

Hon. Mr. Baxter Optimistic Regarding Future of N. B.

The Premier Sends a New Year's Message to the People of the Province—The Activities of the Different Government Depts. Reviewed.

(By Hon. J. B. M. Baxter)

The year 1930, while it has had its discouraging aspects, has not been in any sense disastrous to the Province of New Brunswick. Our revenue on the whole have been well kept up, with the exception of that from Crown Lands, which was nearly half a million dollars less than in 1920, and succession duties which fell considerably below the normal level.

During the early summer it became apparent that many of the usual sources of employment would be dried up and that it would be necessary in some way to ward off unemployment so far as possible. At that time there was no national policy of assistance and the Government felt that a comparatively large expenditure of public money for useful public works would form the best safeguard against a situation being created in this Province such as was being rapidly precipitated all over the country if it was therefore decided to go ahead with a vigorous policy of road construction and improvement. Nearly six million dollars was expended on the main trunk and secondary roads from capital, while the roads patrol and expenditures on ordinary roads and bridges were kept up quite to the standard of previous years. This has disbursed considerable money in the Province, and many of the people in the rural sections are thereby better enabled to face the problems of the winter. There still remains a good deal to be done in the way of relief, especially in the districts where lumbering has practically ceased. It is hoped, however, that by the considerable extent be alleviated.

Millions Spent

For roads, electric power development, new Normal School, additions to the Provincial Hospital and the operations of the Farm Settlement Board it was necessary to issue during the year nearly seven million dollars of debentures, all of which were sold at excellent prices comparing favourably with those received by any other Province in the Dominion. Nearly half a million dollars was paid off during the year out of sinking funds and the funded debt of the Province is now amply provided for by sinking funds, which have been brought up to the requirement necessary to pay off the debt at its maturity.

Agriculture

Agricultural production on the whole was good. The output of animal products was maintained. There was an increase in the output of dairy products from the factory and the farm. Prices were lower than the previous year by from 15 to 20 per cent for butter and cheese; and the price of wool was lower by 8 cents per pound than the previous year. Pork, beef, eggs and poultry also brought reduced prices. Considering that the purchasing power of a dollar has not appreciably risen, this means that whereas in 1929, with prices perhaps somewhat above the normal in certain directions, the farmers of the Province disposed of their products for nearly forty-one million dollars, while they received but thirty millions this year. The difference of slightly over ten million represents a loss of purchasing power which cannot fail to be felt. The importance of co-operation in every branch of agricultural industry is becoming more and more apparent. This is something which must be solved largely by the people who are carrying on the industry as no Government-made plan can be fitted upon the individual with success.

Forest Wealth

While the Crown Lands revenue was exceptionally low yet there were some bright features in connection with our forest wealth. Not only was the great mill of the New Brunswick International Paper Company opened at Dalhousie but during the year

additional machines were installed increasing the demand upon forest products and also the requirements of labour. The new pulp mill at Athol was also opened, and happily for the Province, Frasers' mill at Edmundston, continues to manufacture. The number of non-resident anglers on the salmon streams was greater than the previous year; fishing was particularly good, and the open water reserved by the Province on the Restigouche was very much appreciated, especially by our own people.

Immigration

The Province received about twenty-two hundred souls as immigrants, compared with twenty-five hundred the previous year. The British family settlement agreement was carried out as usual. During the three years which this has been in force the Province has received its full quota of three hundred families. A total of three hundred and fifty-seven persons immigrated from Scandinavia. These are most desirable settlers, but, of course, receive no Government assistance. In addition to the immigration coming to the Province during the year the Farm Settlement Board purchased eighty farms on which families were placed chiefly our own New Brunswick people. This is a work that is not being carried on by any other Province in Canada.

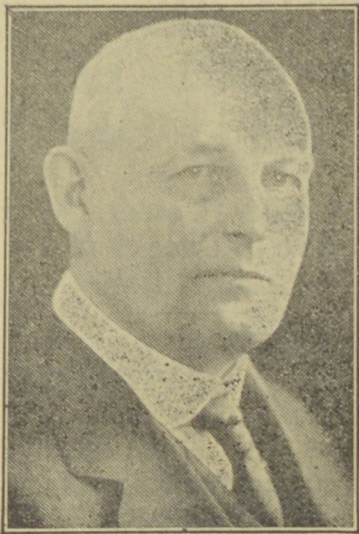
Road Work

In the Highway Department the work carried on during the past year consisted largely of widening main trunk roads to a twenty-eight feet riding surface, improving alignment and correcting grades of all classes of roads, rebuilding narrow bridges and removing dangerous railway crossings. The extent of the work that was undertaken and carried on is emphasized when it is shown that three hundred miles of main trunk roads, twelve hundred miles of secondary and branch roads have been reconstructed, and in addition a large mileage improved. Twenty-one new bridges have been built by contract, and a large number of smaller bridges were constructed by the forces of the Department.

A New Highway

The Campbellton-St. Leonard highway across the northern part of the Province has been completed, with the exception of travelling some of the last constructed portions. This road it is expected will be officially opened for traffic late in the 1931 tourist season. This scenic highway will provide a new short route between the western and northeastern parts of the Province, and besides opening up a new agricultural district, is certain to prove a favourite tourist route.

The Province has eleven thousand eight hundred and thirty-six miles of road, of which the main trunk highways comprise one thousand three hundred and sixty-eight miles, the secondary trunk roads three thousand two hundred and sixty-eight miles, and the branch or by-roads seven thousand two hundred miles. There are ten thousand bridges in the highway system. When it is realized that several millions of people could easily be contained within the same area, and adequately served without much expansion of the road system, it will be realized why the cost seems so high in proportion to our population. The people are demanding better and better highways, and more perfect surface, and now, naturally, want to have the surface dustless and suitable for all weather. When we compare the highway patrol system, organized in 1923, and then consisting of crews of two men and a team with a light horse patrol covering sections of about six miles each, with the present day equipment of eighty nine motor patrol graders, each covering sections of fifteen to thirty miles, we realize what a tremendous forward step has been



HON. J. B. M. Baxter
Premier of New Brunswick

taken in this Branch. In construction fifty tractors, fifty heavy graders, one hundred and thirty motor trucks, ten gravel loaders and ten air compressors are required to keep up construction at the rate at which it has proceeded. This equipment greatly reduces the cost of construction per mile.

Tourist Traffic

Closely connected with the highways improvements is the tourist traffic. Motor tourist travel to New Brunswick from the United States was 44 per cent. greater in 1930 than the previous year. This, we believe, is the greatest percentage increase shown by any Province for the year. The value of our tourist traffic will, it is estimated, reach twenty million dollars for 1930. One hundred and eighty six thousand four hundred and forty-one American motor tourists entered New Brunswick through the Canadian Customs ports in this Province for stays of more than twenty four hours and we have had many more tourist visitors from the other Provinces of the Dominion than ever before while the constantly improving railway and steamship services are important factors in the expansion of the Province's recreational business which has been 150 per cent. greater than in 1927.

Public Health

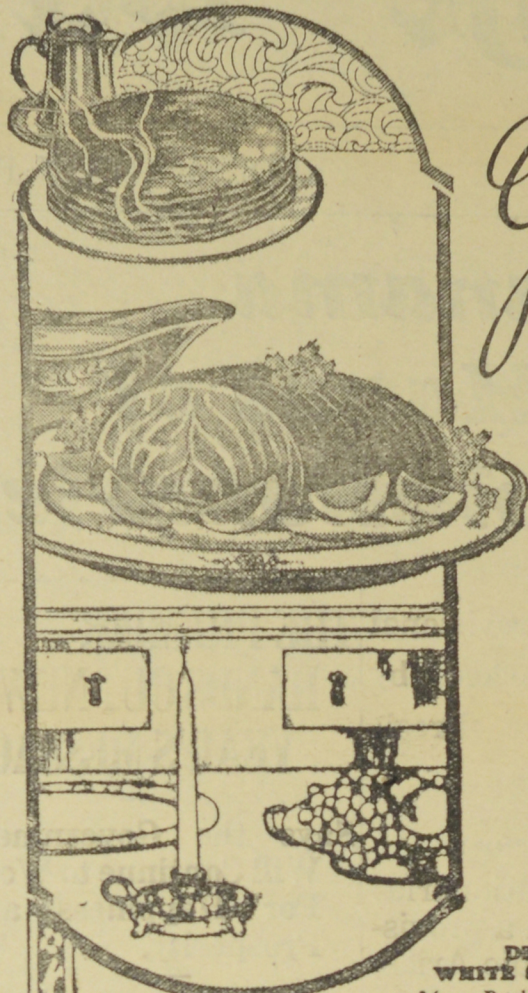
The Public Health service of the Province has been well maintained. As a result of its policy is seen a diminished number of contagious or epidemic cases. While the construction of the new hospital at Saint John is not due to the Provincial Government, yet all the citizens of that vicinity, and in fact of the Province, are to be congratulated that the municipality of Saint John has embarked upon the construction of an institution, which will so well serve the needs of the community. At the same time the City of Moncton has spent largely to increase its hospital facilities so as to put them upon a par with those provided by Saint John. The example of both cities is well worthy of emulation.

Electric Power

During the year just ended the New Brunswick Electric Power Commission have completed and put in operation 138 miles of distribution lines in the rural districts of the Province and have increased the number of rural and village subscribers by 841, making a total to date of 3,684 direct subscribers. In addition there are 12,410 users of the Commission's power in Saint John, Sussex, Moncton and Newcastle.

The Commission have commenced the building of a 5,000 K. W. plant at Newcastle Creek near the Grand Lake coal area. The actual construction of this plant was begun in September and it is expected that it will be ready for commercial operation in the fall of 1931. Contracts have been entered into with the Canadian Cottons Limited at Marysville and with the Maritime Electric Company at Fredericton for the supply of all the power requirements in these districts. It is possible that the heavy transmission lines may be constructed during the winter with the idea of further aiding in relief to unemployment. The plant when completed will

(Continued on page three)



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TEMPTING GRIDDLE CAKES

1 cup Borden's St. Charles Milk; 1 cup water; 2 tbsp. melted butter; 2 tbsp. sugar; 1 egg, well beaten; 3 cups white flour; 1 tsp. salt; 4 tsp. baking powder. Combine the milk and water, add the shortening, sugar, and the egg, and beat in the dry ingredients which have been sifted together. Beat thoroughly and fry as usual on a slightly oiled griddle, or on an ungreased aluminum or soapstone griddle. If very thin cakes are desired, add two more tbsp. of St. Charles Milk and water.

DELICIOUS WHITE SAUCE RECIPE

1/2 cup Borden's St. Charles Milk; 1/2 cup water; 1 1/2 tbsp. butter; 1/2 tsp. salt; 1/2 tsp. pepper or paprika.

Melt the butter in a small saucepan, stir in the pepper and salt mixed with the flour and stir until well blended, away from the heat. Then gradually stir in the milk and water mixed, preferably using a wire whisk, and taking care that all of the liquid is thickened before a further amount is added. Let boil a moment or two, then add the vegetable and let stand over hot water for ten minutes to become thoroughly heated. Serve with spaghetti, string beans, peas, tomatoes, sprouts or potatoes.

STEAMED SALMON WITH WHITE SAUCE

1 slice salmon, about 2 pounds; once the recipe for white sauce as printed at left; 2 hard cooked eggs; parsley.

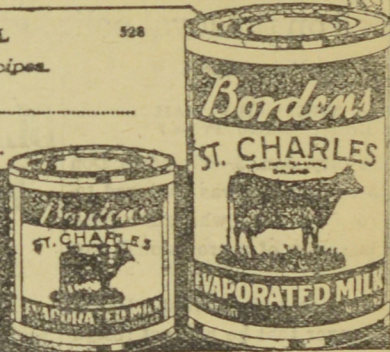
Wipe off the salmon with a damp cloth; lay it on a well-oiled plate, dust lightly with salt and pepper, and steam for thirty minutes. Then carefully remove the skin, transfer the fish to the center of a medium-sized platter, surround with white sauce and garnish with the egg cut in sixths, and the parsley.

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