

FEDERATION NEWSLETTER

P.E.I. Dairymen To Meet In Annual Session Wed.

This week's big event on the farm scene was, of course, Monday's potato meeting. For a number of reasons it was not an ordinary gathering, in point of size it was quite outstanding but size doesn't necessarily make a good meeting. It was a serious meeting and those who attended apparently saw the need for something definite in the way of action tending to put more planning in the potato business. Very often in large gatherings votes are not very conclusive but that was not the case on Monday. The vote on the central selling agency was passed with considerable show of enthusiasm.

The Federation of Agriculture has always been on record as supporting the need of organizing and marketing. Its position in this regard was certainly vindicated by the meeting. Here it should be pointed out that in respect to the meeting the federation made no attempt to influence opinion, the sole purpose was to provide a forum in which growers could set forth their own views. Specifically the minister of agriculture is asked to call a plebiscite at once on the question of

a central agency and the Federation of Agriculture asked to name a committee to work with the minister in planning the plebiscite and deciding on the questions to be asked. While potato prices haven't been very satisfactory and this is always cause for concern, yet there was in evidence more long term concern than has been the case in many other potato meetings. It seems a fair criticism that the potato industry has been remiss in accepting responsibility for organizing itself and doing more in looking after its own problems.

NEXT WEEK

On Wednesday the P.E.I. Dairymen's Association holds its 68th annual meeting at the Charlottetown Hotel. It has been a busy year for the association. Possibly the two more interesting features were the visit of the British Dairy Queen, Rosemary Munster and the annual meeting of the Dairy Farmers of Canada in January. The association expenses have been heavier than usual chiefly to the above mentioned Dairy Queen visit but more so to assisting

five students to take dairy short courses this winter. Prize money has been provided for excellence in dairy work for public speaking, in 4-H Clubs, and for forage exhibits at the Harvest Fair. The dairy booth operated during Old Home Week continues to be a popular feature. The association is a member of the Dairy Farmers of Canada and plays a part in shaping national dairy policy. Quality of dairy products has been well maintained and the industry continues to maintain its reputation for stability.

FORAGE MEETINGS

The increasing interest in forage production and improved quality is indicated in a recent announcement made by the minister of agriculture in New Brunswick that a committee has been appointed to study all aspects of potential forage production and to recommend appropriate programs and demonstration that will assist farmers in reducing the high costs for livestock feed. The action of the New Brunswick department in this connection is another indicator that livestock production costs must be kept down if farm-

performance to the bitter end with a very respectable snow storm complete with trimmings March 31. Now we can only console ourselves with the thought that April will surely bring an improvement. Miracles can occur and another six weeks can produce a dramatic change in this climate. However, in spite of the many advantages of living in this province it must be admitted that our winter weather is a considerable handicap to production, commerce and industry. Snow and cold add to the cost of getting work done and limit the output. Canada's winter climate is certainly no prize generally, but from our own observation we conclude that this province can take its place with the worst examples the whole country can produce.

MASTITIS SHORT COURSE

Planned for the afternoon of April 18 and sponsored by the department of agriculture is a session on the control and treatment of mastitis. Two veterinarians, Doctors Neely and MacEwen of the extension service of the Ontario Veterinary College will be the lecturers. There will be further detailed announcement of this session but dairy farmers who plan to keep the afternoon of April 18 open have an opportunity of obtaining firsthand information on a disorder of importance to all dairymen.

FUEL THOUGHTS

In this age of electricity power, coal and fuel oil we were surprised to learn that one farmer in this province had sold during the past winter almost 200 cords of wood. Apparently good hard wood still appeals as a fuel to many people. To supplement oil and in the fireplace it has there is a tremendous amount of fuel going to waste in this province and there may still be much to be said of making use of a fuel that can be produced at home. Wood as a fuel is perhaps not so much of a storage characteristic a may appear on first glance. March kept up its winteryish

checked.

Loot Unknown From Mail Truck

OTTAWA (CP)—Works Minister Deschambeaux has told the Commons the amount of loot stolen from a post office mail truck in Montreal Tuesday night will not be known until a full check is made. He said the truck was carrying 31 money packets, including some payrolls, when six armed men held it up in downtown Montreal, bound its driver and a mail clerk and escaped with the truck and its contents. He said he did not know the basis of reports that the loot would be about \$400,000 since the amount could not be set until various banks had been checked.

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