



INTERLAKE FLYER

F.R.E.D. ADMINISTRATION, NORQUAY BUILDING, WINNIPEG

January, 1974



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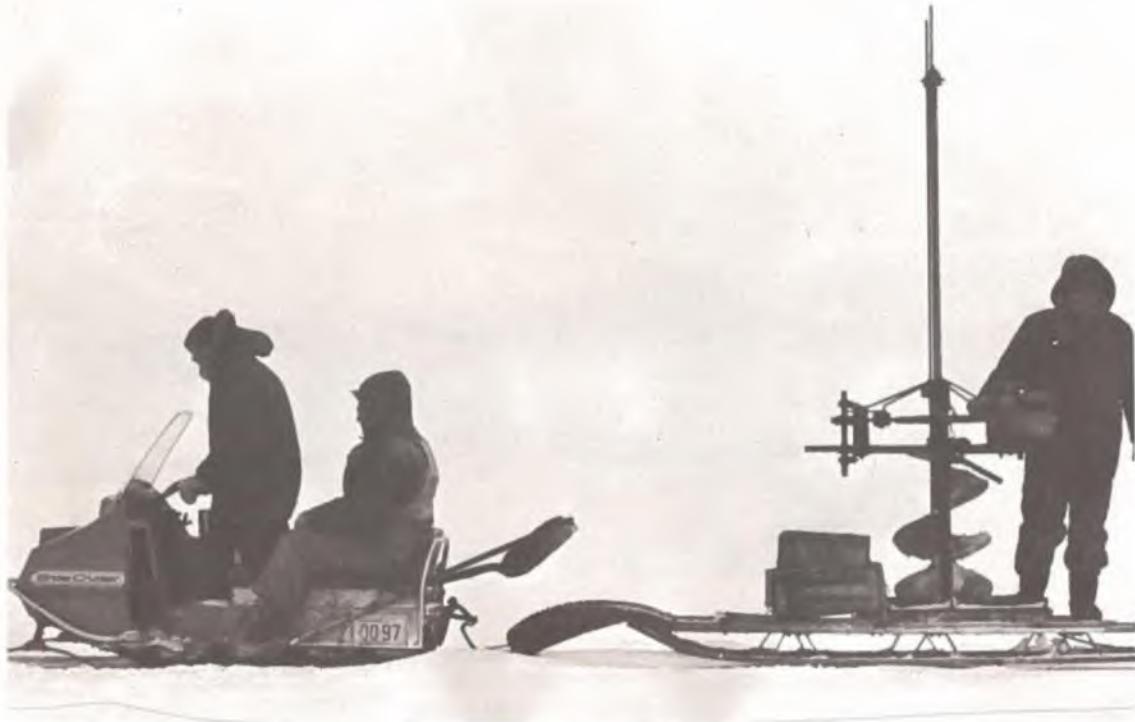
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Cold Facts On Fishing

In the past year, the Interlake's 1,700 fishermen have harvested over nine million pounds of fish for a total value exceeding three million dollars!



The power-auger, invented, produced and marketed nationally by Steve Sigurdson of Arnes is the best thing that ever happened to winter fishing according to most fishermen.

Although quotas on Lakes Winnipeg, Manitoba and St. Martin have remained constant for the past two years, higher prices for rough fish and high-value species has increased fishermen's incomes and should mean an even higher dollar input for the coming year. The figures, representing the summer and fall of '72 and winter of '73, indicate that most quotas are being fully met.

More fishermen are finding that rough fish can be profitable. Some species, such as Tullibee, or Mulletts, have more than doubled in price since November of 1972. An increased world market for the high protein Canadian rough fish is partly responsible for the price increase and an expanding home market is also beneficial to the fisherman. Many recent immigrants from Europe have traditionally enjoyed eating catfish and carp and prefer those species to some of the other fish found in Manitoba. Most of the rough fish processed at the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation's plant in Transcona are now exported to the eastern United States.



Conservation Officer Tom Paddock demonstrates how the "jigger" can pull a line for 300 feet under the ice and then let the fisherman know just where it stopped.

Don Kowal, supervisor of commercial fishing for Mines, Resources and Environmental Management, feels that production of rough fish should exceed one million pounds in 1974. Some fishermen on the south end of Lakes Winnipeg and Manitoba feel that if the highly effective trap net was once again permitted year round, harvesting the large, shallow-water carp could be worthwhile. Fish produced from these areas are subject to lower freight costs and the carp seem to be abundant in the south end of both lakes. One individual pointed out that if carp fishing was really promoted and regulated, it could have significant long-term economic importance.

Higher fish prices are a mixed blessing, however. Inflationary pressures have caused the cost of certain items of equipment to more than double since Lake Winnipeg was reopened. Some fishermen fear that the price of nylon nets, a direct by-product of the petroleum industry, may soon become totally unrealistic in relation to the price they can receive for their fish. A new bombardier that sold for \$8,000 in 1969 is now worth over \$16,000 and many of the older boats used for summer and fall fishing will soon need repair or replacement.

Greater efficiency is the key to maintaining fishing as a viable industry. Efficiency requires, among other things, that modern equipment and credit to purchase that equipment be available. Most private lending institutions don't consider fishing equipment as adequate collateral and fishermen have found it difficult to obtain credit for updating or expanding their operation.

Since the spring of 1970, the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation has loaned 930 fishermen a total of 1.5 million dollars for purchase of snowmobiles, boats, motors and other equipment that is necessary for a fisherman to run an efficient and successful operation. Approximately half of these loans were made to Interlake fishermen.



drilling holes



setting out nets

Capital and equipment are not all that's required for Manitoba's fisheries. Training and specific knowledge in such areas as equipment repair, boat building, book-keeping and fishing techniques are becoming more important. The Manitoba Fisheries Centre at Hnaua, a FRED project, operates twelve months a year offering a variety of such courses that can be of significance to fishermen. The Interlake Manpower Corps, Indian Affairs and Canada Manpower have cooperated to offer boat-building courses in a number of fishing communities. Additionally, the Department of Northern Affairs recently set up a communications program designed to provide any relevant information that people in fishing communities may require.

The Department of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management operate research and extension programs to help insure that commercial fishing can remain an economically viable industry in Manitoba for a long period of time. Biologists are continually



and pulling up nets in 30 degree below weather is common for many fishermen and necessary if you're serious about making a living at it.

how recently he has actively fished, and how dependent he is on fishing for his livelihood. The system is intended to make fishing more economically viable for a smaller number of individuals rather than let it become a mere part-time job for a large number of people.

working to preserve the necessary balance of fish populations and watch out for natural or man-related factors, such as mercury poisoning, that could destroy the lakes. Extension personnel and conservation officers are equally as busy out in the field checking to see that all regulations are met and that fishermen are taking best advantage of their opportunities.

What all that boils down to is the quotas and the licensing system. Based on their research and the information provided to them by conservation officers and fishermen, the biologists are responsible for determining what quotas should be like in each area, what fishing techniques should be allowed and what the overall regulations will be like. Quotas and licensing regulations necessarily differ from area to area.

Lake Manitoba is open only for winter fishing and no quota is placed on any individual fisherman. Lake Winnipeg, on the other hand, is open three times a year and a rather complex licensing system has been worked out to accommodate the many factors and still be fair to the fishermen. Under the new points system, which went into effect last summer, a fisherman is granted a license on the basis of how many years experience he has,

The new licensing system will have been in effect for one year when the present winter season is finished and it will be analyzed and perhaps modified before next summer's season begins. Fishermen in smaller communities point out that when their village loses three or four licenses because of the new points system, it takes a significant chunk of income away. Other fishermen have complained that some license-holders may be "renting themselves out" to larger operators who pay primarily for the increased quota they can then harvest. Fishermen who neglect their nets and consequently waste thousands of pounds of fish per year may also be affected after the licensing system is reviewed. Those who have taken advantage of the training courses at the Hnaua Centre will be eligible for additional points to apply towards their license.

Corpsmen Cope With Winter



Hecla Church waiting to be moved onto its new basement.

Interlake Manpower Corps trainees are working on several different types of projects this winter and the carpentry training course at Hecla Island offers one example of the variety of skills that are being learned.

Instructor-foreman Steve Matsko of Hnaua explains that the nine trainees have removed the Hecla Island Church from its old foundations and they are in the process of installing a basement on which the church-museum will eventually rest. Members of the crew have been working together on various Hecla Island projects for the past three years.

They are also working to complete the concrete oxidation ditch and holding tank for the Hecla Island sewage treatment plant. Working inside temporary plastic canvas shelters and using Herman Nelson heaters to insure that the fresh cement doesn't freeze, the crew has learned a lot about the complex methods of winter construction. One trainee commented, "Just keeping these underground pits warm enough and keeping all the water pumped out day and night is a big enough problem. But when you build something in there at the same time, then you've accomplished something." The trainees, from the Matheson Island, Pine Dock and Gimli areas, will work until late

spring by which time it's expected that the sewage system will be nearly finished and the church will be resting on its new foundation. Labor for this part of the Hecla Island project is paid for by the Interlake Manpower Corps while materials and other costs are assumed by the Parks Branch.

In St. Laurent, 20 Manpower Corps trainees are putting the finishing touches on the 19 MHRC housing units that were started last spring. Instructor-foreman Werner Steinbesser, in addition to supervising the



Constructing a concrete tank in a 20-foot deep hole in the earth in -30° is no easy task.

finishing work, is also training two assistant instructors--Clarence Dumont and Emil Desjarlais, both of St. Laurent, are learning the trade of construction crew lead hand.

The St. Laurent Manpower Corps team now has a full roster including a trained foreman, estimator, blueprint reader, plumbers and lead hands. The trainees are looking forward to setting up their own construction company and doing general contracting in the Interlake and perhaps in other regions.

The only remaining Manpower Corps employee at the Louis Riel Cooperative Furniture Plant is manager Dick Richards who is presently training John Chartrand, of St. Laurent, to take over as plant manager.

The Fisher River Indian Band is undertaking two major projects this winter with help in the form of Manpower Corps supervisors. Instructor-foreman Fred Murdock from Fisher River is supervising the ten-man crew that's working on construction of the \$50,000 Fisher River Fish Packing Plant. The workers, employed by the band, are facing conditions similar to those encountered by the Hecla Island crew. The construction site requires 24-hour attention to keep all the pumps and heaters functioning so work can continue. Herman Gray of Grahamdale, Manpower Corps instructor-plumber for the project, is teaching local workers about the techniques of winter construction and installing plumbing

in a building such as a fish plant. Stanford Murdock of Fisher River is the instructor-foreman for the ten-man crew that's building the new \$87,000 Fisher River Shopping Centre. Wages are being provided through a Provincial Employment Program grant.



Work on the Fisher River Fish Plant should be finished by spring.

Design, general contracting and engineering for both projects is being done primarily by the Fisher River Band and the materials for both the fish shed and the store are being paid for with band funds. Each Manpower Corps instructor-foreman is also training two Canada Manpower trainees.

The Manpower Corps Training Plant at Selkirk has been expanded by 15 employees. A new woodworking instructor, Michael J. Terry from Selkirk, was recently hired. The plant, which formerly employed only 30 Manpower Corps trainees, has expanded its operation to accommodate an additional 20 permanent Parks Branch workers for a total plant payroll of 50. The permanent employees are all former Manpower trainees.

Four Interlake Manpower Corps crews with members from Hodgson and Vogar have been working to complete vet. clinics in Neepawa, Killarney, Virden, and Dauphin. The crew working in Neepawa has already finished the clinic there and it's expected that the remaining six-man crews will finish their projects before spring.

Manpower Corps Manager Wayne Blackburn tells us that cooperation with Red River Community College and the Parks Branch in running the Beach Towers Restaurant will likely continue next summer as will the Youth

Manpower Corps Projects. He explains that the Youth Projects are intended for potential high school drop-outs and other young people who don't qualify for STEP. A heavier emphasis is placed on counselling and career guidance. It is also hoped that another agreement can be reached with MHRC whereby Manpower Corps trainees will be used to construct the proposed seven low-rental units at Ashern next summer.

Here's To Your Health

EDITOR'S NOTE: Last June the Interlake Flyer reported that the Department of Health and Social Development was reorganizing to provide better service to Interlakers. From time to time we have also covered various activities and programs that the department is involved in such as the Home Care, Home Visitors and Child Development Programs. The following should provide a better understanding of how the various programs and regular activities are interrelated and just what regionalization of Health and Social Development means to people living in the Interlake Region.

Dental health, disease prevention, children's progress in school, recreation, nutrition, mental stability, public health standards, making a living and being able to provide for oneself and family--these are concerns that can affect people in all income categories and age brackets at some time or another. These are some of the concerns that the 82 members of the Interlake Health and Social Development staff can deal with regardless of a person's age, income or background.

The overall well-being of any community requires that the physical and social needs of each person be met. To better deal with these needs, the Department of Health and Social Development has shifted their staff out of the central Winnipeg office into four, community-oriented offices in the region. The teams work primarily out of Ashern, Gimli, Stonewall and Selkirk and some workers are stationed in smaller towns around the region. In the past, workers serving rural areas were based primarily in Winnipeg and they spent a great deal of time in transit. Workers under the new system live in the area they serve and thus have the opportunity to become more actively involved in the community.

One significant change is that a staff member is no longer assigned to work with the whole Interlake Region. Social Workers, Public Health Nurses, Probation Officers, Public Health Inspectors, Intake Evaluators, Vocational Rehabilitation Counsellors and Home Economists can now work more intensely in a smaller, well-defined area.

This is where the "team approach" comes in. Each of the four offices now have a full complement of specialists who can effectively deal with most types of situations or problems. Each of the four teams are different because they have been designed to meet the specific needs of the area they serve. These team members share the same office, are assigned to the same geographic area and often work together on specific problems.

For instance, a Social Worker counselling a family whose grade five child is not doing well in school might find that the problem is the result of a low family income or a fluctuating income, in which case an Income Maintenance Officer is consulted. The Social Worker may find, on the other hand, that the family has an above average income and the problem is the result of nutrition, a heavy workload after school, emotional stress in the home, or some other factor such as lack of sleep because of snowmobiles driving past the house late at night. Because the Social Worker has regular contact with the other specialists in his office, he can readily consult with a Nurse, Home Economist, Public Health Inspector, Income Maintenance Officer, Probation Officer, or another Social Worker or specialist who may be more qualified to deal with that problem.

If something comes up that they can't deal with, they can quickly refer the situation to the proper agency. The Social Worker might also find it desirable to work closely with an outside agency such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Canada Manpower, Medical Home Care Equipment Pool, Red Cross, Meals on Wheels, Canadian Arthritis and Rheumatism Society, local hospitals, churches, Department of Agriculture or any other agency or organization that might be of value to the specific case. In this way the team can coordinate the various resources that may be available to a community so that the physical and social needs of each person can be more effectively met.

Social Workers in the traditional system have dealt with all aspects of a relatively small number of cases. The new system being adopted by the Interlake Region allows for a division of responsibilities according to the type of training or experience the worker has had.

A Social Worker is primarily concerned with personal counselling in such areas as marital conflicts, child development, student-school disputes, drinking problems, unwanted pregnancies or any other related problem. The client and the counsellor work together to determine the basic causes behind the problem and then try to eliminate those factors if possible. When a specific problem is defined, the case often becomes a matter for one of the team specialists.

The Public Health Nurse is concerned with the physical health of all individuals in her area. This doesn't mean, however, that she serves as a dispensary for aspirin and bandaids. Disease prevention, health classes for students in school and for adults, family planning, nutrition for the elderly, venereal disease, hygiene and checking on shut-ins are only some of the responsibilities of a Public Health Nurse.

The Probation Officer works closely with adult parolees and juveniles on probation to help those people become accepted, productive members of their community. This rehabilitation can be as simple as a monthly appointment or can involve intensive vocational retraining, alcoholic reform or long-term counselling with a psychiatrist.

A Public Health Inspector is actually an employee of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management who is assigned to work out of a specific Health and Social Development office. His responsibility covers anything and everything that might affect the public's health or safety. He performs routine inspections and investigates special complaints pertaining to recreational sites, public eating places and hotels, public washrooms, food handling, water supplies, septic fields, livestock operations, housing or any other service or facility that might have a detrimental effect on the community's well-being.

Vocational Rehabilitation Counsellors are involved in evaluating an individual's employment potential, assisting in obtaining necessary training and actually locating available job positions. Lack of employment is a factor in several of the cases handled by Health and Social Development and vocational rehabilitation can often provide at least a partial solution to some problems.

Intake Evaluators now handle all financial problems and determine what assistance might be available to an individual according to the income standards set by the Social Allowance Act. He is responsible for helping people in financial need determine what type of assistance may be available and he deals with elderly people, seasonally unemployed workers, unskilled laborers, physically disabled persons or anyone else experiencing financial distress who may need some sort of support. In addition to providing information on federal assistance programs such as unemployment insurance or family allowance, an Intake Evaluator can also help an individual obtain his pension cheque, workman's compensation, welfare allowance or other financial assistance. The service is designed to insure that no individual's personal income drop to a level where that person cannot function in the community.

Home Economists now have a place on some of the Health and Social Development teams. Working with town families that haven't traditionally received such services, the Home Economist can provide budgeting, food purchasing and other types of advice where needed. It's likely that this Home Economist service will be expanded in the future.

Explaining that only 14 percent of his staff deal with financial assistance, regional director Bob Burns says, "We're no longer just concerned with supporting people. An important motive behind all our new programs is to help people help themselves...through education, health or income aid we try to provide an opportunity for people to become self-sufficient. If a physically or emotionally handicapped person, convicted criminal or juvenile delinquent, untrained or uneducated person can become more independent of our service and can learn to function without our assistance, then the goal of self-sufficiency has been met."

The reorganization of Health and Social Development in the Interlake is intended to promote more efficient use of hospitals, intensive care facilities, doctors and other regular services and at the same time, insure that the social and physical needs of every Interlake resident be met. The people responsible for these duties are as follows.

The ASHERN office serves all people in Grahamdale, Siglunes, Coldwell, Eriksdale and Fisher and Armstrong west of PTH #7.

Bob Smith - Social Worker (Team Coordinator)
Len Duchon - Social Worker
Linda Yorkin - Social Worker
Goldie Korpan - Public Health Nurse
Vic Siran - Probation Officer
Ron Schur - Public Health Inspector
John Szpunar - Intake Evaluator
Norman Sinclair - Vocational Rehabilitation Counsellor
Walter Cochrane - Vocational Rehabilitation Counsellor
Alayne Rudolph - Clerical
Bernice Sutherland - Clerical

The STONEWALL office serves all people in Rockwood, Rosser, Woodlands and St. Laurent.

Muriel Pollock - Senior Health Nurse (Team Coordinator)
Leo Pantel - Social Worker
Myra Gillis - Social Worker
Maurice April - Social Worker and Probation Officer
Mrs. M. Bjornson - Public Health Nurse
Islay Jack - Public Health Nurse
Bob O'Toole - Intake Evaluator
Mrs. D. Scott - Clerical
Mrs. E. Buck - Clerical

The SELKIRK office serves all people in St. Andrews, St. Clements and the Town of Gimli.

Ron Friesen - Social Worker (Team Coordinator)
Marvin Benson - Social Worker
Sam Stern - Social Worker
Nancy Moody - Public Health Nurse
Shirley Matheson - Public Health Nurse
Anna Brown - Public Health Nurse
Inez Snyder - Public Health Nurse
Lou Greenburg - Probation Officer
Gary Hindle - Probation Officer
Ivan Gorsuch - Income Maintenance Evaluator
Bob Shalley - Intake Evaluator
Bob Benson - Intake Evaluator
Doug Drysdale - Public Health Inspector
Don Ness - Public Health Inspector
Ken Batchlar - Regional Adoption Specialist
Pat Harnyuk - Regional Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist
Dr. N. S. Rihal - Regional Medical Officer
Joy Plohman - Clerical
Janet Kidd - Clerical
Pat Wanag - Clerical
Shirley Unik - Clerical
Sharon Brace - Clerical

The GIMLI office serves all people in Gimli, Bifrost, Pine Dock, Matheson Island, Fisher and Armstrong east of PTH #7.

Alvin Voth - Public Health Nurse (Team Coordinator)
Janice Bench - Social Worker
Pat Reichel - Social Worker
Phyllis Karsin - Public Health Nurse
Redge Coburn - Intake Evaluator
John Flett - Vocational Rehabilitation Counsellor
Janet Gordon - Home Economist
Violet Gustafson - Clerical
Gail Hanchar - Clerical

(The Gimli office will also soon receive a Probation Officer and a Public Health Nurse to work in the Fisher Branch area.)

The following administrative staff members will be locating in the regional office at Gimli or Selkirk but will spend most of their time actually working closely with people in the four area offices.

Bob Burns - Regional Director
Al Gyorffy - Income Maintenance Director
Dr. Harvey Short - Regional Dental Officer
Ken Maskiw - Child Welfare Specialist
Ian Cuthbertson - Regional Administrative Officer
Clerical support staff for various programs and on-going services.

Future additions or changes in the team structures will be reported in the Flyer as will any new program or service that may be of importance to Interlakers.

Boost For Businessmen

Fifteen businessmen in the Lundar and Ashern areas are presently taking part in the Community Management Development Program. Sponsored by the Department of Industry and Commerce and the Interlake Development Corporation, the program is intended simply to provide the management assistance that a small rural business may need. Although the changes that are proposed aren't always spectacular and revolutionary, they can help a businessman cut costs and increase sales or production and as a consequence, increase net personal income.

Accounting, advertising, financing, inventory control, merchandising, personnel, production and general policy are some of the areas in which program participants can get some professional advice. Anyone who owns and manages his own small business is eligible for the service.



Mechanic Don McMechan from Lundar tells us that advice in setting up an accounting system for his new business is the most important thing he gained from the program.

Specifically what does the participant get for his \$25 fee? The first session is an evening meeting involving all potential clients and representatives from Industry and Commerce. Businessmen who sign up for the program are then contacted by a consultant from the Manitoba Institute of Management. Together they inspect the business, go over inventory, accounting and other important aspects of the operation and discuss any problem areas that might be of concern to the businessman.

The consultant returns the following month with a set of suggestions for improving the business. The consultants are people with extensive experience or training in business matters and are able to recognize the strong and weak points of the participant's operation. When highly specialized problems come up, the consultant may give the case to one of the industrial engineers, chartered accountants or personnel specialists that work with the program. A third private session is then arranged so the client and consultant can discuss the effectiveness of the various changes or perhaps solve any problems that may have been encountered in implementing the recommendations.

Bob Gunderman, manager of the Lundar McLeods store, tells us, "The consultant checked everything over pretty carefully and when he came back later with the suggestions he told us that most everything was in good

shape except for the baby clothes department. He pointed out that this section takes up 12 feet of floor space and grossed only \$45 last year. To make those 12 feet pay for themselves we've either got to expand the department so everyone in the area buys their baby clothes here or else eliminate it and put something else there that people have a greater need for."

Other Interlake businessmen who have taken part in the program have made such changes as moving the checkout counter closer to the front of the store, adapting a new accounting system, implementing anti-shoplifting programs or trying new merchandising and advertising techniques. Over 50 businessmen from Riverton, Arborg, Fisher Branch, Ashern, Lundar and Selkirk have taken part in the Community Management Development Program in the past three years. The program, an integral part of the government's Stay Option policy, is designed to provide an opportunity for rural businessmen to improve their service to Interlake residents and thus upgrade the quality of rural life.

Furniture Factory Future

If you've stopped at the new Oak Point Hotel on PTH #6, you may have noticed the furniture in the dining and beverage rooms. The 160 chairs, 40 round pub tables and 11 dining tables are all products of the Louis

Riel Cooperative at St. Laurent. All items carry a one-year guarantee on quality of materials and workmanship.



The addition of two full-time men in early December brings the total permanent staff of the furniture plant up to 12. Plant manager Dick Richards tells us that if the pending toy contracts come through, they could add as many as five men and three women to the staff. Prototype wooden toys from the factory have received favorable reaction from marketing people in eastern Canada and the U.S. and it's hoped that a large contract can be announced by spring. It's likely that Doral International, a Winnipeg-based toy distributing firm, will handle the new line.

In addition to meeting their annual quota of 10,000 step ladders, supplying the furniture for the new hotel and fulfilling several other

smaller contracts, the plant also supplied all the kitchen cabinetry for the 19 MHRC houses in St. Laurent that are nearing completion. Office manager Jim Bruce explains that although there seems to be enough market to increase the annual quota to 15,000 ladders, obtaining adequate amounts of the necessary hemlock is still the main limiting factor. The factory was completely out of wood for the month of November and the entire woodworking staff had to be shifted into the finishing department where they assembled the cut pieces that had been previously stockpiled in case of such a situation.

The crisis pointed out the need to shift the overall plant emphasis to products such as furniture and toys that require more labor and less material. The fact that toys and furniture can be made from the more easily accessible birch while ladders require hemlock is another factor in the decision to expand into new areas. Because all the wood presently used comes from western Canada, the possibility of using locally-harvested birch has been considered. Mr. Richards points out, however, that economic and energy factors in the U.S. may prevent the U.S. consumers from buying as much western Canadian lumber and the plant might even have the opportunity to buy a surplus amount this year.



The completion this summer of a 4,000 square foot addition to the plant has enabled the factory to increase production and make the operation more efficient. Labor and materials for the \$68,000 addition were provided by a Provincial Employment Program grant. The cooperative supplied \$28,000 worth of new equipment to enable the operation to swing into full production early in the summer.

The final assembly lines and paint booth are still housed in the old stone school building. The time that must be spent in carrying products and materials through the halls and up and down stairs accounts for many lost hours each week. A second PEP grant, approved in late December, will

pay for another 1,700 square foot addition which will accommodate a new paint booth and assembly line. Work on the \$22,000 project will begin in early spring.

Workers at the plant went on a 44-hour, four-day work week in early October. As one man explained it, "Most of us used to drive to work in Winnipeg five days a week anyway so working an 11-hour day is nothing new. This way we have Fridays off to get a part-time job or work around the house when the weather's good or fish on the lake in the winter."

Plant manager Dick Richards is the only remaining Manpower Corps employee at the factory. He is presently training John Chartrand, St. Laurent, to take over the duties of plant manager.

New Business Serves Region

Interlakers who are tired of butchering their own meat and who don't want to go to the expense of bringing the work into Winnipeg now have an alternative...the Interlake Custom Killing Plant at St. Laurent. Regular customers are already coming from as far away as Gypsumville, Selkirk, Portage la Prairie and Winnipeg.

The plant officially opened on December 13 and production already exceeds the ten units per week required to meet expenses. Klaus Georg, vice-president of the firm and head butcher at the plant, explains that one cow or four hogs equal a single production unit and the plant has been averaging 15 units per week since November. As of the grand opening date, over 100 hogs and 40 cattle have already been processed. The plant can also handle sheep, deer and moose.

To ensure regular, year-round employment for the staff and to promote a consistently low charge to the customer, the plant managers hope that customers will bring animals in for slaughter on a regular, year-round basis. People have traditionally butchered their animals in the late fall, whether they are ready for market or not, with the result that processing plants are extremely busy for a short period of time before Christmas and are operating at under capacity the rest of the time. This can result in a higher cost to the processing plant and the customer in the long run.



Klaus Georg and another employee prepare to cut and wrap some Interlake pork.

Although the operation presently employs only four full-time people and a couple of part-time workers, Mr. Geoerg feels that the building could eventually accommodate as many as 20 workers should they ever get that much business.

Shareholders in the locally-owned business put up \$22,000 and signed for a \$40,000 loan from the Manitoba Development Corporation. A special ARDA III grant provided \$36,000 toward the cost of establishing the business plus \$11,000 for the training of two local workers.

Once fully licensed as a commercial packing plant by both the provincial and federal governments, the plant expects to start buying livestock in the slack seasons and process them for commercial sale in Winnipeg.

Cougar Hunt Could Be Costly

On January 7, 1974, the Cougar was officially recognized as a rare species in Manitoba and came under the protection of the Wildlife Act. Ironically, that was also the date for the first Cougar sighting in the Interlake Region for the year.

The Cougar was spotted a couple miles southeast of Arborg at about 4:30 on the afternoon of January 7, Ukrainian Christmas. Mike Symnyshyn tells us that he was walking through his feedlot investigating some noises when the big cat dashed out from behind a hay stack and passed within 20 feet of him. The Cougar, who had apparently been rabbit hunting, hung around the corral for another five minutes before dogs chased him back into the bush. Rollie Blanchard, Conservation Officer from Riverton, later examined the large cat tracks and confirmed that the animal was definitely a Cougar.



The first fully validated sighting in southern Manitoba in recent times is the young adult male Cougar that was shot near Beausejour on December 25, Christmas Day. That incident took place before the present protection legislation came into effect.

Robert Nero, biologist for Mines, Resources and Environmental Management, informs us that there may perhaps be a maximum of two dozen Cougars in all of Manitoba. He adds that the Cougar, or Mountain Lion as it is sometimes called, isn't dangerous and will not likely attack a human being unless cornered.

Anyone caught violating the Cougar's protected status could be subject to a maximum penalty of a \$100 fine, two weeks in jail, OR BOTH. According

to the regulations established under the Wildlife Act, "Except under authority of a permit issued by the Minister, no person shall hunt, kill, take or capture a Cougar."

The Wildlife Act does, however, permit a farmer to kill a Cougar that is on his farm--BUT, only if he FIRST has definite proof that the Cougar is a threat to his livestock.

The mere presence of a Cougar is not legal justification to destroy it. If you suspect that you have a Cougar on your land that may be detrimental to your operation, your first step should be to notify the local Conservation Officer. Any Cougar shot in Manitoba, even under such extreme circumstances, must, according to law, be reported and the carcass automatically becomes Crown property. Ask questions first and shoot later.

Flyer readers may recall that in May we printed a request for information on Cougar and Mule Deer sightings. The wildlife biologists report that cooperation has been good with over 25 Interlake Cougar reports plus a report of two Mule Deer does in the Clandeboye area. The request for information still stands, so if you happen upon a Mule Deer or Cougar contact: Robert Nero
989 Century Street
Winnipeg, Man. R38 0W4
or call 786-7931 ext. 161 (collect).

Fertilizer Outlook

Indications from six of Manitoba's seven major fertilizer suppliers are that some farmers may not be able to buy as much fertilizer as they desire for 1974--not even at the new prices which have increased by an average of 20 percent.

This is not to say that fertilizer isn't available. Most farmers should be able to buy as much as they did last year--an amount that greatly exceeds their traditional fertilizer purchases. A number of factors, however, could prevent most suppliers from providing enough fertilizer to meet the full demand. Some suppliers have already sold their entire allocation of fertilizer and don't expect further shipments this year, while other suppliers have admitted that they won't be able to meet their normal commitment, much less meet the increased demand. Only those suppliers that operate their own fertilizer plants expect to meet the increased demand for 1974.

Transportation has been cited as the main problem. Producers are finding it difficult to get enough hopper cars to bring rock phosphate in from British Columbia. Furthermore, shipping companies that barge the rock phosphate up from the Florida coast, where it's extracted, to Vancouver are becoming hesitant to make long-term commitments because of potential fuel shortages for their vessels. Some plants in western Canada are reportedly operating with only a week-by-week supply of the phosphate.

Hopper cars are also necessary to transport bulk fertilizer across the prairie provinces while regular box cars, also in short supply, are necessary to transport the bagged fertilizer to the various depots. According to one fertilizer manufacturer, "All the box cars and hopper cars are being used to ship feed grains down to the feedlot operators in Ontario. We have trouble getting our raw materials and then we have trouble shipping out the product."

Another problem that may become more significant in the future is the fact that supplies of rock phosphate in Florida are dwindling. Electricity shortages in the southern states have already caused cut-backs in production; the price of this raw material has nearly doubled in the past year and at least one western Canadian fertilizer producer has complained of poor quality shipments containing impurities that result in lowered production.



A shortage of natural gas is being experienced by some American firms. Although it may be several years before that problem affects western Canadian producers directly, Winnipeg spokesmen admit that increased natural gas costs are reflected in increased fertilizer prices. One optimistic salesman speculated that if fuel shortages and natural gas shortages shut down enough American fertilizer plants, Canadians might have a life-long supply of rock phosphate. Supplies of the natural gas based, ammonia-nitrogen, fertilizer should remain adequate for western Canadian farmers.

All suppliers agree that one basic factor is responsible for the present fertilizer shortage--western Canadian farmers used comparatively little fertilizer until three years ago. Manitoba farmers used 40 percent more fertilizer in 1973 than they did in the previous year--305,000 tons compared to 216,000 tons! Many suppliers, transporters and producers had already made previous long-term commitments to other provinces and nations before western Canada jumped on the fertilizer bandwagon.

The situation is best exemplified by one fertilizer representative who told us that his company's sales were already up 300 percent over the same period a year ago but they had completely run out of paper bags to match the increased production of fertilizer. The firm does, however, have adequate supplies of bulk fertilizer. Other representatives mentioned similar problems that had arisen because of the sudden increase in demand.

Recent tests carried out by Agriculture Canada at the Brandon Research Station indicate that forage production in Manitoba could be improved by 50 percent with better use of fertilization; protein content upped by 50 percent and protein yield increased by as much as 400 percent! Farmers have obviously become aware of the dollars to be gained by increased use of fertilizer and the demand has consequently grown to be larger than the supply.

Farmers who plan to fertilize in 1974 would be wise to do their shopping now. Representatives point out that some farmers might have to shift to a different type of fertilizer, others may have to top dress nitrogen in June and those who wait too late might not get any fertilizer at all.

You Too Can Be A Leader

The Gimli Recreation Leadership Centre is already well into its 12th year of providing leadership and instruction courses to Manitobans from all areas of the province. Among events already scheduled for the coming year are courses in folk dancing, figure skating, water safety, gymnastics, wrestling, sailing, hockey and handicrafts. Most of the courses are designed to train instructors and organizers in the various activities.

The 1974 season started in early January with a three-day conference which dealt with how a community can get the most out of its existing recreational facilities and how to go about developing new facilities. Some of the future sessions that have already been confirmed include:

- January 25,26,27 -- Creative Arts Instructor Training, first level, handicrafts;
- February 1,2,3 -- Folk Dancing Workshop for Instructors;
- February 22,23,24 -- Creative Arts Instructor Training, second level, fibre arts;
- March 1,2,3 -- Pottery Workshop for Instructors;
- March 22 to 27 -- Playground Leaders Course for Teenagers;
- March 27 to April 1 -- Figure Skating Instructors' Course;
- April 5,6,7 -- Creative Arts Instructor Training, third level, puppetry;
- April 26,27,28 -- Creative Arts Instructor Training, fourth level, fibre arts;
- May 17,18,19 -- Creative Arts Instructor Training, fourth level, pottery;
- June 7,8,9 -- Creative Arts Instructor Training, fourth level, painting;
- July 27 to August 2 -- Water Safety Instructors' Course;
- August 16 to 25 -- Creative Arts Week for Instructors and Participants;
- August 25 to Sept.2 -- Gymnastics Camp for Instructors and Participants.

The first three weeks of July will also host a wrestling camp and a sailing camp for instructors and participants.

Peter Cowan, leadership training coordinator for the Community Recreation Branch, tells us "The prime purpose of the centre is to train community leaders and instructors so they can go back to their town and help meet the recreation needs. The centre itself isn't intended to provide recreation...it's a means for people to learn organizing and teaching techniques so they themselves can develop the recreational potential of their community."

A survey taken in 1973 indicates that those leaders who received specific training in one activity were more actively utilized by their community than those leaders who took only general recreational leadership courses. The upcoming year will likely see the introduction of even more specific training courses for leaders.

A secondary purpose of the centre is to simply provide a meeting place for 4-H, sports, fraternal and other organizations that may need a residential setting for meetings, annual conventions or planning sessions. Although the centre is intended for use by all Manitobans, its location makes it convenient for Interlake residents.

Over 100 sessions, averaging four days each, accounted for the 4,500 Manitobans that used the Gimli Recreation Leadership Centre last year. The facilities were used for over 300 days in total. The centre is designed in such a way that two or more different meetings can be going on at any one time.



The centre, renovated in 1968 with FRED assistance in the form of Manpower Corps labor, can accommodate up to 110 people at one time and several different meetings can be going on at once. In addition to the large meeting room, there are also several smaller conference rooms, a lounge area with a fireplace, cafeteria, crafts room with a pottery kiln, athletic and recreational facilities including a sauna and winterized cabins for longer meetings. Special teaching aids include projectors, tape recorders, video tape equipment and mimeographing equipment.

The Gimli Recreation Leadership Centre provides a means for Manitobans to make better use of their leisure time. For further information on what's available and rates for daily or overnight use for your group, contact:

PETER COWAN, Community Recreation Branch, 189 Evanson, Winnipeg or
FRED RANKIN, Resident Manager, Gimli Leadership Centre, Box 1286, Gimli.

SHORT HONKS

Home Owners' Program

No family should have to pay more than 25 percent of its annual income to buy a home. That is the basis of the Home Ownership Program recently announced by the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation. Eligible families can receive over \$800 a year in federal-provincial aid towards the purchase of a home. The MHRC subsidy is basically a provincial extension of the existing federal program. Consequently only those homes that previously qualified for CMHC and are on a community sewage line are eligible for the provincial program.

Additionally, the MHRC can provide a \$300 "start-up" grant to help defray legal fees, tax adjustments or moving costs to those families purchasing a home for the first time under the program.

An MHRC provincial subsidy of \$300 follows a CMHC federal subsidy of the same amount and the federal government also provides for an additional annual savings of approximately \$220 on interest paid on the mortgage. While the federal program only deals with families in the \$7,350 to \$10,000 per year range, the MHRC supplement is available to families with incomes as low as \$6,000 per year.

Metrication For Farmers

People who think that the Metric system is a series of low-calorie cookies and drinks for dieters will be in for some surprises in the next couple of years.

A system of measurement using the number ten as the basis for measuring all distance, volume and area, the Metric system is gradually being adopted by most nations of the world and it's expected that Canada will be totally converted to the system by 1980. International grain trade is already conducted in Metric tons and you may have noticed that many packages containing food, toiletries and electronic parts are marked with standard measurements in addition to Metric equivalents. All weather forecasts will be given in Metric by 1975 and the grain industry should be fully changed over by 1976.

In 1974 the Manitoba Department of Agriculture will gradually begin converting to the Metric system by using Metric, as well as standard English measurements in all publications. To help facilitate the change, Agriculture Canada has prepared a pamphlet called "The Metric System For Farmers." The pamphlet, available free at any Ag. Rep. office, points out the advantages of the Metric system, explains how it works and contains charts equating traditional English measurements to Metric measurements.

Grants Announced

The Manitoba Government will provide more than \$67,000 worth of labor to community projects in the Interlake Region this winter under the Provincial Employment Program. A total of 15 grants have been approved for various towns, municipalities, Indian bands and recreational organizations.

Town of Stonewall, \$5,395 for repairs to culverts and ditches, and recreational direction.

Selkirk and district Senior Citizens' Club, \$5,575 to provide visiting, transportation and domestic help services for the elderly.

Lake Francis Women's Institute, \$2,650 for community hall renovations.

Gimli Kinsmen Club, \$2,700 for recreational instruction and supervision, and maintenance of community recreation centre.

Petersfield Curling Club, \$2,250 for hall renovations and maintenance.

St. Andrews Community Club, \$2,825 for coordination of winter programs and maintenance of facilities.

Steep Rock Curling Club, \$2,000 for flooding and caretaking of skating and curling rinks.

Oak Point Community Centre Board, \$2,375 for icemaking, caretaking and repairs.

Gypsumville School District, \$2,200 for instruction, supervision and caretaking at community centre.

Manitoba Metis Federation, Hodgson and Fisher Branch, \$5,925 to provide a drop-in centre for children through renovations of existing building.

Peguis Band Council, \$3,425 to cut and stockpile dimension lumber to assist in a housing program.

Kiddie Kare Day Care Centre, Selkirk, \$14,125 for day care services geared mainly for single-income and low double-income parents.

Fisher Bay, \$8,105 for icehouse construction.

Matheson Island, \$380 toward a skating rink, \$792 for gravel piling and \$792 for moving the garbage dump.

Fairford, \$8,008 toward community hall construction.

Oak Hammock Closed To Snowmobiles

The Oak Hammock Wildlife Management Area was recently posted to notify the public that the area is closed to power toboggans, hunters and trappers.

To ensure the maximum productivity of upland nesting waterfowl, such as mallards and pintails, it is essential to maintain a grassy nesting cover. The vegetation is also required as nesting cover for sharptailed grouse and other wildlife species. Mines, Resources and Environmental Management officials point out that snowmobiles unavoidably pack the snow and crush plants underneath, thus destroying the necessary foilage that wildlife will require next spring.

Interlake Development Corporation Minutes

The board of directors held the regular December 13 meeting at Arborg.

The financial report up to December 31, 1973 indicates that Corporation expenditures for the whole year totalled \$48,724.43, income totalled \$44,882.73, and the surplus savings balance now stands at \$19,087.61.

The committee on local government met with Howard Pawley, Minister of Municipal Affairs, on December 10 to discuss November's seminar on local government problems and also to talk about the brief that the Corporation is preparing. No plans were discussed concerning overall changes in local government organization.

The directors discussed the province's new Home Ownership Program and it was noted that the provincial supplement was available to families with \$6,000 incomes while the federal program only went as low as \$7,350.

Correspondence was read informing that applications for suites in the Evergreen Apartments should be sent to 300-208 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg until a permanent office is set up in Gimli. The apartments may be open by April.

Contracts between the Interlake Development Corporation and St. Laurent, Winnipeg Beach and Woodlands are due to be renewed in 1974.

A letter was received from James Richardson approving the Corporation's recommendation to establish a new fish processing plant in Selkirk.

The directors agreed that the Corporation would purchase a shield and miniature trophies for the winning team in the 1974 Interlake Municipal Bonspiel to be held in Lundar.

A tax consultant from the Department of National Revenue will be available for Interlake meetings during the week of February 4-8.

The meeting adjourned to the lower recreational area in the recently purchased home of Ian Taylor where topics of the evening's meeting were discussed in greater depth.

AROUND THE BOARDS

Bifrost

Meeting of November 14. Nine members present.

The matter of building community interest in the area development board was discussed and it was suggested that high school students be included.

The need for dental services is great. The idea was put forward that the board might pay part of a dental student's school expenses with the understanding that he has to come back to Arborg to practice for a certain amount of time.

A report on the hospital situation indicates that a 65-bed unit is needed.

The local communications problem was also discussed. Members will consider the possibility of setting up a local newspaper between Arborg and Riverton.

COMMUNICATIONS is to be the topic of the evening at the January 9 supper meeting.

Camper-Gypsumville

Meeting of August 16. Five members present, two visitors.

It was recommended to the Department of Highways that a 30 MPH speed limit be imposed on the bridge crossing the Fairford River as the present fast-moving traffic creates a hazard to the many people who fish from the bridge.

It was recommended to the Parks Branch that the wayside park on the north side of the Fairford bridge be converted into a full-fledged campsite with complete facilities.

The board recommended that the road passing through the Fairford Reserve be identified to alleviate some of the confusion encountered by tourists.

The board will seek information on the establishment of a landing strip in the area.

The board protested the "hit and miss" practice of controlling water levels of the Fairford River and the resulting flooding of good hay lands.

* * * * *

Meeting of October 11. Five members present plus one guest speaker.

The board agreed to contact Mr. J. Kozak of Gypsumville concerning peat moss exploration in the area.

The board received a letter from Mines, Resources and Environmental Management explaining the details of the operation of the Fairford River dam and why the water levels are regulated as they are.

A letter from the Department of Highways was received indicating that numbering the road through the Fairford Reserve was unnecessary but that the posting of 30 MPH speed limit on the Fairford River bridge was being considered.

William Pollard, biologist for Mines, Resources and Environmental Management, informed the board that the Manitoba Government and the federal Department of Fisheries are presently discussing a cost-shared program for establishing a fish ladder at the Fairford dam. Studies are underway to determine what exactly causes the fluctuations in fish populations.

* * * * *

The annual meeting was held on December 13. Nine members present.

A letter was received from the Department of Industry and Commerce indicating that municipal airports which are eligible for licensing by the federal Ministry of Transport can receive provincial aid in the sum of \$3,500 for construction, \$500 a year for maintenance and a \$20,000 loan can be made available.

A letter will be sent to the L.G.D. of Grahamdale and the R.M. of Siglunes requesting their cooperation on a joint airport project.

A letter will be sent urging the government to shorten the big game seasons and to curtail the taking of trophy heads.

Interlake Manpower Corps will be contacted concerning the setting up of courses in the area to train men in the operation and maintenance of heavy construction and farm equipment.

Fisher

Meeting of December 17. Nine members present, four visitors.

A brief dealing with highway improvements, drainage completion and the need for veterinary services will be submitted to the Minister of Agriculture at the meeting in Gimli on January 21.

"The Lake St. George Report", a provisional master plan for recreational use of the whole St. Lakes' area, was discussed and left with the board for further study.

It was agreed that further cottage development be deferred until more work is done on the public campsite--washrooms, drinking water, etc.-- and a letter will be sent to the regional supervisor of the Parks Branch requesting that funds be spent in 1974 on the improvement of the facilities at Lake St. George.

The next meeting will be at the Hodgson Community Hall at 8:00 p.m., January 28.

Gimli

Meeting of December 18. Eight members present, 12 guests.

A plumbing course will be held in the Fraserwood Hall on January 23. A three dollar fee will be charged.

A letter from the Interlake Development Corporation was read requesting closer ties between area development boards and the Corporation. It was suggested that perhaps a representative from each board should attend the Corporation meetings.

It was announced that all area development boards would be meeting with the Minister of Agriculture in Gimli on January 21 to discuss what has been accomplished and what can be done in the future. It was suggested that maybe area development boards should meet three or four times a year with the Minister.

The board recommended that the government consider supplying grass seed to farmers as was done in the past.

Lundar

Meeting of December 12. Nine members present.

The community coordinator will investigate the possibility of holding a course to prepare interested citizens for writing the Manitoba High School Equivalency Test.

A total of \$280 in honorariums and expenses were paid to members and it was decided to have W. F. Breckman audit the board ledger for 1973.

St. Laurent

Meeting of December 10. Nine members present.

Public scales will be located by R. Bernard and A. Giesbrecht.

Arena financing was discussed. Mr. Dumont will investigate the possibility of obtaining a NIP grant and a \$20,000 grant from Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs and it was further suggested that perhaps people would rather make a cash contribution for the arena than have their taxes raised.

The board's fiscal year was altered to run from April 1 to March 31 in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture's fiscal year.

A committee was formed to investigate the possibility of obtaining ambulance service for the community.

South Interlake

Meeting of December 4.

The matter of directors' indemnities was discussed and it was decided that directors should receive \$5 for each meeting, \$10 a day for extra meetings and five cents per mile mileage remuneration.

A letter is to be sent to the Minister of Agriculture requesting that the Manitoba Artificial Insemination headquarters be moved back to Stonewall.

"R. Tully's report is as follows on the use of farm land:

WHEREAS this government seems sympathetic to agriculture and is trying to assist in the retention of population in rural areas. MOTION

WHEREAS the Area Development Boards were set up to be an informative group to suggest projects for their own areas.

WHEREAS the South Interlake Development Board is interested, not only in their own area, but all of Manitoba.

WHEREAS a forward looking province must have active participation of its people running their own programs.

WHEREAS the general trend of this government seems to be, the "take over" of already successful programs.

Examples of these take overs are:

1. The Farm Leasing Program presently in force whereby prospective farmers must lease land for 5 years from the government prior to purchasing, even from their own parents, otherwise no loan money is available.
2. The Artificial Insemination unit freedom is being eroded. The government is trying to establish itself as sole purchaser of semen in the province. We fear the results of a monopoly.
3. Winnipeg Milk Producers were planning their own Milk Pooling Program when the government took complete control out of the hands of a cooperative representing their own producers.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Manitoba interest itself in new programs to improve the living standards of rural people by assisting agriculture in the following ways.

1. Warble flies are causing huge losses to cattlemen. Could a Warble Free Program be planned for the whole province?

2. I.B.R. disease in livestock is becoming more prevalent. Dairymen, whose herds it strikes stand to lose 2 to 3 months milk production amounting to thousands of dollars. Could an educational program be set up to warn cattlemen of the seriousness of this disease? There is an inoculation available.

3. Since elevators are being closed leaving farmers with no choice but to haul their grain 20 to 40 miles. This larger area causes congestion so that sometimes 15 to 20 trucks are waiting to unload. Farmers cannot afford this waste of valuable time. Could something be done to alleviate this problem?

4. Strikes conveniently called during harvest or any busy delivery period, thus preventing grain from being transported to the buyers, should be dealt with. This is Federal Business, but our Provincial authorities could exert pressure to stop these injustices to the farmers of Manitoba and other provinces.

5. Fuel shortages are the topic of the day. Have we any long term guarantee that fuel will be available for Agricultural production?

6. Fertilizer too is in short supply. Fertilizer supplies should be available to maintain and increase food production for a starving world.

7. What is being done about the North Dakota Irrigation Project? Water from the Souris and Red Rivers would be used for irrigation and Manitoba would receive the runoff which could cause saline buildup in our Lake Winnipeg, not to mention the contamination of the water supplies of towns like Emerson, Portage la Prairie, and others using river water. This project, just in the beginning could introduce strange species of marine life from the Missouri River into Lake Winnipeg, possibly affecting the fishing industry detrimentally. This project should be studied and vigorously objected to before it is too late.

8. Care should be exercised in the indiscriminate use of highly productive agricultural land by industry, airports, etc. When selecting sites for projects such as these, soil tests should be taken to ascertain the land productivity to insure that low producing land is used thus reserving all productive land for the growing of food.

9. Pollution equipment."

It was suggested that the PEP Program be opened up to other than Farm Diversification Program clients; that the \$20,000 restriction be raised; that the federal and provincial governments pay more attention to the energy crisis as it related to agriculture; that local associations between farmers be formed to cut down the number of times a single animal may be sent to the auction mart; and that local pools of like-production farmers be formed who could help each other out in emergencies and could allow dairy farmers to take holidays.



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