

advances in agriculture during the past 40 years, and while there is still great room for improvement, the outlook is hopeful. Yet it is to be feared that St. John has derived but little benefit from these developements of our greatest industry. It is stated that the butter and cheese which is made in the factories which have been established throughout the province, instead of coming to St. John for export are sent to Montreal and that in many cases the same butter is sent from Montreal to St. John for export during the winter. This seems to be a very absurd and unprofitable arrangement and its effect cannot fail to be injurious to our agricultural interests.

We have now at St. John, an admirable system of deep water wharves, with grain elevators, cattle sheds and all the appliances for doing a large export trade, yet it would seem as though all these facilities had been created for the benefit of shippers outside of New Brunswick, and that they are not having any effect on the developement of the province itself. Is it not time that we had merchants in St. John prepared to deal in the produce of the province, and to ship these articles which are made in New Brunswick to foreign markets? There is no doubt if the farmers understood that they could sell their stock and produce in St. John for export, they would engage much more largely in their business than they do at present. They have not yet been made to understand that there are facilities at St. John for the disposal of everything they produce. In this connection St. John should have and must have a regular line of steamships running to it in the summer from Europe. With-

out this we cannot hope to compete with the farmers of the west, or to induce our farmers to engage, more largely in the production of human food. We believe that if our farmers were assured of an easy access to the markets of Great Britain all the year round they would do much more in the productions of agriculture than at present. Many fields that are now lying waste would be cultivated, and there would be greater encouragement for the farmer to extend his business.

There was a time when St. John appeared likely to become an important manufacturing centre, but this hope has not been realized. Thirty years ago St. John had numerous boot and shoe factories, which appeared to be prospering and which employed a large number of persons. Now we believe that they have all disappeared. It is not so many years since St. John had extensive car works but these have been removed to Amherst which has become an important manufacturing town. St. John also has had a sugar refinery, glass works sewing machine factory, rope walks and many other industries which now no longer exist. Fortunately it has been able to hold on to its cotton mills although they have been seriously threatened many times. Some other industries are still flourishing in St. John but it would seem that this city is not doing as much in the manufacturing line as it ought to, considering its facilities and advantages. Why this is so, should be an object of anxious inquiry to all who are interested in its welfare.

Perhaps the reason for the slowness of the growth of St. John may be found in its system of taxation, which, we believe, is universally condemned. When we find St. John