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### AGRICULTURE.

#### REPORT ON THE AGRICULTURAL CAPABILITIES OF THE PROVINCE OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

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(Continued from our last.)

##### CHAPTER XI.

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Their influence on the productiveness of the Province, and the profits of the Farmer.

##### I. The Emigration from the Province.

Another circumstance which has hitherto exercised an unfavourable influence upon the agricultural progress of the Province, and especially upon the opinion entertained as to its agricultural capabilities, is the tide of emigration from New Brunswick, which constantly sets more or less strongly towards the United States. During the last two or three years, this emigration has been more frequent and general than for some years previously, and has been supposed by some to indicate that no remunerative employment was to be found in the Province, and that its agricultural resources are insufficient to afford a comfortable livelihood to the family of an industrious settler. Such an impression as this, however unfounded, is productive of much evil. It not only disheartens those who remain on their farms, and makes them more ready to complain—a tendency which all farmers in all countries, exhibit in sufficient strength—but it makes them feel as if exertion would be hopeless, and that they had better quit too; while it deters others from settling upon the land, and devoting themselves to agricultural pursuits.

Few things in the United States strike a stranger so much as the apparently unsettled and restless character of its population. Every one is on the move, or is ready to desert his home by the offer of advantage in a more westerly region. Of this migratory tendency they are themselves aware. Thus, the President of the New York State Agricultural Society, in his annual address delivered in January last, lamenting the bad effects of this instability of character among the farming population, remarks,—  
"We as a population have few, scarcely any, local attachments. \* \* \* The fact is so, and it is a defect in our national character. How many among us out will, with a slightly tempting offer, sell his homestead without remorse—break up the cherished associations of his life, turn his back upon the graves of his kindred and of his children—his birth spot—the old hearthstone of his boyhood—his family altar—even the brave old trees which have, life-long, waved their branches over his childish sports, and shadowed his innocent slumbers when weary of his play—all, all pass out of his hands like a plaything of yesterday, unwept and unregretted, for the fancied advantages of a fresh spot in a strange and a newer land."

It is a natural consequence of the comparatively recent settlement of the Province, that the attachment of its inhabitants to its soil should be much less strong than in old countries, to which families are bound by many connecting links, by the associations of many years, and by habits which are stronger than all associations; and that lighter inducements should incline them to leave it. But it can be no matter of reproach to its people, nor a just reason for deprecating the character of its soil, if this tendency to move be equally strong among the inhabitants of the older States of the Union, as the above extract implies, and as my own observation has satisfied me, is really the case.—The tide of emigration sets westward from prosperous New England, and from rich New York, quite as strongly as from the Province of New Brunswick. Why should it be a special lamentation then among the inhabitants of New Brunswick, or be held to throw a suspicion upon its agricultural capabilities? The Colony only partakes in what is common to the Continent of which it forms a part. The impulse which sent their fathers across the Atlantic, survives in her sons, and is everywhere urging them farther West, whether the main destiny of the Saxon race seems to point, and whither it tends.

But in addition to those who move in obedience to this

secret tendency, it is alledged, truly I believe, that a large number of additional emigrants have, during the last two years, forsaken the Colony, whose departure many lament. It is interesting to inquire to what class these men belong, why they left the Province, and what evil is likely to result from their emigration.

From the best information I have been able to gather, these additional emigrants appear to have been either—

1. Persons formerly engaged in lumbering, whom the failure of the trade during the past two years had deprived of their usual employment. Without immediate resource, and unwilling, often unfit, to commence a new mode of life, these persons have naturally gone elsewhere in quest of that kind of work they like or understand the best. They resemble in this respect the many thousands of the floating population known in England by the name of navigators, who are employed on our rail roads, and who shift from place to place, and from one Island to the other, and even to the Continent of Europe, or to America, when work fails them, rather than seek for employment at a less rude and unsettled occupation.

2. Or persons already deeply in debt, whose farms were mortgaged to their full value, and who having lost hope and heart here, were desirous of beginning the world anew in a new region. Such persons, also, we have at home, and their departure by emigration is considered to be a double good—to the country, that it should in this way be relieved of depressed and despairing families—and to the individuals themselves, that from new scenes and circumstances they may gather fresh energy, and be able, by renewed exertions, to rebuild their ruined fortunes.

3. Or persons who, though wholly devoted to farming, have applied little skill or steady industry to their calling, or have neglected that frugal economy which hard times require. To such farmers the partial failures of the corn and potatoe crops, during the last three years, have proved doubly severe; while their more prudent or more patient neighbours struggled through equal difficulties, they felt themselves forced to give way; and regarding the country they lived in as the special seat of afflictions, which were common to half a Continent, they have gone to seek in a new land—what they will never find—a soil which will as generously open its fertile bosom to the unsteady and impatient, as to the industrious and persevering.

4. Or lastly, persons who have friends or relations in one or other of the Western States, who have allured them thither by pictures always one sided and highly coloured—or whom the love of excitement and changes inclines readily to give up a comfortable competence for the prospect of greater and more rapid, though more uncertain gains.

In the departure of such classes of men, the Province has nothing either to regret or to fear—as if either its progress were about to be stayed, or as if, instead of continuing to go forward, its fortunes were now about to retrograde. Such parties are the weeding of the population, which will not only cease to shed an evil influence around them, but whose places will be occupied by more useful plants.

But the ordinary emigration of good men, whom mere restlessness moves in this as in other parts of America, it may be desirable to stay or to turn in another direction.—The set of this tide in America, as in Europe, is generally from poorer, to what are known, or supposed to be, richer districts or countries. Ireland overflows into Great Britain; Switzerland into France; Piedmont into Lombardy, and the Italian plains; and the heaths and uplands of Germany into the rich towns and marshes of Holland. So the New Englander hears of the far West; the New Brunswicker of prosperous Boston and thriving Maine; the Novascotian of the marsh lands of Sackville, and the beautiful fertility of Sussex Vale, or the rich red soils of the Restigouche—and each forgets the surer prospects which might await him were he with patient industry to remain quietly at home.

In reference to this tendency to move to richer districts, is of much consequence, I think, that the natural and comparative capabilities of their own soil should be made known to the inhabitants of this Province. That there are many inhospitable tracts of land within its border, nobody who has travelled extensively along its roads, will venture to deny. The Maps appended to this Report, show both their situation and extent, so far as they are at present known. There are other tracts also, which from being fully settled, do not afford sufficient space for the natural expansion of the large families of sons, in whom the prolific parents of this Colony rejoice. But the previous pages of this Report have shown that the Province includes great breadths of valuable land still untouched by the hand of man, over which the natural increase of the population may

diffuse itself for many years to come, and upon which the labours of the industrious *mower* may be expended with the reasonable hope of a fair return.

It is of much consequence, I think, that the existence, the extent, and the exact localities of such Provincial lands should be made generally known, whether natural increase or natural restlessness inclines the farming population of the Province to move; and that easy access to such lands, and a ready means of obtaining possession of them, should be provided by the Legislature of the Province. The good men might be kept at home, good lands settled, and steady habits, and a love of the Province as their birth-place and the home of their fathers, encouraged and promoted.

##### II. The Wheat Midge, the Rust, and the Potatoe Disease.

Among the circumstances which have during the last few years most seriously affected the produce of the Province, and the comfort of the farmers, the midge and rust which have attacked the wheat, and the disease by which the potatoe has been affected, have been exceedingly influential.

1. The *Wheat Midge* has been known for a great many years in Northern America, and has extended its ravages more or less severely over the two Canadas, and over many of the States of the American Union. It has already appeared in most of the Counties of New Brunswick, and in some districts has almost banished the wheat crop from the farmer's fields. It is generally distinguished by the name of the *Weevil*, an erroneous designation however, as that insect, of which at least two species are known, attacks the perfect grain in the granaries of the corn factor. Indeed the term *Weevil* is applied in New England (and New Brunswick) to at least six different kinds of insects, two of which are moths, two are flies, and two are beetles. The little insect has lately in a more especial manner ravaged the wheat crops of North America, is one of the two flies to which the name of *Weevil* has been applied. The course and progress of its ravages in this Province are detailed in the following paragraphs, for which I am indebted to my fellow traveller, Mr. Brown:—

"In the year 1841 or 1842 the wheat in this Province began to be injured by destructive insects, having the appearance of very small yellow coloured maggots. Five or six of them were usually found within the outside covering of a single grain at the time when the wheat crops were beginning to ripen. This single grain they entirely destroyed, without appearing to meddle with any of the other grains in the same ear. Hence in many ears a number of the grains escaped, and thus the quantity of produce was diminished without at all affecting the quality of what was left.

"This insect, by some improperly called the '*Hessian Fly*,' and by others the '*Weevil*,' appears to be the '*Wheat Midge*,' it having been observed that swarms of small flies alight on the fields of Wheat about the time that the milky substance is formed in the ear, and in the manner of the horse bot flies, impregnate the grains separately, and that the small maggots thus produced, are '*Midges*' in the first stage of their existence.

"These insects first appeared in Sussex Vale, in King's County, and seem to have spread from that fertile district, as from a common centre, all over the Province. In 1844 they destroyed nearly all the wheat in the low grounds in that valley; on the high grounds in the vicinity their ravages were chiefly confined to the outsides of the fields, and to a comparatively small number of grains in each ear. Traces of them that year extended through the Parishes of Norton, Hampton, Upham, and King-ton, but did not cross the River Saint John. In the other direction they extended to Butternut Ridge, through the Parish of Salisbury, and into Coverdale, in the County of Westmorland. During the two next years they extended all over the Eastern part of the Province, and extended up the whole way through the valley of the Saint John. In 1847 the sowing of wheat was in a great measure discontinued, and oats were generally substituted in its stead. The insects, in some instances, appeared among the oats; but did no essential damage. Up to 1847 the Counties of Charlotte, Northumberland, Gloucester and Restigouche had escaped, and good crops of Wheat had been raised; in that year they began to appear in Charlotte and Northumberland. In 1848 what little wheat was sown, when it grew up, was so much injured by the rust, that their ravages could not so well be ascertained. The present year, 1849, some traces of them were found in the northern parts of the Province, but in all other places they have for the most part disappeared, and have left the wheat this season almost entirely uninjured."

It would appear as if the peculiarity of the seasons during the last twelve months—the severe cold of the winter, and