

buted is not only a credit to those who had the matter in charge, but furnishes assurance that, when the occasion arises, this Province will be looked to for a larger contribution than heretofore to the great food supply demanded at all times by the British market.

Coincident with the preparation of the relief shipment to Great Britain the call for sorely needed assistance came from Belgium, whose heroic defence of her territory was made not only for the homes and liberties of her people, but for the principles involved in the great struggle which the allied nations are today maintaining on the Continent of Europe. My Government gladly and promptly responded by making a contribution of Provincial products similar to those sent to the needy of our own nationality—a contribution which I am satisfied will receive your approval and the approval of the people of the Province generally.

The magnificent manner in which all classes of our citizens responded to the call of the Empire is a source of deepest gratification. From every section of the Province the answer came, and today many of New Brunswick's sons are on the firing line, while others but await the opportunity to go forward. Whether the war be indefinitely prolonged, or, as we hope, brought to a speedy close, the unquestioned loyalty of our people will welcome any sacrifice, however great, which may become necessary in this, the hour of the Empire's need. It afforded my Government much pleasure and satisfaction to contribute to the expenses of the recruiting campaign which was inaugurated by the military authorities to forward the work connected with the formation of the Second Canadian Contingent.

It is gratifying to note the greatly increased interest taken by our people in the science of agriculture. My Government is pursuing an active policy of agricultural education, elementary work being done in the public schools and more advanced teaching being given at the agricultural schools at Woodstock and Sussex. It is hoped in the near future to have an agricultural school established in the northern part of the Province.

The important subject of drainage has received very considerable attention during the past year, the ditching machine purchased by my Government and used for this work having demonstrated the profit and advantage to be derived from lands improved in this way.

A lime rock crusher has also been purchased recently and is now in operation. This will give our farmers an opportunity of securing this very valuable ingredient for the soil.

The past year has been very satisfactory to our dairymen, and it is pleasing to state that the quantity of butter manufactured in the Province is greater than at any previous time, the amount reaching over one million pounds.

Particular attention has been given during recess to the encouragement of livestock, and it is gratifying to note an increase in this branch of agricultural activity. During the year my Government brought to the Province five flocks of pure-bred sheep and placed them in different counties. It is the intention to continue this policy and bring additional flocks during the present year. It is hoped in this way to introduce sheep of a character that will tend to promote the important industry of sheep raising in the Province.

My Government has recognized the importance of assisting the agriculturists to increase their crop production, and to this end have sought to encourage the growing of wheat in the Province, some portions of which are admirably adapted for that grain. In order to secure the best results, it is necessary to have perfect seed, and I am glad to state that my Government has purchased five thousand bushels of seed wheat which will be distributed over the Province and sold to growers at actual cost.

Agriculture in New Brunswick occupies a high plane at the present time, and the outlook for its growth and development is most encouraging.

Throughout the year the public services of the Province have been well maintained. The Department of Public Works has erected many permanent structures, including the magnificent bridges which now span the St. John River at the Reversible Falls, St. John, and at Grand Falls, and the Miramichi River at Newcastle. Pursuing the policy to furnish every possible convenience for that portion of the public to which the maintenance of the bridges of the Province is indispensable, further work along this line will be carried on as rapidly as the condition of the finances will warrant, and the requirements of the public demand.