

Agriculture Has Made Great Progress In Almost Every Direction This Year

Provincial Department Has Been Active in Many Lines—Still in the Elementary Stage, But Results Already Apparent.

The year now ending has seen many changes in farms and farming methods in New Brunswick. Owners of farms have awakened to the fact that agriculture is both a paying and an interesting occupation. The Provincial Government has undertaken to assist farmers and by means of special instructors and practical demonstrations, the modern methods of handling the different crops have been taught to many.

While the farming industry in New Brunswick has practically not advanced beyond the elementary stage, still wonderful changes have been made during the last few years since the Provincial Government has given it serious attention. The Department of Agriculture of which J. B. Durost has been the secretary, has directed its efforts toward improved farming and the problems of husbandry have received scientific attention. By means of experimental farms it has been proved that New Brunswick has great opportunities for any who wish to cultivate the soil and carry on the other work connected with it.

The following is a short outline of the activities of the Department of Agriculture during 1913: The bee keepers of the province were formed into an association through the efforts of H. B. Durost, a graduate of Macdonald College. He was sent to different parts of the province by the department and succeeded in arousing many bee-keepers to renewed efforts. Besides teaching the proper ways of handling bees Mr. Durost gave instructions in the use of fertilizers, and advised as to farm drainage. Dairy farming was also encouraged. A new field assistant was appointed and the activities of the instructors increased. Creameries, both smaller and larger central creameries have been erected at St. Hillaire. The Dominion Government paid for the building and the New Brunswick Government for the equipment. It has been decided to start handling milk there next season. The main idea in connection with the establishment of central creameries, has been to have the products uniform for each section. With smaller factories uniformity of production has not been possible. The reconstruction of the dairy school building at Sussex has been commenced. Plans have been drawn for many improvements that will make this the best equipped building of its kind in the eastern provinces. Special accommodations have been made for the winter.

CHRISTMAS CAROL.

By Phillips Brooks.
The earth has grown old with its burdens of care,
But at Christmas it always is young.
The heart of the jewel burns lustrous and fair,
And its soul full of music breaks forth on the air.
When the song of the angels is sung.

It is coming, old-earth, it is coming tonight;
On the snowflakes that covered the sod
The feet of the Christ-child fall—
The and white.
And the voice of the Christ-child tells out through the night
That mankind are the children of God.

On the sad and the lonely, the wretched and poor,
The voice of the Christ-child shall fall;
And to every blind wandered open the door
Of a hope that he dared not to dream of before.
With a sunshine of welcome for all.

The feet of the humblest may walk in the field
Where the feet of the holiest have trod,
This, this is the marvel to mortals revealed
When the silvery trumpets of Christmas have pealed
That mankind are the children of God.

MARK'S SPONTANEOUS FUN.

Mark Twain's spontaneous fun was irresistible. When a joke of his had fallen flat and had been received in silence by an audience, he remarked: "A crowd like that can never make a good deal of silence when they come." It was Twain who said: "Reader, suppose you were an idiot. And suppose you were a member of congress. But I repeat myself. When he was ill hundreds of quacks wrote to him advising him to take their medicines. To all of them he sent the following circular: "Dear Sir: I try every remedy sent to me. I am now on No. 7. Yours is 2653. I am looking forward to its beneficial results." Twain, however, had his moments of melancholy. "The man who is not a pessimist is a fool," he once wrote. "I never greatly envied anyone but the dead; I always envy the dead." And when urged by his friends to leave the "eternal round" of the city and go to his country home for a rest he replied: "The country home I need is a cemetery."

Nothing Coming to Him, Anyway.
"By Jove, I left my purse under my pillow!"
"Oh, well, your house girl is honest, isn't she?"
"That's just it. She'll take it to my wife."

There have been provided for lady students who may wish to attend. In connection with the encouragement of dairy farming the department has decided to ascertain the possibilities of Alfalfa culture throughout the province. C. W. McDougall, dairy superintendent at Sussex, who for several years has been studying the situation, has been given charge of this campaign. A property has been purchased at Havelock, Kings Co. and an effort will be made to grow Alfalfa there, with the object of procuring New Brunswick grown seed to distribute among the farmers. Experimental plots will be established in different parts of the province and many farmers will have an opportunity of testing the plant under expert direction. Poultry farming has also been recognized and much good accomplished throughout the province. Shows have been held at Hartland, Fredericton, St. Stephen and Moncton, and the quality of poultry showed great improvement over the previous year. Egg laying contests have also taken place and the rivalry among the competitors has been beneficial to the province. Demonstration fattening stations have been established at Centreville, Hartland, Gasquetown, Sussex, Moncton and Rogersville, where modern methods of fattening, dressing and packing for marketing have been taught. Many poultry raisers visited the stations and the good results obtained have been duplicated on many farms. A ready market has been found for all the properly dressed poultry that the province can produce. Two baggage cars were fitted up as better-farming coaches and run over the lines of the Canadian Pacific in the province. Live stock, dairying, bee-culture, horticulture, poultry raising, insects and weeds were especially featured under the direction of competent instructors. The coaches were visited by many people at each stopping place.

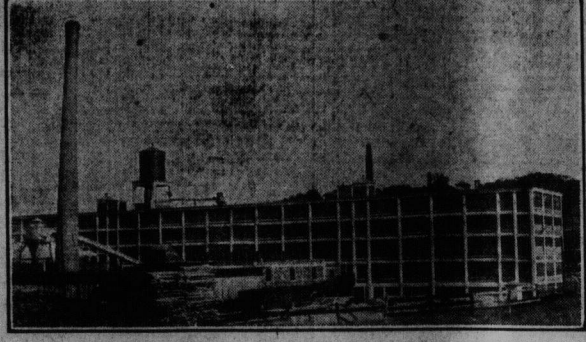
The Department of Agriculture secured a traction ditcher last June. This machine was taken over a large area of the province and demonstrations in modern methods of soil drainage were given. Great interest was awakened by the exhibitions and it was certain that agriculturists recognized the fact that much land now considered worthless, could be drained and made to produce crops. Twenty agricultural shows, under the direction of the Department of Agriculture, were held in the province last year. The reports of the judges showed that in nearly every line there was a marked advance in the quality of the exhibits, and it was noticed that the farmers were trying to have the quality of their produce better each year.

The field crop competitions and seed fairs were also a source of much interest to the farmers. Eight field crop competitions were held during the summer, which was two more than last year and the number of competitors was greatly increased.

PICTURESQUE AND BEAUTIFUL NEW BRUNSWICK



TYPICAL FARM SCENE AT PENOBSCIS, KINGS COUNTY. ONE OF ST. JOHN'S LEADING INDUSTRIES.



T. S. SIMMS' BRUSH FACTORY IN FAIRVILLE, REAR VIEW.

Four county seed fairs and one provincial took place. The farmers have awakened to the necessity of having better seed and have found that New Brunswick grown seed gives the best results. The demand for provincial production has increased amazingly and the growing of crops for seed will likely soon be considered one of the important industries of the province.

The Women's Institute has come into an important place in the work of the Department of Agriculture during the year. This branch has been in operation for several years. The convention held in Fredericton, last February proved very interesting. During the exhibition week in the Capital, rooms were fitted up upon the exhibition grounds and daily demonstrations were given in domestic science, home nursing and kindred subjects. Miss Winter, accompanied by Miss Sadie E. Enwright, of St. Stephen, Miss Isabel McLaren, of Moncton, Miss M. V. Powell, of Whitley, Ontario, and Mrs. George Winter, Fredericton, made a tour of the province and visited the Institutes. They succeeded in organizing twenty new branches. Through the efforts of the Department of Agriculture, farming has been brought to its present advanced stage and efforts have been made to show the people that farm life has many advantages over city life. The department has pruned a success and the work will be continued with greater energy than ever.

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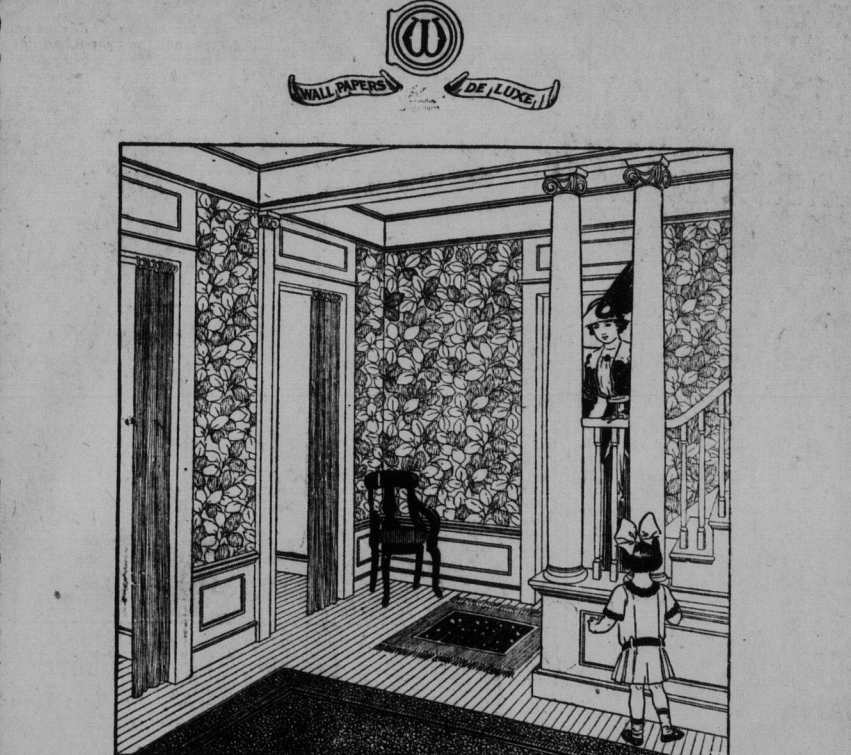
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