

FEDERATION OF AGRIC. NEWSLETTER

Post Article Is Scored By Federation Columnist

We suspect that with the lift jacks. These experiments will bring freer movement that experiences some satisfactory will be interest on the part of others unsatisfactory. cattle men experimenting. We think it should be pointed out that the local market that there is probably no

ACROSS THE ISLAND

Courage Asset To Island Man

By NEIL A. MATHESON Provincial-Farm Editor

I'VE BEEN seeking unusual Islanders, to bring you their story, since I started this column but none, I suggest, is more unusual or praiseworthy than Cornwall's Daniel Gass, whom I want to tell you about this week.

I'll give you any odds you name that very few of the several hundred farmers who heard Danny—everyone calls him that including himself—give the keynote speech at the cattlemen's marketing meeting here last month, had any idea the man's a semi-invalid, who rarely spends six hours per day out of bed. He's been that way for six or seven years and he was a complete invalid for 20 years before that.

Danny did a tremendously good job at the meeting. He injected more pep and enthusiasm into it than any other single speaker. He even accepted the challenge of chairing the committee named to probe the whole marketing problem, and being back recommendations. And he's working hard at it. Several meetings have been held already and others are being planned.

BUT EVEN more amazing to me is the fact he buys, feeds and markets upwards of 100 beef steers each year. It's his answer to the problem of making a living that faces all of us. I suggest that his approach is most unusual with his crippling handicap, for most of us find the challenge tough enough even when we have normal health.

The man with the unconquerable spirit—he "never can get any pep" physically—buys 55 to 60 feeder steers, one and one-half years old each fall, and puts them in the barns of good cattle feeders because he is unable to feed them himself. He buys 25 to 30 more in the spring, puts the entire lot out on 150 acres of leased pasture in late May, and markets them in late October to packers, or to other buyers, depending on who pays the best price. Mr. Gass buys the animals at 16 1/2 cents per pound and pays the farmer who feeds them through the winter 19 1/2 cents per pound in the spring.

250 Pounds Gain On Pasture

CAREFULLY managing the pasture by clipping and rotation, he gets an average monthly gain of 50 pounds and 250 pounds through the season. He has had steers that gain more but found they "outgrew their finish" and made less desirable beef carcasses in the fall.

Even like the animals to have "a fair finish" when he turns them out to pasture. More heavily finished animals do not do so well on pasture. He handles beef crosses almost exclusively, though there are a few beef-dairy crosses at times.

Even in the latter part of the period when he was a complete invalid—he spent many years in the Provincial Sanatorium—he purchased and pastured some cattle with the help of his brother. "I had to do something," he told me when my eyes must have indicated my surprise.

I asked Danny how he became interested in beef cattle and his reply is interesting. HE "HELD" cattle for a neighbour, Fred MacPhee, when he was a boy and sometimes skinned a shank bone where the odd knife slip wouldn't hurt much.

It jumps from there to the latter Twenties when he was 19 or 20, and Webster's Corner at Fort Augustus where he managed a store, and persuaded the owner to "let me try just one beef carcass." Danny promised to "take the loss if there was a loss, but the store would get any profit. There was a profit and the business developed into three carcasses a week.

Next summer the enterprising youngster, who had a special reason for his urge to make money, talked his father into backing his loan of \$300 and put it like amount he had saved. He purchased 16 heifers, and put them on 75 acres of pasture he had rented for \$75.

No Steers Were Raised Then

THE HEIFERS were purchased because there were no steers then. Bull calves were sold for fox meat, or merely destroyed. Mr. Gass bought the animals with the idea of having his own meat supply, and, of course, making money. But he got a chance to sell them early in the summer for enough to get his money back, plus the season's pasture rent, so he let them go. It was impossible to get animals for beef then until late June and pork was sold in the interval. He put two other lots through the pasture before the fall.

Even the best beef was poor by today's standards, and even the Easter beef wouldn't make better than today's Standard or Brown brand, he told me. The normal carcass of beef was so thin that chunks of suet or fat had to be given the customers so they could fry it in the pan, I was told.

Mr. Gass went to Boston just before depression struck in 1929, came back to work in Charlottetown for several years, and then returned to the Webster's Corner store, got cleaned out completely by fire, and was fighting his way back when his health broke under the grind of continued heavy work without enough rest.

Loss Of Foot Was First Blow

I SAID he had an unusual reason for the urge to make money. He had a foot amputated at the ankle when he was a boy, and was trying to make enough money to get a proper amputation, and buy a properly fitting artificial limb. He couldn't get one that would fit at the ankle without causing constant discomfort.

The man has been battling adversity all his life, and battling it gamely in spite of severe handicaps. But what do you think he asked me to emphasize when I wrote about him? "DON'T FORGET," he asked me, "to emphasize that had it not been for the exceptional friends, we could never have carried on. It was their deeds, as well as their kind words and thoughts, that made it possible," he told me.

I've skimmed over lightly some of the most difficult periods of his life, for I feel he would want me to. But I hope I've given you enough information to let you know something of the wonderful fight some people put up to exist in this world many of us think it difficult enough when we have all of our limbs and normal health.

Unusual Treats Are Received

AN OLD friend of mine, Willie Walker, sent me this week a couple of cans of Fiddleheads packed in New Brunswick, a can of Cod livers, and a small bag of Island oatmeal. I tried the Fiddleheads at 3 o'clock one morning—I was doing an emergency shift on the night desk and had just got home—tried the Cod livers at noon and found both to be delicious.

MISCOUCHE

Mr. and Mrs. Alphonse Gallant of Rumford, Maine, U.S.A., were visitors to Miscouche recently at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Alphonse Gallant. Mr. and Mrs. Ennis Small and family of Miscouche, spent the Easter holidays in Boston, Mass.

Mr. and Mrs. Eric Gaudet of St. John, New Brunswick, are spending some time in Miscouche, recently, guests of Mr. and Mrs. Reggie Gaudet.

Armand DesRoches who is attending St. Dunstan's University in Charlottetown spent the Easter holidays at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Tilmon S. DesRoches, Miscouche.

Mrs. Paul DesRoches left for Germany recently where she will join her husband who is serving with the Black Watch Regiment. Mrs. DesRoches is the former Marguerite LeClair of Miscouche.

The Miscouche Parish Council of the Catholic Women's League held their Annual meeting on Sunday in the Convent Auditorium. The guest speaker was Flying Officer O'Mally who spoke on the Prince County Catholic Welfare. After the meeting lunch was served to all the members.

Mr. and Mrs. Leo Blanchard and family of Miscouche, spent the Easter holidays in St. John's, N.B. Ernest Gaudet has arrived at his home in Miscouche after having spent the past few weeks in Halifax.

Patricia Poirier teacher in Kensington High School spent the Easter holidays in Miscouche at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John C. Poirier. Justin McNeill who is attending Dalhousie University spent some time in Miscouche recently with his mother, Mrs. Leonard McNeill.

Eric McKinnon who has spent the past several months in St. John was at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Percy McKinnon, Miscouche, for the Easter Holiday. Leo DesRoches employed in Charlottetown spent the Easter in Miscouche as guest of his sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Mrs. Tilmon E. DesRoches.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Gallant of Murdochville, Quebec, recently spent some time in Summerside due to the serious illness of the latter's mother. While on the island they visited at the home of Mr. Gallant's brother, D. H. Gallant, Miscouche.

Mrs. George Veno of Miscouche left recently for Montreal where she is spending some time with her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Cyril Walsh. Betty Richard, attending school in Moncton, spent the holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Richard in Miscouche.

Sylvia Poirier and Mary Power, nurses-in-training at the Charlottetown Hospital were visitors at their homes in Miscouche recently. Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Gaudet of St. Nicholas had as their guests for the holidays their son, Adrain, who is attending St. Dunstan's University and their daughter, Theresa, who is taking teachers' training in the Magdalen Islands.

Leonard Burleigh, O'Leary, spent a recent weekend visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Burton Burleigh. Mrs. Harry Gillis and daughter Sandra have returned home after visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Williams, Toronto.

Mr. and Mrs. Neil MacKay and family, Coleman were recent visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Sharpe. Mrs. Ella MacLean visited with Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Burleigh recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Ellis, O'Leary were recent visitors with their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. James Burleigh. Mrs. Reby White, Summerside was a recent visitor of Mr. and Mrs. George Hayes.

Mrs. E. S. Burleigh was hostess to The United Ladies Aid for a recent meeting. Mrs. Janet Ogden, Elmisdale is a patient in Alberton Hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. James Morrison and family Alberton were recent Sunday visitors of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Morrison and Mr. and Mrs. John Biggar, Tyne Valley. Mrs. Alfred MacLean was a recent patient in P. C. Hospital.

Mr. Albert Waugh and girls Wilmet were recent visitors of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Millar. Mrs. Melvin Hutchinson and family, Saint John, N.B., have returned to their home after visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Gillis for the past three weeks.

F. M. MacCaull has returned home after visiting in France. Mrs. Budd Williams has returned home after visiting her sister in Ontario. Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Adams and family are visiting in Halifax, N.S., guests of their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Berman Adams and family. They also visited their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Warren Ramsay and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Hutchinson and family were recent visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Sherman Hutchinson, Summerside. Wendell Phillips has returned home after a recent trip to Ontario. Lemuel Day, Wellington was a recent visitor of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Millar. Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Bryan and family, Summerside, were recent visitors of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Millar.

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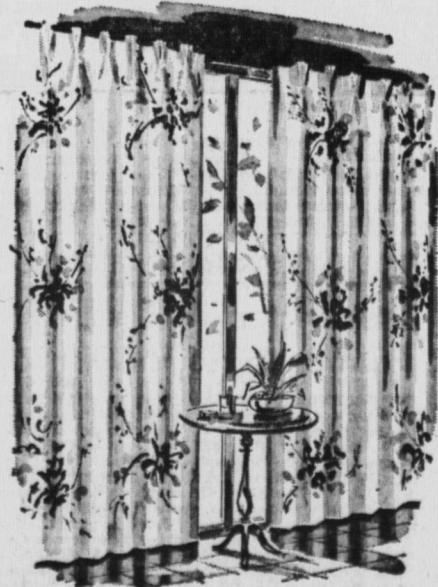


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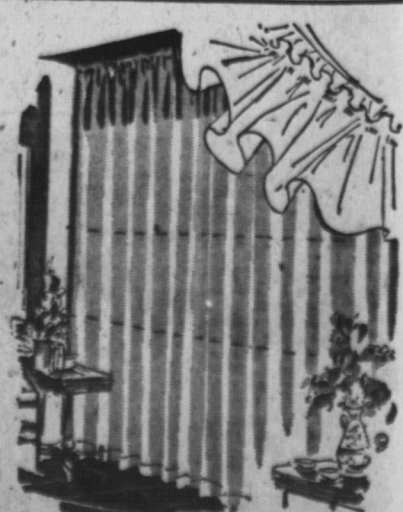
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