

—the extra price the consumer, in the cities is willing to pay for the factory product giving the farmer as good if not a better return than he could generally get from butter or cheese made at home. But dairying as an industry is of comparative recent growth in New Brunswick. That it has been successful is admitted on every hand, a fact amply demonstrated by the efforts of politicians of different creeds to claim the credit for giving it a start ahead.

A great deal has already been said and much more will be said regarding the attitude of the government towards agriculture. The United States was the first government to take cognizance of the importance of improving agricultural methods. The department at Washington after many mistakes and the expenditure of hundreds of thousands of dollars completed a magnificent system for disseminating agricultural knowledge among the farmers. Our Canadian Department is modelled somewhat along the same lines only on what most people admit to be a more practical basis. As a consequence of the educational work done by the Federal department improved methods have been introduced and magnificent strides along the line of progress made in all the provinces, until today Canada's agriculturists are as well if not better organized than those of any other country. The various provinces have also taken up the question of agricultural development and greatly aided the Federal authority. The result of all this work has been to give Canada a standing in the markets of Great Britain that is enjoyed by no other country. Canadian cheese, the

improvement in the manufacture of which was the pioneer step taken by the Federal government in the development of its agricultural policy, now occupies a first place while Canadian butter is rapidly working its way to the top prices. Canadian bacon now commands a price almost as high as the home fed product, while poultry and eggs from Canadian farms are gaining in favor. It sometimes happens that supporters of a government are inclined to take credit for a good crop and occasionally some opposition speaker is inclined to fix the responsibility for a shortage in any crop on the shoulders of the government. This legislative bye play is amusing, if not instructive. There will be a seed time and a harvest, good crops and bad crops no matter who holds the reins of power.

The work of the government in advancing agriculture is entirely of an educational character and as a result of the spreading of knowledge regarding new ways of doing things farms have been made more productive and the financial condition of the farmer greatly improved. New Brunswick has had an agricultural department for many years but it is only during the past fifteen years that it has really accomplished much good; but the seed planted soon after confederation although slow in germinating at least awakened an interest among the rural population and turned their attention in the direction of necessary improvements in agriculture. Before that farming was not considered an occupation by many, and there were those who claimed that agriculture alone could not be profitably conducted in New Brunswick. In those days the majority of farmers had more or less