

AGRICULTURE IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

No question is of more importance to the people of New Brunswick than the agricultural development of the province. By far the larger half of the population gain a livelihood by the cultivation of the soil, although agriculture may still be said to be an infant industry in New Brunswick. Great advances have been made in the past twenty years, but there is a lack of consecutive effort in the development of the farming resources of the country. Methods have certainly been improved but there is room for greater improvement still in every department of this great industry. Much has been done by the government of the province to improve the methods of farming and to induce agriculturists to make efforts in new directions. The federal government has also done a great deal to assist farmers in taking up new lines of employment and to increase their corps. But withal we are not advancing rapidly enough. What is the cause? It is neither lack of markets nor lack of profit in farming. Prices have ruled high for the past few years and the farmer has been able to sell at a good profit all that he produced. Yet New Brunswick buys large quantities of beef from Ontario and the most the canned goods consumed in the cities and towns come from the same place. With the acreage of land under cultivation, we ought at least to supply our own needs. But notwithstanding all that the government has done, agricultural development in many

counties is at a stand still, and others are actually going behind. Kings is making the greatest progress, particularly that section which lies along the Intercolonial railway. This is because the people of Kings have given heed to the new methods and have adapted themselves to the new conditions. The land is no better than in many others, but the section farmers have adopted better methods and are prospering accordingly.

For many years Carleton county was considered the garden of the province and we became accustomed to look upon that county as the best tilled and most up-to-date of any in New Brunswick. But Carleton county is not keeping up its reputation. It is going behind from an agricultural standpoint. The farms look as well as they ever did, but the yield is not there. To put it plainly, the Carleton county farmers as a body are taking all they can get from their land and giving nothing back. They raise crops of oats, hay and potatoes. Instead of feeding these crops to stock they sell their year after year. Dairying which bade fair at one time to become a most important industry in this section has been allowed to wane. Farms that formerly supported large herds of cattle, sheep and swine are practically without any of the three. There must be a day of reckoning for this, and this day is not far away. With some it is at hand. They can no longer get the magnificent return from the land they once obtained and