

New Brunswick Notes

The farmers of this province, and especially those in the southern part have had thus far a very hard season. Cold and continued wet weather have prevented good cultivation and seeding. Up to the 7th June not more than half the crop was in the ground, but since then the weather has been bright, with drying winds, and at this date, 20th June, seeding is about finished, and those crops that are above ground are looking fairly well.

Although there was not much winter-killing the hay crop does not promise to be an extra one. In some places reports are good, but generally speaking, should the present dry weather continue for long, the grass will not be up to the average.

Pastures are fairly good, and since the weather has turned warm the milk flow is coming up. Some factories report extra large receipts of milk, but for the whole month of June it is doubtful if the record of previous years will be maintained. The prices of cheese and butter are holding up well, and there is every encouragement to the man who has cows to make them do their best.

The writer was in a cheese factory to-day that had cleaned out everything to date at 11½¢ per lb., and there was only one day's make left on

the shelves. It is a pity that buyers will insist on taking such green stock, for three weeks in the curing room is a short enough time for a cheese to become edible.

The Maritime Dairy Company has opened a butter factory in St. John city, and is gathering cream all along the lower part of the St. John and its tributaries by steamer. The price paid for butter fat in the cream delivered at steamboat landings for June is 22¢ per lb. This should induce the keeping of more cows, the only drawback being that before November is over navigation ceases on the river, and then the cream will have to be taken care of at home.

Fruit trees have apparently come through the winter well, and while the blossoming period was very short, from the 1st to 15th June, there seems to be a pretty full set of fruit. Strawberry at this date are just blossoming; they have wintered well, and

it looks as if there would be a pretty good crop for the late markets. New Brunswick growers find that it pays them best to grow fairly late varieties, and to keep them covered late so as to have their crop on the market after berries from other districts are done.

One of the worst drawbacks to agriculture and to the province of New Brunswick generally this season is the deplorable condition of the highways. Not for the last twenty-five years have the country roads been in such a state. In some cheese factory districts it is almost impossible to get milk delivered, and everywhere business is greatly hampered. The open winter, with frost entering deeply, and the very wet spring have been contributory causes, but the main reason has been the change in the system of maintenance. In 1904 the Provincial Legislature passed an Act taking the charge of the roads away

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