

## The Agricultural laws of the Maritime Provinces.

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ED. A. BARNARD ESQ.

Director of the Journals of Agriculture

Sir,

As a member of the commission on the liquor-question (*régime des boissons*), I have just been visiting the capitals and principal districts of the maritime provinces.

In conformity with the instructions of the Hon. Louis Beaubien, I, at the same time, investigated the agricultural laws of these provinces and their manner of working.

## NOVA-SCOTIA.

## AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

At Halifax, I was fortunate enough to pass some time in conversation with Mr. George Lawson, secretary of the department of Agriculture.

In this province, the law allows as many societies to be established as the farmers choose to form; only 25 members and \$40.00 worth of subscriptions are necessary to the organisation of a society. In the eighteen counties of Nova-Scotia, there were, last year, 81 societies, eight of which were in the county of Lunenburg; 4159 members; subscriptions, \$5,211.20; and government grants \$6,432.00.

Although the government be authorised to grant twice the amount of the subscriptions, up to \$400.00 a county, it will be observed that the farmers have subscribed a sum almost equal to the grant of the Legislature. I beg to remark, en passant, that, in the province of Quebec, in 1890, the members of these societies subscribed \$25,136.69, and the government grant in aid was \$35,978.30. From what I heard, the societies of Nova-Scotia are very popular, and do a great deal of good. Their chief aim is the improvement of cattle, and all of them buy breeding-stock. If I may rely on Mr. Smith, director of the agricultural school, these societies are at the same time, to a certain extent, farmers' clubs. They are authorised to expend a certain part of their funds in the purchase of agricultural publications; they meet occasionally to hear lectures from some of their members, or from lecturers sent out by government. Last winter, Mr. Smith himself gave several lectures in the presence of the members of these societies.

The last report of the department gives the names of several agricultural publications that the commissioner advised the societies to buy. In this report is shown the special efforts each society has made for the improvement of stock or of farming in general, and the results obtained. These details are most interesting, and it is highly desirable that our societies should, in their reports, enable the Commissioner to make known to the public the progress they are making in agriculture.

## THE COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURE.

The council of agriculture in Nova-Scotia was abolished in 1885.

## THE AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL.

At Truro, I visited the farm-school of 104 acres established by government: it cost \$7,000.00. The local government is about establishing a new school at a cost of \$7,000.00. Last year, 25 pupils attended it. There is a creamery on this farm.

## CONDENSED-MILK FACTORY.

At Truro, I went over the condensed-milk-factory. Every summer's day, it takes in 6 to 8 thousand pounds of milk, every winter's day four thousand pounds. The secretary told me that he could get from the farmers in winter, more milk

than he buys at present; if he does not, it is because the company does not want to make more condensed milk than it can get rid of.

To this factory is attached a creamery which is worked when the company has too great a stock of condensed milk on hand. In summer, 75 cents, in winter, \$1.25 are paid for 100 lbs of milk.

The sale of this condensed milk has been tried in England, but it did not pay. The manufacture consists in the evaporation of about 75 % of the water the milk contains, and the addition of a certain quantity of sugar.

All the farmers of the neighbourhood are large milk-producers; although Truro is 60 miles from Halifax, it supplies that town with a part of the milk it uses. The milk is sent by the "milk-train" every morning. "The farmers here never emigrate," said a Truroite to me, "for those who, with care and intelligence, devote themselves to dairying always succeed."

I wish I could say as much for the whole of the province of Quebec. At Truro, a good proportion of the cows calve down in the fall, so the farmers have plenty of milk to sell in winter, when it fetches a higher price than in summer.

## FRUIT GROWING.

Fruit-growing has been highly developed in the province. It exported, they told me, last year, to England, more than 300,000 barrels of apples, the greater part of which was grown in the Annapolis valley. From the train that took me to Yarmouth, I saw the numerous fine orchards that adorn this important part of Nova-Scotia. Close by, I saw the quay where the Acadians embarked when they were expelled from their country. Near the quay, was an ancient elm that was the silent witness of the tears and groans of these unhappy exiles.

In this part there are also long sea-banks or dikes built by the Acadians before their banishment. They protect from the inundations of the sea large tracts of land which, without them, would be useless.

Nova Scotia has a fruit-growers' association. In its last report, the members pressingly request the government to establish a school of pomology. As I read these lines, I was pleased to recall the fact that the Hon. Louis Beaubien had decided to fill up, in our province, the void of which the Nova-Scotians complain. Fruit-drying factories exist in this province, where the fruit is preserved by drying or evaporation.

## NEW-BRUNSWICK.

## AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

The number of societies established in each county is unlimited by law, but at least 50 members and \$100.00 of subscriptions are necessary before a society can be founded.

Here, as in our province, the proper working of agricultural societies is a problem hard to solve. In accordance with the dispositions of the law, the societies in New-Brunswick are made larger, as regards the extent of country they cover, than those of Nova-Scotia. Mr. Inches, the secretary of the department of agriculture, does not think much of the good resulting from the operations of their societies. He specially complains of the exorbitant outlay for exhibition buildings made by some, and declares that the majority of the fall-shows are of little use to the furtherance of agricultural progress. The prizes are frequently given in an injudicious manner, and tend little to the development of the most remunerative agricultural industries. He seemed, like me, to admire the system of Nova-Scotia, and told me that the society that did the most good in the province was the smallest, that is, the one that covered the least extent of land. Mr. Inches retains a pleasant recollection of you, and takes pleasure in