

How Farmers Earned Censorship By Writer

The federation's most important work of this week is the legislation, the brief presented to the legislature. We do not intend to deal in any detail with the document as it has had good coverage by the press. However, we think the public is entitled to know how the brief comes into being.

First of all the foundation consists of the various resolutions passed by the federation membership and other organizations. The second stage consisted of a meeting of the board of directors where decisions were reached on the matters to be dealt with. Following this meeting a draft was produced and this was revised by a meeting of the executive and the final document then prepared.

ACROSS THE ISLAND

P. E. L. Jatratraist Is Recognized

BY NEIL A. MATHESON
 Provincial-Farm Editor

A MARSFIELD man, Albert Boswell, who has done a great deal of work breeding and developing several types of water fowl and upland game birds, recently received an interesting proposal from Oenings, who probably Western Canada's best known naturalist.

Oenings owns "The Alberta Farm," some 15 miles from Edmonton, where he has rare birds and animals he has picked up in many parts of the world. He has, for example, 12½ miles of covered forest where he has been developing the wild birds.

He developed his enterprise on his own, apparently, without government assistance. Oenings started as a wrester, made some money, then went promoter where the dollars came fast, and the effort was much easier on the physique.

THE ALBERTA NATURALIST became interested in Albert because of his wide experience in breeding and exhibiting Jersey cattle, and also poultry which he exhibited in previous years, in addition to his hobby of breeding the wild birds.

"You and I should be working together," I'm sure you would make a huge success," he told Mr. Boswell in a recent letter.

Mr. Boswell is naturally pleased to get such recognition from a man of Oenings' stature. But right now, he's not interested. I'm not sure he purchased the beautiful farmstead, owned formerly by the late Wyle Gibson.

HAD the offer come a couple of years ago after he had lost his barn on a nearby farm, the answer might have been different, because he would like to have the experience of working a few years with a man like Oenings.

Many Kinds Of Wild Fowl On Farm

MR. BOSWELL has Gadwall, Blue-wing and Scaup wild ducks. He breeds Canada geese, Snow geese and Wild Snow geese. He breeds Oenings, who probably Western Canada's best known naturalist.

The late Harry Holman of Summerside gave him his first pair of pheasants.

The Hungarians are difficult to raise. "You can't mass produce them," he told me. "They're difficult to match because, like geese, they choose their own mates."

Mr. Boswell raised 20 of his own last year from two pairs of breeders that arrived here in cold March temperatures from Russia. The mother birds were kept in a wire cage and the father in a nearby barn. He kept Bantam hens to hatch the pheasant and Hun eggs.

HE HAS whittled Canada geese all over Canada—several pairs were sold to Oenings—and to some parts of the United States. Geese sold in U.S. markets rise birds at \$80 and up. He has brought some in from as far away as South Dakota.

Many geese live 30 years and longer, but they're about four years old before they start to lay. This slow development adds to the difficulty of breeding for improvement, and Mr. Boswell is constantly trying to improve the birds.

He crosses wild geese with domestic geese. The offspring grows up to 14 pounds, and sell like hot cakes, at a premium price. He shows them regularly themselves.

I learned only yesterday that Albert has a diploma from Northwestern University, Chicago, Illinois from a short course in Forest and Game Preservation. The likable MARSFIELD man puts a lot of effort into his hobby.

Cross Roads Wild Fowl Sanctuary

AND THAT reminds me of a wild fowl sanctuary that's active in the Cross Roads area. The Cross Roads Wild Fowl Sanctuary, Proprietor Earl Jenkins tells me about 150 geese used his sanctuary last fall, and stayed until the New Year. The last one lifted for the southwest flight on Feb. 13.

Mr. Jenkins' pond has been going for a few years and he has some incredible, but rather amusing stories to tell.

All geese had arrived last fall when a passing motorist saw them and in Earl's words "decided on a goose dinner."

The intruder "broke the creek," saw the geese and crawling up to the unsuspecting birds emptied his gun into the midst of them.

EARL EARL ADDS, and this is the part I get a kick out of "however all he got for his trouble was a pair of wet feet."

My neighbor added that he had paid no attention to the large signs at hand, he replied, as did another some years ago when he shot five geese, several of them lame callers. "I guess I just lost my mind," he said.

Next day, "the same array of geese came back to the pond but, after circling for some time, many of them decided it was unsafe to land and they came down."

Earl adds "the geese stayed all fall and practically decided the pond field for the worst except that geese in the pasture of the grain. They would feed on grass till afternoon, and then come up to the house and sit out the remainder of the day. After a heavy rain a depression along the drainage filled with water, and the geese practically lived in it until the water receded. They paid no attention at all to the car coming in, or backing out of the garage behind them. They were the family dog and were quite friendly with him."

One Goose Is Always On Guard

"WHEN THE first snow came, they fed on the green grass in the creek bed and that could be seen on a winter day as a lone black head above the snow line." The geese always have a bird on guard, he explained.

Let anyone approach the guard," he told me "and instantly there would be a black line the entire length of the creek. This was the beautiful flock of geese in the snow."

Earl recalls another time when he was awakened at night by the sound of a shot gun. Several rounds were fired apparently. Next morning he found the water except that geese in the pasture of the grain. They would feed on grass till afternoon, and then come up to the house and sit out the remainder of the day. After a heavy rain a depression along the drainage filled with water, and the geese practically lived in it until the water receded. They paid no attention at all to the car coming in, or backing out of the garage behind them. They were the family dog and were quite friendly with him."

Bear River Visit Is Anticipated

I ALSO want to visit the Chaisson people, the Bear River family that has turned out so many violin players. I recall attending the old time dance at the home of the late (pres. Sports Area) some years ago when memory tells me there were anywhere from five to six violins. The late Chaisson had had a note about this family but I'm still looking forward to visiting some of them and bringing their story to you in more detail.

Speaking of Bear River, I recall an old piece of poetry carried in The Guardian many years ago, about a bear that wandered into that district, saying a little, and then he was seen walking back to Nova Scotia "across the shining ice."

I've forgotten the rest of the verse but I wonder if any people in the area can recall the bear's path for the last 100 years. To him to you, and I'll call for a chat first chance I get.

Eagles Return to Bear River

THE PEOPLE in Flat River heard their eagle back again, and the mate is with it. I don't know which is the male, or the female, or I'm avoiding the sex designation.

I'm not going to continue reporting on the big birds, but I thought I'd better mention them together again, after the years they had left the area. And that's where they are, now. How? Well, M.L.A. told me last night. The two birds are together on the same tree branch, the lone white perch on the nearby 30 years.

And that's a long time to wait for a mate, even for an eagle.

where decisions were reached on the matters to be dealt with. Following this meeting a draft was produced and this was revised by a meeting of the executive and the final document then prepared.

These facts are set forth to indicate that the brief has behind it much thought and effort, and is in any case an expression of the views of the vast majority of farmers-club men. It is not intended to represent the views of every last individual farmer-club man, as an impossibility.

CENSORSHIP

1. A national agreement should be reached on reasonably uniform curricula and textbooks from province to province.

2. Federal costs should be met from revenue from income taxation, since the income tax, being closely related to ability to pay, represents the most equitable form of tax available for this purpose.

MICROWAVE NETWORK

The 1,500-mile microwave system under construction from Grande Prairie, Alta., to the Alaska-Yukon border will have 42 relay stations.

FARMERS' WEEK

The week of March 19 will feature at least four farm meetings—Dairymen, Sheepbreeders, Central Farmers' Institute and a special marketing meeting called by the federation in Montgomerie Hall on the evening of March 22.

PAYING FOR EDUCATION

Property taxation now pays a large share of education costs. Since it can be argued that the total wealth of the nation may not be reflected in real property values, other methods of assessing the burden of educational costs may be more equitable.

ROYAL MARINES WASH HANDS OF TURCOAT

LONDON (AP)—The Royal Marines discreetly washed their hands Thursday of Andrew Condon, Britain's only turcoat in the Korean war, who is expected to return home from Communist China shortly.

PIERSALL SAYS WHO'S MARIS?

POMPADOUR BEACH, Fla. (AP)—When Jimmy Piersall, 37, signed a \$45,000 contract recently to become the Washington Senators' highest paid player ever, he heard that Roger Maris had settled for a \$70,000 pact with the New York Yankees.

AUTO VICTIM

The world's first recorded auto fatality was the death of W. H. Bilas, a pedestrian, in New York in 1885.

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