



Rev. Rural Dean, Alex F. Robertson

Pleading the Gospel of Good Farming

Any leader or public servant, to be truly efficient, must be in full sympathy with; must understand; and must live the daily life of those for whom, and with whom he works. It follows that, if they are to be of greatest service, ministers in rural districts must know agriculture and the social and economic conditions of farm life. Such a man is Rev. Rural Dean Robertson of Cookshire, Compton Co., Quebec. Born and raised in the adjoining county of Stanstead, he knows much about practical agriculture and local conditions. Being a careful student and reader, he is well informed in the science of farming. During his long pastorate at Cookshire he has taken a very keen interest in everything that stands for advancement and progress in agriculture. Last summer he organized an excursion to Macdonald College farm in which over 200 farmers participated. In the autumn of 1912 a Farmer's Club was formed at Cookshire, with Dean Robertson, who was largely responsible for its organization, as first president. He arranged a series of meetings, and secured, as speakers, some of the best authorities on agriculture in Canada. The Agriculturists of the Commission who visited this Club on January 24th say it was, in every way, one of the best meetings they have yet attended. Then, there is the Women's Institute too, which has been organized lately in Cookshire. Dean Robertson was instrumental in getting it off to a good start.

In the matter of improving and re-directing the rural school system of Quebec, he takes a live interest, and is going about it in the right way. A strong committee was appointed at the last Club meeting to prepare a statement, setting forth in logical and definite form, the changes and improvements the farmers think should be made. This will be sent to the Minister of Education who has promised his assistance when he knows what the farmers want. The social side of farm life is not neglected. The Club and the Women's Institute

have planned to join in a banquet as a fitting finale to their series of winter meetings.

The valuable work which Dean Robertson is doing is worth while considering as an example of what should be done by every minister labouring in a rural field. It is the kind of leadership needed. It will help the farmer in his task of making a living, living a life and in solving the problems of the larger community.—F. C. N.

CENSUS LESSONS

Striking Facts Brought Out by Latest Census

No. 1.

According to the census returns of 1911, the province of Ontario has a population of 2,523,208, an increase of 340,261 for the census period 1901-1911. The greater portion of this increase is so far as the rural districts are concerned is accounted for in New Ontario. Thus the increase in Algoma district was 30,227; in Nipissing district 45,821; and in Thunder Bay and Rainy River districts 38,262 or a total increase in these four districts of 114,310. These increases are largely accounted for by the rapid exploitation of the mining areas of New Ontario that has taken place during the past ten years. The growth is, therefore, scarcely analogous to the development of rural population as that is commonly understood.

In older Ontario the bulk of the increase in population is shown in the cities, many rural districts showing a marked decline. The city of Toronto made an increase of 160,843; the city of Hamilton, 29,335; the city of Ottawa 22,836; the city of London, 8,324; and the city of Peterborough, 5,474. These five cities therefore account for 226,812, or over 66 per cent. of the total provincial increase. More than that, the increases in these five cities taken with the increase in the four districts of New Ontario already referred to, reach 341,122, or 861 more than the total increase for the Province.

It would be interesting to know to what extent the emigration of Ontario farmers to Western Canada is responsible for the rural depopulation of Ontario, and also what percentage of British and foreign immigrants remain in the cities. In any case it is obvious that the rural population of Ontario is declining rapidly, while the urban is increasing with still greater rapidity. The phenomenon is one that is common to many parts of America to-day, and it means that new social, economic and industrial adjustments must be made with as little delay as possible in order to lessen the hardships incident upon all such changes. Housing problems in cities must be taken up with greater earnestness in order to prevent the development of slums and shack town districts, and what is just as serious a menace—the sky scraper districts. Better and

cheaper methods of urban transportation must be provided in order to make it possible for the city worker to live in a suburban home, where he can cultivate a garden and do something towards supplying his own primary wants. Healthy occupation along these lines will tend to lessen the number of secondary wants that the average city dweller has come to have and the supplying of which demands the services of many thousands of people. On the other hand, country life can easily be made more attractive. The frequently quoted phrase, "better business, better farming, better living" sums up that side of the question fairly accurately. The problem is a national one and the cities and the country should work together to solve it.—A.D.

An Offer to Farmers

Have Your Crop Rotation Planned by an Expert

Draw a sketch of your farm, giving the number of acres in each field, the kind of soil and the kind of crops grown on it for the past three years. Also specify the line you are particularly interested in, namely, dairying, beef production, sheep or hogs, or grain growing. Distance from the market has also to be considered. Send this to the Commission of Conservation, Ottawa, and they will make suggestions that will be a material help in deciding the best crop rotation for your farm.

Fire Protection in British Columbia

The organization of fire protective work in British Columbia has been much more effective during the past season than previously. The Forest Act of 1912, provides for regulating the operation of railways, removal of slash along roads and other dangerous places, the construction of fire-breaks on logged-off lands, requiring permits to burn slashings, establishing a dry season and providing for patrol and fire-fighting forces. The patrol during the summer of 1912 consisted of 17 divisional wardens and about 150 district wardens and patrolmen. The cost of patrolling and fire fighting amounted to about \$175,000. Funds for this purpose were obtained by a tax of one cent per acre on all timberlands in private ownership, under lease and under license, with an equal amount raised by general taxation.

During the season of 1913 the efficiency of all lines of work, including fire protection, will be materially increased by the establishment of the district system. The Province will be divided into districts with a district forester in charge of each, who will be responsible for the general supervision of all lines of work, subject to the direction of the Chief Forester, Mr. H. R. MacMillan.—C.L.

Resolutions Respecting Fisheries

Passed at Ottawa by the Commission of Conservation on January 22, 1912

WHEREAS the present fisheries protective service is admittedly susceptible of much improvement.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the immediate necessity of a re-organization of the service be called to the attention of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries and,

That in our opinion the following considerations should be recognized in such re-organization:

(a) The desirability of employing permanent officials paid sufficiently large salaries to enable them to devote their whole time to the work.

(b) The advantage of having each official, on appointment, a stranger in the district to which he is appointed, and where practicable, to have him moved to a new district periodically.

(c) The immense gain in the efficiency of the protective service in having all appointments made on the sole ground of the capability of the appointee to discharge the duties of his position.

Instruction for Fishermen

RESOLVED THAT the Government of Canada should provide instruction for fishermen in the pursuit of their calling in a similar way to that in which it is providing instruction for farmers, and further,

That the Biological Board of Canada be re-organized so as to provide for the permanent employment of a staff of scientific fisheries experts thereon.

Revision of Oyster Regulations

RESOLVED THAT it is expedient that the regulations regarding oyster fisheries be revised to the end that they be adapted to the conditions arising from oyster culture operations now being entered upon in Prince Edward Island, and especially that the regulation providing that oysters may be fished for and dealt in only from October 1 to March 31, be amended so as to permit oysters from private beds to be fished for and dealt in at any time of the year, thus preventing a glut in the market during October and November.

Eastern Railway Fire Protection

Mr. E. J. Zavitz, Provincial Forester for Ontario, has been appointed Provincial Fire Inspector by the Board of Railway Commissioners, and subject to the general supervision of the Chief Fire Inspector will direct the enforcement in Ontario of the railway fire regulations of the Board. Similar action as to Quebec has been taken by the appointment of Mr. W. C. J. Hall, Chief of the Forest Protection Branch, Department of Lands and Forests, Quebec. It is anticipated that co-operation with the Railway Commission will be extended to the provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia through action by the respective Provincial Governments.—C.L.