

**THE CARLETON OBSERVER**  
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Hartland, N. B., March 25, 1925

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor Carleton Observer,

Hartland, N. B.

Dear Sir:

I was somewhat amused at the spleen evidenced towards myself in an article which appeared in your issue of the 18th inst., signed "N. B. Potato Exchange."

It is possible that the cause for said spleen will be more evident to the public when the report of the investigation which some of the members of the N. B. Potato Exchange are now undergoing is published.

With regard to the request that the duty on American potatoes entering Canada should be raised to the same as the American duty on Canadian potatoes, entering the U. S., I am in hearty accord; and have made strong representations to the Government along this line for the past two years, but I am sorry to say without success.

I am well convinced, however, that there are other important and sinister factors that are more detrimental to the potato producers of this section of N. B. For instance it might be interesting to your subscribers to read the remarks of F. L. Estabrooks Esq., M. L. A., (who is himself a potato shipper), made in the Legislative Assembly of N. B., on March 19, 1925. The shipment he spoke of was made to Santiago, Cuba, either in October or early in November, 1924.

As reported in the Saint John Telegraph-Journal of March 20, 1925, he said: "In regard to that shipment, he would say that the potatoes netted him about \$1.80 F. O. B. Sackville, N. B. While at that time other N. B. shippers were paying only from 60 to 80 cents per barrel to the grower. He had every reason to believe that a trust had been formed among other Canadian shippers. Proof of that was furnished by a letter from his agent in Santiago who spoke of having been invited to a meeting of representatives of the trust and then informed that Estabrooks was not important enough to join it."

Mr. Estabrooks wrote me last autumn to enlist my assistance in securing better transportation facilities between Halifax and Cuba, giving me the above facts at that time.

On Feb. 14, 1925, I wrote Mr. F. W. Bishop, president of the United Fruit Co., Ltd., of N. S., and received the enclosed letter from A. E. McMahon, manager of the above company. As this did not give the desired information in full, I wired him on receipt of his letter copy of which I am enclosing, with his reply to same.

met Mr. McMahon in Ottawa later and he said the thirty-cent barrels which they used exclusively in their potato shipments this season, were second hand barrels, and that new standard barrels, cost thirty-eight cents each this season in the Annapolis Valley. This is also rather interesting to farmers who paid nearly double for barrels last fall.

In correspondence with Mr. McMahon, he shows that sections of N. S. have received less than \$1.05 and from that to \$1.45 per bbl. net for the potatoes the present season up to Feb. 19.

He indicates they were being shipped to the same market that our potatoes were. This may indicate to the public why the N. B. Po-

tato Exchange are so anxious to draw a red herring across the trail.

I wish also to speak of another item which appeared in a recent issue of your paper, saying that the potato investigation would possibly cost fifty thousand dollars. This article appeared the next day in the Fredericton Gleaner, and had made the remarkable growth of another fifty thousand dollars over night. In the Gleaner article it was estimated that it might reach a hundred thousand dollars. The following day, however, a telegram from the Minister of Labour appeared in The Gleaner, which read as follows:

Ottawa, March 9, 1925.  
The Daily Gleaner,  
Fredericton, N. B.

"I note special despatch to your paper of March 7th, suggesting that the investigation into an alleged potato combine will cost the country fifty or one hundred thousand dollars. Amounts quoted are simply bunk, as the cost will not in my judgment exceed six thousand dollars, although I hope the results secured may amply justify the cost."

(Signed) JAS. MURDOCK  
Minister of Labour.

Another red herring!  
I imagine the above correction in the Gleaner must have escaped your attention, or you would have published it, as I am convinced you do not wish anything published in your paper that would create such an utterly false impression as this article was evidently intended by the writer to do.

In this connection it is rather unfortunate that so many people have not the moral courage to sign their name to articles they write the press and I would suggest that it would be a good thing if reputable papers like your own would insist on this being done.

Yours sincerely,  
T. W. CALDWELL.

TELEGRAMS  
United Fruit Cos. of N. S. Ltd.  
Kentville, N. S., Feb. 19, 1925.  
T. W. Caldwell, Esq., M. P.,  
House of Commons,  
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Sir:  
By request of Mr. F. W. Bishop I am answering the questions contained in your communication of the 14th inst. as to prices received by the producer for potatoes up to the present time for this season.

As you know we are a co-operative company, working through and in conjunction with our subsidiary companies. We opened the price at \$1.35 per barrel with 10c. commission, at the beginning of the season and then raised same with the exception of a few shipments to Havana, which only enabled us to give 5c. commission to our companies. The first of February the price was raised to \$1.50 with 10c. commission and we are now shipping heavily at \$1.75 and 10c. commission. The \$1.75 price at the present time does not cover the full amount we receive as prices have advanced very materially, but up to the present time our overhead has not been sufficiently well taken care of. We expect prices to be very firm for the balance of the season.

Yours truly,  
United Fruit Cos. of N. S. Ltd.,  
(Signed) per A. E. McMahon  
Manager.

Ottawa, Feb. 21, 1925.  
A. E. McMahon,  
Kentville, N. S.

Does potato prices your letter include barrels? What is your rail freight to Halifax? What markets are you shipping to? Reply right letter, collect.

(Signed) T. W. CALDWELL.

Kentville, N. S., Feb. 21, 1925.  
T. W. Caldwell, M. P.,  
House of Commons, Ottawa.

Potato prices include barrels and net to producer. Rail freight Halifax thirty-two cents for export, practically all shipped to Cuba. Our average handlings sixty-five thousand barrels annually. Price of barrels 30 cts.

UNITED FRUIT,  
A. E. McMahon.

Editor Carleton Observer,  
Hartland, N. B.



Dear Sir:

In your issue of March 11 under the caption "Farmer's Guide is Reprinted," a letter appears addressed to the Farmer's Guide, Carletonville, Quebec, dated March 3th. In the concluding sentence the writer asks the Guide to publish the letter.

Obviously there was no opportunity for The Guide to carry out the request. The letter dated March 9th published in your paper March 11th, reached the Guide on March 13th.

A lecture on ethics by one who employs such tactics is not likely to be seriously considered.

Your sub-title states that the "New Brunswick Potato Exchange takes exception to editorial in that magazine and answers charges."

In the first place The Guide editorial made no charges against the New Brunswick Potato Exchange. Its name was never mentioned. Yet Mr. Harry Webb, manager of this exchange used nearly two columns of your space in the first place in attempting to connect a Guide editorial cautioning the Maritime people against partizan treatment of the Maritime Rights agitation with a paragraph on the N. B. potato market. There was no connection either in thought or position between the two paragraphs.

Mr. Webb's assertion that The Guide published the letter in good faith will create no sensation in The Guide office. The suggestion that the editorial is wrong in fact and was published to serve a selfish partizan interest either of The Guide or "some selfish politician" unnamed and certainly unknown, is flatly denied. No information is accepted for publication in The Guide, except in the Open Forum, from any correspondent for whose reliability the Editor of The Guide does not take full responsibility.

The basis for The Guide editorial was the Cuban potato market reports issued by J. C. Manzer Company. These reports show not only the importer but the shipper of all potatoes into Cuba usually with prices in Cuba and general market conditions. Before quoting these reports in detail, a few mis-statements relating to the editorial itself may be referred to.

The date the enquiry commenced is stated in the unreviced Hansard of February 25th, 1925, page 539 to be December 14, 1924. The members of the alleged combine, which Mr. Webb assumes to apply to his exchange, were notified to produce documents on December 17, and their lawyer relied on their behalf December 23rd, preliminary enquiries under the Combines Investigation Act began November 14th, 1924. Formal application for the enquiry was made December 4th, the newspapers of December 19 reported it.

Mr. Webb was therefore wrong and a man of his presumed intelligence must have known he was wrong when he stated that the enquiry started on January 22, in any case. The Guide referred to "the announcement of the authority for the enquiry."

In his letter, Mr. Webb states: "During December before the enquiry into the so-called potato combine commenced, prices to the grower were 60 to 80 cents per barrel and were selling Cuba on December 24 at \$2.30 per sack of 180 lbs. which left the shipper 64 cents per barrel."

The first part of this quotation confirms the first part of the Guide's editorial as completely as one could wish. The Guide stated that "before the enquiry farmers were getting from 50 to 60 cents per barrel for their potatoes. After the announcement of the authority for the enquiry December 14th, prices advanced to 80 cents per barrel, although in the mean time prices in Cuba had dropped from 60 cents to a dollar."

Now refer to the Manzer Company's reports on Cuba under date of November 30th.

"Owing to light arrivals the market is firmer and sales are being made to the trade \$4.25 to \$4.50 per sack of 180 pounds duty paid."

On December 7th.  
"The market is depressed owing to heavy arrivals and sales are being made at \$3.00 per sack of 180 lbs. duty paid."

On December 14th, the date of announcement of authority, for the enquiry.

"There are four cargoes due to arrive here this week. This is double the quantity the market can absorb. Owing to large stocks on hand and 40,000 sacks due to arrive this week, the market is demoralized. Sales were made last week at \$2.90 per sack of 180 pounds, duty paid."

On December 21, "after announcement of authority for the enquiry."

"Market still continues in bad shape. Considerable quantity arrived unsold and was sold on arrival at whatever could be secured, some lots going as low as \$1.90 per sack of 180 pounds, duty paid."

"Owing to heavy stock on hand the market has shown little strength during the week and sales are being made to the trade at less than cost."

Until January 25th, there is no improvement in the tone of the reports. On that date the report states, "the market is slightly improved since last week and sales are being made to the retail trade at \$3.50 per sack of 180 pounds duty paid."

It is only fair to state that the prices given here are not on the same basis as the prices which Mr. Webb refers to. The Guide is not able to either confirm or deny Mr. Webb's

sale price but sticks as in the editorial to "prices in Cuba." In substance, we agree with him in his prices to the growers.

These prices show that from the latter part of November to the middle of December, prices in Cuba fell from the strong tone of November 30 at \$4.50 per sack to \$2.90 and the following week dropped as low as \$1.90. Surely this shows that prices in Cuba had dropped from 60 cents to a dollar while on Mr. Webb's own admission prices advanced from 60 cents to 80 cents to the growers.

Mr. Webb's reference to prices in Maine has no bearing on The Guide editorial. Neither has the editorial in the Wall Street Journal nor a discussion as to whether the buyer or retailer of produce is the worst offender in gouging the farmer.

Incidentally, however, although the United Fruit Companies of Nova Scotia, have shipped their potatoes through another party, they have returned to the growers \$1.30 per barrel at the lowest and as high as \$1.75 per barrel during the same period. These prices include barrels costing 30 cts. In conclusion let it be stated that The Guide editorial bears the caption "A Coincidence." No attempt is made to show the relative influence of the enquiry, the weather, conditions in Maine or anything else upon prices. They are simply set side by side. Carleton County intelligence will do the rest.

This letter is for publication.  
EDITOR THE FARMER'S GUIDE  
Gardenville, Quebec, March 18.

## HIGHGATE

Highgate, N. B., March 22—Miss Hilda Hartin was calling on Mrs. Edwin Weston on Monday.

Darold Stockford and Ena Stockford and Julia Downey spent the week-end in Littleton, Me.

Thomas Clark was calling on Robert Hartin of Cloverdale on Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Smith and son Paul of Littleton, Me., are visiting at the home of Thomas Stockford.

Eddie Weston is working for Chas. Furlong.

Julia Downey has returned to her home in Mainstream.

Eldon Buchanan was calling on his

## Souvenir Postcards Of Hartland

Colored Views 2 for 5c  
Velox Cards 5c each  
Easter Cards 3 for 5c  
Birthday Cards 2 for 5c

Any of these are really worth while sending to your friends

**Estey & Curtis Co., Ltd.**

Hartland, N. B.

Fredericton, N. B.

friends, Mr. and Mrs. James Chalender recently.

We are sorry to learn that Mrs. James Chalender is on the sick list.

We are all very glad to hear that Miss Mary Gormley has returned to her home after undergoing an operation at the Fisher Memorial Hospital at Woodstock.

Mr. and Mrs. Beecher Stewart and son Harley were pleasant callers in Hartland on Wednesday.

Miss Lulu Stewart was calling on

Mrs. Eddie Weston on Monday. Mrs. Annie Veysey was calling on her daughter, Mrs. James Chalender one day last week.

Jas. Ryan has returned from the south where he has been spending part of the winter.

Miss Hilda Hartin was calling on Miss Lulu Stewart on Sunday.

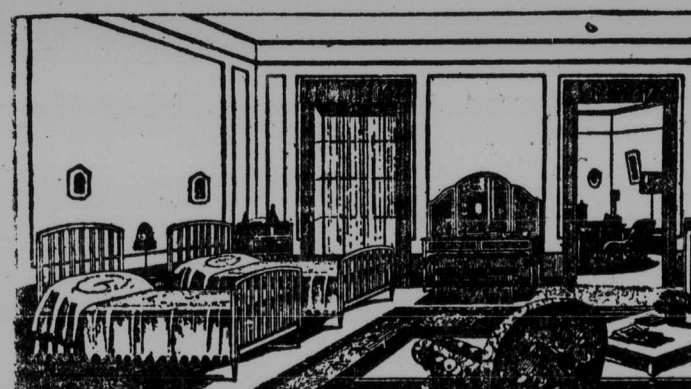
**OBSERVER ADS BRING RESULTS**

## Nixon's Nixon's Nixon's

Come in and inspect our stock of shoes that we are placing before the public for our Early Spring Sale. We are obliged to make room for our new summer goods. Come in and see for yourselves and be convinced. No shop worn stuff but all nice clean stock. Give us a trial.

**H. R. Nixon**

HARTLAND, N. B.



## SIMMONS BEDS Built for Sleep

No matter how simple or how elaborately furnished the bedrooms of your home may be—there is a Simmons Bed of a design and finish that will harmonize exactly. Artistic beauty, refinement of design and elegance of finish characterize every number. Simmons steel beds, in either "twix" or "double" widths, are masterpieces of beauty, and unlike beds of wood, they cannot warp, become loose jointed or decay. They are strong, correctly proportioned, serviceable, thoroughly sanitary and 100% comfortable. Let us show you these new designs.

**Simmons Bed and Bedding made for sleep**



With the above beds you need an OSTER MOOR MATTRESS and comfortable and refreshing sleep is assured. They are \$20 cheaper now than they were a few years ago and they last a life time.

House-cleaning has already begun in some homes. Besides beds and bedding, Congolium and Linoleum Rugs are in demand. Call and see our stock. If any wanted that we have not on hand, a wire will soon bring them.

**John T. G. Carr**

HARTLAND, N. B.

## "Tired and Worried Nervous and Despondent"

Mrs. M. Chevalier, Belle River, Ont., writes:

"For eight years I suffered from despondency and nervousness.

Sometimes I could not sleep at night for worrying and the next day I would be so tired that my work was a burden to me. I began using Dr. Chase's Nerve Food and can say I am now entirely relieved of the nervousness from which I used to suffer, and things do not worry me as they used to.

"Dr. Chase's Ointment also relieved me of eczema on my arms, which had bothered me for three years. My house is never without Dr. Chase's Medicines."

**Chase's Nerve Food**  
60 pills, Edmanson, Bates & Co., Ltd., Toronto