

NEW BRUNSWICK

Agriculture, Horticulture and Stock Raising—Increases and Decreases

New Brunswick at the time of the separation from Nova Scotia in 1784 contained about 16,000 inhabitants. Of these 12,000 were Loyalists recently arrived, and of the remainder 2,500 were old inhabitants, most of them from the old colonies, and 1,500 were French. The estimate of 1,500 is probably much too low, but concerning it there is no reliable information. Some of the new arrivals were members of the learned professions; others were tradesmen and small shop keepers; and many had been soldiers. A census of 1834 gave the population as 119,457, and one taken in 1840 gave the population as 156,162. At the census of 1851-52 the population was 193,800 and in 1860-61 it was 252,047. New Brunswick was one of the original provinces of Confederation, and the census of 1871 gave it a population of 285,594, which included the Indians. In 1881 it had increased to 321,233, and at the end of the next decade it was only 321,263. In 1901 it increased to 331,120 and in 1911 to 351,880.

Decrease in Rural Population.

The rural population of the province, composed mostly of farmers, decreased during the last decade by 1,047 in Carleton district, by 2,999 in Charlotte, by 453 in Kent, by 5,666 in Kings and Albert, by 23 in Sunbury and Queens, by 4,319 in Westmorland and by 95 in York. There was an increase in the same period of 3,766 in Gloucester, of 2,415 in Northumberland, of 2,286 in Restigouche, of 13 in St. John County and of 4,629 in Victoria and Madawaska.

The area under field crops increased during the decade in every electoral district excepting Charlotte, Sunbury and Queens and Westmorland, where it decreased by 7,413 acres in Sunbury and Queens and by 4,599 acres in Charlotte.

According to the records there were at the date of the census 739 vacant farm holdings having an acreage of 48,656 acres. As the census of agriculture had to do only with the records of occupied farms, and as in the year 1909 the report of a special provincial commission which was appointed to look into matters pertaining to agriculture estimated that there were 3,428 vacant farms in the province, it is probable that the figures returned by the enumerators are not a complete record.

Land in Cultivation.

The land in field crops increased during the last decade from 897,417 to 979,481 acres, the land in orchard and nursery from 8,924 to 8,937 acres, the land in vegetables from 4,380 to 10,248 acres, and the land in vineyards from seven to 68 acres. The area of land in small fruits was not enumerated for 1901, but in 1911 it is given as 405 acres. The total land occupied in 1901 was 4,443,400 acres and in 1911 4,530,298 acres, of which there was improved 1,409,720 acres in 1901 and 1,447,254 acres in 1911. The number of farm holdings in 1911 was 38,211, of which 36,129 or 94.5 per cent. were held by owners. The land area of the province is 17,

863,266 acres, of which only 25.3 per cent. was occupied as farm land.

Improved land for the census of 1911 according to the manual of instruction to enumerators was defined as "land which has been brought under cultivation, and has been cropped and is fitted for producing crops." In previous censuses no clear definition was given of the term "improved land." The result was that under this heading was included non-tillable areas used as pasture. In this census the areas of arable lands only were enumerated under this heading. Therefore the areas of improved land in this census are not strictly comparable with those of previous ones.

In nearly all field crops there were reduced areas in 1901 and 1911 as compared with 1900; but the crops of 1911 show increases over those of 1910. The area under wheat is very little more than half what it was ten years ago; oats, hay, potatoes and roots are the only crops which show increases in area and production. The number of trees and production of fruit is less than it was in the last census. The area under vegetables and small fruits has materially increased.

Live Stock, Labor, etc.

Horses increased from 61,789 to 65,458 in ten years, but milch cows decreased from 111,084 to 108,532, other horned cattle from 116,112 to 113,659, sheep from 182,524 to 158,226 or a decrease of 13 per cent. The number of swine has increased by 70 per cent. in the decade. There is an increase in the number of pure bred animals of 193 for horses, of 804 for cattle and of 561 for swine. The number of horses, milch cows and other cattle sold in 1900 was 39,466 and in 1910 44,107. The production of wool has fallen off by 30 per cent.

The average value of horses in 1911 was \$121.75, of milch cows \$31.80, of other cattle \$12.32, of sheep \$3.34 and of swine \$7.45; in 1901 the average values were horses \$69.79, milch cows \$20.85, other cattle \$10.07, sheep \$2.95 and swine \$7.76. The census of 1911 being taken in June there were a greater number of lambs and young pigs than there were at the date of the census ten years ago, consequently their average value is adversely affected.

The value of live stock sold in 1910 is given as \$1,515,888 more than in 1900, the value of dairy products as \$3,970,687 more, the value of animals slaughtered on the farm as \$270,633 more, and the value of wool, eggs, honey and wax, and maple sugar and syrup as \$331,865 more.

The number of weeks of hired labor on farms in 1910 was 102,784 and the value \$813,169, being an average wage per week of \$7.91 as compared with 158,348 weeks in 1900 with a value of \$842,253 and an average wage of \$5.32. This is an increase of nearly 50 per cent. in farm wages per week in ten years.

At the annual meeting of People's Loan and Saving Corporation, held at London, officers were elected as follows: President, Dr. V. F. Roome; vice-president and managing director, Lieutenant-Colonel A. A. Campbell; treasurer, Alderman William Spittal. Few shareholders attended and only routine business was transacted.

March 1, 1913

*We beg to announce that we have
this day admitted as partners in our firm.
Messrs. Richard Cyle Johnson and
Russell Davenport Bell, both of
whom have been connected with our
business since its inception*

Greenshields & Company

Montreal, Canada