

## The New Brunswick Legislature and Agriculture.

After one of the most business-like sessions on record the New Brunswick Legislature prorogued in exactly five weeks from date of opening. Legislation of great importance to the Province was passed, much of which was directly or indirectly connected with the interests of the farmer.

The Act relating to the Crown Lands deals with the better conserving of the forest wealth of the Province with a view to perpetuation of the timber crop, the conserving of the water supply and the future revenue from Crown Lands.

### A PROVINCIAL HIGHWAY SYSTEM

The new Highway Act aims to bring to the work of road-making the best skill and business direction that can be obtained and \$100,000 per year is being set apart for strictly permanent work beginning at those places on the main trunk roads most in need of repair. In 1908 the experiment was tried of handing over to the highway boards of the various municipalities full power and all the provincial appropriation for the upkeep of the highways. This policy, while theoretically placing the control of the roads in the hands of the people themselves, has only worked out to the best advantage where the citizenship of the people was considerably above the average and even there the frequent change of road officials and the consequent change of methods as well as the absence very often of good engineering principles caused a large waste of expenditure. The act just passed provides for a Provincial Highway Engineer and expert county road-builders under him who will supervise the work of the local roadmasters. Taxes may be worked out on the highway under the direction of the roadmasters up to July of each year. After that the tax is payable in cash only, and the trend of the Act is to encourage work of a permanent character as well as the patrol of the roads for maintenance.

The act to establish two agricultural schools, one at Woodstock and one at Sussex, and looking to their increase so that each county shall in time have such a school, is an experiment that if well managed and conducted along the lines the promoters have in view, should do much to assist agricultural education. It is proposed that the Agriculturist in charge of each of these schools shall be a thoroughly practical and competent man of the same training as the District Representatives sent out by the Ontario Department of Agriculture, and who shall do similar work, laying great stress upon short courses, at such seasons as the largest numbers of farmers can take advantage of them.

### OTHER PROVISIONS

The act to enable the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council to put in force stringent regulations dealing with nursery-stock, insect pests and plant diseases, is also a move that will do much to encourage and protect fruit-growers and farmers generally.

The act to enable Boards of Health to put in force regulations and inspections in regard to milk and cream supplies in any part of the Province from which they are obtained will enable city and town boards of health to deal directly with milk producers no matter where they may live in the Province, and this, coupled with cow testing and inspection promised by the Department of Agriculture, should benefit both producer and consumer.

The Agricultural Committee of the Legislature during the session just closed has shown much more activity than in previous years and it has discussed many questions and passed resolutions as suggested to the Minister of Agriculture.

These resolutions dealt with the encouragement of cow testing, the growing of more dairy feeds on the farms of the Province and the teaching of facts regarding milk-production and milk testing in the public schools. Also urging the employment of a veterinary surgeon, whose duty it will be to test with tuberculin all herds whose owners may desire such a test, and to give instruction in stable sanitation, etc., aiming especially at the prevention and eradication of bovine tuberculosis; also asking that the Department import one or more power ditching machines and use it or them in giving demonstrations in different parts of the Province.

A resolution was also introduced in the committee recommending the establishment of demonstration farms in as nearly as possible every parish in the Province where the best principles and methods applicable to the district could be illustrated and results shown. At the request of the Minister this resolution was withdrawn after discussion, as he stated that he had in view a system of farm to farm instruction by expert practical men, that he thought might well precede the establishment of such farms.

The appropriation for agriculture was barely

as large as in 1912, as the total this year is only \$60,800, against \$61,315 the preceding year. The large increase in the proposed work of the Department is made possible by the receipt of the Federal subsidy which will make available during the Provincial Fiscal year of 1913 about \$58,000 from that source. The following figures show the items of appropriation for the two years from the Provincial Treasury.

	1912	1913
Departmental salaries, etc.,	\$ 7,400	\$ 8,600
Agricultural societies	14,000	17,000
Butter and cheese factories	1,000	1,000
Encouragement of dairying	4,500	4,500
Dairy school	2,000	2,000
Farmers' Institutes	3,000	3,000
Maritime Stock Breeders' Assoc.	800	800
Cold storage	750	750
Encouragement of Horticulture	5,500	4,500
Encouragement of stock raising	1,000	1,000
Assistance to scholars attending agricultural colleges	500	
Poultry raising encouragement	2,500	2,500
Crop competitions and seed fairs	750	1,050
Roller mill bonuses	1,000	1,000
Farm Settlement Board		1,500
Brown tail moth extermination	11,000	11,000
Exhibitions	15,000	10,000
Miscellaneous	615	600
Total	\$61,315	\$60,800

As yet the items for expenditure of the Dominion subsidy have not been made public, but it is understood, that educational work for the encouragement of horticulture will receive a fair share, that dairy educational work will be looked and also knowledge upon fertilizer drainage and bee keeping will be disseminated. The upkeep of the proposed agricultural schools will come from this source, as will the farm to farm instruction, Womens' Institutes and several other items.

## Test the Seed Oats and Barley.

Have you tested the seed oats you are about to sow? If not do so at once. Immense quantities of oats will be sown in Canada this year that will germinate but a low percentage and the worst of it is that those which do sprout will germinate weakly. Should subsequent weather conditions be adverse, some of the plants will dwindle and perhaps die or at least make a poor growth, easily set back by wire-worms, grubs, cold or drought. A low percentage of germination, if known of in time, may be compensated by using an extra quantity of seed, but a low vitality in the kernels which do sprout can be remedied only by substituting other and more vigorous seed.

Before spending valuable time preparing, sowing and reaping a crop, make sure, if possible, of having vigorous grain to sow. Test your likely bins of oats and barley for germination. Take a plate, cover the bottom with blotting paper or wollen cloth, put 100 or 200 representative kernels of the grain to be tested on this paper or cloth, cover with a similar piece and put on enough water to dampen the cloth well but not enough to submerge any part of the kernels. Dampen the paper or cloth at least once a day and keep the plate covered with another one inverted over it. Keep the plate in an ordinary living room temperature. At the end of five days count the percentage which have sprouted in each plate and make a note not only of the percentage but of the strength.

What suggests this subject so strongly to our mind is some testing we have done lately ourselves. Taking uncleaned grain from the lots, we had it tested by the local district agricultural representatives with the following results: One lot piled loosely on some boards over the bins last fall tested ninety per cent, nearly every kernel with anything in it sprouting. Another sample from a narrow-bin tested eighty-five per cent, and another from the bottom of a larger bin only eighty per cent. The germination not being so strong as we might desire, we tried to secure a better sample of the same variety—but with not very encouraging results, some samples obtained proving worse rather than better. It may be impossible for all of us to secure first-class seed this year but let us sow only the very best we can obtain.

Co-operative experimenters who grew the O. A. C. No. 72 variety of oats last year seem to be hanging on to it for seed this spring. One farmer a short time ago sold one hundred pounds for \$25. There should be a good supply of seed in Ontario by this autumn. In fact there should be some thousands of bushels. It will probably not be easy for anyone to secure a quantity until then.

C. A. ZAVITZ.

The first National Marketing and Farm Credit Convention will be held in Chicago, U. S. A., April 8-10th.

## Barnyard Happenings.

By Peter McArthur.

Is there such a thing as an official score-card for marking up the points of a cow? If there is I should like to see one. I want to know just how many marks are given for powers of digestion. This week the red cow did something that almost lifts her out of the cow class and places her with the ostrich and boa-constrictor. The other day after the cows had been turned out to water she was somehow left untied. True to her predatory instincts as soon as she discovered her freedom she started to nose round for something she could steal and had the luck to find a tubfull of corn in the ear, from which the hens were being fed. She promptly began to wrap herself around it and before being interrupted in her feast she had eaten over a bushel. Now, "The Farmer's Advocate" has never published any "First Aid to the Gluttonous," and I didn't know what to do. When I asked for advice people told me sad stories of the death of cows from over-feeding. Some had been killed by eating tailings after a threshing, others by bloating after eating clover, others by a surfeit of chop feed. It was all very disheartening for a fresh cow that gives eight quarts of milk rich in butter-fat at each milking is a valuable asset in these days when the bank act is being revised so as to allow farmers to raise money on their cattle. I couldn't call up the veterinarian for we have no telephone, and with the roads in their present condition I did not feel like driving three miles to consult one. Still I was not so much worried as I might have been. The look in her eye was re-assuring. She looked more like the cat that had eaten the canary than anything else. She wore an air of unmistakeable satisfaction and when she began to eat some clover hay that was in her manger as dessert to her banquet I felt that she might pull through. Her previous raids on the swill-barrel, soft-soap, apples and other things gave me confidence in her powers of digestion, so, after murmuring a few words, "more in sorrow than in anger," I gave her Shakespeare's blessing—"Let Good Digestion Wait on Appetite"—and left her to her fate.

At milking time she was still perfectly normal though kind of lazy about standing over and "histing." Acting on advice, I cut out her evening ration of unthreshed oats, so that her stomach would recover from the surprise she had given it in the afternoon. Her gastric juices had their work cut out for them without having their troubles increased. But she made no protest when the other cows were fed and she was skipped. In fact she reminded me of the bereaved fowl described by "Pet Marjory," the little girl whose rhymes and sayings were recorded by Sir Walter Scott:

"She was more than usual calm.

She did not give a single dam."

And yet, though she was in such good form I couldn't keep from worrying. All evening I listened to tales about cows that had come to untimely ends through over-eating, and look at it in any way I tried, a bushel or more of corn seemed a big dose for any cow. So after the others had gone to bed I lit the lantern and went out to the stable to see how she was doing. As I opened the door she heaved a sigh of repletion, like an alderman after a banquet. Then she stretched out her neck, brought up a cud and began to chew placidly. Still, I was not entirely easy in my mind if I could only get to see her tongue, or to feel her pulse, or take her temperature, I would be more satisfied. But how to get her to put out her tongue was the problem. The only way I could think of would be to hold an ear of corn before her nose and let her reach out her tongue for it, just as I had seen her try to lick grain through a knot-hole in the granary. But I was afraid to try that scheme for I knew by experience that she would probably get the start of me and add that ear of corn to the pile she had already accumulated. When it came to feeling her pulse I was stumped worse than in trying to get her to put out her tongue. How do you feel a cow's pulse anyway? The longer I live on a farm and grapple with its problems the more I find I have to learn. And all the time I was fussing and worrying she kept on contentedly chewing her cud. Restraining an impulse to give her a kick for looking so exasperatingly comfortable, when in the best judgment of the neighborhood she should be dying, I closed the door and left her to her job of digesting a bushel of corn. And she did it to the king's taste. In the morning I went to see her before I gathered the duck eggs and found her bawling for her morning feed. She never batted an eyelid—never turned a hair. And at milking time she gave a brimming pail of milk, just as if nothing unusual had happened. Later in the day, when she was turned out for water she bolted for the spot where she had found the corn on the previous day and seemed ready to repeat her exploit. It is not because she is starved either, for she is beef-fat.

This exploit of the red cow's recalled an ex-