

## FARMERS AND DAIRYMEN MET IN CONVENTION

Helpful Criticism Offered—More Agricultural and Technical Teaching Needed—A farmer's Party Endorsed—Labor Representation Needed.

The 35th annual session of the N. B. Farmers' and Dairymen's Association opened in Fredericton on the 28th ult. Pres. S. B. Hatheway in the chair, and closed on the second instant.

The President's address advocated a more practical system of agricultural and technical training in our public schools, and deplored the backward condition of our agricultural industries. No provincial government had ever given agriculture serious consideration, which was largely due to the extremely few farmers in the Legislatures, past and present. The beef sold in the province was largely imported from the West. Fruit growing should receive more consideration. The St. John Dominion exhibition had been lacking in educational features.

In December last he had the honor and pleasure of representing this association, and along with another New Brunswicker, Mr. W. B. Fawcett of Sackville—the farmers of the province at the noted Farmers' Convention at Ottawa. He unhesitatingly, both at the convention and before the Premier, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, advocated the free interchange of farm products with the United States, and endorsed strongly all the other resolutions proposed.

He was not influenced by personal views in this matter, but by the overwhelming evidence he secured from prominent farmers and shippers throughout the province. Men with a thorough knowledge of our possibilities and advantages, who realized the seriousness of a restricted market and who believed that in advocating such a course New Brunswick would become "the land of opportunity." Moreover, men who were broad-minded enough not to consider for a moment that in proved trade conditions with the United States would influence or taint our Imperial sentiment, did not cast the shadow of doubt on our love for King and Empire.

If this tariff reform becomes a reality, both in Canada and the United States, it will stand as the greatest achievement and to the everlasting credit of Canadian statesmen.

Hon. D. V. Landry, Commissioner of Agriculture, expressed the opinion that there was a great future before agriculture in New Brunswick. Co-operation on the part of the farmers was what was needed. The number of agricultural societies had increased to a marked extent and the increase would continue. Expenditure by the government for agricultural purposes had been increased in the immediate past and he felt would be increased in the future.

Following the line of the President's address, Dr. Landry stated that it was quite possible that the educational system of the province might well be modified so as to give some instruction in agricultural subjects in the rural schools. Similar subjects might be taught in the Normal School. He could not see why every student of the institution could not be instructed to test milk and to judge the milk-producing qualities of the cow, and also to teach that knowledge to their pupils.

The speaker said he was sorry more New Brunswick students did not attend the agricultural colleges at Truro and Guelph. The old government he admitted, had inaugurated good system for the assistance of agricultural students, and the present government was

suitable education the farmers of the New Brunswick would be equal to any in the world.

County Vice-President's reports were presented from Gloucester, Restigouche, Madawaska, Victoria, York, Carleton, Charlotte, Sunbury and Queens.

The North Shore reports were as follows:

### RESTIGOUCHE COUNTY

Much attention had been given to the raising of small fruits and poultry. A good market for the latter had been discovered in Montreal. It had been found that wheat of good quality could be raised. Flour mills were needed however. The building of the International Railway had opened up a large tract of new land suitable for farming. The town of Campbellton was being rebuilt with the result that an improved local market is promised.

### GLOUCESTER COUNTY

The season for seeding was favorable but the haying season was poor. Fruit and potatoes had a poor yield. Grains had a fair yield. There had been several importations of pure bred stock. A county "farmer's day," had been inaugurated and would be made an annual event. One new agricultural society had been formed.

On Wednesday the Committee on Dairying reported. Although Dr. Landry was favorable to their requests, the committee had been unable to secure what they desired from the Government. To sum up the whole matter they could therefore only report that while practically everyone interviewed was agreed that something should be done yet no one in authority was prepared to attempt to carry out the idea of granting a sum of money sufficient to reimburse the dairyman for the expense of carrying on the important work of weighing his product and testing his production.

Geo. Fisher thought the dairying industry was a waning industry and something should be done to improve it. The government should give more assistance to the industry in the way of a bonus. He would like to hear from the superintendents.

A. Jansen, Salmonhurst, thought the proposition of bonusing the dairy cow was absurd. He thought the dairymen would be alone most interested in this bonusing. Bonusing was not needed if the farmers would do their work right. He did not believe in asking the government for money assistance. Every one could not pull from the government. The farmers could work along the right lines and improve their own conditions.

Fred A. Dixon of Sackville thought bonusing or some other good policy should be adopted to get at the men who were careless and would not try to improve their conditions. The principle of bonusing cows was as good as that of bonusing the steel or any other industry. The government in bonusing would only be giving the farmer his own.

President Hatheway thought bonusing seemed to be the only practical way to get at the matter.

### FARMERS THE MASTERS

I. F. Riley, of Westmoreland County, thought the farmers should have a larger representation in the Government. The farmers were the masters of governments and should demand what they want. He was a Liberal, but when the old Government did not do what was right they were turned out and the same could be done with the present government.

## Town Council and Board of Trade

Hold Joint Meeting—Will Support Increased Provincial Subsidy for Ferry Boat.

The Newcastle Town Council at a special meeting on Wednesday afternoon, appointed a committee to assist the Newcastle Steamship Co. in the latter's endeavors to have the subsidy from the local government for the operation of the Newcastle—Chatham Head ferry service, increased from \$500 to \$2000. (Chatham is also asking for an increased subsidy for the operation of the Chatham ferry.)

Mayor McMurdo presided at the meeting. Others present were: Ald. Layton, Sargeant, Butler, Morrison, Clark, and Russell, with Town Clerk, J. E. T. Lindon.

The Board of Trade delegation comprised: Patrick Hennessy, President, E. A. McCurdy, secretary, James Falconer and Ald. Morrison.

Ald. Morrison speaking on behalf of the delegation, gave a synopsis of ferry matters since early last year. The company, he said, had lost \$1400 in the running of the Newcastle ferry last year and the decision of the company was that unless a sufficient subsidy could be acquired, the directors should sell the boats. He presented figures of returns of the Newcastle ferry, and argued that the ferry service was most satisfactory according to all the reports that he had heard. Ald. Morrison said the company's loss of \$1400 might possibly be duplicated and in order to offset it, an application would be made to the provincial government to increase the grant to \$2000.

It was proposed to advance the ferry rates to fifteen cents a team one way and thirty cents return.

The Mayor thought that as the ferry benefited the town, it was only reasonable to appoint a committee and seek a subsidy.

Ald. Clark thought the meeting should have information to back its argument.

Ald. Layton urged that the company secure the co-operation of Chief Commissioner Morrissy.

Ald. Butler spoke strongly in favor of the increased subsidy. He related personal experiences, where the ferry had been most satisfactory.

E. A. McCurdy, P. Hennessy, and James Falconer spoke along similar lines. Mr. McCurdy thought if any county deserved fair treatment it was Northumberland as it afforded the govern-

ment if they did not do what the farmers demanded.

### THE FARMER IN LEGISLATURE

Fred A. Dixon presented figures to show that there was only one farmer in the present legislature. The farmers could not be proud of this. In the legislature there were, he said, 13 merchants, 12 lumbermen, 10 lawyers, 5 medical men, 3 of scattering occupations, and 1 farmer. The farmer paid the bills, but the other occupations had the representatives.

The judgement of the farmer, he believed, would compare favorably with that of men in any other occupation even though he might not be able to talk so much. There were only two divisions in a community, the wealth producing classes and the non-wealth producing classes. The farmer was a food and wealth producer. All business men were necessary, but they were not wealth producers like the farmers. He claimed the laboring men should be represented also.

Mr. Dixon moved the following resolution, seconded by J. F. Riley, of Westmoreland:

Whereas it appears that the farmers of this province are not represented in the Provincial Legis-

lation such a large revenue.

Mr. Hennessy said he was of the opinion that Hon. Mr. Morrissy would assist the representation.

Ald. Sargeant was pleased with the ferry and the Chatham persons with whom he had been in conversation favored it.

Ald. Clark moved, seconded by Ald. Layton, that the meeting appoint a committee to act with the delegation.

Ald. Clark, Russell and Layton were chosen as the representatives from the council. Ald. Butler was asked to serve but for business engagements he said it was impossible.

The Newcastle Board of Trade met in special session Friday night, Pres. P. Hennessy in the chair.

On motion of R. A. Murdoch and Ald. D. Morrison a committee to act in conjunction with committees from Newcastle and Chatham Town Councils, Chatham Board of Trade, and the directors of the Newcastle Steamboat Co. and the Miramichi Steam Navigation Co., was appointed to Fredericton to press upon the government the necessity of increasing the provincial subsidy to the Ferry boats.

Hennessy, E. A. McCurdy, Mayor P. McMurdo and R. A. Murdoch were appointed such committee.

Ald. Morrison said that this county wanted a square deal from the government. The credit of the province was to be pledged to provide railway accommodation for the St. John valley. The people of North Esk and South Esk parishes have been here as long as the St. John river people. They have no railway, therefore they should be given the very best facilities by water. On motion of Ald. Clark, it was decided to communicate the Board's action to Chatham Board of Trade.

The Committee were entrusted to also press upon the government the urgency of supplying a new wharf at Kedbank and at least one new wharf between here and Redbank, and the repair of several other wharves and the roads approaching them; also the lighting of the draw in the Northwest bridge for navigation purposes, etc.

nor in the Parliament of Canada by men of their own occupation; therefore,

Resolved, That a committee consisting of a chairman and one member from each county represented in the attendance at this association be appointed to draw up resolutions declaring the attitude of this association with respect to the representatives of the farmers in the Provincial and Dominion Parliaments, and that the report of the said committee be laid before the Thursday evening session for consideration.

Mr. Dixon was appointed chairman of the committee.

At Thursday's evening's session the report of the committee regarding the representation of farmers in the Dominion and provincial parliaments presented a resolution in favor of forming an independent farmers' party, which carried.

J. E. Porter's resolution in favor of reciprocity was after much discussion withdrawn for peace sake.

G. E. Fisher read a paper on the social conditions of farm life.

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following officers were elected:

Pres.—Col. Montgomery-Campbell.

## NEARLY A HUNDRED DEAD IN THEATRE FIRE

Terrible Panic Among Spectators When Picture Machine Exploded, Firing the House—Many of the Victims were Children.

St. Petersburg, March 6.—A moving picture machine in a small theatre at Bologic, in the Southern part of Novgorod province, exploded yesterday and instantly flames shot up, sweeping to all parts of the building. There was a terrible panic among the spectators and, according to the reports received here, nearly a hundred persons, many of them children, were burned to death. Half a hundred others were injured. Baron Taube, chief of the gendarmie corps at St. Petersburg, and two of his

children are reported to be among the missing.

The fire caught while the show was in progress and quickly enveloped the building, cutting off every way of escape. Futile attempts at rescue were made by those who happened to be close by the exits when the fire started and by others from the outside, but the fury of the flames drove them back before they could reach the shrieking victims, who in their efforts to get out of the building fought desperately among themselves.

## WILL CELEBRATE IN NEWCASTLE

The Roman Catholic Societies of the North Shore Will Hold a Reunion Here on St. Patrick's Day.

The Catholic societies of Northumberland have decided to observe St. Patrick's Day, March 17th, and preparations are being formulated for a large demonstration in Newcastle. The movement is being launched by the Ancient Order of Hibernians. The various A. O. H. divisions in the county, with the C. M. B. A., Knights of Columbus and other societies, as well as the A. O. H. divisions of Restigouche and Gloucester, will walk in procession to St. Mary's church, accompanied by the Newcastle and Chatham bands. High Mass will be sung, and the sermon of the day

will be preached by Rev. John Carter, of Petit Rocher, Gloucester county. His Lordship Bishop Barry will be in the sanctuary. Rev. Dr. Rieve of Chatham, may address a meeting in the opera house in the afternoon. The following committee has charge of the arrangements, County President C. J. Morrissy; chairman T. H. Whalen, Newcastle; John A. Buckley, M. F. Haley, Chatham; James Ahern, Nelson; Thos. Barnett, Douglastown; Richard Gill, Barnaby River; Thomas Dunn, Blackville; James Hackett, St. Margarets.

### HOME FROM F. & D. MEETING

Among the delegates to the Farmers and Dairymen's Association who returned Friday were Messrs. Geo. E. Fisher, Henry Gordon, Wm. M. Johnston, Jubal Watling, Jas. Ross, J. L. Stewart, Chatham; Wm. Gratton, Wm. Beatty, and Romain Savoy, Tabusintac; Jno. Betts, Dr. Wilson, Randolph Crocker, J. J. Clarke, Derby.

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