

The Standard

Published by The Standard Limited, 42 Prince William Street, St. John, N. B., Canada.

SUBSCRIPTION.
Daily Edition, by Carrier, per year.....\$5.00
Daily Edition, by Mail, per year..... 3.00
Semi-Weekly Edition, by Mail, per year..... 1.00
Single Copies Two Cents.

TELEPHONE CALLS:
Business Office.....Main 1723
Editorial and News.....Main 1746

ST. JOHN, N. B. WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 1912.

AGRICULTURE IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

Crop returns for 1911, collected by the Agricultural Department of the New Brunswick Government, for 1911, show an increased yield for most all the principal field crops of the Province. It is unfortunate that greater interest is not taken in wheat growing. Enough wheat should be grown in this Province to supply the rural population, but this is not done. Some years ago the Government of the day decided to grant bonuses for the erection of roller flour mills in different sections of the country. The object of these bonuses was to provide proper facilities for grinding the wheat, the belief being that wheat growing would increase if the grain could be converted into good flour. In all 23 mills were constructed under the bonus system, in all the counties of the Province, but in every year since 1897, when 410,714 bushels of wheat were reported to have been grown in New Brunswick, wheat growing has been on the decline, as shown by the returns of the department for the past year when the wheat crop is reported as 254,771 bushels. The oat crop last year was the largest in the history of the Province. There has been a steady increase in the growth of this important cereal since 1906, when the figures given were 5,685,580 bushels against 5,970,435 bushels for 1911. Buckwheat is a crop which seems to vary much. The highest record since 1906 was in 1909, when the crop was reported as 1,405,775 bushels, while in 1911 it was only 1,173,147 bushels, the lowest recorded in the past seven years. With the exception of 1909, when the potato crop was the largest ever raised in the Province, the figures being 8,968,098 bushels, the crop of 1911 is the largest the record being 8,493,212 bushels. The same thing applies to turnips. The year 1909 was the record year, the crop totalling 2,240,862 bushels, while last year the total was 3,326,793 bushels. From these figures it will be seen that increases ruled in all of the principal field crops with the exception of wheat and buckwheat. Taken altogether the agricultural operations of the past season were successful, far beyond the average. In every case the yield per acre was higher than the average, which is satisfactory in a marked degree and shows better cultivation.

It is also gratifying to note that there are now more horses, cattle, sheep and swine on New Brunswick farms than for some years past. From 1901 until 1906 there was a steady decline in the live stock kept by the farmers of New Brunswick. Since 1908 there has been a steady increase in all the classes of live stock mentioned. According to the census of 1901 there were 182,524 sheep on the farms. In 1909 this number had declined to 142,274. In 1911 there had been an increase, the number being 150,760. The principal increase in live stock, however, has been in the swine. The census returns for 1901 showed 51,763; in 1911 the figures given are 91,363. These figures give some idea of the agricultural development in this Province.

The increase in the number of agricultural societies also furnishes evidence that the farmers are taking more interest in their vocation and are working in greater harmony than ever before. In 1908 there were but 58 agricultural societies in the whole Province of New Brunswick. At the close of 1911 the number of societies operating in the Province was 100, an increase of 42, which cannot but be encouraging to the department under whose supervision they are.

In ten years agricultural conditions in this Province have materially changed. There has been a constant reaching out among the farmers for more business. There is room in the local market for just about twice the produce that is produced by New Brunswick farmers and it is quite safe to say that without increasing the acreage of cleared land the crops could be greatly added to by additional labor. It has been somewhat difficult to convince the average farmer of this country that it is possible for him to make a profit on the labor of his hired help as well as on his own labor. It has also been difficult to overcome the prejudice of the farmer against employing help all the year round instead of only for a few months or weeks during the busy season. Slowly but surely, the farmer is realizing that it pays him to cultivate his farm by hiring the necessary labor rather than depend entirely upon his own industry. Farming in New Brunswick has been proved profitable and intelligent farmers now realize that there is no danger of over-production for some years to come, and are increasing the acreage under cultivation. Gratifying as the returns for 1911 are there is still room for improvement.

THE NATIONAL TRANSCONTINENTAL COMMISSION.

The construction of the National Transcontinental Railway by the Commission appointed by Sir Wilfrid Laurier's Government came in for a severe grilling in Parliament last week. The debate arose on the bill brought down by the Minister of Railways amending the National Transcontinental Railway Act so as to cut out three unnecessary commissions. Referring to the discussion which followed the introduction of this bill, the Ottawa Citizen says:—

"The Opposition made a determined effort to force the Government to give the retiring commissioners a bonus of three or six months' salary. The effort proved rather a boomerang from a political standpoint. The Minister of Railways had said nothing in criticism of the services of the commissioners, whose services are being dispensed with, and with the usual nerve that characterizes the attitude of the Opposition, the Liberal speakers proceeded on the assumption that the services of the commissioners had been absolutely satisfactory and the Government was guilty of an injustice in somewhat summarily dispensing with their services. This line of argument had the effect of eliciting some exceedingly severe criticisms of the retiring commissioners, whose inefficiency and propensities for facilitating grafting schemes on the part of their political friends were roundly denounced. It was pointed out that the granting of a bonus to these gentlemen would be tantamount to expressing satisfaction with their services, while the contrary was the fact. It reopened the whole question of the enormous waste and extravagance which has marked the construction of the Winnipeg-Moncton section of the Transcontinental. It was originally estimated to cost \$51,300,000, and is already far over the \$200,000,000. The Minister of Labor pointed out that under the late Government Parliament never got within \$10,000 of the same estimate from year to year. It was stated that friends of the late Government at Winnipeg made hundreds of thousands of dollars out of speculations which the commissioners winked at and allowed the extravagance to go on, and that none of the commissioners when originally appointed had any qualification

for the important duties they were supposed to carry out. Two of them were lawyers, one was a corset manufacturer, and another a grain dealer. It was further pointed out that public sentiment was to the effect that the work of the commissioners had not been well done or in the public interest, and that on the whole they should be mightily glad to be allowed to retire quietly without any bonus."

The Winnipeg Telegram speaks of the attitude of the Opposition towards the measure introduced by Mr. Cochrane as bereft "of either sound logic or business ideas." Referring to the commission itself the Telegram adds:—

"The expected happened after the appointment of this commission by the Laurier Government. None of the appointees was a man experienced in railway matters. All were appointed through political influence. The result was that the construction of the National Transcontinental Railway developed into a carnival of graft and extravagance. The commission proved itself incompetent to carry on this immense project along sound business lines, and this incompetence has cost the country many millions of dollars.

"It was clearly the duty of the Borden Government to get rid of a system which proved only its inability to grapple with the immense problem of the construction of a transcontinental system. The Borden Government has done this. It is not and has not been a question involving sentiment. Rather it is one of national business interests. The Government has substituted for the three-man commission the direction of National Transcontinental affairs by an engineer of admitted ability and integrity. It has substituted capacity for incapacity and economy for the reckless waste of money which characterized the former commission.

"The only regret is that the construction of this national enterprise has so far advanced that Major Leonard is unable to relieve the country from much of the burden of overcost fastened upon it by his predecessors. The best he can do is to proceed intelligently with the remaining construction work, and the country has every assurance that his ability and his purpose will be employed in this direction.

"The cost of the National Transcontinental enterprise has already been so excessive that it is bound to have its effect in enormous carrying charges and corresponding freight rates. The people of Western Canada will pay tribute to the incompetency of the old system after this transcontinental road is completed, since the reckless waste of money in construction cost will militate against any lowering of freight charges upon what was intended as a competing transportation line."

Current Comment

(Toronto News.)

In the local room of the News office, in the presence of the city editor and two reporters, Joseph Fels, millionaire and single tax advocate, gave an interview in which he said that he had no more blame for the McNamara's than for any other unfortunate victims of modern civilization. The statement, consisting of about 200 words, made by Mr. Fels, was made slowly and carefully, and was taken down in long hand word for word by a capable reporter. At the Empire Club two days after the interview appeared Mr. Fels modified considerably his former statements with respect to these dynamiters, and declared that he had been misreported in the News. Mr. Fels misleads the public when he makes that declaration. His statement is untrue. There might be little advantage in referring particularly to this incident if it were not one of a class. Too often men in the public eye try to shift responsibility for their injudicious public statements upon the shoulders of a newspaper or one of that newspaper's employees. It is small business, as a general rule reporters are accurate observers and careful writers. Mr. Fels is not original in his complaint. He is tiresomely unoriginal. For that very reason it is worth while to show the lack of courage in his make-up and to assert his statement to the News was printed once more, indefinitely and clearly, that exactly as he gave it.

(Minneapolis Journal.)

The overthrow of Great Britain would compel us to build the first navy in the world and to organize an army capable of meeting any force the continent might bring against it. Thus the endurance of Great Britain as a first-class power is highly essential to our welfare. There is no purpose in America to fight Great Britain's battles either for or with her, to further her ambitions or champion her quarrels. As a matter of fact Great Britain is well equipped to do those things herself. But there is the question. Could America permit Great Britain's complete overthrow? That is an event whose far-reaching consequences we must consider.

(Ottawa Journal.)

The King and Queen are invited to open a national railway in Australia in a couple of years' time. If their Majesties decide to take the Australian trip they should include Canada in the itinerary. In two or three years Canada will have two transcontinental railways to open, the G. T. P. and the Canadian Northern. Their Majesties might cross Canada from coast to coast by one of the new roads, and return by the other, thus formally opening both of them to traffic. The idea is worth developing.

(Stratford Beacon.)

A New York physician recommends bran as a food for human beings as well as for horses. He says that bran mash is as good for men and women as for horses, and that it is a great health promoter. He may be right. A St. Thomas company put a breakfast beverage, Kaoka, on the market, which was to take the place of coffee, and it sold well for a time until it got out that it was made of bran and treacle. Then its popularity decreased and the company had to go out of business.

(Edmonton Journal.)

The movement to make Northern Ontario a separate Province continues to gather strength. Those behind it are apparently very much in earnest. But there would be no justification for such a step at the present time at least. The country to the north of Lake Superior has not sufficient population to warrant the assumption of such responsibilities. The western part of it naturally belongs to Manitoba, and if any change is to be made it should be along this line.

(Grand Forks Herald.)

A man who occasionally wipes the dishes for his wife became tired of the job and refused, saying that "it is not a man's work." Not feeling disposed to lose his help she brought the Bible out to convince him of his error and read as follows from II. Kings, xxi, 15: "And will and wipe Jerusalem as a man wipeth a dish, wiping it and turning it upside down." It is needless to say that he is still doing his stunt.

(Ottawa Citizen.)

Our esteemed contemporary, the Montreal Gazette, announces that the barn door skate is wreaking destruction among the lobsters. It beats all how these country youths gravitate to the city.

(Ottawa Free-Press.)

If every three cheers are entitled to a tiger, how many cheers are all King George's tigers he bagged in India entitled to, and did he get them—the cheers?

FOR A PROVINCIAL PROHIBITION BILL.

New Brunswick Temperance Federation, at Meeting Here, Prepares to Present Bill to Provincial Government.

At the meeting of the New Brunswick Temperance Federation held yesterday afternoon arrangements were made for submitting a provincial prohibition bill to the local government on the 6th of February. While the features of the bill will not be made public till it goes before the legislature, it was said that it is a very drastic measure, and calls for the abolition of the license system within a short time. The bill applies to districts where the Scott Act is not now in force, and provides that Scott Act districts may repeal the Dominion measure, and place themselves under the jurisdiction of the provincial act. It is said the bill is different from the Nova Scotia measure in that it does not provide for the gradual elimination of licensed places. At the meeting yesterday several minor amendments to the bill as originally drafted were made.

At the request of the Ontario alliance the federation appointed a delegation consisting of the Rev. R. H. Staver, Harcourt; Rev. J. W. Robinson, Rev. H. E. Thomas, Dr. David Hutchinson, Rev. W. R. Robinson and A. A. Wilson.

It is expected that the meeting will mark an epoch in the campaign for prohibition in the province. The following officers for the ensuing year were elected: President—J. Willard Smith. Vice-presidents—J. Vernon Jackson, Moncton; E. S. Hennigar, Mrs. J. Seymour and G. T. Blewett. Secretary-treasurer—E. N. Stockford.

The executive committee consisted of the officers with Revs. W. R. Robinson, Wm. Lawson, C. F. Fleming, D. Bell, H. E. Thomas, E. A. McPhee, and Messrs. W. F. Washburn, C. F. MacTavish, J. R. Woodburn, C. M. Lawson and W. A. Trueman.

Among those present were, Rev. C. Fleming, Petticoat; Rev. R. H. Staver, Harcourt; Rev. T. D. Bell, Rusagorish; Rev. E. A. McPhee, St. George; Rev. T. Marshall, Sackville; J. V. Jackson, Moncton; A. C. M. Lawson, Fredericton; Rev. Mr. Wig-

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IN THE COURTS.

PROBATE COURT.

Estate of David Kirkpatrick Deceased. Estate of David Kirkpatrick, late of the Parish of Simonds, school teacher. Deceased died intestate leaving a brother, James Kirkpatrick, of Quaco Road, farmer; a brother, Henry Kirkpatrick, of Dinuba, California, farmer; Ella March, of Fairfield; Belle Kirkpatrick, of Barnesville; Emma Kirkpatrick, of Mace's Bay; Margaret Steele, of Barnesville, and Elizabeth Reid, of Upham, children of a deceased brother, John Kirkpatrick, farmer; Love, of St. John, and Henry Love, of West Quaco, children of Margaret Love, a deceased sister. On the petition of James Kirkpatrick, the brother, he is appointed administrator. Real estate situate in St. Martin's valued at \$100. Personal property \$4,000. Messrs. Baxter and Logan, proctors.

Estate of Wm. Patterson, Sr. Estate of William Patterson, senior, retired foreman St. John sewerage department. Deceased died intestate leaving two children, a son, William and a daughter, Susan Sutherland, wife of Alexander G. Sutherland. On the petition of the son he is appointed administrator. No real estate. Personal property, \$4,820. George S. Shaw, proctor.

Circuit Court. The case of the St. John River S. S. Co. vs. the St. John River Log Sawing Co., was resumed in the January sittings of the circuit court yesterday before Mr. Justice White without a jury, after a lapse of two weeks. Several witnesses were examined at both sessions of the court and the case will be continued this morning at 10 o'clock. Dr. L. A. Curry, K. C., and D. Mullin, K. C. appeared for the plaintiff, and M. G. Teed, K. C. and A. J. Gregory, K. C., for the defendant.

SUCCESSFUL CONCERT IN AID OF KING'S COLLEGE

The concert given in the Trinity church Sunday schoolroom last evening, in aid of the King's College fund was very much enjoyed by an appreciative audience. All the performers were heartily received and forced to respond to encores. The programme which was rendered in an excellent manner, was as follows:

- Part I. Trio: German Dances, a, b, c, d. (Franz Schubert)—The Misses Knight The Yellowhammer (a); The Wren (b) (Liza Lehman)—Miss Louise Knight. Valse Chromatique (Godard)—Mrs. J. M. Barnes. "By Night and Day" (Edward German)—Miss Louise Knight. Reading—E. R. W. Ingraham. "Songs My Mother Taught Me" (a) (Anton Dvorak); "Last Night" (b) (Kjerulf)—Miss Louise Knight. Liebestraum. A flat (Franz Liszt)—Mrs. J. M. Barnes. A China Tragedy (Clayton Thomas)—Master Taras Bailey. Chanson Provinciale (Dell Asqua)—Miss Louise Knight. Reading—E. R. W. Ingraham. "My Dear Soul" (Sanderson); "The Bonny Blue Kerchief" (Reginald Barneolt)—Miss Louise Knight. (Trio: German Dances, a, b, c, d. (Franz Schubert)—The Misses Knight.

OBITUARY.

John Dineen. The death of John Dineen aged 82 occurred at his home at 41 Simonds street, early last evening. The deceased is survived by his wife, two sons and three daughters. The sons are Joseph H. and William A., of Boston while the daughters are Mrs. Lewin Donald, of Boston; Mrs. Isiah Drifflin, of Washington, and Mrs. H. Milligan, of Buffalo. The deceased came to this country from England when he was eight years of age. He was a member of the Masonic order in the Alban-

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Mr. Meyer—Certainly my dear. About how little? Fault of the Language. Mrs. Meyer—Could you give me a little money, my dear? Mr. Meyer—Certainly my dear. About how little? You told me Miss Birdie gave you a promise when you asked her to marry you? So she did. She promised I should have the refusal of her hand. Beverly of Graustark" to be Presented at the Opera House. George Barr McCutcheon's novels are known to almost every one, and their successful dramatization serves to present his beautiful heroines and dashing heroes in vivid living action, surrounded by all the accessories of picturesque scenes and elaborate costuming. In the dramatization of "Beverly of Graustark," which is to be seen at the Opera House on Monday and Tuesday evenings and Tuesday matinee of next week, all these conditions exist, and will be presented with all the wealth of detail that marked the big opening production at the Studebaker Theatre, Chicago. Beverly of Graustark will be enacted by Miss Elion.