

Our New Brunswick Letter

The farmers of New Brunswick are looking forward, with a good deal of hope, to a better season in 1908, than they have enjoyed for the past two years. The winter, though somewhat prolonged, has been mild, and live stock, generally, has come through in good condition. April was a cold month, up till the 24th, since then the weather has turned warm, and rains have cleared away the traces of winter, and will help to warm the soil for spring operations. Seeding will be a little later than usual, but any time before the 20th of May is early enough to secure the best of crops in this province.

A movement of some interest to dairymen has been instigated by the Board of Health, and the Medical Society of St. John, with the King's County Milk Producers' Association. These three bodies, with a number of the milk dealers of St. John, are most anxious that some systematic method of inspecting the sources of the city milk supply shall be inaugurated and they have asked the Provincial Government to enact legislation making it possible for the Province to do this work. It is probable that the Dairy Superintendents, now engaged by the province, may add this very necessary and comprehensive work to their duties. The veterinary inspection for health purposes, which has been in force for some years, under the St. John Board of Health, has proved inadequate, and unsatisfactory. The need of the improvement of conditions in regard to cleanliness, is very great.

Since the provincial elections on the third of March, a new government has come into power, which met the Legislature on the 30th. Important legislation in regard to the control and maintenance of the highways of the province, and the auditing of the public accounts, is being introduced, and provision is likely to be made for a thorough investigation of the agricultural resources and conditions of the Province. From the knowledge which will be gained by such an investigation, it is probable that an effort will be made to lay out new and comprehensive work for the Department of Agriculture. New Brunswick is not only a great lumber country, and with more or less valuable mineral wealth, but it has large areas particularly well adapted to general farming, stock raising and apple growing. It will undoubtedly be the effort of the new Government to promote the agricultural interests in every direction, and to endeavor to bring in a class of new settlers that will help in this work.

Notes from Quebec

Genial spring has come again giving evidence of life on every hand. The fields, brown and bare, a few days ago, are again clothed with verdure, and even at this writing, are to be seen, young cattle grazing thereon. The scarcity and high price of fodder in the western end of the province has forced many of our farmers to turn their young stock out earlier than usual, and while they may exist, it would have been good policy to have stable-fed them for another week if fodder was available. In the eastern part of the province feed was more plentiful and the pinch was not felt so keenly. Never in the experience of the writer has fodder been as scarce and high priced as this season, especially in the counties of Chateaugay, Beauharnois and Huntingdon, where there is usually an abundance of feed. Much feed has been brought from the Eastern end of the province where stock-raising has not yet supplanted hay and cereal growing for market.

Many farmers reduced their herds last fall to bring them within the bounds of their feed supply. The result has been that they had to purchase milch cows this spring to complete their quota per 100 acres. The demand for milch cows being brisk, prices were high. At auction sales cows sold from \$30 to \$70 for the best, and from \$35 to \$50 for inferior grades. Young stock also sold for remunerative prices. The creameries opened to receive milk the latter days of March. All are getting a good supply of milk for this season of the year. The cheeseries are now all in running order, but owing to the high price for buttermilk the milk is going to the creameries. This will reduce very materially the fodder made of cheese from this section, and should be conducive to larger profits from this source later on.

A number of co-operative Cow-testing Associations have been organized here. Our farmers are beginning to see the advantage of such institutions to determine the true value of their cows and herds. We regret to say that there are very many who will not take the trouble to enter such a test as this. Why our dairyman will be so opposed to work of this kind I cannot understand. Canadian dairymen should be up-to-date and progressive.

A larger amount of milk and cream is being taken by the city of Montreal and prices for summer will run about \$1.20 per cwt. net to the shipper. For cream 3 cents p. c. butter fat is being paid, that is, cream testing 25 per cent. butter fat is worth 75 cents a gallon delivered in the city. At the condensary in Huntingdon \$1.10 a cwt. is being paid and they are getting a large delivery, up to 25,000 and 30,000 lbs of milk a day. This will be increased as the season advances.

There is a vigorous agitation at present in Montreal over the improvement of their milk supply. The Health Committee has been at work for some time over a draft of regulations and rules to govern the production and delivery of milk and cream in the city. The officers of the Milk Shippers Association have

been active in seeing that no drastic regulations regarding the production of milk and cream are effected. They have signified their willingness to submit to a system of inspection of stables, herds and dairies by competent inspectors, and regulations and rules that are possible to the average dairyman, believing that a set of moderate regulations will be more conducive to improve the milk supply than a lot of unreasonable conditions which cannot be enforced. On the high and well drained lands seeding has become general, while on the low lands it will be a few days yet before seedling can be done. Many farmers have clung tenaciously to the broadcast seeder; however, we find a lot of drill seeders have been introduced during the past two years with such good results that the broadcast seeder is fast being supplanted by the drills of wider capacity. As the scarcity of labor affects us we find it profitable to use the larger implements, using three horses in many cases.

The sugar season just closed was the most remunerative for some years. The Eastern Townships are noted for their fine maple products. The demand for syrup and sugar of first quality increases from year to year, and the market becomes wider. The quality was superior this year, and had the money stringency not affected many in our cities the demand would almost exceed the supply, despite the fact that a city firm put up an adulterated article in large quantities and put it on the market as the genuine article and at a lower price than the pure syrup, which sold this season from 75 to 85 cents a gallon in tin.

Hogs have not sold as high as we would expect, considering the great scarcity. Never before since I can remember were there as few hogs going to market at this time of the year. Fewer brood sows have been wintered than usual; so far litters have been healthy and strong with few losses.

House cleaning is the order of the day. This is the time when our women "folk" delight to pull up carpets and disorganize the household interior generally, much to the dis-

traction of the men "folks." Everything seems disorder and chaos, but ere long our wives and daughters will have everything to rights again and, oh! what a change! The interior of our homes will look cheery and bright and we will be glad that the house-cleaning process has been carried to a successful issue, thanks to the perseverance and thrift of our women "folk."—"Habitat."

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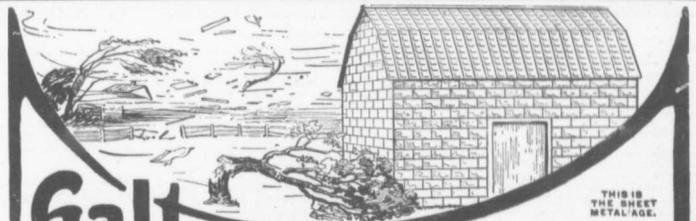
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