

NEW BRUNSWICK CANADA

CHAPTER I.

PAST AND PRESENT CONDITIONS.

The time has gone by when intelligent men might plead ignorance of Canada without losing their reputation for intelligence. Nevertheless, Canada is so large that even an educated man may be pardoned for ignorance of many of its geographical details; and so much has been heard in recent years about "The New West" that the older eastern parts of the Dominion have been rather overlooked. This is most unfortunate, not only because these Maritime Provinces have a peculiarly interesting history and are rich in natural resources, but because there are many men, and especially farmers and farm workers in the Old Country, who would really find themselves better suited in the Maritime Provinces than out on the prairies of the West.

I have been asked to give an account of New Brunswick from my own point of view,—that is, to write as an independent observer without fear or favour, neither representing it as a perfect Garden of Eden nor even exaggerating any of its advantages. I could not have agreed to write without this liberty of absolutely independent judgment; and I am glad to be able to say here at the outset that such powers of investigation as I possess,—have led me irresistibly to the conclusion that many parts of New Brunswick offer great opportunities to the British agriculturist.

The geographical position of New Brunswick is itself a great advantage. This Province stretches out its hand over the sea, so to speak, to meet the emigrant half way. The new-comer from the United Kingdom does not see New Brunswick if he travels up the St. Lawrence, but it lies just a little way off on his left hand; and when St. Lawrence navigation is blocked by ice, as it is every winter, he actually lands at the commercial metropolis of the Province, the City of St. John. Even then, however, he is generally bound for Ontario, or some part still further west; and the small rugged part of New Brunswick which alone he sees from the train is not a good sample of the whole.

British to the Core	The character of the population is another advantage from the Old Country point of view; for the people are not only descended from Old Country ancestry but proud of the fact that their forefathers sacrificed much for their loyalty to the British Crown. In the best settled districts, too, their domestic and social life has more of the mellowness of an old established community than can be expected among the pioneering peoples of the west.
------------------------------------	--

The Old Days	New Brunswick has, of course, had its hard pioneering days; and the pioneers' work was made doubly hard by the fact that it had to be done without the help of modern agricultural science or machinery. This explains a great deal. It explains, for one thing, why many of the farmers' sons have gone into other occupations.
-------------------------	--