

New Brunswick's Business Plan of Land Classification

An Interview with Mr. F. C. Nunnick, Agriculturist of Conservation Commission Guiding the Settler

The wisdom of classifying the lands of a Province and utilizing them according to the plan of Nature would seem self-evident. Only in very recent times, however, have matter serious attention, and even now the idea has not been adopted as an invariable policy. The lapses and incongruities are to be seen on every hand, playing false to the public good, and burdening the state with pitiful and costly problems in present and future.

New Brunswick, however, has made an excellent start at surveying the provincial domain, and learning the soil possibilities of section by section, as well as compiling a record of the timber resources. The Government of New Brunswick recently received the aid of Mr. F. C. Nunnick, Agriculturist of the Commission of Conservation, for several weeks field work, in order to advise the government as to methods of procedure in land classification. Following is an interview with Mr. Nunnick, given to the Forestry Journal:

Quality of Soils.

"We visited only a small area in the short time at our disposal. The foresters in connection with the Forest Survey, however, will continue to do what they can in connection with land classification. In order to make a thorough classification of soils, a soil man should accompany each party to see for himself the types and quality of soil and laboratory tests should be made of

samples of the various types. Of course, much can be done by the foresters who obtained some information from us, as they accompanied us on our trips. We made out a circular of instruction to be given each party regarding the classifying of soils, taking of samples, etc. We began our work at Weaver's, a small station on the I. C. R., not far from Doaktown, and found here a very poor agricultural soil, some of the settlers having been on this land from twenty-five to thirty years and only having small clearances made in that length of time. These men work in the woods in the winter time and part of the summer and simply use the land to grow a few potatoes and feed for their team and the few cows which they keep. These men stated that the land produces poorly and that the production has decreased since they first began cropping it. The method of farming conducted by these men—that is, with so little live stock—is not conducive to permanent soil fertility. Much of the soil we visited on our various trips is hungry, and if used for agriculture, would need to be fed right from the start, that is, clover crops ploughed down or farm-yard manure should be applied. We found also that where farming is being done and has been carried on for many years that the crops best suited to the land are not being grown. Much of the soil needs liming, and just here I would like to suggest the advisability of illustration work of this kind being carried on in the new districts as