

Ottawa Library Assists Modern Farm Research

More Than 52,000 Volumes Available in Agriculture Department's Shelves—One Periodical 150 Years Old

By JAMES McGOOK, Canadian Press Staff Writer

OTTAWA (CP)—More than 52,000 volumes in a modern office building have assisted Canadian farmers in wartime—although these in charge of the books will be the first to say so one learns from reading books.

The volumes giving information on agricultural matters in the world over, are contained in the agriculture department's library, started with a few pamphlets 34 years ago and now the leading collection on the science of agriculture in Canada.

Publications loaned to officials throughout Canada numbered 32,956 in the last fiscal year and new stock has been added to the collection of Canadian periodicals, some of which were published more than 100 years ago.

Even old publications sometimes proved of unusual value in modern agricultural programs. When the need for vegetable oils became pressing in Canada two years ago, librarians were able to provide officials with data on sun-flower growing activities in Belgium years ago, and this at least gave the scientists a course to steer by.

"It's not the books, it's the scientists who do the work," said Miss A. L. Shaw, librarian who started the library when she became a civil servant 34 years ago.

"We take pride in being able to locate articles on agricultural subjects and in having them readily available. Sometimes the men who use them mention how much time and effort has been saved by having data on past work available. And that is a great satisfaction."

The books are available to departmental officials and field men, provincial officials, agricultural colleges and universities, and members of the Canadian Society of Technical Agriculturists.

Works with Titles

Miss Shaw has found the demand for books reflecting the times. At present, for instance, there is interest in books and articles about the growing of new crops and the products formerly imported and now impossible to obtain because of the war.

Social security, nutrition, scientific studies like obtaining alcohol from wheat, and plant experiments all attract more attention than in the past. A system of exchange has been built up under which Canadian agriculture department trades publications in other countries. The United States in particular has much in common with Canada in agriculture problems. Instead of bulky documents being exchanged by Ottawa and Washington, the modern practice often is to ship microfilms of the publications desired.

The old publications in the library show that farm problems and ambitions do not change very much. An 80-year-old issue of the Canadian Farmer told of high hopes for raising three flax in large quantities and grieved over some low farm prices.

The publication mentioned with pride that the cash value of the farms of Upper Canada was "enormous"—\$425,313,000. The current value of Canadian farms is somewhere near \$5,000,000,000.

Urgent Need to Salvage Egg Cases

Due to some neglect in the return of egg cases to wholesalers, some careless handling, a shortage of lumber and other incidental causes there is now a definite shortage of egg cases in Canada, states the Dominion Department of Agriculture.

This shortage threatens not only to handicap the movement of eggs into the domestic trade but also to egg drying plants where egg powder is made for export to Britain.

In view of the fact that it is difficult to obtain adequate supplies of new cases, the department makes a special appeal to everyone handling them not only to return the box but the accompanying packing material promptly to the shipper but also to avoid damaging them in any way.

The Department also points out that return of the cases and the packing material in good condition represents an important conservation of essential materials.

More egg cases will be required this year in Canada than ever before as the egg production objective has been set at 367,000,000 dozen, 22,000,000 dozen more than in 1943.

The shipwrecked sailor had spent nearly three years on a desert island, and one morning was overjoyed to see a ship in the bay and a boat putting off for shore. As the boat grounded on the beach an officer threw the sailor a bundle of newspapers.

"The Captain's compliments," said the officer, "and will you please read through these and then let him know whether you still wish to be rescued?"

No Store, 4 Taverns, 448 People In Trafalgar In Year 1817

Document 115 Years Old Tells of Early Days in Township in a Letter Addressed to Mr. Robert Courtney

Days when Trafalgar had four taverns and no stores, no doctors, three schools, 448 residents living, 97 houses and land selling at \$4.00 to \$5.00 per acre, have been brought to light through a document found by Mrs. Wright-Orr amongst possessions of the late Dr. Wright of Oakville. This copy is loaned by Mrs. Collin H. Campbell, O.B.E., Winnipeg.

Written 115 years ago, in the clear hand and in the excellent state of preservation, the document is the following letter addressed to Mr. Robert Courtney.

Sir: At a meeting of the inhabitants of our township holden on the 27th November, 1817, at the house of Daniel Meun, innkeeper, the following answers were framed in reply to your queries, as they appeared to us in the Niagara Spectator:

1st. The name of our township is Trafalgar. It is situated in the County of Halton, in the District of Gore, in the Province of Upper Canada, about twenty-one miles from Little York. It is eight and eight-fourths miles in length and about seven miles breadth. It is bounded on the north and north by a large tract of land yet in the possession of a nation of Indians called Mississauga. It is bounded on the northeast by the township of Toronto, east and southeast by the Lake Ontario, and on the southwest and west by the Township of Nelson.

It is divided into two hundred acres each, (excepting on the lake shore, where they are irregular according to the bearings of the lake. The lots are twenty-one chains in breadth and one hundred chains in length.

2nd. The first settlement of our Township began in the Spring and Summer of 1807. The number of people is five hundred and forty-eight. The number of houses inhabited is ninety-seven.

3rd. No churches. There are two preachers who preach alternately, they belong to the sect called Methodists according to the institution of the late Rev. John Wesley.

4th. Of medical practitioners we have none.

5th. We have three schools in this Township. The price per quarter is Two Dollars and boarding found.

6th. We have no stores in this town.

7th. We have four taverns.

8th. We have one grist mill and four sawmills. The rate of grinding is one-twelfth. The rate of sawing is one-half when the sawlogs are carried to the mill.

9th. The surface of the land is level, the top soil is clay, mixed with loam and a little gravel; under that is clay mostly of a red color.

10th. Our timber consists of oak, two kinds, white and red; pine (very large) of the white kind; beech; maple, two kinds, sugar maple and soft maple; ash, two kinds, the black or swamp ash and white ash; basswood; hickory; elm, white and red; hemlock; ironwood; chestnut; some birch; suckling ash; some cedar; some butternut and a little tamarack. The timber most large and stands thick on the land.

11th. Respecting minerals, there is a considerable quantity of the mineral of iron called bog ore; also a few salt springs of an inferior kind.

12th. Building stones we have none excepting a few which may be found over the land of a very inferior kind.

13th. A few bricks have been made. Their price is Six Dollars per thousand.

14th. No lime has been burnt in this township, nor have any limestone quarries been discovered.

15th. Blacksmiths here most generally work by the pound, that is 7½d per pound, when the iron and steel are found, and 1s 3d when the blacksmiths have the materials. To this there are some exceptions but not many. Carpenter work by the day or by the job. By the day it is a dollar and boarding included, by the job it is according to the quantity of the labour to be performed.

16th. The price of mowing grass for hay and reaping grain is from four to five shillings per day according to the price of wheat, (as the greater part of wages here is regulated by the price of wheat). Cradling wheat is a bushel of wheat or its price as above.

17th. Clearing and fencing of land when all the timber is cut off, costs Twelve Dollars per acre; so that a field containing five acres would cost Sixty Dollars. But the common custom of our Township is to cut down no more at first, than the timber which is a foot in diameter, measured about two feet and a half from the root of the tree, and all under that size, and the rest they bungle and kill with an axe, in this state it will produce nearly as good a crop as if all were cut down, and this only costs Six Dollars per acre, in both cases boarding and lodging included. The rest of the timber is cut down by degrees, for fencing and firewood, etc.

18th. A good work horse may be had from Fifty to Sixty Dollars; a good cow from Eighteen to Twenty

Dollars; a yoke of oxen, four years old, from Fifty to Seventy Dollars; a good sheep of the same age from Two to Three Dollars.

20th. The average quantity of wool produced by a sheep is two pounds and a half. Its price is one shilling and ten pence half-penny per pound.

21st. Beasts are turned out about the first of May and taken in about the same time in December.

22nd. Slaughtering lasts about three months, that is, beginning about the first of January and ends about the last of March. Ploving begins about the 20th of April.

23rd. Season of growing wheat is from the 25th of August until the 1st of October. The time of harvesting said grain is from the 20th of July until the end of August.

24th. The quantity of wheat to be sown on one acre is from a bushel and a peck to a bushel. An average crop is from fifteen to twenty-five bushels per acre.

25th. Respecting pasture, as the answers were framed in reply to your queries, we have not yet made sufficient experiments to enable us to answer your query. But our meadow lands will generally produce one ton per acre and an ox of four years old will gain two hundred weight by a summer's run in our woods and his meat will be well flavoured. Our dairy produce is of an excellent quality. Butter sells for a shilling per pound. Cheese the same price.

26th. The ordinary course of cropping on new land is wheat the first year, harrowed in and sometimes a crop of oats are harrowed in, in the Spring on the stubble. Then it is sown down with timothy or clover, or both together and is used for meadow for three or four years till the roots rot in the ground and then plowed up, after which buckwheat or pears are generally sown first, and then wheat perhaps the same season and then peas or buckwheat, or oats and then wheat, and so on alternately. Little or no manure is used, but new land and orchards require it most.

27th. Land is frequently let on the shares on the following terms: If new the lessee finds the lessee in terms of boarding, in farming utensils and in half the seed, and then receives one-half the produce, if old and the lessee finds everything, the lessee has only one-third of produce. Enough of land can be had in either of these ways.

28th. Land at the first settling of our Township sold for \$1.50 per acre; it now sells for Four to Five Dollars per acre. Also a farm of two hundred acres with a log house and a barn upon it with one hundred and ten acres cleared in the customary way, may be had for fifteen hundred dollars. If frame buildings are upon it, a greater price, but seldom in proportion to the building.

29th. The quantity of land for sale we cannot justly describe, but we suppose three or four thousand acres. And there are but few farmers in our Township who would not even sell their improved farms if they had the offer of a good price.

30th. The state of the public roads at present is but indifferent but they are capable of improvement at a very moderate expense, as the face of our country is generally level; Great improvements might be made by means of canals and locks. Respecting our navigation, we are situated on the coast of Lake Ontario, and thence have the benefit of all the adjoining waters. Besides we have two very fine streams called the Twelve and the Sixteen Mile Creeks. These can be made navigable waters for boats, some part of the year four miles from the mouth, to communicate with our mills on Dundas Street. The mouth of the Sixteen, where it empties into Lake Ontario is navigable for vessels of a considerable burden and forms a safe and commodious harbour.

31st. The causes which retard the improvement of our Township and the Province at large are various. The first and principal cause you have already very justly observed, that is, the want of capital. This may perhaps be best illustrated by the facts. Know then, that the greater number of our farmers when they first settle in the wild woods, have little more property than a cow, a yoke of oxen, a log chain, and an axe, and some have little or no property at all but their axe alone. The family generally consists of a man and his wife and a number of young children. Unable to hire hands the whole of the labour naturally develops upon the man, and hence it is for six or seven years till such time as the roots of the timber begin to rot in the ground, so that he can use the plough, and until the oldest of his children grow up to help him, his toil is incessant. Four or five acres is all that he is able to clear and sow in a season and that is generally put in so late that it produces but little, so that the whole of his crop will scarcely support him through the year, but many times he has to work out for part of his bread. Clothes he must have for himself and his family, and these must be got out of the store, and merchant goods are very dear in this Province, and as he hath nothing to pay with he is obliged to go on credit. These in a few years soon run up high, so that

by the time he gets his farm in such a state of improvement as might enable him to live comfortably, he is frequently obliged to sell it, in order to pay off his debts. Such is the consequence of beginning poor. But this you will observe is only the gloomy side of things. For those who are so fortunate as to weather out the storm of the first ten years without sinking their plantations are generally enabled to spend the remainder of their days in comfort. The scarcity of labourers and the very high price of labourers, so that the produce will scarcely pay the bands, forms another hindrance to the improvement of our Township and the Province at large. Another hindrance is that in many places of this Province large tracts of land have been granted to certain individuals, and these being generally men of fortune are under no necessity of selling their lands, but hold them at so high a price that poor people are not able to buy them. Again there are many of these gentlemen gone out of the Province so that there is no opportunity to buy from them. So it still remains a wilderness. And the poor people who are settled round such tracts have roads to make, and every wild woods constitute our principal pasture-lands, we have not yet made sufficient experiments to enable us to answer your query. But our meadow lands will generally produce one ton per acre and an ox of four years old will gain two hundred weight by a summer's run in our woods and his meat will be well flavoured. Our dairy produce is of an excellent quality. Butter sells for a shilling per pound. Cheese the same price.

Another hindrance respecting our Township is that a great number of Lots are reserved for the Crown and the Clergy and notwithstanding that these lots might be rented for twenty-one years for a very small sum of money, yet the land in this Province has hitherto been so plenty and cheap that no one cares for renting land who can have it in free simple; hence it is that the great number of them still remain unsettled. But when settlers become numerous this evil will soon be done away.

What in our opinion, would contribute to the improvement of our Township and the Province at large would be to encourage men of Property into the country to purchase the waste lands of our province which if sold even at a moderate price would introduce such a flow of capital into our Province as would not only encourage a respectable race of settlers of every description to come in and

cultivate the face of the country, and turn the wilderness into fruitful fields, but would also make trade and manufactures of all kinds flourish. Then, would our Province no longer remain poor, neglected and unknown to the rest of the world but would become a respectable colony not only to support herself, but she would add a large revenue to the British Crown and her redundances would contribute to feed the hungry and clothe the poor of other nations.

Sir: We have also seen your second address with your additional queries, which we answer as follows: 32nd. We know of no one in Upper Canada whom we would sooner trust to publish the statistics of our Province than yourself.

33rd. We are willing therefore to trust the whole to your own veracity, and may the highest success crown your labours.

It is true we have seen a parcel of heterogeneous stuff in the Niagara Spectator, printed against your plan, which like the Palace of Vanity appears to have no foundation; and like it too, shall vanish into air, yet into thin air, and leaves not a trace behind.

Indeed, such ill-timed jargon quite unsupported by reason, will only serve to urge the business on more rapidly; and here, Sir, is a striking proof, for it has reminded us at the end of our work, of what we should have done in the beginning, namely, to jointly offer you our warmest thanks for the strenuous efforts you have made, and the spirit of benevolence you have displayed in endeavoring to promote the prosperity of our Province, and the happiness of our fellow subjects.

We have used provincial currency in all our calculations, which is five shillings to the dollar, excepting where we have mentioned dollars. Signed by: James McBride, J.P., Daniel Munn, Charles Biggar, Duncan McQueen, Absalom Smith, James Bigger, Amos Bigger, Michel Buck, Timothy Robbins, James Thomson, Nathaniel Cornwall, James Hopper, Henry Loucks, Lawrence Hager, Joseph Smith.

Canada's Wolf Cubs, the Junior Boy Scouts, earned 13,563 Proficiency Badges last year.

A Reporter's Reminiscence

A dangerous criminal had been captured, and city editors of all the papers had rushed photographers and reporters to the jail to await his arrival. While enduring the vigil that is the customary price of getting such stories, the group got a piece of string being let down from one of the barred windows.

At the other end of the string was a lady who, by a simple pantomime, made known her desire for a cigarette. Reporters are kindly people, so a number of cigarettes were soon attached to the string and vanished upwards. More signals came from the lady, and were interpreted as expressions of thanks.

Just then, word came that the governor of the jail was ready to make a statement, and the crowd rushed off, but strangely enough the lady's signals continued to be made.

It was not until they were halfway back to the office that one of the reporters found the explanation. "Heck!" he said. "We forgot to give her any matches."

TO REPLACE TANKS

LAGOS (CP)—In Nigeria, British West Africa, authorities are planning to have 150 miles of railway track in the colony replaced. The rails are American manufacture and the sleepers will be of Nigerian timber.

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