

Growers Experiencing Difficulty To Decide

By J. LINCOLN DEWAR

As this will be our last newsletter before Plebiscite Day April 21 we are not sure whether the urge to discuss the matter falls under the heading of a temptation or a responsibility. Our impression is that many growers are finding it very difficult to make up their minds, there is a great scarcity of anything really tangible to be for or against. There are no leaders to take a strong stand for or against, it always adds to the interest if there is an individual to attack or support.

ACROSS THE ISLAND

Cache Of Pirate Gold Eludes Bedeque Man

By NEIL A. MATHESON
Provincial-Farm Editor

MORE THAN 5,000 registered potato growers in this province are eligible to vote next Wednesday, April 21, and say whether they are in favour of the temporary plan that was established for potatoes by an Order-in-Council by the provincial government here on November 13. It was under this plan that the present potato marketing board was established, though the vote on Wednesday has no relation to the personnel of the present board. Indeed the board personnel is to be changed in the near future.

It is the plan under which the present board has been set up and under which it operates, is fairly elastic. It provides, for example, for the setting up of a central marketing agency should that be considered desirable, I am told reliably. But that again has nothing to do with next week's plebiscite. It is the plan which has been established that will be at stake in this vote, and interested potato growers should register their opinion one way or the other.

IT'S a long time since there has been a potato plebiscite in this province that did not stir deep feelings and ruffle many of them. There is no controversy this time, as far as I have been able to learn.

This has been one of the better crop years for potatoes so far as price is concerned, and it's natural that most producers are not deeply concerned with the industry. But next year, or the next, or the next could be an entirely different story. With that in mind, it would be a good idea to say what you think about the marketing plan now. Nobody is suggesting how you should vote. The idea is you should vote.

Grandfathers Are Most Interesting

HARRISON MacFARLANE, Bedeque had two most interesting grandfathers, I found on a visit to the MacFarlane home at Bedeque not long before it was burned in a fire that destroyed the house and practically everything in it, including some interesting antique souvenirs.

Harrison's maternal grandfather, Alexander Anderson, was born in Elgin not far from the birthplace of Sir Ramsay MacDonald who was premier of Great Britain at one time. He's the man who surveyed the Anderson Road which links Bedeque and Charlottetown.

Mr. MacFarlane had an old Flint Lock musket a 12-gauge affair that Mr. Anderson had used, and it still sparked fire as I lifted it to my shoulder and pulled the trigger. Anderson lived to be 106 years old, which was most unusual in those days. It's unusual at any time, but particularly in those earlier years when people living even to 90—that's common now—was rare.

MR. ANDERSON came first to Rustico in this province but moved later to Fernwood where he died. His discharge indicated that he fought with the 84th Regiment of Foot and had been discharged in 1784.

This unusual man was 100 years of age when a friend enquired after his health. The reply was "I feel fine. Seldom do you hear a man of my age complain."

He came to Bedeque to get marshy land for pasture for his cattle.

He lived on Melrose Farm which is now owned by Wesley Campbell. Anderson moved to Fernwood in 1797 and built a log house at the East end of the Cove and acquired 600 acres of land. He was buried in Bedeque Cemetery and the old headstone says "He retained all of his mental faculties" and this despite the great age he had attained.

Bear Chased Sheep Into His House

COMING FROM Scotland he was taken prisoner at one time by the Indians, but managed to escape. The cellar of his house may still be seen at Salutation Cove, I was told.

One old story handed down says at one time bears chased some of Mr. Anderson's sheep right into his house on one occasion.

Donald MacFarlane was his other grandfather and he also had an interesting background. This man was the original MacFarlane in this province and all of the MacFarlanes here now are descendants, his great-grandson told me.

Once when Donald MacFarlane was put in charge of a prison which held pirates, one of the pirates apparently took a liking to him and gave him a chart and maps indicating where pirate gold was buried in the West Indies. "There's more gold there," the pirate told him "than any 10 generations of people could spend."

Donald MacFarlane fitted out a brig and sailed for the West Indies, at the first opportunity but the brig was wrecked in a storm off Cape Sambre, not long after he left Halifax.

Pirate Gold Dream Was Ended

WITH THE insurance money, Donald MacFarlane was able to buy another vessel but preparations for the trip were still underway for the voyage when a rope block fell from the crossbeams and killed his partner who was standing beside him.

And that ended the dream of getting the pirate gold. Mr. MacFarlane came to the conclusion that his Maker didn't want him to have any of the ill-gotten wealth. "So he abandoned the idea and the MacFarlanes have been working for their living ever since," Harrison told me.

Donald MacFarlane had come from Virginia. When the War of Independence broke out he fought on the side of the British, and his scarlet tunic was in his son's possession at the time of my visit.

Maternal Great-grandfather Anderson had also fought for the British. His discharge paper, dated June 24, 1874, signed by Major John Adolphus Harris, commanding His Majesty's 84th Regiment of Foot, was another treasured possession that was destroyed in the fire.

AN OLD Colt revolver dates back to the days before cartridges were made. On the barrel is an etching indicating a naval engagement had been fought between Mexico and the United States. The gun came from Colorado many years ago.

With the old Colt, which had been sent home by one of Harrison's brothers to their father, was an ingenious powder measure and a bullet mould.

Other things I saw at the MacFarlane home included an Indian tomahawk that came from Miminegash where an Indian battle was fought long ago. There was also a set of deer horns—the animals were native to the Island once. And there was a moose horn that had been picked up near Muddy Creek, west of Summerside.

An old issue of the Summerside Progress, dated in the 1800s told the story of a man boasting of the fertilizer compost he had made by mixing salt, ashes and plaster, which seems like an unusual mixture according to present-day thinking.

vote was smaller and not very decisive.

NOT AN ISSUE

Now in the present instance it isn't easy to set the issues out in a clear cut way. The Minister of Agriculture's announcement that the Board will be re-organized on a different basis and elections held before May 31 rather removes the present Board as an issue. While legally the temporary plan does include the present Board for practical purposes the vote is on the plan. However, many growers will be inclined to vote in the light of their own opinion on the performance or lack of performance of the present Board.

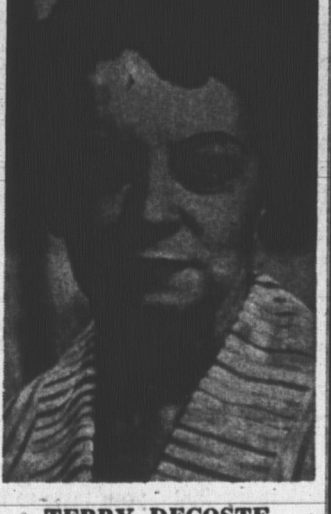
Here it should be pointed out that there are no very important differences in the powers in the plan which was set up in 1950 and the present plan. The powers given to both Boards are almost identical. One exception is that the old plan had a clause which authorized the pooling of payments, the present one doesn't appear to have it. Both plans provide that the Board has the authority to designate the agency or agencies through which potatoes shall be marketed and both give the power to license dealers.

Now what are the alternatives? If the growers voting give a 60 per cent favourable vote, then the present temporary plan will become a permanent one and the Board will be re-organized before May 31st. If the required favourable vote isn't forthcoming then it would appear to be up to the Minister of Agriculture to make decisions. Two possibilities appear obvious. The first would be a decision that the growers don't want a plan or a Board at all and go along without either. The more likely decision would be to set up another temporary plan with probably about the same powers but with a re-organized Board on the basis already outlined by the Minister. Perhaps we should try and set this down in more exact form.

1. What happens if a vote is favourable? Answer — the plan will be made permanent and the Board will be re-organized by May 31st.
2. What happens if the vote is not favourable?

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READ THE POTATO MARKETING BOARD PLAN ON PAGE 8

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isn't favourable? Answer — two possibilities. Both the Board and plan can be done away with completely leaving the industry without any official body to represent it. More likely though another temporary plan would be set up and this would entail another plebiscite within eight months.

CENTRAL SELLING

One of the more contentious issues associated with Potato Marketing Board has been the question of central selling. Generally dealers have been against this feature and growers divided on it. In connection with this plebiscite central selling doesn't appear to be an issue. Whether or not central selling becomes a feature of potato marketing in the future depends on two attitudes. A Potato Marketing Board can as a matter of policy institute selling, it would probably not do so unless it felt that a majority of producers were in favour and that no very serious opposition would develop. So in effect this would be a decision of policy which the Board would have to make in the light of its own judgement and in the light of what it thought the industry wanted or would support.

Speakers at the various meetings have pointed out that a well organized potato industry needs something more than a marketing board, it requires an active functioning association that will have good contact with the producers and will provide them with an opportunity to gain information about their industry and, in addition, put them in a position to assist in devising policy for it.

It is, of course, possible that the potato industry can survive for some time without an organization, but this is hardly a modern progressive approach on the part of growers to accepting responsibility for their own future and the future of the industry.

PWA Expect Rules Make Jets Practical

VANCOUVER (CP) — Pacific Western Airlines, Canada's third-largest airline, anticipates changes in Air Transport Board regulations that will make jet aircraft a practical investment for it next year.

PWA President R. H. Laidman said recently ATB regula-

tions now permit only incorporated groups to charter aircraft. However, he said the ATB is studying the possibility of allowing airlines to book public charter trips on a year-round basis.

PWA now has ATB permission to operate a limited num-

ber of charter flights to Grand Cayman island in the Caribbean, 200 miles west of Jamaica. These flights have been booked to capacity this season. PWA charter flights to the United Kingdom and Europe have increased 20 per cent this year.

Mr. Laidman said a factor in favor of jets is that more are expected to be available next year as production catches up with demand. It is a growing

practice with airlines to lease their equipment and this is now possible with jets.

FAVORS LEASE BASIS

"It is logical and sensible to start on a lease basis. A company can avoid the high financing charges involved in buying and have a chance to prove out jet routes before deciding whether to buy."

Mr. Laidman said domestic and charter service has increased to the point where PWA

has purchased two DC8's for \$500,000.

One will replace the present DC8 on the Calgary-Edmonton airbus service and the other will be used on the charter flight between Vancouver and Hudson Hope, B.C.

Construction of the Portage dam on the Peace River near Hudson Hope has provided PWA with a brisk passenger and freight service between there and Vancouver.

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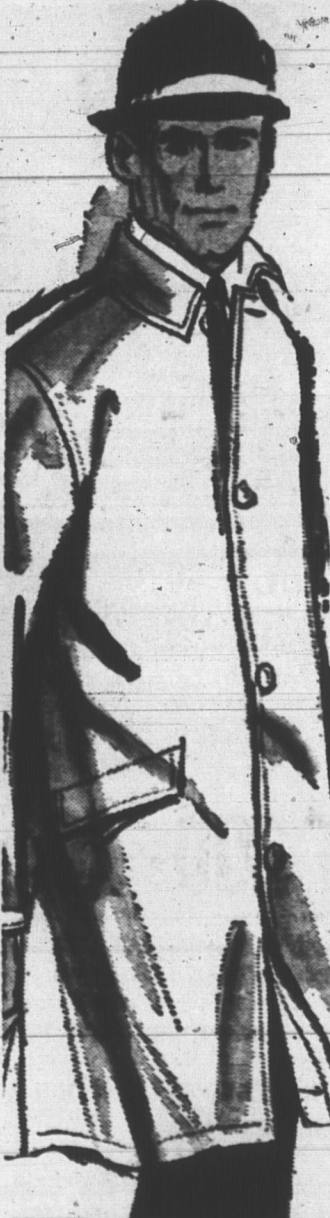
- | Cut Flowers | Potted Plants |
|----------------|----------------|
| Roses | Easter Lillies |
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