FEDERATION NEWSLETTER

Tractors On Highway, Dryness Causes Concern

By J. LINCOLN DEWAR

This year's record indicates that for the pedestrian our highways are very dangerous places indeed. Many of our paved roads are narrow, yet walkers will persist even after night in staying on the paved strip.

Legally they have every right to do this but they are certainly tempting fate. Possibly the car driver is in a much better position to judge the danger but before many of the pedestrians become drivers the realization will come too late.

The wise walker will, if he values his life, keep off the paved strip when traffic is moving

TRACTORS AND TRAFFIC

In dealing with this particular highway problem we feel in a position to be objective having experience with both vehicles. The farm tractor has every right to use the highway and this is a right that shouldn't be prejudiced in any way.

However, the action of some tractor drivers, if continued, will lead eventually to unwelcomed restrictions. As an example the farm tractor which holds up a long line of traffic behind it when the driver could pull over to the shoulder, is laying the foundation for eventual regulation and is, in addition, creating a poor impression for himself and his industry.

In practically all cases the best rule to follow is that of courtesy, this together with a more co-operative attitude generally will do much to make our highways a safer place.

BEEF PRODUCERS

On Friday evening at Birch Court the Beef Producer's Association will be holding its annual meeting, the time is 8.30 p.m. and the place is Birch Court.

The Association was formed with the original idea of improving the marketing situation for cattle and thus putting a better foundation under an industry which appeared to be making rather indifferent progress.

The first president, Mr. Gass, after years of study had concluded that market relationship between prices here and in other markets when related to meat prices weren't what they should be. It was obvious that the work of the Association at the beginning had some influence and that the relationship improved.

More recently, with the appointment by the Department of Agriculture of a beef fieldman, there has been available a service of considerable value. Mr. Cotton will be the main speaker on Friday evening and farmers who have cattle to sell or wish to buy feeder cattle could profit from Mr. Cotton's knowledge of the business.

The Association hasn't had the support that it merits, if cattlemen see the need for improvement, then more interest in this Association might be a worthwhile initial step.

Reported on also will be the proposed cattle survey and progress or otherwise in this connection.

DROUTH

Dry weather is never quite so evident in winter but statistically it has been demonstrated that for the first four months of 1965 we have had quite a serious drouth. Through April there was practically no rain and the first half of May also.

Due to dryness and cold weather, growth of grass has been very slow and unless the situation improves the stage is now set for a short hay crop. Already complaints are heard from the Western half of the province that the ground is very dry, should the dry weather continue then there is real trouble ahead.

DAIRY FINE PRINT

On Wednesday representatives of dairy plants met in Moncton with Mr. Goodwillie of the Federal Department of Agriculture for a briefing on matters related to the new dairy policy which is now in effect. Up to the present time there has been a degree of uncertainty on the part of plant operators as to what the actual paying price for milk or cream might be. It is expected that as a result of Wednesday's meeting that these matters will be clearer.

EDUCATION

On Wednesday members of the Farm Forum Committee and others interested met to consider the eventual termination of Farm Forum and to consider what might be a logical development in the adult education field for this province.

Present were Rodger Schwass of Toronto, formerly Farm Forum Secretary and Rudy Dallenbach representing the ARDA administration. On Friday a Maritime meeting takes place in Moncton to deal with the same matter on a broader basis.

While there is nothing definite to report on at the moment, it can be stated that a number of different groups are interested in this matter of adult education and that progress may depend to what extent co-ordination of ideas may be brought about.

MARCH ON OTTAWA

Those who viewed Country Calendar last Sunday afternoon had a graphic report on the march organized by the Farmers' Union. No doubt many viewers would be impressed by the aggressive, militant approach and many would say, "Why doesn't the Federation of Agriculture do something like that?"

Some of the leaders in the Union march are known personally to the writer — Mr Atkinson from Saskatchewan is married to a Prince County girl. Paul Babbey of Alberta took a delegation of thirty-five farm people to China last fall and there are others who are certainly not lacking in ability and aggressiveness.

If there is a basic difference in the two organizations, it rests in the two different approaches. The Federation has relied heavily on negotiation based on sound economic reasoning. The Union has tended to be more aggressive in a public way with marchers and a militant approach.

The focal point of the Union's demand in this particular instance has been of parity prices, that is prices for farm products which are related to the cost of goods and services which the farmer must use. On the face of it this would appear to be a reasonable demand. However, the joker is that parity prices will lead to regulation, restriction and regimentation which the Federation feels most farmers are not prepared to accept.

ACROSS THE ISLAND

Yarns Are Gruesome But Ghosts Harmless

By NEIL A. MATHESON
Provincial-Farm Editor

"GHOSTS, APPARITIONS, and elves had a large place in the beliefs of our forebears in the Old Country," W. D. Johnston, Montague suggested, when I called on him at Hillside Inn where he resides. "When they emigrated to our Canadian shores they took their religion and their ghostly beliefs with them, and they stuck as tenaciously to one as to the other. If you would oppose them or make little of those beliefs, you would bring down their wrath upon your head," he emphasizes.

But the Montague man insists there is nothing evil or harmful about the people or spirits who belong to the ghost world, though he "listened to the old folk relate some awesome tales concerning those persons from the ghost world," when he was young.

"Long ago when Montague was only a small village", Mr. Johnstone told me, "it was claimed that a man met with foul play on the road leading to Wightman's point." His ghost, "the old story said "was seen there many times in later years."

"A fine Christian gentleman, Charles Poole, a carpenter by trade, lived in Montague. In those days caskets were unknown by that name, they were called coffins. They were made wide at the shoulder, tapering a little toward the head and they had a very long taper toward the foot."

Coffin Maker's Saws Tingle

FACTORY MADE coffins were not obtainable then and the local carpenter was called on to build one when it was needed. I have heard many forerunners about deaths and coffins, of noises in piles of pine boards, of the sound at midnight of ghostly saws and hammers working, but here is a different note.

Mr. Poole, I was told by Mr. Johnston, would know when he was about to be asked to make a coffin. "The saws hanging on pegs in his workshop would tingle—give a ringing sound."

Incidentally Mr. Johnston made many coffins. He worked for the Montague Furnishing Company and made coffins for people in every province of Canada. He made a trial shipment of three coffins once, he told me, for a dealer in Capetown, South Africa but the freight charges were so high, the business was not economically sound.

Some of the old ghost stories would fairly curl your hair, and Mr. Johnstone recalls "the most blood-curdling" of which he ever heard, and it goes something like this:

Two men were returning home from Charlottetown in a cart. Shortly after they passed a saw mill on the Town Road, between Millview and Pownal Corner, "one of them looked back and saw something horrible looking." He nudged his companion and "both were almost petrified with fear as they looked at a headless man. A few days later a man fell on the rotary saw in the mill and his head was cut off by the saw."

Terrible Dread Of Nightly Travel

A RELATIVE of Mr. Johnston knew a man who had a terrible dread of being out after night fell. If he was away from home with a horse and waggon, "he would almost kill his horse in an effort to get more speed out of the animal so he would get home as soon as possible." There was a most convincing reason for this fear.

If darkness overtook this man on the road he would be attacked by some horrible creature that would take the form of a ferocious bird. "It would fly upon the man and punish him most severely, and he couldn't get rid of it." Mr. Johnston recalls the old story said. The man used to take a lantern with him when possible "to keep the evil spirits away," but how well that worked, I cannot say.

This is a forerunner, of which many were experienced in other years, and some of them in the not so long ago.

Two women were down at the North Shore of the Montague River. On their way home in broad daylight, they saw a light leaving the home of a neighbor; it moved along the roadway, turned East and then moved along the roadway and disappeared. The women were mystified by this strange sight. In the course of a few days a child in the home took sick, and died a few days later. The day of the funeral, the procession wended the same way en route to the Brudenell cemetery.

"One of the women who saw the light was my mother-in-law," Mr. Johnston told me.

Another story told of a man who met a funeral when he was driving along the road one night. It was so real to him that he pulled his horse to one side of the road, and waited for the procession to pass.

Even more interesting to me is the story of the horse pulling over to the side of the road by itself, and refusing to start for a few minutes. A few days or possibly a week later, the man would meet a funeral at the same spot. I've heard of that happening when I was a boy, though I never had the experience myself.

Black Dog Devil-Tam O'Shanter

THIS GRUESOME story was told to me by a fine old gentleman who lives in Eastern Kings, but does not want me to use his name, lest some of his friends should think he was trying to get some notoriety as a story teller.

A man lived in his declining years with his family of four sons and two daughters. The sons and daughters were so bad to him that they earned his bitter resentment. So, the old story says, "he willed his farm to the devil."

A black dog was seen around the farm many times. The black dog came and lay under the man's coffin once, before he was buried, the story stated.

Residents of the community used to fill an old fashioned muzzle-loading shot gun with dimes and nickels and fire it at the animal, but the silver never took any effect.

The reference here is to the old belief that only a silver bullet would kill an evil spirit. Incidentally the "devil appearing in the form of a black dog" is an old belief. Wilfred "Sandy" MacLeod of Moore and McLeod's, who is now a Southport neighbour, tells me that the old "black dog-devil" story goes back to Bobbie Burns and his "Tam O'Shanter".

C. W. Judson 103 On Saturday

I DIDN'T realize when I started this column that Saturday, May 15 is the 103rd anniversary of the birth of C. W. Judson, the grand old gentleman of Churchill. Several years ago I did a column on this man which took readers back to the days of yesteryear.

Congratulations came from the Queen and from the Prime Minister, then John Diefenbaker, when Mr. Judson observed his 100th birthday at Churchill three years ago.

Mr. Judson lives with Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Lamont and she is his granddaughter. I haven't seen him now for more than a year but the man had a grip in his hand like a wrestler, when I last saw him. Mrs. Lamont tells me he still has that grip.

Born in Cherry Valley he spent most of his life there where he was secretary of school trustees once. He moved later to Pownal, before he went to live with the Lamonts. He has been confined to bed now for almost two years, but is in reasonably good health.

ROK SOLDIER KILLED

SEOUL (AP) — A U.S. Air Force plane accidentally fired 38 rockets into a South Korean Army position during firing practice Wednesday, killing a Korean soldier and injuring four others. The United Nations command said the accident occurred at a range north of Seoul where UN forces were conducting an air-to-ground exercise.

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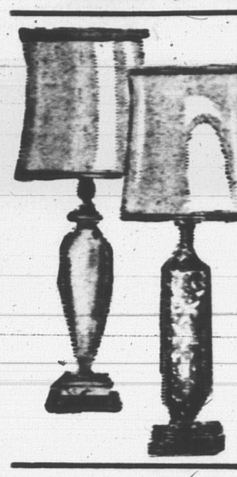

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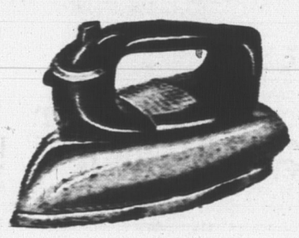

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