

CONFERENCE OF AGRICULTURAL STATISTICIANS IS BEING HELD AT DOMINION STATISTICS BUREAU

A Conference on Agricultural Statistics at the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. In the absence of the Hon. W. D. Fisher, Minister of Trade and Commerce, the delegates were welcomed by James G. Parmelee, Deputy Minister.

Mr. Parmelee in extending a welcome on behalf of the Minister, the Department of Trade and Commerce and the Dominion Statistician noted that seven of the nine provinces co-operating with the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in this work had representatives present, while Mr. Joseph A. Becker was also present from the United States.

"A little more than twelve years ago in January, 1924, the last conference of this kind was held. Since that date, there have been some notable improvements in the statistics of agriculture. Several of the provinces have appointed agricultural statisticians. Within this Bureau, most of the agricultural statistics have been placed in one branch so that unified direction is possible.

"This provision of agricultural statistics, however, has not kept pace with the demand and the problem of those engaged in this work has been to make a judicious selection of the more pressing items requiring statistical treatment. With so many claims being made on the government requiring expenditure of funds, such care is very necessary. Yet, it is appreciated that the persistent depression in agriculture has directed inquiring attention to our farm problems. Such inquiries call for the facts and these are best expressed in statistics that are readily understood.

"Alleviating policies must be based on a sound appraisal of the situation and the agricultural statistician has an important duty in the provision of factual material. Further, the men who have compiled the statistics are often in the best position to interpret them and it is in the accomplishment of this duty that the agricultural statistician performs the best service to the administrator and legislator.

"The economic position of agriculture is of predominant importance in Canada. Five millions of our people are employed in farming and a further number directly on farm purchasing power for their subsistence. Unfortunately, this latter number varies with the prosperity of agriculture and the decrease in urban employment as agriculture is repressed constitutes an important factor in our relief problem of today.

"About 25-35 per cent of our railway freight comes directly from the farm; on a ton-mile basis, because of the long grain hauls, about fifty per cent is attributable to agriculture. Again, 40 to 50 per cent of our total export trade is made up of products

of farm origin and this has a prominent influence in the balancing of our international indebtedness.

"Although only 17 or 18 per cent of Canadian agricultural production is exported, the disposal of this portion of our farm production largely determines the profitability of the industry. Much higher proportions of key products such as wheat, cheese and apples are exported, which further emphasizes our dependence on the export market and justifies the opinion that the problems of Canadian agriculture may be solved in large measure by enlarged markets in other countries.

"The task of encouraging the flow of Canadian produce into foreign markets is one of the particular duties of the Department which I have the honour to represent. The agricultural statistician has an opportunity to assist in this duty by careful inventory of available supplies and forecasting of future supplies. Our Trade Commissioners are better equipped for the sale of Canadian products through the possession of reliable statistics.

"These few words, I hope, will emphasize the idea that the agricultural statistics serve not only the farmer and the trade, but also the state. The importance of his calling is evident and I trust that your deliberations in conference during the course of the next few days will be both pleasant and fruitful."

The following delegates were present at the opening session: R. H. Coats, Dominion Statistician, Ottawa; Joseph A. Becker, Crop Reporting Board, United States; T. W. Grindley, Chief of the Agricultural Branch, Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa; Grant A. Pearl, Seed Branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa; H. C. Bois, Rural Economics Branch, Quebec; Theo Lamontagne, Rural Economics Branch, Quebec; George W. Robertson, Saskatchewan Wheat Pool and Pool Elevator Organization; George Batho, Manitoba Department of Agriculture; R. C. Scott, Winnipeg Free Press; R. W. Neely, Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture; E. A. Ursell, Statistician, Board of Grain Commissioners, Port William; P. E. Light, Dominion Department of Agriculture; G. H. Stewart, Statistician, Department of Agriculture, British Columbia; J. G. Fraser, North West Grain Dealers Association, Winnipeg; S. E. Todd, Dominion Council of Canadian Meat Packers, Toronto; M. Cumming, Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture; D. G. Andrews, Swift and Company, Chicago, U. S. A.; W. Donnan, J. K. Pinlayson, J. S. McGiffin, A. J. Pelletier, O. A. Lemieux, Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Dr. R. H. Coats was elected chairman. In citing the improvement work

HELPERS AT BIRTH OF DIONNE QUINTS HURT IN ACCIDENT

Two Midwives in Windsor Hospital, One Critically Injured

TELURBY, Ontario, April 4.—Mrs. Mary Jane Lebel and Mrs. Alex Legros of Callander, Ontario, the midwives who helped bring the Dionne quintuplets into being, were two of the five persons injured this week when the light sedan in which they were riding skidded against a hydro pole and went into a 15-foot ditch near St. Joachim, 10 miles west of here.

Mrs. Lebel, most seriously hurt of the five, suffered severe head and face injuries. Mrs. Legros incurred a sprained back.

The light sedan, with a trailer attached, skidded on slippery pavement and struck the pole. The five were returning from a vacation in St. Petersburg, Florida. In the car, police found pictures of Mrs. Legros and Mrs. Lebel holding the quintuplets. There also were pamphlets on the babies.

RECORD TOBACCO CROP IN 1935

The year 1935 was an exceptionally good year for tobacco production in Canada and particularly for flue-cured tobacco in Ontario. The total acreage increased from 40,963 acres in 1934 to 46,870 in 1935 while total production rose from 39 million pounds to 54.2 million. This is the highest production ever recorded in Canada.

The greater part of this increase occurred in Ontario where there was a rise in the production of all types. Flue-cured production rising from 22 million pounds in 1934 to 35 million in 1935. The seasonal conditions were very favourable and there was practically no less from hail or frost.

In Quebec there was a reduced acreage in all types of tobacco grown, particularly the large pipe varieties, since many growers were induced to change over from these to the production of cigar leaf on account of the higher prices which were paid for this type in 1934.

The net result was a higher total production of cigar leaf in 1934 although from a somewhat reduced acreage. The production of small pipe tobaccos is decreasing noticeably in the average quality of Quebec tobacco was not as good as in 1934 owing to certain unfavourable weather conditions.

Production in British Columbia this year was practically negligible owing to the great flood at Sumas Prairie during the preceding late winter. Only 17 acres of flue-cured tobacco were produced, and no Barley what ever.

PRIMARY WHEAT MOVEMENT

Wheat marketings in the Prairie Provinces for the week ending March 20 amounted to 1,594,406 bushels, a decrease of 527,098 from the previous week, and a decrease of 713,917 from the corresponding date of 1935. Receipts for the week follow, with figures for the same week last year in brackets: Manitoba, 17,699 (205,362) bushels; Saskatchewan, 1,019,051 (1,055,734); Alberta, 557,756 (1,047,227).

Marketings of wheat from August 1 to March 20 amounted to 191,013,089 bushels as against 192,803,098 in the same period of the previous crop year. Receipts by provinces: Manitoba 15,718,726 (28,000,642) bushels; Saskatchewan 103,002,332 (84,630,477); Alberta 72,297,022 (80,181,979).

to be done, he said that the gathering was the outcome of a resolution moved by the Quebec Minister of Agriculture, seconded by the Ontario Minister of Agriculture, and passed at the recent Dominion-Provincial Conference at Ottawa. That Conference had urged of the work now being done and strongly recommended the convening of the present Conference.

That resolution was as follows: "Resolved that the committee on Agriculture and Marketing of the Dominion-Provincial Conference go on record as stressing the importance of agricultural statistics in any scheme of agricultural development and urging the expansion of the statistical work presently being done to provide greater accuracy, comparability and comprehensiveness. To this end we favour the convening of a conference of the provincial officers in charge of agricultural statistics and others interested with the Dominion authorities as soon as possible."

MARITIME ELEC.

May Sell P. E. Island Property if Suitable Offer is Made.

Contrary to earlier reports the Maritime Electric Company, is not contemplating the sale of its Prince Edward Island properties. The company, however, might consider sale of its holdings in the province if a suitable offer were made.

During the early part of February, Charlottetown authorities announced the city was contemplating purchase of the company's properties on the island and received the provincial government's approval of a valuator to inspect and value the properties. The valuation was enabled by a bill passed in the provincial legislature last year.

In addition to the properties on Prince Edward Island, Maritime Electric operates at Fredericton and St. Stephen, N. B., and Bridgetown and Lawrencetown in Nova Scotia, as well as in Calais, Maine. Properties owned include three steam and two hydro-electric plants having a combined installed capacity of 2,800 kilowatts. More than 8,000 customers are on the system.

Capitalization of the company consists only of common stock, all of which is held by Associated Gas. No financial statement or operating report has been issued by the company, such particulars being consolidated with those of the parent organization. —Financial Post.

WOOL GROWERS ANNUAL MEETING

Because its efforts and methods have been successful in every province of the Dominion, the work of the Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers was labelled "unique and of paramount importance as an example of farmers' co-operative marketing" by Archibald Leitch, former Dominion Marketing Board chairman, when he addressed the wool growers' 18th annual meeting recently at the Royal York hotel in Toronto.

"The government must give farmers more assistance in marketing," Mr. Leitch insisted, "if the natural handicaps of agriculture are to be overcome."

Col. Robert McEwen of London, Ont., stated in his presidential report that the 1935 wool clip had been the best in recent years, and emphasized particularly the advances made in the production of Western Canada range wools.

"The consistent success of co-operative principles on which we operate has resulted in a gradual increase in stock ownership by the sheepbreeders' and wool growers' associations across Canada, until at present 22 of these groups hold 13 per cent of our capital stock, with the balance owned largely by individual sheep owners and breeders," Col. McEwen said.

In presenting a very strong annual financial statement, Geo. E. O'Brien, general manager, announced that the directors had voted the usual interest payment of 5 1/2 per cent, to stockholders. In addition, a 1/2c per pound rebate, amounting to over \$20,000 and made possible by the earned surplus from the year's operations, will be paid to all 1935 shippers, he stated.

Wool growers from every part of Canada had reported that final settlement prices to their output sold on the co-operative basis exceeded without exception the average price received by producers who sold through individual channels. Mr. O'Brien said, adding that all stocks of wool had been cleared and that everything was in excellent shape for handling the 1936 wool clip.

More than 100 members, representing every province, were present at the annual luncheon, during which Hon. Duncan Marshall, Ontario minister of agriculture, referred to the Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers as the finest co-operative marketing institution ever built up in Canada, and that the organization "is of untold value and benefit in preventing losses to farmers on the sale of their wool crop."

Officers of the organization were re-elected for the 1936 term. They were: Col. Robert McEwen, London, Ont.; president; Chris. Jensen, Magrath, Alta., first vice-president; S. A. Logan Amherst, N. S., second vice-president; directors for the coming year are: George Bonchard, Ste. Anne de la Pocatiere, Que.; George Gordon, Oak Lake, Man.; George C. Hay, Vancouver; Wm. Kerr, Hatton, Sask.; Wm. MacGregor, Central Lot 16, P. E.I.; John Wilson, Jr., Innisfail, Alta.; Stanley Wood, Fredericton, N. B.; W. A. Dryden, Brookfield, Ont.; J. R. Hume, Souris, Man.; J. A. McLary, Lennoxville, Que.; I. J. Rushton, Rocanville, Sask.; and Geo. L. Telfer, Paris, Ont.

Keeper: "You can't fish here, my lad." Tommy winding up his line in disgust: "Aw, tell me something I don't know."

FRASER COS.' PLAN ON DEFERRED INTEREST CHARGES

MONTREAL, April 4.—Fraser Co.'s plan to care for interest and sinking fund payments on the six per cent mortgage bonds will be mailed to the bondholders this weekend. Under the plan of reorganization carried out in June, 1932, if the company failed to pay interest in cash, up to the end of 1935, the charge could be deferred until a later date or the bondholders could take stock in lieu of cash, but on July 1, 1936, the obligation to pay in cash comes in force. Provision also was made that sinking fund payments of 2 1/2 per cent annually of the principal amount becomes payable on December 2, 1936.

To date the company has not been able to pay interest in cash. Some of the bondholders have accepted stock, while others have deferred payments as arranged in the plan.

While there has been an improvement in the financial position of the company, working capital is still at a point where the company would have difficulty in meeting the deferred and current interest charges.

No official particulars are available as to what form the proposal is likely to take. One report is that the company will issue a block of stock at \$12 a share. Bondholders will have the right to accept this stock in place of the deferred interest charges, while such amount as is not taken up will be underwritten by investment dealers associated with the company in previous financing, thus providing the company with additional working capital.

CERTIFIED SEED POTATOES

With the increasing prevalence and number of diseases of potatoes and the greater risk in purchasing seed about which nothing is known by the purchaser, has come the realization that the production of high class seed requires special care. A very satisfactory system of seed potato certification has been developed in Canada by the Division of Botany, Central Experimental Farms Branch, and is based upon two field inspections of the growing crop, and of the tubers after harvest. Only seed potatoes which meet the standard for certification are eligible for sale as Certified Seed, and official tags are supplied for every package of such seed. Therefore, if the government tag is not on the package, the potatoes are table stock only and seed prices should not be paid. There are two grades only of seed potatoes, "Certified Extra No. 1" and "Certified Small Sized 1 1/2-3 ozs." If the tags do not specify either of these grades, the potatoes are not seed potatoes.

There is definite need of field inspection for seed potatoes as certain virus diseases are not observable in the tubers and can only be identified in the growing plants. Obviously only low yields can be expected from diseased plants. It is a big mistake to conclude that good seed potatoes can be selected by tuber appearance alone.

There are no regulations in effect which prevent anyone from using any kind of potatoes for seed purposes, and some of the stores are selling table potatoes in their seed departments, but it is the purchaser's privilege, if he pays more than regular table stock prices, to demand the official tag, otherwise he may get only table stock.

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JEWELLERS:

annually for the past nine years. The bulk of the seed produced is exported. The best potato growers in other countries appear to appreciate the value of good seed and in spite of plentiful local supplies will pay the additional freight and tariff charges to secure Canadian Certified Seed potatoes. Growers are advised to secure their supplies immediately as seed stocks are getting very low. Lists of growers having seed for sale are obtainable, free, from the Dominion Botanist, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

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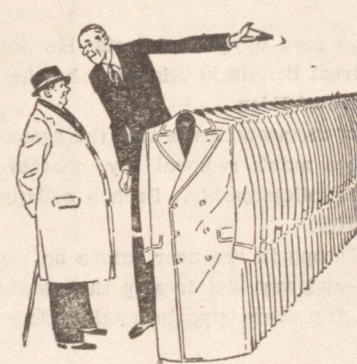
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