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MAPLE SUGAR

One of the oldest industries in Canada and one which is truly Canadian in its origin is that producing maple sugar. Early settlers from the Old Land were taught how to extract and concentrate the sap of the maple tree by the Indians and for perhaps a century they followed closely the primitive methods of the natives save for the substitution of metal vessels for those of clay or wood. Until about fifty years ago there was little improvement made in the methods of sugar making, but since that time the science has kept pace with that in other branches of agriculture until it has become a more or less highly organized commercial industry.

The importance of the maple sugar industry is scarcely realized in parts of Canada where it has long since ceased to be carried on but it still holds a place of prominence over large areas in Quebec and to a lesser extent in Ontario, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia. It is estimated that 50,000 growers are engaged in the work. From 1850 to 1890, the production of maple sugar together with its equivalent in syrup, increased year by year, reaching an average annual yield of 22,000,000 pounds during the ten years between 1881 and 1891. During the next decade the yearly average fell to some 21,200,000 pounds and in more recent years it has dropped to less than 20,000,000 pounds.

On many farms the sugar bush is simply the woodlot that has been preserved to supply fuel and to provide an annual crop of sugar and syrup to be used as a delicacy or sold to regular customers. It is not, however, from the small mixed groves that the

great marketable supply is secured but rather from the more rugged areas where the plough and the harrow are not so easily operated. The grooves as found in the principal sugar counties are chiefly maple trees, the other kinds having been removed for fuel or tannin. This is the condition in many of the settled counties of Eastern Ontario and of Quebec, where the same groves and in many cases the same trees have been tapped by several generations. In the more northerly parts are of these provinces there are vast stretches of hard maple forest in a primeval state awaiting the sugar-maker with his modern equipment.

The methods of garnering this annual harvest have changed considerably since the days when the Indian extracted the sap from a slanting gash in the tree made by his tomahawk, boiling it in an earthen vessel until a small quantity of dark, thick, syrup had been produced. The first steps were the substitution of the auger for the axe, coopered pails for the birch bark "cask" or hewn sap trough, and the evaporating pan for the kettle. The evaporating pan has in recent years been developed into the modern evaporator with corrugated bottom and separate compartments. Not only for the conservation of the life of the tree but also for cleanliness in sugar making the wooden spout has almost disappeared in the most advanced sections. In fact the tendency now is toward the use of metal in every article of equipment with which the sap, syrup or sugar comes in contact.

Facilities are also provided for taking full advantage of the law of gravitation in the handling of sap, which is some well equipped plants flows of its own accord from the collecting tanks to the storage tank then to the evaporator and finally when boiled to the proper consistency, into the receiving cans, thus saving a great amount of labor. When a grove is located on a hill side some sugar makers have taken further advantage of the law of gravitation by laying a system of metal pipes which conveys the sap from outlying points to the sugar house. The pipes are erected temporarily on supports during the sugaring season and taken down and carefully stored for the remainder of the year.

The majestic maple has been cut away to a great extent for the fire-place and the factory. A proper realization of the value of the maple grove or forest not only as a producer of lumber and fuel but for the annual crop of sugar it yields will do much to revive and extend the maple sugar industry. Even though a decrease in production is being experienced the industry still bulks large and with the more general use of modern methods and proper encouragement there is no reason why it should not return to and even surpass its previous records.

IN THE ESTATE OF J. J. BERNIER, CAMPBELLTON, N. B.

Notice to Creditors

The Bankruptcy Act.

Notice is hereby given that J. J. Bernier, Merchant Tailor of Campbellton, N. B., did on the 31st day of January, A. D., 1924 make an Authorized Assignment of all his property for the benefit of his Creditors and that N. A. Landry, Esq., Official Receiver, has appointed us to be Custodian of the Estate of the Debtor until the Creditors at their first Meeting shall elect a Trustee to administer the Estate of the Debtor.

Notice is further given that the first meeting of Creditors in the above estate will be held at the Office of H. A. Carr, Campbellton, N. B., on the 26th day of February, 1924, at the hour of 2.30 o'clock in the afternoon.

To entitle you to vote thereat proof of your Claim must be lodged with us before the meeting is held.

And further take notice that if you have any Claim against the Debtor for which you are entitled to rank, proof of such claim must be filed with us within 30 days from the date of this notice, for from and after the expiration of the time fixed by Sub-section 8 of Section 37 of the said Act the Trustee shall distribute the proceeds of the Debtor's estate among the parties entitled thereto, having regard only to the Claims of which he has then notice.

DATED at St. John, N. B., this 11th day of February, 1924.

Claims to be filed with our office, THE CANADIAN CREDIT MEN'S TRUST ASSOCIATION LIMITED, CUSTODIAN, 147 Prince William Street, St. John, N. B. Feb. 21 1 wk. St. John, N. B.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR LEGISLATION

NOTICE is hereby given that application will be made to the Legislative Assembly of the Province of New Brunswick, at the next session, thereof, for an Act making provision for the completion of the union of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, the Methodist Church, and the Congregational Churches of Canada, to form the United Church of Canada; for the vesting of the general property of the said churches in The United Church of Canada; for the holding, use and administration of the property of congregations entering the said union, and for the holding of the property of congregations voting not to enter therein; for the trusts and powers and generally for the carrying of the said union into effect.

On behalf of the Applicants, DATED this 1st day of February, 1924.

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