

ACROSS THE ISLAND

Beef Cattlemen Await Meeting

BY NEIL A. MATHESON
Provincial-Farm Editor

THE MEETING of beef producers here on Tuesday, May 21 should be one of the more important farmers' gatherings held in recent years.

There has been more discussion about beef cattle marketing in the past year, than any other single farm item that I can recall. This meeting will hear the suggestions for improvement from a special committee of 13 people named at a general meeting of producers here in mid-April.

Committee Chairman Daniel Gass, Cornwall, has told me several times that he has never seen such sustained interest as has been shown by the committee members, as they tackled the job assigned to them. There are a dozen recommendations to be made to the meeting. Committee spokesmen are not permitted to say what they are—their orders were to report directly to the meeting—but I know enough about some of the ideas considered to know there will be several that are really interesting.

Federal Cabinet Representation

I AM using this bit on federal cabinet representation to correct faulty information I gave to a man who phoned me at home sometime ago. I am using this method of telling him simply because I do not know where to locate him. I'm hoping incidentally that it may be interesting also, to at least a few others.

I have to thank a number of helpful people including Charles MacDonald, Wood Islands and Robert L. Cullen, Charlottetown, also the ever courteous library staff here, for help in research.

HON. DAVID LAIRD was Minister of the Interior in the Alexander Mackenzie government from 1873 to 1876, when he was made Lieutenant Governor of the North West Territories, and Indian Commissioner, a post he held until 1881. He returned to edit the Patriot from 1881 to 1884, when he went to Winnipeg as Indian Commissioner. I learned from his granddaughter, Mrs. Avila Rogers, Charlottetown.

Mr. Laird had previously served in the legislature here and for a time was one of the strongest opponents of Confederation, Mrs. Rogers tells me.

J. C. POPE, who was premier of P.E.I. for four months in 1875, was named minister of marine and fisheries in the Sir John A. Macdonald administration, 1878-9. He had been elected to the House of Commons when Hon. David Laird resigned in 1876 and was re-elected in the general election of October 19, 1878. Mr. Pope had previously been a long-time member of the provincial legislature, including a previous term as premier. History credits him with having played a most important part in bringing the Island into Confederation.

Sir Louis Davies Is Recalled

SIR LOUIS DAVIES held the portfolio of marine and fisheries in the Laurier government from 1896 until his elevation to the Supreme Court of Canada in 1901. He had been a member for Queens from 1882. He was named Chief Justice in 1918. He had been Premier here from 1876 to 1879.

Later Dr. Cyrus Ma-William was minister of fisheries in the Mackenzie King cabinet briefly in 1930, and Angus MacLean has filled that portfolio since 1937.

Add John E. Sinclair, Springfield and John A. Macdonald, Cardigan who served as non-portfolio members under King and Bennett respectively, and I think we have covered the story of federal cabinet representation by native Islanders. There were others like Mackenzie King, who served in Prince and Charles Dunning in Queens but they were outsiders who sought seats here temporarily.

Dairy Queen Contest Coming

AM GLAD to learn that Junior Farmers are reviving the Dairy Queen competition here this year. It will be a feature of their field day at the Experimental Farm, Saturday, July 28.

Janet Jones, Pownal was the first P.E.I. dairy queen and she will crown the new one, I imagine, although nobody has told me so.

They have Queens of lobster carnivals, of the fisheries show at Souris, and I recall the Maritime Winter Fair used to have Queens in the later years. The Junior Farmers are to be congratulated on their initiative and there should be dozens of our young ladies ready to enter. The age limits are 18 to 27 years and married ladies are eligible as well as the single ones.

Here's an opportunity for some young lady to prove she is just as beautiful, charming and talented as her husband believes her to be.

Bears Were Plentiful Here

BEARS WERE plentiful, apparently, in some parts of the province in bygone years. James Robertson, Kingsboro—that's in the area east of Souris—tells me that in his "father's younger years, bears were plentiful in Eastern Kings."

The father was never quite sure how many he shot, but his son thinks there must have been at least 30 of them. "I remember the last bear he shot had killed a sheep, about 80 years from our house, and that was about 32 years ago," Mr. Robertson told me.

My cousin Mrs. King, 334 Easton Street, recalls that a bear and her two cubs lived in the woods that once covered the present Golf Club land, used to come out of the bush every day. That would be something more than 50 years ago, she tells me. And I think it was Simon Stuart, Belle River who told there were bears in that general area of the province years ago. Mrs. Court's father worked at the time on the government "Stock Farm" which, I understand, is the same land which is known as Falconwood Farm now.

I have to thank Allie Cutcliffe, Charlottetown for the story I got about a Hazel Grove bear incident. Edward Sellick, a former Fredericton man who lives now in Charlottetown gave me the details. His brother Pope Sellick and John MacKenzie, a Springfield man who taught in Hazel Grove school, investigated one night reports that a bear had been seen prowling in the vicinity at night.

A Man Who Walked Like A Bear

THEY FOUND something in the hollow below the school, MacKenzie grabbed the gun, lined up on the shot and shouted several times "If you are a man speak, if not we're going to shoot". There had been some suspicion that a man had been doing the prowling.

There was no reply but Sellick who was still not satisfied, sneaked up close enough to find it was Pat Flanagan who lived near the school. He had a fur cap on, and a cloth coat, but from a distance he did look like a bear walking upright, reported the stalkers who were thinking their lucky stars that they didn't shoot before that final look.

THE SELLIKS lived in the home where Mr. Ben Weeks resides now and Mr. MacKenzie boarded with Orla Sherry in the Hazel Grove hollow where Stephen Bertram lives now, Mr. Sellick told me.

A vacation time visit to old Rose Valley neighbours Tom and Lester MacKenzie, who live now in Greenvale, assured me there was a bear hunt in my old home street once. But, Tom told me, it happened many years ago and nobody ever found a bear.

Capital Expenditure Seen Reaching Earlier Forecast

By ALAN DONNELLY
OTTAWA (CP)—Early-year expectations of a six-per-cent rise in capital expenditures during 1962 appear likely to be achieved and perhaps surpassed, economists said here.

The government's temporary tariff surcharges, adopted June 26 as part of the new austerity program, might even provide an incentive that would push capital outlays over the \$6,300,000,000 total indicated in a survey of investment plans made at the start of the year.

But officials said it is too early yet to gauge the full effect of this factor.

The trade department now is compiling reports from its mid-year survey of investment intentions in all sectors of the economy, including business firms, governments and public agencies.

The survey was carried out prior to the June 26 announcement of the government's save-the-dollar program, which included cuts in government spending as well as the "temporary" tariff surcharges of five, 10 and 15 per cent on just over half of Canada's imports. Survey findings are expected to be announced towards the end of the month.

The six-per-cent increase indicated in the initial survey would mark the first big upturn in capital spending since the peak of \$6,717,000,000 in 1957. In the four intervening years many industries were digesting the surplus productive capacity created then and in preceding years.

One official said that "quite a heavy investment program" has developed this year which could push the total over the original forecast of \$6,300,000,000.

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