

## AGRICULTURE IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

### Production for 1917 Less Than for 1916, But Greater Than for Preceding Years

The annual report of the Department of Agriculture of Prince Edward Island reviews the results of 1917 as follows:—

"The past year has been a successful one for the mixed farming pursuits of the Prince Edward Island farmer. True it is, that problems of new and serious importance have been felt, but a timely anticipation has done much to guide the welfare of the usual undertakings safely past the danger points. The labor problem, the appeals, and the demands of the markets, and the urgent patriotic duty to increase the production of the herds and flocks, have in turn and in combination, been admirably dealt with by all concerned. In all parts of the province, there is evidence of sincere and well organized effort to arouse a full consciousness of the dependence upon our own resources, as a part of Canada, for the continuance of our share in prosecuting the war.

"The provincial production for 1917 will compare favorably on an average basis with a number of preceding years and in total valuation will exceed all others. Compared with 1916 crop production was approximately, ten per cent. less, while the return from the herds and flocks was at least ten per cent. greater.

"The season just past has been a striking example of the rapidity of growth known to be a prominent factor of 'The Island's' agriculture, and due in no small measure to the responsiveness of the soil. The spring season opened with more cold, wet weather than is usually expected and proved to be a strain on the past winter's supply of fodder. Seeding was late throughout the greater part of the province, but it was followed so closely by warmth and growth, that the result can only be expressed as phenomenal.

"The pastures, although late, were full, but much of the hay was termed 'light' or 'lacking body.' On the higher land where growth commenced earlier, the hay crop was reported as average or over average. The rapid, short season, especially when it ended in dry, warm weather, left a part of the grain crop, with a short period of ripening, which has caused a lack of proper filling. This will apply more especially to the oat crop, and will bring home a demand for seed that will leave a smaller proportion to fill the export demand that has grown to be an established trade during late years.

"The wheat crop which has always held a permanent place in the rotations of the province, principally for home consumption has been increased and is proving of valuable assistance in reducing the demand on the nation's supply. The past season's crop was affected in some quarters by the ravages of the joint worm, associated with blight. This has reduced the yield per acre, but through the increased acreage, the full yield has been well maintained.

"Root crops in general gave an average yield, though reduced in acreage on account of labor shortage. The harvesting season was more acceptable than that of 1916, and will result in a better keeping of the crop. Potatoes were increased in acreage from 10 to 20 per cent., depending on the section, and have given a usual heavy yield. A large part of the crop has been marketed and a surplus remains for further shipments with sufficient for home consumption and seeding. Spraying for late and early blights is becoming a general practice and is proving of value beyond anticipation, especially as it not only improves the yield, but greatly improves the keeping quality, and allows the general use of varieties that were formerly prohibitive through rot. The hope is that a full appreciation of such work will develop the markets that the province merits and can supply.

"The year's production of live stock has furnished a report that is an improvement over past records. An increase in quantity is in evidence and on account of high market prices the industry promises to assume a standard of quality that will prove more of a balance than we have often been led to report.

"With quality and quantity as recognized and related factors of importance, especially for the markets of to-day, the province is in a position to advance, and advance it must, or lose an opportunity. Regret can be expressed that our production is not greater, and the factor of over-production is so remote that a greater effort will most surely bring greater returns. Gratification comes with knowing that many of the principal classes of farm stock are being gradually increased

as evidenced by the sales of the past season and the retaining of breeding stock for future use.

"The dairy industry, a provincial pillar, is showing an increase of small, but reliable proportions. Instruction and demonstration work is now being backed by sales, according to quality and the affect is influential toward a more reliable progress. A proper regard for the factors that influence improvement in the dairy cow is being shown. During the past season, a ready market was open for the producer of medium to low standard. Through this procedure we can hope for the raising of the average production.

"Sheep raising has marked a greater increase during the past year than for some time past. The co-operative wool sale at unthought of prices, with the high ruling of the market for lambs and breeding sheep has revived a kindly regard for the 'golden hoof' that will remain. Swine are also being kept in greater numbers by virtue of bacon being demanded for the soldiers, which has directed promoting influences toward that class of stock. Poultry raising is gaining in rapid proportions, largely due to the co-operative influences exerted by that division of the Live Stock Branch, operating in the province. The trade in horses has been constant, but is not receiving as much attention as formerly. Buyers are more discriminating, but are willing to recognize the 'good' horse and pay a remunerative price.

"The campaigns for increased production, economy of consumption and kindred subjects, in which we have participated during the past, have engendered a regard for our agricultural work that will mean much toward its future development. The problem of a falling production, especially when associated with a need, has brought a keen regard for the underlying elements of "stock-taking." Markets are now being studied and forecasted with an accuracy that was not previously taken as a possibility. Supply and demand will no longer be accepted as elementary factors governing present markets, but will be taken as forces of vital importance in their bearing on future production. A standard of quality will bear its relation to the country or person of its origin and will be a trade mark for its acceptance or refusal. In short, haphazard method and unorganized effort has had its day, and the future has much in store for the advocates of concerted action.

"The underdraining of farm lands has marked steady progress. A number of farms have been surveyed and a considerable area of otherwise partially productive land has been underlaid with tile through the operation of the traction ditcher purchased by the Department of Agriculture. This work is filling a long-felt need and is only in the initial stages of its development.

"The Rural Science Department of the Prince of Wales College, through its teaching, is developing a definite and lasting regard for the underlying principles of agriculture, through the teachers in training, and through the home projects and school fairs held throughout the province.

"The Women's Institute Branch has also established an important phase of training, for a useful education, in giving the girls of the city schools the benefit of a household science course. Such work is also being carried on through a number of local women's institutes and household science short courses."

## NEWFOUNDLAND BOND ISSUE

The syndicate which last week purchased \$3,000,000 of Newfoundland 6½ per cent. bonds has secured another \$1,000,000 of them. The \$3,000,000 were entirely disposed of almost immediately, and a considerable part of the additional \$1,000,000 has, it is understood, already been sold. The selling price is the same, viz., par and accrued interest.

The Maritime Linen Mills, Limited, has been incorporated with a capital of \$24,000 to manufacture worsted and linen goods. The new company will establish its plant at Moncton, N.B., taking over the machinery and raw material of the Eastern Linen Mills, formerly of Dorchester, N.B.

The crop outlook in New Brunswick, so far as weather and soil conditions are concerned, was never better than it is this year. The acreage under cultivation will be somewhat less than last year. It is expected that in both potatoes and grains the returns will exceed those of last year.