

# AMONG THE FARMERS

Federation of Agriculture Newsletter

## GROSS AND NET

The Press of last Saturday featured a news release highlighting information that farm income in Canada for the first nine months of the current year had shown a moderate increase as compared with the same period in 1954. Whether this information will be comforting to the farmer we do not know but certainly it will puzzle the general public who for some time have been hearing of great difficulties facing Canadian agriculture. If this is a single there must be an answer to it and the news release would have been far more informative if it had used the word gross income which is very much different from "net".

1954 was not a good year for Canadian farmers as the net income was only slightly more than half of 1951 or in dollars and cents One Thousand Million Dollars less than 1952 and 1954 gross farm income declined four hundred million dollars but the net income declined Eight Hundred Million or in other words income went down Four Hundred Million and costs went up Four Hundred Million and all this certainly makes a great deal of difference to the farmer's "home pay".

The plain facts of the case are these. Canadian net farm income has been going down steadily since 1951 and it is impossible to say whether the bottom of that decline has yet been reached.

## LEAK IN THE DYKE

Early last spring a hog grader in a Maritime Packing Plant kept track of ten thousand Island hogs and found that 23 percent of them were marketed either under the "B" or "C" grade. On these 2300 hogs discounts amounted to \$10,226.00 while there was an additional discount of \$5,230 on some 2,000 hogs that did not make the grade for type and finish.

Of the 7,700 hogs that fell within the weight range of 120 to 170 lbs. Grade A. Another interesting fact was that the hogs dressing from 140 to 145 graded 81 percent A's while those dressing from 166 to 170 were barely 60 percent A's. The moral of the latter statement is that hogs weighing 120 to 140 lbs. "A" Grade at the lower limit of the weight range rather than at the top.

Now what does all this mean in dollars and cents to Island farmers? Type and finish cannot be purchased overnight but so can the weight. It is controllable and control can be applied. Now, if the 10,000 hogs in the test are representative of the approximately 100,000 hogs produced this year then Island farmers lost roughly One Hundred Thousand Dollars by marketing at improper weights. An additional Fifty Thousand was lost through poor type and unsatisfactory finish.

## SURPLUS RESPONSIBILITY

At the recent Dominion-Provincial Agricultural Conference the Minister of Agriculture for Nova Scotia, the Hon. Colin Chisholm expressed himself in part as follows on the question of surplus farm production.

"Surely, we have arrived at the stage of political maturity in Canada where we can at least recognize our responsibilities in these matters and formulate a broad general policy of dealing with surpluses which will be applicable to the whole of Canada and clearly understood by all Canadians. I believe, too, that this is an emergency situation or merely a passing phase of our economic development.

Outside of unusual extremes of weather and climate, the production capacity of Canadian Agriculture is almost beyond limit. The real nation to the south of us,

## Russia Developing Her Asiatic Oil Resources

MOSCOW, (Reuters)—The Supreme Soviet, Russia's legislative body, recently meeting in the Kremlin, heard Tuesday of a great expansion of oil production in the eastern and Asiatic areas of the Sovietia Union.

Mikhail A. Evseyenko, minister of the oil industry, told deputies that oil from the eastern regions now represents 36 per cent of national output, compared with only six per cent before the Second World War.

A deputy from the Tartar republic, Z. Muratov, said the oil industry there has quickly grown to equal that of the famous Baku fields, near the Caspian sea.

Evseyenko said the oil industry is "successfully fulfilling" a 1955 target of an 85 per cent increase in oil production, compared with 1950, while reducing production costs and increasing production of by-products.

Both Evseyenko and Muratov spoke at a meeting of the Council of the Union—one of the two parallel chambers of the Supreme Soviet which is debating the budget presented Monday by Soviet Minister Arsen Zverev.

## DEFENCE SPENDING

Zverev announced Monday that 1955 Russia will cut her defence spending by about 10 per cent from 112,122,000,000 rubles to 100,000,000,000 at the Soviet fixed, but artificial exchange rate allocated last year to 102,000,000,000 rubles at \$25,500,000. The minister said that while there would be slight reductions in the appropriations for heavy industry, the budget nevertheless provided for an increase in prices because of a shortage of raw materials.

## CHARGE 38 DRUNKS

TORONTO (CP)—Police said Thursday 38 persons have been arrested in Toronto this month on drunk or impaired driving charges. There have been 903 traffic accidents, in which 376 persons were injured and 10 killed. For the same period last year, there were 881 accidents, 293 persons injured and six killed.

## HAZELBROOK

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with a consuming population ten times that of this country, is faced with a farm surplus problem of even greater magnitude than ours. There may be a difference of opinion in that country (the U.S.) as to the most effective way of dealing with this problem but there is no disagreement on the question of whether or not it is a responsibility of government, and I understand that during the current year in the vicinity of a billion dollars will be spent there in an effort to subsidize farm surpluses. It is apparent, therefore, that we are going to be faced with this situation for some time to come. This, then, is the most challenging problem facing Canadian agriculture today and it is up to us to face it squarely. We have spent vast sums of money, and a great deal of time and energy, in the past in the discovery and application of methods to prevent the loss of farm crops by insects and disease and we have been successful. This is all to the good. But after all, what is the difference between the loss of a crop by pestilence and the loss of a crop by reason of lack of a market for it. None whatever, so far as the producer is concerned.

It is, therefore, the function and the responsibility of government to think seriously about this matter and to take courageous and realistic measures to deal with it before irreparable damage is done to the agricultural industry and to the whole economy. That, gentlemen, is the plea that I make to this Conference."

## FARM FORUM

Farm Forum begins the new year on January 2nd with a discussion on the topic of New Canadians. How Can we Help New Canadians Settle into our "New Communities"? A large number of communities in this Province have newcomers from various European countries and these are now going through a period in becoming adjusted to new conditions. The newcomers have definite needs and we must make and their influence can have a marked effect on the community in general. The important thing is that they be made welcome and given every opportunity of taking part in the life of the district.

## JUNIOR FARMERS

For the past few days the Junior Farmers of the Province have been conducting their short course at Prince of Wales College. We feel that those in attendance will benefit from the guidance and help that those in attendance will receive. Like many efforts of this type there are dozens present rather than hundreds. There is a place in this Province for young people with knowledge, skill and training in the organization field. The Junior Farmers are attempting to supply this. Their efforts are worthy of every support.

## NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS

The New Year represents either a clean slate or a fresh sheet and a challenge for greater progress and nobler achievements. In the field of agriculture farmers will be hoping for better returns, better markets, favorable growing conditions and a fuller opportunity of contributing to national well-being. Between the practical farmer and the ideal farmer there is a tremendous gap and the real farmer is constantly endeavouring to narrow it and so the New Year presents to him a real challenge. His indifferent neighbour will see in the passing days without purpose and without progress. There is a real place in agriculture for men and women of vision and courage. To them and to all their neighbours and friends go our best wishes for a Prosperous and Useful New Year.

## Morell Legion Christmas Party

The Morell Branch of the Canadian Legion sponsored a Christmas party in Morell Community Hall on Friday, Dec. 23rd at 2 p.m., for all school children of Morell, and their families. Marie, Bristol, St. Peter's Harbour, St. Peter's Lake, and Bangor.

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# Protestant Orphanage Contributions

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# P.E. Island Fishery Gains Noted In 10-Month Survey

By FORBES RUDE

Canadian Press Business Editor Fishery was capricious this year—in many other years—with the result that Canadian commercial fishing was down somewhat from 1954.

This did not cause great concern in the industry as a whole, because the long-term curve of fish production is up and this year's dip is not considered a reversal of the trend.

A small British Columbia sockeye salmon pack—which did cause concern—and a drop in Atlantic codfish were the main downward items.

## LATE RECOVERIES

An earlier steep decline in British Columbia herring, partly due to agreement difficulties between operators and fishermen, was largely made up in late-year fishing.

New Brunswick sardines, strangely missing in the summer and early fall, put in a late appearance and much of the earlier loss was recovered.

In 1954, 1,900,000,000 pounds of fish were landed in Canada with a value to fishermen of about \$96,000,000 and a marketed value of \$185,000,000.

This year's landings are expected to be down about 100,000,000 pounds and landed values to fishermen by \$3,000,000 or \$4,000,000.

About two-thirds of Canada's fish production is exported, with about 75 per cent of the exports going to the United States.

## 10-MONTH STATISTICS

Latest detailed figures are to the end of October, and late-year changes will wipe out most of the British Columbia herring loss and lessen the New Brunswick sardine drop.

The 10-month figures, however, include: British Columbia—landings 301,200,000 pounds, down 145,100,000; landed value \$24,106,000, down \$7,323,000.

Newfoundland—landings 509,500,000 pounds, down 78,000,000; landed value \$12,573,000, down \$1,752,000.

Nova Scotia—landings 375,000,000 pounds, up 44,400,000; landed value \$19,110,000, up \$628,000.