



## Agriculture in Victoria County

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To the Agriculturist Victoria is a very attractive County. Much of the land is too stony to cultivate, but along the sea shore and up the river valleys are farms unsurpassed in natural fertility anywhere in the Province. The rougher and more hilly part of the County towards the East is for the most part of an even older formation than that which occupies the Southern Shore of the mainland of Nova Scotia. The soil there is thin, but wherever any deep pockets have accumulated it is fertile. The Western half of the county along the Bras d'Or Lakes is of carboniferous formation over lying for the most part its of gypsum and lime stone, where, ever found, adapted to the highest type of agriculture, being generally better than Swift, in which the growth of clover is so remarkable to the westward. The brilliant cereals and writers who, in the East, at Ingogre, give the East, at Ingogre, places seen in St. Lawrence, deceivingly, this is the same, the best falsehoods, which is found in the most beautiful style he sees, and one of the enforcing of these forming each of the statements in oath better than in a court of law.

Despite the statements based upon the prevailing geological formation one cannot deny the fact that while there are to be seen in the vicinity of Baddeck, as fine fields of clover and oats and turnips and potatoes as are to be seen any where in Nova Scotia, yet there are also to be seen too many fields the production of which falls short of even the average of the whole province. The reason is not far to see.

When well tilled, the farms of Victoria yield large crops and when poorly tilled, as it is the case in any other part of the world, the production is correspondingly low. No one is more ready to admit that his lands have not been as well cultivated as they might have been than the Victoria farmer himself. And he has some good reasons to give. The natural depopulation which, for the past half century, had drained much of the best blood of Nova Scotia first into Massachusetts and later into the Canadian West has been the means of robbing Victoria of many of its young men whose services were badly needed if the farms were to be kept producing. Moreover the Victoria farmer has not enjoyed the same stimulus of an easily accessible large market which his fellow farmers in other parts of Nova Scotia have had and there is no getting over the fact that marketing is one of the biggest problems in farming, the solution of which has always done more to stimulate agriculture than any other single measure.

Fortunately for all Nova Scotia in general and for Victoria in particular this immigration of the sons of our country is stopping and fortunately for the marketing end of the business in Victoria a splendid start has been made in the creamery, which was so successfully operated in the county during 1914.

A Nova Scotia creamery is not merely a factory where so much butter is manufactured. Rather it is the centre and the motive for better cash markets, better cows, bigger crops and with all better

farming. The history of such creameries along these lines is already written large in Scotsburn and other centres of main land. Not many years need pass until similar history will be made by the farmers who, taking advantage of the opportunity offered by this creamery and the progressive measures growing from it, will develop their farms to an extent undreamed of by past generations. The Creamery at Baddeck commenced operation in the middle of June last and by the end of October it manufactured some 17,000 lbs. of butter which is more than was made at Scotsburn after that now famous creamery had been operating six years. It will take a few years to improve the cows and to develop the farms but, when these few years have passed by, it is our belief that the Victoria County farmers need take second place to none in the character of their farming and the prosperous condition of their homes.

Victoria is best adapted to general farming with some specialization in dairying or sheep raising. Where the lands are well drained crops of clover and oats, and of oats and turnips be which cannot be surpassed in any part of Nova Scotia. As dairying develops farms upon which the foregoing crops will be most largely raised will be gradually improved. Here and there opportunity will be afforded for the growing of vegetables, small fruits of all kinds and to a lesser extent apples. One has only to spend a few hours on the attractive grounds at Beinn Bhreagh or even on ocean swept Middle Head at Ingogre to see what rare and tender shrubs can be grown in this part of Nova Scotia and it must be remembered that these estates are much more exposed to the winds and storms than are most of the lands of the County. On the lower lying area frosts are somewhat inimical to tender fruits but on the higher well drained lands there is no doubt that many fruits can be successfully grown. In fact, the conditions are such that almost every type of farming which can be practiced on the mainland of Nova Scotia can be practiced in Victoria and the time will come when development along the lines suggested will lead to just as large returns from the farms as can be derived in any other part of the Province.

The farms are not large but there is an attractiveness about them which appeals to everyone who loves nature in all her moods. Nestled along the valleys and at the base of the over towering hills the homes on these farms are real homes—homes from which have sprung and will continue to spring men whose abilities and influence for good will be felt where ever they may go. You always feel close to nature mid the hills and valleys of Victoria and when to the attractiveness of nature is added the material growth which is gradually taking place, we doubt not that Victoria County for settlement will appeal to many and more especially to those who are looking for homes where nearness to nature and healthful surroundings everywhere will give opportunity of rearing their families under those conditions which will always make the farm the conservator of all that which is highest and best in our Country's life.

M. Cumming.

## Nyanza

Established 1874

Courting along the Bras d'Or Lakes, renowned in story, we are entranced with the wonderful vistas Nature's generous hand lays before us. We go on in untroubled ease and enter a little land-locked bay whose waters are lulled to rest by the silent murmurs of the nodding trees. The scene at once catches the artistic eye.

Here lies the little village of the "Red Man" with its barrier of mountains. Small cottages rise here and there and the quiet is only broken by the rumbling of the mill and the rushing of its waters.

Beautiful little islets are scattered out the bay inviting the seclusion so dear to the poetical mind. Here is not the toils and din of the city, here is not the roar of the mighty Atlantic but "secluded and still the little village lies in the peaceful valley."

Nyanza boasts of four stores and vies with the metropolis of the county in commerce. It trades with the surrounding villages and towns in lumber and country produce and generally is a modern, up-to-date little village.

This village is particularly noteworthy being the home of the "Indian." Here they live in all their native simplicity without that pollution common to the assimilation of a new order of things. The types of native dwellings vary from the Algonquin wigwam to the modern cottage there being no traces of the fine-storied pueblo.

These Indians are not entirely ignorant of the "humanities." Their little school is a scene of research and deep study.

In the fabrication of domestic implements, weapons, ornaments, ceremonial objects and in the making of pottery and baskets they show remarkable ingenuity of design and infinite patience of execution often taking precedence of their white brothers in both.

But Nyanza is not only of interest to the Ethnologist and Artist it also has its fascination for the farmer, the sportsman and the tourist. In summer and autumn the mountain valleys are brooded by the remaining green of the season, the shot tells of the access of some sportsman, and the rivers give forth their flecked beauties. Indeed it is an ideal spot for every type of man. Here too the poet and philosopher have ample means for ideal expression and reflection.

Naught disturbs the even tenor of its ways save in the winter when the hearts of all are filled with enthusiasm at the most exciting of sports—horse-racing.

Thus we have described what is seemingly an ideal spot. Are there possibilities in store for this little village? Will it live out its existence in its accustomed groove? The hand of prosperity seems to thwart this hope—a hope for it is a delight to wander up and down its peaceful waters.

As in a cloud Translucent, solid firm and polished bright Like adamant which the sun's rays have smite."

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\$1.00 per year in Canada. To the United States \$1.50.  
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