

*Thanks very much - J. W.*

- HENRY FORD HELPED NOVA SCOTIA TO INCREASE FOOD PRODUCTION -

In the winter of 1916-17 Henry Ford came to Halifax for the purpose of seeing away on the Steamer some of his mechanic experts who were going to Great Britain to operate a Tractor Manufacturing Plant so that British farmers might have Tractors with which to speed up food production. While staying at the Halifax Hotel Mr. Ford became acquainted with the Honorable George H. Murray, Premier of Nova Scotia for twenty-six continuous years -- the longest period that any Premier has officiated in any Province on country of the British Empire. Mr. Ford became very much attached to Mr. Murray.

The following summer Premier Murray advised M. Cumming, Secretary for Agriculture that he wished further measures taken to speed up food production in Nova Scotia. Mr. Cumming said he would like, if it were possible, to get some of the new Tractors which it was understood Mr. Ford was developing. Mr. Murray gave Mr. Cumming a letter of introduction to Mr. Ford, as a result of which Mr. Cumming met Mr. Ford at his own plant at Detroit. After some preliminary conversation Mr. Cumming told Mr. Ford that he had come for the purpose of trying to buy on behalf of the Government of Nova Scotia some of his new Ford Tractors. Mr. Ford replied that the Nova Scotia Government did not have enough money at that time to buy a single tractor, for the reason that he (Mr. Ford) was not satisfied with the measure of perfection to which the machine had been brought.

Whether it was because of an expression of disappointment, or because of his keen interest in Nova Scotia, Mr. Ford then turned to his Private Secretary, Mr. Liebold, and said " I want you to see that Mr. Cumming gets that tractor

which we are exhibiting at the Michigan State Fair free. We will not sell it to him for I am not sure that it will be our final pattern, but we will give it to him and we will send some of our men to Nova Scotia to give demonstrations in its operation." Subsequently at his Tractor Plant at Dearborn Mr. Ford personally handed over this tractor to Mr. Cumming.

In October 1917 Mr. Ford sent to Nova Scotia four of his tractor and plow experts, and gave demonstrations in tractor operation at any place in Nova Scotia which Mr. Cumming might decide upon. When the men arrived Mr. Cumming asked them how long they could stay, and they replied that they had instructions from Mr. Ford to remain for as long a period as was necessary to put this Branch of the Nova Scotia Food Campaign in operation. Consequently the first tractor plowing demonstrations in Eastern Canada were arranged commencing at Kentville, in the Annapolis Valley of Nova Scotia on October 13th. 1917, and continuing for two weeks at Truro, Amherst, Antigonish and Hopewell. Thousands of people witnessed these demonstrations. The Province is not large, but the following spring seventeen farmers purchased Ford Tractors through Mr. Cumming.

The original Ford tractor was used for two years at the College Farm, and when some part had to be replaced it transpired, as was anticipated by Mr. Ford, that he had made some change in his design, consequently he wrote Mr. Cumming to return the Tractor which he had presented and he would supply the College free with one to replace it. This second tractor was used for a number of years with excellent satisfaction, and in 1926 the College was so well satisfied with the Ford Tractor that they purchased a new one.

When Mr. Cumming was talking to Mr. Ford the latter said that he knew the Province of Nova Scotia better than Mr. Cumming thought. I have heard rumors ~~the~~ of Mr. Ford coming to Nova Scotia to visit incog, and putting these ideas together I have no doubt that this has happened. *He was here I understand on a trout fishing exhibit.*