

tablishment of this institution, it is because the movement for the starting of such a school originated here, and was finally pushed to a successful issue by the labor and efforts of Presque Isle citizens.

We have made particular mention of schools in Presque Isle, including the Normal School, not for the purpose of singling Presque Isle out for special credit, but because Presque Isle in a general way, simply stands as a conspicuous representative of what the entire County of Aroostook has been doing in the line of educational progress in the last twenty-five years. Practically every town in the County has been making like strides forward in educational advancement, the people of every community are generous and ungrudging in the aid that they give to schools, and as a result, Aroostook is as conspicuous an example of progress and advancement in school activity as she is in other lines of progress.

CHAPTER XII.

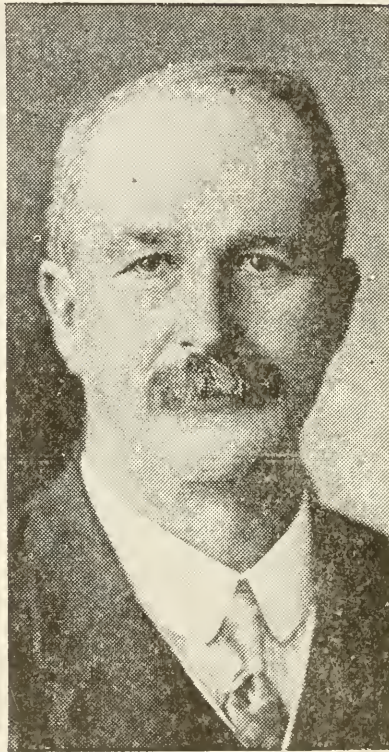
What Farmer Organizations Have Accomplished In Aroostook. The Grange and Northern Maine Fair.

As one would naturally expect from the magnitude and success with which farming is carried on in Aroostook, there would spring up farmer institutions and organizations on an equally large and successful scale. This has been the case, and as a result we find in Aroostook that the Grange is a very numerous body, and very much stronger in its organization, and more aggressive and successful in securing the aims and objects it seeks to accomplish for the welfare of the farming community, than is the case elsewhere in the State, or elsewhere in New England.

Without being in any sense a political body, it is a power in legislation, in influencing the passage of laws needful for the advancement not only of the farming class, but the welfare of the State as a whole. It represents the soundest elements of citizenship, and in no small sense is the organized conscience of the community in all public matters into which enter moral and ethical considerations. This makes it a strong factor on the right side of every moral question, and in no less degree is it usually a factor in matters of a purely practical nature.

The Grange of Aroostook is a strong institution, conducted in harmony with the best interests of the farming class, and an indispensable agency in raising the standard of intelligence, culture and refinement among the farmers and their families in our

County. This has been its history elsewhere and it is the history of the Grange in Aroostook.



ERNEST T. MCGLAULIN

Many years Secretary of the Northern Maine Fair Association and a faithful and capable worker for its success.

In the social life of the farming communities it brings its membership into closer contact, and into more amicable and sympathetic relations one with another. In an educational way its meetings take under consideration and discuss with intelligence and effectiveness a wide range of questions having to do with the immediate interest of the members of the order and the general welfare of the community. In business it has organized and very successfully administers enterprises which are highly beneficial to the members. This is notably true as regards farm insurance.

Before this form of mutual protection was organized under Grange management, the farmer was at the mercy of the stock companies, and paid exorbitant rates for fire protection. With the establishment of the Grange insurance he was provided with safe and reliable insurance at cost.

The result of his going into insurance on his own account has been a revolution in the rates charged farmers by the stock companies, but the farmer wisely still continues to patronize his own mutual organizations, and has thus built up a number of very strong and successful Grange mutual fire insurance companies in the County, capable of handling farm risks satisfactorily, although the magnitude of these risks has grown enormously with the rapidly increasing wealth of farm properties.

The Grange also functions as a business organization of importance to its members in the matter of the establishment and successful management of what are termed co-operative stores, of which there are a number in Aroostook. All are doing a large and successful business, the Houlton store leading, as it might be expected to do, from the fact that the Houlton Grange is the largest in the United States.

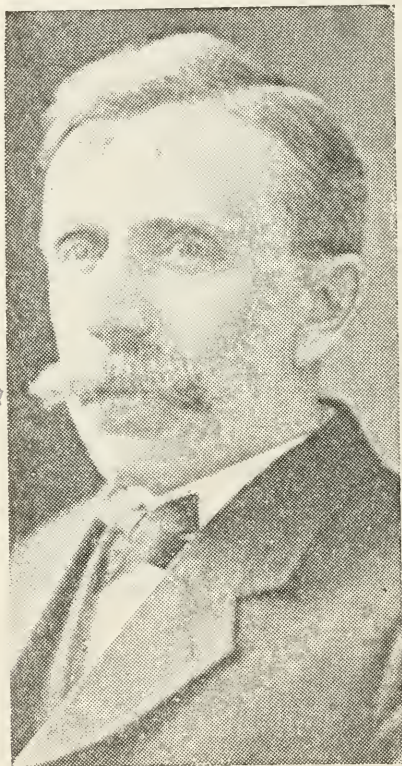
AGRICULTURAL FAIRS—THE GREAT NORTHERN MAINE FAIR

Other institutions which are important outgrowths of farming activity and prosperity in Aroostook, are the Agricultural fairs of the County. At the present time there are three—the Northern Maine, located in Presque Isle, the Caribou Fair and the Houlton Fair.

The Northern Maine Fair was founded in 1850, planted many years ago by farmers. Nourished and kept alive by the patient and persistent efforts and often struggle of farmers, all through the long period of its existence, from small and humble beginnings, the Northern Maine Fair has grown to be the greatest Fair in the State, and one of the greatest in New England.

During its early years known as the Aroostook Agricultural and Horticultural Society, this great Fair was not only fortunate in the sturdy man who founded it and nursed it along from weakness to strength, but equally fortunate in the site it selected—a field on the outskirts of Presque Isle village, which in the course of years, with the additions the Fair Association has made to it by successive purchase of additional plots of ground, has become a very valuable property, so much so that by virtue of its valuable real estate holdings the Northern Maine Fair Association is today a wealthy corporation.

The Northern Maine Fair Association now fills a space of four days in the early part of September, and it is only stating the truth to say that it fills these four days fuller than any other four days in the County are filled by any other public activity. Its great four days festival is the big thing of the year in Northern Maine, and it is by no means confined to Northern Maine, but reaches far beyond the borders of the County in the matter of attracting crowds hitherward.



HON. ATHILL E. IRVING

Many years a prominent citizen of Presque Isle
and Northern Aroostook and for some years
President of the Northern Maine Fair
Association.

Much goes into a big fair in the way of varied attractions and features of interest and profit, and the Northern Maine Fair



RESIDENCE OF A. M. SMITH, PRESQUE ISLE

is perhaps the best example of all this variety and interest that can be found anywhere in New England. So strong has the Fair Association now become that it can afford to bring within its gates a multitude of attractions which cost a big sum in the aggregate. In this respect, without in the least disparaging its competitors in the County, which are each of them progressing, and each of them giving the public very handsome exhibitions, the Northern Maine stands alone.

Elsewhere in this work the reader may find a cut of a scene on the Fair Grounds taken some thirty years ago, and a companion picture of a scene taken in connection with the Fair of 1921. In the old-time picture one notes a very few score of horse and buggy turnouts—fine, and possibly as some of their owners and occupants fancied, quite swell and aristocratic, but the whole of them not representing in value the cost of a half dozen of the hundreds of sumptuous cars which throng the Northern Maine Fair Grounds nowadays.

The Northern Maine Fair brings into Aroostook so many scores of thousands of visitors from outside the County, who derive their impressions of its wealth and productiveness through this annual visit, and what they see is so widely disseminated by the reports they give to others, that the Fair is probably the greatest advertising asset we have. It has other great advantages but it is to be doubted if Aroostook reaps any other benefit so important through the Fair as that of the favorable publicity it gets through this medium.

Such, briefly pictured, is the great Northern Maine Fair, a really great farmer institution of Aroostook, and a thing which cannot be overlooked is a series of sketches like these.

CHAPTER XIII.

Some Of The Great Farms Of Aroostook And What Some Farmers Have Accomplished

There are so many great farms in Aroostook, and so many farmers have achieved remarkable results, that one is embarrassed in choosing from the list. Nowhere else in the country, perhaps, has there been so many individual instances where men have grown, not only independent, but rich, in tilling the soil. What has rewarded their toil has been the specialty which Aroostook farmers have followed for over forty years—the raising of potatoes.