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Cumberland Marshes.

Thousands of Acres Being Reclaimed. The Work that Judge Morse is Doing.

(William Dennis in the Christmas Herald.)

Providence has located vast stretches of the finest wheat lands in the Northwest. To it also has He given the mighty Rockies, at the base of which enormous herds of cattle graze. Across the mountains are illimitable forest and great deposits of minerals. Ontario is blessed with the great lakes; and Quebec with the mighty St. Lawrence. The United States boast of many wonderful natural advantages. But to the little provinces by the sea, God has given the hay field to North America with the capacity for yielding more wealth to the acre from that source, than any other agricultural land on this or any continent. What a sight this would be to the farmers of the rest of the Dominion outside of Cumberland. One of the best investments they could make would be to organize pilgrimages and spend a week in the locality. They would return home with new ideas of farming and of Nova Scotia. In August 1612, M. de Beincourt "went to Chinictou . . where he saw very fine meadows reaching as far as he could see, natural salt marsh." About the same time Lescarbot wrote "of the vast pasturages and meadows in the Bay of Chignecto." "Some might marvel," he wrote, "how these meadows are made, seeing that all the ground in these places is covered by wood. For satisfaction whereof let the curious reader know that in high spring tides, especially in March and September, the flood covereth those shores, which hindereth the trees there to take root. But everywhere, where the water overfloweth not, there are woods." Murdoch adds: "The lands thus made available for agriculture and called dyked marsh, contain a great depth of soil entirely free from stones. It consists of the finer portions of earth washed down by

THE RAINS THAT HAVE FALLEN DURING UNNUMBERED CENTURIES

from the higher grounds, and it contains also much decayed vegetable matter. It is exceedingly rich and productive, requiring no aid of artificial manure, it being only necessary to till it to check the rapid growth of weeds. Wheat and other grain as well as grass are cultivated profitably on those marshes. When the surface has lost its fertility by exhaustive crops, its powers of production are renewed by letting in the salt water in the fall by means of tide gates built in the dykes and shutting down the gates in the spring, whereby the necessity for digging or ploughing is saved." I have before me as I write "a large and particular plan of Shegneckto Bay and the circumjacent country. with the forts and settlements of the French till dispossessed by the English in June, 1755. Drawn on the spot by an officer." This old map admirably shows the locations "abounding with good marshes" as well as the forts, rivers and settlements, and is worthy of inspection and study by antiquarians. Captain John McDonald (of the 60th regiment) and agent of Governor Desbarres, in a report to the governor dated 1789, said, "At last, unexpectedly and without knowing of any thing of the kind there, I found myself upon the edge of a great green plain, extending as far in all directions as my eye could distinguish. This was your great marsh of Minudie which you call

THE ELYSIAN FIELDS.

I must say my astonishment was raised, nor has it subsided to this day. I have never observed the like before, except in Holland and Flanders." Imagine McDonald's astonishment if he could return to-day and behold 70,000 acres—a sight, the like of which is not to be had anywhere else from Sydney to Victoria or from Portland to San Francisco! In this article I shall confine myself particularly to the dykes and marshes in the Amherst region, without crossing the Tantramar, Memramcook, and Dorchester with its 100,000 acres and over. Cumberland and Westmorland counties are a series of plateaus and rivers from the Cobequid mountains to beyond Moncton. The La Planche and Tantramar are in the heart of this region. Planting the Fleur de Lys of France upon the highest ridge in the centre district, which commanded not only a magnificent view of the Chignecto and Memramcook bays, with the adjoining marshes and soil unequalled for fertility; and the guns of whose fort swept the country in every direction as far as the eye could reach—what more appropriate and expressive name could be given to

THE MODERN PARADISE

than Beau bassin—Beautiful Basin. It was for the possession of a country the wealth of which was fitly illustrated by these wonderful "Elysian fields," that the armies of France and England contended for nearly two centuries. So famous are these marsh lands of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick that a couple of years ago the United States department of agriculture sent an expert, Samuel L. Boardman, to speedily report upon their extent, productive capacity and management. His report, covering 32 pages, was printed in 1885, and is well worth the perusal of all Nova Scotians interested in marsh lands. In the region around Amherst there are some 40,000 acres of this marsh. Every farmer, or nearly every farmer, owns a slice. Much of this land yields 2 to 3 tons of hay per acre and, if it has been looked after with reasonable care, the English marsh is worth from $150 to $200. In no part of the world are the farmers more prosperous than in this section of Cumberland. While at Amherst dnring the summer I met several "retired farmers." They were not old men; some of them were so active and vigorous that it might be said they were in their prime. But they were the fortunate possessors of a good slice of dyke, and having enjoyed a life time of prosperity as farmers, had built handsome cottages within a gun shot of each other in "the town" and were quietly enjoying the evening of life. Among these I may mention the names of John W. Smith, Hiram Pugsley, Nelson Forrest, David McElmon, Torry Bent and Isaac Beharrel. Notwithstanding all that has been accomplished in the past, it is nothing compared to what will be done in the future. There are thousands of acres of worthless bog and lake, which, when reached by

THE MAGICAL TIDE WATERS OF THE BAY OF FUNDY.

will be converted into $150 and $200 an acre marsh, in time, and tens of thousands of acres now covered by the waters of Cumberland basin will be reclaimed by dykes such as Holland has erected. There is a class of people everywhere who are so well off, so prosperous and contented, that they never dream of striking out upon new lines of enterprise and wealth; and they sneer and laugh at, or throw ice water upon the efforts of their more wide awake neighbors. They laughed a generation ago when it was predicted that Cumberland would be covered with a net work of railways; but those hilarious ones are careful not to travel by the old stage coach. Five years ago the prediction that Spring Hill would be mining 500,000 tons of coal a year, would have been met with a sneer and the wise acres would have ordered a straight jacket for him. Three years ago any one who prophesied that to-day the business men of Amherst would be connected with Halifax by telephone, its streets lighted with electricity and its public and private institutions heated with steam from a central station—such a man would have been hooted at. And as these things have came to pass, so it is only a question of time when thousands of acres will be added to the present marshes.

Three quarters of a mile from Amherst station, along the post road to Halifax stands the old fashioned farm house. It is one of the oldest houses in Amherst, and one of the oldest in Cumberland. The builder seems to have erected a chimney and to have built the rooms around it as they were required. And yet there are few better built houses in the town to-day. It is

THE MORSE HOMESTEAD.

No one appears to know its exact age, but Governor DesBarres made it his headquarters for fifteen years in the latter part of the last century, and the first part of the present one; in the corner of one of the rooms a clock has stood for ninety-two years; and in the front lawn stands a noble tree, which was transplanted from the Windsor garden of Judge Blowers three-quarters of a century ago. The walls of the bedroom occupied by old Governor DesBarres are still covered by the unique pictorial paper, equal in durability to cotton, and illustrating one of Shakespeare's great dramas. The owner of this historical house is County Judge Morse. It is said that Sir John A. Macdonald and the late Lord Beaconsfield were so much alike in personal appearance that only intimate acquaintances could distinguish them when the two premiers were in company. Judge Morse bears a striking resemblance to Edward Blake, the late leader of Canadian liberals, in physique and personal appearance. Mr. Blake is perhaps of heavier build than the judge, but in other physical respects Judge Morse is so much like Mr. Blake, that if, upon the reassembling of parliament, a month hence, the judge were to plant himself in the familiar seat of the member for West Durham, nine out of every ten of the members of the house would grasp him by the hand and congratulate Mr. Blake upon his safe return from the holy land. Judge Morse is the soul of urbanity and is about

AS FINE A SPECIMEN OF A GENTLEMAN

as Canada, or even England can produce; and if he lives another decade and half, he will in all human probability become one of the wealthiest men in Cumberland. Nowhere this side of Winnipeg can one get such an idea of the rolling prairies, "of the land of magnificent distance," as at Amherst. Looking from my bedroom window in the Morse homestead, I saw stretches of marsh as far as the eye could reach, dotted with hundreds of barns. It was a sight that even the farmers of Kings, Annapolis, Antigonish, and Inverness, might feast their eyes upon. At the mouth of the Laplanche an aboiteau existed for a great many years. This aboiteau confines the waters of the Bay of Fundy and redeems the land along its banks for some five miles. Back from this point extending north-east for four and a half miles was a large tract of low land and shallow, and bogs and ponds, around which were thousands of acres of worthless swamps. This land was so low that the tide would have flowed up and in time covered and reclaimed it, but for the aboiteau. Of this large tract of land the late Hon. Jas. S. Morse owned no less than 1,600 acres. A quarter of a century ago Mr. Morse and the late Joshua Black, father of the present Hon. Hiram Black, discussed the question of reclaiming this swamp, draining the lakes and converting them into pastures. Mr. Morse became thoroughly convinced of this practicability of the scheme, never ceased to agitate it and elaborated his plans for carrying it into effect. In this he was ably aided by Joshua Black the commissioner of sewers, who was then one of the most experienced marsh men and commissioners in Cumberland as well as a marsh owner. But

NINETEEN OUT OF TWENTY PEOPLE POOH-POOHED THE SCHEME.

Forgetting that individual prosperity meant general improvement, the most of these people laughed at and opposed it, because they imagined that the whole project was fallacious and absurd. Senator Botsford, who was making similar experimental improvements at Sackville, encountered similar opposition. A Frenchmen at work upon a drain one day remarked to his fellow workman. "What a fool Botsford is to pay us to cut these ditches. The tide will never come up this far." To-day the tide flows three miles beyond the point where the remark was made; and hundreds of acres of marsh have been created. Senator Macfarlane, John D. Kinnear and a number of others were dining with Mr. Morse some years ago, and to convince him of the folly of his ideas, the party paid a visit to the wretched bog. In the effort to prove that solid land could never exist there, Senator Macfarlane leaned forward upon his walking stick. The spot was so soft that both Senator and walking stick partly disappeared in the swamp and the politician narrowly escaped suffocation. Upon being rescued and revived, the senator damned Mr. Morse's Utopian idea with a big D. To-day there is a tract of 700 acres of marsh above the spot where the senator fell in and mowing machines pass over it in August. Mr. Morse died without realizing the dream of his life; but his son, the present judge, is carrying into successful completion the minutest details of the elaborate plans he left behind him. Five years ago by the efforts of Messrs Morse, Lowerison, Black and others, an act passed the provincial legislature authorizing the removal of the old aboiteau across the Laplanche, and the erection of a bridge. Sir Charles Tupper promptly seconded the efforts of these enterprising men by removing the aboiteau across the river, owned by the Dominion government. The owners of all the land above the aboiteau were incorporated, and being thus enabled to borrow money, immediately set about the real work of reclamation. Under the superintendence of Captain Richard Lowerison, commissioner, than whom there is no more capable and energetic commissioner of sewers at the head of the bay, over two miles of dyke have been constructed, and land sufficient has already been reclaimed to pay at a fair assessment all the money and interest thereon borrowed; and next spring a large addition to the dyke will be made. Judge Morse believes that

THIS TRACT OF SWAMP IS A SUNKEN FOREST.

At the bottom of one of the lakes in the bog, and which he has entirely drained and which the tide is now filling with mud, he came across large stumps of hacmatac, the same kind as is found on the high ridges, and which had every appearance of having been gnawed by beavers. At the head of the swamp or bog three miles northeast, was a brook frequented by these animals; and which is still known as Beavers' brook. The bog owned by Judge Morse is now covered with a network of ditches, drains, and canals, of various depths and widths—the main drains or canals being 12 feet wide and 6 feet deep. It is about three miles long and varies in breadth from one to a mile and a half. Picture in your mind the city of Halifax from Richmond to Freshwater and from Robie street to the harbor, with all its network of streets running from north to south and west to east; and you have an idea of the drains, ditches and canals by which the bog of Judge Morse is being thoroughly drained, by which the lakes have been drained and the tide with its mud let in. Twice a month during the spring, summer and fall months at every high tide, the richly freighted muddy waters of the bay of Funday flow up the Laplanche three miles above the location of the old aboiteau and are every year pressing further on; and following along these main and intersecting ditches cut by the judge, overflow and cover acres of land with a coating of the rich red colored sedimentary alluvium. This is the "washings of the surrounding uplands for unnumbered centuries" that Murdoch speaks of. The ordinary tide reaches 40 feet. This sediment is carried along by the rush of waters; but at the turning of the tide

THE WATERS FOR ONE MOMENT STAND STILL,

and during that moment the marine alluvium drops. When the water recedes there will be seen a layer of mud equal to the thickness of a cent. This is repeated regularly at high tides, untill within a few years the worthless swamp is converted into solid land and the most valuable marsh. The extraordinary richness of this mud can be imagined when it is stated one inch of mud is considered sufficient to insure an annual crop for 20 years, and four inches the French Acadian dykers allowed would be good for a century. One curious feature about this alluvial deposit was told to me by Thompson Coates, a marsh-owner, who cuts 300 tons of hay from his own marsh, and handles an average of 2,000 tons a year. He says the coarser deposit drops first, and the finest mud is carried to the farthest points. Of course, the finer the mud, the better the soil. This is the reason he gives why Amherst, Maccan and Nappan hay is worth $1 to $2 more in the market than Sackville hay. I accompanied Judge Morse, who is an enthusiast of enthusiasts on this question, over hundreds of acres of solid marsh, portions of which produced patches of beautiful English Timothy, where some years ago nothing grew, and I passed with him on foot over some seventy acres, which constituted a few years ago a lake, over which one could only pass in a boat; and he pointed out to me the spot near which Capt. Lowerison shot sixteen wild geese eight years ago, now growing magnificent broadleaf grass, the greater part of which would be cut down this year by the mowing machine. This part thus reclaimed is now the richest, and in course of three years will be yielding its four tons to the acre. Hiram Pugsley now cuts 2 to 3 tons of the finest broadleaf to the acre from a spot which a couple of decades since was a lake of an average depth of fifteen feet, over which schooners sailed. Between Amherst and Nappan ten years ago lay a swamp of 150 acres that was so useless that anyone offering $500 for it would have been regarded as

A MAN OF SOME MONEY AND VERY LITTLE SENSE.

A gentleman who thought it might be useful some day, suggested to his brother that they should offer $200 for it. The brother regarded it as throwing away $200. Separated between the edge of this bay and the river Nappan was a bank of plaster. The bog fell into the hands of James Reid. He got some dynamite, blew a gap out of the bank, and made a ditch through which the tide flowed over the swamp. He sold enough plaster to pay the whole expense. I drove across it. Some of the mud is ten feet deep. It already yields a ton of hay per acre. I am told it could not be purchased for $10,000. It will yearly improve and increase in value until a few years hence it will be worth at least $200 per acre. And it cost actually nothing. "If this marsh is so valuable," I asked, "why isn't every foot of land that can be utilized, turned into marsh?" The answer was: "It takes a long time—10 to 15 years—a great deal of patience and considerable money; and nine out of ten men who can make a dollar to-day, won't wait till next week, with the certainty of making five dollars." But such men as the Blacks, Pugsleys, Lowes, Seamans, Botsfords, Freemans, Travis', Lamys, Atkinsons and Bents have already done marvels. To-day at Nappan no less than 500 acres are being reclaimed by the Coates', McCullys, McIntoshs', Lowerisons, Morses, Laytons, and the estate of Reid. But comparatively few people care about leading the van; they are content to pull up in the rear and take the full benefit gratis of the experience of the pioneers. Hence a new era is dawning upon Cumberland marsh owners, especially now that markets offer for all the hay they can produce at $10 and $11 per ton. This hay is worth $5 standing, that is broadleaf on the marsh. In the ordinary course of events the marsh grower has nothing to do but rope in his $5 a ton, or say $18 an acre yield on best marsh; or, if he chooses to harvest his English grass, he can and often does get $12 per ton, and if best English yielding 3 tons to acre $36. I greatly enjoyed a visit to the farm of Rupert Coates. In some respects it is a model farm. It is off of this farm that his father, the late Joseph Coates, raised those fine cattle that the gentlemen of Halifax loved to get a sirloin for Easter. He in connection with Judge Morse, Mr. Layton Lowerison and others, are doing a great work in reclaiming land here. The judge and he are the largest owners of marsh in the body. Through their exertions a canal a mile long has been cut from the Nappan river through marsh and an upland ridge, so as to overflow the marshes beyond. The canal is now a river, and during the tides of the 15th inst. I am told the marsh lands were completely covered, so that the affair is a marked success. This canal and dyke was widened and built by Capt. Lowerison, through whose exertions these marsh operations have become so successful in the Nappan body of marsh, called "the commons body of marsh" and the Amherst body of marsh. As

JUDGE WEATHERBE HAS UNBOUNDED FAITH IN THE FUTURE

of fruit growing, so Judge Morse has unbounded faith in his marsh. Judge Weatherbe has an idea that an orchard is at maturity when fifty years old. During that period the crops may occasionally fail; there will be short crops, ordinary crops and extraordinary crops. Judge Morse calls upon history to prove that the dyked marshes steadily improve until they are a century old, then they are rejuvenated by four layers of mud, good for another century, and their crops never fail. Judge Weatherbe will have to fight the insects and worms and other natural enemies; Judge Morse has secured the eternal neutrality of these opponents. I do not think it will cost Judge Morse any more to convert his swamp into 1600 acres of marsh than it will Judge Weatherbe to bring his 3,000 apple trees into bearing. It will take fifteen years to bring the orchard into maturity; the same period will bring the new marsh to a productive capacity. Meanwhile both will likely produce enough to more than pay the interest of the investment. Picture in your mind the summer of 1902—we all expect to see it. Gaze upon the 6,000 barrels of luscious fruit on Judge Weatherbe's farm, yielding him $12,000. Who doesn't envy him? Then by the Haute Central and the Economy and Parrsboro short line go to Amherst and gaze upon Judge Morse's tract of timothy and clover and broadleaf!

HOW MUCH WOULD A KING'S CO. FARMER GIVE FOR THE GRAND PRE DYKE?

Yet it is only about 300 acres larger than Morse's marsh. If it's true that the finest mud is carried farther-st by the tide, the judge's marsh will be the best in all this famous district. It ought then to be yielding an average of at least three tons per acre, or say 5,000 tons, at $5 standing on the marsh, $25,000, or the annual income at 3½ per cent. of three-quarters of a million dollars! Meanwhile he can well afford to laugh at all the croaking prophets of evil. Judge Weatherbe will make himself famous by fruit; Judge Morse will attain the same ambition by marsh. Famous marsh also means famous cows, famous milk, famous butter, famous cheese, famous beef, famous hogs and lard, and horses. But Cumberland marsh will not only do all this. Holland supplies Europe with cabbages, cauliflowers, asparagus and other vegetables. Our marsh soil is fully equal to that of the Dutch. Halifax, for all freight purposes, is next door to the American and as near to the English markets as is Amsterdam. If, and when there comes a surplus of Cumberland marsh hay, the judge has his eye on vegetables, asparagus, cauliflowers, etc. Nova Scotia has many sons of whom it is justly proud, but a generation hence, few, if any, will have done more for the development, and enrichment, and permanent prosperity of their country than Robert L. Weatherbe and William A. D. Morse are doing by their enterprises, so imperfectly described in these articles. W. D.

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TO AGENTS THE CANADIAN NEEDLE CO. 46 and 48 Front Street East, Toronto, get up the Neatest, most Complete and Best Selling Needle Package in America. Send 25 Cents for Samples of New No. 4, finished in Fine Plush. Particulars sent when stamps are enclosed for reply.
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AMHERST, N. S.
GEO. McFARLANE,.....PROPRIETOR.
ENTIRELY renovated and newly furnished. Good rooms, good table, and good attendance. Free Cabs to and from express trains. First-class Stabling on the premises. june10 1y

Clifton House,
74 PRINCESS & 143 GERMAIN STREETS,
SAINT JOHN, N. B.
A. N. Peters, Proprietor.
Telephone Communication. Heated by Steam throughout. sep3'85

THE QUEEN HOTEL,
HALIFAX, N. S.
VISITORS to Halifax will find the QUEEN HOTEL the best house in the city. Being fitted throughout with all modern improvements, furnished with new and handsome furniture. The CUISINE is the best in the Maritime Provinces. SAMPLE ROOMS A SPECIALTY. Private and Public Parlors, Gent's Writing and Reading Rooms. Building of Solid Brick and Stone, with improved FIRE ESCAPES. The location is convenient to Post office, Parliament Buildings, and the principal business houses of the city. A fine view of the harbor is obtained from its windows.
A. B. SHERATON,
oct28 MANAGER.

Railways, &c.



INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY.

1887 WINTER ARRANGEMENT 1888

ON and after Monday, November 28th, 1887, the Trains will run daily (Sunday excepted) as follows:

WILL LEAVE SACKVILLE:

Express for Halifax, Pictou and Mulgrave	5.42
Accommodation for Moncton	8.30
Express for Halifax and Pictou	12.58
Express for St. John	13.52
Spring Hill Accommodation	18.59
Express for St. John and Quebec	20.18

WILL LEAVE DORCHESTER:

Express for Halifax, Pictou and Mulgrave	5.13
Accommodation for Moncton	8.53
Express for Halifax and Pictou	12.28
Express for St. John	14.20
Spring Hill Accommodation	18.17
Express for St. John and Quebec	20.45

All Trains are run by Eastern Standard Time

D. POTTINGER,
Chief Superintendent.
Railway Office, Moncton, N. B., November 25th, 1887.

N. B. & P. E. RY.

1887-8—Winter Arrangement—1887-8

ON and after MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28TH, 1887, Trains will run as follows:

Leave Sackville for Cape Tormentine daily (Sundays excepted) at 1.52 P. M. Returning, will leave Cape Tormentine at 4.31 P. M.

Every MONDAY a Train will leave Sackville for Cape Tormentine at 5.20 A. M. Returning, will leave Cape Tormentine at 7.40 A. M., arriving at Sackville at 9.40 A. M.

Trains run on Eastern Standard Time.

JOSIAH WOOD,
President.
Railway Office, Sackville, Nov. 26th, 1887.

HACYARD'S
YELLOW OIL
CURES RHEUMATISM

FREEMAN'S
WORM POWDERS.
Are pleasant to take. Contain their own Purgative. Is a safe, sure, and effectual destroyer of worms in Children or Adults.

Public Notice.

THE proprietors of the Great Marsh are requested to hand in to any one of the Commissioners of Sewers for District Number Six, or to the undersigned Clerk of Commissioners, the description and number of acres in each lot owned by them, and in case of failure to comply with this notice, or in case of wrong description or acreage being given, on the part of any proprietor, the Commissioners will assess against such proprietor any expense necessarily incurred by them in procuring the same.

Dated this 18th day of October, A. D. 1886.

AMOS OGDEN,
20-tf Clerk.

FLOUR. FLOUR.

IN STORE AND ARRIVING:

200 Bbls.	Golden Star,	Choice Patent;
100 ½ "	do	do
100 — "	Classic High Grade,	Choice Pat.
50 ½ "	do	do
100 — "	Anchor,	Choice Patent;
50 ½ "	do	do
125 — "	Challenge,	do
250 "	Glenvallie,	do
125 "	Granite,	do
125 "	Toronto,	do
626 "	Garnet,	do
125 "	Queen City,	Straight Patent;

For sale Low by
oct27 A. J. BABANG & CO.

TOBACCO.

RECEIVED TO-DAY AND IN BOND:

15 Butts	PILOT,	smoking;
25 "	No. 1 CROWN,	12s.;
25 "	COMET,	12s.;
25 "	HAWTHORNE,	smoking, 8s.;
25 Caddies	STERLING,	6s.;
25 do	JUDGE,	8s.;
25 do	EMPIRE,	7s.;
50 do	INDEX,	6s.;
50 do	NAPOLEON,	8s.;
50 do	MYRTLE NAVY,	8s.

For sale low in bond or duty paid by
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