

WHAT THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT IS DOING FOR THE FARMERS OF NEW BRUNSWICK

Department of Agriculture Had a Most Successful Year

Hon. James A. Murray Tells of Work Done by Different Branches — Advanced Policies Planned for Next Year — Testimonials from Farmers Show that they Appreciate Assistance — Developments in Connection with Agricultural Schools.

In the Provincial Legislature on Friday afternoon Hon. J. A. Murray, Minister of Agriculture, presented the annual report of his department for the past year.

In introducing the report Hon. Mr. Murray spoke at some length regarding the work the department has done and the development which has taken place during the past twelve months. Lack of space on Saturday morning prevented the publication by The Standard of Mr. Murray's remarks in full but the following is the official report: Mr. Murray said that the growth of the department during the past few years had been very marked and the amount of business transacted by it was equal to, if it did not exceed that of any other department of the Government. Its work was divided into many branches, the dairy division, live stock and poultry, horticulture, soils and crops, entomological, educational and women's institutes. It also had the superintendence of immigration and of the Farm Settlement Board.

The Agricultural Instruction Act.

Before taking up the report itself, he referred to the Agricultural Instruction Act of the Dominion Parliament. During the session of 1911-12 the Dominion Minister of Agriculture succeeded in getting an appropriation of \$500,000 towards agricultural education to be divided in the provinces. This, however, was only a temporary measure, and the session 1912-13 the Agricultural Instruction Act was passed under which \$100,000 was to be granted for agricultural instruction and demonstration during the next ten years. Under this act \$700,000 was divided in 1913, of which New Brunswick received \$44,509.93, the amount to be divided increased \$100,000 per year up to the year 1918, in which year and for the next five years it will be \$1,100,000. New Brunswick's share in 1918 will be \$64,099.51 at which figure it will remain for the rest of the ten year period.

The province's share of this federal grant for 1914 was \$49,407.20. The Dominion Minister of Agriculture had striven ungrudgingly to do as much as possible in the interest of the agriculturists of the country, and to make things easy for them. He was willing at all times to listen to suggestions, and to give help.

How It Was Expended.

Regarding the expenditure of this \$49,407.20 received from the Dominion Government, \$1,500 of it was paid for transportation of agricultural students to the colleges and kindred subjects. Hitherto it had been the practice of the province to pay the transportation expenses of students of the short courses, but now that the province had its own agricultural schools at which the short courses were held, no more transportation expenses would be incurred on that account. In the equipment and maintenance of the agricultural school \$12,500 was expended. The school at Woodstock, it would be remembered, was built through the munificence of the late Mr. Fisher, but the department had to go to considerable expense in fitting it up. The cost of the new school at Sussex was nearly \$28,500, but in order not to unduly affect the revenue for any one year the cost had been divided into three years, and the department was setting aside \$10,000 in each from the Dominion grant towards the construction of the building.

Towards the equipment and maintenance of dairy schools \$3,000 had been expended. The school at Sussex had been in operation for many years and recently another dairy school had been put into operation at St. Hilare, Madawaska. The latter was a consolidation of several dairying industries in that county and was proving of immense advantage to the people living in that district. For the expenditure in getting together specimens of live stock and other illustrative objects regarding which instruction was to be imparted, \$1,500 had been allotted. \$2,900 had been expended by Provincial officers who had travelled about the province giving instructions to the farmers and had done much good.

Quite a large amount of this sum had been devoted to the inspection of potatoes, and the work had been of a great advantage to the agricultural community.

Elementary Education.

Another feature which he wished to place before the house was that of elementary agricultural education and rural science. R. P. Steeves had been appointed director of this branch and his work was meeting with a very large measure of success. Technical education was a matter which would have to be grappled with sooner or



HON. JAMES A. MURRAY

later, and what was necessary for the industrial worker was just as necessary for the farmer. Statistics showed that only one half of one per cent. of the children who attend school ever reached the university, consequently it would be necessary for all to get a better grasp of an educational system that would train the young men not only for a professional life but for the dignity of labor. Ninety-five per cent. of the school children leave school before reaching high school. For the term ending June, 1914, there were, in the public schools of the province, 64,310 pupils, of whom 16,551 were in the cities or towns, leaving 47,759 in the country schools. There were in the high schools 1,907 students, and these included grades nine to twelve. Only 145 high school students passed the matriculation examination last year. His own view was that it was only the cleverest and most capable men and women that were needed for country life, and our educational system should be so moulded as to exalt this feature and so take away the stigma from agriculture and place it upon a basis as sound and worthy as any other occupation. In the past it had been necessary to send teachers to Turro to equip themselves for the teaching of rural science and elementary agricultural education in common schools. Now we have rural science schools in our own province. The first rural science school for teachers was opened at Woodstock last summer, which seventy-five teachers and inspectors attended. The work taken up was nature study, school gardening, soil physics and chemistry, animal and plant life, farm arithmetic and book-keeping, farm mechanics for men and domestic science for women. This year two such schools would be held, one at Woodstock and another at Sussex. Already teachers in sufficient number have applied to fill one of the schools.

School Gardens.

The course of instructions in the common schools had been revised, and is now prescribed by the Board of Education. Forty-one school gardens were in operation in the last term of last year under the supervision of teachers who had received special training. 2502 pupils received special instruction in that way. In addition to this 89 home plots were carried on by pupils. This is the first time work of this sort had been carried on. From the instruction received in the schools and through the school gardens the pupils understood plots at home. They were required to keep records of their work and the plots are inspected by the teachers. Seeds, bulbs and shrubs were given to the children, and it might be that in due course poultry will be added to the system. The great object of the work is to teach the principle of learning by doing. The object is to turn the attention of the young people from the exclusive study of books to acquiring, through action as well as study, a knowledge of the soil of the province and its products, and thus encourage the expansion of trade and industry.

Travelling Instructors.

The largest item in the expenditure was one of \$13,000 for travelling instructors. Until lately whenever a lecturer was going over the province the meeting would be advertised and the instructor would attend. He would tell the farmers how to farm, and anything they didn't understand there was no help for it. Next day he packed up his traps and left, leaving the farmer, as of as not, still in doubt. Now, however, the instructors not only attend the meetings and give farmers information by means of lectures, but they also visited each farmer's place in turn and show him practically how things ought to be done. This system was being appreciated by the farmers who were upsurging in their praise of the great benefits they received from it. These travelling instructors consist of dairy superintendents, horticulturists, poultry superintendents, animal husbandmen, bee keeping instructor, fertilizer instructor and the teachers in the agricultural schools. Besides this there are men engaged from time to time on special subjects.

Women's Institutes.

One of the most important branches of agricultural work in this province was that in connection with the Women's Institutes. The first Women's Institute in New Brunswick was formed at Andover in 1911. That year there were 16 institutes organized with a total membership of 275. At the close of the year 1912 there were a total of 28 institutes. At the close of the next year found 43 institutes in

Demonstration Trains.

Everybody realized the good results which had come from having demonstration trains go throughout the country carrying agricultural education to the farmers. This had been a practical world-wide movement, and during the past two years all the territory in this province traversed by the Canadian Pacific and Intercolonial railways had been covered. This year it was not proposed to have any demonstration trains in operation in this province, and the energies which had been spent in this direction would be turned to another channel. This covered the various lines of work included under the expenditure of the Dominion grant.

The Live Stock Industry.

The encouragement of the live stock industry was resulting in a greatly increased amount of interest and attention. In the past there had been carried on under the old government and for some time under this administration a system of government importations, but this had not brought about the results which it was felt might otherwise be obtained. So a new system had been adopted after he had discussed the matter a year ago with the members of the Farmers' and Dairymen's Association, and now there was a bounting system which had been attended with much success in increasing the number and improving the quality of the stock in the province. One feature of this new system was to urge a preference to New Brunswick breeders, so that pure bred stock might be moved from one section of the province to another, and the local breeders might thus obtain whatever benefits there might be, instead of sending out of the province for new stock. The bonus plan provided for a bonus of 20 per cent. to any agricultural society on any pure bred animal costing over \$50, and the department also paid an additional 10 per cent. bonus on male animals, but there was a regulation that before any male animal could be disposed of, there must first be obtained the consent of the department and the department was also to be given an option on the animal. This it would be seen would give the department a fairly good control. Another provision which it was expected would result in keeping the various breeds confined to various sections of the province was that which provided that the department would only bonus two breeds for any one society. The live stock statistics showed an increase in horses, cattle and swine, but unfortunately somewhat of a falling off in the number of sheep. But this falling off was due to something beyond the control of the department.

Stock Statistics.

In 1914 the census showed the following live stock in New Brunswick: Horses, 64,076; cattle, 253,273; sheep, 142,141; swine, 88,167; The three leading counties in each branch of live stock as follows:

Horses.
Carleton—7,712.
Westmorland—7,710.
York—7,237.

Cattle.
Westmorland—42,057.
Kings—34,899.
York—25,257.

Sheep.
Kings—17,035.
Westmorland—16,963.
York—16,234.

Swine.
Kings—12,327.
Kent—10,223.
Westmorland—9,555.

Sheep Raising.

During the past year five flocks of Orford and Shropshire sheep had been brought into the province from Upper Canada. These five flocks had been placed in as many counties where they were being kept for demonstration purposes under regulations issued by the department. It was the intention of the department to bring in four more flocks this year. The annual increase would mean another flock, making five more new flocks this year. It was the intention of the department to place at least one demonstration flock in each county. The cost of last year's demonstration was \$1,376.69.

The dairying division which had been very successful during the year in bringing about increased production. It was proposed to amalgamate the live stock and dairying divisions as one division under the supervision of a qualified expert. In addition to the dairy schools at Sussex and Madawaska county, and the instruction in dairying being carried on in the agricultural schools, a dairy record

centre had been established, and it was the intention to establish other dairy record centres to test the herd for performance and to eliminate non-paying cows. Testing of herds for performance was recognized the world over as one of the most important features in dairy work.

The necessity of this work was shown by the results which had been shown at Sussex last year. There were eight herds of which a record was kept, for the year, and he quoted the results of the tests of two of the herds. One herd consisted of seven cows, and the average results from that herd were: Yield of milk, 4,834 lbs.; yield of butter fat, 271 lbs.; cost of feed \$56.12; cost per hundred weight of milk, .80 3/4; cost per lb. of butter fat, .20 1/4; receipts \$78.39, profit, \$23.47. Another herd consisted of eighteen cows, and the average results from this herd were: Yield of milk, 4,643 lbs.; yield of butter fat, 175.3 lbs.; cost of feed, \$56.39; cost per hundredweight of milk, 1.43; cost per pound of butter fat .37; receipts, \$50.98, loss \$15.14. The time had come when no one should keep a cow on the farm that produces less than 6,000 lbs. of milk yearly, and testing less than 4 per cent. butter fat.

Dairy Output Growing.

He was glad to be able to announce that during the past year the output of dairy products in the province reached the greatest figures on record. There were 1,090,501 lbs. of butter produced in 1914, as compared with 967,203 lbs. in 1906, which had been the biggest producing year under the old administration, and the value of the butter and cheese made in New Brunswick in 1914 was \$455,507.87. In 1914 the average price for cheese was 13.57c, while in 1906 it had been only 11.7c. In 1914 the average price of butter was 29.05c, while in 1906 it was 22.50c.

A Telegraph Lie Nailed.

The St. John Telegraph, in an effort to depreciate the work which was being carried on so successfully by the Agricultural Department, had endeavored to make it appear that the policy of the present administration had proven a failure because the Federal Agriculture Department's statistics showed there were 50,000 acres less under cultivation in 1914 than in 1910. He would point out, however, that an increased acreage was not the first aim of the Department of Agriculture but rather they were endeavoring to show the farmers how to till the acreage they had under cultivation so that they might receive the largest returns for their work and their investment. These statistics prepared by the Federal Department of Agriculture showed the success which the department was meeting with in its efforts. The value of the agricultural products of the Province of New Brunswick in 1910 was \$12,000,000, while in 1914 this amount had been increased to \$20,000,000. This represented an increase of 66 per cent. in the value of the farm products of the province. Would any reasonable man say that there had been an increase to such an extent in the market prices?

He had before him market quotations on the St. John county market for January, 1906—those for 1910 being not available—also those for January, 1915. They showed an increase of 45 per cent. in the price of country beef, no increase in mutton or lamb, an increase of 20 per cent. in pork, 10 per cent. in veal, no increase in ducks, an increase of 33 1/3 per cent. in fowl, 8 2/3 per cent. in turkey, and 65 2/3 per cent. in chickens.

For these table items the average increase was 30 per cent., but there were the heavier items, such as hay, oats, potatoes, etc.—the big items of farm produce in this province—which showed an increase of only 10 per cent. However, admitting an average increase of about 30 per cent. how is the other 35 per cent. to be accounted for? It must be increased production; if it was not that, what was it? He didn't want to say that the government, through the Agricultural Department, took all the credit for this; all they wanted was their share. The persons to whom he wanted to pay a tribute for their energy and activity were the farmers themselves. It was only by co-operation between the department and the farmers that such good results could be obtained. He believed that the department was now looked upon in a different light by the farmers who realized that practical efforts were being put forth to assist them in every possible way. There was no better type of Canadian citizenship than the representative gathering of the farmers of New Brunswick who gathered in Fredericton a few days ago for the annual meeting of the Farmers' and Dairymen's Association. It had been a pleasure and an honor for him to have the privilege of addressing such a fine body of men and he had no doubt that his hon. friend, the Premier, who had also been privileged to address the association, would bear him out in all that he said. The New Brunswick farmer was of the highest type, and with the introduction of his improved methods would make his calling all the more successful and insure the prosperity of the country.

Poultry.

The next branch of the department with which he wished to deal was the poultry division. He well remembered a few years ago when the announcement of the appointment of a poultry superintendent was made in this House, Mr. Copp, who was then the leader of the Opposition, jumped up in his place and with a characteristic wave of his hands, proclaimed that there were half a dozen old women

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down in Westmorland County who could do more work among the hens than the gentleman who was being appointed to the position of poultry superintendent. He would like to point out just how far Mr. Copp was astray in his statement, and how poor a conception the then leader of the Opposition had of the opportunity of the poultry industry in New Brunswick. He would also like to point out that Mr. Jones, who was the poultry superintendent, had done a mighty good lot of work among the hens and that the statistics showed that the people of New Brunswick were reaping the benefits from his work.

The poultry products of this province last year amounted to more than \$2,500,000, exceeding the amount of any other branch of live stock raised in the province. This was largely due to the great disparity between the production and consumption of poultry, and eggs in Canada, over 11,250,000 dozens of eggs having been imported from Ireland, China, Japan, New Zealand and the United States during the last federal fiscal year at a cost to the consumers of this country of over \$2,800,000. New Brunswick's share of this amount was awaiting distribution among the producers of this province if they would only avail themselves of the opportunity. He was glad to be able to say that there is a rapidly increasing desire on the part of the public for knowledge concerning the best methods in poultry keeping and a general awakening to the splendid opportunity which the province offers for poultry culture. Six poultry fattening stations were established in the province and the results from the demonstration depots had proven eminently satisfactory and had shown beyond a doubt the poultry industry to be abounding in rich profits.

Fertilizers.

It might not be generally known to the House that in the matter of commercial fertilizers New Brunswick consumed more than all the rest of Canada put together. He was glad to say, however, that the farmers were getting to use the raw materials in preference to buying the ready made fertilizer. Last year a society was organized called the Agricultural Societies United to deal with the fertilizer question, and very large orders had been dealt with by it. It was with much gratification he was able to state that the proposed tariff on fertilizer and fertilizer materials would not be put on and he felt that all would agree that it was a very wise decision on the part of the Finance Minister. During the year a lime stone crusher had been purchased and was now in operation. The department was prepared to send it to any part of the province where it might be wanted to do what work the farmers wanted at actual cost.

Field Crops.

Another matter to which he would like to refer with some pleasure was the standing field crop competition. The object of these competitions was to improve the quality of the seeds. If the farmer would have a good crop he must sow good seed to start with. Referring particularly to potatoes, seed selection in Germany had resulted in increasing the yield to 600 and in some cases to 800 bushels per acre. This was accomplished through the selection of good tubers. The provincial government pays the prize

money for competitions, but the Ottawa government refunds two-thirds of it. Last year standing field competitions took place in Carleton, Kent, Gloucester, Kings, Victoria, Westmorland and York. Besides the standing field crop competitions successful seed competitions were held at Florenceville, Sussex, Chatham, Perth and Port Elgin. In addition to these the Provincial Seed Fair was held at Fredericton during the meeting of the Farmers' and Dairymen's Association. In this seed fair only winners in the standing field crop competition can compete.

Horticulture.

The oldest division in the department is that of horticulture, and when on that subject he should like to pay a tribute to the very excellent work performed by Mr. A. G. Turney. He was one of the first officials to come to the department after its reorganization in 1908, and had proved himself to be active and energetic and thoroughly capable. His work takes him over every section of the province where he advises farmers who have orchards that need attention how to deal with them. Besides he has the orchards which are under the supervision of the department to attend to. These are true of two classes, the demonstration and illustration orchards. In the former the department took over the supervision of old orchards and show how they can be improved by proper treatment and care, and the illustration orchards were those which were planted by the government and are kept in order by them for ten years.

Bee Keeping.

Bee keeping was a subject which had but limited extent at present, but was gradually working up. Not only was it profitable in itself from the sale of the honey, but it was also profitable from the standpoint of the fruit industry.

He was glad to say that the number of Agricultural Societies was increasing every year. The number last year being 114, an increase of 8 over the previous year. They were doing a very good work and the department was keeping in touch with them.

The Question of Fees.

Another very great question which the farmer had to contend was that of fees, and the department was doing its utmost to encourage the growth of alfalfa, a crop which had engaged its attention for some years. Experiments had been made in various parts of the province with varied success. The Farm Settlement Board recently acquired a small property at Havelock where they were experimenting with the view of satisfactorily determining the question. Last year samples of seed were sent out to 135 farmers, and the results were fairly satisfactory, and the experiments will be continued again this year.

Podder corn is another food which the department is investigating. A few years ago Southern corn was

(Continued on page 5)

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