

AGRICULTURE.

Nova Scotia is richly endowed by nature for agricultural development. There is every sort of soil from the immensely rich intervals and dyked meadows to high uplands and wide pastures. But at present there are only about 56,000 occupiers of farms, which take up only 39 per cent of Nova Scotia's total area. Out of the province's whole extent of 13,483,681 acres, 5,457,000 acres are owned by farmers, 5,750,000 acres are in forests, and about 2,276,681 acres are more or less barren lands. Of the total acreage owned by farmers, 1,857,000 acres are regularly under the plough, 1,600,000 acres are in pasture lands, and 2,000,000 are in wood lots.

From these statements it is clear that only a small area of Nova Scotia is actually under cultivation. It is estimated that fully three-fourths of the land of Nova Scotia can be either cultivated or grazed. The possibilities, therefore, for extending the agriculture of the province are great. The facts are, however, that even the area under the plough is not as well cultivated as it should be, and that so far as the province is concerned, there is a greater demand for more intensive cultivation of the lands already cleared than an extension of the cultivated area. Yet in spite of this the estimated farm products for 1913 in Nova Scotia totalled \$31,000,000.

Passing to the methods now employed to develop the commercial possibilities of Nova Scotian agriculture and the best ways for turning these possibilities into realities in the future, it will, perhaps, make for clearness to consider branches of agriculture for which Nova Scotia is peculiarly adapted. The greatest of these commercial possibilities seem to be in the following branches:—
growing, dairying, sheep-raising.

FRUIT GROWING

The fruit growing industry is an old one, but it did not begin to make rapid strides till 1880, when an export market was established. That year 20,000 barrels were exported and by 1911 there were 100,000 barrels sent abroad. The standard fruit is the apple, which is carried on as a commercial venture in the counties of Kings, Annapolis, Digby, and to a lesser extent in Lunenburg and Queens; also parts of Yarmouth and the northern part of Cumberland, Colebrook, and Pictou counties bordering the Northumberland Strait. It is estimated that at the present time not more than one-tenth of the land capable of bearing trees in the fruit growing counties has been planted, and it is very clear that the future production must be many times the present large output.