

personal planning or thrift. The sudden crisis of 1929 and the continued downward trend that followed woke Americans up to the fact that the curve of the nation's growth was no longer going up, that it was beginning to flatten out a little, and that the future would never again look so glowing. Getting one's money's worth suddenly seemed of tremendous importance.

One final point will make clear our need for the movement. All consumers have money to budget. Because of shortened hours of work and the wide variety of claims on leisure, there has come the revelation that consumers have time and energy to budget, too. Using time wisely so as to obtain maximum satisfactions is a hard job, one that takes concentration and planning. And there are also today increasing opportunities to make choices—not nearly so

much between a good that is wanted and one that is not wanted, but between two goods, both of which are wanted. The former would be easy; the second takes deliberate and careful study.

Economics textbooks expound the theory of consumer sovereignty. This is the idea that the consumer guides production, that he is perfectly sure to be able to obtain the object he wants and not what someone wants him to have, because in a market of perfect competition, the producer not making what is desired finds it unprofitable to produce. Every person has a vote every time he makes a purchase. Although consumer sovereignty does not work perfectly in practice as the theory would indicate it should, because of the economic control exercised today, the consumer movement, which is gathering momentum in America, seems to offer the greatest hope that some day it may.

Distribution of Agriculture in New Brunswick

By D. F. PUTNAM

THE study of New Brunswick agriculture presented here is to be considered as a companion to the writer's article on Nova Scotian agriculture which appeared in a recent issue of this publication.¹ Like its fellow, it is an attempt to present census data in such a way as to portray graphically the regional differences within the province. Census figures for the province are tabulated on the basis of the civil parish and, as an excellent map showing these divisions has been published by the New Brunswick Department of Lands and Mines (1927), the data can be plotted readily.

The physical features of the province are shown diagrammatically in Figure 1.

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1. Vol. II, p. 114.

New Brunswick is closely related to the region of the Appalachian foldings. The central part of the province is a highland area consisting of ancient worn-down folds in which Precambrian and older Paleozoic rocks are exposed. In addition there are large areas underlain by intrusive granites. This area is practically all more than 1000' above sea level, much of it above 1500', while the highest point, Mt. Carleton reaches an elevation of 2700'. The north western part is a plateau developed upon calcareous rocks of Silurian age, with a general elevation of about 1000'. The larger rivers have deeply entrenched themselves in these upland areas. The central and eastern portion of the province is a lowland with very few points above 500', mostly underlain by Carboniferous sandstones. The southern part, bordering the Bay of Fundy is an upland region in which the

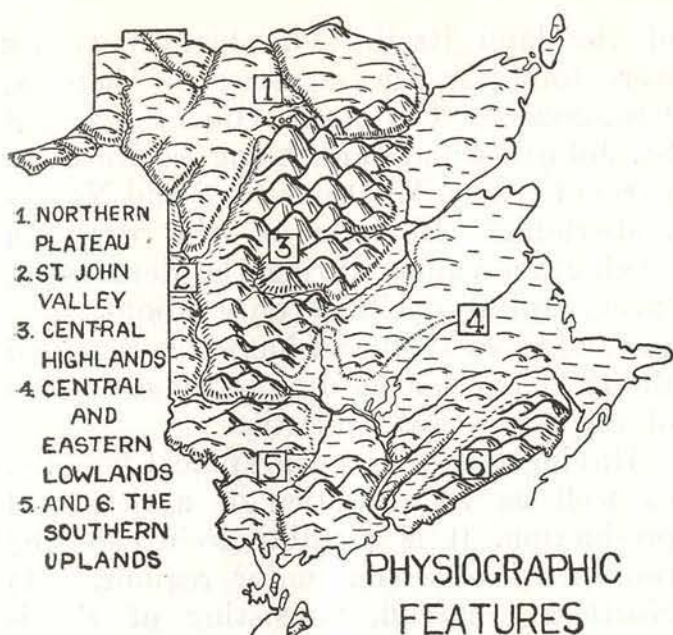


Figure 1

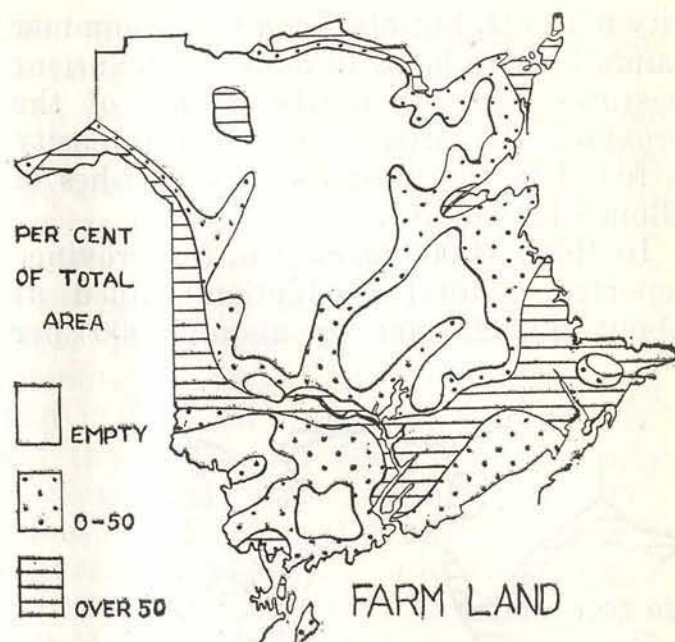


Figure 2

hills are composed of the more resistant ancient rocks. From the standpoint of topography as well as soils, it is important to know the geology of an area if one is to understand the pattern of agricultural distribution, and this is nowhere better exemplified than in the province of New Brunswick.

Figure 2 shows the distribution of the land occupied by farms. The empty areas were delimited by reference to the previously mentioned map of the Crown Lands of New Brunswick, and a map showing the natural resources of New Brunswick published by the Dominion Department of the Interior in 1921. They are not quite up to date because considerable settlement has taken place since the maps were made, but they are essentially correct for the census year 1931, for which all figures are taken. The unsettled areas closely correspond with the more rugged areas shown in the physiographic diagram. There are exceptions however. The settled area in the centre of the northern plateau is the result of a successful attempt at colonization under government direction which took place about 25 years ago. The large unsettled area in the central and eastern lowlands contains much swampy and otherwise unsuitable acreage. Only 23% of the total area of the province was occupied by farms in 1931, but, as only

about one third of the occupied land has been improved, the forest still covers more than 90% of the province.

The census of 1931 reported 4,150,000 acres occupied as farm land, of which 1,330,000 acres (32%) were classed as improved, and 960,000 acres (23% of the occupied land) were under field crops. The greatest concentration of field crops is found in the countries of Carleton and Victoria, while second rank is attained by Kings and the counties along the Gulf of St. Lawrence. (See Figure 3). The central and southern parts of the province do not seem to be well adapted to extensive cultivation.

Pasture (Figure 4) is not so important a factor in New Brunswick as it was seen to be in Nova Scotia, occupying only 13% of the farm land as against 21% in the sister province. However, there is a larger acreage of improved pastureland. Kings county is by far the most important pasture county in the province. Kings county also leads the province in milk production (Figure 5), although parts of the neighboring counties of Westmoreland and St. John are producing just as heavily. In addition to the region just mentioned, important dairy areas are found in the St. John Valley, and in York and Charlotte counties. Dairying is favoured in the southern part of the province not only by the presence of

city markets, but also by a heavy summer rainfall which helps to maintain luxuriant pastures. In the northern part of the province the area of greatest intensity is found in the most easterly parishes of Gloucester county.

In 1931, 34,000 farmers in the province reported a total production valued at about \$30,000,000 or about \$900 per

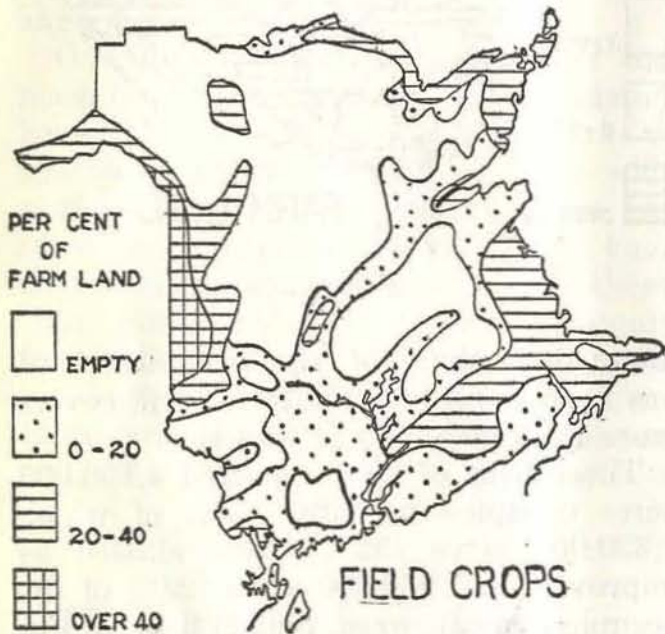


Figure 3

farm, which is an average of only \$7. per acre on the occupied farm lands. In Figure 6 farm production per hundred acres is plotted for each of the civil parishes. As was the case in Nova Scotia, the more intensive dairy regions appear to have an advantage, but so also do the parishes in the St. John Valley which rank highest in per cent of area under field crop. In this latter area potato growing is an important factor, some parishes having as much as 6% of the total farm land under this crop. In 1930 potatoes accounted for about 14% of the total farm production of the province; it has since declined somewhat, the 1938 crop of 9,000,000 bushels being only three quarters as large as the 1930 crop.

The total farm capital for the province in 1931 was estimated at \$103,000,000, an average of \$3,000 per farm or about \$25 per acre of occupied land; but of this latter sum, only \$9 represents the value

1. On cover to the left.

of the land itself. The highest values were found in the counties of Victoria, Restigouche, Carleton, Gloucester and St. John; second rank being attained by parts of Kings, Westmoreland and Northumberland.² In spite of the drop in production values during the depression, farm capital declined only about 10% to the low of 1933 and has since regained the 1930 levels, according to the estimates of the Bureau of Statistics.

Having regard to geographical position as well as to statistics of agricultural production, it is possible to divide the province into seven major regions. (1) Northern Plateau, consisting of Restigouche and Madawaska counties, (2) Northeastern Lowlands in Gloucester, Northumberland and Kent, (3) Central Lowlands in Queens, Sunbury and York, (4) Southeastern Lowlands of Albert and Westmorland, (5) The St. John Valley in Victoria and Carleton Counties, (6) The Southern Dairy Region of Kings, St. John and part of Westmorland, (7) Charlotte county.

The agricultural systems of the two northern districts are similar when judged

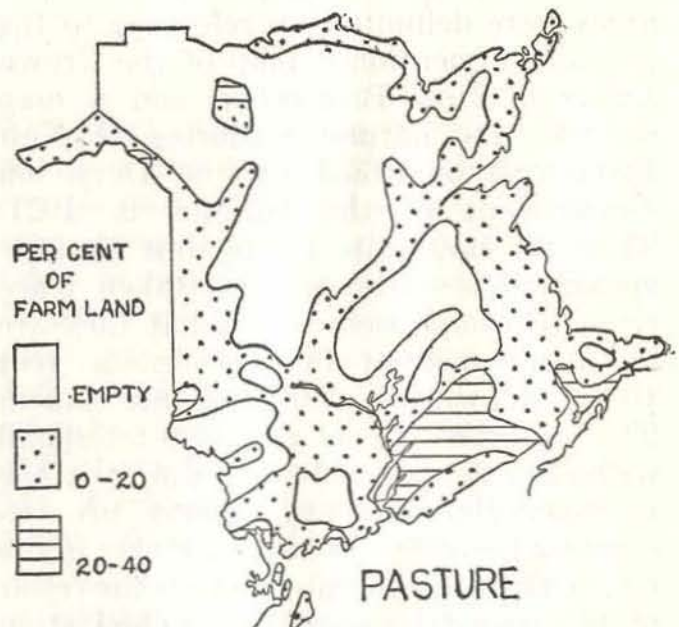


Figure 4

from the production figures; there is one outstanding difference however, in the plateau region the farms average about 120 acres in size whereas they average only 80 acres in the lowlands. The central and southeastern lowland

2. See figure on cover to the right.

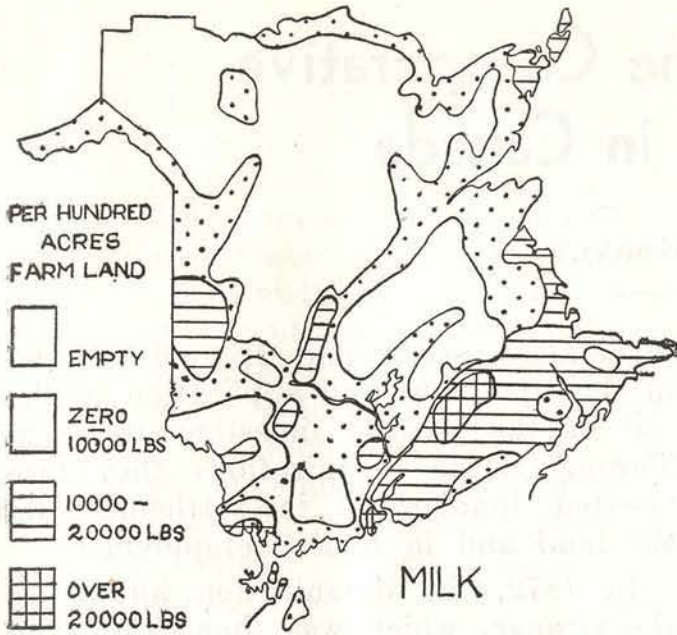


Figure 5

areas also have similar production figures, but the farms in the latter area are smaller (115 acres compared with 175 acres), and contain more improved land. There is one outstanding dairy region, Kings county, producing more milk than any other county in the Maritime Provinces. The seventh region is a small isolated area on the banks of the St. Croix river, which, if due allowance is made for the

large percentage of forest products, seems to be also a dairy region.

In comparing New Brunswick and Nova Scotia one notes several important points. The area occupied by farms is nearly the same in both provinces. The former has a much larger unoccupied area, but on the other hand, the latter seems to have a larger percentage of its population on submarginal land. The area of improved land in New Brunswick is 50% greater, and the area under field crops is nearly twice as large as in Nova Scotia. The values of farm capital and total agricultural production are also very similar in both provinces. One notes, however, that there is a greater dependence upon field crops in New Brunswick, probably in large measure due to the greater importance of the potato crop. On the other hand, the apple industry of Nova Scotia has no counterpart in the northern province, so that the gross income from fruits and vegetables is only 5% of the total. The income from dairy and other live stock enterprises is about the same in both provinces, and it is encouraging to note that substantial increases have taken place in recent years.

DISTRICT	Value of 1931 Production \$	Field Crops %	Dairy Products %	Other Livestock Products %	Fruits and Vegetables %	Forest Products %
1. Northern Plateau.....	2,900,000	50	14	16	3	17
2. Northeastern Lowlands...	6,700,000	51	15	17	3	14
3. Central Lowlands.....	5,000,000	47	18	17	6	12
4. Southeastern Lowlands...	4,400,000	47	22	17	6	8
5. St. John Valley.....	5,300,000	65	11	13	2	9
6. Southern Dairy Section...	4,400,000	40	29	17	7	7
7. Charlotte County.....	1,300,000	38	19	15	6	22
Total for Province.....	30,000,000	50	18	16	5	11