

THE MAN-PRODUCT OF A RURAL AREA

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WE are all familiar with the remark, rather striking in its significance to Canada, that for a long period brains were the chief export of the Maritime Provinces. We are all aware also that many eminent Canadians were reared in rural surroundings, and their success in a larger field was gained by hard and sustained effort. Not infrequently this was associated with genuine sacrifice on the part of the family, in order that one bright and ambitious member might have "a wider world to bustle in". These remarks are preliminary to a survey of one relatively small area in the Maritimes, and of its man-product. This particular area is selected, not to arouse the envy of others, but because the writer knows it more intimately. Moreover, it is not at all a bad sample of the general yield.

If you take the little village of Apohaqui, in Kings County, New Brunswick, as a centre, and form a circle whose radius would be less than forty miles, the history of that area during the last half century will reveal a very notable list of names of men who attained eminence in public life. It is particularly to be noted even to-day that there is only one small town within the circle, and during the early life of the men here enumerated there were only farm settlements and scattered small villages. The whole atmosphere was distinctly rural, and the total population small. It is also to be borne in mind that only sixty years ago were free public schools established in New Brunswick, and that before and for some years after the change, the school facilities even in villages were limited, in regard not only to buildings and equipment, but to fully trained teachers. Very much less was asked of the latter than of their successors. The ambitious boy in a farm settlement was handicapped still more, unless he walked a long distance or paid his board where a better school was to be found. Strict economy on the part of parents, and as much wage-earning as possible by the boys themselves, were the price of an advanced education. That so many of them triumphed over every difficulty is the highest testimony to them and to the quality of their forebears, who less than a hundred years before these children were born had begun to transform the wilderness into farms and

homes. The area under consideration is one of hills and valleys, streams and lakes. A considerable portion is still forest-clad. The lovely valley of the Kennebecasis, a tributary of the Saint John River, is included, as well as a portion of the shores of the latter and its tributary lakes, navigable in the summer. A fit setting for an industrious community life.

We may begin our survey with Sir Leonard Tilley, one of the fathers of Confederation, a finance minister of Canada and for two terms Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick. Before Confederation he was a member of the Government of the province. In 1855, as a private member of the Legislature, he introduced a bill to prohibit the manufacture and sale of liquor. It passed, but was repealed the next year. The province had prohibition again in war-time and for some years after, but once more abandoned it and adopted the government-control system. The eloquence of Sir Leonard Tilley was one of the great factors in securing the passage of the Act of 1855. His statue stands in King Square, Saint John. It fell to me as a reporter to interview him on several occasions after he had left the turmoil of politics behind, and I always found him a gracious and kindly gentleman, who put the interviewer at his ease and aided him with the skill of an old hand in setting down clearly the substance of the conversation for the benefit of the reading public. Sir Leonard's son, Hon. Leonard P. D. Tilley, is to-day the Premier of New Brunswick.

One of the first names that leaps to the mind in thinking of the notable men whose early life was spent in the area already described is that of Sir George E. Foster, university professor, distinguished lecturer, finance minister, senator, and world-statesman. While he was born in another county, his childhood and school days were spent in and near the Kennebecasis valley, and it was Kings County in later years that gave him his first seat in parliament. He was a brilliant graduate of the University of New Brunswick, after years of study during which the burden of finance was never wholly absent. His ability in public speaking was early developed, and I can still recall the thrill of his eloquence in an address given in a little hall over a store in Apohaqui, at a convention of temperance workers more than fifty years ago. To me, as an impressionable youth, it was a revelation of the power of the human voice. Just before his death I heard the same voice, pleading for the League of Nations and expressing a profound faith in human nature and the preservation of world-peace. The lad who sat in a small country school in New Brunswick had travelled far. I have before me a volume of his addresses on

Canadian and Imperial problems, published over fifteen years ago, which reveals something of the wide range of his brilliant mind and conveys a suggestion of his own great service to Canada and the Empire. His recently published Memoirs should be in every school library in Canada. I have a vivid personal recollection of an experience in which Sir George narrowly escaped severe injury. I had been detailed to report a political meeting many years ago at Cody's, Queens County, at which Sir George was one of the speakers. The latter part of my journey was made over a branch railway that threatened danger to life and limb. When, therefore, Colonel Montgomery-Campbell suggested that I return by way of Apohaqui in his carriage, there was not a moment's hesitation. With Colonel Campbell were Sir George, who then had a summer cottage at Apohaqui, and Mr. George B. Jones of that village, then a young man but now member of parliament. The Colonel had a mettlesome span harnessed to a trap, and Mr. Jones and I sat in the rear seat. We had congratulated ourselves and the Colonel upon his skill on the declivity of Kierstead Mountain and sundry hills, when on a perfectly level road there came a jolt and Sir George shot over the dashboard to fall between the wheel and the heels of the horses. The Colonel in an instant threw the animals back on their haunches, and Mr. Jones was almost as quickly assisting Sir George to safety. A week's rest restored him to his usual form. Had the heavy carriage gone over his slight frame, there would have been a different story.

Toward the outer rim of the area with which we are dealing was born Sir George Parkin, educator, great Imperialist and organizer of the Rhodes Scholarship system, whose life, written by the late Sir John Willison, is a fitting tribute to a great career. Born in the little village of Salisbury, he attended school and at the age of seventeen secured a certificate as a primary school teacher. In the year of Confederation he graduated from the University of New Brunswick with very high honours. Sir George E. Foster was one of his classmates, and another was Hon. William Pugsley to whom reference will be made later. In 1871 Parkin was appointed headmaster of the Collegiate School at Fredericton, where he had as one of his pupils Bliss Carman. A later one was Walter C. Murray, now President of Saskatchewan University. I was a student at the Provincial Normal School in Fredericton in 1881-2, and Murray and I were fellow-boarders. One Saturday morning I went with him to listen to a debate between Collegiate School teams. Parkin was present, and at the close of the debate summed up the leading arguments on each side and added a most interesting

contribution of his own. It is not surprising that his boys loved him. Some years later it was my privilege when I was reporter of the *Saint John Sun* to report Parkin's first public address on his famous tour which embraced Canada, the Mother Country, Australia and New Zealand, as the spokesman of the Imperial Federation League. In that he was the prophet of a lost cause, but he nevertheless rendered a great service to the Empire. There followed his literary work, the headship of Upper Canada College, and the Rhodes Commissionership. I crossed from Liverpool to the St. Lawrence on the same steamer with him when he was at the height of his powers, and was profoundly impressed by conversations which revealed his enthusiasm, his grasp of Imperial affairs, and above all the simplicity, gentleness and sincerity of his nature.

It has already been said that Hon. William Pugsley was a classmate of Foster and Parkin. He was born in the area we have described, and in a farming district. He became one of the ablest lawyers in New Brunswick, went to Ottawa as a member of the Laurier Cabinet, and left the arena of party strife to become Lieutenant-Governor of his native province. Aside from his great persuasive powers in politics and his ability as an administrator, whether at Fredericton or Ottawa, it may be recalled that on one occasion when it was a grave party necessity to have a bill at Ottawa talked out, Mr. Pugsley armed himself with books and documents, and with great adroitness and almost unbelievable stamina saved the day. His colleagues said of him that usually at the close of a Cabinet meeting he would affably suggest that as the other business was concluded, he desired to say a few words about the port of Saint John, and it may be added that Saint John as a national port is greatly his debtor.

Brief reference has already been made to Dr. Walter C. Murray. Born in a settlement somewhat remote from the railway, he went from the common school to the Collegiate School in Fredericton in Parkin's time, graduated from the University of New Brunswick, became a professor in that institution, went later to a professorship at Dalhousie, was awarded honorary degrees by several universities, was made a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, member of the University Commissions of Alberta and Manitoba, President of Saskatchewan University, member of the Honorary Advisory Council for Industrial and Scientific Research, member of the Committee on union of the Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregationalist Churches, and of some other important Commissions. I had the great pleasure in 1926 of being shown through the University of Saskatchewan by this student friend of fifty

years ago. He had recognized me in a Winnipeg hotel some weeks before, and though we had not met for many years the recognition was mutual. At his home in Saskatoon I learned much concerning his labours as one of the educational builders of the West. Dr. Murray is an author as well as an educator.

More than fifty years ago a man opened a small brick-making plant in the village of Apohaqui. Help was scarce. Three youths decided to earn a dollar. Although their homes were near, it was stipulated that they must board with the owner of the plant. One evening, after they had worked for a few days, they were laughing and joking in their room at an hour when their employer was thinking of his nightly rest. The things he said were intimate and personal, and had not been rehearsed. One youth promptly resolved to go on strike. Another professed his entire agreement, and after dressing the two went out and held an indignation meeting in a fence corner under the stars, proceeding thereafter to their own homes. One of those two was the late Dr. George N. Pearson, who became a popular physician, and but for his early death would doubtless have made his mark in public life. The other was the present dealer in words. The one who decided to go to sleep was later for many years a member of the Senate of the United States. His name is Elliott W. Sproul, and he was the son of a farmer near the village. Having learned the trade of a bricklayer, after the great fire in Saint John in 1877 he drifted to Lynn, Mass., and then to Chicago, which was growing with marked rapidity. He became as years passed a leading contractor and builder, and at one time earned the sobriquet of "the wolf," from Labour men with whom he did not see eye to eye. He served several terms in Congress, and was chairman of one of its important committees. He was taking the baths in Germany when the Great War broke out, and had some difficulty in getting out of the country. Two of his brothers followed him to Chicago, and became successful business men. The old home, however, was not forgotten. Nearly every summer one or another comes back to renew old associations. A few years ago the Senator, returning from Europe, ran up from New York to Saint John. He suffered from heart trouble. "The doctor," he said to me, "ordered me some time ago to quit smoking—have another cigar".

There was another farmer in modest circumstances in the Kennebecasis valley, Daniel Somerville, one of whose boys, Andrew, was lame. The boy was kept at school. No great scholarship was necessary to secure a license to teach in a primary school, and Andrew Somerville was clever. He became a teacher, and I

who had been his classmate, though much younger, became for a time one of his pupils. Miss Alice Elliott, then almost a young woman, the daughter of a farmer, was another. It was observed that the teacher and Miss Elliott had discovered a mutual attraction. He went to Edinburgh, graduated in medicine, returned to the village of Norton and married Miss Elliott, and carried her away to the Scottish capital, where a successful professional career was terminated by his death while still in the prime of life. Their son, Daniel Somerville, named after his grandfather, the farmer, became a member of the British Parliament and one of the heads of a great contracting firm which had large contracts for reconstruction in the war zone after the Great War. I had the pleasure of reading, after one of his successful political campaigns, a report of the speech of his mother, the Alice Elliott of my boyhood days, in Barrow-in-Furness, in appreciation of her son's victory. I can see her in her girlhood, erect and graceful, with a Bible in her hand, walking along the country road to Sunday-School in the little kirk where her family worshipped.

Reference has already been made to George B. Jones, M.P. He was one of a large family at Apohaqui whose members as they grew up had to look about for a means of livelihood. After leaving school, George went to a clerkship in a store in another village. After having received valuable training and experience, he returned home and opened a small general store. His go-ahead methods brought business from a much wider area than had been served by the other two stores in the village. He prospered, and enlarged his plant till it included all kinds of merchandise and became the largest general store in the county. He took his younger brothers into the business, erected a sawmill and dealt extensively in lumber, erected houses in the village and gained a high reputation as a business man of marked ability and public spirit. He entered public life first as a member of the Legislature. It was but a step from that to a seat in parliament, and he was Minister of Customs in the short-lived Meighen Government.

In Sussex, before it was made an incorporated town, there was a young lawyer, George W. Fowler, whose friends predicted for this farmer's son a successful public career. He was elected a member of the Legislature, went later to the House of Commons, and finally to the Senate. Vitriolic in attack and ready in retort, he was a prime favorite of his partly in a rough and tumble campaign. I once heard him describe as a "pinhead editor" my old friend, Charles F. Crandall, known to-day in the journalism of three continents, who at that time had written or was believed by Mr. Fowler to have written some caustic observations concerning him.

One of the most bitter political debates ever staged in Sussex was between Mr. Fowler and Hon. Frank B. Carvell, another master of invective. The great crowd shouted and cheered and laughed by turns. The advantage, if there were any, appeared to rest with Mr. Carvell, and that because he remained perfectly cool and by artful taunts caused his opponent to lose temper. As an example of hard-hitting on both sides, it was a duel to be remembered. In 1915 Mr. Fowler recruited the 104th Battalion, and in 1916 went as its commander to England.

Albert S. White was another young lawyer in Sussex at that time. Him also politics beckoned to the Legislature, where in time he became Speaker and later a member of the Government, holding different portfolios. In his later years he made a distinguished record as a Judge of the Supreme Court of New Brunswick. There was a degree of rivalry between White and Fowler, but each achieved success in public life. An incident related to me by Mr. White suggested a short story that appeared in *Chamber's Journal* many years ago. One day a farmer came to Mr. White's office and desired to retain the young lawyer in a suit against a neighbour over a disputed line. Mr. White learned by enquiry that only an extremely narrow strip of land of no particular value was involved. He advised his client to go back and arrange a settlement out of court. The next day the other party came to retain Mr. White's services. To him the latter pointed out that a lawsuit would cost far more than the land was worth. Finally he got both men together, and an amicable agreement was reached without cost to either. Which appears to prove that a lawyer is not necessarily in all cases a shark!

When Mr. Fowler and Mr. White were beginning the careers in Sussex which would bring one of them to the legislature and later to the Supreme Court bench and the other to the House of Commons and later to the Senate of Canada, a youth named J. P. Byrne was at school in that town preparing himself for a legal career. His studies took him to Dalhousie Law School, and after further preparations he was admitted to the bar and began the practice of law in Sussex. Later he removed to Bathurst, where he married the daughter of the late Senator Kennedy F. Burns and in due time went into politics. He became a member of the New Brunswick Legislature, was attorney general for quite a number of years, and resigned to receive appointment as a member of the Supreme Court of the province.

John Brittain was born in a country settlement. School teaching offered him, as it did so many others, an opportunity to advance himself. Natural science became his special hobby, and

in later years he became an instructor in that subject in the University of New Brunswick. From there he was called to MacDonald College, and his contribution to that branch of education in Canada was by no means small. I attended for a term the public school he taught at Apohaqui. He was a very shy and reserved man, and extremely sensitive. Tears would come into his eyes when he failed to impart to a class his own enthusiasm in mastering a lesson under review. But John Brittain is also distinguished in his sons. One of them, Horace L. Brittain, is managing director of the Bureau of Municipal Research and the Citizens' Research Institute of Canada, and has won a national reputation. He was born when his father taught school at Apohaqui. Another son is Prof. W. H. Brittain, who is an entomologist of national reputation, gained in different provinces east and west, and at MacDonald College.

Ezekiel McLeod was born near Sussex, but became a leading lawyer in the city of Saint John. He was induced in later life to enter politics, and became a member of parliament. In his last years this dignified and distinguished jurist adorned the Supreme Court Bench in his native province.

Alfred A. Stockton also went from the country to study and practise law in Saint John. A brilliant speaker, he went into politics and was for a time leader of the Opposition in the Legislature. In a federal election he received a nomination and was elected to parliament. Few men had better control of an audience in a political campaign. His voice was clear and strong, he spoke with great force, and had a ready wit. I recall a meeting in Saint John when one of his opponents was H. A. McKeown. The latter, who later became a member of the New Brunswick Government, and then a judge of the Supreme Court, and still later Chairman of the Railway Commission, was then a young man, and at the time of this election was Grand Worthy Patriarch of the Sons of Temperance. At Mr. Stockton's meeting a man more than half drunk kept up from the back of the hall a series of most annoying interruptions. Mr. Stockton was patient for a long time, and then became aware of the condition of the disturber. Wearing a broad smile he paused, took a step forward, and in honeyed tones observed: "Ah! I perceive we are honoured to-night by the presence of a supporter of my grand friend the Grand Worthy Patriarch." In the roar of laughter that followed the noisy person was hurried out of doors. There were no more interruptions.

The name of J. E. B. McCready will always be associated with the history of journalism in New Brunswick. He, too, was

country-born. Mr. McCready was in the press gallery, and reported for the *Toronto Globe* the first session of the Canadian House of Commons. He was for years editor of the *Saint John Telegraph*, for a time editor of the *Moncton Transcript*, and when well up to ninety years of age was contributing his daily column of current comment to the *Charlottetown Guardian*. For some years he was director of publicity for Prince Edward Island. In his native county of Kings in New Brunswick he was once an unsuccessful candidate for parliament. His son, E. W. McCready, was also editor of the *Saint John Telegraph* for years, and later managing director of the *Daily Telegraph* and *Times-Star*, and still later editor of the *Telegraph-Journal*. As a reporter on the staff of the *New York Herald* at the time of the Spanish-American War, he got through to his paper the first account published of the destruction of the Spanish fleet in Cuban waters.

Fifty-two years ago I taught school for a year at Sussex Corner. Among the pupils were members of the Brewing family. An older son was not among them, but he became in later years Bishop Willard Brewing of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and is now a minister of the United Church in Vancouver. Only last year I heard him deliver a brilliant address before the Rotary Club of Saint John, and we had a word together about old times. The first sermon—and the last—that I ever reported in shorthand was delivered by a bishop in the little Protestant Episcopal Church at Sussex Corner, of which Rev. A. M. Hubly was the minister. After I entered journalism there were ministers who thanked me for condensing my reports of their sermons. Perhaps there were sometimes readers of like mind.

Memory recalls a tall youth striding along a country road on his way to school with an open book held before him, studying as he went. He became in later life Rev. George S. Carson, Presbyterian and later United Church minister, and editor of the *New Outlook*, for which at his request I wrote some years ago a review of the problems of the Maritimes. Mr. Carson attended a school at Norton, whose teacher was the Andrew Somerville to whom I have already referred. He had to walk about five miles to this school, his home being on the second tier of farms, back from the Kennebecasis valley. There was a large family, and in no home in my recollection did a finer atmosphere prevail. It was a joy to attend an occasional young folks' party there, even if it involved a long walk or the use of a carriage. Secluded and with few neighbours, the parents reared their children with a healthy regard for the Shorter Catechism. One son, William, became a man of

parts in the grain trade in Calgary, and another, James, in Winnipeg. Still another tried ranching for a time, but I believe he returned East. The whole family scattered to other parts of Canada or to the United States. New Brunswick lost them, as it did so many others in the years of the exodus.

There is a banker in Washington named Colin Livingston. He has been President of the Canadian Club there, and has also been head of the Boy Scouts of America, which he helped to organise. Mr. Livingston has a summer residence on the shore of the Saint John River, at the place where he was born and within the area to which this survey is limited. He has a warm welcome to extend to Canadians visiting the United States capital.

Over the Queens County border, but within the radius from Apohaqui which we have fixed, was born the late Senator George G. King, who before going to the Senate was for years a member of the House of Commons. Mr. King figured in one of the great political sensations of the province. In an election he had a majority of the votes cast, but was counted out. The wigs were on the green, and at the next election Mr. King had his revenge. One of his sons, Hon. George H. King, became a member of the Government of British Columbia, and was in parliament and Minister of Health in the last Liberal Cabinet.

From the same locality went J. W. de B. Farris to British Columbia, where he became a leading lawyer, a member of the Legislature and of the Provincial Government, having at different times been President of the Executive Council, Minister of Labour and Attorney General.

A distinguished career was that of Richard C. Weldon, who from 1875 to 1883 was professor of Mathematics at Mount Allison University, and from the latter year to 1913 was Dean of Dalhousie Law School, Halifax. He sat in parliament from 1887 till 1896. In 1910 he was chairman of the British Columbia University Commission. He was born in Sussex. Dr. Weldon was a profound scholar rather than a politician, but a man whose views were regarded by his contemporaries with profound respect, and he was regarded as an authority on constitutional law. He was a vice-president of the British Empire League during its period of greatest activity.

The late Dr. William S. Carter, who at the time of his death was Superintendent of Education for the Province of New Brunswick, was a native of the little village of Kingston. He was first a teacher and then an inspector of schools, and as Chief Superintendent and member of the Senate of the University of N. B. made a

great contribution to the cause of education. The school system was greatly improved under his leadership and he did much to get higher salaries for teachers, and better school buildings, and to provide more favorable conditions for pupils in poor and remote districts. Parent-Teacher Associations were one of his ambitions, but for some reason they did not take root in the cultural soil of New Brunswick. A third or more of the people of New Brunswick are of French descent, and it was characteristic of Dr. Carter that he won and held the confidence and esteem of French-speaking parents in as high degree as among those of English, Scotch or Irish descent. Another member of this family, Mr. Edward S. Carter, once published a weekly journal in Saint John, took an active interest in public affairs later as an organizer for the Liberal party, along with Hon. P. J. Veniot, and was once an unsuccessful candidate for the Legislature. He is still a working journalist, and an authority on the early history of the province.

The name Kierstead is notable in the area under review. There have been a number of Baptist ministers of that name, including Rev. E. M. Kierstead, a former professor in McMaster University. Dr. W. C. Kierstead, a professor in the University of New Brunswick, is a recognized authority on taxation. A few years ago he addressed Canadian Clubs across Canada in a campaign of enlightenment regarding the problems of the Maritimes. He has now been joined on the University staff by his son, Burton S. Kierstead, who pursued a very successful career in school and college and was a Rhodes scholar. He is also a writer of fiction. The older men of the name were all country bred, in what would be termed a back-settlement. Rev. C. W. Kierstead, Professor of Theology in the University of Manitoba, must be added to the list. He is a graduate of Yale.

When I was a Normal School student in Fredericton, Addison Fenwick was at the University. He came from a country home. Some two years ago, in a western American city Mr. Fenwick sold his newspaper and announced his intention to migrate. So prominent was he as a citizen and journalist that the Governor of the State attended a banquet in his honour.

Although very little of his early life was spent there, the late Hon. Henry R. Emmerson, sometime Premier of New Brunswick and later Minister of Railways, was born in Gagetown, the birth-place also of Sir Leonard Tilley.

H. A. Cody, novelist and poet and a "sky pilot" in the Yukon, is also Archdeacon Cody, rector of St. James (Anglican) Church in Saint John. His more than a dozen novels have been published

in Canada, in England and the United States. The scenes of some of them are on his beloved Saint John River beside which, at Oak Point, his summer cottage looks out upon a glorious picture of broad stream, lovely islands and the farms and wooded hills beyond. Loyalists were buried in the old churchyard at Oak Point, and the history of the river dates back to Charles La Tour and the French régime in the first half of the seventeenth century. Mr. Cody in some of his writings has made the Loyalist days live again. He was country-born, but in his later student days attended Saint John Grammar School, going on to King's College and the ministry. In 1903 he went as a travelling missionary to the Yukon, and was rector at White Horse from 1904 to 1909, when he returned to Saint John and was made rector of Saint James Church. While in the west he won a prize for an essay on "Yukon's Resources and Advantages". He also wrote the Life of Bishop Bompas, and the story of his experiences among the Indians and Eskimos. The year after his return to Saint John he published his first novel, and others followed in rapid succession. He has also been a contributor to various periodicals, and a writer of stirring verse. Aside from authorship he is an able preacher, greatly beloved by his congregation, and highly esteemed by his fellow-citizens of every faith.

The late Dr. James R. Inch was born in Petersville, and pursued a distinguished career as an educationist. He graduated from Mount Allison University, and spent his early life in the public school service. He became principal of Mount Allison Ladies' College, and retained that position from 1864 to 1878. Between 1878 and 1891 he was president of the University of New Brunswick. In the latter year he became Superintendent of Education for the province of New Brunswick. He was a Fellow and Senator of the University of Halifax, a vice-president of the American Institute of Christian Philosophy, a member of the Geographic Board of Canada, and was a delegate in 1907 to the Imperial Educational Conference in London. Throughout his career he rendered distinguished service to his native province.

If to the list of those already named who were born within a radius of less than forty miles from Apohaqui were added those of missionaries, men who rose to eminence in the affairs of their own province or in the professions, or achieved a great success in business at home or abroad, it would be greatly lengthened. Some were descendants of the Loyalists, and some of people who came direct from England, Scotland or Ireland to be pioneers in New Brunswick. There is to-day only one incorporated town, Sussex,

in the area under review. The villages have grown, but one sees too many abandoned farms in the smaller settlements. As a result of Confederation, industrial progress was checked by competition and did not balance that of agriculture, which also suffered from lack of other than the home market. If we followed the fortunes of those who in despair migrated to the United States, there would be other names to add to our list. But out of the settlements and villages of this rural region are still coming young people who will do no discredit to those who have gone before. The Canada of the future will know their worth.