

OPENING SESSION F. & D. ASSOCIATION MEETING

Address by President Isaac W. Baird Chipman---Mayor Hanson Extended Greetings of Citizens---Hon. J. F. Tweeddale, Minister of Agriculture, and Dr. W. C. Kierstead Also Spoke---County Reports Presented.

The forty-second annual meeting of the Farmers' and Dairymen's Association of New Brunswick opened in the City Opera House last night. The attendance had been affected by the storms of the past few days and the consequent interruption of railway traffic, was not as large as it usually is on the opening night. Delegates are expected to arrive here this morning and increase the attendance. The usual program was followed, addresses being delivered by President Baird of Chipman, Mayor Hanson, the Minister of Agriculture and others. The reports of the county vice presidents who were in attendance were presented.

The keynote of the first session was a feeling that the farmers of this province will do their utmost to further the campaign for increased production in 1918 as a means toward winning the war. Although 1917 was generally conceded to have been a bad year as far as crop yield was concerned

ed yet the farmers of the province face the future with courage unabated and optimism high.

President's Address.
Mr. Isaac W. Baird of Chipman, president of the association, was the chairman, and opened the proceedings with an address. In the course of his remarks he mentioned the exaltation in the position of farmer which the past few years had brought. The farmer had come to be the hope of the present and of the years to come. Big things were expected of him. The hopes of those who founded the association some forty-two years before had not been fully realized but there was an improvement and there were great hopes of better things to come. Mr. Baird bewailed the tendency for young people to leave the farm and said that not yet had the general public come to take the proper view of farming and farm life. New Brunswick did not suffer by comparison with any province of Canada as far as her agriculture was concerned. Her success in apple growing was marked and the industry of sheep raising lay at her hand, now that the dog nuisance had been regulated if not done away with. Mr. Baird mentioned the necessity for sacrifice on the part of all and of increased production of food products. He advised greater resort to co-operation for purchasing. Reviewing the year he stated that neither potatoes nor grain had been up to the average on account of the unfavorable weather.

His Worship Mayor Hanson formally welcomed the delegates to the City of Fredericton. In the course of his remarks he referred to the dignity of agriculture and the importance of increased production in the present war.

Mr. H. H. Smith, secretary-treasurer, replied briefly to the address of His Worship.

Minister of Agriculture.
Hon. J. F. Tweeddale, Minister of Agriculture, was the next speaker and was well received. He referred to the Farmers' and Dairymen's Association as the most important gathering of the province as it gave the farmers and those allied in occupation to them the opportunity to meet together and discuss matters.

The speaker early in his address drew attention to the food problem and its importance in the war now well on its fourth year. So serious had the situation become in the Allied countries that the call had gone out to Canada and the United States to give all the food stuffs possible to maintain not only the armies in the field but also the civilian populations. A conference of provincial agricultural departments and the Federal department had been held at Ottawa at which the situation was explained.

The plea was made that there must be an increased acreage and increased production. To increase production labor was necessary for in 1917 hay and other crops were not harvested because of lack of labor.

It was squarely put up to the Dominion authorities that New Brunswick must have more agricultural labor. The enlistment of men for the Canadian Expeditionary Force had seriously reduced the number of farm laborers. He personally knew of settlements in which no one was left but old men and women.

Hon. Mr. Tweeddale, Minister of Agriculture, said had no doubt that greater production could be realized. What was needed was hard work, careful planning, co-operation and abandonment of politics. Canadian farmers must do their best. The call had come to them as it came to the men who had joined the army for it was only the British fleet watching the Kiel canal that kept the Germans off Canadian soil. (Cheers.)

The speaker traced the various steps taken to arouse public opinion. The municipal councils had been called together and had given able assistance.

Hon. Mr. Tweeddale pointed out that New Brunswick must raise wheat

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for her own requirements. It was no use to say that this province could raise potatoes and pay for the wheat required. Potatoes would not meet the demand. Wheat was what was wanted and if New Brunswick did not meet her own requirements in that particular she would go without.

To aid in the campaign for increased production the Dominion Government had given a substantial grant and Dr. James W. Robertson had been in Fredericton that day making arrangements.

Leave of Absence.
The speaker mentioned the establishment of Leave of Absence Boards to relieve farmers and farm laborers from the draft battalion. It had been his own suggestion that such boards

ing stock for the province. He was of the opinion that there should be a law against the killing of ewe lambs anywhere in Canada.

The speaker stated that he felt sure that good would come out of the deliberations of the Farmers' and Dairymen's Association.

Dr. W. C. Kierstead.

Dr. W. C. Kierstead, representative of the Food Controller in New Brunswick was the next speaker. He warned his audience that the war was not won and that there was too great a feeling of false optimism. Britain had always "muddled" through — she would do it again. That was the feeling. But the troops in the field must be supported with proper food supplies. The nations of the world were threatened with famine and the call was to the farmers of Canada to save the situation.

The tonnage problem made it imperative that the Canadian farm increase its crops to the greatest extent. The farmer should work harder. The townspeople should devote their energy to aiding the farmer. The man who had made money out of the war should put his capital at the disposal of the farmer.

County Reports.
The reports of county presidents were called for.

Scott A. Shaw of Hartland for Carleton county reported that the usual acreage of wheat was sown but was not more than a two-thirds crop, oats not more than half, early potatoes yielded well but late varieties poor on the whole, there not being a half crop. Home-mixed fertilizers bought on a co-operative basis were very successful. Turnips were not more than a half crop. Stock prospects were good. Prospects for increased production were not bright on account of the labor shortage and little fall plowing being done. Sheep raising had improved.

Hector I. Cormier of Buctouche reported for Kent. The spring was late and unfavorable. Wheat was light, hay good, oats not more than a half crop, potatoes poor, fruit and vegetables poor, buckwheat fair. The installation of gasoline mud-diggers along the coast and rivers had solved the fertilizer problem. The Provincial Government generously bonused these dredges which are operated on a co-operative basis. Clover and wheat are greatly benefited by this fertilizer. A revival of dairying had taken place. The county council failed to act in regard to the dog nuisance. Co-operative efforts among farmers were increasing.

A. D. Northrup reported for Kings county. Maple sugar making was curtailed. Sowing was hindered by a late spring. The berry crop was small. Hay was a good crop. Early grain was good but late grain poor. Potatoes were short, turnips a good crop but many lost through early snow. Buckwheat was a short crop. The season was disappointing and crops short but prices high. The death of C. W. MacDougall was a severe blow to the dairying industry. More pork and beef are necessary.

James Bremner reported for Northumberland. A late spring curtailed seeding. Hay crop was good. Grain harvesting was under difficulties. Wheat and oats were poor. Potatoes had a poor yield but increased acreage yielded many potatoes for export. Turnips were a fair crop. Vegetables were good. Live stock was not up to the average on account of the scrub fires. Sheep not increasing, dogs being the cause. Poultry not given much attention. Seed wheat has been bought by the county council to the extent of two carloads. Farmers opposed to Daylight Saving.

Queens county: Hay good, grain a half crop. Potatoes much rusted. Live stock being improved. Wheat growing not carried out by many.

Alex. Johnston reported for St. John. Meeting in aid of Increased Production held and will have good effect. Greater area under cultivation but production was not increased except in potatoes. Potato growing over done. Wheat growing likely to be extended.

W. E. Cowan reported for York county. Year generally not satisfactory. Crops below average. Seeding not completed till July. Ground too wet. Hay good but not harvested properly. Oats below average. Buckwheat total failure. Barley becoming a thing of the past. Increase in wheat acreage. To provide wheat for county acreage must be increased more than ten times. Potatoes were poor. Turnips below average. Garden vegetables below average but prices high. Beans little raised but might be profitable crop and could take the place of potatoes. Much pure bred stock imported. Unprofitable cattle being disposed of for beef. Sheep expected to increase in number. Poultry prices high.

Committees Appointed.
The following committees were appointed:

Finance—J. A. Bernier, Frank Fawcett, Scott A. Shaw.
Resolutions—G. E. Fisher, Morris Scovil, J. A. Bernier, H. B. Parlee.

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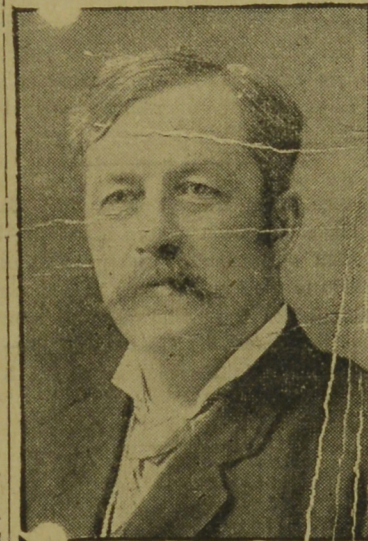
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HON. J. F. TWEEDDALE,
Minister of Agriculture.

had been established and he personally had gone to St. John to see that leave actually was given farmers in the New Brunswick Battalion. There had been tardiness in action by the Leave of Absence Board there.

Depletion in stock was a serious matter. There had been too great a tendency, particularly in potato growing counties, to let stock go down and depend on commercial fertilizer. In some parts of the country, fortunately, stock still was being raised. Prices were high and that would tend to improve the situation. The high price of feed was a serious problem however. In New Brunswick animals were being killed for beef which a few years ago would have been refused by the market.

Hon. Mr. Tweeddale strongly urged that sheep be adopted as the standard stock animal of New Brunswick. Sheep were not hard to raise, were cheap to feed and gave a good profit as meat or for wool. The Provincial Department of Agriculture was taking steps to provide good sheep as breed-

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HOUSE PASSES ADDRESS WITHOUT A DIVISION

Premier Foster Deals With Opposition
Leader's Diatribes in an Able and Businesslike Speech---The Recent Bond Issue Satisfactorily Explained---A Strong Appeal on Behalf of the Greater Production Campaign.

In the Legislature on Tuesday afternoon the debate on the address was considered by Premier Foster and the address was passed without a division. A number of reports were laid on the table and several bills were given a first reading. A bill to enable cities, towns and municipalities to contribute airplanes to His Majesty's government was passed with an amendment empowering the governor-in-council to fix the amount of the bond issue.

Increase Production.
HON. MR. FOSTER, on the order of the day being called, resumed the debate on the Address. He said that when addressing the House, previous to adjournment, he had promised to make reference to the subject of increased production. He felt that it was of the greatest importance that every effort should be put forth by the Government machinery, more especially the Agricultural Department, to lend every possible assistance to the farmers, in order that the greatest amount of food stuffs may be produced. The necessity for this had so impressed the Government that one of its first acts upon taking office was to call together a number of people and make such arrangements as were possible at that late date to carry out what they believed to be their duty. Up to that time no effort had been put forth by the Agricultural Department to meet what was at that time becoming impressed upon the people as one of the first principles to be attained in winning the war. The meeting appointed a committee known as "The Provincial Increased Production Committee," the members of which worked in co-operation with the Department of Agriculture. During the year a tremendous amount of energy and organization ability had been put forth by that Committee and he desired to testify to the zeal, patriotism and ability of its members in assisting the Department to bring forth such satisfactory results. He wished to say that thousands of bushels of seed were distributed in the spring of 1914, a campaign for sheep raising was carried on, and also a dairying campaign, and many other successful enterprises. Unfortunately the season was not favorable for production, but the results were on the whole good and reflect every credit upon the Minister of the Department, who in such a short time for preparation was able to distribute seed and fertilizer to those who otherwise would have been without it.

While a great deal was being accomplished during 1917, the real effort must come in 1918. It was not until late in the year 1917 that the real seriousness of the situation was pointed out to the Government—too late to encourage any campaign for fall ploughing under normal conditions. A meeting of the representatives of the Municipal Council was called, and the

situation explained to them in a confidential way, as at that time it was not deemed advisable to make the matter public. The Government was desirous of enlisting the services of the Municipal Councils in the distribution of seed grain and the meeting was given (Continued on page 6.)



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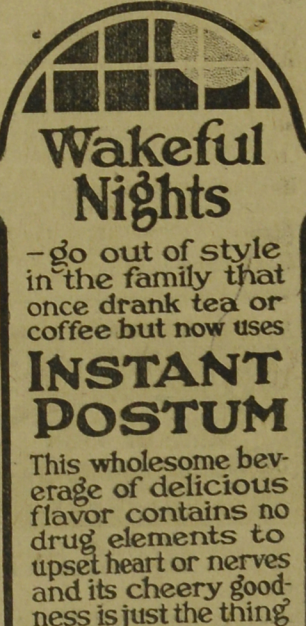
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