

NEW BRUNSWICK

Will Endeavor to Interest Ontario Fruit Farmers—
Timber Limits Are Sold—Fall Trade is Good.

(Staff Correspondence.)

St. John, N.B.,

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Is it possible to interest young Ontario farmers, who are thinking of going West, in the cheap orchard lands of New Brunswick? Mr. A. G. Turney, provincial horticulturist, who has lived in the Ontario orchard belt, thinks it is, and the provincial government will lend a hand. It will send a fine exhibit of New Brunswick apples to the annual exhibition of the Ontario Horticultural Association at Toronto, and with it will go persons qualified to tell about the extent and the price of orchard lands in the province, and the fine opportunity for profitable fruit farming.

The recent fruit fair held in St. John for three days, under the auspices of the New Brunswick Fruit Growers' Association, was a revelation to all comers, showing that the province can produce apples in as great variety and of as good quality as those of the famous Annapolis valley. One of the large rinks was used for the exhibition and there were interesting talks on fruit raising each day by experts.

An interesting and successful orchard experiment is being made at Burton, on the St. John River, by a group of business and professional men, known as the St. John River Valley Fruit Company. They own nine hundred acres of land, only a portion of which has been cleared, but on which there is one good orchard, whose product brought them eight first prizes at one of the fall fairs. They have planted more trees, cleared land for another planting in the spring, and will gradually convert the whole area into a great orchard which will be divided into smaller orchards and sold to small farmers. Mr. Turney states that business men are showing an encouraging interest in the development of the fruit raising industry, which is expected within the next ten years to become a great source of wealth to the province.

Big Demand for Potatoes.

There has been an active demand this fall from the western provinces for New Brunswick potatoes. The buyers went into the field and purchased potatoes by the carload at \$1.25 to \$1.50 per barrel. With a large crop of good quality, the farmers are reaping a harvest in this branch of trade.

It is announced that the Drummond Company will install a concentrating mill at their iron mines in Gloucester county, and that they expect to have an output of 2,000 tons of iron ore per day next year. The market for ore has been dull this year, but considerable quantities were shipped to Philadelphia. The company erected quite a number of workmen's dwellings this year, and will add to the number next year. Quite a village has grown up around the mines.

Lumber operators on the St. John and Miramichi rivers and in other parts of the province report that the lumber cut this year will be only 50 per cent. of an average cut. They are no doubt considerably below the mark, but the cut will unquestionably be much smaller than usual because of dull markets and lumber held over this year.

St. John is interested in the statement that the Canadian Pacific Railway may inaugurate a steamship service between Canada and India. St. John would be its winter port. Business men also note with interest the discussion on better trade connections between Canada and the West Indies and South America.

Timber Limits are Purchased.

The Dominion Iron and Steel Company have purchased the Montgomery timber limits in Restigouche county. There are eighty square miles of these limits with a mill, tugboats, booms, etc., at Dalhousie.

The firm of Messrs. T. McAvity & Sons desire to secure the property on the harbor front which was granted as a site for the proposed sugar refinery. The promoter of the refinery has failed to take possession within the stipulated time, but continued to express confidence in his ability to do so. The civic authorities have grown tired of waiting, and are now taking steps to recover control of the site. If Messrs. McAvity & Sons secure it they will assemble their whole iron and brass manufacturing plant upon it and enlarge the scope of their operations.

The fishermen along the St. John and Charlotte county coasts have reaped a harvest in sardine herring. The fish were plentiful and the price profitable. Thousands of dollars have been paid to the fishermen of every little hamlet along the coast.

An agreement may shortly be reached between the provincial government and the Dominion government which will enable the former to close the contract for the construction of the St. John Valley Railway from Grand Falls to St. John, to be operated as part of the Intercolonial Railway.

Wholesale merchants report an excellent fall trade in New Brunswick. The farmers have had a profitable year, and manufacturing industries have been steadily employed.—W.E.A.

SHOULD BE RAISING SHEEP

To the Tune of Eighty Millions, Whereas We Have
Less Than Two Millions.

Canada should be carrying 80,000,000 sheep. Instead, the figures are less than 2,000,000, that number being 1,000,000 less than twelve years ago. Mr. W. T. Ritch, special commissioner to the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa, with Mr. W. A. Dryden, have been conducting an inquiry into the causes of comparative failure of the sheep raising industry in the Dominion. His report will be published shortly.

No Encouragement Given.

Mr. Ritch says that no encouragement is given to raise sheep in Alberta and Saskatchewan, owing to the policy of settling immigrants pursued in the prairie provinces. The leases granted to ranchmen are for 21 years; but they are terminable by the government giving two years' notice, with the result that owing to the insecurity of tenure, the leaseholders have given insufficient attention to sheep, nor have any of them installed a proper plant for their washing and dipping. As a remedy, the report will suggest that the sheep-farmers be permitted to graze on Crown lands. A benefit that will accrue to the government, if this is done, will be that the sheep will eat the herbage so close as to reduce the risks of bush fires to a minimum.

The report will go on to point out that the ignorance of sheep-breeders themselves is a graver difficulty that must be overcome, if the industry is to be raised to the height it should occupy. Hitherto, the sole idea of the farmers has been to raise sheep for their wool. In this they cannot hope to compete with other countries, including the United States, in consequence of various local conditions. But the report will urge that there is a fortune in store for successful breeders of mutton, in preference to wool-bearing sheep.

Varying Conditions of Raising.

As an instance of the varying conditions of different countries, it is shown that, whereas in Australia sheep are principally raised for their wool, the value of the sheep apart from its wool is no more on an average than 10 shillings, or about \$2.50, while here it is a poor sheep that will not fetch \$6 at least. There is a great demand for mutton-sheep in New England, so that last year 26,000 sheep were exported to Boston from Prince Edward Island alone, and many more from the other Maritime Provinces. Yet all the time the Canadian farmer has been neglecting the certain revenue that awaited him to raise wool rather than mutton.

Example of Prevailing Ignorance.

The following instance of the prevailing ignorance among sheep farmers is given to show how much must be done, before better results can be hoped for. In Ontario, wool is sold for from 14 to 15 cents a pound. In the Maritime Provinces they still follow the custom that obtained in England in the days of hand-loom weaving. The wool is first shorn and then tub-washed, after which it is sold for 22 to 24 cents a pound. The farmers openly boast of the superiority of their wool to that grown further west, forgetful that it has shrunk in the process of tub-washing quite 40 per cent., so that the Ontario wool is really the more profitable.

Other important matters on which the report will touch are the better administration of the dog laws, and the improvement of fencing in the eastern provinces, to obviate the heavy losses that now take place from dogs worrying the sheep; and last, though not least, the necessity for the proper classification of wool, at which the farmers too often laugh as a fad, forgetful that in Australia an expert wool-classer often makes \$5,000 a year. In Canada, the farmers are obtaining no more for the first fleeces than for subsequent shearings, or for fine wool than they do for coarse.

L'Union Fire Insurance Company has been registered to do business in Manitoba.

The Imperial Guarantee and Accident Insurance Company of Canada has been registered in Saskatchewan.

Hon. T. W. Crothers, Minister of Labor, has notified the Royal Commission to proceed with the investigation of the charge of violation of the anti-combines act made against the United Shoe Machinery Company of Quebec.

That Canada raises the best wheat in the world was the result of the contest held at the recent land show, New York. The winner was Mr. Seager Wheeler of Roathan, Sask. He received a prize of \$1,000 in gold. Another Canadian, Mr. W. I. Glass of MacLeod, Alta., was the alternate.

The 95 per cent. double liability call on the shareholders of the Ontario Bank has realized \$1,123,000. The stock capital was \$1,500,000. From this amount 2,008 shares with a par value of \$100 a share was had by the officers' guarantee fund. This left assessable stock to the amount of \$1,292,200, on which the double liability of 95 per cent. was made.