

In the Maritime Provinces

New Brunswick Notes

During the month of October and extending into November a series of Farmers' Institute meetings were held under the auspices of the Provincial Department of Agriculture in every Institute district in New Brunswick. Three different delegations of speakers were sent out. Messrs. D. Drummond, of Myrtle, Ont., T. R. Ross, of Ross, Ont., and Duncan Anderson, Rugby, Ont., were placed at the disposal of the Provincial Department by Mr. F. W. Hodson, Dominion Live Stock Commissioner, and they have been assisted by Messrs. C. F. Alward, Havelock, N. B., F. E. Sharp, Midlands, N. B., L. C. Daigle, Dairy Superintendent, and W. W. Hubbard, Agricultural Agent of the C. P. R.

The attendance at the various meetings was generally in exact ratio with the amount of interest which the local Institute officers displayed in their duties. In some places the delegates would be met at the station, driven round among the farmers of the district, the system of farming and the stock shown them, and at the same time a general interest aroused in the evening meeting, and thus a good attendance assured. In other places the delegates had to find their own way to the nearest hotel, look for the halls, and sometimes have to make the fire, while the officers might or might not happen along about the hour for opening to offer various lame excuses for the lack of interest taken in the meeting.

To make the expenditure upon the Farmers' Institute system of the Province of New Brunswick worth the value it should be to the farmers, it looks as if some additional means must be taken to secure local interest in the work and thus secure not only a good attendance but also men who are prepared to discuss the addresses which are advertised to be delivered.

It would also appear very desirable that the local papers should be in some way interested in the work so that more advertising and better reports of the meetings shall be published. Some advertising patronage and an invitation to a representative of each paper to attend the various meetings as a guest of the Department might help, in this particular, and the speakers should give every possible assistance to securing the publicity of their addresses and the proceedings of the meetings. All the speakers gave addresses that were timely, and adapted to New Brunswick conditions and in most of the meetings the discussions were taken up by the audience.

CULTIVATION

An address that provoked a great deal of interest was that on cultivation, by D. Drummond, who brought out very plainly the necessity of thoroughly stirring and fining the soil to make plant food available and then to continue this soil-stirring process to conserve soil moisture. He advised that all plowed and should be harrowed or shallow cultivated just as soon as it was dry enough to work and thus prevent the baking of the soil. He advised always harrowing after the roller was used; on stony soil, where the roller was required to make a smooth surface for harvesting machinery, he thought it best not to roll until the grain was five or six inches high. He strongly recommended keeping the harrow going among the young corn and potatoes. In young turnips he used the horse weeder, and among all hodd crops kept the cultivator going twice a week until the crop met across the row. We should, he said, cultivate to prepare plant food

and conserve moisture and not merely to kill weeds. Hand hoeing in special cases was necessary but it was too expensive to admit of general application. Horse power must be utilized to grow crops at profit.

ECONOMICAL FEEDING

Among the excellent talks which T. G. Raynor gave was a very practical one upon the feeding of farm animals. A food, said he, is valuable to the extent which it is digestible. One of the main stock foods in New Brunswick seemed to be hay. He believed it should contain more clover than it did now, and it should be cut and cured to make it digestible. To cure clover hay it should be cut at full bloom and when the dew was off. After wilting on top it should be stirred up with a tedder or forks, then raked and put up in small coils. Let it stand two or three days, air it out, and put in the barn, warm and without rain. Another way was to cut, rake into winrows, turn these the next day and put it in without further curing. The all important point with clover was to keep the rain from it and let it cure of its own sap. Cotton hay caps in catchy weather were an excellent aid in making digestible hay. All hay should be cut at near the blooming stage as possible. The digestible constituents of a food were, protein—which formed muscle, blood and milk; carbo-hydrates, which formed heat, fat and energy; and fat, with the same function as the carbo-hydrates. A balanced ration for most animals contained one part of protein to six parts of carbo-hydrates. He illustrated how foods, rich in protein, such as cotton seed meal, linseed meal, buckwheat middlings, peas, etc., could be mixed with corn ensilage, straw, turnips, etc., to balance a ration for the animals' needs, either for growth, milk production or fattening.

The manurial value of a food was a very important point to the farmer. A cow well fed will milk a year's manure worth \$2.50. To secure this value from it, the liquid must be all saved, and this as well as the solids kept from leaching or fermentation. The surest way to save it was to apply it to sod land as soon as it was voided. Lands that have a flow of surface water over them should not be top-dressed in winter.

This is a brief synopsis of two of the many excellent addresses given at the meetings. All the delegates have made an excellent impression and will be warmly welcomed back for the next series.

THE PORK MARKET

The New Brunswick hog raiser has for many years had the grievance that he had not a satisfactory market. This autumn is seeing quite a change in this respect, as we now have two packing-houses, one at Woodstock and one at Sussex, buying live pigs, and a large packing plant in course of erection at West St. John. In addition to this, Montreal buyers are taking hogs from Carleton County and Davies & Fraser, of Halifax, are buying all the dressed pork they can get. The prices paid here ranged about half a cent less than Toronto quotations.

MODEL ORCHARDS

Arrangements are being made by the Provincial Department of Agriculture to have a number of orchards planted in St. John Valley next spring, with the object of giving a practical demonstration of modern orchard methods and also to test some of the best commercial apples in the various localities.

MACADAM.

Prince Edward Island

Fine weather for the time of year. Some of our farmers are pulling their turnips, and others hauling produce to the market. Shipping is brisk and prices good. The market for live stock is steady on Nov. 3. Some fine beef and lamb was offered. Beef by qr. sold from 5 to 6c. per lb.; lamb, 40 to 50c. per qr; oats, 32c.; hay, \$13 to \$14 per ton; potatoes, 25c. per bus.; turnips, 14c. per bus.; pork, 6 1/4 to 6 3/4c.; geese, 80c.; chickens, 8 to 9c. per lb.; ducks, 80 to 90c. per pr.; butter, corked, 21c., fresh 23 to 24c.; flour, per cwt. 87; oatmeal, 3c. per lb.; eggs, 20c. per doz. and reported scarce; Island apples for cooking, 80c. per bus.; onions, 4c. per lb., a poor crop reported; rabbits, 22 to 25c.; pumpkins, 20 to 30c. each; partridge, per lb. 40 to 50c. No fresh fish, with exception of a few strings of smelts.

A North River farmer had ten cart loads of potatoes from one acre of land. Edward A. Morrissey, Earncliffe, threshed for the Misses Nelson, China Point, 74 bushels oats in 45 minutes.

Oats are said to have yielded almost 2 bushels to the stock in some parts of the Island.

Some of our farmers, who had to sow their turnips the second time, think it best to leave them in the ground as long as the weather keeps fine, for they appear to be growing yet.

Oyster fishing still continues. Prices, 5¢ for cups, and from \$3.50 to \$4 for Flat River oysters.

Mr. A. Boswell has sold his pure-bred Holstein bull calf, which took first prize at the exhibition, to Moses Byrne, North River.

Very little pork coming to market, many farmers having just commenced to fatten their hogs. Some young live pigs were offered at market for from \$3 to \$4.

Mr. Kennedy, of St. Margaret's Bay, a few weeks ago secured 300 bushels of mackerel which will net him about \$200.

The first meeting of the agricultural educational campaign, conducted by the Provincial Department of Agriculture at Charlottetown, was held on October 26, at Wellington. The speakers were: Prof. E. J. MacMillan, secretary of Institutes, and Mr. E. B. Elderkin, of Amherst, president of the Maritime Stock Breeders' Association. They both recommended using only pure-bred sires, and good feeding. Mr. Elderkin said that scrubs should not be allowed to survive.

On Oct. 26 a meeting was held at Lynx Valley. Major Sheppard, of Queen's, Ont., one of the lecturers sent down by the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa, was present, and spoke of the importance of improved sires and clover seeds. With the aid of a chart, samples of seeds bought in different towns were shown. Some of the samples showed 40 to 50 per cent of weeds. The pound Major Sheppard suggested that farmers should take more interest in the selection of their seeds and avoid the cheaper varieties. He gave a history of the Ontario Winter Fair, held in Guelph, and spoke of the Winter Fair held at Amherst. He urged the audience to attend these exhibitions.

At the request of a number of our live stock breeders the Provincial Department of Agriculture will conduct a combination sale of pure-bred stock on the exhibition grounds on Dec. 3. Only pure-bred animals eligible.

Mr. John Profit sold a Kid McKoy recently for \$140. He was a fine animal. A. R.

The principal of a mission college in the East received a note explaining the absence of a soldier's mother and asked, please to pardon the absent of my young brat, because I have done born two female twins."