

Saskatchewan, perhaps more than any other province, is married to the ups and downs of its agricultural sector where overall economic health is concerned.

When the farmers are riding high, so is the province. The reverse is also true. More direct cash flow influence, either way, is generated by the farming community than from oil, potash and metal mining combined.

What's the short and medium term outlook for Saskatchewan agriculture as seen from the viewpoint of November, 1977, with the harvest behind us and Seeding Time 1978 six months away?

It's "iffy", said Saskatchewan Wheat Pool president Ted Turner this week when he gave his annual policy address to the 53rd annual meeting of delegates to the Pool in Regina.

And by extension the economic health of the province, as winter approaches, is "iffy" too.

Saskatchewan farmers have less money to spend this year on farm machinery and equipment, on consumer goods and on winter travel.

Continually rising farm costs and lower cash receipts have forced farmers to trim their spending plans, Turner said. Farm income is down by about 21 per cent, and that means some belt tightening by farmers and their families. This almost surely will put a damper on Christmas shopping this season, with some merchants predicting gross dollar sales increases that may only keep pace with the inflation rate.

Farm machinery and equipment sales were down 24 per cent for the first half of 1977, compared with the same period in the year before, and there's no sign of a pickup.

Speaking for the Pool, Turner proposed a cautious approach over the short term. "We are entering a period in which difficult decisions will be required of all of us", he said. "We will need to assess carefully the things we would like to do against our ability to finance them".

Caution at the farm gate is one thing, and prudence at the Pool level is another, each having an effect on cash flow and the provincial government's budgetary position. These factors were anticipated by Premier Blakeney and Finance Minister Walter Smishek last spring when they forecast a fiscal 1977-78 deficit. It remains to be seen just how substantial the projected deficit will be.

But Turner emphasized the short term

nature of the farm cash flow slowdown, provided all goes well in the area of influences on farm profitability that are outside the power of the individual farmer, or even in many cases the Pool, to control.

Aggressive selling by the Canadian Wheat Board could result in one of Canada's best export sales years for wheat, "although there is little cause for optimism with regard to price". Still, volume is something, and Turner noted that Canada's share of the world wheat trade increased in 1976-77 to 21.9 per cent from 18.4 per cent in the previous year.

The federal farm income stabilization plan can go a long way toward levelling out the agricultural boom-and-bust cycle, but it's still up to the individual farmer to keep a sharp eye peeled on costs and productivity.

How he meets that challenge affects us all.

## Step to linguistic justice

By Marcel Guay

Marcel Guay is a free-lance reporter based in Saskatoon.

The Saskatchewan government has an important opportunity to make the first step towards making linguistic justice for both French and English available in Canada.

In the interests of Canada as a whole, the provincial government could support the three per cent of the population wanting education available in French on an equal footing with English. By passing legislation guaranteeing French rights, the province would become the first English province to follow the lead of the Parti Quebecois, which guaranteed English rights in Quebec with Bill 101.

Quebecers have allowed a parallel English system of schools, universities, hospitals and services in the 90 per cent French milieu while the English provinces have always stopped the French from doing the same in English provinces. With Bill 101, the French have gone a step farther and guaranteed education rights to those defined as English Quebecers.

Correcting this injustice is essential, Serge Joyal, MP for Rosemont-Maisonneuve, Montreal, told a meeting of about 500 members of the French Canadian Cultural Association of Saskatchewan November 12.

The permanent solution to linguistic problems that divide Canada is to have a uniform adoption of laws by all provinces guaranteeing equal treatment for French and English, he said.

Basically, the future of Canada is in cultural diversity and Canadians must ensure that such diversity is protected.

Both the French and the English must find the opportunity to develop their own identities and this opportunity must be a right guaranteed in the federal constitution and in provincial legislation, Joyal believes

By Yvonne Zacharias

Yvonne Zacharias is a Leader-Post reporter assigned to coverage of the Saskatchewan Legislature.

Relax, folks.

The deep reservoir of concern building up in the province that the rabble-rousers were going to gain control of that solemn, sacred sanctuary, the Legislative Assembly, can now drain itself of all anxiety.

The Progressive Conservatives have assured us they will be good boys still. None of those perfidious acts like chewing gum, throwing paper, reading newspapers, heckling and desk thumping for them though the Liberals and the NDP may indulge in such acts of unmitigated wickedness.

And lest there is still fear that the PCs are slipping in their roles as masters of decorum in the legislature, they have decided to go one step further to show their deep respect for the chamber.

They called a press conference, no less, to announce their decision not to smoke during the committee of the whole and the committee of finance when the rules of the legislature allow members to light up. Think of it.

And the list of sacrifices made by the PCs on behalf

This won't happen overnight because the re-writing of the Constitution depends on the generosity of Quebecers to re-open debate on the issue. The election of the Parti Quebecois effectively closed the debate since Rene Levesque has repeatedly said he is not interested in any re-negotiation of the Canadian deal.

Joyal, on the other hand states, "I am convinced of the possibility of re-defining Canadian society so that everyone will have equal linguistic and cultural rights."

To accomplish this, both the French and English in all parts of Canada must have equal access to all the institutions of society, he believes. The minimum requirement for the continuation of the French culture and language in Canada is to have access to French education, but the francophones in Saskatchewan should be aware that they should try to expand equality to all institutions, he said.

"It is time to construct a new Constitution for Canada making the obligations of the provinces clear concerning the two founding races," he said.

The association argument that French is one of the founding cultures of Canada and deserves special treatment as such has been countered by arguments placing French in a larger multi-cultural group.

Within the imaginary closed wall of Saskatchewan, the multicultural argument holds true, Joyal said. The French question is not enclosed in Saskatchewan and the same problems and issues are felt across Canada.

"I am one of the greatest supporters of multiculturalism, but I also recognize the bilingual nature of Canada as a separate problem," he said.

The opportunities for cultural identity and linguistics must both be guaranteed, he said.

"At this point in time, the tension between the French and English must be resolved, and to do this we have no other choice than to reconstruct Canada's Constitution to make French and English equal," he said.

of you and me goes on. Heaven knows, they could have disrupted the pomp and ceremony of opening day in the legislature by taking their "rightful" place on the Speaker's left-hand side in the chamber, the place reserved for the official Opposition in the legislature.

But our deep thanks goes out to the PCs again. They restrained themselves. They showed themselves to be honorable, upright and, above all, imbued with a deep sense of decorum. They went quietly to their seats on the left-hand side of the Liberals, the furthest seats from the Speaker.

And instead, they sent a letter to the Speaker with copies also sent to the media telling all that they could have been naughty and stolen the Liberals seats because who could doubt they belong where the official Opposition sits? Never mind that the PCs and Liberals have an equal number of MLAs: Tony Merchant and Stuart Cameron, two Regina Liberal MLAs, have been nominated to run federally which will reduce the Liberal caucus by two.

Never mind that Cameron and Merchant haven't resigned their seats yet. The fact that they will be leaving makes the Progressive Conservatives the official Opposition, says Eric Berntson, PC party whip, in his letter to the Speaker which surprised everyone since Berntson has never been known as the architect of such artful schemes before.

"The final decision by the New Democratic Party in the matter of recognition of the Progressive Conservative caucus as one of the official Opposition parties... as outlined this morning by your office is not acceptable to me or to our caucus," Berntson wrote in his letter.

Can it be? Is Berntson, a member of the Respectful Eleven, daring to attack the Speaker? Not a chance, says Berntson. He accused the NDP and the Liberals of having ganged-up and made a "deal" to prevent the PCs from taking their "rightful" spot to the left of the Speaker. Never mind that the final seating plan came from the Speaker's office. He wouldn't do a thing like attacking the Speaker. That would be disrespectful, evil, not to mention lacking in decorum. Almost as bad as chewing gum, heckling or smoking cigarettes.

Now, you may have heard rumors started by Attorney-General Roy Romanow that Berntson had agreed to the seating arrangement at a meeting only the day before the session started.

But Berntson can clear up that confusion, too. Though Berntson had said the three parties and the Speaker had reached a "gentlemen's agreement" shortly before the session started on how the two opposition parties would be treated, it was probably "an unfortunate choice of words."

What Berntson really meant to say was that they had reached an "understanding" rather than a "gentlemen's agreement." And as well all know, there is a great big difference.

Today  
in History

1828—Franz Schubert, German composer, died.

1951—The world's first atomic power-generating plant started operating at Harwell, England.