



INVALUABLE INFORMATION GATHERED BY VAST ARMY OF ISLAND FARMERS ON 10-DAY TOUR OF FARMS, PLANTS, LIVESTOCK YARDS IN NUMEROUS ONTARIO CENTERS: NEARLY 150 HEAD OF CATTLE BOUGHT 70 FROM ACROSS ISLAND MAKE TRIP

Ontario tour most valuable ever for farmers says Roper

"The most valuable educational tour a group of island farmers have ever taken" was the comment of Livestock Director Len Roper on the 10-day visit to Ontario agricultural and semi-agricultural plants late last month. The 70 farmers left the island on Saturday March 23 and arrived home Tuesday evening April 2nd.

Tour leader was Mr. Roper with assistance from Mr. Jack Chandler and he was also assisted by Ivan Kerry, distributor here for a national known feed company and Frank Trainer representing a Charlottetown-based feed company plant.

They were guests of the P.E.I. department of agriculture at a dinner in the Oak Room of Union Station, Toronto where they met representatives of the various companies who were each sponsoring a day of their tour of Ontario farms and plants associated with agriculture.

Agriculture Minister William Evans drove 50 miles from his home to extend a welcome to the island farmers. The chairman was Paul Conroy, assistant Ontario sales manager. Master Feeds and W. A. Sutherland farm manager for Massey-Perguson at Milliken, Ontario.

INTERESTING VISITS
Hosts for the Monday tour were Maple Leaf Milling Company, took the group on a visit to loaf, dairy and poultry farms in the morning and commercial breeders, swine and dairy farms in the afternoon. The visitors were entertained at dinner that night in the Swiss Chalet in Toronto, after interesting visits to farms within a 20-mile radius of the city.

A visit to the Allan Glassford farm, Beeton RR was a highlight. Completely wiped out by the last year's drought, the 100-acre farm is one of the largest loose-housing units in the country with accommodations for upwards of 1,000 cattle. Mr. Roper estimated:

A huge concrete silo with automatic unloader, has a capacity of 1,000 tons which compares with the average silo capacity

SPUD VARIETIES RESIST BLACKLEG
The Katahdin, Hunter and Nettled Gem varieties of potatoes are the most resistant to blackleg and are seldom, if ever, affected by the disease, says J. E. Campbell, of the federal experimental farm at Charlottetown.

Most susceptible are the Sebago, Kennebec, Huron and Fudny varieties and some trouble can be expected with Avon, Cobler, Green Mountain, Cherokee, Pontiac and Kennebec.

Sound tubers and cut seedlings that are well cultured are safe from the organism which strikes through fresh cuts and bruises.

Mercury compounds are poisonous and should be handled carefully, he warns.

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PLANT TOUR
A tour of Canada Packers' Toronto plant was followed by a visit to the Spring Lake farm owned by Allan Cook at Cooksville "who is one of the largest growers in Eastern Canada." He has a battery of 200 brood sows and raises all of the little pigs to maturity. Last year the sows averaged 10½ pigs to a litter. Most of them are York and Landrace crosses.

A visit to Tom Jackson's Aberdeen Angus farm at Pullman renewed acquaintances as only 25 per cent is required of the farm labor normally employed for the same size operation.

SEE POTATOES
Massey - Ferguson were hosts on Friday March 29 with farm manager W. A. Sutherland in charge of the tour which visited the farms of Harold Rose, Grant Smalley and Murray Oldham, Mount Albert for looks at potatoes, beef and pigs. Mr. Rose's grows large quantities of potatoes and carries large commercial herds of beef and swine, as do the other two men. Steers from Western Canada are fed in open air feed lots.

The Islanders were luncheon guests of George Bodans, Slocumville, Ontario who operates the largest herd of pure bred Hereford cattle in Canada with something like 450 head. Mr. Roper said:

Harold Boynton at Markham has a large steer feeding project, and Binker Brothers at Markham are mixed farmers. Some 300 steers were seen in one feedlot at M-F Farm, Milliken and 50 per cent of the steers had come from New Brunswick. Entertainment and dinner that evening at the Brown's Corner United Church hall rounded out a strenuous week of activity.

The visitors had Saturday on their own and many of them visited private breeders to purchase foundation stock for their herds of cattle.

In all there were about 150 steers purchased with the Angus topping the list with 55 animals. Others were mostly Shorthorn and Herefords, and four Ayrshire pure bred were purchased.

ALL OVER PROVINCE
The touring farmers came from pretty well all over the province. James Harris, Louis Harris, Ed Smallman and Brenton Smallman came from Ontario; Donald and Lorne Drake from Vernon; Grant Laird and Ralph Prizzani from Windsor.

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PRESSURE COOKER CUTS RISK IN HOME CANNING

Home canning of most vegetables is risky without a pressure cooker, warns G. Stachan of the Canada Department of Agriculture's research station at Leithbridge. Food-poisoning organisms that are present in most soils may contaminate them.

Contaminated foods do not always have offensive flavors and odors, nor are they always discolored. Pressure cooking eliminates all harmful bacterial cells and spores, at the same time preserving many of the nutrients lost through lengthy cooking.

Active bacterial cells are readily killed by boiling for five minutes. However, spores of these organisms will grow under favorable conditions and produce fatal poisons. The spores can be destroyed by temperatures a slightly above the boiling point of water-temperatures attained only in an efficient pressure cooker.

Adding acid to the product destroys the spores but makes most vegetables unpalatable. All fruit and acidic vegetables such as rhubarb and tomatoes can be processed safely in boiling water without pressure cooking.

HOW TO IMPROVE QUALITY Planting annual flowers

Planting your annual flowers now? It's a good practice to apply a general purpose fertilizer first, advises R. W. Oliver, who has charge of a great many flower beds at Canada's well-known Central Experimental Farm at Ottawa.

Mr. Oliver says that a 5-10-5 or 6-8-6 fertilizer at four pounds per hundred square feet is satisfactory for the average garden, but gardens vary so much in soil type and fertility that specific recommendations cannot be made to fit them all. Even stocks grown as cut flowers, in the flower gardens at the Central Experimental Farm, tests made from mid-July to the first frost. Records were taken of height, number and weight of flower spikes.

The top three rates of application were equal in their effects on the flowers, perhaps because the soluble chemicals leached out quickly in the light soil. The four-pound rate was, therefore, the most economical of the top three rates. It was also more effective than the two-pound rate.

The tests were carried on for three summers in different sites but on similar soil—a light sandy loam. Since it was very low in potash, a 5-10-13 fertilizer was used, at 2, 4, 6 and 8 pounds per 100 square feet.

Test plants were China aster, scabiosa, snapdragon and rite.

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