \$1.25 per 100. Those bricks were made of clay, not the concrete mix type that is so prevalent today. And there is plenty of brick clay in that area. The MacKenzies drilled through 142 feet of the brick clay several years ago, when they built a new house, before finally getting a satisfactory water supply at 120 feet.

The day the clay by hand in the evening, dumped it into the mixing pit and soaked it with water overnight. The horse-drawn capstan arrangement (much like that on an old fashioned stamping machine) was used to mix the clay and water together by hand. The clay came out of the pit like dough and was hand moulded.

TOOK one of the old moulds, and a brick to the farm museum which Robert Fern is building up at the Experimental Farm, and anyone interested can see them there.

Some of the MacKenzie bricks are in the chimney of the Parochial House at Summerfield, and I did. The mortar used then was made from clay and lime. "Did I last?" I asked the MacKenzies when I visited them, and they pointed to the chimney of their old home, which is more than 100 years old, and the chimney would be sound as a dollar.

I am unable to tell you much about the other small industries, though I was told last year the windows of the Rose Valley church were made in the MacKenzies' shop. I could say the same thing about many more of the national figures I am privileged to know. I merely wish to Green and Holroyd because one of the P.E.I. men I know, Liberal M.P. Douglas, personally made my impression the first time we met.

Dollar Bill Used For Autograph

SPEAKING OF dollars, I saw a man hand Tommy Douglas a dollar bill in autograph, when he stopped briefly on Market Square here Wednesday afternoon. I had never seen that dose before and neither had the gent Mr. Douglas.

Incidentally, I have never seen a man who is more consistently friendly, or easier to like, than the same Mr. Douglas. That was the opinion I formed when I first met him back in the 1930s. He was a Pitters, and it became more deeply impressed every time I have the privilege of meeting him.

Don Howard Green who was here on Tuesday and Paul Hetherington who will be in Montserrat on Wednesday, are both just as concerned as I am. It took a bit of knowing there before I was impressed with our friends. I could say the same thing about many more of the national figures I am privileged to know. I merely wish to Green and Holroyd because one of the P.E.I. men I know, Liberal M.P. Douglas, personally made my impression the first time we met.



TOP DRAMA AWARDS PRESENTED

Evelyn Garbary and Michael Slesnickoff chat with Lord St. Ursula at the presentation of awards concluding the week-long Dominion Drama Festival at Winnipeg. They received major awards for jointly directing the winning presentation by The Travelling Players of Halifax of "Look back in Anger".

FEDERATION OF AGRIC. NEWSLETTER

Hay Prospects Are Poor; Warm Weather Needed

May continues on what appears to be a record breaker for cold weather. Almost every night the thermometer falls to the thirties and the days provide cold winds. The effect on ground is quite marked, even in the weeds aren't growing—they will come later of course. Some potatoes planted, turnips and vegetables, as well. Pastures have made a start, but only the oldest heifers are starting to appear. What agriculture needs more than anything in this province at the moment is good heat and moisture.

What was developing into a May drought is broken on Monday with a welcome rain. Up to that time spring and streams were at almost as low a point as at any time in the past two dry summers. Evidently the water table must be at a low level. Present indications seem to be for another season of below average rainfall, and the low levels trouble as water is the most important ingredient in crop production.

HAY PROSPECTS are poor. One of our most important crops is hay and prospects at the moment are certainly not good for a bumper crop. First of all new meadows do not have the usual appearance of cover. This means that the bulk will not be there. In addition, cold weather and lack of moisture have held up growth and this will be reflected, unless conditions become very favourable, in a below average crop.

PARITY An election campaign which did not produce a relative to agriculture the terms "parity income" and "parity prices" would be a novelty. It does not mean the same thing in fact. The implications involved in parity prices reach much further than parity income. Farm income is usually made up of not only of prices and volume, but also is the result of a balancing between good prices for some products, fair for others, and some that may be poor. In addition, to all this, cost factors of production enter into income. Parity prices imply that the price of any or all products will have the relationship to the price

of the product in some given period and probably also a relationship to the cost of production. Implies in parity prices are a guarantee of at least production costs and in many cases even more. In the minds of many people this adds up to a guarantee of a certain percentage of the price of the product and eventually the need for regulation of production, if governments are not to be responsible for the great changes, and improvements in cattle of the province. Excellent sires are available to all cattlemen and their use has meant greatly improved quality. One interesting technique which we had not seen used before was to make the three retiring drivers on the nominating committee. The idea is an interesting one and appears to have some merit.

While the farmer has no control over the weather and crop reduction depends to a large extent on it, yet his farm practices can to some extent overcome a lack of co-operation on the part of the weather man. Good seed and proper treatment of soil to control disease, good cultivation and the use of lime, fertilizer and manure all help as insurance for a good crop. With prospects for a hay crop not too promising, consideration should be given even at this late date to fertilizing a few more acres of hay. During the latter part of June fertilizer can be used on pastures as an aid to improved grazing during August and September.

FATHER OF 5 DROWNED KIRKLAND LAKE (CP) — Donald Kilian, 32, father of three pre-school children, drowned Wednesday night in Purdy Lake, about nine miles west of here, after holding onto a capsizing canoe for some 20 minutes.

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Account Of Nightmare Trip Is Told By British Captain

VANCOUVER (CP)—Captain Kenneth McLeod of the British freighter S. Helma upon a tale of woe Thursday as workmen completed repairs to safety equipment aboard his ship. He talked of a nightmare trip that began when the 2,000-ton freighter, an 18-year-old former liberty ship leading lumber here for Vancouver.

The ship gained prominence here when members of her crew contacted port authorities about the condition of safety equipment aboard and threatened to refuse to sail unless it was repaired.

Repairs have been undertaken under orders of the department of transport steamship inspectors who examined the ship Tuesday and Thursday. Captain McLeod, 55, a short, Englishman, and for the best part of the trip, he reported that he was tormented four times during the Second World War and the jinx seemed to be aboard when the S. Helma left England last September.

He recalled that the ship was chartered by the French tanker in Antwerp, had an engine breakdown in the English Channel, but her fuel tanks flooded with water to prevent her capsizing during a gale, was overflooded in Casablanca, and had at least three steering and auxiliary steering breakdowns and engine-room difficulties.

Throughout the interview, the captain said he and his crew lives aboard with her husband, sat quietly in the background. "When we reached Vancouver," the captain said, "I thought perhaps our ninth life would be spared."

He was referring to the crew complaints, which brought the inspectors aboard here. For two days the captain has shown inspectors and a Lloyd's representative under the vessel. The inspectors ordered fire hoses replaced, a boiler rechecked, repairs to a lifeboat and other safety equipment, including life rafts, to be replaced. Captain McLeod said he thought complaints of the crew here exaggerated.

Only a small minority of the crew are behind this and they have built a mountain out of a few molehills," he said. The ship, owned by South American Steam Line and chartered to British car carriers, has been ordered to sail for Belfast May 30 after completing loading of timber.

By ALTON BLAKESLEE AP Service Writer NEW YORK (AP)—Out of the laboratory comes a promising new drug. Some doctors give it to a few patients before it is made available to the public. But then, for the doctor, comes a difficult moral dilemma.

Should he give it to all his patients suffering from the same illness, out of his desire to help them all? Or should he not give it to some of his patients, so he can really tell what good it is doing? He would be better off just give it to every other patient, or pick them at random, to judge the real effect of the drug?

He gives it to everyone, he has no way of judging what it does. It might turn out he was giving a fairly useless drug to hundreds of patients who wouldn't give it. He may be depriving some of his patients the help of a good drug.

This dilemma is pointed up by Dr. Arthur J. Seaman, associate professor of medicine at the University of Oregon Medical School in Portland. He also directs the university's laboratory dealing with why and how blood coagulates or thickens to form harmful clots.

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Interest Rate Shows Increase

OTTAWA (CP)—Average interest rate of this week's issue of 81-day government treasury bills increased to 3.50 per cent from 3.30 per cent last week.

The bank announced that \$95,000,000 worth of 81-day treasury bills were sold by tender at an average price of 99.134 for an average yield of 3.50 per cent. Highest yield was 3.81 per cent and the lowest 3.40. Last week's average price was 99.170 for an average yield of 3.36.

Today's treasury bill rate compares with the record high of 4.6 per cent Aug. 18, 1954, and the record low of .87 per cent July 31, 1958.

Queen Mother To Travel TCA

MONTREAL (CP)—Queen Mother Elizabeth will fly to Canada on a regular TCA flight June 7, the air line announced Thursday.

The Queen will present colors to the Royal Highland 4th Regiment (Black Watch) of Canada here June 9.

It will be the Queen Mother's first flight in a commercial aircraft. TCA said a first-class compartment has been reserved on a DC-6 jet flight 820, which is scheduled to arrive in Montreal at 5 p.m. EDT.

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