

Notes of Provincial Industries.

Encouraging Manufactures.

Progress toward a higher development of social life should be the chief aim of a community. The pleasure and satisfaction derived from social intercourse with family, neighbors and friends, the stimulus to thought and ideas and action, the awakening and exercising of all the finer human faculties and feelings which comes from mingling with what the world terms society, constitute in reality the highest and fullest enjoyment of earthly life. It is indeed the one thing for which all are striving, and whatever a man's station in life, whatever his trade or occupation may be, the inspiration which directs his efforts and enlivens his energies is the desire to make himself and his family useful members of society—this is the end he is working for. Society therefore is primarily dependent upon industry, and the more numerous and diversified are the industries of a place, the more active and prosperous their condition, the better, broader and happier will be the character of its social life. It is for this reason that townspeople both individually and collectively should lend their aid in every reasonable and practical way to the promotion and upholding of local industries.

The desirability of extending the manufacturing industries of a community by every legitimate and judicious means is beginning to be recognized here in the provinces in its true importance. Manufactures are absolutely indispensable to the life and progress of any town, and the one which fosters, encourages and promotes them is the one that speedily distances in prosperity its less enterprising competitors. But a difficult question to settle satisfactorily on the part of municipalities is the extent to which inducement in the way of exemption from taxation shall be extended to manufacturers from abroad, as an incentive to the establishment of new industrial enterprises. A case in point is furnished by the Sussex Record:

The annual session of the Municipal Council for this county will be held at Truro in a few days and among other important matters that may come up for consideration should be one for the exemption from taxation of new industries which are often hindered by the unwillingness of corporations to grant concessions that make for the general good. In too many villages and towns in Canada the spirit of enterprise and push is wanting, and perhaps it is not too much to say that here in Sussex we would be greatly improved in a business way if a more general movement was made to advance the interests of the town by aiding legitimate enterprises, instead of plodding along in a sort of snail's pace, forgetting that this is an age of rapid movements, where competition is sharp and all who neglect to keep pace with the times must expect to be outdone by their more wide-awake competitors. It is to be greatly regretted that we now have so few manufacturing establishments in town, from the fact that there is no place in the province which affords superior advantages to what can be obtained here for the carrying on of an industry suited to any other part of the province. Twenty years ago we had several factories which gave employment to a large number of hands. The greater number of these have ceased to exist and scores of workmen were obliged to leave the town in order to get employment. The reasons assigned for the want of success in these previous ventures is that the Upper Canadian manufacture was enabled, somehow, to sell goods at a less price than the Sussex manufacturer could afford to, hence the failure. The want of success in former years has had much to do in deterring our people from again moving to have new enterprises entered upon, but such should not be the case. The frequent cause of failure is that the managers of the establishments have had no practical knowledge of the business they attempt to supervise, and often the real ruin of the concern is in the hands of hired help who have never had a day's training in any kind of business. We believe, however, that our people will be willing to assist concerns that are controlled by practical men who fully understand the work they propose to undertake, but mere speculators in any venture will meet with small favor here.

There is great rivalry nowadays between different towns for the prizes in the manufacturing world—so much so that if a concern desires to start in business, or to remove an established plant to a new location, no sooner is the announcement made than it is deluged with offers and appeals from city and town authorities all over the country. Each has some strong inducement to offer, and some of them go so far as to promise exemption from taxation for a term of years, a donation of a site and perhaps the necessary buildings and power, besides financial aid in the way of subscribing for stock in the enterprise. It would be folly for the towns of these provinces to attempt competition with such reckless liberality as this, which is commonly the product of wild western effusiveness. But our manufacturing interests must be extended, somehow, and the question is, how far can our cities and towns go in this direction without transcending the limits of municipal wisdom and propriety?

The answer is not easy, yet there are some things which can be said that may tend toward a solution of the problem. In the first place it is the duty of every city and town to make itself as attractive as possible, both from an industrial standpoint and from a residential point of view. Then it must, though its newspapers and its board of trade, and by the personal efforts of its citizens, make its attractions known to the world, losing no opportunity of setting forth its natural and acquired resources and advantages. In the matter of taxation, it should first of all give its manufacturers already established there assurances of immunity from increased taxation if they will extend their plants and

enlarge their business, and aid and encourage such extensions with a liberal hand. Then they may offer a mere nominal rate of taxation to parties from abroad, as an inducement to start new industries, without evoking the spirit of hostility on the part of local manufacturers which a policy of favoritism toward new enterprises often engenders.

The industries that are wanted in the maritime provinces are those which are backed by their own capital and can stand on their own bottoms. If any are to be bolstered up and supported by the assistance of municipalities and citizens, let it be the ones that have started and grown up in their midst. And it with the inducements of location, shipping facilities, low taxation, water supply and power, fire protection, and the general advantages as a place of residence for skilled mechanics and thrifty workmen the desired industries cannot be secured by proper effort, the town would better pull up stakes and move to some more favorable situation.

But no town is so poorly situated as that. Every one has its special and peculiar advantages, for one purpose it not for another. Its first effort should be to find out the lines of industry for which it is best adapted, then if it sets earnestly about the task of developing them it will succeed.

A large pulp mill at Marysville is one of the new enterprises which Alex. Gibson is said to have in contemplation.

South Branch, N. S., must be a favorite resort of big game, as the Truro News reports ten moose captured there this winter.

Edward Campbell, Port Mouton, N. S., is making wharf improvements and building a factory for extensive lobster-packing operations next season.

The managers of the Campobello Fishery Society are already planning for their fall exhibition, which they hope to make the best that has yet been held.

Immense quantities of plaster rock are being quarried on the Tobique this winter, to be shipped with the opening of the spring market, largely to Aroostook.

A butter and cheese factory, to be supplied with the milk of two hundred cows, is a new enterprise to be established in the spring at Brown's yard on the Richibucto river.

A syndicate of New York and Boston capitalists who are interested in the development of Nova Scotia tourist business are negotiating for a lease of the Grand Hotel at Yarmouth.

T. G. Shaughnessy, vice-president of the C. P. R., will have a fine summer cottage built at St. Andrews the coming season. The architect was in St. Andrews last week looking over the ground.

John Millard, Liverpool, N. S., recently launched a new topsail schooner of about 200 tons, built under the superintendence of Robie McLeod. She is named the Blenheim, and is for sale.

The Miller Tanning Extract Company are making preparations to start their works at Mortimore during the first week in February, to be run day and night until all of the raw material is manufactured.

Charles Fraser's larrigan factory at Lorne, N. S., has had an unusually busy season, orders having come in from all over that section and from parts as far away as the Northwest Territory.

James Brown of Harcourt is getting out large quantities of hemlock bark this winter and expects to ship from Coal Branch station, and from Kent junction and other points on the I. C. R., fully two thousand cords.

Manager R. G. Leckie, of the Torbrook mines, says that the outlook for coal at Grand Lake, N. B., is exceptionally good. He intends to push the development of the mine, as he considers it will be a paying investment.

The Torbrook iron mines, Nova Scotia, are doing a brisk winter business, employing seventy men. The company have just put in a new air compressor, to be used for driving six machine drills, and have added three new drills.

The Port Elgin woolen and wood-working mills are running full time with plenty of work in sight, and are expected to continue in operation all winter instead of closing down as usual. A steam gristmill will be a new and much-needed industry in Port Elgin in early spring.

Bear River, N. S., is having a lively winter season. Clarke Bros. are getting out from 30,000 to 40,000 feet of lumber a day at their Lake Wallace mills, and as the sleighing is good, the farmers of the surrounding country are busily engaged in hauling lumber and produce.

A. E. Trites, the railway builder, has returned to his home in Salisbury, having completed his contracts in Maine for the season. This is the second year that Mr. Trites has been engaged in railway work in that state, where he is known as "that hustler from New Brunswick."

Rhodes, Curry & Co., Amherst, N. S., have had quite a boom in their business through the operations of the Whitney coal

syndicate. Besides manufacturing for the company a large quantity of rolling stock, they have received over \$100,000 on house-building contracts in the mining towns.

The contract for the construction of the Dartmouth Branch Railway, ten and a half miles, from Dartmouth to Windsor Junction, have been awarded to Daniel McGregor and Thomas Cook, of New Glasgow. Work is already underway.

Forty-one gaspereaux were caught in a drifnet last week in St. John harbor. With geese wintering in the Bay Chaleur, lilacs blooming in Cap Breton, and gaspereaux running in the Bay of Fundy in January, the Maritime provinces may yet rival Florida as a winter resort.

A railroad to Bay du Vin, from Black Brook, a distance of twelve miles, is one of the Northumberland enterprises that is talked of. The important parishes of Hardwicke and Glenelg believe that if they pull together strongly in the matter, the subsidy required for the proposed road will be granted.

The St. John Iron and Hardware Association, which held its annual meeting at the Board of Trade rooms this week, has elected W. H. Thorne president, S. Hayward vice-president, John J. Barry secretary-treasurer, and Thomas McAvity, R. H. Emerson and F. Beverly directors for the ensuing year.

Eighty-five packages of dry goods for Manchester, Robertson and Allison constituted one item of the cargo of the Damara, which arrived at this port from London last week. This is a large importation for this time of year, and indicates that this enterprising firm is anticipating a lively spring trade.

The Yarmouth Woolen Mill Company, Yarmouth, N. S., have increased their capacity by the addition of eight double-width Knowlens looms of the latest and most improved pattern, together with the necessary machinery and appliances for finishing 6-4 goods. These improvements will enable the Yarmouth mills to make almost every description of woolen tweeds for men's wear.

A. D. Falconer, of Hopewell, has returned home for the winter from Cape Breton, where he has been engaged in extensive building operations at Glace Bay and Bridgeport, chiefly for the Dominion Coal Company. Mr. Falconer has built during the season a dozen houses, as many barns, and about twenty-five other buildings, including a fine church and manse at Bridgeport.

The Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association, of which J. W. Bigelow, of Wolfville, is president and S. C. Parker, of Berwick, secretary, will hold its annual three-days session at Wolfville, the 29th, 30th and 31st, of this month. A large number of the leading fruit growers of the Province will take part in the discussions and it is expected that the meeting will be of unusual interest.

Immigration Agent Gardiner, at this port, has received a letter from a young Englishman residing in Birmingham, asking where he can get a pamphlet giving particulars as to the conditions on which farm land can be had in this province. The enquirer is willing to work for a year or so with a farmer, till he can see a chance near some market town. He says the C. P. R. has flooded England with pamphlets about Manitoba and the Northwest, but the maritime provinces have no literature whatever in that vast field.

The Woodstock board of trade at a recent meeting instructed its secretary to correspond with the general freight agent of the C. P. R. in relation to reduction of freight rates from Montreal, and also to ask the Montreal board of trade to co-operate in that respect, as a matter of mutual interest; adopted a resolution asking the town council to reduce the rates on water required for manufacturing purposes, and also a resolution favoring the formation of a provincial board of trade.

Edward Jack of Fredericton is the promoter of an enterprise which has for its object the development of the immense water power of the St. John at Grand Falls. Capitalists of St. John and of Washington, D. C., are associated with Mr. Jack in the scheme, and application for a charter incorporating the company will be made at the forthcoming session of the Dominion Parliament. The possibilities for the utilization of this enormous water-power in the industrial life of northwestern New Brunswick are very great.

Chatham has a newly organized board of trade. The officers are: President, W. S. Loggie; vice-president, R. Flanagan; treasurer, George Stothart; secretary, Mr. Mackenzie; council, J. B. Snowball, Edw. Johnson, Wm. Wilson, S. U. McCulley, C. G. Smith, M. S. Hocken, J. Nicol, R. A. Murdoch, W. C. Winslow and George Watt; Board of Arbitration, W. B. Snowball, R. Flanagan, Edw. Johnson, Wm. Wilson, Richard Hocken, J. M. Ruddick, John McDonald, W. C. Winslow, W. T. Connors, J. Nicol, R. A. Murdoch, J. L. Stewart.

The Eureka Woolen Manufacturing Company, Eureka, Pictou county, N. S., held its annual meeting recently and elected the following officers: President, M. H. Fitzpatrick, River John; vice-president, Wm. D. Cameron, Halifax; Manager C. A. Clarke, Eureka; secretary, J. P.

McLennan, Eureka. The report showed that after making full allowance for depreciation of machinery, etc., a good dividend would be paid on the year's operations and that a substantial sum would be added to the reserve. The present company was organized two years ago, and the gratifying amount of business transacted shows what shrewd and practical management can accomplish. The demand for the goods of the company extends over the maritime provinces, and orders have so greatly exceeded the mill's capacity that new machinery has been ordered and will soon be in position.

M. Delgado, a prominent business man of Kingston, Jamaica, who visited Halifax, Truro and other places in Canada last summer, writes to the Truro News as follows: "I am glad to notice since my return home that our people are awaking to the necessity of establishing trade relations with Canada on a proper reciprocal basis, and I am of the opinion that the consummation of this object, so devoutly to be wished for, is not far distant. The mother country is no use to us for export purposes, except in a few lines, and the same may be said with regard to our trade with the United States, even under the 'favored nation' clause of the McKinley tariff which we now have. We want a direct weekly steamship service between this city, Kingston and Halifax, a very much faster service than we have now, and I believe the increase in passenger and freight traffic would make the venture pay well. As Jamaicans we look to Canada now for a big market for the future, as there surely is a big field here for your agricultural and manufactured products, most all of which, from the conditions of climate, we cannot grow nor produce, and therefore must import."

Concerning the operations of the Boston and New York syndicate composing the Dominion Lumber Company, whose large purchase of Nova Scotia timberlands was reported in this column last week, a newspaper correspondent says: "For the last two years the syndicate has been negotiating with Benjamin F. Pearson, of Halifax, who had secured options on the property. The company has had cruisers on the land for months under the direction of Mr. Hall and George A. Crawford, counting trees and making estimates of the productiveness of the property. When the new tariff bill, which provides for free lumber on which there formerly had been a \$2 duty, went into effect the negotiations were pressed more vigorously and can now be said to be completed. The principal kinds of lumber which will be cut are spruce, pine, hemlock, beech, maple and birch, and in all the 860,000 acres, it is said there is scarcely one that is unproductive. There are many rivers running through the land and freshets and droughts are things unknown. Along these rivers 340 miles of water front is secured. The title to the property in fee simple is by grant traceable to the Crown, and is free from all incumbrances. Agencies will be continued by the company in England, and new ones will be opened in the United States and in France and in South America."



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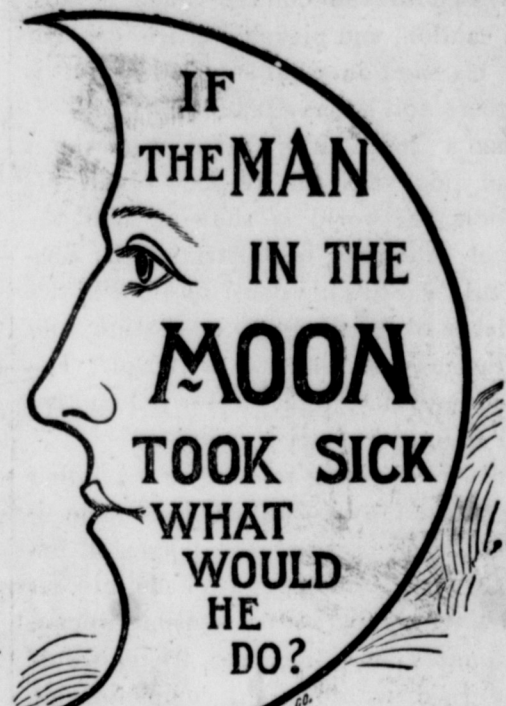
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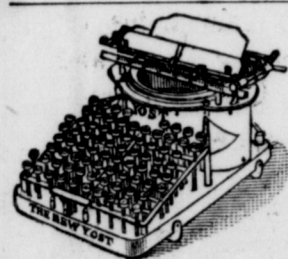
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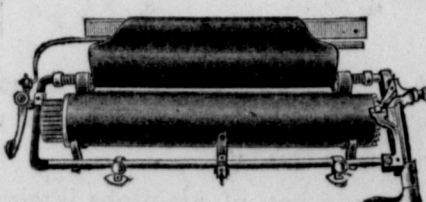
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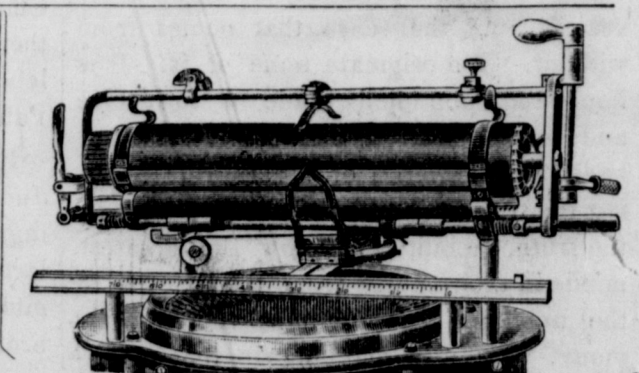
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