



History of
**MANITOBA AGRICULTURAL
EXTENSION STAFF 1913-70**



MANITOBA AGRICULTURAL REPRESENTATIVES ASSOCIATION

John Hamilton.....Pres.

Eva M. McConnell.....Sec.-Treas.

FOREWORD

This is the story of a Service, and the men and women who worked in it. It is also the story of the Association they created to aid them in their search for identity, professional recognition and adequate financial reward.

Having achieved some success in these objectives, the Association arranged for the compilation of this narrative history. The Service began in 1915, the Association in 1946, and the story is brought to Manitoba's Centennial year 1970.

The story is largely told by the individuals who, literally, were the Extension Service. To the extent that it reveals conflicts of opinion, frustration and bitterness, human achievement and honour, it is a true reflection in each case of the writer's reaction to the situation which provoked comment.

The interest of the agricultural representatives, a tiny part of the Civil Service, were often overlooked by successive governments, subjected as these bodies were to the staggering problems of world wars, depression, crop failures and lost markets. The struggles of the extension people of those days finally changed official attitudes, and the administrators who had been agricultural representatives and risen through the ranks were in a position to aid the cause of the field staff. Opportunities for educational training raised competence and morals. Salaries and working conditions finally improved so that agricultural representatives from other provinces sought employment in Manitoba.

Likewise, while earlier agricultural representatives encountered some hostility and suspicion, and the apathy that is still with us, there were always farmers willing to listen, assess, and adopt if they saw fit. The extension worker gained acceptance as he became a concerned member of a rural community, and learned to draw upon the experience and resourcefulness of the farm family. The cooperation and leadership he gave and received were significant factors in the success of farm business and leadership programs, assuring not only a productive and efficient agricultural industry, but the prestige and recognition for which the agricultural representative had long striven as a professional worker.

J.E. Forsyth

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

At the Annual Meeting of the Manitoba Agricultural Representatives Association in January of Canada's Centennial year, the members suggested that a recording of the organization, objectives and operation of their Association would be their Centennial Project. They believed that this should be attempted while some of the original members were still on the staff of the Manitoba Department of Agriculture, or recently retired.

A search of the Association's records which, fortunately, are quite complete, showed that while much of the preliminary work of organization was done in 1945, it was not until early in 1946 that formal organization was completed, a constitution drafted and adopted. The Manitoba Agricultural Representatives had come of age in Canada's Centennial Year.

Agricultural Extension did not begin with the organization of the Manitoba Agricultural Representatives Association and, no doubt, will continue long after that organization has served its purpose. For that reason it is not possible to write intelligently about M.A.R.A. without telling something of the earliest attempts to bring the findings of agricultural research to the farmers of Manitoba.

In the pages that follow it has been attempted to trace briefly the long search for better ways of presenting the findings of agricultural research to Manitoba's farm people in the hope that they would reap from them economic advantages. In doing so, the Committee has borrowed freely from a publication that outlines the early days of the Faculty of Agriculture before it became part of the University of Manitoba. The Committee also acknowledges the contributions made by Mr. N.C. MacKay, long time Director of Extension; Mr. H.E. Wood, long active in Boys' and Girls' Club work, 4-H, and who was, for many years, Chairman of the Manitoba Weed Control Committee; also Dr. J.R. Bell one of the first agricultural representatives in Manitoba, who later became Livestock Commissioner, and Deputy Minister of Agriculture.

The M.A.R.A. Committee also wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of many former agricultural representatives who are now in other fields of activity. These men took time to list their present occupations, their reasons for leaving the ranks of the agricultural representatives, some of their experiences while serving as Ag Reps - and usually added a request for a copy of the M.A.R.A. story.

The record would not be complete were we to fail to mention the keen interest taken in the preparation of this record by Mrs. Evelyn Ames, one of the pioneer Extension workers among the women of rural Manitoba. Part of Mrs. Ames' contribution is embodied in this story exactly as she told it.

Nor would we want to overlook the help given by Mrs. P.C. Coop, for many years secretary to the late Mr. Jim Evans, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, during the years when an Agricultural Extension program was taking shape in Manitoba. From both Mrs. Coop and Mrs. Ames we gather that Mr. Evans was a staunch supporter of the home economists from almost the beginning of their work with Manitoba homemakers.

The Committee also received valuable help from Margaret Hawkins, Assistant Chief, Home Economics Division, who did considerable research on the history of Home Economist Extension work in Manitoba. Also C.S. Prodan deserves thanks. He taught school for six years and then for thirty-eight he worked as an Extension worker for the Province of Manitoba in an effort to improve the lot of the farm people from Central Europe who were brought to Manitoba during the early part of the twentieth century and settled on rather unpromising land.

The editors are deeply indebted to Dr. J.H.Ellis for the privilege of using material from his book, "The Ministry of Agriculture in Manitoba" to provide the historical background and supply some of the political and economic guidelines for our story. Whereas our narrative history is mainly concerned with personal problems, experiences, and achievements - his history catalogues in detail the policies and programs of the Department, thereby revealing a much more complete record of the numerous and varied responsibilities of the Extension Service during the decades of its existence.

Finally, we gratefully acknowledge the work done by the late Mr. J.C. Forbes in compiling the information contained herein, and thank John Forsyth who completed the task, Frank Muirhead and Harold Boughton who kept the project underway, and Phyllis Thomson who assisted with the editing and publication.

M.A.R.A. Committee
May 1974

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JOE C. FORBES - 1900 - 1972



Joe C. Forbes was born May 21, 1900, on his grandfather's homestead, N/E 18-8-8, near Rathwell, Manitoba. He completed grade XI in 1916 and worked on the home farm until 1921.

A three month course at Normal School in Portage la Prairie launched him on a teaching career, serving rural schools in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. He returned to Normal School in 1926, taking second class training, a six month course, in Winnipeg. He then taught in rural and graded schools in Manitoba until 1931.

Having carefully husbanded his earnings, he entered the Faculty of Agriculture that fall, and graduated with a B.S.A. degree in 1935. Summer work as a cream grader in 1933 - 1934 added funds and experience.

Joe Forbes' career as an agricultural representative began in May, 1936, when he was assigned to the Swan River office. He served there until 1945, then at Pilot Mound till 1949, and finally at Portage la Prairie until his retirement in 1965.

Joe, and Jennie Burgess of Wawanesa, were married in 1937. Doreen and Judy are their two charming daughters.

Joe served extension with diligence, shrewd common sense, and diplomacy flavoured with humour, to gain the confidence and respect of rural people.

As a tireless worker for the welfare of his associates, he was without equal. He was involved in the organization of the Manitoba Agricultural Representative Association and became first vice-president at the initial meeting in 1945. In 1946 he succeeded to the presidency, and served as secretary from 1955 to 1958. For nearly twenty years he was active on one or more of the numerous committees set up to improve the lot of the agricultural representatives and home economists serving Manitoba, every one of prime importance at the time. "Office Accommodation", "Housing", "Bulletins", "Crop Policies", and always "Salaries", involved him as convenor and active member. His persistence and his studious and analytical mind made him the foremost champion of members' rights.

On his retirement the Aberdeen-Angus Association of Manitoba engaged him as secretary-treasurer. However, his service to the Manitoba Agricultural Representative Association was not finished - the executive could think of no one better qualified, and persuaded him to compile the history of the Association as a Centennial project.

The following narrative history is presented as a result of Joe's labours over many months of research, and re-appraisal of interesting, demanding and challenging years.

Chapter I

FIRST AGRICULTURAL REPRESENTATIVE PERIOD 1915-1923



Harvesting grain in Manitoba - 1915

The year was 1915. Manitoba's 50,000 farmers were well established in that era of conventional farming. Grain growing was dominant, commonly combined with beef cattle, milk cows, pigs and chickens. The province dated from 1870; its now flourishing agriculture dated from 1812 when, as part of the District of Assiniboia, its southern portion was granted to Lord Selkirk for ten shillings and a commitment that he settle a thousand families on the granted land within ten years.

But only a small part of the required number had won through in the ten years to the pioneer Red River Settlement, which did not count a thousand families till 1848.

A New Province - The creation of a new province in 1870; the new dominion land survey; the Homestead Act which provided virtually free land; the railway which powered its way across the province in the early 1880's; and an aggressive immigration policy combined to stimulate a surge of agricultural settlement which lasted till the 1920's, and peopled all the arable land in the province.

First Agricultural Societies - To build on the arts and skills, and encourage the energy and ambition of the settlers, the newly formed provincial Ministry of Agriculture began programs in 1872 which were a means of education and extension. First support went to agricultural societies (and later, farmers' institutes until their merger in 1900) whose objectives in part were: "the importing or procuring of all new and improved grains,

grasses and animals; circulating agricultural publications; holding meetings for discussions and lectures."

Quality production was stressed, especially in dairy products. The travelling dairy train, 1894; the three month Winnipeg dairy school, 1896, and the later agricultural trains, were highlights of progressive and innovative policies.



Agricultural College - Tuxedo site - 1906 - 1913

Manitoba Agricultural College - The atmosphere thus created fostered a demand and enthusiasm for an agricultural college. Opened at the Tuxedo site in 1906, it was moved to a much larger site with commodious buildings in 1913.

"The phenomenal development of the Manitoba Agricultural College from humble beginnings in 1906 to the magnificent institution it became ten years later at the close of President Black's incumbency - an institution referred to by Dean Carlyle of Idaho, in an interview with a Winnipeg newspaper, as "the best plant for agricultural instruction in the world" - was a notable achievement. This enlarged institution was made possible through a happy combination of circumstances; i.e. the sympathetic support by the provincial government of a dedicated board of directors, and the devotion, vision and energy of President Black, assisted by the zealous and efficient staff for which he was responsible."

In 1915 Black resigned as president of the college and director of college extension. Student enrolment had risen to 363-70 in agriculture degree, 209 in agriculture diploma, 84 in home economics diploma.

First Agricultural Representatives - The renowned educator, W.J. Black was succeeded by J.B. Reynolds, who chose a superintendent

of extension in the person of S.T. Newton, a school teacher without an agricultural background. Nevertheless, Newton is given credit for recruiting the first extension workers designated to live at country points as "agricultural" or "district representatives" thereby initiating the extension service. The following seven graduates were the pioneers of the service:

L.V. Lohr	-	Neepawa
N.S. Smith	-	Killarney
H.F. Danielson	-	Arborg
W.T.G. Wiener	-	Morris
J.R. Sirrett	-	Roblin
E.K. Gordon	-	Dauphin
W.J. Stone	-	Swan River

The class of 1916 provided five new recruits to the service:

J.R. Bell	-	Portage la Prairie
F.H. Newcombe	-	Selkirk
J.H. Hudson	-	Swan River
W.R. Roberts	-	Binscarth-Russell
F.F. Parkinson	-	Assistant Superintendent



District Representatives & Others - 1916

Back Row: W.T.G. Wiener, J.R. Bell, Nelson S. Smith,
Lester V. Lohr, H.F. Danielson, J.H. Hudson,
W.R. Roberts

Front Row: Unknown, F. F. Parkinson,
Fred H. Newcombe



1916 Class

Back Row: L. to R.: J.H. Hudson, R.G. Bruce,
W.R. Roberts, F.F. Parkinson,
J.R. Bell, F.H. Hitchcock.

Middle Row: Howard Winkler, W.R. Leslie,
R. Salkeld, Roy Judson, Earl Meyers.

Sitting: Frank Linnell, Fred H. Newcombe.



L.V. Lohr - 1915

L.V. Iohr, writing from Erskine, Alberta, describes the life of the novice agricultural representative:

"The main and compelling reason that most of us did not stay by this work was simply the first World War. We started this work the latter part of April 1915 and I at least did not arrive at Neepawa until some time in June. Old Pop Bedford was the Deputy Minister at the time this project was started and, as you state, S.T. Newton had the job of getting us fellows started.

As I remember it now even Newton had a very vague idea as to what this new project was supposed to accomplish. He wasn't very experienced in actual agricultural or farm work. The first few weeks we were kept in Winnipeg, most of the time in Bedford's office, not doing much of anything. I can remember being sent out, by train, to check on demonstration farms of which there were quite a few in the province. One thing became apparent right away and that was that some means by which the new D.A.'s could become more mobile had to be provided for, if at all possible. As it was, our only way of travel was by train or hiring a livery team or car. While cars were still somewhat of a novelty at that time, they were getting common enough that our Deputy Minister was easily convinced as to their value and usefulness, and he authorized each of us to purchase a vehicle of our choice, paying for it ourselves of course. The Department would pay us ten cents per mile whenever used on government business. The only other means that we had for rapid transportation was by train, each of us had at least three railroad passes, good anywhere in the province. During the winter months the cars were stored, as roads were not passable at that time. Nearly all roads were just dirt roads and I can recollect that while it was hardly 50 miles to Brandon, it was a good two hour or more trip by car.

Naturally, the work was simple in comparison with what a D.A. does today. We had no example to follow. Ontario, being the nearest, had attempted to give this kind of service. As a result, our time was pretty well all used by the Department in Winnipeg. During those years any kind of a fair was popular and almost a "must", even in the small towns. Most of the summer months I would spend my time judging at as many as four a week, and would sometimes be away from my supposed headquarters for a month at a time before returning to Neepawa. There were nearly as many fairs in the winter - seed grain and dressed poultry mostly. These all required judges (us fellows of course). I spent many a weary night waiting to catch a train to the next fair; the train being hours late due to the cold and snow. I could write

reams along this line, but I think this will give you the general idea.

The salary was \$1,300 per year, with a four percent discount for the Patriotic Fund, leaving \$1,248 net.

I only put in a little over 16 months at the work, leaving Manitoba on September 1, 1916, returning to Alberta to help with the harvest, and then enlisting. However, farm help was in such short supply and as I had a farm and crop of my own, that is as far as I ever got. To answer your query as to career, well that was it, a farmer.

During the summer months, when I was available, I spent considerable time with either Bob Muckle, Provincial Apiarist, or George Jones, livestock promoter. As these two did not have cars we, as D.A.'s, were instructed to look after them while in our area. I got to be a pretty good bee man during those two summers. Actually I contacted my fellow workers very little, only on those occasions when we were called into the city for a get-together meeting.

I had an office of sorts; a back room where the secretary-treasurer for the local fair board held out. The Department in Winnipeg took a dim view of the need for an office, and wouldn't contribute much toward one."

TROUBLED TIMES

The year 1915 proved to be an inauspicious time to launch the fledgling extension service. In a country at war, men and food were becoming key needs, both to be tragically wasted in the mounting holocaust. The call to arms and other duties claimed most of the original group before eighteen months had passed.

"the 1916 plans were made to enlarge the number of agricultural representatives by the appointment of ten graduates — one of these, F.F. Parkinson, as assistant superintendent. Enlistments after appointment prevented this expansion, and by the end of the year only four remained.

"In 1919, J.R. Bell of Portage, one of the few 1916 appointees remaining, was designated in charge of agricultural representatives, then listed as follows:

C.A. Weir	- Brandon	F.H. Newcombe	- Selkirk
E.R. Hall	- Morden	T.A. Johnson	- Deloraine
W.E. Watson	- Virden	J.H. Hudson	- Swan River
C. Murray	- Dauphin	E.G. Wood	- Portage la Prairie

"In 1920, Weir, Watson, Murray and Hudson resigned; Wood transferred to Hamiota; Bell continued as representative at Portage la Prairie, and secretary of the Portage exhibition.

"On January 1st, 1921, N.C. MacKay, with nine years service as agricultural representative for Bruce County, Ontario, was appointed as Assistant Superintendent of the Extension Service and as Director of agricultural representatives in Manitoba; George H. Jones was appointed to the new office at Melita, but soon resigned to join the C.P.R. agricultural department in Alberta."

FIRST YEARS AT PORTAGE - J.R. Bell - 1916

Jim Bell's recollection of his years at Portage centered on the demand for food production, and the tremendous job the boys' and girls' clubs did in swine production in the way of quantity and quality. Mrs. Bell thoughtfully preserved an article from the Grain Growers' Guide which describes in detail the times, the problems, the contribution of the "district representative". The now unknown author writes in enthusiastic and no doubt totally objective terms (except where his own bias shows through - "philanthropic drovers", indeed!).

Excerpts from:

THE DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE - The Grain Growers' Guide
June 29, 1921.

And What He Is Able To Accomplish Toward
Raising the Standard of Production.

If you want to know the benefits that a community may derive from the activities of a competent field representative, pay a visit to Portage la Prairie, where J.R. Bell has been doing this work for five years.

Portage is an excellent example of the interdependence of farm neighbours in older communities and the corresponding need for co-relating their productive and marketing efforts. The plain surrounding this old Manitoba town is justly famous for heavy and unfailing productiveness. It is one continuous field, so that one man's grief, be it grasshoppers, sow-thistle or soil drifting, is rapidly visited upon his neighbours unless some watchful eye intervenes.

New Practices, Special Crops

Within a few miles of Portage the visitor will find almost every innovation of crop or machinery which deserves present consideration. Ten silos are now in use and corn is an approved crop. Clover abounds, 29 farmers are growing registered seed

potatoes, and 200 acres of hemp give promise to contribute to Manitoba's first home-grown binder twine.

The District Reps' Calendar - Winter Meetings

To get a bird's-eye view of the activities of a field representative, let us look at his year's program. This is the one followed by Mr. Bell at Portage.

Winter Meetings - After the threshing season is over, the winter schedule of meetings and stock-judging classes is made up. Speakers from various sources are obtained. On some occasions Mr. Bell conducts his lecture work unaided. Some of the classes are held in Portage; others are held in country school houses and surrounding small towns, for his territory takes in the whole municipality. These lectures include a wide range of agricultural topics, limited only by the resources of the provincial Department of Agriculture, which commands the services of most of the experts in Manitoba. It is, of course, understood that extension service lecturers are available at points where there is no district representative, but the organizational effort of the latter assures better attendance and the smooth arrangement of details upon which the success of this work depends.



J.R. Bell, 1916 - in his faithful Model T Ford

Spring Work - Calf Clubs - March brings the organization of calf clubs. In 1920 an observer might have said truthfully that there were fewer good pure-breds on the Portage Plains with every passing year. It is as much as a man's reputation is worth to advocate dairy cows in this locality even today, but with regard to beef cattle and horses some interest has been aroused. Working in conjunction with J.B. Davidson, of the Shorthorn Association, and F.W. Crawford, of the Aberdeen-Angus Association, two calf clubs were started in 1920. The shorthorn calf club has 15 members, while ten boys and girls are raising pure-bred black cattle. After the usual manner of conducting such a venture, the youngsters bought these calves last year, will raise them and fit them for show at the Portage fair to be held in July, after which those who wish to sell may do so at a semi-annual sale. The encouraging thing about the calf clubs now operating is that the larger

percentage of boys wish to keep their animals. On many farms these were the first pure-breds ever kept. It is not too much to hope that these calf clubs will bring about a rejuvenation in the local pure-bred industry which will change the character of the commercial cattle on the Plains, and provide a tidy income from outside patronage, as few railroad distributing centres can compare with Portage for naturally advantageous cattle-raising conditions.

"Look at that bunch of cattle", said Jim Bell to me, pointing to a group of seven representing all the breeds and crosses within my recollection. "If I could narrow the choice down to the breeds suited to this locality and keep them distinct, I would consider my time here well spent."

Forage Promotion - Mr. Bell has determined in his own mind that seeding down is to be the salvation of his district from the combination of evils now descending upon it. Through his efforts the cultivated hay crops are increasing in acreage yearly, and though he would be the last to claim it, his campaign against drifting soil is already bearing fruit.

Gelding Club - Following his calf club activities in the spring, Mr. Bell has another line of work which has only begun this year, the formation of a gelding club. As secretary of the local Clydesdale club, he is in close touch with the 45 farmers who are breeding mares to the premium horse, Royal Montrose. Patrons will strive to outdo each other in the production of high-class draft geldings, the awards to be made at shows in future years. This is breaking new ground. Gelding clubs are, so far as it is known, new in Canada, and the details of organization have not yet been completed. The horse hired by the club is certainly the right stamp for the production of cart horses. Heavy, deep ribbed, strong boned and squarely made, he still had enough refinement to win a place at the Glasgow stallion show two years ago and to defeat Wee Donald three weeks before the latter's phenomenal win at Chicago.

Portage Potatoes - May, in Mr. Bell's calendar, means a continual round of visits to the 38 schools in his territory, giving talks to children and assisting in the organization of school clubs. In at least one instance work started with juniors has already grown to considerable importance. Some registered seed potatoes were brought in for planting in the spring of 1920. Irish Cobblers was the variety chosen as most suitable to local conditions. So favourable was the impression created by the children's plots that their whole crop was bought by their seniors and planted in field lots this spring. The scrub potato is doomed in Portage. The bulk of next year's crop will be pure-bred Irish Cobblers, and in a succeeding year Portage may look forward to being the potato seed centre of the province.

Grasshopper Control - Late spring brings grasshoppers, every day is spent on the road. A most vigilant watch is kept and upon the first evidence of damage, poison bait, fresh mixed, is

supplied from the representative's store in Portage. In all his insect work Mr. Bell works under the close supervision of federal and provincial experts, profiting by the results of their latest investigations and retailing his information about the countryside.

Fair Manager and Judge - A very important phase of the representative's work at Portage is the managership of the local fair. It is a position which fits in well with his other work. His close contact with the countryside assures rural support of the fair and the contributions which the fair board makes to his salary enables farmers to enjoy the services of a higher priced man than their own resources plus the provincial grant would permit.

In late summer the occupation of the district representative is mainly judging livestock of local fairs and inspecting standing seed grain for the Canadian Seed Growers' Association. This has been a successful and profitable sideline at Portage. Last year 6,000 bushels of registered seed grain were produced, all of it, except six bushels, grading as No. 1.

An Undeveloped Marketing Opportunity - In the case of Portage la Prairie it may be seen that beyond finding an outlet for pure-bred cattle raised by calf club members, and disposing of seed potatoes, the work of Mr. Bell is entirely dissociated from marketing. He believes, personally, that much good work could be done if representatives acted as collectors for cooperative cattle shipping associations or assembled the season's wool clip, only to mention two possible lines of activity. It is a first principle of good community leadership, however, not to cram any improvement down the throats of the crowd if they give signs of balking. An effort to establish cooperative cattle shipping was actually tried but met with only lukewarm support, and was abandoned. It was stated that the drovers in Portage furnished sufficient competition and that local farmers generally got all their cattle were worth. Philanthropic drovers!

A Final Assessment - The district representative idea is by no means new in the west. All of the provinces have experimented with field workers who have been responsible for defined areas. Some of these men have done excellent work.

Others have set the clock back. Relying on their knowledge of agriculture, they find that it only provides a background for their new labors; that the primary requisite is a knowledge of human nature and the ability to organize.

With a becoming modesty, Mr. Bell attributes his success at Portage to the loyal support of the men behind him in the locality.

Judged on the results at Portage, one may have no apprehension as to the return in service which district representatives are capable of giving.

T.A. JOHNSON - 1919 - 1923

The extension career of T.A. Johnson is somewhat unique. He served in the latter part of the 1915-23 period, was re-appointed in 1930, and resigned in 1945 to enter the service of the Saskatchewan Extension Service as Regional Supervisor for Northern Saskatchewan.

His initiation coincided with a period of falling prices and dry weather, in a dry corner of Manitoba. His letter reveals the difficulties encountered - it seems he met the challenge head on:

"I went to Deloraine in the fall of 1919. S.T. Newton was our Director. My only terms of reference were 'to find something to do and do it'.

The spring of 1920, there was a serious shortage of hay in Manitoba. I was sent to North Dakota with instructions to purchase 1,000 tons of hay and get it rolling as fast as possible. Some 500 tons were moving and more was purchased when, due to an earlier spring than was expected, I was told to cancel orders.

In 1920, 1921 and 1922 there was a bad infestation of grasshoppers. I set up mixing stations all over the southwest. At that time we were using bran, paris green and molasses as bait. The express on one carload of molasses from the east was over \$900. The mechanical mixer which was used all over the west in that and future campaigns was developed at Waskada. Dozens of them were constructed under my supervision in the next twenty odd years.

I helped to organize and was government representative on the Board of Directors of Rural Credit Societies at Deloraine, Hartney and Medora. These were among the few which operated successfully without losses on loans. The directors of these three societies refused to grant loans until they were sure that a loan would benefit the borrower and that he had a reasonable chance to repay.

I helped A.C. McCullough of the Dominion Department of Agriculture to organize the Southwest Manitoba Cooperative Poultry Marketing Association. We held killing and dressing demonstrations at Lyleton, Waskada, Goodlands, Melita, Lauder, Hartney, Killarney and Deloraine. It was either in 1920 or 1921 when much of the properly dressed poultry was brought into Hartney and sold at auction. The following year we organized shipping days at Lyleton, Waskada, Melita, Hartney, Deloraine and Killarney. The producers helped with the making of boxes, packing and loading the cars. That

year we weighed, graded and shipped five carloads of dressed poultry. A.W. Landreth was secretary-treasurer of the Association and looked after the selling and payment to the producers.

During the winter of 1920, Agricultural Chautauquas were organized by the agricultural representatives in the southwest. Two speakers would hold forth at one point for a day then move on to the next. Two other speakers would follow them. Probably five towns were in the series, which meant there would be two new speakers each day for five days. Details are a bit vague. Speakers travelled by train.

One day at Deloraine, due to a blizzard, there was no train and the expected speakers did not arrive. I was faced with a roomful of farmers and no one to deliver the anticipated messages. As a result we organized the Southwest Manitoba Sweet Clover Growers' Association. Previously, George Weidenhamer, a progressive farmer north of Deloraine, had been reading about sweet clover and felt that it could be grown and was needed in a crop rotation for the district. He had often come to my office to discuss possibilities. This meeting was a 'natural' for effective discussion. It was agreed that the Manitoba Department of Agriculture would be asked to supply 500 pounds of white blossom sweet clover seed. Our request was granted and the seed was distributed to 50 farmers, ten pounds each or enough to seed one acre. Not everyone grew a satisfactory crop but later many told me that sweet clover was a lifesaver for them.

Among other things, I held a number of stock judging classes and took teams to Brandon Fair where they were among the top winners. The late John Conner was on one of my teams.

During the early 1920's I helped organize the Southwest Manitoba Pure-Bred Beef Heifer Club. George Morrison, William Renton and O.A. Jones travelled with me in my Model T to visit purebred breeders all over the southwest where we purchased Shorthorn, Hereford and Angus bred heifers and sold them to our members. This helped young breeders to get started. The success of the venture was limited by the drastic decline in prices shortly after.

In those days our extension meetings were highlighted by movies. We had to carry a six volt battery and crank the machine by hand."

Editors Note:

A recent enquiry of an old timer in Deloraine revealed that Johnson is still remembered as the man who introduced sweet clover as a most useful forage crop in southwestern Manitoba. His lone

detractor is also remembered - the farmer from Ontario who maintained the "sweet clover was a weed".

End of an Era

In 1923 the four remaining agricultural representatives were all released, along with specialists, lecturers and demonstrators from the Department of Extension in Manitoba. The reason given was an economic one. The Dominion "Agricultural Instruction Act" of 1914 had provided grants used by the Department of Agriculture to finance the expanding extension staff, including the agricultural representatives. These substantial grants were discontinued in 1923.

A much more serious and widespread economic loss was the fall in farm income resulting from the post war depression. Wheat, then as now, was a key revenue producer and the annual value of that crop for the agricultural representative period 1915 - 1923 in the following table from publication 335 - "The Story of Manitoba's Agriculture", illustrates the trend in farm income.

W H E A T

<u>Year</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Yield Per Acre Bushels</u>	<u>Bushels Produced (000 omitted)</u>	<u>Price per Bushels</u>	<u>Value (000 omitted)</u>
1915	2,800,000	24.8	69,337	\$.90	62,663
1916	2,726,000	10.9	29,667	1.23	36,501
1917	2,449,000	16.8	41,040	2.05	84,144
1918	2,984,000	16.2	48,191	2.06	99,274
1919	2,880,000	14.2	40,975	2.40	98,341
1920	2,706,000	13.9	37,542	1.83	68,769
1921	2,501,000	11.2	39,054	.91	35,539
1922	3,126,000	19.2	60,051	.83	49,842
1923	2,916,000	12.3	35,804	.67	23,989

1915 was the "bumper" crop; 1916 the disastrous rust year; 1917 - 18 - 19 saw \$2.00 wheat; then the price declined to 1923.

Total value of agricultural production, from the same source - crops, livestock, dairy products, poultry - revealed a similar if less drastic reduction in value for 1918 and post war years:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Value</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Value</u>
1918	\$ 212,036,000	1921	\$ 96,674,000
1919	214,518,000	1922	125,022,000
1920	164,900,000	1923	89,534,000

Whether these discouraging short range statistics adversely affected the employment status of the agriculturists involved, we shall never

know. In the face of the immediate financial crisis their valiant efforts to combat the effect of low prices caused by outside economic forces, and the effect of drought and grasshoppers ascribed to Acts of God, were of no avail in the retention of their jobs.

The country offices were closed and the men found other employment:

Deloraine	T.A. Johnson	Farming
Hamiota	E.G. Wood	Manitoba Department of Health
Portage la Prairie	J.R. Bell	Manitoba Livestock Branch
Selkirk	F.H. Newcomb	District Agriculturist (Vegreville, Alberta)

EXTENSION OFFICE - 1917 - 1923

The extension office, which had been moved to the Legislative Building in 1917, was now moved back to M.A.C., with a staff reduced from 30 to five. It now consisted of:

N.C. MacKay	-	Director and supervisor of various societies
H.E. Wood	-	Assistant Director, in charge of short courses and junior livestock activities
J.A. McGregor	-	Agronomist
L.T. Floyd	-	Apiarist
J.R. Almey	-	Horticulturist

and after October 15, 1923

Miss Esther Thompson - Director of Women's Extension work.

MacKay and his decimated staff were received on campus as a Department of the college. As a member of the faculty, the director received the constructive co-operation of his colleagues. Members of the college staff carried on activities which would otherwise have been abandoned. Extension objectives and programs, and the extension relationship with the rural community, were thus kept alive through the remaining years of the decade of the twenties.



Eleven four horse teams drawing Seeders
on a Western Canada Farm. - 1927.



Eight four horse drawn Reapers cutting grain - 1927.

Chapter II

PIONEER HOME ECONOMISTS

Before attempting to outline the expansion of the agricultural representative service from 1930 to 1950, during which time these services became available throughout Manitoba, it should be brought to the attention of the reader that during the earlier years the efforts of the Department of Agriculture were not directed exclusively to the farmers of Manitoba and that they included an active program by graduates in home economics among the women on the farms and in the villages. For a first hand story of part of this program we were fortunate to have the help of Mrs. Evelyn Ames who, following her appointment in 1929 as Home Economist with the Department of Agriculture, spent many years travelling throughout Manitoba bringing new ideas and new hope to these women.



Mrs. Evelyn Ames - 1922

Mrs. Ames reports that the first evidence of the establishment of rural agricultural education in Manitoba dates back to 1872 when an Act was passed by the Government of Manitoba to institute Agricultural Societies. In 1873 this Act was revised to include annual fairs and exhibitions. In 1902 the passage of the Agricultural Society Act provided that societies could be established anywhere in the province, providing that at least a membership of fifty could be secured.

In 1910 an Act was passed to provide for the establishment of Women's Institutes, then known as Home Economic Societies.

In 1906 an Act was passed providing for the establishment of an Agricultural College for men at which a degree in agriculture would be awarded. To the surprise of all, on the first opening day 80 students registered, just double the number expected. In each succeeding year similar growth developed.

In 1910 a diploma course for young women was developed and by 1913 the student body had increased to such an extent that it had outgrown the space, and a new and larger college was opened where both men and women attended at the same time. In 1916 a degree course was established for young women.

The first course given at the college was a two year diploma course. On interviewing one of the diploma graduates of 1915 - 1916 she said, "The whole course was a fine source of help to me. It gave me more interest in my homemaking. All the things I was handling had a story. If asked what gave me the greatest satisfaction, I would say the house plans and interior decoration." This graduate has designed and planned, and her husband and son have made real her plans in the home in which they are now living.

EXTENSION SERVICE

Better farming trains were one way the extension service made its plans known for study at home or at the college. These were very attractive to the rural people and as the train came steaming in, crowds stood on the platform to greet it. Probably this was one of the best eye-catchers for students in agriculture and home economics that the Department could procure.

This then, was the beginning of rural education. The early settlers of Manitoba, with their homes becoming well established, found a need for broadening their horizons and developing both themselves and their families.

The development of extension services opened up two avenues for study by the rural people. It provided an outlet for those who must remain in the home and it provided an outlet for those who wished to make a profession of home economics.

At the beginning the teachers in home economics were two in number - Miss Juniper and Miss Margaret Kennedy. When not teaching in the college, they toured the country lecturing, demonstrating and organizing Home Economics Societies. With the increase in student enrolment and the establishing of a diploma course to run concurrently with the men's, these teachers could no longer do the rural work. This led to the establishing of one-week courses known as "short courses", where at least 10 women (not more than 20 could join a group) worked with a teacher on subjects such as- dressmaking, millinery, home furnishing, cooking, canning and home nursing. Four trained women were employed to carry these courses to the rural

people. The lecturers were Miss Margaret Smith, Miss Helen Campbell, Miss Crawford and Nurse L. Clarke. Today the few members of those days still remaining, speak appreciatively of what they did: "The dress and hat I made and the food I canned and cooked are remembered vividly." These courses meant much to the people by bringing them together as well as aiding the economy within the home.

Following the first world war, many soldiers married and settled on farms in Manitoba. They were settled by the federal government under the Soldiers Settlement Board. Many, ignorant of farm life, felt helpless and lonely. To assist them, specialists were secured and sent out among these people to advise in home making generally. These workers went into the homes visiting the housewife, encouraging and teaching the economics of the home. Specialists working with the Soldiers Settlement Board were:

Miss L. Clarke
Miss C. Senior
Mrs. C. Graham
Miss R. M. Atkinson
Miss Crawford

LOCAL LEADER PLAN

As years passed, short courses were unable to supply all the applications for study that came from the country. A new plan was adopted. It was known as the Local Leader Plan, and the first course, "Clothing the Family", was given in the fall of 1929. In the spring a local leader course was given in foods and nutrition, and in the fall a home management course was started.

The Local Leader Plan had several advantages over the short courses. The specialist presented the subject matter to leaders of groups - two leaders to a group. The leaders were instructed in presentation of the lesson and they presented it to their group of at least eight to twelve members. This meant that not only leaders were being trained and subject matter given, but at least 40 people in the place of ten were receiving the information. At the peak of the popularity of the courses, each specialist estimated that she contacted between sixteen and eighteen hundred people who were taking the course.

Five lessons were given in a month for five months, and a sixth day was added, known as Achievement Day, to see the results. Three home economists were specialists on the staff representing courses of clothing and family, feeding the family, and home management. Later home crafts was added.

The local leader courses saw many persons develop into fine community leaders and a real source of help for leaders of 4-H clubs.

The 4-H clubs were first known as Boys and Girls Clubs. The Women's Institutes organized these clubs at the beginning, and provided leadership. Sewing, cooking, canning and demonstration work

were the main activities. 4-H club work is now a major activity of extension work occupying the full time of one home economist and the district home economist.

In 1928 a kitchen contest was organized among some rural districts, which gave a very co-operative contest for the man as well as the homemaker. Through this two year effort, home management courses evolved.

In 1951 home economist services were established in rural areas. Three districts were opened as a test feature with Souris, Dauphin and Shoal Lake as centres.

It was believed that, if the home economist, like the agricultural representative, was nearer to the rural homemaker, more individual or personal help could be extended to the homemaker. At the same time the home economist could maintain a closer supervision of the girls' 4-H clubs. The policy of stationing home economists in the rural district has proven successful. In nine years the test number of four home economists had tripled - that is twelve districts were opened.

However, this test of four was not the first time home economists had practised. Back in 1917, the late Mrs. MacKay, nee Miss Esther Thompson, a graduate in home economics, and director of women's work in the Extension Service, spent one summer in the Beausejour area doing similar work with the women there. She visited their homes and helped them with their problems. In 1921 Miss Thorey Thordarson, between her fourth and fifth year, worked in the Roland district. While in 1943, Miss Bessie McCuaig, spent two years in the Morden area working closely with the women by visiting their homes, organizing courses and giving advice from her office.

SUMMER SCHOOLS

With the depression years, summer schools were organized by the Extension Service for girls. These schools lasted two weeks and were a type of boarding school where the girls came and lived for the school period. To organize, there was to be at least fifteen girls interested. A place was secured sufficient to house the group. Equipment was supplied by the local women and two instructors were sent to carry on the school from the Extension Service. The girls learned to prepare, cook, and serve food by preparing meals for the group. They were taught nutrition, laundering, housekeeping, and they learned to sew, completing a cap and pot holders to use for their cooking, and making an apron and a dress. These schools were developed for three years. They were then extended from two to six weeks and the girls required to be aged from sixteen to thirty years.

On completing the courses taken in these schools, girls found opportunities to make use of their training by doing maid service, clerking in stores, helping in Singer Sewing Limited, and other such jobs, while some of them became 4-H leaders.

In 1946, following several years of success in schools, a change was made when the Extension Service took over the Normal school building in Brandon and courses were given to girls. This was a boarding school and both boys and girls attended.

AGRICULTURAL FAIRS

The agricultural fairs have been an outlet for women's activities from the beginning. Sections are allotted for exhibits by local people to be placed in competition and prizes are awarded. Judging at these fairs is done by qualified judges who have had training in home economics. The fair gives each woman an opportunity to exhibit her work and compare her standards with those of her neighbor. She learns her good points and where her work could be improved.

Through all of this, higher living standards have been developed, the health of the families has improved through a better knowledge of food values and sanitation, and many have developed skills they hardly knew they possessed. It brought people together. To illustrate - two families living two and a half miles apart had never been in one another's home until one had a local leader meeting in her home. A leader of a group, when being complimented on a dress she was wearing said, "All I know about sewing I learned from the Extension Service course in sewing".

The group system was a very fine way of getting people together. Each group was made up of the women living in the same locality or school district, regardless as to whether they were acquainted or not. The achievement day brought all groups together on one common thought and further broadened their acquaintances.

Programs, depicting their projects, by demonstrations, skits and fashion shows, did much to get the women working together and to take part in public life. Taking part in these activities, as well as acting as chairman, secretary or commentator, and simply hearing their voices in public, encouraged these women to take a more active part in the life of their communities.

MRS. AMES SENSE OF HUMOUR

Civil servants, and especially those in extension work when meeting the general public, must learn to see the funny side of life and often to accept conditions as they are, not as they would like them to be. That Mrs. Ames possessed these characteristics is well illustrated by some of her experiences as revealed to Gail Denbow (now Watson) Chief of Home Economist Division, in a recent interview.

In placing home economists in rural Manitoba, an educational job as to their purpose was needed, reports Mrs. Ames. One of the first home economists in the Beausejour area knocked on a farmhouse door and suggested her role was to help rural women. The lady quickly offered that "the washing was waiting in those baskets and needed to

be done". Once the home economist recovered her speech she politely suggested to the lady that this wasn't quite what she had meant.

During the depression years travel was of many varied methods - sleighs, the Bennett buggy, bicycles, and train. Winter time travel in horse driven cutters meant hot bricks at your feet, lots of robes, and real comfort came if the cutter had a top on it.

After being storm-stayed for several days at Shellmouth, Mrs. Ames phoned in to Russell for a snowmobile. On their return to Russell, it got stuck half-way up a hill and wouldn't budge. The driver got out and broke a trail to the top of the hill, with Mrs. Ames following carefully in his footsteps. Then he went back down and half-pushed the snowmobile up the hill. Then they continued on their way.

Home economists since the beginning of the century have been carrying large armloads of equipment and suitcases. One conductor on a train to Letellier asked, "Are you by chance Evangelists?" "No" answered Mrs. Ames, "but why?" The reply was, "I thought that box you were carrying looked like an organ!"

Rolled up blackboards would often hold back Mrs. Ames as she tried to enter the streetcar. Too long to easily manoeuvre, they would horizontally bar the door as she stepped up.

Ten-day summer homemaking schools were held for young girls. Mrs. Ames remembers one particular school in the Tummel district. The girls gathered in the community hall where they did their lessons, cooked and slept. Once everyone had found a place to sleep - Mrs. Ames and her foods assistant were left without a corner - except to move to the vestry of the church. So for ten nights Mrs. Ames "slept in church".

Miss Cora Hind offered a prize in 1929 for the best rearranged kitchen in the summer courses. Kitchen equipment was the coveted prize. Margaret Coulter taught many women in what was the beginning of a home management course. Later the course was changed to local leader so as to reach more people. In 1929 local leader courses in clothing and foods were also offered.

After every course, a write-up was sent to local and Winnipeg newspapers. During one meeting Mrs. Ames received an urgent phone call from Winnipeg. It was a newspaper editor with the comment, "Mrs. Ames, don't forget to get your write-ups in tonight, and please don't write on both sides of the paper".

Chapter III

SECOND AGRICULTURAL REPRESENTATIVE PERIOD 1930-1970



Soil drift on fields north of Melita in Southwestern Manitoba during the drought period of the 1930's

THE THIRTIES

Hard times are now upon the land - the people are in debt -
The country's full of trouble, but the worst is coming yet!

(Old Ballad)

The year was 1930, and the "dirty thirties" had begun - that grim decade imprisoned between the stock market crash of 1929 and the invasion of Poland which signalled the beginning of a second world war in 1939.

The "roaring twenties" of Broadway and Wall Street were muted in Manitoba, nevertheless the financial position of the province had improved in the latter years of the decade. In the interval the government had reassessed its attitude as to the value of extension field men and decided to rebuild the service.

NORMAN C. MACKAY

The tall loose-jointed director who normally wore a pipe and a benign countenance, except on the rare occasions when circumstances dictated otherwise, had been forced to preside over the demise of

the extension field staff in 1923. He was now given the opportunity to resurrect the force, and chose the following men as a nucleus of the new staff of agricultural representatives:

1930	D.C. Foster	Teulon
	T.A. Johnson	Carman
1931	J.H. Conner	Dauphin
	J.E. Crawford	Morden
	J.E. LaFrance	St. Pierre
	C. Murray	Swan River
	E.G. Minielly	Portage la Prairie



Bennett buggies parked near Lyleton Elevator
by school children - 1936

Those were the depression years. "Bennett buggies" (engineless cars drawn by horses) were a most popular method of transport for farm people; prices of all farm produce was at give-away prices, crop failures due to drought and rust were commonplace and the ranks of the unemployed were without number. They rode freely from coast to coast by box car, without hindrance; there just weren't any jobs at any price.

\$5.00 per Month

As the depression wore on the government created jobs of a sort by paying farmers \$5.00 per month to hire a helper for the winter months, then paying the hired man a like amount for working for the farmer. Professional wages were pitifully low, and one of the agricultural representatives produced facts and figures to prove that such workmen, receiving board and room, netted more than he did. His protest fell on deaf ears.

Dept Adjustment Board

Farm land became a liability, municipal taxes piled up, and there was no money to pay them. Mortgage companies fell heir to many productive farms. A Dept Adjustment Board was established

in an effort to ease the pressure on farm owners.

To assume that the men who opened the first seven agricultural offices in Manitoba during the years 1930 and 1931 were welcomed by the farmers of these areas with open arms, would be an exaggeration. The reverse would be closer to the truth.

Farmers generally tended to resent the suggestion that these men might be able to offer some help under desperate circumstances. They were not in need of someone to tell them how to produce, and least of all by someone whom they assumed had learned how to farm by reading books. Farmers in the southwest were suffering crop failures, but in other areas their crops though limited in some areas, were still more than they could sell. What was needed were markets for farm products. Few could argue successfully against such logic.

Income from Wheat - 1929 - 1939

<u>Year</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Yield per Acre Bushels</u>	<u>Bushels Produced (000 omitted)</u>	<u>Price per Bushel</u>	<u>Value (000 omitted)</u>
1929	2,301,000	12.4	28,565	\$ 1.06	30,279
1930	2,470,000	17.7	43,600	.55	23,980
1931	2,617,000	10.7	28,112	.41	11,526
1932	2,651,000	16.6	44,041	.38	16,736
1933	2,536,000	12.9	32,666	.52	16,986
1934	2,533,000	14.6	37,100	.65	24,115
1935	2,587,000	9.0	23,250	.61	14,183
1936	2,557,000	10.2	26,000	.91	23,660
1937	2,872,000	15.7	45,100	1.02	46,002
1938	3,184,000	15.7	50,000	.61	30,500
1939	3,201,000	19.2	61,300	.55	33,715

NEW POLICIES

Since there did not seem much point in increasing production, these first agricultural representatives directed their efforts towards improving the quality of the livestock going to market and the introduction of a system of grading for agricultural products. Various sire rental programs were introduced or expanded. There were purebred bull rental policies and boar and ram rental as well. Grading of hogs, poultry and dairy products became an established market practice.

Those farmers who had begun to convert to tractors for power found that gasoline called for a cash outlay. Hay and oats for horses could be produced on the farm. A stallion enrolment program was introduced in an effort to improve the quality of the work horses.

During the four or five years prior to the outbreak of World War II agricultural representative offices were opened at Selkirk, Russell, Morris, Neepawa, Holland, Pilot Mound, Souris, Shoal Lake, Melita, Winnipeg (S.E. Manitoba), and Boissevain. The end of the "phony" war in 1940 saw the enlistment in the various branches of the armed services of several of the younger agricultural representatives.

Every effort was made to keep the agricultural offices open, but as the enlistment continued and the war effort intensified, this became increasingly difficult. Replacements were not always available and a few offices were closed or operated on a restricted basis.

AGRICULTURAL REPRESENTATIVE SERVICE - WAR YEARS

ALEX CRAIG - DIRECTOR, ECONOMICS & PUBLICATIONS

World War II brought special problems, agricultural personnel were "frozen" so that only under very special circumstances were any of the agricultural representatives permitted to join the armed forces or change jobs. Wages were likewise frozen.

Gasoline rationing was an inconvenience with which many of the representatives had to contend. Driving was restricted, and many trips, commonplace today, were either postponed, combined with others, or eliminated altogether. Other modes of transportation were resorted to, particularly during the winter months.

Production Programs

"Bacon for Britain" became a byword in agricultural circles. Urgent appeals were made to increase hog production, even though there was an acute shortage of help. The appeal was met by an increase in hog production of less than 300,000 in 1938 to over a million in 1943. German torpedoes sent many Wiltshire sides to the bottom of the Atlantic, but the needs of beleaguered Britain were met.

Rapeseed was introduced in Manitoba during 1944 as a war time measure for the production of marine oil, in the event that the traditional Argentine source of supply should be cut off from the Allies. Fifteen hundred acres were sown in 1943, reached a high of 6,000 in 1945, then all but disappeared by 1947. The growing of this crop was encouraged again in 1950 and has since gradually gained in importance to become one of the major oil seed crops in Manitoba.

It was during this time that artificial insemination through the efforts of Jim Bowman, agricultural representative at Neepawa, was proven a sound program for the beef and dairy herds where cattle populations were sufficiently concentrated to make the scheme economically feasible.

Youth training schools were organized throughout Manitoba to give instruction in practical agriculture to farm boys between the ages of sixteen and thirty. Many of these boys found themselves

living away from home for the first time in their lives. The agricultural representatives, besides their normal work, were installed as principals and with a full time assistant handled from 75 to 80 percent of the instruction.

Assistance was given the War Savings Campaign by many agricultural representatives and, in some cases, they acted as secretary-treasurers of local committees.

Farm Help

Harvesting became a very critical time on farms during the war years. Agricultural representatives were made responsible for the allocation of farm labour in their various districts. In some instances the Army and Navy were pressed into service and groups detailed to various districts to assist in harvesting operations. In many instances the representatives gave up their annual vacations to assist farmers with their harvesting.

The Farm Help Service of the Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Department of National Defence, partially relieved the problem through the use of prisoners of war, internees and, to some extent, conscientious objectors, as farm workers in the sugar beet fields and to a more limited extent on individual farms. Indians from reservations in The Pas and Norway House were brought to southern Manitoba to help with harvest operations. Combines had not yet come into general use and most harvest operations called for the use of the old type threshing machine.

Most farm operators, faced with both a shortage of farm help and of new farm tractors and the equipment that goes with them, were limited in their farm operations to the amount of work that could be done by themselves supplemented by the help of their wives and children.

POST WAR TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

J. FRANK MUIRHEAD, DIRECTOR OF EXTENSION

For a somewhat different look at Manitoba's agriculture during the war years, we are indebted to Mr. J. Frank Muirhead, the present Director of the Extension Service and to Mr. H. A. Craig, Director of the Economics and Publications Branch of the Manitoba Department of Agriculture and former agricultural representative in the Pilot Mound and Carman areas, whose contributions are as follows:

Shortly after the end of the war in Europe and the Far East in 1945 demobilization got underway and the enlisted men began to return to their homes and former occupations. Those agricultural offices that opened prior to 1940 were soon again fully staffed and other offices were opened in new areas. A few of the returned men who had served as agricultural representatives before enlisting sought other work upon their return but most remained in the agricultural employment field.

Many of the younger veterans upon returning to civilian status entered university under a re-establishment assistance program offered by the Government of Canada. The agricultural degree course offered by the University of Manitoba attracted many of these men, with the result that the number of B.S.A. graduates in 1949 broke all records of the Faculty of Agriculture. Graduates awarded B.S.A. degrees at the University of Manitoba had dropped to six in 1948 but rose to 113 graduates in 1949, another 93 in 1950 and was down to 58 for 1951.

Many of the graduates of these three years found employment as agricultural representatives or with other divisions of the Manitoba Department of Agriculture. The Department at this time adopted a policy which called for the expansion as rapidly as possible of the agricultural representative service to cover all of the agricultural land in Manitoba. At the time of his retirement in 1954, Mr. N. C. MacKay, Director of Extension from 1923 to 1954, could claim that this program was almost complete. There were then some 32 or more agricultural district offices staffed with full time agricultural representatives in operation. Today there are 37 such offices.

Memories of the Extension Service from Holland, Manitoba - 1942 - 1946

"On April 20th 1942 I arrived in Holland, Manitoba, in a pouring rain, as the new agricultural representative with the Extension Service of the Manitoba Department of Agriculture. It had been a tough struggle for a lot of us to find the funds to get our university education because of the drastic effect of the depression years. All of us were members of the Canadian Officers Training Corps at university and by the final year we had completed our basic training and were ready to join the regular forces. Harvey Jones, my room mate was accepted into the Air Force and later became a Flight Lieutenant and spent most of his time overseas. On the final medical check I was not accepted into the officers training course but given a button and a blue rejection slip. This was one of the reasons I was available to Mr. N. C. MacKay for extension service work. There were only fourteen graduating in the class that started with some forty in the first year.

The Extension Service was anxious to get someone out at Holland, so I started work the day final exams were finished. Mr. W. S. Frazer, the Assistant Director of the Extension Service, assigned me a government car, we filled out a few forms at the head office in the legislative buildings, and then we were ready to leave for Holland the next morning. It was a real thrill for me to get this nice, relatively new 1940 model Chevrolet sports coupe. It was a smart grey color which was quite different from the average black or dark blue government car. The province had not been able to buy cars at that time so they had purchased this particular one from Mr. Howard Peto. Mr. Peto had opened up the Holland office in 1941 as the first agricultural representative to be located in that part of the province.

When Mr. Frazer and I arrived in the village, population about 400 people, we noticed two cars were stuck in the mud on Main Street. Mr. Frazer had planned to introduce me to some key people and then return to Winnipeg, however, with all the mud, rain, and bad roads he was a little disgusted and, after giving me the keys to the office, he decided to return to Winnipeg.

The only instructions Mr. MacKay gave me was to find out what the farmers needed and help them in any way I could, as a representative of the Department of Agriculture. This certainly gave a broad scope to developing, planning and initiating your own programs. The office we had was a part of Dagg's Hardware Store. Mel Dagg, the owner of the store, was a real character; a leader in the town, and a very likeable person. His hardware store was the gathering place for all the retired farmers and others who liked to come in. One day Mr. Dagg came in to the office and asked me if I had trouble sleeping. I said "No", so he asked why I came down to the office every morning at 8 a.m. Nobody had ever told me what the hours were so, after that, I did decide to start at 9 a.m. like the rest of the people in town. We usually worked several nights and had the office open six days a week.

I boarded with a retired farmer and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. John Langman. The Langmans were tremendous people and great friends of the extension service. Mrs. Langman (now 98 years of age) was an excellent cook. There were no waterworks in the town so facilities were a little rugged. Mr. Langman gave me some very good advice and helped me to understand the situation in the district. He mentioned that many of the farmers did not really think they needed a "white collar expert" in the district. He said, "They will size you up for about six months to a year, and then decide whether or not you are going to be of any use to them or to the district."

During the first three months I was pretty lonesome. The office was located right along Main Street with no drapes on the window, and sounds came in quite well from outside. One Saturday night I was in the office hoping that a farmer might come in, when I heard a couple of individuals talking outside the window. One of them said, "Why the hell is the government sending out high school kids to be ag. reps. these days?" It was not too long after that that I also had a grade XII student call on me to see how he could get a job as an ag. rep. (he liked my car). To overcome this image of immaturity I bought a big pipe to smoke and a pair of khaki combination overalls. At that time it was a mark of distinction for a professional to don a pair of these overalls upon entering a farm, and usually looked a little bit different than the farmer.

Mr. Mel Dagg, in addition to kidding me and helping me in various ways, was also promoting my services, probably from the standpoint that if I didn't succeed, he would lose the rent on the office! This was not really his reason, he was a sincere person, and he finally did get a few calls directed my way. One of the first ones came from a Belgian farmer who had some sick pigs and wanted me to go out and help him. There wasn't a veterinarian within 100 miles of the district so that our Deputy Minister, Mr. Jim Evans, had told all of us to help when we could with veterinary problems.

During this period of time grain was not moving off the farms because of the war and the shipping situation. There was also a great demand for meat and other foods, so we had a big campaign on "to save more pigs for Britain". During the first winter I was in Holland I conducted seven "Save More Pigs for Britain" meetings,

starting at Rathwell and going through to every town, ending up at Wawanesa. I was the only speaker, with the help of a very good Canada Packers' film that we showed to get the meeting off to a good start. Usually, the halls were packed. Mr. Peto had set up a library of some 1,200 bulletins and among them there were many on animal diseases, and also other excellent reference material. I soon found out there was little I had learned at university that was of practical value to me, so my period at Holland was a great learning experience. One of the things that helped me at this particular stage was practical experiences from being in boys' and girls' club work at Carberry. I had won a trip to Toronto on a livestock judging team at one time which proved to be very helpful in dealing with the 4-H livestock clubs in the district.

We had always raised hogs and had encountered some of the many problems that new farmers in the Holland area were encountering. Dr. A. Savage, who was the Dean of Agriculture and a veterinarian, had given us an excellent practical course in veterinary medicine, and the Provincial Veterinary Lab was operating in a small way so that specimens could be sent in to Dr. Savage for disease identification. I had also had experience with the disease "swine erysipelas" on our own farm at Carberry. This proved to be valuable to me in dealing with an epidemic of swine erysipelas in swine herds throughout the district. The Department established the policy of supplying anti-swine erysipelas serum from our offices at cost.

I soon graduated into having a number of other vaccines and cattle medicines in my storage place at Langmans. Mr. MacKay warned us that good extension technique was always to show the person how to do the job and not do it for him. Let me mention one case dealing with Mr. Ernie Biglow, a farmer at Holland. After my demonstration of showing him how to vaccinate a pig for erysipelas I gave him the needle and suggested that he do the next one. Just as he was trying to jam the needle into the pig he stuck it into my finger and administered about 3 c.c.'s of serum. This may have been good because, at that time, we did not know that humans could get the disease from the pigs.

There were many incidents that stand out in doing veterinary work with commercial livestock. We encountered nearly every poultry disease that could be found in any of the books printed at that time. Most farmers had a flock of poultry. They were just getting used to brooders and often didn't know how to handle them and often did not have the right kind of housing or ventilation, resulting in all sorts of chick problems. On one occasion I encountered a half-grown chicken that was blown up like a balloon. One of the standard pieces of equipment we were issued with was a good castrating knife. This knife was used for various purposes but, on this occasion, I slit the chicken open with a small incision and immediately the air started to whoosh out of it. It got up and staggered off like a drunken sailor. The farmer's wife was very impressed with this demonstration and publicized my skills around the district.

One of the very unusual cases with pigs was when I found a woman had fed rain water which had fallen into an old metal feed

boiler that had a block of salt in it, and she had killed about half the pigs on the farm while her husband was away.

There is a rather outstanding case I remember connected with one of the Belgian farmers who had bought a prize hereford bull from the Manitoba Winter Fair at Brandon on our recommendation. About a week later he called me and said the bull was dying. I went out to the farm and I found the bull lying flat out, very high temperature, and in fact he looked as if he would be dead before the day was over. I had carried with me a 100 c.c. bottle of anti-hemorrhagic septicemia serum that was used for cattle pneumonia. Dr. E. L. Houck, the Provincial Veterinarian, had also been very helpful in giving me some training in practical veterinary skills. He had told me if such a case happened that the only answer was to administer the serum directly into the jugular vein. He cautioned me that if you got some air into the jugular vein you would kill the animal. Mr. Aubry and I discussed the problem and I told him that if he was willing I would give it a try because the bull was going to die anyway. I got the blood flowing from the jugular vein, and then I proceeded to administer 100 c.c.'s directly into the vein. When we had completed the job we went for dinner, when we came out to the barn we were amazed to see that the bull was standing up eating hay. In a few days he was fully recovered. Mr. Marcel Aubry was a great friend of mine from that time onwards and became one of the 4-H Beef Club leaders at a later date at Cypress River.

One of the other serious problems with cattle throughout the district was the incidence of brucellosis or bangs disease, or commonly known as contagious abortion. I got started again with help from Dr. Houck of the Livestock Branch, taking blood tests of a few herds suspected of having this disease. One of the first things I ran into was that the milk in Holland was not pasteurized. We conducted the test on the holstein cows, that appeared to be very healthy and clean, and to our amazement found two of them were positive reactors. It was not too long after this that the wife of the lumber yard manager got undulant fever from drinking unpasteurized milk.

One day, after this had happened, we heard that two cases of undulant fever had been diagnosed by the doctor in Treherne. We tested the herd supplying milk for the town of Treherne, and out of the twenty-five cows in this herd, twenty-four of them were positive reactors to bangs disease. Before these tests were completed, five people had undulant fever in Treherne. The town then decided to bring in pasteurized milk from Winnipeg. That winter from January to March I tested some 500 cattle in the Rathwell-Treherne area on different farms, and found about 20% of them were reacting to the bangs disease test. This later led to a program, developed by the Department, of calf vaccination for the control of bags disease in the province."

BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUB WORK

"The first seed club in Manitoba was formed at Holland in 1929, and some of the first beef clubs were organized there by my cousin,

Gordon Muirhead, Livestock Specialist with the Extension Service, in 1937 and 1938. There were beef clubs at Treherne, Holland, Cypress River, Glenboro, and Treesbank. There were grain clubs at every town in the district. There were also a number of girls' clubs. At this time in our history the home economists were not considered capable of driving government cars so they travelled by bus. It was the job of the ag. rep. in the district to recruit local ladies who would serve as leaders of the girls' clubs and then arrange for a visit of a home economist from Winnipeg. When a home economist arrived in the district it was our job to take her around on our various visits through the area. It was a custom for us, as extension representatives, to attend nearly all of the meetings of the boys' and girls' clubs.

There was a great problem in finding meeting places in many of the towns. One example was at Cypress River where they had a beef-calf club that had won the provincial trophy for the top club in the province in 1942. Their leader was a big, heavy-set bachelor by the name of Lloyd Campbell, who became a real friend. I will always remember the many happy, interesting experiences when we worked together. When it came time for the meetings in Cypress River we would go down to the main street of the town Saturday evening and find Mr. Campbell to discover where the meeting might be. Sometimes it would be in the elevator office, but seldom any definite place. In this club there was a fairly good personal development program as well as the project part of raising and showing a market calf.

In the next town, Glenboro, the leaders were older men, self-made, successful farmers who wanted to do something for the district. They took a different approach and the main emphasis here was to improve the cattle to encourage the young people to be interested in livestock. One of the leaders, Mr. Jim Elliott, had arrived as an Irish immigrant with 25¢ in his pocket. By 1942 he was the owner and operator of a large, successful farm. He had a genuine interest in improving the community and particularly helping young people. His partner was an old gentleman by the name of Alf Wood, an English immigrant, who had a very heavy, black moustache and a pronounced accent. Later he was the leader of the seed club. Both of these gentlemen were both very active members of the Glenboro Agricultural Society.

One of the early events in 1942 was a district convention, Mr. N. C. MacKay, as Superintendent, had arranged for all the agricultural societies in the region to meet at Glenboro, with Mr. Alf Wood acting as Chairman. There were two ag. rep. districts combined at this meeting. Mr. Alex Craig, a senior ag. rep., was the representative from Pilot Mound. The Chairman called on Mr. Craig to give a talk to the meeting and he made some quite appropriate remarks about agricultural societies. Then one of the old gentlemen from Holland got up and said they would like to hear from the new ag. rep. I had no idea what to talk about. The only thing I could think of was the variety recommendations for that year, so I gave them a short talk on varieties of grain that should be grown - even though seeding was completed! We always found that the agricultural societies were very helpful and co-operated with the Extension Service in many ways.

We spent about 40% of our time with the boys' and girls' clubs in the district; attending their meetings and various activities. A district Fat Stock Show and Sale was organized for Cypress River. We had a district plowing match where quite a number of the boys from the seed clubs took part. Fall fairs were big events for all seed clubs in the district. In 1946 all the clubs in the district attended an inter-district 4-H rally at Portage Fair.

There is no question in my mind that the 4-H club program, at that time called Boys' and Girls' clubs, had a major effect on the adoption of improved practices throughout the district. One example of this was that there were seed clubs in each town except Rathwell. I remember making a survey of the varieties of grains being grown and found that the new varieties had been adopted in all areas except in the Rathwell district where the adoption rate had been very much slower. There were beef clubs in every town along the Number 2 highway and they certainly influenced the quality and general management of beef cattle herds. There was also some personal development training that is now a major part of 4-H work. Competitions were very much a part of the programs. One of the big events each year for the ag. rep. was to have a boys and girls team in the provincial final judging competitions. We always had teams in the provincial beef finals; usually one in the swine club and poultry final competitions. We had four teams win the right to represent Manitoba at Toronto from the Holland district."

FARM LABOUR PLACEMENTS DURING THE WAR YEARS

"One of the major efforts of the work in my district was to find labour for the farmers during the war years. The Department of Agriculture had established a farm help service under the direction of Major Richardson, retired army officer, who had had previously worked with the federal employment service. It was established because the federal offices were useless in getting men to the farms. The farmers throughout the area did not have combines for harvesting their grain. They relied on threshing machines and all the associated labour that goes along with this method. We were a very small group of staff members at that time, with only about 12 agricultural representatives in the province. One day the Minister of Agriculture, The Honourable D. L. Campbell, phoned directly to me and asked if I could handle 25 Indian workers. He had a theory that Indian workers could be brought in to help during this crisis, and he wanted me to test his idea out for him at Holland. So, in due course, we had the 25 Indians arrive who came from somewhere up north, I believe around Norway House. These men turned out to be good workers and served very well, so the program was greatly stepped up the next year.

Major Richardson was an amazing individual himself and a tremendous organizer. He was very effective in demonstrating that you needed to extend your services to the public through other people. One day he suggested that I might appoint a farm help officer in each town along Number 2 highway. He offered to pay such a person an honorarium for his work. We would then have this person as a local contact to place farm help from each of the towns in the district. This was a great idea, so at Wawanesa the Co-op manager, accepted:

at Glenboro I had the Municipal secretary; at Cypress River and Holland a retired farmer; at Treherne the Reeve of the municipality who was also the local garage man, and at Rathwell I got the local hardware merchant to be the farm help officer. This system of organization worked very well because when we had to direct men or place them these local farm help officers would meet them at any hour and see that they got to the right farm. During the second year I was at Holland, we placed more than four hundred men on farms from Rathwell to Wawanesa.

During the second year of this program we had 179 Indians from Norway House and as far north as Island Lake. I always remember that in the Island Lake group there was one Eskimo. This little fellow could not speak English and obviously did not have any farm skills and it seemed almost impossible to place him. There was such a demand for help however, one Saturday night a fight broke out between two farmers outside my office. The winner was awarded this Eskimo to work on his farm. There was such a verbal battle that he had to take the little fellow and made a field pitcher out of him. Anyway, the Eskimo earned some money and went home with a large metal trunk full of new clothes.

We had a German War Prisoner Camp at Holland for two years in succession with 125 prisoners plus supporting Canadian Army staff. These German soldiers were all captured in Africa by the British Army under General Montgomery. They were all N.C.O.'s under their own direction headed by two German Warrant Officers. The Camp was also guarded by a group of Canadian soldiers and officers. The prisoners earned 50¢ a day for working on the farms and we collected the going wage rate for them for the government. I collected around \$9,000 in wages each year. We never had a farmer default on paying.

We also had about 150 soldiers from Quebec and Toronto one year. The French speaking soldiers couldn't speak English but were good workers. I learned some French and they learned some English. The Toronto group were bad actors who had been sent back from various outfits for disciplinary or medical reasons. This English speaking group gave us more trouble than any men placed in the area. When they were sent back to Toronto some of them were given 28-day jail sentences."

GOVERNMENT CAR

"The government car assigned to me, mentioned earlier, was a very flashy car at that time and quite conspicuous. I didn't realize it at the time, but it had great advertising value as everybody recognized it in various parts of the area. It also had some disadvantages because I got a lecture from one of the farmers from the Wawanesa area one day for driving too fast and supposedly wasting gas. At this period we were having great difficulties with gasoline and everybody was given a ration category. I had category "D" which was one of the highest for buying gas supplies. My average mileage each year was about 22,000 miles, which head office always thought was too high; but I worked on the principle that you cannot do extension work sitting on your behind in the office. The district did

200,000 miles on it and the fourth rebuilt motor. At a later stage in my career, when I became the person in charge of all the Department government cars, I always had sympathy for people who had problems with them. Bill Del Begio and I got to be very good friends. My driving greatly improved as the years went by."

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS WORK

"It was quite an experience being the agricultural representative at Holland during the war years. In addition to what might be known as regular agriculture extension work, which developed very well as we got known in the district, there were many other activities. For example, I was appointed secretary of the National War Finance Committee and worked with the different organizations throughout the area selling war bonds. In selling bonds it became apparent how many high income people there were in some parts of the district. There was one individual for example, who used to go into some remote part of his farm and come back with \$3,000 in cash and put it into bonds. This Belgian farmer was very successful, had gone through the first world war where money was valueless and he could not trust banks. He still did not trust them, even though he had been living in Canada for a fair length of time. He did have great confidence in war bonds though and we could always depend on him for a very substantial cash purchase of the bonds.

One of the interesting things of these campaigns was the techniques employed in handling them. The government hired a top-notch public relations firm to make people aware of the need to buy them, and prepared the way for the salesman. Participating in this activity was one way of learning how to conduct a good communications campaign. For example, before a campaign started they liked to go in with a very startling, colorful event and then follow up with a regular normal advertising of various information techniques. During one campaign at Holland, we were notified that the army would put on a flame-throwing demonstration and we were to get some top official in town to make a patriotic address to the large group of people they expected. The local doctor, who was a very highly regarded individual in town, was designated to be the speaker on this occasion. However, on the day of the event his wife came to me and said that the doctor just could not face speaking to all of these people. She pleaded with me to take over the job. This was rather a tough assignment on such short notice. Well, the flame-thrower arrived with a number of soldiers; the demonstration was held on the fair grounds. They blew up an old shack and burned it and got everyone in the large crowd aware of the bond sale. I made a speech, but still can't remember what I said! We always had a very successful campaign and met our quotas for bond sales in the district because the people were doing their best to help the war effort.

One of the other things learned at Holland was how an ag. rep could take on too many community activities. One night when I was sick with the flu the local minister called and got me to go to a Red Cross meeting, then nominated me to be secretary of the Red Cross, the last thing I wanted to be. Of course everyone agreed that this was not only necessary but a duty. On another occasion the leader of the local Boy Scout group quit and left town. After

some arm twisting, I became their leader although I didn't know a thing about scouting. Fortunately, this was only for a short period. The Chamber of Commerce expected involvement from everyone and also made me their secretary. It was difficult to get somebody with an office, and a stenographer that could type minutes so to most people the government office was the place to go. We were warned on many occasions by Mr. MacKay not to get involved like this but I had to learn the hard way. One of the things that we did find out was the great value of a stenographer in the office and how much she could do for the people of the district as well as for the Department.

Salaries were very bad and always a source of contention with most of the ag. reps. Mr. MacKay was a highly respected director and did many little things that helped the morale, even though the salaries were not good. One example was that he approved arrangements for the get-together for the annual ag. rep. Pow-Now, as it was called, where we could meet the wives and girlfriends of all the staff. We were a very small group at that time. When we had our annual conferences there would only be about 20 people involved. We would meet in one of the smaller rooms, such as room 234 in the legislative building, for the conference. It was usually held in January.

It wasn't very long until I got involved with the other staff members in trying to organize ourselves to improve our salary situation in the Ag. Rep. Association. After I had been at Holland for six months, I received an offer from Ottawa to be Assistant Director of rural programs for the National Film Board. This looked like a tremendous job because they said I would travel to every province in Canada the first year and offered \$200 per month to start, compared with my \$125 a month at the time. I decided to take the job and went to Winnipeg to give my resignation to Mr. MacKay. Well, he spent the full afternoon with me, took me home to his house for dinner, took me to the Masonic Lodge that night, and before he was finished I had second thoughts about my decision to go to Ottawa. After this session I decided to talk things over with my cousin, Gordon Muirhead, who had previously worked for the Extension Service. He suggested that I might be better to stay in Manitoba provided they would give me a little more salary consideration. His suggestion was to deal directly with the Minister of Agriculture and give him until the end of January to increase my salary substantially. If he didn't agree, then I should take the job in Ottawa. I discussed the matter with Mr. D. L. Campbell, and on January 31st in the late afternoon he phoned me to say, "We will give you \$175 a month if you stay". I agreed to stay and have been with the Department ever since. The Agricultural Representative Association has always been very important in communicating with head office on salary and working conditions."



1954: Back Row - Ralph Poston, Joe LaFrance, Dave Hill, Reg Forbes, Doug Fletcher, John Forsyth
 Next Row - Welland Stonehouse, Hayden Tolton, Harold Ross, Jim Lapka, Gus Arnal, Bill Uhryniuk,
 Keith McComb, Glen Arnott, Bert Sandercock
 Dick Filteau, Vern McNair, Wallace Lee, Jack Forbes, Helgi Austman, Peter Kiez,
 Roy Esler, Art Dilworth
 Joe Forbes, Clarence Bailey, Mrs. Evelyn Ames, Bernice Murray, - - - -, - - - -,
 Frances McKay, Mildred Clark, Mary Smart, Lorraine Houck, Ed Somers, Merv McKay
 Front Row - Percy Ford, John Negrych, Cornelius (C.S.) Prodan, Norman (N.C.) MacKay,
 Walt Frazer, Ed Howe, David (D.C.) Foster, Frank Muirhead, Jim Campbell

Chapter IV

BUILDING AN ORGANIZATION

From the time of the re-establishment of the Agricultural Representative Service in 1930 until the organization of the Manitoba Representative Association late in 1946, the Ag. Reps., as they came to be known, had few opportunities to get together for discussion of matters of common interest or of problems shared. The eight agricultural offices operating in 1936 were separated from one another by anywhere from 30 to 110 miles of gravel roads. Visits to other agricultural offices had to be approved in advance by the Director of Extension. Communications were largely a one-way street - from the offices of the Department of Agriculture to the individual agricultural representative. The annual conference provided a once-a-year opportunity for the agricultural representatives to meet privately but, quite often, they would find themselves booked into two or three different hotels, thus limiting the opportunities for meetings of the entire field staff.

While the expansion of the agricultural services during the late thirties reduced the distance separating the agricultural offices, the travel restrictions imposed during the war years provided few opportunities for the agricultural representatives to meet as a group. The Director of Extension, N. C. MacKay, appears to have been aware of the necessity for some type of organization that would serve the needs of the men, and shortly after the end of World War II, suggested to the agricultural representatives that they organize as a group. In retrospect Mr. MacKay has outlined, as follows, some of the reasons why he recommended the organization of the group:

"Annual conferences of the representatives were held in January of each year when the representatives met with the staff of the Manitoba Department of Agriculture, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Manitoba, and Federal Department of Agriculture;

"Problems of major or minor importance (some personal) were considered by the representatives in closed sessions in the evenings or at other times after the regular sessions of the conference;

"When decisions were arrived at and these related to working conditions, etc., a committee or individual was appointed to present the matter to the officials in the Extension Service or other branches of the government;

"Following the example of Ontario, where the

'District Representatives' had organized themselves into an Association (of which I was president at one time), an "Association" was set up by the representatives in Manitoba. Over the years, this was proven of value in maintaining morale and dealing with individual or general problems arising from time to time, as well as affording many occasions when outstanding social activities were featured".

At about the time of the formation of the organization of agricultural representatives there was an attempt to organize all government employees into what appeared to closely resemble a trade union which would be dominated by non-professional workers. This may or may not have been a factor in Mr. MacKay's decision to encourage organization of the agricultural representatives. In any event, a committee including Alex Craig, Ed Howe, and Edna McConnell (Mrs. Edna Shiflet), the first lady agricultural representative, early in 1945 undertook the preliminary work of gathering information from other Canadian provinces where the agricultural representatives had organized.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A meeting under the chairmanship of Ed Howe was held late in 1945 and an executive committee of five members, made up of Edna McConnell, Fred Hamilton, Charlie Campbell, C.S. Prodan, and Joe C. Forbes, was named and given the job of drafting a constitution for the proposed organization.

OBJECTIVES

The members of the new organization listed two objectives for the guidance of the executive in framing the constitution. These objectives were:

1. To promote the welfare of the agricultural representative;
2. To provide a means whereby the members of the association could express their views as a body on questions that concern their welfare;
3. To investigate and where possible implement or achieve such social and administrative objectives as:
 - (a) Consideration of plans for adequate hotel accommodation and a dinner meeting during the time of the annual conference,
 - (b) A study of the housing problem facing

agricultural representatives in the event that the policy of moving them to other offices was to be continued,

- (c) Plans for a summer get-together of all agricultural representatives and their families.

ORGANIZATION MEETING

The members of the executive named at the preliminary organizational meeting held their first meeting early in 1946, probably at the time of the annual conference of the agricultural representatives, in Winnipeg. At this meeting Fred Hamilton was chosen as Association president, Joe C. Forbes became vice president and Miss Edna McConnell agreed to act as secretary.

Among other items of business considered at this first meeting of the executive was the choice of a name for the new organization. The names were suggested - Manitoba Ag. Rep. Association and Ag. Rep. Association of Manitoba. Consideration was also given to Blue Cross Medical coverage on a group basis and an inquiry as to costs of such coverage was directed to Howard Murphy, accountant for the Manitoba Department of Agriculture.

The executive met again on March 5, 1946, at which time, Fred Hamilton, Association president, had become an employee of Manitoba Pool Elevators. Joe C. Forbes became president, and Charles Campbell was named vice president. It was agreed that the organization should be known as the Manitoba Agricultural Representative Association which could be abbreviated as M.A.R.A., the name under which it has since operated. Approval was given to a proposed constitution which was similar to that of the Ontario association, but with certain changes that were proposed by the secretary and president. Steps were taken to arrange for the rental of a number of Idylwylde cabins at Clear Lake for a proposed get-together of the Association's members.

FIRST SOCIAL

The organization of the first social gathering of the agricultural representatives and their families appears to have been left almost entirely with secretary Edna McConnell. Judging from the number of letters which she wrote in her effort to promote this new venture, she must have had a very busy summer. Reservations were eventually made for about 40 people, including some 20 or 22 agricultural representatives, the Director and Assistant Director of Extension and Director of Soils and Crops. Most of the more cautious of the agricultural representatives took accommodation in the Idylwylde cabins where cooking facilities were available and thoughtfully brought along their wives and children. A few of the more venturesome ones left their wives at home and took accommodation in Johnson's lodge.

The gathering had been timed to coincide with the long Labour Day holiday weekend. The Director of Extension had authorized the use of government cars as a means of transportation to and from Clear Lake, but we were asked to double up on their use whenever this was at all possible. There was always the chance that there might be a few farmers enjoying the good life at Clear Lake who might count the number of cars parked on the grounds and report their findings to the First Minister or at least to the Minister of Agriculture.

The get-together proved to be a pleasant outing for all concerned and was combined with a short business meeting. Some tried roller-skating, a few went swimming, some took in the dance and the mothers kept a close eye on the children.

FIRST BUSINESS MEETING

Seventeen agricultural representatives attended the business meeting which was held in Johnson's Lodge on Sunday morning, September 1, 1946, and was chaired by Joe C. Forbes, president of the newly organized M.A.R.A.

A decision was made to charge each member an annual fee of \$2.00. The proposed constitution was given close consideration and adopted on motion of Frank Muirhead and William McCreary. A portion of the newly adopted constitution follows and you will note that the name of the Association remained as originally recommended and that membership was restricted to agricultural representatives and assistant agricultural representatives. An amendment adopted at the annual meeting of January 12, 1955, made provision for membership of home economists employed by the Manitoba Department of Agriculture.

The objectives of the Association were spelled out in four separate clauses of the constitution:

Therefore be it enacted

1. NAME - This Association shall be known as the Manitoba Agricultural Representative Association. M.A.R.A.
2. OBJECTIVES- The objectives of the Association shall be:
 - (a) To enable the representatives to act as a unit in all matters affecting their welfare, socially and professionally;
 - (b) To encourage and foster the closest possible co-operation with all Departments and branches of agriculture;

- (c) To provide a means whereby the agricultural representatives may participate in the formulation of agricultural policies; and
 - (d) To provide an executive body to act on behalf of the Association.
3. MEMBERS* - The membership shall be open to the agricultural representatives and home economists, acting and assistant agricultural representatives and home economists, employed by the Extension Service of the Manitoba Department of Agriculture.
4. MEMBERSHIP - The initial membership fee shall be \$2.00 per year in advance.

*NOTE - Amended January 12, 1955, to provide for membership by home economists. This is the amended version. The original constitution made no such provision although home economists were probably tacitly recognized as members prior to this date.

Two other items of business received attention at the September 1st meeting in 1946. One illustrated the growing frustration of the agricultural representatives in their efforts to operate a Farm Help Service. A resolution was adopted which asked the Director of Extension to delete this task from the program of the agricultural representatives.

The other item was introduced by W. S. Fraser, Assistant Director of Extension, and sought the support of the Association members for the efforts of members of the Agricultural Institute of Canada to obtain professional recognition for Manitoba agriculturists. It was decided that each agricultural representative should be asked to express his views on this question through a ballot that would be mailed to him. Messrs. F. Muirhead and William McCreary were to attend the October meeting of the Agricultural Institute of Canada and present the views of the Association members on question of professional standing for agriculturists as revealed by the result of the ballot questionnaire.

ANNUAL POW-WOW

The 1946 meeting was the first time that the agricultural representatives and their families had the opportunity of meeting as a group. It has since become an annual event. For a time an attempt was made to meet at a new location each year and some of the early years saw the group meeting at such places as Lac du Bonnet, Gimli, and Brandon. The business portion of the meeting was regarded as a semi-annual meeting of the members, while the over-all gathering adopted the name "Pow-Wow". The origin of the

name is not clear but the name itself proved quite appropriate, - particularly for one held at Gimli where the behaviour of some of the more "spirited" members verged on the boisterous.

Accommodation proved a problem especially as the numbers of agricultural representatives and home economists increased. Recent years have seen the "Pow-Wow" held at the summer camp of the Manitoba Federation of Agriculture which is close to Clear Lake and where the type of accommodation is steadily improving.

The Manitoba Department of Agriculture permits the use of its cars for transportation to and from the "Pow-Wow" site and allows time spent in reaching camp for the Friday evening opening ceremonies. All other expenses are paid by the participants or by the M.A.R.A.

The "Pow-Wow" program usually includes barbecued steaks on Friday evening, swimming when weather permits, a Saturday night dance, the business session and initiation ceremonies for new members of the Association (M.A.R.A.). Quite often the head office staff is well represented at these gatherings.



"Pow-Wow" gathering at Clear Lake, September 1947.

EXECUTIVE ACTION

The executive of the newly organized M.A.R.A. lost little time in developing and pursuing the objectives of the Association as outlined in the constitution. The first of these objectives called upon the agricultural representatives to act as a group in matters affecting their welfare, socially and professionally. This was taken to include such things as:

1. The provision of suitable housing for those men and their families located in the smaller towns;
2. Improved office accommodation that would be more closely in line with that provided by industry;
3. The adoption of a car policy by the government which would not insist that government-owned cars must be 8 to 10 years old or show 150,000 to 200,000 miles on the speedometer before a replacement was considered; and probably most important of all -
4. A salary schedule more in line with salaries paid by other departments of government (notably the Department of Education) for work calling for similar educational qualifications, equal or greater responsibilities, and greater work-load.

Committees were named to investigate these problems and to prepare suitable briefs for presentation to the appropriate authorities of government. A resolution committee was appointed which was expected to bring forward resolutions relating to new problems or projects affecting the welfare of the group at both the annual and semi-annual meetings.

HOUSING

Messrs. Wallace Lee and Ed Howe gave their attention to the housing problem. They had little difficulty in proving the need for some type of assistance from government but were invariably met with the flat statement that the government was not in the housing business and had no intention of getting in. This picture has undergone some drastic changes in recent years insofar as public housing is concerned.

The housing story, however, is best told in the words of Ed Howe, agricultural representative, Altona, whose report follows:

"It is axiomatic to say that in the late nineteen forties agricultural representatives were not very well paid. Out of their meagre income they were expected, by the administration, to provide themselves and their families with housing accommodation befitting their status in the community they served. Their status was said to be at the same level as the school inspector, but agricultural representatives (chronically) were paid far less than the school inspector, and were expected to fill many more roles in the community than any inspector of schools!

"Originally, the agricultural representative was intended to stay in one community for as long as he was in the government service. This was the idea, but a retreat from that position became inevitable as the service enlarged and temperaments and conditions in various areas, not to mention family needs and goals, soon made moves to other areas the normal policy. The administration also frequently required the move to be made, for various reasons.

"On the salary scale then in effect it was hard enough to try to rent or buy in the new town, and stay on the "right side of the tracks" to boot, without having to move in five or six years, or even less in some cases. The folks in the town to which the "Rep" was posted knew he had to buy or rent a house suitable to his position as a government employee and prices were adjusted accordingly. Conversely, the people in the town he was leaving knew he had to sell, so prices were again adjusted accordingly. A few "Reps" were fortunate in selling, but most were caught both ways in selling at a loss and buying at the seller's price.

"So much was this the case, that between 1948 - 1953 several committees were set up by the M.A.R.A. to submit briefs to the administration pointing out our problem and requesting relief in the form of houses provided by the government, to be rented by the agricultural representative during his stay in the town. This suggestion was not unanimously acceptable to the agricultural representatives as some wives did not like the idea of having no say in the place where they were to live. Another alternative was having the office as part of the home, as in the case of some field representatives of the Forestry Branch. This was rejected by many on the grounds that the agricultural representative would have no privacy at all. As though the telephone does not expose him to the beck and call of the public, regardless of the location of his office!

"In any case, the M.A.R.A. was split on the issue and the administration knew it, so largely ignored the briefs. In 1952 - 1953, things came to a head for several individuals. One man owned and was losing money on two houses, as he had to leave one vacant in one town and buy at a price in another town. Another had to borrow \$4,000 on a six year repayment plan at six percent to buy in one town while he continued, for nearly two years, to try to sell in the town he left. This was on a salary of around \$4800. In January 1952 we were told the administration would not provide compensation for any losses incurred by the agricultural representatives when transferred, as

transfers were made, "only because of necessity"!

"All these arguments were put forth by the representatives' housing committee: that many commercial companies provided housing for employees who were subject to transfer; that the R.C.M.P. were similarly provided for by the Federal Government; and that there were odd cases where the Manitoba Government did, indeed, provide housing for rental to the employee, other than the remote forestry personnel. However, all these arguments had no effect in moving the government to take action on behalf of the agricultural representatives.

"Finally in the winter of 1953 the matter came to a close with the flat statement that the administration was "not in the real estate business" nor in the "mortgage business" to either build accommodation for rental to agricultural representatives, or make loans at low interest rates to such personnel to build their own houses.

"It may not be too important now, but until recently it was true that the policy of moving an agricultural representative even once in 12 to 15 years kept a man poor for half a life time. However, history may yet repeat itself."

OFFICE ACCOMMODATION - EQUIPMENT

The efforts of the M.A.R.A. committee on office accommodation did not meet with immediate success but a gradual improvement did take place. A few of the offices now compare quite favourably with modern business offices in location, furnishings, and equipment. No longer do two offices share one slide projector and screen. The improved facilities are much appreciated by those men who share them. The suggestions from the M.A.R.A. membership that the agricultural offices in rural Manitoba should be a credit to the Department of Agriculture appears to have been accepted.

Not all offices are as up-to-date as they might be, but few newly appointed or established agricultural representatives face the conditions described by Bonar Gorby when he took over the Souris agricultural area upon his return from war services in 1946. His report reads:

"It seems the irony of fate that I should be asked to bring in a resolution on office accommodation in view of the fact that I have been opening up the new agricultural representative district of Souris for the last eight months and have no office myself. That I have been kicked out of no less than four places in Souris, that I have actually moved five times and that I have had my telephone moved that many times in the

same number of months, that I now find myself in a lower room of questionable sanitation in the Town Hall immediately beside the public toilets. And to top it off you ask me to bring in a resolution on the agricultural representative's office situation. It is like placing a match to dynamite."

His recommendations were that a committee of three be named to attempt to bring about improvements in the rural agricultural offices. Mr. Gorby's recommendations in part read as follows:

"And WHEREAS the success of enterprising rural field work effected by an agricultural representative in the rural areas of the municipalities in which he serves is entirely dependent upon a continual contact and permanent tie-up between all farmers, the agricultural office, himself, and his staff therein.

"THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoba Agricultural Representative Association request the Department of Agriculture to:

1. Avoid placing an agricultural representative into any new district until an agricultural representative's office has been purchased, built or specifically leased.
2. Form a committee of three personnel, including the Director of Extension Service, Manitoba Agricultural Representative Association president and Extension Service engineer, to be known as an Agricultural Building Committee, whose duty it will be to review the agricultural representative office situation in all the agricultural representative's areas, and make recommendations to the government that will:
 - (a) Raise the status of agricultural representative offices to a level equal to the accommodation supplied and used by other businesses.
 - (b) Establish, as nearly as possible, an equality in cost, location in towns, and design, among all agricultural representative offices in the province.
 - (c) Place at Director's level greater responsibility and interest in the office problem with which every agricultural representative is faced.
 - (d) Establish greater security and permanency in the accommodation required by agricultural representatives.

FILING SYSTEM

In its search for better office accommodation the M.A.R.A. became involved in setting up a suitable filing system for the guidance of those agricultural representatives who were opening new offices and the confusion of those whose offices were long established. Doug G. Stevenson undertook this chore and, after prodigious effort, came up with an outline of a filing system that was a masterpiece of detail. Unfortunately, no two offices operated along exactly the same lines and the writer doubts that the Stevenson-system was very widely adopted.

SALARIES

While adequate housing, suitable offices and furnishings, more dependable cars, Pow-Wows, and even filing systems were important to the welfare of the agricultural representative, the basic problem was recognized to be that of inadequate salaries.

Under the conditions prevailing during the early 1930's the prospective agricultural representative found himself in a weak position when it came to negotiating the question of wages or salary. The government simplified this problem for him by simply telling him what the wage schedule would be. Once the schedule was established the entire Civil Service, including the agricultural representatives, was awarded a 10 percent wage cut. By 1935 the starting salary had advanced to \$1,600 per year. There were no annual increments and few fringe benefits. During the late 1930's a two-price system for starting wages for agricultural representatives was introduced by the employer.

Agricultural representatives joining the staff in 1970 with a wage scale hammered out by years of bargaining between government and the vast and ever growing M.G.E.A. must pity the plight of earlier members, when it was a lone job seeker against a Minister or Deputy.

Frank Anderson, a 1935 graduate with varied experience, hesitated for some days in late February of 1938 when the Minister of Agriculture offered him a position with Extension at \$125.00 per month. He finally accepted, and started work at that figure on March 1st.

"Subsequent events were to prove that I should have delayed longer. The following month two agricultural representatives were hired at \$150.00 per month. The wage spiral had begun. Two years of protest on my part failed to remove the salary inequity, so I resigned and was promptly re-engaged at the desired salary.

"In 1943, after cashing my net pay cheque and paying room and board, I had \$67.00 left. Meanwhile, salaries and wages had risen significantly. My father was employing a man at this time on a yearly basis at \$60.00 per

month, so it appeared that my university degree and professional experience was worth \$7.00 a month."

The naming of a three man salaries committee was one of the first steps taken by the newly organized M.A.R.A. This committee has proven to be the most active and important of all the Association's committees. Its membership has changed over the years and eventually was joined by members of the staff of the Manitoba Department of Agriculture from the Winnipeg office, who represented the agricultural unit of the Manitoba Government Employees' Association.

The members of these two groups did not always see eye-to-eye on the question of classification differentials of the pay scale for agriculturists, but both sides came to realize that the first and most important problem was that of bringing the pay scale for all agriculturists in line with that paid professional workers in other departments of government and by industry.

The salary schedule which faced the members of M.A.R.A. at the time of organization in 1946 can best be illustrated possibly by quoting the pay schedule of at least one individual among the senior agricultural representatives of that year.

This man had served as agricultural representative for ten years and his salary in November of 1946 was \$2,520 per year. Not until after almost 16 years service did he reach the maximum salary for his classification. He retained this top rating for a period of four years, at which point he again found that he was one increment below the maximum under a new classification introduced in 1956. His protests were of no avail, and at the time of his retirement in 1965 his salary was one increment below the maximum for his classification!

Other senior agricultural representatives could probably duplicate most of this story from their own experience.

The newly appointed committee on salaries was faced with a formidable task. They found that they were ill prepared to bargain with an administration staff and government that was all too ready to say that the changes proposed would cost money and for that reason could not be implemented. Next year? Perhaps!

Various avenues of approach to government were investigated. Briefs were prepared and presented by delegations to the Director of Extension, the Minister of Agriculture, the Civil Service Commission, the Manitoba Institute of Agrologists, the Agricultural Unit of the Manitoba Government Employees Association and, finally, through the M.G.E.A. executive which had been named as the official bargaining agent for government employees by the Manitoba Cabinet.

Contact was made with officials of the Department of Agriculture in the Provinces of Ontario, Quebec, Saskatchewan, and Alberta, in a search for comparative wage schedules and job classifications.

Progress was slow, partly due to the location of committee members in widely separated locations in rural Manitoba, which fact limited the number of committee meetings and delayed committee decisions.

WAGE PARITY BETWEEN PROVINCES

The production of evidence by the committee that the wage scale of agriculturists employed by the Ontario Department of Agriculture was considerably above that prevailing in Manitoba was met by the flat statement by the government that it was not in competition with Ontario. The government was prepared to attempt to maintain parity with the Saskatchewan pay schedule which in the late 1940's and early 1950's was much the same as that of Manitoba.

Somewhat reluctantly the M.A.R.A. salaries committee came to accept this governmental approach as one of the facts of life. The committee did point out, however, that it was difficult to compare the agriculturists pay schedule in one province with that of some other province because the duties, qualifications, and responsibilities varied so widely from one to the other. In any event, the government abandoned all pretense of maintaining parity with Saskatchewan when that province introduced a higher pay schedule in 1954.

WAGE PARITY BETWEEN PROFESSIONS

This development left the committee with no alternative but to make comparisons with wages paid professional employees by industry or other departments of government. Comparison with industry did not prove very fruitful for the simple reason that investigation showed that federal and provincial governments were the major employers of agriculturists and that industry, during most of the 1950's, was content to let these governments act as bellwethers insofar as establishment of wages paid agriculturists was concerned.

The story of the salary committee's attempt to make comparisons of professional workers having similar or equal educational background, responsibilities, and duties, and employed by the Manitoba Government, is more involved and dates back to at least the time of organization of M.A.R.A. in 1946. During that year, and while the Honourable D. L. Campbell was serving as Minister of Agriculture for Manitoba, a wage schedule that established parity of salaries for senior agricultural representatives, engineers, Class III, and school inspectors, was approved by the Manitoba Cabinet.

The salaries committee chose these two professional groups for purposes of comparison since some members of both groups had homes in rural Manitoba and worked in the rural areas. The educational qualifications of members of all three groups were considered comparable. The comparison appeared to be a logical and reasonable one and was accepted as such at the level of the Deputy Minister.

ELUSIVE PARITY

The parity established in 1946 was short lived. Government's reclassification of wages for 1949 listed the maximum salary available to engineers III and school inspectors at \$240.00 per year above that of senior agricultural representatives. The principle of equal pay for equal work or qualifications was abandoned and does not appear to have been re-established. The closest approach since 1948 to a parity of wage schedule of senior agricultural representatives and school inspectors came in 1957 when the government introduced its wage schedule establishing equal pay schedule for that year. The proposed schedule was abandoned before it became effective following a claim advanced by the then Minister of Education to the effect that he could not get school inspectors for that money, since school principals in the city of Winnipeg were receiving salaries that were above those offered school inspectors under the new rate.

The M.A.R.A. found that it met with the full support of most of the Ministers of Agriculture and their deputy Ministers in its efforts to obtain a more equitable pay schedule for agriculturists. There were one or two exceptions. One Minister of Agriculture, in discussing pay schedules with members of a delegation from M.A.R.A., is reported to have made the statement that "agricultural representatives were a dime-a-dozen". This appeared to fall short of whole hearted support of the group's petition. On another occasion a delegation representing the M.A.R.A. salaries committee met with great difficulty in its attempt to meet with the Minister. Fortunately these were the exceptions.

SEARCH FOR SUPPORT

The salaries committee also approached the executive of the Manitoba Institute of Agrologists in the hope of gaining the active support of that organization in its approach to government. The M.I.A. appeared reluctant to take any action - possibly with good and sufficient reasons. One of these may have been the possibility of antagonizing the government which, only in 1950 after strong opposition from some sources but with the active support of the Honourable Len Shuttleworth, Minister of Agriculture at that time, had enacted the Manitoba Agrologists Act, granting professional standing to agricultural degree graduates.

Various arguments were advanced in the hope of gaining the active support of the M.I.A. One of these was the definite indication that the salaries being paid by the Manitoba Government to agriculturists in its employ was being used as a guide or ceiling by all other employers of graduates in agriculture. The only apparent reaction of the M.I.A. executive seems to have taken the form of strong opposition to the claim advanced by the M.A.R.A. salary briefs that agriculturalists were entitled to the same pay as school inspectors and engineer III's.

This opposition does not appear to have been overcome even

when it was found that in 1957 the University of Manitoba and the Federal Government had adopted the principle of equality of pay between different professional groups. The Federal Government's pay schedule of 1956 - 1968 listed equal pay for agriculturists and engineers. The pay scale of the University of Manitoba listed pay schedules in the Faculties of Education, Agriculture and Engineering, at equal levels.

The Manitoba Government's pay schedule in 1957 listed engineers IIIA at one increment above agriculturists IV and engineers IIIB enjoyed a margin of two annual increments. School inspectors were granted a two increment advantage, which spread was subsequently increased to six annual increments over agriculturists IV as of the year 1965.

The M.I.A. did eventually attempt to arrange a meeting with the Provincial Cabinet in order to present the views of that group on salaries being paid agriculturists but were refused a hearing. Eventually the M.I.A. settled for a presentation to the Deputy Minister of Agriculture.

The M.A.R.A. salaries committee approach to the Agricultural Unit of the Manitoba Government Employees Association met with rather hesitant initial response but eventually received complete and active support. The members of the agricultural unit, during the early years of the M.G.E.A., were of the opinion that the professional workers would get a better break bargaining individually with government than they would if they made their approach through the employees' organization. The unit devoted most of its time, and all of its energy, to the promotion of social activities. The M.A.R.A. members were shocked to learn of this attitude which was only changed when prodded by the M.A.R.A. salaries committee and faced by a declaration by government that it would recognize the M.G.E.A. as the official bargaining agent for its employees.

This is not to say that the agricultural unit did not play an effective part in the push for better salaries. A salary committee was named and at times included such active workers as Hayden Tolton, Ross Cameron, Ed Somers, J. F. Muirhead and others. These men did considerable research, and prepared a number of excellent briefs which were later submitted to the Minister of Agriculture.

For a time the Winnipeg office staff and the M.A.R.A. operated as separate bodies in preparing and presenting briefs, but soon this dual approach was abandoned in favour of one committee representing the M.G.E.A. agricultural unit and with representation from both the M.A.R.A. and the men and women who worked in the Winnipeg offices. Steps were also taken to make sure that agriculture was adequately represented on the M.G.E.A. council.

WAGE PARITY WITHIN THE PROFESSION

There was one major difference between the attitudes of the head office staff of the Department of Agriculture and members of

M.A.R.A. This difference of opinion related to the relative salaries of senior agricultural representatives and that of the specialists in certain fields of agriculture. This problem may not have been resolved to the complete satisfaction of all concerned. The M.A.R.A. position did receive the support of the Deputy Minister of Agriculture. The tension may also have been eased when it was made known that the Ontario Department of Agriculture pay schedule for 1960 listed the maximum pay of specialists at \$7,800 per annum and that of district agricultural representatives at \$8,200.

ASSISTANCE FROM M.G.E.A. EXECUTIVES

It has been pointed out earlier in this description of the M.A.R.A.'s salary committees trials and tribulations that the agriculture unit gradually shifted its approach to its M.G.E.A. membership. It was the writer's experience that the late Harry B. Hunter, Executive Secretary, M.G.E.A., was always a sympathetic supporter of the M.A.R.A. salary committee's attempt to improve the wage schedule for agriculture. He was readily approachable, a source of valuable advice or suggestions, and always helpful in providing statistics relating to pay schedules not only of Manitoba but of other provincial governments. This relationship has carried over with his successor, Mr. C. A. Wild.

Members of M.G.E.A. agricultural unit's salary committee, which eventually included representatives from the M.A.R.A., made frequent calls on the Civil Service Commission. The committee found that the Civil Service Commissioner was quite co-operative in making available information regarding wage and salary schedules, job classifications, and other related matters.

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

Meetings were arranged at which delegations representing the salary committee of the agricultural unit met with representatives of the Civil Service Commission. At these meetings the delegation members sought to learn the true basis upon which the decisions of the Civil Service Commission were determined regarding job classifications and wage schedules. The delegations clearly expressed the view of its members on the question of equality of pay among professional employees.

While these meetings never appeared to produce immediate measurable results, they did serve to clear up a number of procedural matters for the delegation members. Also they learned that all recommendations from the Civil Service Commission were subject to appeal by the Treasury Board before they could become effective.

Credit for whatever success the salary committee may have achieved should go to those members who gave very freely of their time and energy in their efforts to improve the pay schedule of agricultural representatives and home economists. The list includes:

J.E. Lafrance; W.O. Lee; D.S. Stevenson; C.S. Prodan;
H.H. Austman; E.H. Lange; Ed T. Howe; D.L. Fletcher; J.F. Muirhead;
R.E. Forbes; A.G. Arnal; Betty Collyer; W.T. Uhryniuk, Joe C. Forbes.

The list is not complete but serves to illustrate the wide-spread representation on the salary committee over the years. It does not include members of the agricultural unit from the members of the head office staff whose contributions are readily acknowledged.

Many of the professional agrologists employed by the Department of Agriculture have long expressed doubts about tying the professional workers too closely with the aims and methods employed by the M.G.E.A. which they consider to be dominated by trade-union thinking. These doubts are in a short message from Ed Somers, who had been an active member of the agriculture units' salary committee and who was agricultural representative at Roblin during the early 1950's.

"The Manitoba Government Employees Association is an organization that brings together employees of the inner service of the Manitoba Government as well as some commissions and corporations. The overall policy of the Association has been to attempt to strengthen their voice when dealing with the government on wages, salaries and working conditions.

"During the later years, members of the agriculture unit took less direct action but kept informed on general Association activities and gave support to those actions that did not conflict with professional ethics. Most of the concerns that affected the professional members of the unit were taken directly to the Department through the administrative channel. The central office of the provincial Association was kept informed. This process has been found to be most effective and good co-operation was received from the M.G.E.A. central office.

"As the provincial Association achieved a stronger bargaining position through the collective agreement of 1965, and moved closer to a union-like organization rather than an employee association, the professional staff have had to take a close look at whether their professional status did not tend to conflict with the union approach. This becomes particularly important when the demands by the provincial Association tend to conflict with what the professionals considered to be reasonable and within the ethics of the profession of agrology.

"The agriculture unit has had favourable, though not complete, success by operating within the provincial government Employees' Association. This form of organization had provided a vehicle through which agriculture employees could discuss and resolve many of their concerns and problems."

- Ed Somers

This completes the review of the work of the salary committee. A comparison of the 1970 pay schedule for agricultural representatives on a starting and maximum basis with that of 1936 when the starting wage was less than \$1,600 per year with a practical maximum of around \$2,000, would indicate that some progress has been made. To assume from this that there is no longer a need for a continuation of a salary committee would be a mistake. This possibility is posed by the fact that the minutes of the M.A.R.A. annual meeting for 1969 makes no reference to salaries or to representatives on a salary committee of the M.G.E.A.'s agricultural unit. Present pay scales may be adequate but as long as the government refuses to recognize the principle of equality of pay among professional groups of equal or similar training and job responsibilities, an injustice exists, and every effort should be directed to correcting this discrimination. There is need of a continuing representation on a salary committee that would keep abreast of current pay schedules and alert the M.A.R.A. membership of any prospective changes that were likely to prove to be to their disadvantage.

Chapter V

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

Agricultural Institute of Canada (A.I.C.)
Manitoba Institute of Agrology (M.I.A.)

Mr. W. S. Frazer, former agricultural representative, Morden area, and for a few years Assistant Director of Extension, has long taken an active interest in the work of the A.I.C. and M.I.A. We are indebted to him for a brief summary of the history and objectives of these two organizations.

Members of the Extension Service and the M.A.R.A. have always been enthusiastic supporters of their professional organizations. H. E. Wood was a charter member of the Canadian Society of Technical Agriculturalists, now the Agricultural Institute of Canada. The C.S.T.A. was organized by a group of professional agriculturalists because they believed they could contribute more to Canadian agriculture by having a national organization, which would include all university graduates engaged in agricultural education, administration, research, extension and other allied activities. The name was changed in 1945 to the A.I.A. and the constitution changed to give greater authority to the provincial councils and local branches.

A Winnipeg branch was organized in 1921 and N.C. MacKay was their third president for the year 1923 - 1924. The western Manitoba branch was organized in 1931 and the Morden branch in 1931. M.A.R.A. members have been particularly active in both the latter branches.

Following the second World War, many felt that the next step was professionalization and the organization of provincial institutes. The movement started in Saskatchewan but was soon followed up in other provinces. The first suggestion of the principle of professionalization in Manitoba was by the late D. M. McLean of the Winnipeg branch at the annual meeting of this branch in 1945. As a result, a trial Act was submitted and endorsed at the meeting of the Winnipeg branch on November 26, 1946. In 1948, our Act was refused by the Manitoba Legislature, but on April 22, 1950 under the sponsorship of Mr. C. L. Shuttleworth, the Manitoba Institute of Agrologists became law. Twenty-five members or former members of the M.A.R.A. are listed as charter members.

Mr. Wood and D. C. Foster were awarded A.I.C. Fellowships in 1953 and 1965. R. E. Forbes, E. T. Howe, H. A. Craig and W. S. Frazer have each served two-year terms as Manitoba Directors on the national council. R. E. Forbes was elected president of the Agricultural Institute of Canada in 1970.

During the early years of the M.I.A., any agricultural representatives attending the annual convention of that Association did so on their own time. Permission was later granted in 1956 for from five to ten of the M.A.R.A. members, who were located close to Winnipeg, to attend these conventions on government time and with a doubling up on the numbers of government owned cars used. Today all members of M.A.R.A. who are members of the M.I.A. are privileged to attend these conventions and to use government cars as a means of transportation to and from the convention centre.

Chapter VI

FRINGE BENEFITS

Down through the years the M.A.R.A. members, at their annual meetings, have adopted many resolutions that have been directed to the Director of Extension or the Minister of Agriculture or his Deputy Minister. Often these resolutions sought to correct alleged grievances or to suggest improvements within the Extension Service. Others asked for fringe benefits or expressed appreciation for those previously granted by the administration.

THE TRIP TO THE ROYAL



Toronto Group at Niagara Falls 1955

From left: Wallace Lee, Helgi Austman
John Forsyth, Jack Forbes

One of the first concessions resulting from resolutions from M.A.R.A. which might come under the heading of "fringe benefits" was that granted in 1948 when four of the senior agricultural representatives were authorized to attend the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto in that year. The group was provided with transportation, limited travel allowances, and granted time from November 10th to November 20th to complete the round trip visit to Toronto.

Credit for approving this program must go to Deputy Minister J. H. Evans and to Dr. J. R. Bell who was acting as assistant Deputy Minister at that time. These two men were convinced that the objectives of the Department of Agriculture would be well served by exposing these men to the annual display of the tops in Canadian agriculture.

Senior agricultural representatives J. E. Lafrance, C. S. Prodan, Joe C. Forbes and E. T. Howe made up the first group to visit the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair. Many and varied were their experiences. The Canadian Customs officers confiscated a carton of American cigarettes which Joe Lafrance was, in a mistaken interpretation of Canadian Tariff Regulations, attempting to bring into Canada at Windsor. It turned out that this particular item was on the prohibited list. Later, and on the return trip, we were subject to close scrutiny by American Immigration officials who at the time were quite concerned about the threat of communism. The birth places of the members of our small group read like the membership of the League of Nations. One was born in Gulay Sale, Zafroze, Ukraine, another listed his birthplace as Lahore, India, (now Pakistan) the driver proved to be a Canadian of French descent born in Gravelbourg, Saskatchewan. The officials never did get around to inquiring as to the birth place of the only passenger who could have listed Manitoba as his birthplace. We were cleared through in the evident belief that further inquiries only tended to complicate the situation.

The privilege of making this trip has been fully appreciated by the M.A.R.A. members and the trips are continuing on an annual basis. Shortly after they began, provision was made to include one member of the Winnipeg staff of the Department of Agriculture. The membership of each group is determined each year on a rotating basis of years of service. Several employees have enjoyed a second visit and some may be looking forward to the third time when their number comes to the top.

IN-SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAM

The administration had long realized that it was sending men, most of whom lacked any extension training or teaching experience, into rural Manitoba to undertake extension service work. An attempt to correct this situation was made by the introduction of an In-Service training program which would stress extension methods. The first of these training sessions was held during the month of August in 1957 at the University of Manitoba. Some 12 to 15 of the agricultural representatives were chosen, on the basis of years of employment, to attend. The experiment met with the general approval of those taking part and the program has become an annual event. The course is a four or five day one and is now attended by home economists as well as agricultural representatives. Expansion of the university's enrolment and of its summer show course programs made it increasingly difficult to arrange a suitable timetable for holding the In-Service training at that institution. The facilities offered by the Agricultural Extension Centre in Brandon, proved to be more readily available and these courses are now held at that location. The completion of the remodelling program at the Agricultural Centre in Brandon provides ideal facilities for this type of meeting.

The Department of Agriculture has also encouraged members of its staff to take post-graduate work along the lines of the work at which they are engaged, and leading to Master's or Doctor's

degrees. This encouragement has taken the form of a willingness to grant "leave of absence" for one year, supported originally with bursary awards that could be as much as \$500.

Some Extension Service personnel made use of this program as early as 1957. The number taking "leave of absence" under it has been increasing from year to year and the plan has extended to other branches of the Department of Agriculture and to other government services.

More recently the Civil Service Commission has drafted a set of regulations that would apply throughout government services and which would authorize partial payment of salary to those taking post-graduate work subject to the approval of the departmental employing authority and final approval by the Commission.

GROUP INSURANCE

M.G.E.A. had long sought government support for a group insurance policy that would be available to all civil servants in Manitoba. Such a policy was introduced, effective May 1, 1960, with the approval of the Honourable Gurney Evans, Provincial Secretary at that time. Coverage was based on the annual earnings of the employee and the maximum insurance provided amounted to twice the employee's yearly wage. The premium rate was listed as 34 cents per \$1,000 of insurance and this rate was to drop to 30 cents per \$1,000 coverage in the event that 75 percent of the employees signed up under the plan. Premiums would be paid by payroll deductions and the government would contribute additional premiums at a fixed rate.

The plan met with good employee response and may well be regarded as a valuable fringe benefit available to civil servants.

Members of the M.A.R.A. were concerned about the apparent lack of insurance coverage for drivers of government owned cars. The agricultural representatives were frequently called upon to carry 4-H club members and many other citizens as passengers in the cars that they operated. There appeared to be a possibility that they might find themselves personally liable for accidents causing injury or possible death to these passengers.

No clear cut statement of government policy regarding this type of driver protection appears to have been readily available. It did develop that the government was providing some protection under these circumstances.

Chapter VII

ADMINISTRATION IMPROVEMENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The M.A.R.A. also showed an interest in the timing and content of the annual conferences of the agricultural representatives and many resolutions seeking changes were adopted and brought to the attention of the Director of Extension.

These conferences were usually timed for the month of January, one of the coldest months of the year and one when most agricultural representatives were reluctant to leave their wives and families to stoke the home fires. The administration responded to this by attempting to hold these conferences in conjunction with the annual conference of the Manitoba Agronomists at the University of Manitoba. A two or three year trial of holding these two conferences did not prove satisfactory to either of the groups concerned, and the agricultural representatives conference was returned to the January date.

There were several reasons, from the administration's point of view, why January was regarded as the most satisfactory time. One of these involved the problem of finding a suitable place in which to hold the conference meetings. During the 1930's and 1940's when the conference group was relatively few in numbers the legislative building proved adequate for the purpose during the month of January when the Legislative Assembly was not usually in session. In later years, as government service expanded, and space in the Legislative Building became more difficult to reserve, the conferences were held in class rooms and auditorium at the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Manitoba.

For the last several years these conferences have been held at the International Inn, adjacent to the airport terminal. This has provided adequate accommodation for the conferences at a reasonable rate, and has overcome the problem of starting cars on cold mornings and travelling half way across the city to reach the conference centre. Now that the total number of agricultural representatives and home economists attending these conferences has reached 50 or more, the many advantages of the new location of the annual conference have become more apparent.

MANITOBA AGRONOMIST CONFERENCE

The members of the M.A.R.A. have long considered that attendance of the agricultural representatives at the annual conference of Manitoba Agronomists, held each year in December at the University of Manitoba, contributed to their usefulness in their areas. They have regarded this as their chief means of

keeping abreast with the research work being conducted by federal and university scientists in the field of agricultural production.

The administration has not always been in agreement with the agricultural representatives regarding the importance to them of attendance at these conferences and at times has discouraged them from attending. The M.A.R.A. members have pressed their point of view on this subject through resolutions directed to the Director of Extension and by delegations that met with him following each conference. These resolutions and delegations have pointed out that without this annual contact with workers in the research field, developments in the field of crop production would be in the hands of commercial organization, and even of farmers, long before the information reached the agricultural representatives in the form of the published report of annual conference of the Manitoba agronomists. These efforts have borne fruit and today the administration leaves the individual agricultural representative to decide whether or not he wishes to attend these conferences.

NEWS LETTERS AND BULLETINS - AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS

A perennial resolution arising out of the annual meetings of members of M.A.R.A. during its early years of operation, was one that directed the attention of the Director of Extension to the need for news bulletins, and the up-dating of many of those presently available, relating to agricultural production and subjects of interest to the homemaker. These resolutions also called for a newsletter that would be published on a regular schedule and help keep the agricultural representatives in closer touch with the mounting sources of information relating to agricultural production of both field crops and livestock, and the economics involved, during a period of rapid changes in agriculture.

Various reasons were advanced by the Directors of Extension and of Publications as to why immediate action was not possible. There was the usual lack of appropriations to allow for the added costs of publication, but the main cause of delay appears to have been the lack of departmental personnel, willing and capable, and having sufficient time available, to prepare bulletins and edit a newsletter.

The continued requests from the M.A.R.A. for bulletins and newsletters has brought results. Today's variety of bulletins over a wide range of subjects, and often printed in two or more colors, and the flood of news releases is a far cry from the days when the only bulletin on corn production in Manitoba bore a 1953 publication date and had not been revised or replaced by 1950!

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

There were developments also in the field of communications through the use of radio and T.V. stations. Many of these made time available to the agricultural representatives in the areas where the stations were located. For the story of these

developments in the communications field we are indebted to Vern McNair, officer in charge of information services for the Manitoba Department of Agriculture and to agricultural representative Harold Boughton of Roblin. Their reports follow:

COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION - Vern McNair

"The information service was set up as a division of the Manitoba Department of Agriculture in June 1959. The objectives of the new division included service to all mass media outlets, and supportive service to all branches of the Department.

"The first regular service initiated in the late 1950's was an agricultural press release service. In 1960, a daily radio tape service was established with eight Manitoba radio stations carrying Department programs five days a week. Some still photography was also started that year as a supplement to the press release service and also for publication use. In 1961, a motion picture camera and film editing equipment was purchased and for the first time the members of the Manitoba Department of Agriculture were able to produce their own 16mm educational films. Most of the early film productions were designed primarily for television use, as by this time regular weekly Departmental programs were established on the Brandon and Yorkton television stations.

"In 1962, Canada's first farm television short course was produced jointly by the Manitoba Department of Agriculture and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. This most successful venture was extended to the full prairie network in later years, and was carried on each year until 1969. The weekly programs on CKX-TV Brandon, and tri-weekly on CKOS-TV Yorkton, are still being continued. Other innovations in television included strictly instructional TV courses on farm accounting presented in 1965 and in 1967, and an eight to twelve week series on rural community affairs, produced and telecast in 1969 and in 1970.

"Movie production over the years has resulted in the production of two dozen sound and color feature film productions and thirty to fifty television films produced each year.

"In the formative years of the present division, three employees were involved in this work. Keith Smith, Jack Giles and Vern McNair all joined the new division in 1959 and worked together until 1967 when Jack moved to the FRED-ARDA Administration.

"Division employees in 1970 total nine, and activities have expanded to include varied productions

in radio, all phases of motion picture production, television, still photography, multi-media productions, along with the traditional press activities. An indication of activity growth is exemplified by the fact that each week more than eight hours of radio program material is now issued by the division.

"Since 1965, one of the communications specialists has been located at the University of Manitoba in a liaison communications role.

"In 1969, the Information Division's name was changed to Communications Division, to more closely conform to the whole range of audio-visual activities carried on by this division. As this division has developed over the past eleven years it has played an increasingly significant part in contributing to the overall objectives of the Manitoba Department of Agriculture.

T.V. HISTORY - Harold Boughton

"In 1961 the Manitoba Department of Agriculture approached the CBC and received their co-operation in presenting and planning a pilot TV series called "This Business of Farming". The series was filmed in Manitoba by the CBC in co-operation with the Department and was presented at Winnipeg, Brandon, and Yorkton stations from January 15th to January 19th, 1962. The daily telecast hours being 10:30 to 12:00 noon.

"The series dealt with livestock economics, livestock feeding and management, soils, crops, weed control, machinery, and farm and home planning (modernizing) the home. This series was so successful that the following year the CBC involved the three western provinces and in a few years Ontario and the eastern provinces became involved in a similar series.

"The series terminated in 1969 and the Community Affairs program series was instituted by the Manitoba Department of Agriculture in co-operation with the Regional Development Corporations throughout the province. This series commenced in 1969 and consisted of twelve one-half hour programs telecast weekly over the same television stations.



Yorkton TV - Cross Country Program
Harold Boughton - Frank Muirhead

YORKTON TELEVISION - Harold Boughton

"In the early 1960's a meeting was held at Roblin with representatives of Manitoba north-western field staff, the north-east Saskatchewan agricultural representatives field staff, and Norman Roebuck, Farm Director at CKOS-TV station, Yorkton. As a result of this meeting a TV series called "Cross Country" began in January 1961. It consisted of one fifteen-minute program weekly, handled by the field staff of the two provinces alternately.

"The Saskatchewan Department requested that the field staff withdraw from the program in 1962 and Manitoba moved into carrying the total program on a weekly basis involving the northwestern Manitoba agricultural representatives and home economics and specialist staff. The field staff continued to carry the major role, at the request of the station, with help from the specialist staff. The program name was then changed to "Focus on Agriculture", a name which is still retained.

"In 1965 the style of program changed from the 15 minute duration to three five-minute program series weekly on the same basic topic.

"The home economist staff withdrew from the "Focus" series in the fall of 1968 to run a special series in co-operation with the Saskatchewan home economics staff at the university.

"In the spring of 1969 the field staff held its planning meeting to set up a production series on various livestock and crop programs, with each enterprise receiving a monthly series. This television program has provided an opportunity for the field staff to become known to the total viewing audience of eastern Saskatchewan and northwestern Manitoba. It must be considered as one of the most effective tools of communication."

RADIO

A radio program series has been carried by various staff members of the Department for many years. One example was a Yorkton, CJGX radio program called Ag-News. Mr. Doug Sherwin, Farm Director at Yorkton, was responsible for supplying tapes and coordinating programs throughout eastern Saskatchewan and northwestern Manitoba. Following a three year run of this program, the Yorkton radio station made application to increase its power in view of the extended area of coverage by the extension field staff of the two provinces.

DISSATISFACTION WITH JOB PLACEMENTS

PROMOTIONS

Most employees hopefully believe that, following a reasonable length of service and after demonstrating competence in the work assigned to them, they will be eligible for promotion by the employing agency whenever vacancies occur, or new positions are opened within their field of competence and in the area of employment offered by the employing agency. It comes as a rude shock to them when they learn that this is not always necessarily true.

The members of the M.A.R.A. are no exception to this general attitude. There have been many times when some of them have concluded that their chances of promotion have been denied to them, and official announcement of transfers or new appointments made, before they were even aware of the possibility of such transfers or appointments.

A section of the Civil Service Act of 1960, as provided by Bill 89, assigns to the Civil Service Commission "responsibility for selecting and appointing civil servants and be responsible for their promotion, transfer and reclassification but subject to certain provisions of the Act which states that former members of the armed forces must be given preference, providing that he or she is qualified for the position".

Another section of the same Act states that "selection for appointment, promotion or transfer to a position shall be based on merit with a view to developing a civil service comprising well qualified personnel with abilities, skill, training, and experience required to advance from the level of initial employment through a reasonable career, consistent with the type of work and classes of positions pertinent thereto".

Since it seemed apparent to members of M.A.R.A. that the obvious intent of the Act, as outlined by these sections, was not always closely followed by the Civil Service Commission when making new appointments or authorizing transfer within the Department of Agriculture, they sought to determine the reasons for these failures.

In an effort to bring about a change in the method followed by the Civil Service in arranging transfers or new appointments opening up within the Department of Agriculture, the M.A.R.A. members, at their annual and semi-annual meetings, adopted a flood of resolutions that were usually phrased for the attention of the Director of Extension. There were a few similar resolutions directed to the Deputy Minister of Agriculture since it was generally believed by M.A.R.A. members that they should be eligible for appointment to vacancies occurring within other divisions of the Department of Agriculture in addition to the Extension Service, providing that they qualified by virtue of experience and training.

The resolutions asked that the Civil Service adopt a system of bulletining which would place in the hands of all eligible members of the Department of Agriculture, detailed descriptions of job offers, transfers, or other appointments within the Department, well in advance of the decision as to the personnel receiving the appointment.

In response to these resolutions and to the delegations presenting them, the administration advanced the claim that there was actually no real basis for these complaints and that consideration was given to all possible eligible personnel before transfers or other appointments were made. A further suggestion was offered that, even though there were some basis for the complaint, it was less embarrassing for the party or parties involved to read about the appointments after these had been announced officially than to have applied for the job or position and been rejected. This suggestion was later rejected in the form of a resolution once it was brought to the attention of the members of M.A.R.A.

These many delegations and resolutions have undoubtedly brought reform in the method followed in making appointments to positions within the Department of Agriculture. That there is evidence that the problem still exists to some extent is indicated by a resolution adopted by M.A.R.A. members at their 1969 semi-annual meeting and which reads as follows:

"WHEREAS the home economists of the M.A.R.A. are presently concerned regarding the recent appointments made in the home field positions,

"AND WHEREAS certain home economics positions, namely Brandon and Dauphin, were filled without adequate advertisement of positions,

"AND WHEREAS a graduate home economist was hired for the summer with the understanding that she would receive a home economics position when available,

"THEREFORE be it resolved that the Department give adequate advertising to present home economics staff when filling these positions and to fulfil other made commitments."

Chapter VIII

SPECIAL PROJECTS AND HUMAN INTEREST STORIES

Just in case the reader may have formed the opinion that members of the M.A.R.A. have concentrated all of their energies towards obtaining better pay and working conditions for themselves, the committee offers the stories which follow. These suggest that at least a portion of their time is directed to improvements in the general welfare of the people.

A report received from James Morley Bowman, one time agricultural representative at Neepawa, deserves reproduction in its entirety. Mr. Bowman was later an employee of McCabe Elevators in Alberta and is presently in charge of Manitoba Pool Elevator, Livestock Department's program of production of "Canadian Hybrid - Pigs" under controlled sanitary conditions, at its location along PTH #1 just west of Carberry. The writer believes that you will enjoy Mr. Bowman's reminiscences.

REPORT OF J.M. BOWMAN

"I was an agricultural representative for the Province of Manitoba from June 1st 1939 to July 1st 1944.

"Previously I had nine years with the Federal Department of Agriculture as a livestock inspector with a starting salary of \$1,620 and finishing up at \$1,860. I went with the Provincial Department for \$1,950, plus moving expenses, and finished up at \$2,310. In both positions promotion looked very slim. Everyone above you looked very healthy. There had been no expansion in either department for years. When changing over to the agricultural representative service I felt that if there was little in the way of promotion there would be some excitement in working out a few of my own ideas.

"While a livestock inspector I made a study of the behaviour of the four hundred odd government bulls under supervision. I also did some studying of the application of artificial breeding of cattle. When I became agricultural representative, I had in mind the development of an artificial breeding program.

"Most of the agricultural representatives in the country at that time were first-timers in their respective territories. Because no one knew what program would go over, N. C. MacKay gave us a very free hand. The people were inclined to sit on the fence and watch the new man show his talents. I started out with a machinery field day. Then had a couple of field crop field days. Going

to a few fairs and taking some of the new-found prospective key-men widened my circle of acquaintances.

"In the year 1939 the farmers were beginning to emerge from the depression. I organized a youth training school. There were boys from twenty to twenty-five years of age who had never been away from home and who wondered if they would ever have money enough to leave home. To supervise such a group for six weeks and to build a picture of better agriculture, was the most challenging and satisfying job I did while repping. The school was run for two years.

"After playing around with the technique of artificial insemination for six months I felt I had a program in mind, so worked with the local agricultural society to form an organization. We approached the Horned Cattle Fund for a grant and were allowed \$2.00 per head for each cow that was bred. We charged \$3.00 and gave each cow up to three services if necessary. The work was carried on from the representative office.

"I attended to all the details for the first six months. I then hired a chap with a masters degree in animal breeding. He was unable to withstand the criticisms that arose in the development of such a new program, and almost wrecked the scheme before it got properly started. When he left I took over again and carried on for two months until we were getting cows settled, and I was able to train one of the boys that I had at youth training in the technique. By giving close supervision, we got along quite well. As time went on I trained a second man and the club worked up to serving a thousand cows per year. While artificial insemination was being practised in several areas we were credited with forming the first association. We got a little publicity when we sired a jersey calf with sperm shipped by air from Toronto. We also got a knock when a calf was born with three legs. The work was not too well appreciated by the breeders, — they felt that the sale of bulls would be limited. It worked out that it increased the interest and Neepawa became well represented in the bull sales.

"Farmers could not differentiate between my ability to examine the vagina of a cow and any other part of her anatomy. So with no veterinarian in the district I was the best available. During one year I averaged twenty-five phone calls per day at my house before and after working hours. Saturday night everyone came to town so the office was open afternoon and evening. While the work was a great challenge I didn't feel that I had the stamina to maintain the image that I had created.

"Outside of 4-H clubs, fat stock show and routine

efforts, one other program stands out in my mind — 'Bacon for Britain'. There was great pressure put on the farmers to treble their hog production. Farmers who had kept two or three sows and fed them what mother nature offered out doors, and a bit of swill from the kitchen, perhaps had never experienced problems, but when they had a dozen sows that had to be kept inside, the problem multiplied faster than the pigs. This became the starting point of an attempt to feed balanced rations. We had outbreaks of mange, erysipelis, worms and mastitis. I was nearly run ragged. Just about the time we thought we had the program going it was discovered that Britain had more pork than she knew what to do with. The price dropped about ten cents and everyone was mad, and a few who had called on the service of the agricultural representative used it as a means of proving that we really didn't know our business.

"After close to five years of service, I was feeling the burden of long hours and not too much thanks, — I accepted a job in the commercial world where I thought I would get paid for overtime and get a promotion if I worked well. This all proves that far away pastures look green. I still look back on many incidents with fond memories. It was probably the most exciting five years of my life — the years spent as an agricultural representative."

JOE LAFRANCE — A PIONEER IN DAIRY A.I.

To complete the story regarding the introduction of artificial breeding of cattle in Manitoba the experiences of Joe E. Lafrance, former agricultural representative at St. Pierre, are added to those of J. M. Bowman.

"Artificial insemination was organized at St. Pierre in spite of failures at Neepawa, Regina and Edmonton. Only sheer determination had permitted the surmounting of the problems of technology, equipment and the opposition to this innovation.

"The first stud was organized in the summer of 1946 with a Raymondale bull supplied by the Federal government. Three other bulls were bought by the province in 1947 and two more from the federal in 1949.

"Later on the Rat River Breeding Co-op Ltd. agreed to provide liquid semen to Steinbach, Winkler, Stonewall and St. Claude Associations. With the multiplicity of organizations the bull stud was abandoned in the mid-fifties and all units changed to frozen semen from Guelph or from American Breeders at Madison, Wisconsin."

ARNAL AND THE FIRST FEEDER CATTLE SALE

The experiences of agricultural representatives in promoting and experiencing the organization of feeder cattle sale in their areas is sure to be of interest.

A. G. Arnal, agricultural representative at Ste. Rose du Lac, relates the story of the development of the feeder cattle sale in his area.

"The Ste. Rose and District Cattlemen Association was organized in the spring of 1957, following a series of meetings held in the area to check on interest and potential contributors. The organization was started following dissatisfaction with shrink at central yards and loss of control over marketing.

"The only finances available at the outset was \$500 borrowed from the Ste. Rose Agricultural Society and a grant of \$1,000 from the Horned Cattle Fund for the purchase and installation of a scale.

"After a trip to Consul, Saskatchewan to check sale operation, poplar rails were purchased and groups of volunteers cut these and hauled them from Laurier. Apart from drinking the Laurier hotel dry, the workers cut and got all the rails home in one day. A few horses used for skidding were played out during the day. Throughout the summer, work was carried on by volunteers and slowly the yards took shape, starting with rails with bark completely removed, to no bark removed when it came to the end of construction. The plank used for gates was standing bush three weeks before sale opening and this was all cut and sawed by people in the Reykjavik area. Final work was completed the day before cattle were due to be taken in.

"The first sale was due for October 2nd with cattle scheduled to start coming in on Monday September 30th. That morning, a group of eager beavers were there at 7:00 a.m. but alas, no cattle came. A deck of cards passed the day and only later on did a few trucks come in. The next day was fully occupied and by the time sale time rolled around, there were 989 cattle entered from 90 contributors. Sale day was a beautiful day and people started arriving around 10:00 a.m. The bleachers were overfilled and spectators roosted on the rails like sparrows.

"In anticipation of Ontario and American buyers, only half cars and carloads of cattle were sorted out. The sale was only fairly successful until a lot of four "dogs" brought in last in the sale sold for about four cents above market. Then our error was realized and smaller lots were offered at the next sale.

"The second sale on October 26th had 810 cattle.

"Two sales were held, except in 1959 when three were scheduled, but only two held due to severe snowstorms on October 7th. There were 1,218 cattle on this day and by the end of the sale there were six feet of snow in the north pens. Cattle were loaded and cars and trucks went a few miles only to stall until roads were cleared. There were three Iowa farmers at this sale and each of them purchased a carload of cattle. As the cattle could not be left in the yards, they were trucked out to three respective farms and housed there. They were manhandled for testing as there were no facilities and were loaded eight days after purchase. Cattlemen worked till about 2:00 a.m. to get these cattle out. The purchasers expressed appreciation with beautiful gifts at Christmas.

"In 1963, a bull sale was initiated in the fall.

"The Ste. Rose and District Cattlemen Association operated for three years without even a Charter. Its luck in escaping trouble has been legendary. From a modest beginning of \$200,000 in sales, business transacted last year amounted to \$963,000. All this came about due to the willingness and co-operation of the ranchers in the area.

"While the payroll now runs around \$8,000, many toiled for years without pay. Today, while still financially poor, the Association has new all-around yards, a covered sale ring with lunch and toilet facilities, and is looking forward to covered pens and sale expansion to handle 2,000 cattle per sale.

Many anecdotes could be related but this would take too much time and most happenings have only local flavour."

THE PIPESTONE SALE - FILTEAU AND WINSTONE

The southwest Manitoba Feeder Cattle Association also met with some problems as told in the words of R. R. Filteau, agricultural representative and mayor of Melita. The problems were solved and the feeder cattle sale at Pipestone has continued as a successful annual event in that area.

"The Southwest Manitoba Feeder Cattle Association was active in the fall of 1957. Sales started the fall of that year with a good deal of skepticism from the stockmen of southwestern Manitoba. As a result, stockmen generally brought in a few nondescript cattle (nuts and screws as Gus Arnal called them) to beat prices on the new market. The market soon proved its worth, and interest and cattle numbers for sale increased. The

Association handled over 7,500 head in 1967.

"October 6th, 1959, is a date not to be forgotten in the history of the Association. That year we were blessed with 27 inches of snow in a four day blizzard which cancelled the proposed sale and sent 900 head of cattle by rail to Winnipeg. Unprepared, the agricultural representatives and directors arrived home nine days later to finally get a change of underwear, socks etc. Even the management of the Marion Hotel in Winnipeg questioned (from the appearance of the group) the ability of this crew of vagrants to pay for rooms.

"Another highlight of the sales were rubber cheques issued by two American buyers in the amount of \$65,000. This resulted in Bob Winstone, Frank Patmore and yours truly bearing today's ulcers. This money was finally recovered by chartered aircraft, lawyers, and bluffs performed by R. E. Forbes, Bob Winstone and Frank Patmore in Pierre, South Dakota."

The timely arrival of a note from R. W. Winstone - who was appointed as agricultural representative for the Virden area in 1956 permits the inclusion, in this record, of a more complete story of the organization of the feeder cattle sales in the Pipestone area. Mr. Winstone's report reads:

PIPESTONE SALE - R. W. WINSTONE

"The original idea was born at a small poorly attended meeting, which I attended, at the Pipestone school house. At the end of the meeting discussion focussed around what might be done to help keep the community alive. It is a natural livestock area and discussion soon centred around the industry. There were a number of ideas put forward, one of which was the idea of a local feeder cattle sale. A group agreed to accompany me to Ste. Rose to view their yards and to interview their board.

"Subsequently, a number of small meetings involving Dick Filteau, myself and the original group of six or eight lead to a well advertised public meeting to discuss the organization of a sale and to attempt to sell redeemable shares to raise the required money. The meeting involved three agricultural representative areas, - Melita, Virden and Souris, and proved very successful. Sufficient money was raised that night (\$100.00 redeemable shares) to initiate a sale. A chairman and board were set up involving people from the various regions surrounding Pipestone. The yards were built by volunteer labour and although there have been minor changes, the original yards stand today and are still in good condition.

"This sale, in my opinion, did and still does a great deal to keep Pipestone as a viable community. The shares have all been redeemed long ago and the operation belongs to the community. The actual building of the yards helped to build a strong community spirit and this feeling has, I believe, remained strong through the years. It has worked as an excellent educational tool to extension workers and undoubtedly encouraged (I know this for a fact) the establishment of Virden Auction Mart and Moosomin Auction. Three agricultural representative offices worked together on this project and local board members still give much of the credit for the success to the work of those offices.

"All advertising and buyer contact in the early years was handled through the Virden agricultural representative office and there was a lot of support received from extension people in Manitoba. For the record, I must say that when the chips were down and we had almost \$70,000 in N.S.F. American cheques, D.C. Foster authorized me to work with Reg Forbes and to hire a private plane and fly to South Dakota at government expense. This was a key move in saving the whole project and is a credit to Mr. Foster, J. R. Bell and Frank Muirhead who supported the action."

Chapter IX

EMERGENCY ACTION PROGRAMS

Agricultural representatives are frequently pressed into extra effort during emergency situations which sometimes develop in rural Manitoba. One such emergency is described by Reg E. Forbes agricultural representative for the Brandon area at the time.

The 1959 - 1960 search and rescue effort might well be listed as the first of the "operation lift" program undertaken by government. As a result of this operation the agricultural representatives involved were only out the sum of \$300. Looking back, Reg suggests that it could have been worse! His report of the deep snow in southwestern Manitoba in 1959 will revive many memories.

"The fall of 1959 and winter of 1959 - 1960 was a nightmare for the agricultural representatives of southwestern Manitoba because of an early October snowstorm. The snow started on Wednesday, October 7th and by the evening of the 8th there was twenty-nine inches on the ground at Brandon. A large percentage of the crop was still in the field but the real concern was for the cattle on pasture. I was requested on the 9th (which was a clear, cold day) by the Deputy Minister to assess the situation, so within a couple of hours was able to get the services of a helicopter from Rivers Armed Forces Base, A.F.B. Doug McCausland (beef cattle specialist) and I took off at 11:00 a.m. and wandered around the cattle country along the Assiniboine west, McAuley, Elkhorn, and dropped in to see how Bob Winstone and Dick Filteau were faring at the Pipestone Auction Mart where they had the job of looking after 1,200 head of feeder steers which had been gathered for a sale. Actually, the cattle we observed seemed to be faring quite well. However, on Saturday, October 10th a real blizzard blew in and dumped another ten inches of snow along with winds up to fifty miles per hour.

"By Sunday morning everything was blocked tight and the colder weather caused increased concern on behalf of the cattlemen. The phone rang steady with ideas of how to look after livestock and inquiries about what was to be done. Merv McKay and Doug McCausland struggled to the office to take calls while I was picked up at my front door by helicopter for further survey of the area. The old Sikorsky had trouble with the depth of the snow. They were a top heavy machine and failure to "pack" wheel pads before setting right down could result in an upset. We picked up a dozer operator at Rivers to ferry him to a cat south of Shilo before starting our cattle survey. Things had changed drastically since two days previous and instead of cattle attempting to graze through snow in open

areas they were bunched together, usually in fence corners. One group was crowded together right in the middle of a quarter section of open land and looked pretty gaunt, so we went about a mile over to a stack of baled hay where I climbed out and pushed in three bales while the pilot hovered, but that was all we could get in. It was like trying to thread a needle on horse-back, but we made it. These few bales were dropped to the small herd, however we didn't consider it a very efficient operation. As a matter of fact, the cost of the helicopter on a rental rate was \$250 per hour so at that rate the hay cost more per pound than the best steak in town. All day was spent looking things over and ferrying contractors to the "cats" and other machine operators to anything which could move snow. Cattle losses were extremely small and a good lesson was learned.

"Thanksgiving Day and the following week were spent hunting cattle with the use of an L 19 aircraft from Shilo and there was much expression of grateful appreciation by farmers. Then the work started. Hundreds of tons of straw and hay were brought into the southwest from Roblin, Dauphin, Ste. Rose and other areas where the snowfall was light. However, farmers in the north would not let the feed go until they were paid and farmers in the south would not pay until they received the feed. The operations were financed by the agricultural representatives and at least one is still, nine years later, out over \$300 on the operation.

"Some of the rough hay and straw arrived loaded with snow and very wet; some was real good. The good stuff brought thanks and the poor brought a threat of court action against me for "misrepresentation". I don't know how many others faced the same reactions.

"Oh well, it could have been a lot worse."

THE INFAMOUS WINTER OF 1949 - 1950

Deep snow posed a **problem**, especially to wildlife such as the deer population, during the winter of 1949 - 1950 as described by D. S. Stevenson who was serving as agricultural representative in the Souris area at that time. The conditions which he described were common throughout southwestern Manitoba.

"This is one winter in my lifetime that I even hate to reflect on. It really started out bad in August 1949 with high temperatures exceeding 100°F for the last week in August. This coincided with a severe outbreak of polio in Manitoba and was followed by an early freeze-up and what appeared to be one of the worst pre-Christmas seasons seen for many years. We had received three feet of snow by January 1st.

Few people thought it could get any worse, but during Christmas week it really got down to business and temperatures never went above 0°F till February. We had one week of beautiful calm weather then the cold set in again and did a repeat until the end of March. Roads that had always been travelled by team and sleigh in winter were abandoned. The bush country north of Plum Creek had snow drifts piled like no one could remember.

"Wildlife took a beating in this area. The Souris Game and Fish Association made a real contribution in helping the wildlife, especially the deer, to survive in reduced numbers. Farmers also helped inasmuch as stacks of feed were being eaten by deer, mainly because the farmers were unable to get at them to supervise the attacks on them by deer. Feeding stations were set out where they could be reached. Local grain companies donated some grain, but this was not as effective as hay. Deer life was unaccustomed to eating grain from troughs, they were more readily attracted by piles of hay.

"There is no doubt that many animals perished, probably more than were found, but the effort was worthwhile."

EMERGENCIES OF VARIOUS KINDS

While too much snow falling during a short period can bring on an emergency situation on Manitoba farms, too little moisture in the form of rain over a long or even a short period can create equally serious problems. Such an emergency arose during the winter of 1958 and 1959 following widespread drought over much of Manitoba during the 1958 growing season.

For a description of some of the problems of that summer, and the winter which followed, and of the efforts made by some of the agricultural representatives to help relieve conditions, we are indebted to agricultural representative Dave Hill of Dauphin area; Harold Boughton, Roblin; John Forsyth, Souris; and the late A. W. (Bert) Hamilton, of Swan River area and more recently of Holland.

Some of these men were involved in locating surplus supplies of fodder in their areas and arranging shipment to the short supply areas. Others were involved in the distribution of feed and seed grain and of fodder and bedding supplies shipped into their district.

SWAN RIVER

This series of adventures begins in the typical words of the late A. W. Hamilton, who was serving as agricultural representative in the Swan River area during those years. He gives a vivid picture of some of his experiences.

"As I recall, there was a scare concerning the

shortage of feed for cattle in the southern part of Manitoba during the fall of 1958. We, in the Swan River Valley, had a surplus of hay and, for this reason, some staff from the Winnipeg office made an arrangement that we should stockpile 200 tons. This was done and I can't remember the exact price, but it was approximately \$15 a ton plus hauling charges. The hay was stored in the yard that belonged to the Department of Highways. As the winter progressed to spring we were able to sell about 75 or 85 tons of the stack concerned and the remainder was left in storage all summer. The people who purchased hay were none too careful as to how they left the stack and as I recall, some of the other agricultural representatives who were in the Valley at that time, and I, spent a couple of weekends trying to re-stack some of the hay so that it would be better prepared to stand the summer weather.

"The next fall there was a very early snow and the Winnipeg office advised me to advertise our hay immediately in some of the farm papers. This was done and immediately we in Swan River, as well as other agricultural representatives, were in the hay business. As the interest was extremely keen and we started to handle money, I opened an account at the bank for this purpose alone. By spring we had handled approximately \$27,000 worth of hay.

"This business presented its own problems. Gib Sigurdson was working in Swan River at this time and it wasn't unusual for Gib to spend part of his weekends and once in a while go out and help a trucker load hay after 5 o'clock in the evening. We tried to provide loaders when we were requested to do so. Sometimes this temporary type of help was hard to come by. This experience was an eye opener to both Gib and I because we found that the human animal looks after its own needs first.

"In one particular case a farmer reported some hay that he stated was of really good quality and had a trace of straw in it. He wanted \$20 a ton and at this particular stage, most of the hay was selling at \$18, consequently, there was no deal made. A month later, however, an implement agent in town, phoned me that he had taken the hay concerned on a debt and he would be glad to load it on a car for \$18 per ton. As we were extremely busy and had a standing order at the railway for cars, I was able to advise him that he could start loading this feed the next day, and after making a farm call with Gib in the morning, I came into town and dropped off at the rail yard to see how loading of these particular cars was going. I found that this hay was straw with a few plants of alfalfa in it, because the alfalfa had been sown as a companion crop that spring. I immediately went to my office and phoned the Portage farmer who had an order in for good straw. His order was for \$12 per ton and I was able to complete the deal for \$14 per ton, losing the difference between \$14 and \$18 per ton.

"On another occasion, an agricultural representative from Saskatchewan forwarded me an order for 14 cars of hay. On receiving the order I immediately phoned the party concerned and advised him that I thought the farmers should come down and see what they were purchasing but I was told that everybody was much too busy to do that and they were quite confident that my judgment would be good and that they would pay for half the hay when the cars were loaded and the other half when it arrived at its destination. This deal was followed through and upon completion, the agricultural representative sent me payment for 13½ cars of hay plus a long letter of explanation, stating that some of the bales had been broken in the process of unloading, there had been a bit of loose hay in the car and it had been very difficult to supervise the distribution of the hay and he could not rightfully charge farmers for the broken bales, the loose hay and what was lost in distribution, consequently, he hoped that I would be completely satisfied with the money he had sent me. This was again, a loss, and there was very little one could do about it. I enquired, over a cup of coffee, about legal procedures but was told that the cost would probably be greater than the loss that already existed and was advised as to how to make out future orders.

"There were other things that happened during the winter months, some of them extremely pleasant relationships with farmers, councillors, agricultural representatives and others in the hay business, and in spite of the fact that we had three or four unhappy experiences, we were able to handle a goodly amount of hay and straw and provide a service to the farmers throughout Manitoba and Saskatchewan that was badly needed at that time."

THE PAS

"Concerning The Pas hay program, Harold, I believe you were more closely connected with this than I. I do remember, however, the trips we made to The Pas and the trips by boat that were arranged by the Games Branch and Eric Batchelar.

"I remember that the municipalities accepted the responsibility of sending hired farmers in to cut hay in a certain area and that these people sometimes crossed the allotted boundaries to try to procure some better stands and consequently make more money from the operation in question, and that Eric Batchelar straightened these opportunists out in a pretty quick and able manner. I remember that you were instrumental in obtaining a bridge across the Carrot River so the hay could be brought out from the Saskeram area and I remember that during the winter months there was a real problem in transporting this hay back to the municipalities that had obtained it. In the Swan River area, Roy Alford was responsible for

approximately 75 percent of this transportation. He purchased two, and at one time, I think had three trucks on the road. He had his problems with running these into three and four feet of snow in the ditches by inexperienced drivers, and in some cases, by drivers that had not had sufficient rest the night before. If you remember Roy, he was a big man, and had more stamina than anyone else on the job. He could lay down almost anywhere and catch three or four hours sleep, get up and go again, but by the time spring came, he was certainly tired and almost completely beat.

"There was one experience I had during this project that I will always remember. This was the time that I was asked by people from the Winnipeg office to go up and inspect some hay in the Cormoranth district. As you know, Cormoranth is 75 miles or so northeast of The Pas. I drove to The Pas and set off about 8:30 in the morning by rail for Cormoranth. We bounced along over muskeg and rock as the north train does and arrived at my destination about noon. I had been told who to contact upon arrival, and some previous arrangements had been made with this chap to take me to the site of some hay meadows. We packed a lunch and started out by boat. My guide was quite accustomed to boating and the first thing that happened was that he picked up speed, rolled the boat over on its side, and passed through a bridge that was about six feet wide and eight feet high. At that time, I wasn't too sure that this was going to be a very enjoyable trip, however, after a mile or so the river narrowed down and the speed of the boat was cut in half and we started to look for the mouth of a creek.

"Eventually the guide found the creek in question and we travelled four or five miles inland. This creek was only about four feet deep, probably ten feet wide and less at the narrow points, the water was quite clear and teeming with fish. I am sure I saw more fish that day than at any other time in my five years of extension work in Swan River. At the end of the road there were some heavy and fairly large hay meadows. The problem to me, was getting the hay to the cattle after it had been cured. The guide had some weird ideas about cutting and curing the crop and to him, a hundred ton of hay was quite a large amount. When I asked him about transportation, however, his solution and the only one I could see that might be feasible, was by cats over the frozen ground and ice in the winter and then loading it on cars at the railhead and bringing it to The Pas, where it would change trains and continue on to its destination. This seemed to me to be a pretty expensive way to obtain hay. Upon returning to The Pas, I found that the municipalities concerned could probably obtain the quantities required without all the problems of transporting equipment in and transporting hay out of the Cormoranth area."

PASQUIA HAY PROJECT

Harold M. Boughton was also involved along with the late W. A. Hamilton in the search for fodder supplies in The Pas area. He completes the story regarding bridge building to which Bert Hamilton has made reference. Harold modestly states - "the experiences and episodes of the Pasquia hay project would fill a small book, so we will give a brief statement of the development and results".

"The Lands Branch notified the agricultural representatives at Roblin and Swan River on June 30th, 1961 to the effect that the hay meadows of the Pasquia area were available to their farmers for hay cutting privileges. In view of the fact that there was little or no hay in these municipalities the information was extremely welcome. It was estimated that some 10,000 acres of hay was available, this included crown lands in the Pasquia development project in the area north of the Carrot River and south and west of the Saskatchewan River known as the Saskeram.

"The agricultural representatives in the areas concerned brought the reeves of the municipalities together for several planning meetings which resulted in the organization of over 100 tractors and operators and 50 additional men to help harvest the hay crop. Mr. Tom Cockerill representing Roblin and Gilbert Sigurdson representing Swan River went by boat and on foot into the area to estimate the amount of hay that there was to be found. The first estimate in early July was that we would be lucky to get one ton per acre. By the end of July to mid August the picture had changed and we were then harvesting as high as four tons per acre.

"The project caused a real change in the livelihood of the workers, a hay bale became a house and the camp mechanic became cook and each became his own housekeeper. I remember so well seeing Stan Jackson of Inglis peeling nice white potatoes with his grease black hands. The cooks were also good fishermen and stopped work at 10:00 a.m. to fish for meat for lunch. So far as we know no one ever turned down a meal regardless of condition.

"Early in spring of 1961 the Federal Minister of Agriculture and the army engineers met with the Provincial Cabinet and reported on their survey on adequate crossings to service the hay meadows. They stated that it was financially out of the question. A special meeting was called by myself at 10:00 p.m. one evening in July when I had finally rounded up the reeves of the four municipalities in the agricultural representative area. Mr. Joe Perchaluk, project supervisor, pointed out the need for a larger raft to float the equipment across the river as the government barge was only available on rare occasions. The municipal

committee granted the finances for 30,000 feet of lumber to build a bridge. Construction time for this 110 foot long bridge was from Monday 5 a.m. to completion time 12:00 noon Tuesday (1½ days) by ten men. A bed of dry hydro poles was laid down and planks were spiked to these poles at a 180 degree angle. Depth of water - twelve feet. This bridge served as a river crossing throughout the emergency haying program and remained intact from early July till October. It replaced a small raft of twelve feet by sixteen feet which had been used previously.

"The Pasquia area contributed 16,000 tons of hay to the project. Over 200 men and over 100 tractors made hay for the municipalities. The municipalities of Shell River, Hillsburg and Boulton transported their hay by truck while Shellmouth transported their share by rail, which involved 260 car loads.

"The cost per ton of hay available to any farmer in the two agricultural representative areas was \$12.50 in the Pasquia meadow or \$17.50 delivered to the farm with the aid of federal-provincial hay moving assistance policy. The end of 1961 saw a new era of co-operation between municipal personnel and the Manitoba Department of Agriculture."

SOURIS

Agricultural representative John Forsyth of Souris was on the receiving end of emergency fodder supplies and he tells the story of those difficult years from a somewhat different point of view. For him the real emergency came with the heavy rain and snowfall late in 1959. He reports that -

"The year 1958 was a dry summer and assistance was provided that fall in moving hay. This met the situation but used up all feed reserves.

"On October 6, 1959 rain fell. It turned to snow and continued for three days when it lay two to three feet deep in southwestern Manitoba. When cattle were finally brought home, farmers were faced with an extra month of feeding from limited supplies.

"Percy Ford, Assistant Director of Soils and Crops, administered a Federal-Provincial policy providing assistance of five cents per ton mile on trucking of hay and straw up to \$8.00, or free freight by rail.

"Agricultural representatives in eastern and northern Manitoba searched out hay and straw; agricultural representatives in the southwest placed orders and toured car loads of farmers to check needed supplies. Percy Ford said the extension staff knew of every hay stack in Manitoba.

"At Roblin I was hunting down straw with Harold Boughton. We enquired of a farmer the direction to a straw pile advertised on a certain section, township and range by another farmer. "Why, that so and so" said the man "that straw is on my land". I recall a bright spot of another kind. Locating 100 tons of hay on a farm east of Winnipeg, I phoned the farmer offering to send him my own cheque for \$100.00 to bind the purchase. "I don't know you" said the farmer, a prominent dairy man, "but since you are the agricultural representative your word is all I need". That incident compensated for a lot of trouble and frustration.

"With the assistance of other agricultural representatives I located over 1,000 tons of hay and straw for farmers in my area, perhaps one-fifth of the provincial total. Straw varied from \$10.00 to \$17.00 per ton, hay \$12.00 to \$20.00 per ton according to quality. Oats were available at 50 cents per bushel, barley at 75 cents.

"It was a winter of considerable work and worry, with success made possible by the tremendous concern and co-operation which existed among the staff, a legacy from which we continue to benefit."

DAUPHIN

Dave Hill, agricultural representative, Dauphin, became involved in the emergency fodder program mainly as a source of supply. He appears to have made a very small profit on the operation in contrast to the experiences of some of the others involved. Again we quote the author in full, along with a few of his observations of a general nature.

"1. Winter 1959 - 1960 supervised and handled all the money for the movement of 2,654 tons of fodder out of the area to southern Manitoba. Most of it by C.N.R.

"Brandon farmers hired a man to buy and arrange shipments. He ended up buying for all areas at a set fee per ton. Everything was bought and sold by the ton - not by the bale. This kept disagreements to a minimum. The odd railway car got lost - found one in B.C. Of the hundreds of farmers dealt with, only one didn't completely pay up. I collected \$1.00 per ton miscellaneous charges which kept me out of financial difficulty some of the agricultural representatives got into. The bank balance was enough to purchase one bottle of refreshment for my efforts. Not bad for an approximately \$45,000 handled.

"From 1961 - 1965: helped locate hundreds of tons of hay to be trucked into the area.

"Fall of 1961 supervised the filling of approximately 50 dugouts.

"2. Office callers of the 1950's were welfare clientele. Purebred sire policy; boar policy; ram policy etc. Very small percentage of farmers seek out production and farm management information. Hard sell on 4-H and very little leader training. Very little area development on formal basis.

"The 1960's clientele want production, farm management and area development information. Steady increase in number of farmers seeking advice on complete cropping program and economics of same. Farmers are becoming more specialized and more aware of the importance of the latest technical and farm management information. Manitoba results readily available in 1960's, practically none in the 1950's. The "Hard Sell" of the 1950's has been replaced by presenting Manitoba and local facts, figures and pro and con results.

"The farmer must now decide on what extension information he incorporates into his farm program.

"I look forward to the time when there will be more emphasis on training adults, 4-H leaders, junior leaders and 4-H officers. Organized area and community development is taking up, and will continue to take up, more time, especially in larger rural centres."

EMERGENCY PROGRAMS - SAWDUST

Not only was there a fodder shortage following in 1958 and again in 1961 but a shortage of bedding material as well. Harold Boughton outlines the extent which shavings from the planing mills helped relieve this problem.

"In 1958 farmers were very short of feed and bedding for livestock, and again in 1961 the situation was grossly aggravated. In both these years the planing mills at Roblin and Riding Mountain made shavings available to farmers for bedding. Twenty-nine semi-trailor loads were hauled by Mr. A. Abraham from Roblin to southern Manitoba. Farmers came from many districts for shavings at a cost of \$5.00 per load for loading charges, and went away with from three to nine ton of bedding material per truck load. One feed lot at Moosomin and Neil Brothers of Saltcoats were the most continual purchasers."

SEED GRAIN

In these days of surplus grain supplies it is difficult to believe that some Manitoba farmers lacked suitable supplies of seed grain as recently as 1962. That this was true is shown by Harold Boughton's brief report of the 1962 Seed Grain Assistance Program.

"In the spring of 1962 following the very severe drought of the previous summer, many crop producers found themselves short of seed grain. The Federal and Provincial Governments gave freight assistance to areas in need of supply. Agricultural representatives throughout the province cooperated with the rural municipalities and grain companies in organizing the program. The rural municipality of Shell River brought two carloads of Rodney oats and one carload of Garry oats to Roblin, through the assistance of the National Grain Company Limited. The cost of the grain to the farmers was \$1.19 per bushel off the car. The three carloads constituted approximately 7,000 bushels of seed secured from western Alberta. Many other centres across Manitoba carried out the same program."

Chapter X

PROVINCIAL PLOWING MATCHES

(Contributed by Joe C. Forbes)



Plowing Match - Portage la Prairie, 1919

There was once a time, long ago, when farmers found themselves with ten days to two weeks spare time on their hands between seeding time and haying, when they were free to plow their fallow land, mow and make hay out of the growth surrounding their standing fields of grain, tidy up the farmstead and fences and even attend a few baseball games, school picnics, and such other wasteful activities.

"Among these other activities, in many districts of Manitoba, the annual plowing match was the highlight of the year. Competitors came from near and far, walking plows were in vogue, horse gang plows were doubling the rate of plowing, and most everyone had a good time, prohibition or no.

"Every spectator was an expert judge. The winner proved to be the man who plowed the straightest furrow, threw up the most shapely crown and cut and covered all weeds in the process, never paired his furrows, made a clean shallow dead-furrow, left the entire plot firm and compact, and in the process consumed the most fluids.

"Plowing matches were held in Manitoba as early as the year 1900. Eventually, plans were made to hold provincial championship matches which were held at different centres each year. This system proved unworkable and early in the 1930's a decision was made to hold these championships each year and under the sponsorship of the Portage la Prairie Plowing Match Association in cooperation with the Manitoba Department of Agriculture. Similar provincial championship matches were held in other Canadian provinces, notably the Ontario plowing match.

"Early in the 1950's the various provincial organizations decided to hold a Canadian championship match, and Manitoba's top plowmen joined in these competitions and took the Canadian championship on at least three occasions. These men have gone on to participate in World competitions but have not yet succeeded in taking that title.

"Inevitably, and until very recent years, the Portage la Prairie agricultural representative fell heir to the job of secretary-treasurer of the Portage association. Over the years this list of agricultural representatives has included Dr. J. R. Bell, Gordon Minielly, Lorne H. Carter, Chas. E. Goode, Ray DePape and Joe Forbes.

"Since the dawn of civilization man has attempted to plow the land. At first the plows amounted to little more than crooked sticks which were drawn through the fields by men and women. Later these wooden plows were tipped with metal and animal power replaced human source. Finally the steel plow was invented, horses replaced the oxen, tractors replaced the horses and the plowing art neared perfection.

"Times change and certainly farming methods have undergone rapid changes since the end of World War II. Soils specialists with the Department of Agriculture began to question the value of plowing and to look to Saskatchewan where surface tillage had become a-way-of-life. Soon the lines were drawn within the Department of Agriculture. Ranged on the side favouring surface tillage were all members of the Soils and Crops Branch, most of the agricultural representatives and a few bystanders. On the other side about all that could be found was the secretary of the Portage la Prairie

Plowing Match Association, the Director of Extension, some of the Deputy Ministers and a few of the agricultural engineers. The plowmen were doomed from the start and since 1965 the Portage agricultural representatives have been free of the secretary's job.

The arguments pro-and-con regarding surface tillage ran much as follows:

PROPONENTS: SURFACE TILLAGE

1. Would bring an end to soil drifting.
2. Trash would catch and hold winter snow and slow run-off.
3. Speed tillage operations.
4. Reduce tillage costs.
5. Maintain or restore organic matter.
6. Wild oats kept near surface where they can eventually be controlled.

Sceptics: Who questioned some of these claims:

1. Summer-fallow sweetclover and pea fields, rather than fall-plowed stubble land, is responsible for soil drifting.
2. Trash cover delayed seeding beyond reasonable limits because soil was slow in drying and warming in the early spring.
3. Difficulties in preparing a proper seedbed.
4. Introduction of trash cover before adequate equipment to seed through the heavy trash cover often encountered under Manitoba conditions.
5. May present difficulties in areas of heavy clay soils.

Present indications are that surface tillage is here to stay. Some of the problems relating to the practice have been partly or completely overcome. Many farmers do not have a plow on the farm. Those that do, leave them rusting in the fence corners.

Some may believe that plowing matches and plows have had their day. They could be right. It can be said, however, that they have served a useful purpose over a seventy year span. Through them farm people learned to take pride in their workmanship. This was reflected through a general neatness and orderliness in the fields and farmsteads of Manitoba. Quite likely the plow will continue to find a place in certain areas of Manitoba and among growers of commercial vegetables, and as an alternative to surface tillage if some means is not found to speed up the start of spring seeding operations.

Chapter XI

SOME REPRESENTATIVE LEADERS 1915-1923

The M.A.R.A. committee named to prepare this review realized that it would not be possible to name all of those who have contributed to the development of agricultural extension in Manitoba or to credit them with their accomplishments and still keep this record (narrative) within reasonable scope.

Rather than attempt to do so the committee has selected two individuals who served as agricultural representatives during the period 1916 to 1922 when district agricultural offices were first established in Manitoba and two who were among the first appointments when the agricultural representative service was re-established in 1930 and whose working lives were devoted to the improvement of agriculture and rural living in Manitoba and the rest of Canada.

An attempt will be made to outline the careers and achievements of these men and to indicate something of the philosophy that motivated them. To some extent the careers of these four men are typical of many others who have made agricultural extension their lifetime work in this and other Canadian provinces. In preparing these records the committee has drawn on interviews or correspondence with the individuals and upon research and observations made by some of their fellow workers.

Dr. J. R. BELL

Jim, as he is generally known, was born and raised on a homestead farm near Clearwater, Manitoba. Baseball was a favourite pastime of his early years, succeeded by curing.

Entering Manitoba Agricultural College at the Tuxedo site, he graduated in 1916 and shortly thereafter became a district representative at Portage la Prairie. He soon assumed various agricultural secretary-ships, including the weighty one of the local exhibition.

With his farm background he had a special interest and liking for livestock, and his college training made him an excellent judge. In those years horses were almost the sole source of farm power, and cattle a source of considerable farm income. He was soon able to give significant leadership in the improvement of both.

In 1922, shortly before all the agricultural representatives were recalled as an economy move by the Bracken government in 1923, he found himself in Winnipeg holding down the job of assistant livestock commissioner in the Manitoba Department of Agriculture. He became head of the Livestock Branch in 1923 and held that office until he was named Deputy Minister of Agriculture in 1950, succeeding J. H. Evans, and serving under his brother Frank.

Under his leadership the Department continued to grow as capable staff members were added. Likewise, his own range of interests continued to expand and perhaps the most rewarding prospect he initiated was the agricultural student bursaries program which operated with outstanding success over more than ten years, revitalizing the educational goals and programs of the rural youth of Manitoba.

Fittingly for long and meritorious service, the University of Manitoba conferred on James Rennie Bell the L.L.D. in 1961.



College Days
(L to R) - Newcombe & Bell

F. H. NEWCOMBE

Mr. Newcombe was one of the group of six or seven men appointed by the Manitoba Government to serve rural Manitoba as agricultural representative at various times during 1916 to 1923. He established his office in Selkirk in 1919 and served as agricultural representative for that area for a period of $4\frac{1}{2}$ years, at the end of which time the agricultural representative service was discontinued.

Following his loss of employment with the Manitoba Government, Fred Newcombe moved to Alberta where he soon became engaged in similar work and later became Director of Extension in that province. Since reaching retirement age in government service he has accepted work as secretary of the Western Stock Growers Association which has its head office in Calgary. He appears to be still active with that organization in 1970 and is nearing the completion of almost 45 years of public service.

In its search for information as to why former agricultural

representatives had left the service and sought employment elsewhere, the M.A.R.A. committee circulated a questionnaire. It is from the reply to this questionnaire which the committee received from Mr. Newcombe, that much of his philosophy that follows was obtained.

Mr. Newcombe of 1904 Tecumseh Road, Calgary, was never of a retiring or reticent nature. He tends to have definite beliefs and not backward in advocating or expressing them. In reply to a query as to what he considered were the major problems in the extension service program, past and present, he writes:

- "1. Neither the agricultural representative nor the people he was serving had much idea what he was supposed to do - witness all the jobs he had on the side: secretary of a dozen organizations. These got him acquainted but were not extension by any stretch of imagination, though no one knew this at that time.
- "2. Nothing to work with - no equipment, no support from head office, no plan of work, little or no leadership from anyone (none from Newton, little more from his successors).
- "3. Today: the business of farming and getting agricultural representatives to work at it."

As to what he considered the principles and objectives of an organization such as M.A.R.A. he observed that he "Had no convictions in this field. Similar organizations I have known elsewhere seemed interested in more money by way of salary and/or allowances. The only objective that would justify existence I think would be as a vehicle for better service to agriculture but am not sure it can do this."

As to what methods the M.A.R.A. would find most useful in reaching these objectives he considers this to be - "a tough one. Suggest that it would be better to ask those who hold a PHD in extension education. They purport to know the answers - at least lots of high sounding phrases. After only 41 years in the business I would not be dogmatic, but I still have a fondness for personal contact, perhaps through small groups. Do not have much confidence in mass approach."

Transportation facilities available to agricultural representatives in 1919 would be considered, by today's standards, to leave much to be desired. He describes these as consisting of, "In summer: a Model T, if one were fortunate enough to be in a district with some roads - and it didn't rain!! And in winter - (November to April) - horse livery, saddle horse, train, and shanks' mare i.e. afoot."

The method of approach to people used by the extension staff during early years in Manitoba, according to Newcombe, was, "mainly mass meetings and community organizations. Not much

personal work, though we almost certainly erred in spending too much time with breeders etc. who didn't need us. It should be noted, however, that farming at that time was more nearly a means of subsistence and less of a business. Our approach was almost entirely in the area of husbandry because of this. I recall working like a slave to get together an exhibit for the Winnipeg garden show - futile effort insofar as agricultural improvement was concerned but not greatly different from the minute contribution of agricultural fairs in the intervening forty years - this was my opinion even when I was superintendent of fairs for this province - a helluva attitude ne ce'est pas?"

He believes that the major success in agricultural extension during those early years, dating from 1916 through to 1923, came through "breaking trail in the service and laying a foundation for the future of the service. In most cases we probably succeeded in popularizing the service - which remark may sound like bragging! However, this had to be done before any worthwhile results could be expected."

The major farm problem, according to Mr. Newcombe, were much the same as those of today - i.e. "how to make a better living and hence a better life. In pursuit of this, however, we assumed that if he had better cattle this would follow - not necessarily true as we were to discover later, much later. Maybe he shouldn't have been raising cattle at all but we didn't question this. Weeds were a major problem before herbicides. Animal health generally was good. Variety mixtures in crops were usual and this didn't help. Cultivation was mediocre."

"The attitude of the people to the extension service and to the government during the introductory period around 1916 was, as previously stated, the farm people didn't know anything about extension and because of this they were skeptical and, in many cases, opposed it on the general ground that not much of farming can be learned from books or can be known by one who has been to college. There was no one killed in the rush for our services as far as I know! It meant that the service had to be sold by demonstration, but it took us a little while to learn this."

However, the work of the pioneers in the agricultural representative service did not go entirely unrewarded as may be seen from the wage schedule which, according to Mr. Newcombe, was at the rate of \$1,800 per annum with liberty to build it up by solicitation of local bodies, e.g., agricultural societies, municipal councils, etc. "I don't recall that there was complaining among the boys and most of them couldn't do better at that time. Notwithstanding anything above, some of us worked like hell at the job even if we weren't sure where we were headed."

Such generosity must have been unbelievable to those agricultural representatives who re-established the service in 1930 and whose starting salary was often less than \$1,600 without the fringe benefits.

1930 RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF AGRICULTURAL REPRESENTATIVE SERVICE

All of which leads to a review of the careers of two men who were among the first in the field when the agricultural representative service was re-established in 1930; and of one man who was first listed as an agricultural representative in 1935, but who began his years of service in agricultural extension as early as 1917 among the settlers from the Russian Ukraine. These settlers had come to this country in response to appeals from Sir Clifford Sifton, who served as Minister of Interior in Laurier's first cabinet, and were settled in the not too promising agricultural area to the north of Dauphin.

D. C. FOSTER - Director of Extension 1954 - 1964

The late D. C. Foster specialized in the field of poultry production and management and graduated with a B.S.A. from the Manitoba Agriculture College in 1925. He was engaged in poultry promotion work prior to his appointment as agricultural representative in the Teulon area in 1930. He was the first appointment following the re-establishment, by the Department of Agriculture, of the Agricultural Representative Service in that year.

His interest in, and knowledge of, the poultry industry led to his appointment in 1934 as poultry specialist with the Manitoba Extension Service. He held this position until his appointment as Assistant Director of Extension, and continued to serve in that capacity until he was named Director of Extension in 1954, succeeding former Director N. C. MacKay, and reaching retirement age in February of 1964. Mr. Foster's skill as a teacher and demonstrator is well illustrated by his success in training 4-H poultry club members in the art of judging both live and dressed poultry. There was a period centered around 1940 when 4-H club representatives from all Canadian provinces met annually at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair at Toronto in competition in the judging of various agricultural products. Under his guidance Manitoba teams were successful in winning the top award in the poultry competitions several times.

His methods, or at least his enthusiasm, for this program is well illustrated by a story volunteered by Howard Peto, agricultural representative for the Holland area from 1940 to 1942.

Mr. Peto tells it this way - "As I write this I cannot help but think of my many good friends in the Department of Extension, particularly, Mr. MacKay and his staff, then, who spent so much time helping me with my work at Holland, Manitoba. The judging teams for the provincial and dominion finals will always be remembered. Very clear in my memory is Mr. Foster, one of the staff, who worked me so hard that I went to sleep one evening in my living room after we had eaten a heavy dinner. He was giving me so many fine points on poultry judging that, like a good sermon, I was lulled to sleep until my wife awakened me so that I would not be rude to Mr. Foster. If he noticed, he was kind enough not to say anything so I was not fired. I was never too fond of chickens, but my good friend made up for it by polishing up Canada's No. 1 poultry judging team from

Holland, Manitoba, to take the first honours at Toronto with ease in 1941. One of the contestants, Effie Leslie, was very quiet and shy when she started the club about two years before. But after the competition she became a fine speaker at banquets and on radio. This thrilled me as much as anything else I remember. I attended a banquet for the winning team when I was in the uniform of the R.C.A.F., on leave."

Mr. Foster was born and grew up on a farm in the Lena district in southwestern Manitoba. His father had maintained a herd of pure-bred Aberdeen Angus cattle and David (D.C.) grew up with a liking for that breed. This was indicated by his enthusiasm displayed at Aberdeen Angus shows and sales. Upon his retirement as Director, he became secretary of the Manitoba Aberdeen Angus Association. It was while making a call in his capacity as Association secretary, at the farm home of an Angus breeder in the Brandon area, that his death occurred suddenly early in 1966. His death was a sad shock to his wife and family and to his many friends in the Extension Service.

JOE E. LAFRANCE

Mr. Joe E. Lafrance was appointed agricultural representative in the St. Pierre area in October of 1931. His appointment came as a bit of a surprise to the Deputy Minister who had evidently no knowledge of the appointment prior to its announcement. As a result the two were not on the best of terms during Joe's apprenticeship. It was not long, however, before his organizational ability, his sound judgement, and his many other fine qualities were recognized by the Deputy and the two became close friends.

Mr. Lafrance's achievements while serving as agricultural representative at St. Pierre were many and varied. The district was well suited to the production of milk and located close enough to Winnipeg to enable the producers to find outlets for their product in that city. For these reasons Joe decided to concentrate his efforts in those early years on the improvement of the dairy industry of his area. He decided early that Holstein cattle represented a dairy breed that was well equipped to produce fluid milk. Rather than encourage a multiplicity of dairy breeds he concentrated on this one breed and soon became an authority on Holstein pedigrees and in the judging ring. He adopted "Black and White" as a slogan for his promotional efforts.

He soon found that improvement in milk production brought about by the purchase of better bulls was too slow and possibly too costly a method of reaching the production goals sought. He became interested in the use of artificial insemination in the dairy herds and the possibility of obtaining semen from sires qualified under the ROP program.

A start was made in May of 1945 through the organization of Rat Creek Breeding Co-op Limited. This was followed in October of that same year by the establishment of a bullstud consisting of

one bull, later increased to three bulls, and the successful introduction of artificial breeding of dairy cattle in the St. Pierre area.

Other dairy improvement was brought about by the organization of the Dairy Herd Improvement Association. The first of these was organized at St. Pierre in 1948 and was followed in February of that same year by a similar organization at La Broquerie, and one at Grunthal in July.

Pasture improvement also came in for his attention and pasture improvement associations were formed at St. Pierre early in 1950, at Grunthal early in 1951, and one at Ile des Chenes late in 1952.

Other successful organizations in the St. Pierre agricultural area, while Mr. Lafrance was in charge, included the first of what later totalled 13 co-operative cheese factories at St. Pierre in 1933. Credit Unions came in for their share of attention and he promoted the organization of the first of these in Manitoba, the St. Malo Credit Union, in 1938. A cost accounting club was organized at St. Pierre in 1956 to add to this formidable list.

Joe Lafrance completed almost 29 years of service as agricultural representative in the St. Pierre area in April 1960. In that year he accepted an appointment as Chief of the Agricultural Services Division of the Manitoba Department of Agriculture, an office that he held until his retirement in 1968.

In 1956, on the occasion of his 25th anniversary as agricultural representative for the St. Pierre district, his contributions to that area were recognized by residents at a community gathering and presentation. Many of his associates from the Department of Agriculture joined in paying tribute to him at that time.

Joe has long been an enthusiastic golfer and a skilled fisherman. His many friends had expected him to devote his entire time and energy to these hobbies upon reaching retirement. No doubt he still pursues these but not on a full time basis. Since his retirement he has taken part-time summer employment with a chemical distributor and had been demonstrating weed control by chemical means.

C. S. PRODAN

C. S. Prodan will celebrate his 82nd birthday at his new home in Calgary on September 11, 1970. Not many extension workers can look back to the number of years of service as was devoted by this man to the betterment of his fellow men whose lives were given to carving out farmsteads from some of Manitoba's least productive areas.

He arrived in Canada with a background of some vocational training in blacksmithing and machinery and little or no knowledge of the English language. During the 52 year interval between his arrival in Canada and his official retirement from Manitoba's public service in 1959, he learned the English language, obtained his teacher's certificate and later a BSA from the old Agricultural

College, taught school, served as a dairy specialist with the Dairy Branch of the Manitoba Department of Agriculture, and was appointed agricultural representative in 1935 and worked out of the Winnipeg office until his retirement. Providing his birth certificate was accurate and the writer's mathematics correct, C. S. Prodan must have been 70 years of age at that time.

The M.A.R.A. committee members believe that the story of the contribution to Manitoba's agricultural economy made by C.S. Prodan merits telling in more detail than has been given in these introductory paragraphs and submits the following:

Cornelius Safronovich Prodan was born at Gulay Pale, Zafroze, Ukraine, September 11, 1888. After attending the local school he took a vocational course in machinery and blacksmithing.

At the age of nineteen he decided to come to Canada. He arrived at Montreal in 1907 with the intention of proceeding to British Columbia. He continued his journey west by C.P.R. Northern Ontario with its rocks and lack of settlement along the railway did not impress him favourably, but when the train reached the settled area east of Winnipeg, and he saw the level fields and rich looking dark soil, he had doubts about going on to British Columbia, where the mountains and uninhabited areas might not be so appealing. By the time he arrived in Winnipeg, he had definitely decided to remain in Manitoba for a time at least.

Finding employment and learning English presented problems. The former was solved by almost immediately going to work in a tinsmithing establishment but the latter was to continue to be a handicap for some time.

In 1907 there were many new settlers from Central Europe in Manitoba and others were arriving. Many of these were located in new communities somewhat removed from the older, settled districts. Almost all, however, were determined to possess land and establish homes for their families. Isolation, lack of roads, schools and a severe winter all presented hardships. The children's parents were often unfamiliar with Canadian customs and the English language, and many of the children of school age were not attending school. The church leaders and the Manitoba Government were concerned with these problems and sought to rectify them. In order to do so the government decided that the best approach was to have schools built and staffed with teachers who could speak the language of the district as well as English. A training school for teachers was opened in Winnipeg and later in Brandon and a number of young men, possessing qualities of leadership and the necessary education were accepted for training at the school. C. S. Prodan was among that number. He enrolled for the course in Brandon in the fall of 1908. This continued through the regular school year during a two year period. Financial assistance was available by means of a government loan, which was to be repaid. This, however, had to be supplemented by the summer earnings of those taking the course. Mr. Prodan secured summer employment on farms, harvesting, and at any work that was available in industry. This daily wage at times did not exceed \$1.00 per day.

He completed the course, secured a grade IX certificate, and was ready to enter Normal School in the fall of 1910. Summer employment was obtained until classes commenced.

In addition to taking the regular teacher training classes, he taught at night school in Winnipeg and studied grade X subjects. At the close of the term he received his grade X certificate. He commenced his teaching career in September at Sifton where he remained for six years. While there he married in 1913 and established his home. His activities were not confined to the class room. He was secretary of four newly organized school districts and also supervised the building of new schools in two new school districts.

His contacts with the local people impressed him with their lack of knowledge of proper farming practices which would enable them to secure an income sufficient to become established and provide for the family needs. In order to have a part in bringing this about, Mr. Prodan decided to discontinue teaching and prepare himself for work relating to agriculture. He registered in the degree course at the Agricultural College in the fall of 1916 and five years later, in 1921, he graduated with a B.S.A. degree. During the five year course, summers were spent doing special work for the Department of Agriculture under the supervision of the Deputy Minister, except for one summer spent as a hired man with a farmer in the Fannystelle district.

While employed by the Department he worked in many districts centering around Ethelbert, Sifton, Vita, Stuartburn, Interlake and others chiefly settled by Ukrainians.

Upon graduation he found employment with the Manitoba Department of Agriculture with headquarters in the Dairy Branch. The areas served were chiefly those where he had been working the previous summers. A program was prepared which included visiting farms, creameries, schools and local communities. Meetings for men and women were held in school houses throughout the areas. Lectures were given, motion pictures shown and many farming problems were discussed. Transportation was by means of train, oxen or horse drawn rigs and often on foot. Many of these activities were carried on during the winter which made travelling difficult. Horses were often not available for local travel during the farmer's busy summer season. To replace these he purchased a bicycle which was used in covering many miles of travel.

Some of the activities undertaken included - livestock breeding, feeding and management, cow testing, production of fodder, poultry raising and marketing, vegetable and fruit growing and an extensive program to organize boys' and girls' clubs (seed, potato, fruit, calf, swine, clothing and food). An important part of the livestock activities was organizing the farmers into clubs in order to secure bulls, rams and boars on a rental basis from the government.

In 1935 he became a member of the Extension Service as an agricultural representative for the area extending from Springfield

municipality to the Ontario border and including all the water district. As an agricultural representative he continued and enlarged on his previous activities. Tobacco trials were undertaken. Fruit growing was emphasized and the number of 4-H clubs in that area was increased.

Mr. Prodan always stressed the importance of education. Today many men and women owe much of their success in life to the encouragement and assistance given by a man who has devoted his life to the self improvement and the advancement of many of those who came to our province from Central Europe.

Mrs. Prodan shared her husband's financial difficulties while he was completing his studies in agriculture and pioneering in the field of agricultural extension. Their three children followed the father's example and all later graduated from the University of Manitoba. Mr. Prodan reached retirement age in 1959 and retired in April of that year. Mrs. Prodan's death occurred early in 1970 in the city of Calgary where C. S. Prodan now resides.

Mr. Prodan has also submitted a number of interesting replies to the questions asked in a questionnaire circulated by the M.A.R.A. among present and former agricultural representatives.

For example he described transportation facilities available to workers in the early years of the introduction of agricultural extension in these words: "Transportation was as good as appropriations and conditions permitted. Hiring of public liveries was the standard. No government vehicles were available. Hiring men in the district was preferred to hiring outsiders of the district. It was a public relations problem.

"Regarding government supplying means of transportation, may I be permitted to relate my own experience. I was engaged by the Manitoba Department of Agriculture and Immigration, as it was called then, to work during summer vacations on dairying in out-laying districts of Manitoba. This I was doing in cooperation with the creameries in the districts. From creamery records I took the names of farmers who shipped or delivered poor quality cream. Then there was no cream grading system. Cream prices were not as regulated as now. In the estimation of farmers, all cream was good. I visited farmers individually during week days. Usually I hired a horse and buggy and drove myself. This system was satisfactory during slack time for horse power. When haying time came I could not buy a horse in the district if I had wanted to. I tried by walking from farm to farm. This was wasteful and slow. About that time I was called to Winnipeg to go to some other district.

"After some thought, I decided to ask if the government would buy me a bicycle and let me use it in my work. I asked the Acting Deputy Minister of Agriculture, the late J. H. Evans, if he would buy me a bicycle for my use. He replied: "No, we cannot do this. This is a capital expenditure, we have no appropriation for this." "Would you pay me mileage if I bought the bicycle and used it?" I asked. "No" he said, "but we will pay rental and repairs."

I bought a second-hand bicycle and used it. Rental fee was paid, \$15.00, and repair bill was \$4.50. Between the railway stations I transported this bike by express on trains. In surrounding districts I travelled among farmers. This was in the summer of 1917.

"After graduation in 1921, I did not use a bicycle at all. I hired liveries. I was driven in buggies, wagons, democrats, cutters and sleighs as well as Bennett's buggies. A few times I was transported by oxen. Costs were from two to eight to ten dollars per trip or a day.

"We found that the attitude of farmers, not all by any means, was that "book farming" was not practical. Previous years there were "weed inspectors" and "road inspectors" appointed by the government in power. Their political activities were more prominent than the work they were supposed to do. Due to such conditions, it took several years to gain confidence of voters of opposition and prove to them that we were not working for a party in power, that we were working for the good of all. Here, again, I take the liberty of describing my experience of 1917 while a student at the college. At that time Marquis wheat was, comparatively speaking, a new variety. I procured a few kernels of it and gave these to a farmer, whom I thought was of better type than others. He must have been, because in later years his son and later his grandson graduated in agriculture.

"I told him about this wheat and suggested that he increase it. In the fall, close to harvest time, I happened to ride on my bicycle from Ethelbert to Sifton where I lived. I stopped at his place and asked him to show me his Marquis wheat. He took me to the place, and I saw that he had planted those seeds on the poorest patch of land he had near his home. I asked, why had he planted the seeds on such a poor land? His answer was: "I want to show you that I have better wheat than your college has."

Other comments gleaned from Mr. Prodan's reply to the questionnaire reveal the method followed by civil servants in seeking a raise in pay or other monetary concessions during those years before M.G.E.A. came to be accepted by government as the official bargaining agent with its employees. He writes "Regarding field work during the first few years no directions were given by superior officers. Most of the initiative and work was left to me alone. I did what was feasible within the means of the settlers. Later on, conferences gave suggestions and leads to more planned work. Administrators were cooperative in most cases.

"Regarding expenses I was not allowed to use a taxi. My equipment, which sometimes consisted of roll of charts which I made myself, slides, lantern slide machine with two gas tanks and the hand operated moving machine, as well as box of films. Sometimes I had to make two trips on a street car taking these to a checking room at the railway station. I inherited a "lemon" car in 1936. This was a Ford Model A which had over seventy thousand miles.

"There was no system of increment raises in pay. This matter rested at the pleasure of senior officials. In the twenties I asked

the Deputy Minister of Agriculture of the day about the raise. He told me: - "Perhaps you don't know this. Asking for a raise in government service means that you want to resign. Do you want to resign?" My answer was No, "Then, forget this incident" he said. I got my raise in a month or so.

"Prejudices towards scientific agriculture were more widely spread among settlers from Central Europe than among English speaking people. Finding themselves in new conditions and hearing of new crops and varieties they knew very little or nothing of, they were anxious to learn. My visits were welcome, and their cooperation was good. Their progress was slow because they had very little capital for expansion or for starting a new project."

And at the risk of not exactly playing "cricket" with "C.S.", the committee member responsible for presenting these details of his career in extension takes the liberty of quoting from a personal letter received from him as long ago as 1967. It would appear from this brief paragraph that Mr. Prodan holds a rather critical opinion of economists. The paragraph is quoted partly for the reason that the committee member responsible tends to agree with at least a portion of his philosophy but has never quite had the courage to say so in print. Mr. Prodan will most likely forgive this breach of confidence. Quote: "Agricultural representatives will do well by listening more to the men of the soil and toil than to the high-faluting economists who, in many cases, do not know what they are talking about."

J. H. EVANS



J.H. Evans - J.R. Bell

No attempt to tell the story of the development of agricultural extension in Manitoba would be complete without giving recognition and paying tribute to the man who was perhaps the chief architect in planning and development of this service. Here we refer to the late Mr. J. H. Evans, who for 34 years served as Deputy Minister of Agriculture.

For the story of Jim Evans' life and work in the Province of Manitoba we are indebted to several individuals who were at one time members of the staff of the Department of Agriculture, and to Miriam Green Ellis, agricultural editor of one of the Winnipeg daily newspapers. We have borrowed freely from a tribute to Mr. Evans written by Mrs. Ellis and published at the time of his death from a heart attack in 1953.

In Mrs. Ellis' words: "In the sudden death of J. H. Evans at Winnipeg, Canada lost one of its best known public servants. Four years ago he retired after 34 years as Deputy Minister of Agriculture for Manitoba.

"Born on a Carmarthenshire farm in South Wales in 1883, Jim Evans came to Canada in 1906. It was pure inspiration for at that time he did not know a soul in America. However, he headed straight for Manitoba and, except for a few years on a Saskatchewan homestead, he lived the rest of his life in Manitoba. Nine years after he arrived in Canada he had become a top civil servant. In the interval he had worked out, his first job being with Allan McLean of Kenton. During that first winter he worked in a livery barn at Kenton.

"Teaming up with another Welshman, he got a half section out Yorkton way. For power they had three oxen and one horse.

"While still at home in Wales, Mr. Evans had taken an agricultural course at the University of Wales. He wanted more of that and a year or two after Manitoba Agricultural College opened its doors he enrolled and was a member of the second class to graduate.

"By working summers and scrimping through the winters, he managed to finance himself through college. That same year he married Clara Stuart Stitt, a school teacher, and went out to manage the Interwest farm near Yorkton. But by 1915 he was back in Manitoba in charge of the new Extension Branch of the Provincial Government. Six months later he became acting Deputy Minister of Agriculture. In the 1946 birthday honors, J. H. Evans was awarded the order of Companion of the Civil Service for long public service.

"During these 34 years in the Deputy's chair, Mr. Evans kept building up the Department to take care of increasing provincial needs. At the time of his retirement Mr. Evans said, "It has been a challenging period, there were two world wars and the greatest depression the world has ever known". When he had taken over as Deputy Minister there was only the nucleus of a department. The next few years saw passage of an amended Agricultural Societies Act, weed control legislation, the Winkler cow scheme and the stallion enrolment act, the first of its kind on the continent. The period

also brought the establishment at Carman of the first T.B. restricted area to be organized within the empire. A Dairy Branch was organized, egg grading was initiated, and later other agricultural products were graded. The Extension Branch was enlarged, departments for agricultural statistics, farm help, and departmental adjustment were set up.

"The one place where he deplored failure to keep pace, was that of soil conservation. More grass should be grown and he repeated this appeal again and again during the dry thirties.

"Mr. Evans was a popular speaker all across Canada and was often invited to United States' meetings. His great hobby was thoroughbreds and he seldom missed a race meet. When his own mare won a big stake race in Edmonton in 1952, he invested the whole amount in a new car."

To the tribute offered by Miriam Green Ellis at the time of the death of Mr. Evans, the committee adds those of a few of his long-time associates in the Manitoba Department of Agriculture:

Joe E. Lafrance, whose retirement in February of 1968 marked the completion of 36 years, 5 months service with the Department of Agriculture, recalls that Mr. Evans was a very complex individual who could be very aggressive, authoritative and rather demanding on occasions. On the other hand because of his many rural contacts, he was always well informed as to what was happening on the farms. He attended all of the annual conferences of the agricultural representatives and at the earlier ones would review the production standings of the various districts. At one of these conferences he was comparing the hog grades for Manitoba with that of the seven agricultural representative districts that were represented at the conference. "The average hogs grading A's in the province is 27%, you, Lafrance, your average is 13%, what are you going to do about it?" Other districts were challenged in beef or in other fields of production.

In the words of Mr. Lafrance, "Jim Evans was terrific at stag parties. His anecdotes, stories and songs were gems." He was a good friend of the agricultural representatives. He might at times have given them a rough time privately for some of their actions or inaction but he was always prepared to defend their actions against all public critics.

Mrs. Pearl G. Coop, most of whose 34 years with the Provincial Government were served in the office of the Deputy Minister of Agriculture during Mr. Evans' long tenure of that office, described him as a good thinker, a good speaker, and a man whose presence at meetings throughout our country was much in demand because the people realized that his opinions and judgement in agricultural matters were worthwhile and for the general good of all concerned. While some of his associates may, at times, have been affronted by his reception or rejection of ideas or opinions which they advanced, his final judgement was made on the basis of what he, as was his duty as Deputy Minister, believed to be the right way to deal with the situation.

Mrs. Coop recalls that at one time Mr. Evans' duties included that of Chief Game Commissioner for Manitoba; and that he was

responsible for establishing the employment service which served the needs of farm people until this service was eventually taken over by the Government of Canada. As early as 1915 he realized the need for the expansion of extension service work among the women of rural Manitoba and gave this work his whole-hearted support.

Mr. H. E. Wood, another member of the staff of the Department of Agriculture who served under Mr. Evans for almost 30 years, describes him as a dynamic, forceful and capable (especially as a platform speaker) person who in the main acted, and generally wisely, largely on intuition.

In Mr. Wood's opinion, Mr. Evans' greatest contribution, and one that went well beyond the confines of Manitoba, was the manner in which he interpreted agriculture not only to rural but more particularly to city people. He was in the forefront in pioneering, supporting and promoting with federal authorities, the grading of agricultural products.

Mrs. Evelyn Ames, a pioneer worker in the field of home economics extension throughout Manitoba, was a personal friend of Mr. and Mrs. Evans. When asked to collaborate with Mrs. A. G. Coop in preparing a summary of Mr. Evans' work as Deputy Minister, her reply was that such a story, prepared by two old ladies who had a great affection for Mr. Evans, might prove embarrassing to the publisher of the M.A.R.A. history, because of the massive script which they might submit.

Condensed into the briefest possible form Mrs. Ames' contribution reads as follows:

"Mr. Evans was always helpful and encouraging wherever I went with a problem. Just one instance to illustrate - when discussing with him some of the problems of speech-making, he emphasized "being prepared" and illustrated by saying "I always make notes on the subject I am given, or the subject I choose. I put these notes in my inside coat pocket - they are a great protection". Personally I doubt whether he would ever need them.

"I recall, too, the regularity with which he kept in touch with Department staff, as he made his morning rounds checking the welfare and problems of all.

"Often the woman's branch carried some favour, as when they presented him with a nice woolen scarf and a pair of hand made gloves.

"I also recall his one love in sport was horse racing. He had at one time a horse of his own, which he raced in some events. The Home Economics Department made a jacket for his jockey which pleased him and helped he said, for the horse to win."

Dr. J. R. Bell, who succeeded Mr. Evans as Deputy Minister of Agriculture for Manitoba and who has since retired, comments that, "Mr. J. H. Evans, Deputy Minister, was at all times intensely interested in all phases of agriculture and, particularly, livestock.

"He was the prime mover in getting the agricultural services established in Manitoba and initiated many policies and programs towards the betterment of agriculture.

"Mr. Evans followed the efforts of the agricultural representative very closely and prodded him towards greater efforts in correcting some of the problems of the day. His leadership was very stimulating and he relied to a large extent on personal initiative.

"The following are some of his major contributions to departmental policies:

- "1. He pressured on Ottawa to get a T.B. control program for cattle. The Manitoba Bovine Tuberculosis Control Policy was the first established in the Commonwealth and was eventually accepted across Canada.
- "2. Being a dedicated livestock man, he was instrumental in the establishment of a bacon-hog program to replace the lard type hog. The Boar Loaning Policy and the 4-H swine clubs were instruments he devised and supported in the improvement of hogs.
- "3. For many years he conducted a fierce battle against scrub sires, be it bulls, boars, or rams. This led to Bull, Ram and Boar Loaning Policies."

A severe heart condition which developed shortly before he reached retirement age in 1949 forced him, on orders from his doctor, to slow his pace, something not easy for him to do, during the last few years that he served as Deputy Minister of Agriculture.

Mr. Evans did not live long, following his retirement, to enjoy leisure and pursue his race horse hobby. His death occurred suddenly in the fall of 1953 following a trip to eastern Canada where he had seen his wife off on a holiday to the British Isles. He was survived by his wife, the former Clara Stuart Stitt, a son Howall of Ottawa, one daughter, Mrs. Charles (Dr. Mary) Stubbert of Owen Mills, Ontario. His other son, Clarence, was killed in action during the Second World War.

N. C. MACKAY



Mr. N. C. MacKay (right) is presented with an honorary membership in CSRE by Dr. Austman, 1966.

Mr. MacKay was very closely associated with the inauguration and expansion of the agricultural representative service during the 33 years that he was employed by the Department of Agriculture, 31 years of which he was Director of Extension. He came to Manitoba as Assistant Director of Extension in 1921 at which time S. T. Newcombe held the Director's office. It was during the two years that he served as assistant director that the newly elected Progressive Farmers Government under the late John Bracken withdrew the five agricultural representatives who were in the rural areas at that time. There was a period of about eight or nine years during which all agricultural services were operated either from the agricultural college (October 23 to May 1926) then back to the old location in the Legislative Building. A start at re-establishing the services was made in 1930 with the appointment of the late D. C. Foster as agricultural representative at Teulon.

Mr. N. C. (Norman Cairns) MacKay devoted his entire working life to agricultural extension work. Born in Scotsburn, Nova Scotia, January 14, 1888, he attended the local rural school and Pictou Academy. After teaching school for two years he enrolled in the Nova Scotia agricultural course at Truro. Following graduation at Truro he attended the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph from which he graduated in 1911 with a B.S.A. degree. After graduation from Guelph he taught agriculture and science at Pearson's Academy in Walla Walla, Washington State.

Returning to Ontario in June of 1912 he was appointed the first agricultural representative for Bruce County, with his office in Walkerton, where he remained for $8\frac{1}{2}$ years. He was appointed Assistant Director of Extension Service for Manitoba in January 1921, moving to Director of Extension in 1923 which position he held until his retirement in 1954.

Mr. MacKay is a Life Member of the Agricultural Institute of Canada, a Charter and Honorary Life Member of the Manitoba Institute of Agrologists, an Honorary Life Member of the Western Canadian Society for Horticulture, an Honorary Member of the Canadian Society of Rural Extension, a Life Member of the Manitoba Horticultural Society and of the Winnipeg Horticultural Society. He continues to reside in his old home at 293 Bartlet Avenue in Winnipeg.

Chapter XII

ASSESSMENT OF THE SERVICE

One of the first moves, by the committee in charge of this Manitoba Centennial Extension History, was the preparation of a questionnaire designed to determine the location and present activities of former agricultural representatives. Questions were also asked as to the reason or reasons why these men had left the service and some of the problems faced by them while working as an agricultural representative. The same questionnaire went out to a number of the senior agricultural representatives in an effort to learn some of the changes that have taken place in extension work during their years of service. It also sought to learn the reasons back of their decision to remain in the agricultural representative service and for rejection of the occasional offer of transfer or possible promotion to other branches or divisions of the Department of Agriculture.

Some 38 individuals completed and returned these questionnaires. This represented a very high percentage of returns from this type of survey. Broken down as to source, these replies were found to be as follows: Eighteen former agricultural representatives are now self-employed or employed by industry, other farm organizations, and by Federal, or other Provincial Governments and Universities in Canada.

Another twelve former agricultural representatives are now employed by other branches of the Manitoba Department of Agriculture or other departments of Manitoba Government.

There are only eight agricultural representatives, whose date of appointment was in 1950 or earlier, who continued in the agricultural representative service. Two of these are due for retirement late in 1970. The M.A.R.A. committee checked back through the records of the Department of Agriculture and found that 158 men had been appointed as agricultural representatives during the period beginning 1916 and stretching through to July of 1967.

A breakdown of this number shows that, of this number: Two agricultural representatives died while serving as agricultural representatives. Two agricultural representatives retired on reaching retirement age. One hundred and sixteen former agricultural representatives transferred to employment with other Branches of the Department of Agriculture, other Government Departments, or sought employment in industry or other enterprises. Thirty-eight agricultural representatives continued to be employed as such in Manitoba.

Estimating that not of all those presently employed as agricultural representatives will continue in that capacity until they reach retirement age, it becomes clear that fewer than one man in every four agricultural representatives make this their life work.

Many of their colleagues of earlier years will be interested in learning where many of these former agricultural representatives live and in the management or employment field in which they now operate. We are pleased to present this information regarding the eighteen former agricultural representatives who replied to the committee's questionnaire.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PRESENT ADDRESS</u>	<u>EMPLOYMENT</u>
W. S. Frazer	392 Niagara Street Winnipeg	Assistant Director of Extension. Now: Assistant Commissioner Canadian Board of Grain Commissioners
E. H. Lange	301 Ashland Avenue Winnipeg 13	Agricultural Representative Teulon and Morden Now: Professor and Head, Diploma Course in Agricul- ture, University of Manitoba
T. A. Johnson	Deceased February 1970 at his home in Carman Manitoba	Agricultural Representative Deloraine and Carman, was Regional Supervisor Saskatchewan Agricultural Representatives

<u>NAME AND ADDRESS</u>	<u>PAST AND PRESENT EMPLOYMENT</u>
Herbert Morley Douglas 1831 - 20 Ave. South Lethbridge, Alberta	Appointed Agricultural Representative at Winnipeg. Resigned to try his hand at farming. Now: District Agriculturist, Lethbridge, Alberta
C. T. G. Bailey (Crash) Charleswood Collegiate Charleswood, Manitoba	Agricultural Representative, Hamiota Now: Member of Teaching Staff, Charleswood Collegiate
R. C. Bailey 158 - 8th Street Brandon, Manitoba	Agricultural Representative, Killarney Now: General Manager, West-Man Regional Development Inc.
Wallace O. Lee Box 639 Carlyle (1967) Saskatchewan	Agricultural Representative, Boissevain and Neepawa. Recently - Department of Indian Affairs, Province of Saskatchewan Now: Agricultural Representative, Province of Saskatchewan
Oscar Winkler 1906 Cumberland Avenue Saskatoon, Saskatchewan	Agricultural Representative, Steinbach (summer 1930) Now: Employed by Commercial Organization
Lorne H. Carter P.O. Box 134 Portage la Prairie	Agricultural Representative, Russell and Portage la Prairie Now: Fieldman - Manitoba Pool Elevators

NAME AND ADDRESS

PAST AND PRESENT EMPLOYMENT

L. Harvey Jones
46 Ericson Bay
Winnipeg 22

Agricultural Representative, Hamiota
Fieldman - Manitoba Pool Elevators
Now: Director of Farm Supplies,
Manitoba Pool Elevators

Dr. J. A. Hobbs
c/o Agronomy Department
Waters Hall
Kansas State University
Manhattan, Kansas, U.S.A.

Agricultural Representative, Eriksdale
(1941). (1967) Ph.D. in Soils, University
of Manitoba. Now: Employed by the
Agronomy Department Kansas State
University

Wes Henderson
c/o Agricultural Institute
of Canada (1967)
151 Slater Street
Ottawa 4

Agricultural Representative, Carberry
(1955). Was: Secretary, Agricultural
Institute of Canada. Now: with a
Commercial A.I. Organization in Ontario

H. L. Patterson
108 Hilton Avenue
Toronto 4, Ontario

Agricultural Representative, Melita and
Teulon (1934). Ph.D. in Economics
Now: Director of Agricultural Economics
Province of Ontario

Edna Shiflet
nee Edna McConnell
Box 289, R.J.D. 14
Richmond, Virginia, U.S.A.

First Secretary of M.A.R.A. appointed
acting Agricultural Representative,
Dauphin (1948). Now: Wife of the
Secretary of Education

W. E. Rempel
125 Peters Hale
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101
U.S.A.

Agricultural Representative, Swan River
(1946 - 1948). Now: a scientist with
the Animal Science Department,
Institute of Agriculture, University of
Minnesota

C. J. Campbell
Hallock Minnesota
U.S.A.

Agricultural Representative, Morris and
Souris (1940-1951). Now: Vice President
and Farm Representative, Northwestern
State Bank, Hallock, Minnesota

Dr. Howard B. Peto
6519 Foothill Road
Ventura, California
U.S.A.

Agricultural Representative, Holland
(1940-1942). Now: Holds Ph.D. in Plant
Genetics and is President and owner of
Peto Seed Co. Inc., Specializing in
the production of hybrid vegetable and
standard varieties of tomato and pepper
seed

QUESTIONNAIRE

Once the replies to the questionnaire began to be received the committee members realized that they should have spent a little more time on its preparation. Nevertheless, the questionnaire as it was worded did bring in some interesting information and observations,

some of which have previously been used in the preparation of this history.

GREENNER PASTURES

Those former agricultural representatives who have transferred to other divisions of the Department of Agriculture or to employment with industry or other areas did so because they had received, or hoped to find, better pay and greater prospects of promotion. A few left to continue their education in the hope of completing their Master's or Doctor's degree. Several came to the conclusion that they did not want to make extension service their lifetime work.

JOB DISSATISFACTION

Among the major problems met with in the extension service program the replies indicated that these ranged from low pay, lack of communication with the technical staff, too much emphasis on 4-H club work including too many 4-H calves to tag, failure or inability to keep abreast with the rapid developments in the many fields of agricultural production and marketing. Some replies indicated that the lack of specific training in extension work was a definite handicap to the men who undertook the work of agricultural representatives. Others considered that they were given too large an area to permit anything approaching adequate servicing. A few questioned the lack of guidance provided by the administration as to the limits of the agricultural representative's responsibilities, or of the objectives sought. One advanced the claim that too much emphasis was placed upon the production of farm products and not enough on the training of people. Another man considered that too frequent changes in staff prevented the development of a continuous program in many of the agricultural representative areas.

M.A.R.A. ASSESSMENT

Several of the questions asked in the questionnaire had reference to the work of the M.A.R.A. Such questions as why was it organized and has it served its purpose or attained its objectives. The objectives of the organization have been stated in earlier sections of this report. The main objective was to provide a means of enabling the agricultural representatives to bargain with a united voice regarding all matters affecting their welfare.

Salaries

First and foremost of these items relating to the welfare of the group was the question of pay. Replies to the questionnaire indicated that the bargaining position of the group had been greatly improved and adjustments in the pay schedule made. There was a tendency to assume that the objectives insofar as pay was concerned had been fairly well achieved. Many, if not all, of those replying appear to have overlooked one of the objectives which has been obscured by the relatively good pay schedule presently available. This objective called for a pay schedule that would provide equality among professional employees. In other words, professional employees of the Government of Manitoba having equivalent educational

qualifications and performing equal work and having equal or similar responsibilities, should receive equal pay. A comparison of pay schedules indicates that this principle has fallen by the way-side and that this development is not being vigorously protested by the M.A.R.A. membership.

Staff Changes

The M.A.R.A. request that the administration should follow a policy of informing all personnel of prospective vacancies or transfers occurring, or likely to occur within the Department of Agriculture, by means of a bulletin, appears to have been accepted. No longer is it customary for the staff to first learn of such vacancies or transfers through newspaper announcements of official appointments.

A resolution adopted by M.A.R.A. in 1969 would indicate that there are exceptions to this general rule and points out the need of an active and continuing M.A.R.A. committee to keep the membership informed on all matters relating to pay and promotion.

Conferences

All those who replied to the questionnaire were agreed that the M.A.R.A. had succeeded in providing better opportunities for the members of the group and their families to meet socially. The annual Pow-Wow presented an opportunity for agricultural representatives and their families to meet together and get acquainted. Encouragement was also given to members of the group to register at one hotel or motel for their annual conference rather than be scattered among several hotels and motels.

The adoption by administration of a policy of holding a series of regional conferences each year has also tended to overcome the isolation which formerly prevailed within the agricultural representative service when the annual conference represented the only time they could meet as a group. The great distances which separate individual agricultural representative offices must continue, of necessity, to restrict communication between individual members of M.A.R.A.

Transportation

The Government's car policy underwent a drastic change around 1954 or 1955, during the period when the Hon. R. D. Robertson was Minister of Agriculture. A great deal of credit, for what most agricultural representatives were agreed was a much improved car policy, must go to him. Under the new policy all cars were traded after three years and for a short time a policy of trading in the used cars after two years was given a trial. Later the use of compact cars was introduced, but these cars did not prove satisfactory on rural roads and over long distances. Today, most members of M.A.R.A. are provided with good cars which provide dependable transportation.

Points of View

Replying to the questionnaire, former agricultural representatives who were appointed prior to 1940, and many of those who opened new agricultural representative areas at later dates, found that the major problem was that of selling the idea of an extension service program to the farmers of their areas. In those earlier years the vast majority of farm people were reluctant to seek or accept help from anyone who had learned how to farm by reading books. Farmers simply did not believe that they could learn anything from such experts. Moreover, they were already producing more than the markets would absorb and were not even producing as well as they knew how to produce at that time. Their problems appeared to be lack of markets and lack of finances.

Farmer acceptance came through individual contacts and usually after the agricultural representative had demonstrated how to cure a sick cow or pig or had perhaps saved some baby-chicks from disaster. The agricultural representatives soon learned that the farmer most in need of his help was likely to be the last one to seek or accept it.

The low-income farmer tended to wait until his more enterprising neighbour had tried out a new field crop variety or adopted and proven some new farming practice, before adopting it for himself.

Today the agricultural representative appears to place less emphasis on personal contact with individual farm operators and to rely more on group approach through mass media such as radio, television, weekly or bi-weekly news items in local papers, the promotion of community backed projects, and organized tours to successful large-scale farm operations or specialized production in vegetables or livestock.

A CHEERFUL CYNIC

One man who served as an agricultural representative for a brief period following World War II, in his approach to farm people developed guide lines which he described as "Catch as catch can. Be all things to all people but never, never, step on anyone's toes! Kow-tow a little to the 'established' community leaders and follow them at a safe distance". He could only take this for a couple of years.

Another agricultural representative who is still on the job is old fashioned enough to believe that personal contact with and knowledge of family groups is still an important factor in successful extension work. Technological information on farming can be obtained almost anywhere. This does not mean that the farmer is getting the sometimes necessary personal council or help in solving personal problems.

4-H

Others found that their best approach to farm people came through

working with young people who usually were members of 4-H clubs. On the other hand, some agricultural representatives considered that 4-H work demanded too much of their time leaving little time for other lines of extension efforts. One former agricultural representative believes that there is a serious lack of insight into what actually is extension. Another advances the claim that it is easier to motivate people on a group basis than it is on an individual approach. Others believe that too much emphasis has been placed on production of farm products and not enough on the training of people.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Most agreed that one of the major successes of the agricultural representatives has been that of gaining public acceptance and appreciation of the agricultural representative service and a general improvement in town and country relations. No one claimed 100 percent success in this field but all agreed that considerable progress had been made in that direction.

Other successes claimed for the agricultural representatives work included such things as a general improvement in the quality of livestock, both purebred and commercial, and greater appreciation of the need for soil conservation and of tillage methods that would aid in control of soil erosion or its prevention. Many claimed credit for having aided farm operators in understanding technical information regarding rates of application in the use of chemicals for weed and insect control. Farm operators also turned to the agricultural representatives for help in interpreting information relating to soil tests and fertilizer recommendations.

In the field of successful organizations, mention was frequently made of 4-H clubs, farm business groups, soil conservation clubs, youth training courses, and other such commercial ventures as fat stock shows and feeder cattle sales. One former agricultural representative even went so far as to list the organization of a district advisory board as one of his successful achievements. Several pointed to the ability demonstrated by the agricultural representative of meeting emergency situations which had arisen on a regional or province-wide basis as the result of severe drought conditions, excessive snowfall, or sudden flooding of farmlands.

Individuals reported that they considered that they had met with success in helping rural and farm people to realize that the role of extension is to help people help themselves rather than a means of providing hand-outs of various types. One man believes that the major achievement has been that of an evolution from providing service to people to that of opening opportunities along educational lines. Another believes that the agricultural representative service has helped farm people become aware of changes in social and economic conditions that are underway in rural Manitoba, and in aiding them to accept and promote these changes.

Farmer Pessimism

On the critical side, one former agricultural representative indicated his belief that there is something akin to the

"depression psychosis" frequently attributed to prairie farmers, prevalent within the ranks of extension planners. He claims that not enough has been done to change farmer outlook from one of depression to one of optimism. He believes that agricultural representatives have too readily accepted fair circuit show standards in evaluating livestock. He claims that the present day multiplicity of extension programs tends to reduce the effectiveness of attempts to reach the basic goal of all rural extension - i.e. a better life for rural residents and a fairer share in the gross national income.

While the problems facing most agricultural representatives in their attempts to introduce extension service programs have been listed previously, little has been said about the problems encountered by the farm operators during the more than 50 years since agricultural extension was first attempted in rural Manitoba. This does not mean that these problems have been overlooked.

FARM PROBLEMS

Replies to that section of the questionnaire regarding problems indicate that the basic problem was an economic one. The sale of agricultural products brought too few dollars to permit purchase of necessary equipment, payment of other operating costs, and leave a reasonable margin of profit for the average farm operator.

Other farm problems listed by the agricultural representatives varied with the period of time during which they were employed. These ranged from drought, grasshoppers and low prices for farm products during the 1930's to shortages of farm help and of farm machinery during the war years. Immediately following the war, problems such as weed control, soil erosion, and lack of capital to permit purchase of additional land, were frequently referred to by those replying to these questions.

From about 1950 on over-production of farm products, coupled with marketing problems and lack of farm leadership, were major problems. There was general agreement that lack of education was a handicap to many farm operators. This may partly account for the rather cool reception met with by the pioneers in agricultural extension.

Former agricultural representatives reported a serious lack of managerial ability among many farm operators. These same men found that farm people were reluctant to change and often had difficulty in adjusting their farm operations to meet changing conditions. They were also critical of the lack of knowledge regarding livestock nutrition and of efficient livestock management prevalent among livestock producers. The recent trend to specialized production in the livestock and field crop fields is demonstrating the need for better training of farm operators if they are to survive in today's competition in agriculture.

Farm operators are beginning to realize the need for some basic knowledge of economics in order that they may evaluate the mass of theories offered to them by agricultural economists. This

is shown by the interest shown by farmers in study sessions such as those offered to "Farm Business Groups" during recent years.

GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE

Fred Newcombe who was one of the few agricultural representatives appointed during the period from 1916 to 1922 has previously referred to the reception that he received in the Selkirk area when he went there in 1919. He stated that he did not recall that anyone was killed in the rush to obtain his services at that time.

John Bracken who became leader of the Farmers' Government following that group's landslide victory at the polls in the Manitoba provincial election of 1922, must have been well aware of this attitude on the part of Manitoba farmers. One of his first moves on becoming Premier of Manitoba as head of the newly elected party, was the recall of all of the agricultural representatives and the closing of their offices. The move was made in the name of economy and clearly must have reflected the viewpoint of the farmer-members of his newly formed cabinet. No other explanation appears reasonable for such action by a man who, prior to his election as Premier of Manitoba, had held the office of President of Manitoba Agricultural College.

SOMETHING FOR NOTHING

Many farmers associated the agricultural representative with the political party in power at the time. Some were willing to accept the agricultural representative, provided that he was able to offer them something for nothing. A typical example of the latter attitude can be found in the story of one farmer who called on a local lawyer in order to sign a note promising to pay for a sow which the government had sold to him on a credit basis. The note was signed with a flourish along with the remark "Thank God that's paid for" and, for all practical "purposes", it was. Repeated attempts to collect on the note over a ten year period were simply ignored.

IMPROVED ATTITUDES

Fortunately that type of farmer, while making the most noise, was far from representing the majority of farm operators. The agricultural representative came to realize that they had to sell their services, and their efforts along these lines met with considerable success. Those who opened new agricultural representative areas in later years report that they were well received and that farmers were both cooperative and appreciative of the help offered. Some report that farm families welcomed the help given to 4-H club members but were doubtful of the value of the agricultural extension to the adult farmers.

It would probably be a mistake to assume that the agricultural extension service is now accepted by 100 percent of the farmers. One agricultural representative puts it this way when describing farmer willingness to accept advice - "The wise don't need it and the foolish won't take it."

One former agricultural representative who found the rate of change too slow for his liking during his short time of service as an agricultural representative, claims that - "It seems to take a very special kind of guy to make a good extension agent and it is necessary to sort through too many in order to find the ones that are really effective". Probably the answer lies in the observation of one agricultural representative who claims that "people are prepared to accept extension service provided that the individuals offering it are mature and confident", and he might have added "accurate in their sources of information".

Chapter XIII

EXTENSION TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION



Better Farming Train - 1912
Afternoon program for women and school children

Modes of transportation are an integral part of man's long existence and are of special interest in a new and spacious country. The York boat and squeaking Red River cart served the fur trade and buffalo hunt; trains speeded settlement of the prairies.

Agricultural trains were an effective means of extension communication in pre-agricultural representative days. Indeed their titles were eloquent of their mission: the "Dairy Special" of 1907; the "Manitoba Agricultural College Train" 1911; and the "Better Farming Trains" of a dozen cars which thundered into country stations in 1912 - 13 - 14 before excited crowds of up to 1,000 people.

First Model T's - By the time the agricultural representative service got off to a somewhat shaky start in 1915, the horse and buggy was still the usual conveyance.

At Neepawa, Lester Lohr bought a car in 1915. Jim Bell, who started at Portage in 1916, "worked on foot, and by horse and buggy - until I conducted a very modern business venture, and borrowed money to buy a car".



Jim Bell and his Car

C. S. Prodan's bicycle is the most famous vehicle in our extension history. His story told on a previous page speaks eloquently of the tenor of the times when a student and an acting deputy minister bargained over the rental of a bicycle.

The Government Car - By the time the service was revived in 1930, cars had become the usual conveyance. The "government car" quickly became a legend, and often a source of friction between the government, the government garage, and the extension worker.

At this point it should be established that there have been excellent drivers in the extension service, restrained as they may have been by wartime controls. Frank Anderson testifies:

"Gasoline and tires were rationed during most of World War II, and rationing was strictly enforced. Speed was restricted to 40 miles per hour on all highways, a most practical way of conserving cars, fuel and tires. My Ford, new in 1939, was still running on the original tires when I turned it over to Gene Lange four years and 60,000 miles later."

War's end brought normal, perhaps abnormal driving, and the situation worsened rapidly throughout the Department. No one was immune.

At times the Ministers democratically shared the woes of the field men. Doug Fletcher, who joined the staff in 1945, records that:

"The policy was to keep cars in use as long as their wheels would turn. The Minister drove one such relic which was periodically loaned to staff members

while theirs was in for repairs. If you lifted the gear shift lever while shifting, it completely disengaged from the floor - at least this was the story. I didn't get this particular car myself though I had one which was about as bad - a car on which over \$700 had been spent in repairs not long before. It was completely unpredictable. You might be driving along the road at any rate of speed and without warning, it would hit for the ditch and there was nothing you could do about it. In the end I took it to the Central Garage and from there to a body works in Winnipeg. They sent me back with a note which stated "this car is not safe above six miles an hour". The frame was broken for one thing but that was not all. Not long before I had been driving along the road when it plunged into the ditch and through a farmer's fence - the steering mechanism had completely fallen apart. It was impossible to get back on the road again but it was possible to wire the loose parts together and proceed over a half mile of summerfallow, to the building site to confess to the farmer that his fence had been broken and in fact a part of it was holding the car together. Fortunately no one was home."

Doug was at Shoal Lake till 1952, and he recalls that D. C. Foster and a horticulturist, Mike, came there for a meeting.

"Between Winnipeg and Portage the windshield fell out. They tried to get one at Portage but were unable to do so, but with the dedication to duty characteristic of the era, they would not turn back though the temperature was 32° below. You can imagine the trip! Mike driving and D. C. holding a blanket over the open space, leaving a hole for Mike to peek through. The first meeting was at Strathclair. Both speakers were chattering with the cold, but Mike warmed up by promoting what he thought were phenomenal opportunities in onions - \$2,500 per acre."

Mike may have been the only man who used over two tanks full of gas a day - in the course of duty. His treatment of cars did nothing to endear him to the garage superintendent.

It is now difficult to believe that government was ever sensitive, much less intimidated, by publicity about relatively small expenditures, but Doug observes concerning the late 1940's.

"Those were the days when the public and other departments were quite concerned about what went on in government service. I recall one occasion when the clerk of a municipality, a responsible and fair individual, informed me that he had "of all things" seen four government cars parked in the same place. He thought that the way public officials were running around was something which should be checked. Not long afterward

the Winnipeg Free Press printed a picture of several government cars parked at Brandon where some department was having a conference."

Public attitude doubtless dictated government policy limiting private mileage.

You will recall that field staff was restricted from going through another's territory - in other words you could visit your next door neighbour only, without official approval for your wanderings. This worked out well for one staff member (Bill McCreary) for months, as he spent week ends at the beach, but he had the misfortune to be involved in a collision just out of Gimli on a Sunday evening. On another occasion he was in attendance at a wedding at Yorkton, and should have been immune from exposure had not the Free Press used such poor judgement as to list him as an out of town guest.

In the process of policing the use of its cars the government embarrassed itself and the drivers by the use of special licenses, which were quickly identified by nosy and talkative gossips. This gave rise to a "double-take" incident then in favour in the movies.

We had been allowed to take our cars to Clear Lake to one of the first jamborees or Pow-Wows on condition we hid them in the bush and posed as anything but extension people. John Negrych had the misfortune to roll his car in the ditch. Walt Frazer, the Assistant Director drove by and laughed heartily at the grotesque position of the inverted vehicle. Then the "instant replay" which included the license number flashed through Walt's mind, and he stiffened in horror. "My God", he said, "That's one of ours".

In keeping with the hypocritical characteristics of our moral codes, the sin lay not so much in the accident but in its location, which might reveal to the public and the higher echelons of government, the presence of a government car in the park on a weekend.

The fortunes of extension workers tend to wax and wane with the attitudes of their Ministers, and the influence these men are able to exert in a cabinet increasingly dominated by the concentration of urban power. Agriculturists of all stripes have often concluded that agriculture was "low man on the cabinet totem pole".

A welcome interlude of ascendancy is recorded by the Association scribe in 1955"

"The Manitoba Government's present policy regarding cars supplied to government employees for their use on government business, and occasionally for private operation, is a far cry from the policies of the earlier years. No longer are these cars kept in service until the engines drop out on the road as happened to at least one home economist."

"The members of the M.A.R.A. like to believe that they played a small part in bringing about this change.

No doubt complaints were registered by other departments of Government, but these may not always have had the backing of an organized group such as the members of M.A.R.A. In any event, they advanced the claim that both the agricultural representatives and the home economists operated their cars over all sorts of roads, and sometimes with no roads at all, and that much of their work involved trips late at night both winter and summer. It seemed only reasonable that the cars supplied should be adequate for the job.

"Much of the credit for the adoption of an improved car policy must be given to the Hon. R. D. Robertson, Minister of Agriculture under Premier D. L. Campbell. He evidently was able to convince his fellow Cabinet Ministers that the car policy prior to 1954 was not a sound one. Partial proof of this statement is provided by the resolution which follows and which was adopted at the M.A.R.A.'s annual meeting of January 18th, 1955.

"That the members of this Association take this opportunity of expressing their thanks to the Hon. R. D. Robertson, Minister of Agriculture, for his accomplishment in bringing about a change in Government policy with regard to replacement of Government owned cars to a plan whereby the cars driven by members of his staff will be replaced every three years through the purchase of new cars and, further, that a request be made to him asking that all cars be equipped with directional lights."

THE COMPACT CAR

Unfortunately this period of enlightenment passed, and the car policy makers regressed to the concept that a big car - indeed a good car, in view of the quality of the early compacts - was somehow detrimental to the image of the rural extension worker. The edict came forth that henceforth the government car was to be a compact car.

The policy makers seemed unaware that at this time the farmer was emerging from years of austerity into a period of temporary affluence, and was quick to "raise his standard of living", an objective long sought for him by all faithful extension workers. New homes sprang up, brightly hued machinery appeared in farm yards, and the new car was not only new, but - Oh, the Joy of it - often BIG, the status symbol carefully nurtured through decades of poverty by the multi-million dollar advertising industry.

"I drove into Hilt Wallace's yard the other day", said an agricultural representative. "There were two Chryslers standing beside the house."
"How do you like the Chrysler?", I said, making

conversation. "Oh, pretty good", said Hilt. "Dad had a black one, so I got a red one."

"I was six feet tall when I left home this morning", concluded the agricultural representative, "but I had no trouble crawling into my little compact when I went to drive away."

On this as on previous occasions, the failure of Government to "raise the standard of living" of its field staff commensurate with other segments of society may well have cost them the loss of good men from the staff, and was an irritating factor to those who remained. However, commonsense finally prevailed and the compact cars were gradually replaced.

Car Uses and Abuses

Since on occasion the agricultural representative felt that the Government car was grudgingly supplied only as an essential piece of equipment to carry out departmental duties, it is not surprising that the vehicles were sometimes used as trucks. A number of agricultural representatives, including Gus Arnal, were reported to have speeded up the Ram Rental policy by transporting these woolly and often belligerent gentlemen in the back seat of their cars. It is rumoured that the Boar Rental policy was similarly expedited by such personal transportation.

Herb Kernsted was innocently involved with another animal:

"I was making a farm call near the town of Gimli. The farmer involved was a bit of a practical joker, and as I was getting ready to leave, he kicked at a pile of straw and under it was a muskrat.

"Before I realized what he was about, he had opened the car door and threw in the live muskrat. Having had a father who was a muskrat trapper, I knew that these animals have a tendency to bite when cornered.

"After getting a fork and opening the car doors trying to get the muskrat out, the farmer convinced me that he had seen the muskrat run out of the car. I believed him and went merrily on my way home.

"The next morning, I opened the car door, and heard a rattle from within. To my amazement, the damn rat was still in the car, and had chewed a hole in the floor, until he reached tin, and had chewed a hole in the front door panel through to the metal.

"I called up a farmer who was an old rat hunter, and between the two of us, we cornered the critter, and put him out of his misery."

Herb submitted the obligatory car accident report with some diffidence, but the wave of amusement through the head office quickly relieved his embarrassment.

Highways and By-Ways

A long dissertation on cars deserves at least a brief reference to the roads on which they travel. Every driver has a host of recollections, but two must suffice.

Lester Lohr recalls that in 1915 all country roads were just dirt roads. Cars were, of course, stored in the winter, and in summer the trip from Neepawa to Brandon, hardly 50 miles, required a good two hours or more of travel time.

A network of paved roads gradually appeared in the southern part of the province where the political power appears to have been concentrated, but outlying districts were still poorly served 35 years after Lohr's jolting journeys.

Dave Hill writes:

"In the early 1950's the road between Dauphin and Winnipegosis was called the Burma Road. One rainy night, I started out from Winnipegosis after a meeting at midnight and arrived in Dauphin in time for noon lunch, with not a drop to drink. In March 1950, the home economist (Grace Atkins) and I started home from Winnipegosis approximately 4:00 p.m. We got caught in a snow storm, stayed at a farm home overnight, travelled by team and sleigh to Fork River, stayed overnight at a hotel, and caught the coast to coast special train to Dauphin. It was over a week before I could get my car home."

A Stolen Car

John Forsyth has a well earned reputation for being somewhat visionary and absent minded. There is, of course, no truth in the rumour that on a trip to Brandon he left his wife and returned to Souris without her. He joined the extension staff in 1947, and was first stationed at Russell. During his sojourn there, his mental lapses included the following:

"One day in Russell, about 1950, I failed to remove the keys from the car. When I emerged from the office I looked at every parked car in Russell before I realized that I had the dubious distinction of being the first agricultural representative to suffer the indignity of a stolen car, one of the few government cars worth stealing at the time. It was recovered from a ditch some miles north of Russell - both it and the juvenile driver receiving minor injuries. By straightening fenders tying shut one back door with rope, I was able to drive the fully ventilated car to Winnipeg in late fall weather."

"The Chevys of that day steered badly even when new - Percy Ford said you didn't drive them - you herded them. When old 123 was repaired it staggered. It was finally given to some luckless home economist. Its wobbly performance did nothing to enhance the reputation of our women drivers."

"On a visit to a farm beside the Assiniboine I forgot to set the brake. Alerted by the farm boys shout, the farmer and I watched as the car (and my hope of promotion) rolled down the slope towards the water. Both were saved when the car came to rest on a manure pile on the lowest shelf. The sturdy team and expert farm driver who wrestled the car to the top of the bank, rank high on the endless list of benefactors who quietly support the agricultural representative in his vocation."

"Director MacKay accepted the episode of the stolen car philosophically - he has not yet learned of the near loss in the waters of the Assiniboine."

A Deer Hunting Car

Peter Kiez started at Fisher Branch May 1, 1951, at \$2,660 per annum. He covered a lot of ground, and modestly asserts that with his neighbours, Helgi Austman at Teulon and Jim Lapka at Eriksdale "We served the entire interlake area with some side assistance from Harold Ross at Stonewall. Today they have 17 men trying to keep up to the work we did then."

"My first car was "Old 109" - after Jack Parker had chalked up 127,000 miles, I used it for three more years until 1954 and added another 65,000. Two months before trade-in in March 1954, the Central Provincial Garage completely overhauled it at a cost of \$450. It traded in at \$600."

"I drove John Forsyth's "123" during the time when "109" was being overhauled. I didn't dare drive another Chev until 1970 (my present car)."

"109 was a great car for going deer hunting with. It had the clearance for stumps and rocks like a tractor. As the man said 'They don't make them like they used to'."

To Cross Lake By Air

Doug Gourlay joined the staff at Pilot Mound in 1956, and transferred to The Pas July 1, 1963 to become the first resident agricultural representative in that area. His extra curricular activities included the chairmanship of the World Champion Dog Race Committee.

It is fitting that we should conclude this treatise on transportation with Doug's account of his trip on that most modern and

up-to-date means of transportation - the airplane.

"One experience I'll never forget was while at The Pas. The United Church minister at Cross Lake had formed a commercial potato growing project with the Indians. He requested that I come in from time to time to give advice on fertilizers and bug control, etc.

"Mostly I went by train and then chartered a small plane from Wabowden, some 40 miles from Cross Lake.

"This one occasion I decided to go on a regular Cross Lake Airway flight which happened to be going in that evening. It meant a three-hour wait but saved the Department some \$25.00.

"When flight time arrived there was, in addition to me, nine weanling pigs for the Cross Lake R.C. Mission, a huge load of freight, two Indians, the pilot and his wife and two kids, and a German shepherd dog (owned by the pilot). The plane a single engined Otter.

"I shared a seat with the dog, he sat on my feet. The flight gave him gastric disorders - I wasn't sure what was on my feet but I could feel it hot - then the smell - together with pig odors - dog hair floating around. Even the Indians couldn't bear the smell - they put old rags to their noses. How does a fellow get in a fix like this anyway? But in any case, we landed safely."

Chapter XIV

THE BARR COLONISTS

Long pioneering years for extension gave way to the more sophisticated and affluent Sixties. The growth in numbers and aggressiveness of civil service organizations established these bodies as more effective bargaining agents.

More importantly, the acceptance of the Extension Service as a group of concerned and capable professionals by government and the farming public enhanced their prestige. Knowledgeable administrators in these more enlightened times and the opportunity to support better working conditions and promote cordial relations within the Department.

The increase in staff enabled outsiders to apply for positions on what we modestly affirm to be the best extension staff anywhere.

To close this history on a light hearted and optimistic note, we enlisted the talents of one of these relative newcomers, a blythe spirit from Saskatchewan, Lin Boyes. Lin documents for us the saga of -

THE BARR COLONISTS

Manitoba has been the recipient of several waves of immigration over the years. The Scots, French, Germans, Ukrainians, Icelanders, Norwegians, Swedes and finally the Saskatchewanians chose Manitoba as their homeland.

Although perhaps not as well known historically as the Barr colonists, who elected to live in Northwestern Saskatchewan, Dougie Barr, formerly agricultural representative at Biggar, Saskatchewan, headed a group of fellow Saskatchewan agricultural representatives who settled in Manitoba, in the year of Canada's centennial, 1967. Although, as has been mentioned, there had been previous invasions of our borders by Saskatchewan immigrants in quest of political asylum, the Barr colonists, consisting of their redoubtable leader who settled at Arborg; Art Domes, agricultural representative from Kindersley who transported his personal effects to Portage la Prairie; Clarence Guthiel who made the trek from Moose Jaw; and Jake Nickel of Meadow Lake, who sought his fortune at The Pas, comprised the largest contingent. The effect of Barr's pioneering spirit undoubtedly influenced Lin Boyes, former director of the Saskatchewan Extension Service to heed the call of the wild frontier, as it did Lawrence McNabb, former Eastend, Saskatchewan agricultural representative, now livestock specialist at Dauphin. Another former Saskatchewan agricultural representative, Don Webster, had immigrated in 1965 as a weeds specialist. However, he failed as a colonist and it fell to Dougie Barr to set the wheels of earnest

immigration in motion.

Although there are many agricultural specialists in Manitoba who are grads of Saskatchewan's College of Agriculture such as the previously mentioned Webster and McNabb, and including such resolute as Bob Bradley, Brian Andrews, Bob Mitchell, and Derald Ahner, there are also numerous agricultural representatives who came to the province either from college or other jobs. Bill Lambert at Beausejour, John Sanders at Ashern, Norm Hemstad at Virden, Don Connick at Boissevain, Al Walls at Teulon, and the recently retired agricultural representative at Somerset, Armand Gaudet, are at least some of the throng.

The overriding reasons for so many of the Saskatchewan tribe seeking the succour of our bosom, were: The much more amenable working conditions and the not inconsiderable difference in pay scales between the two provinces. The luxury of much smaller extension areas and a seemingly unlimited staff of extension specialists to call upon in time of need, quite astounded the new settlers. By no means least, of course, was the honour and the privilege of working alongside of the female of the extension tribe in Manitoba, the home economists.

Having immigrated from a situation wherein, the upper echelon of administration and government viewed agriculture as a very poor relation and extension as a necessary evil; to be considered a human being again, with all rights and prerogatives pertaining thereto, seemed indeed a happy circumstance, and the immigrants soon settled into their new situation and immediately undertook to learn the language and customs of their chosen home with every intention of living happily ever after.

APPENDIX A

Past Presidents of the M.A.R.A.

1945 - Organization meeting chairman, Ed. T. Howe
 1946 - To January 31st, Fred Hamilton
 1946 - February 1st to end, Joe C. Forbes
 1947 - Chas. Campbell
 1948 - Joe E. Lafrance
 1949 - D. S. Stevenson
 1950 - E. H. Lange
 1951 - D. L. Fletcher
 1952 - A. G. Arnal
 1953 - H. H. Austman
 1954 - E. T. Howe
 1955 - Jack Forbes
 1956 - A. A. Dilworth
 1957 - W. O. Lee
 1958 - Dave Hill
 1959 - R. R. Filteau
 1960 - Jim Lapka
 1961 - John Forsyth
 1962 - R. E. Forbes
 1963 - Glenn Arnott
 1964 - Fred Slevinsky
 1965 - W. T. Uhryniuk
 1966 - Peter Kiez
 1967 - H. M. Boughton
 1968 - Herb Kernsted
 1969 - Doug Gourlay
 1970 - W. E. Lambert

APPENDIX B

Secretaries of the M.A.R.A.

1945 - 1948 - Miss Edna McConnell
 1948 - 1955 - C. S. Prodan (January)
 1955 - 1958 - Joe C. Forbes
 1959 - D. S. Stevenson
 1960 - 1961 - Fred Slevinsky
 1962 - 1964 - Herb Kernsted
 1965 - 1969 - John Forsyth
 1970 - Al Nebbs

APPENDIX C

Ministers of Agriculture

<u>Year</u>	<u>Minister of Agriculture</u>	<u>Deputy Minister</u>	<u>Assistant Deputy Minister</u>
1871	Hon. Thomas Howard (Jan. 13) Hon. Alfred Boyd (Jan. 23) Hon. John Norquay (Dec. 14)	Victor Beaupre	
1872	Hon. John Norquay		

<u>Year</u>	<u>Minister of Agriculture</u>	<u>Deputy Minister</u>	<u>Assistant Deputy Minister</u>
1873	Hon. John Norquay		
1874	Hon. Edward H.G.G. Hay (July 8) Hon. C. Inkster (Dec. 3)		
1875	Hon. Charles Nolin (Mar. 5) Hon. James McKay (Dec. 16)		
1876	Hon. James McKay		
1877	Hon. James McKay		
1878	Hon. James McKay		
1879	Hon. P. Delorem (Jan. 14) Hon. John Taylor (June 4)		
1880	Hon. Maxime Goulet (Jan.7)		
1881	Hon. M. A. Girard (Nov.16)		
1882	Hon. M. A. Girard	W. R. Nursey (acting)	
1883	Hon. A.A.C. LaRiviere (Sept 6)	Acton Burrows	
1884	Hon. A.A.C. LaRiviere	Acton Burrows	
1885	Hon. A.A.C. LaRiviere	Acton Burrows	
1886	Hon. D.H. Harrison (Aug.27)	Acton Burrows	
1887	Hon. D.H. Harrison	Acton Burrows	
1888	Hon. T. Greenway (Jan.19)	(office of Deputy Minister abolished July 1, 1888)	
1889	Hon. T. Greenway	(Minister assisted by Chief Clerk)	
1890	Hon. T. Greenway		
1891	Hon. T. Greenway		
1892	Hon. T. Greenway		
1893	Hon. T. Greenway		
1894	Hon. T. Greenway		
1895	Hon. T. Greenway		
1896	Hon. T. Greenway		
1897	Hon. T. Greenway		
1898	Hon. T. Greenway		
1899	Hon. T. Greenway		
1900	Hon. J.A. Davidson (Jan.10) Hon. R.P. Roblin (Dec.22)		
1901	Hon. R. P. Roblin		
1902	Hon. R. P. Roblin		
1903	Hon. R. P. Roblin		
1904	Hon. R. P. Roblin	(office re-established)	
1905	Hon. R. P. Roblin	W. J. Black	
1906	Hon. R. P. Roblin	J. J. Golden	
1907	Hon. R. P. Roblin	J. J. Golden	
1908	Hon. R. P. Roblin	J. J. Golden	
1909	Hon. R. P. Roblin	J. J. Golden	
1910	Hon. R. P. Roblin	J. J. Golden	

<u>Year</u>	<u>Minister of Agriculture</u>	<u>Deputy Minister</u>	<u>Assistant Deputy Minister</u>
1911	Hon. G. Lawrence (Oct.11)	J. J. Golden	
1912	Hon. G. Lawrence	S. A. Bedford	
1913	Hon. G. Lawrence	S. A. Bedford	
1914	Hon. G. Lawrence	S. A. Bedford	
1915	Hon. V. Winkler (May15)	A. J. McMillan	H.J. Moorhouse
1916	Hon. V. Winkler	J. H. Evans(act.)	(resigned Jan.31 1916)
1917	Hon. V. Winkler	J. H. Evans	
1918	Hon. V. Winkler	J. H. Evans	
1919	Hon. V. Winkler	J. H. Evans	
1920	Hon. G.J.H.Malcolm (Sept.30)	J. H. Evans	
1921	Hon. G.J.H. Malcolm	J. H. Evans	
1922	Hon. J. Williams (June6)	J. H. Evans	
	Hon. N. Cameron (Aug. 8)	J. H. Evans	
1923	Hon. J. Bracken (Dec.3)	J. H. Evans	
1924	Hon. J. Bracken	J. H. Evans	
1925	Hon. A. Prefontaine (Jan.12)	J. H. Evans	
1926	Hon. A. Prefontaine	J. H. Evans	
1927	Hon. A. Prefontaine	J. H. Evans	
1928	Hon. A. Prefontaine	J. H. Evans	
1929	Hon. A. Prefontaine	J. H. Evans	
1930	Hon. A. Prefontaine	J. H. Evans	
1931	Hon. A. Prefontaine	J. H. Evans	
1932	Hon. D.G. McKenzie (May 27)	J. H. Evans	
1933	Hon. D. G. McKenzie	J. H. Evans	
1934	Hon. D. G. McKenzie	J. H. Evans	
1935	Hon. D. G. McKenzie	J. H. Evans	
1936	Hon. J. Bracken (Apr.28)	J. H. Evans	
	Hon. D.L.Campbell (Sept.21)	J. H. Evans	
1937	Hon. D. L. Campbell	J. H. Evans	
1938	Hon. D. L. Campbell	J. H. Evans	
1939	Hon. D. L. Campbell	J. H. Evans	
1940	Hon. D. L. Campbell	J. H. Evans	
1941	Hon. D. L. Campbell	J. H. Evans	
1942	Hon. D. L. Campbell	J. H. Evans	
1943	Hon. D. L. Campbell	J. H. Evans	
1944	Hon. D. L. Campbell	J. H. Evans	
1945	Hon. D. L. Campbell	J. H. Evans	
1946	Hon. D. L. Campbell	J. H. Evans	
1947	Hon. D. L. Campbell	J. H. Evans	
1948	Hon. F. C. Bell (Dec.14)	J. H. Evans	
1949	Hon. F. C. Bell	J. H. Evans	
1950	Hon. F. C. Bell	J. R. Bell	
1951	Hon. F. C. Bell	J. R. Bell	
1952	Hon. R.D.Robertson(Nov.7)	J. R. Bell	

<u>Year</u>	<u>Minister of Agriculture</u>	<u>Deputy Minister</u>	<u>Assistant Deputy Minister</u>
1953	Hon. R. D. Robertson	J. R. Bell	
1954	Hon. R. D. Robertson	J. R. Bell	
1955	Hon. R. D. Robertson	J. R. Bell	
1956	Hon. C. Shuttleworth (July 6)	J. R. Bell	
1957	Hon. C. Shuttleworth	J. R. Bell	
1958	Hon. E.F. Willis (June 30)	J. R. Bell	
1959	Hon. G. Hutton (Aug.7)	J. R. Bell	
1960	Hon. G. Hutton	J. R. Bell	
1961	Hon. G. Hutton	J. R. Bell	L.B. Kristjanson
1962	Hon. G. Hutton	J. R. Bell	W. E. Jarvis
1963	Hon. G. Hutton	W. E. Jarvis	L.B. Kristjanson
1964	Hon. G. Hutton	W. E. Jarvis	L.B. Kristjanson
1965	Hon. G. Hutton	W. E. Jarvis	R. A. Wallace
1966	Hon. H.J. Enns (July 22)	W. E. Jarvis	R. A. Wallace
1967	Hon. H.J. Enns	R. A. Wallace	J. M. Cormack
1968	Hon. J. D. Watt (Sept. 24)	R. A. Wallace	J. M. Cormack
1969	Hon. S. Uskiw (July 15)	J. M. Cormack	H. H. Austman

APPENDIX D

Directors of Extension Service Branch 1915 - 1970

<u>Year</u>	<u>Director</u>
1915 - 1921	S. T. Newton, Superintendent of Extension Service and later Director
January 1, 1921 - July 31, 1954	N. C. MacKay
August 1, 1954 - February 28, 1965	D. C. Foster
March 1, 1965 - January 1969	H. H. Austman
January 1969 - 1970	J. F. Muirhead

APPENDIX E

<u>Agricultural Representative</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Period</u>
F. W. Anderson	Teulon Minnedosa	1937 - 1943 1943 - 1946
A. G. Arnal	St. Pierre	1941 - 1943(T) 1945 - 1946

<u>Agricultural Representative</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Period</u>
A. G. Arnal	St. Rose du Lac	1946 & continuing
G. A. Arnott	Boissevain	1953 - 1965
H. H. Austman	Teulon	1948 - 1954
C.T.G. Bailey (Crash)	Hamiota	1950 - 1955
C.E.G. Bates (Livestock and 4-H Clubs)	Neepawa	1946 - 1953
James Baudic	(transfer to Brandon)	
	Neepawa	1958 (T)
	Baldur	(?)
	Killarney	1960 - 1963
H. M. Boughton	Roblin	1956 & continuing
J. M. Bowman	Neepawa	1939 - 1944
J. C. Brown	Roblin	1955 - 1956
	(Virden ? to M.O.E. to M.D.A.)	
Bruce D. Campbell	Neepawa	1957 (T)
C. J. Campbell (Charlie)	Morris	1941 - 1951
J.E.B. Campbell	Morden	1952 - 1954
L. H. Carter	Russell	1938 - 1940
	Portage la Prairie	1940 - 1946
R. J. Cinq-Mars (assistant)	Pilot Mount	1958 - 1959
	Somerset	1959 - 1963
J. H. Clark	Roblin	1949 (T)
	Roblin	1950 - 1951
John H. Conner	Dauphin	1931 - 1944
	Swan River/Birch River	1957 - 1959
H. A. Craig	Pilot Mound	1938 - 1945
	Carman	1945 - 1947
J. E. Crawford	Morden	1931 - 1933
George De Pape	Teulon	1947 (T)
Ray De Pape	Portage la Prairie	1949
R. M. Deveson	Hamiota	1956 - 1966
	Brandon to Winnipeg	
A. A. Dilworth	Minnedosa	1949 - 1956
C. C. Dixon	Brandon	1958 (T)
	St. Pierre	1960
	Shoal Lake	1963 - 1967
H. M. Douglas	Hamiota	1948 (T)
	Winnipeg	1949 - 1952
Dave Durksen	Teulon	1954 - 1956
G. A. Eisler	Holland	1954 - 1955
Roy Esler	Virden	1952 - 1956
R. R. Filteau	Steinbach	1949 - 1955
	Melita	1955 & cont.
D. L. Fletcher	Shoal Lake	1945 - 1952
	Carman (retired)	1952 - 71 (Oct.)
J. C. Forbes	Swan River	1936 - 1945
	Pilot Mound	1945 - 1950
	Portage la Prairie	1950 - 1965
John O. Forbes	Dauphin	1947(T) 1948(T)
	Swan River	1949 - 1956
John Forsyth	Russell	1947 - 1952
	Souris	1952 - 1970

<u>Agricultural Representative</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Period</u>
D. A. Foster	Winnipeg	1950 trf. to Livestock Branch)
D. C. Foster	Teulon	1930 - 1935
W. S. Frazer	Morden	1933 - 1940
H. C. Goehring	Shoal Lake	1958 - 1960
C. E. Goode	Portage la Prairie	1947 - 1948
	Shoal Lake (acting)	1942 (T)
B. J. Gorby	Shoal Lake	1940 - 1941
	Souris	1946 - 1947
D. M. Gourlay	Pilot Mound	1956 - 1963
	The Pas	1963 - 1966
	Swan River	1967 & cont.
H. W. Graham	Holland	1958 - 1960
	Carman	1957 (T)
	Brandon	1961 - 1966
A. W. Hamilton	Swan River	1956 - 1961
	Holland	1962 - 1969
F. W. Hamilton	Morris	1939 - 1941
Robert Hamm	Carman	1958 (T)
Elwood P. Hart (Assistant)	Brandon	1959
Wes Henderson	Carberry	1955 - 1956
	to A.J.C. to Can. Council	
Lloyd Henwood	Virden	1949 - 1951
Pete M. Herner	Ashern	1957 - 1958
D. J. Hill	Steinbach	1947 (T)
		1948 (T) 1949+
J. H. Hobbs	Eriksdale	1942 - 1946
E. T. Howe	Selkirk	1938 - 1950
	Altona	1950 - 1970(Oct)
G. C. Jenkins	Shoal Lake	1956 - 1958
T. A. Johnson	Carman	1930 - 1945
W.I.R. Johnson	Minnedosa	1956 - 1959
L. H. Jones	Hamiota	1946 - 1950
	Morden (? possibly)	1950 - Pool
H. L. Kernsted	Swan River/Birch River	1956
	Teulon	1956 & cont.
Peter Kiez	Fisher Branch	1951 - 1958
	Dauphin/Ethelbert	1958 & cont.
D. A. Kinney	Russell	1940 - 1945
Joe E. Lafrance	St. Pierre	1931 - 1960
W. E. Lambert	Arborg	1959
E. H. Lange	Teulon	1943 - 1948
	Morden	1948 - 1951
W. J. Lapka	Eriksdale	1950 - 1954
	Morden (?)	1949 (T) & 1954
Wallace O. Lee	Boissevain	1947 - 1953
	Neepawa	1953 - 1965
Robert Manns	Dauphin	1958 (T)
D. H. McCausland	Shoal Lake	1956 (T)
Keith McComb	Russell	1952 - 1958
Edna McConnell	Dauphin (assist.)	1940 - 1946
	(acting)	
B. B. McCreary	Morden	1940 - 1948

<u>Agricultural Representative</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Period</u>
E. J. McFadden	Shoal Lake Swan River	1943 June - Oct. 1946 May - Dec. 1947
M. G. McKay	Baldur	1952 - 1956 to Soils & Crops
D. F. McLean	Virden	1951 - 1952
Vern E. McNair	Carberry	1951 - 1955 to CBC to Winnipeg off.
Bessie McQuaig (Assistant)	Morden	1940 (T)
D. J. Meadows	Teulon	1956 (T)
	Baldur	1957 - 1958
	Carberry	(?)
E. G. Minielly	Portage la Prairie	1931 - 1940
M. Mitchell	Winnipeg	1948 (T)
J. Frank Muirhead	Holland	1942 - 1947
	Carman	1947 - 1952
Chas. Murray (deceased)	Swan River	1931 - 1936
John Negrych	Vita (ret'd)	1940 - 1947
E. T. Oatway	Baldur	1958 - 1959 to Extension, Winnipeg
Fern Paquin	Steinbach	1955 - 1960
	to Winnipeg office as	Economist
H. L. Paterson	Melita	1934 - 1935
	Teulon	1935 - 1937
Howard B. Peto	Holland	1940 - 1942 to U.S.A.
B. R. Poston	Eriksdale	1949 (T) 1954- 1957
	Melita	1950 - 1954
	Whitemouth	1959 - 1962
C. S. Prodan	Winnipeg	1935 - 1959
	(southeastern Manitoba)	(retired)
Ralph Rasmussen	Dauphin	1952 (T)
W. E. Rempel	Swan River	1947 - 1948
A. Robertson	Shoal Lake	1958 (T)
R. H. Ross	Stonewall	1950 & cont.
T. A. Sandercock	Selkirk	1950 - 1956
Harvey Scott	The Pas	May 1-15, 1947
	(looks like a short, short to home town garage Treherne to Pool)	
R. L. Sedgwick	Brandon	1957
	(to Livestock Specialist, to Winnipeg)	
G. Sigurdson	Swan River/Birch River	- 1964
Fred Slevinsky	Beausejour	1954 - 1964
	to ARDA Program	
D. F. Smith	Holland	1947 - 1948
R. K. Smith	Holland	1955 - 1958
E. W. Somers	Roblin	1951 - 1955
	to 4-H work to ARDA (?)	
Willis Steen	Brandon	1953 - 1956
D. S. Stevenson	Boissevain	1939 - 1947
	Souris	1947 - 1951
	Morris	1951 - 1956
	Selkirk	1956 - 1960

<u>Agricultural Representative</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Period</u>
Garth Stone	Stonewall	1959 - 1960
W. Stonehouse	Shoal Lake	1952 - 1956
	Carberry	1956 - 1961
A. J. Strachan	Minnedosa	1941 - 1943
H. E. Tolton	Neepawa	1948 (T)
	Holland	1949 - 1954
Gerald Therrien	St. Pierre	1962 (T) 1966
	Starbuck	1960 - 1961
W. T. Uhryniuk	Dauphin/Ethelbert	1953 - 1958
	Russell	1958 - 1969
	(to Agricultural Extension Centre, Brandon)	
A. A. Watkins	Ashern	1959
Don Wilton	Minnedosa	1946 - 1949
R. W. Winstone	Viriden	1956 - 1963
	(to Mines & Resources)	
D. Wooff	Minnedosa	1960
W. C. Van Wynsberghe	Morris	1956 - 1965

