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EARLY AGRICULTURE
IN NEW BRUNSWICK

R. P. Gorham of Dominion Laboratory in This City Writes on Farming Along the St. John River

(Continued)

From 1760 to 1783, agricultural development proceeded in small scattered settlements which had little or no communication one with another, each self-sustaining through the products of the soil, game and fish. For their few purchases from outside their own territory they were at first largely dependent upon furs, obtained from the Indians or caught by themselves, as a medium for exchange. Later, they were able to barter forest products and grain. The books of a trading company which began operations at St. John soon after the arrival of the colonists give an interesting record of how trade was carried on. This company had many interests and among them practical agriculture. Record is found of its endeavours in land clearing and the harvest of hay in 1762. In 1769 it began an ambitious scheme in diking to reclaim land from the sea. When completed five years later, they had nearly 600 acres of good marsh hay land on which their managers had barns erected and stock established. An inventory of the company's property in 1775 listed 57 horses and mules, 18 oxen and bulls, 29 cows, 35 young cattle, 40 sheep and 6 swine, according to the record found in Raymond's History of the St. John River. Seeds, tools, livestock and provisions for the early colonists were imported by this company, chiefly from Massachusetts. Through its many lines of endeavour, lumbering, shipbuilding, lime burning, fishing, fur-trading and general trade, this company had contact with a large portion of the population of the period.

In general, the progress in agriculture during this period was rapid, and the farmers who settled on rich soil along the rivers were self-sustaining. The report of Loyalist agents looking for land in 1782 made mention that there were on the banks of the St. John river, wealthy farmers with large herds of stock, living in a region where churches, schools, and courts of justice were established.

Such were the conditions when in 1783 and 1784, nearly 15,000 Loyalist civilians and soldiers arrived to settle and become farmers. Many of them knew little of farm life and many of them were in a destitute condition. Few had any equipment for pioneer life. The rich intervals and marsh lands being occupied, they were forced to clear lands in the forest. A few tools and rations for three years were supplied by the military in charge of settlement. Without work animals, land-clearing was slow and while crops were grown successfully by some, there were many who had great difficulty in obtaining a liveli-

hood. There was scarcity of livestock for many years. In clearing land they learned lumbering, and to obtain the necessities of life they sold forest products. The European wars between 1790 and 1815 occasioned a demand for ships, ship timber and lumber, and the colonists became largely a people who associated progress with the forest and the exploitation of its products rather than agriculture. Lieut.-Governor Carleton and a number of gentlemen closely associated with government, operated farms, imported stock and tried to stimulate agriculture, but with little success. A provincial agricultural society was established in 1789 but there are few records of what it accomplished. Two stock fairs for the sale of livestock were established on the English system and survived for about a century but their benefits were largely confined to two small areas. There were no roads at first and the energies of government for many years were devoted entirely to road construction in order to establish communication with a widely scattered population. Timber was sold and food largely imported from New England. The war of 1812 and 1815 with the United States made this difficult, and a widespread crop failure in 1816, affecting Quebec and all three Maritime Provinces, made the situation acute and brought about a realization of the need for development in agriculture. In opening the Legislature in that year, Chief Justice Bliss, acting as administrator of government, said in the speech from the throne:

"The encouragement of agriculture, which is the surest source of permanent benefit to every country, ought not to be forgotten; and by the aid of bounties from the public treasury, prudently bestowed, this important object may be materially promoted, and by exciting among the people a spirit of emulation in those exertions of sturdy industry and habits of economy which are so essential to their own welfare and success, contribute most effectively to the real strength and importance of the province."

There was very real distress in the province at the time and a committee of the legislature appointed to investigate conditions reported that at least £5,800 must be expended for food and seeds; £6,000 was voted and an act for the encouragement of agriculture passed.

The distress in all the Maritime Provinces in 1816 and 1817 caused John Young, of Halifax, to study agricultural conditions. His series of letters, written over the pen-name "Agricola and published in the Acadian Recorder in 1819, were widely read in New Brunswick, and an editorial in the Royal Gazette made mention that conditions in the province were worse than in Nova Scotia:

"Timber-getting is the rage, the young farmers and many of the old ones leaving the farms to seek fortunes in the woods."

In opening the Legislature in 1819, Lieut.-Governor Smythe said in the speech from the throne:

"As no country can be independent which is obliged to draw its subsistence from another, it becomes imperative upon governments to encourage by all means in their power its production within their own territory. I therefore recommend the agriculture of the province to you as a primary object for most serious consideration."

To emphasize this statement, the Lieut.-Governor had laid before the House a statement of imports and exports of food materials for the previous year. The imports were: 32,857 barrels of flour; 4,208 barrels of bread; 21,413 barrels of beef and pork; 1,812 barrels of fruits and seeds; the exports consisted of 10,596 barrels of potatoes.

The efforts made by the Legislature were not great but the Lieut.-Governor was able to accomplish something himself. Through his encouragement an agricultural society was formed in Charlotte county in 1820 which has continued active and useful to the present day. He next had a central agricultural society formed at Fredericton which was planned to correlate the activities of county societies throughout the province. His death caused a temporary cessation of effort but the entire plan was developed by the Lieut.-Governor Sir Howard Douglas in 1824, at a most opportune time.

(To be Continued)

Jean Dickenson, youthful NBC coloratura soprano, speaks softly with a drawl and is frequently mistaken for a Southerner. However, Miss Dickenson is anything but a daughter of the South. She was born in Montreal, the daughter of a mining engineer. When she was an infant her family went to India. And there, Jean learned to speak Hindustani before English!

DID YOU EVER HEAR OF
"ATHLETES' FOOT" DISEASE

"Observer" Says the Disease Affects the Head Rather Than the Feet

(The Daily Mail, while it finds "Observer" articles interesting and popular, does not always agree with what is said, and is not responsible for the writer's opinions).

There appears periodically in many of the magazines a flamboyant advertisement describing "Athlete's Foot." This terrible plague is represented as lurking in readiness to catch anyone who has the temerity to enter a bathroom, locker-room or any other place where one may possibly travel bare-footed. I have yet to meet a solitary individual who has ever contracted Athlete's Foot, or who has ever known anybody who has. But no matter, the advertisement leads me to speak about another affliction which really is very prevalent, and which we may call Athlete's Head.

I do not claim credit for the idea which has inspired this article, but because the idea has some local applications, I am going to give it my own interpretation. Athlete's Head may be described as a disease which affects those who attain any degree of eminence in any branch of college or school athletics. It is so called because the disease ultimately seems to affect the head more than any other part of the body.

What happens is this. A young fellow shows that he has a knack of kicking a football or striking a base ball farther than anyone else can. Or he develops a faculty of tossing a basketball into a net with great accuracy. Or it may be that he can chase a puck down the ice without losing it. After he has repeated his outstanding performance a number of times, he begins to attract attention, and soon becomes known as a star.

TRUSTEE WOULD
INSIST TEACHERS
JOIN CHURCH

Dr. Armstrong Doesn't Care if They Never Attend Services

TORONTO, Sept. 28—"I don't care whether a teacher goes to church from one year's end to another, as long as he is in good standing as a member of a Church," was the declaration made by Trustee Dr. Gordon Armstrong, expressing his opinion before the Management Committee of the Board of Education yesterday afternoon regarding the rule which requires that a teacher must state on the certificate of application her or his "religious denomination."

"I would like to be perfectly sure they are members of a Church," contended Dr. Armstrong.

Dr. Armstrong's request, "The press will please not mention this," drew strong objection from the Chairman of the board, Dr. H. B. Spaulding.

"You have no right to ask the press not to quote a controversial matter—a matter of public interest," he asserted.

"All right, all right," Dr. Armstrong conceded.

Attitude Said "Mediaeval"
Dr. H. B. Spaulding, Chairman of the board, raised a vigorous protest to the declaration of Trustee Dr. Armstrong. "That is the most astounding statement I've heard since I came on the board, and that is saying a good deal. To say that we won't take on a teacher unless they are members of a Church is mediaeval," argued Dr. Spaulding.

Referring to the report under consideration, which recommended the appointment to the probation staff of a number of teachers, Trustee Dr. Minerva Reid called attention to certificates marked "Religion."

"I don't know any religion called United Church, or Presbyterian, or Baptist or Anglican," Dr. Reid pointed out.

Dr. C. C. Goldring, Superintendent of Schools, explained that application forms carried the query in full. "What is your religious denomination?" The word "Religion" was used on committee reports only for the sake of brevity.

"Why not say Protestant or non-Catholic?" suggested Dr. Spaulding. Stating that from various sources the question had been asked of him "Why are we not assured that the teacher is a non-Catholic?" Dr. Armstrong maintained: "This is the voice of the electors as I know it, and I know it well."

Dr. Spaulding brought the discussion to a close with a terse comment: "We never had any trouble until one Trustee—inadvisedly we will admit now—brought up the matter."

Then the fun begins. At every game which his team plays, all eyes are upon him. He receives applause from his school, and fulsome praise in the press. His picture may even adorn the illustrated sections of the press until his features are familiar to all. He is lionized, socially and made much of by the fair sex. He becomes a hero over night, and if his school is big enough and important enough, he may become a national hero.

Now, mind you, our hero may be the awfulest dub ever seen outside of his athletic prowess. The fact that he is attending a school or university is no sign that his mental processes are anything exceptional. Indeed the reverse is most often true. The best athletes are quite often the poorest students, partly because their interest is all with athletics, and partly because they have no aptitude for study anyway, and so turn to something else.

But because of all the adulation and praise our hero receives, he really comes to believe that he is somebody. All this notoriety mounts right up to a head perhaps never particularly strong, and you have a case of Athlete's Head. The path of his studies is made easy for him so that nothing may interfere with his game. In the larger American educational centres he may even be graduated without ever having done a stroke of mental work.

Then, when our hero is finally graduated, or leaves the school, the wonderful time comes to an end. No more plaudits for him, no more pictures in the paper, no more pointed out to admiring groups on the street, and the fair damsels don't give him that delightful smile any more. The bottom drops out of his world. It has been all beer and skittles to him, but now, "how have the mighty fallen." And what can he do? All the time he might have been finding himself, and utilizing his school or college course as it is meant to be used, to prepare himself for some useful work, he has been chasing the pig-skin or the puck. Then the long process of cure must begin, and it is a long, hard road.

And right here is where I think the local application comes in. In our smaller universities and schools matters have not gone quite as far as this, but they are getting there. We don't yet excuse an athlete from all his scholastic work; we don't graduate him unless he has at least pretended to do a little work; but that time will come unless the present tendency to glorify athletics above scholastic work is not checked.

There is the pernicious example of the larger educational centres to counteract, where the athletic coach draws a larger salary than the president, and where a professor may be fired for speaking sharply to a star athlete. Ye gods! And they call this education. Even now our schools and universities are beginning to be judged by the type of football or hockey team they turn out, instead of by their curriculum. Do parents pay high fees to send boys to college to have them made into football or hockey stars? Is this what the public wants? In the larger centre it undoubtedly is what the public wants; but there may be a little leaven of good sense left in our smaller communities.

Let us try to get back to the earlier conception of what an educational institution was meant to be. A place to work and prepare oneself to take one's place in the community as a useful citizen. When that time arrives we shall see the last of this terrible epidemic of Athlete's Head.

OBSERVER.

CANADIAN RAIL
MEN WANT B.N.A.
ACT AMENDMENT

OTTAWA, Sept. 28—A resolution requesting the executive board to endeavor to have amendments made to the British North America Act whereby the elected representatives of the people should have the full right to interpret the constitution of Canada and make laws in accordance therewith, was passed yesterday by the Grand Division of the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Employees.

The resolution referred to the action of the supreme court of Canada in declaring certain social legislation passed by Parliament to be unconstitutional.

In view of the likelihood a public holiday will be proclaimed May 26, 1937, the date on which the coronation of His Majesty King Edward VIII is to take place, a resolution was approved that a request be made for a full holiday with pay for the railway workers on that date.

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