

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN
THE DOMINION.

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will have to use his discrimination, because individuals differ so, and one pig would thrive under treatment which another could not stand without serious loss.

It must be understood that the above remarks apply only to animals which are to be retained for breeding purposes. Those which are intended for the butcher or for fat stock shows must be treated very differently. In their case there must be no change of feed or lowering of rations, but they must be pushed on steadily on the feed they are accustomed to, otherwise they will not be in the best form to be shown or sold when the time comes.

A Trip to the Eastern Provinces.

[EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.]

To one who makes the trip to the Maritime Provinces for the first time there are many interesting features to note. Leaving Montreal at night in a sleeper, the traveler passes through some of the best farming districts of the Province of Quebec without seeing them, but is compensated on the return trip by taking the daytime for it. This section of the O. P. R. runs through a considerable portion of the State of Maine, much of which is mountainous, broken, and largely unfit for farming, as are also large areas of the land in New Brunswick through which the road passes. But in the last few hours, as we near the city of St. John, many beautiful valleys with well-kept farms and neat homesteads come into view. Agriculture is not yet a leading commercial pursuit in this Province, fishing and lumbering having been the main dependence of the majority of the people, but increasing attention is being given to farming, especially to dairying, cheese factories and creameries being numerous and well patronized in many sections. The Provincial Government has taken an active interest in promoting the farming industries by liberal grants for the purchase and dissemination of pure-bred live stock, the influence of which is seen in the character of the cattle on many farms and in the stock shown at the exhibitions, which is exceedingly creditable, while the samples of fruit, vegetables and roots displayed at the fairs would rank well with the best in any province. The lumber trade is still the great industry. Sawmills abound along the rivers, the larger ones being within reach of river boats, which in their turn transfer the sawn lumber to ocean-going vessels.

St. John, the principal city, with a population of about 40,000, is finely situated for trade and manufacture. The harbor is well sheltered and is open the year round, the strong current carrying all the ice of the river out to sea. The city, which has risen beautifully from the ashes of the great fire of 1877, which destroyed all the business portion and property to the value of \$25,000,000, is compactly built on a rounded tongue of slate rock between the harbor and a little offshoot

called Courtenay Bay that runs bare at low water. Hills and high ground surround the city on the north and west. The houses are mainly of brick, but there are numerous fine stone residences and warehouses. Many of the churches are of the best style of architecture, while the Government buildings, the post office, customs house, and hospitals, are handsome and substantial structures. The city presents a very fine appearance on being approached from the water, but the view opposite the reversible falls from the hills of Carleton, a suburban town, is not surpassed even by the view from Montreal Mountain or the Citadel of Quebec. The extensive and varied natural park, including circuitous and shady walks and drives, lakes and lagoons, and the long drive by the beach of the beautiful Kennebecasis Bay, with its charming scenery, makes St. John a most interesting city to the visitor. A sail of forty miles up the majestic St. John river on a bright September day, with its charming accompaniment of scenery in the well-wooded hills on either side, pretty islands fringed to the water's edge with dense shrubbery, and the tasty summer cottages of city people along the shore, with here and there a well-kept farm coming into view, was an experience not to be soon forgotten.

Among the chief towns is Woodstock, sixty-five miles above Fredericton on the St. John river, in a fertile region of the Silurian belt. In addition to its lumber trade it has a manufactory of extract of tan bark, and there are iron ores in the vicinity. Sussex is a thriving town in the midst of a fine agricultural and dairying district. Sackville, at the head of Cumberland Bay, is in a fine farming and stock-raising region, its extensive dyked marshes, the richest land in the Province, producing large quantities of hay and grain. Moncton, a fast rising town on the Petitcodiac, is the headquarters of the Intercolonial Railway and has the railway workshops. It contains also a large sugar refinery.

Nova Scotia, as an integral part of ancient "Acadie," presents many interesting features. While as a mineral-producing province it stands out prominently, being surpassed only by British Columbia in the production of gold, and holding first place in that of coal, iron, and gypsum; it is also fast making a name as an agricultural province. Its numerous fertile valleys produce immense quantities of hay and pasture, and though principally used as meadows, are capable of growing grand crops of grain and roots as well. These were originally marshes, which have been reclaimed and improved by dyking the river banks to shut out the tides, which would otherwise overflow them, but "at stated seasons the flood-gates are opened and the sea is welcomed to wander at will o'er the meadows," as graphically described by Longfellow in his "Evangeline," which had for its scene a historic spot in this same "Acadie." The farmer who is fortunate enough to own a fair share of this marsh land feels that he is on the ground floor, as its value runs from \$150 to \$300 per acre.

The uplands, through which the highways run and where the homesteads stand, though not exceptionally rich, are generally good farming lands, and when properly farmed give fair returns, a popular means of fertilizing them being the application of what is called marsh mud, composed of a deposit of the sediment of the tide when it backs up into the rivers, which is hauled in carts and spread on the land. Under the prevailing system of survey, the farms being narrow and running back on either side of the highways, neighbors are near together, and the neat frame houses and barns, invariably painted or white-washed, give a cheery aspect to the country, having much the appearance of a succession of villages.

A couple of days were profitably spent at the Maritime Experimental Farm at Nappan, now under the efficient superintendence of Mr. R. Robertson, formerly a successful farmer at Compton, Quebec. The farm is pleasantly situated six miles from the beautiful town of Amherst, the original home of the talented Tupper, Sir Charles and his son Sir Hibbert, and near which are located some of the finest herds of pure-bred cattle in the provinces, including the champion Herefords of W. W. Black, C. W. Holmes' Shorthorns, and the "Bonnie View" Jerseys of E. B. Elderkin & Sons, headed by Golden Lad, the sweepstakes bull at the Provincial Show.

The selection of the site of the Experimental Farm was evidently not a fortunate one, the soil being naturally poorer than the average of the district, and the shape of the fields made irregular by the passing of the railway and the highways through it, but by a thorough system of draining, plowing in of green crops, and a liberal application of marsh mud and the barnyard manure made by feeding cattle under the direction of the ex-superintendent, Col. Blair, during the nine years of his incumbency, a considerable portion of the farm has been brought into a condition that produces excellent crops of clover, roots and corn, a field of clover having this year yielded over three tons per acre in the first cutting and producing a second crop estimated equal to one ton per acre, which has been plowed down to further enrich the land. Some of the trial plots of ensilage corn have yielded at the rate of twenty tons per acre, the field crop was estimated at fifteen tons, and of potatoes as high as 420 bushels per acre are recorded this year. Although the season has been unfavorable to grain crops on account of an excess of rain, causing rust, which has reduced the weight of yield, yet the

report, on the whole, will show favorable results for Mr. Robertson's first year, while his plans for the future are practical and comprehensive, and we hope to see good work done at this station.

A new enterprise in this region, from which good results are anticipated, is the organization of the Maritime Stock Improvement Company, with a capital of \$50,000 and with Col. Blair as Managing Director, the object being to raise the standard of farm stock in the Provinces and to carry on the business of importing, breeding, transporting and marketing all classes of pure-bred and high-grade stock. An excellent stock farm near the station at Nappan has been purchased, and additional buildings are being erected for carrying out the plans of the Company, a nucleus of stock having already been purchased. Col. Blair, the plucky projector of this scheme, is regarded as the apostle of improved stock in the Province, having devoted the best energies of an active life to this work, and we wish him all success in his latest endeavor to benefit the farmer by means of this movement.

The Provincial School of Agriculture is located at Truro, a pretty town in Colchester County. This school was established in 1885 in connection with the Provincial Normal School, which is also permanently established at Truro, and is under the direction of Prof. Hermon W. Smith, B. S., a graduate of Cornell University. It has occupied a separate building on "Bible Hill" on the Provincial Farm in the outskirts of the town—a fine situation, commanding a charming view of rural scenery, including the rich marsh meadows and upland farms of the Onslow district in the distance. The school building was destroyed by fire last spring, and has not yet been rebuilt, owing to some sectional contentions as to its location and the absence of a well-defined policy for the carrying out of the objects of this and its sister institution, the School of Horticulture, which is located at Wolfville, a division of forces which is far from desirable, and which should be ended or amended by a combination of the schools at some point. Indeed, all the agricultural and horticultural institutions of the Province are evidently in an unsatisfactory condition, and a vigorous policy of extension and efficiency is urgently needed. What is wanted is a school after the model of the Guelph College, and to this end a leading spirit is longed for—one familiar with the requirements of the situation and qualified for organizing and evolving a policy that will meet the need. Given this and the probability is that the Government will not withhold the necessary financial aid. One of the attractions to a stockman at Truro is "Bellevue," the fine stock farm of Mr. C. A. Archibald, and his noted herds of Shorthorns and Ayrshires, which stood so high on the honor roll at the Provincial Fair. A very large and successful milk-condensing factory is also in operation here, which is well patronized by the farmers.

The City of Halifax—the "Gibraltar of America"—with an estimated population of 45,000 (the only city in the Province), situated some seven miles from the mouth of the harbor upon a tongue of land between the harbor proper and the "north-west arm," is noted for the strength and efficiency of its fortifications and as the only place in the Dominion where the Imperial Government maintains a garrison. It is also the summer station of the North American squadron. The highest point of the ridge on which the city is built and near the center of it is occupied by the citadel, probably the strongest fortification on the Continent, and commanding the whole harbor. The extremity of the tongue of land is a public park, with fine picturesque drives, and the Horticultural Gardens are an attractive feature of the city, being among the most perfect in America. In Halifax the Provincial Exhibition is held. The buildings and grounds for this purpose are admirably arranged, and the display of stock and products were a credit to the Province, but three days of steady rain sadly militated against its financial success this year.

The live stock features of the show were briefly reviewed in our last issue. The agricultural building was well filled with a grand display of first-class vegetables and roots, the potatoes being especially fine. The Provincial Farm made a very tasty display of its products under the superintendence of Mr. F. L. Fuller, the Farm Manager, who also conducted a working dairy, with the assistance of two of the students of the School of Agriculture, who made butter twice daily in full view of an interested crowd of visitors. The Maritime Experimental Farm occupied the center of the hall with a magnificent display of its productions, designed and arranged with exquisite taste by Mr. W. S. Blair, Horticulturist of the Farm. The show of fruit, especially of apples, was a genuine surprise to a Western man. High-class exhibits of many of the best varieties of winter apples suitable for the export trade were here in abundance, and Mr. Bigelow, the energetic President of the N. S. Fruit Growers' Association, glories in the fact that \$1,000,000 in solid cash represents the income to the farmers of the Province for their annual apple crop exported, in addition to what is consumed by the home market. In this department the President was ably seconded by Mr. S. C. Parker, the enthusiastic Secretary, and by Prof. F. C. Sears, the Director of the Provincial School of Horticulture, and Mrs. Johnson, all of whom take a deep interest in the work of the Association.

We regret that our engagements precluded the possibility of visiting the famous Annapolis Valley, acknowledged by all to be, in respect to fruit grow-