

Rural Education Conditions

Importance of Primary School Training as Shown by Survey

In a survey of agricultural conditions in Dundas county, Ontario, conducted by the Commission of Conservation in 1916, the subject of education is reported on as follows:

Ninety-eight per cent of the 400 farmers visited had attended public school only, and one per cent had attended high school. None had attended college and one of the 400 had attended business college. Ninety-two per cent of the farmers' wives had attended public school only. Three per cent had attended high school and none had attended college.

Nine per cent reported the children as having school gardens, while 22 per cent reported having a home garden under the supervision of the teacher. Forty-seven per cent stated that they had attended a short course in agriculture and 93 per cent were in favour of short courses for the young people. Many of these short courses consist of judging classes in seed grain and live stock, held in various parts of the county, to which all farmers are invited. Ninety-seven per cent were satisfied with the schools as at present managed.

If the farmers' training is to be improved, the improvement must evidently be made in the training in the rural school. Hence the wisdom and advisability of making the rural school training as efficient, adequate and suitable as possible to prepare the young men and and young women for real life in the country. The teaching of agriculture should occupy a more prominent place on the rural school curriculum than at present.

COST OF BAD ROADS

A company in Stanislaus county, California, that buys skimmed milk from the farmer has demonstrated to the rural residents in an emphatic manner the value of good roads to them. This company sends trucks directly to the farms to collect the skimmed milk but it pays higher prices to farmers living on good roads than on bad roads. On poor roads the company pays 17½ cents per 100 pounds, but on good roads it pays 20 cents. Of course, the farmer always has been paying this tax on every hundred pounds he hauled over bad roads and he has been relieved of it on every hundred pounds he had hauled over good roads, but that fact has not been brought to his notice as in the case cited. When he measures his distance from town in minutes instead of miles he will realize the profit of good roads. —*American Lumberman.*

Classification of Land

Only Land Suitable to Agriculture to be Opened to Settlement

In 1916 a forest survey was undertaken on the Crown lands of New Brunswick. It was considered advisable also to secure information regarding the quality of soil and differentiate between districts suitable for agriculture and those in which the soil was of a quality suitable to forest growth only. The Agriculturist and Chief



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THE BEGINNING

The settler, without knowledge of soil conditions, attempts to establish a home. With the exception of patches containing a few square feet, there is, on this prospective farm, no soil that approaches a loam in texture. It is mostly gravel and sand.

Forester of the Commission of Conservation co-operated in the work. One result of this survey has been a recommendation to the government that before Crown lands are thrown open for settlement, an examination be made to determine its agricultural value.

What New Brunswick has done is equally necessary in other provinces. By not protecting the settler against taking up unsuitable farm land, the provinces administering their own Crown lands, and the Dominion, have made mistakes in the past in granting land. It is quite true that, in some cases, the applicant for the land did not care about the quality of the soil so long as he could get the timber, but, on the other hand, there have been many disappointments and dismal failures by men who really wanted to farm, on account of having settled on unsuitable land.

In taking up Dominion land, the onus of choosing suitable land is placed upon the settler. If he can distinguish poor soil from good soil he will probably not make a mistake, but the man from the city or elsewhere who knows nothing regarding soils should be protected against himself. Deserted

farms with their crumbling shacks tell plainly the story of the failure of men who did not know how to choose their farms. These men should be advised and assisted by those who do know. It is too much to expect that all of these mistakes can be righted, but it is not too much to expect something to be done to prevent their recurrence in future.

THE COST OF CARELESS PACKING

The Glasgow market offers special opportunities to observe the premium prices that are regularly

Protection of Forest

The Efficient Ranger has many Responsibilities

The duties of the efficient forest ranger, in the protection of forests from fire, were very well described by Mr. Henry Soren, manager of the St. Maurice Forest Protective Association, at the Eighth Annual Meeting of the Commission of Conservation, as follows:

The fire ranger's duty is first and foremost to prevent forest fires, and when they do occur, to put them out. One great feature of fire prevention is the ability of the ranger to educate the people in his district and make them understand the great cause that we are working for.

In dry weather he should always be on the move, watching fishermen, drivers, jobbers and other people travelling in the woods. Whenever he meets a person, he should find out his name and destination, give him advice when needed, and always warn him against the danger of forest fire. By giving the people kind advice and help, he will make them his friends and they will be more willing to do their share in saving our forests.

In the settled districts, forest rangers also supervise the burning of slash. The clearing of land for one of the worst menaces to the forest. In former years when a settler wanted to clear his land, he put fire to the brush on his own, regardless of time and weather. That millions of dollars worth of good timber went up in smoke mattered little to him if it cost him a few days' labour piling the brush before, and waiting while it was burning.

Damp and rainy weather does not give the ranger a vacation; many people would believe. He then starts cutting and clearing portages and trails to facilitate communications, so that, when a fire occurs, he can get men and supplies to the fire in the easiest way and the shortest time possible. He also builds look-out towers in high and convenient sites in the district during wet seasons. Convenient places in his district are stored shovels, mattocks, fire pails, etc., for fighting fires.

THE HOME GARDEN

Canada must produce more food stuffs. We have much vacant land about our homes, which, if cultivated, would greatly add to our food supply. Very little work is necessary, and the returns are more than compensate for the effort. By helping to provide the food for your own family you are releasing your own additional for the general good, and reducing the cost of living.

paid to the packer of high quality fruit. One Ontario shipper in particular holds a unique position in the esteem of the buyers, and there is always active competition to secure his offerings, with resulting high figures. Thus, in October, his No. 1 Kings were sold at 57¢ to 61¢, as against an average for less favourably known packs of 50¢. Last month at the sale of shipments ex S.S. Scotian, his Baldwins made 38¢, to 39¢, for No. 1's and 31¢, to 35¢, for No. 2's, as against 30¢, to 31¢, for No. 1's and 27¢, 6d. for No. 2's of other packs.

There is no escape from the conclusion that there would be a very considerable increase in the returns received by Canadian shippers if there were a more general adoption of the methods of selection, grading, and packing that have won such an outstanding reputation on the market in the case under consideration.—*Weekly Bulletin, Trade and Commerce Dept.*

Plough up the old sod that has been sown two or three years and sow corn or roots, or plant potatoes. A heavy seeding of peas will also give good results.