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# Central Nova Scotia Exhibition

## Official Opening Address

*Delivered by*

CYRUS EATON

Nova Scotia-Born American Industrialist and Farmer



TRURO, NOVA SCOTIA

August 29, 1950

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The opportunity of opening this great Exhibition of the production of Nova Scotia's farms is a privilege which I more than I can say.

To me, these glorious farmers' shows are irresistible. None of them dates back 55 years, to the time of my first visit at the family farm near Pugwash to the outside world. The cause of that journey was the annual Nova Scotia Exhibition at Lunenburg, the forerunner of today's Central Nova Scotia Exhibition.

In those days, the then very enterprising railroads so attract crowds to travel to such events by offering very low rates. The round trip fare from Pugwash to Halifax was a dollar. One of the biggest thrills of my life was that first city, from the first sight of a street car to the impressive sights of the best of Nova Scotia's products all on exhibition in Paris. While later on my initial visits to New York, London and Paris were exciting, the thrill of seeing those three cities thing to my first day in Halifax.

If I were asked what place in the world affords all the elements for a happy life, I would say Nova Scotia. Fifteen years ago I left the Province to go to preparatory school and college in Ontario. In the following 20 years, I got back to Nova Scotia occasionally, but in the last 30 years, there has never been a time when I have not had the pleasure of spending at least a few days in my native land.

My children and grandchildren eagerly as I do. During my six weeks' stay this year, I have had eight grandchildren with me. John Eaton, the youngest, who celebrated his second birthday a week ago, is making his first visit. A month before his departure from home, he was telling his family and friends that he was going to "Grandpa's Scotia." My hope is to be able to extend my stays so that six months out of each year will be spent in what to me is the most attractive community in the world.

This summer I have been re-reading the early history of the conflicts between the French and the English for possession of Nova Scotia. The great potential wealth of the Province was recognized 200 years ago when the meadows of Grand Pre and Tantramar were regarded as the most fertile and productive farming areas in North America.

Present-day Nova Scotians do not realize what a treasure they have in their land. The province not only produces the finest fruits and vegetables in the world, but its pasture lands, given a little lime and fertilizer, will sustain immense herds of superior cattle and sheep

I would say that the great opportunity of the Nova Scotia farmer today lies in producing the highest grade, purebred and registered cattle and sheep for sale for breeding purposes in the duty-free American markets, where such animals are in unprecedented demand. The businessmen of Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Washington and Baltimore are giving up golf to discover for themselves and their families the delight that comes from doing something constructive on the land. Their ambition is to stock their farms with sturdy animals of the excellent quality that can easily be produced in Nova Scotia.

At my own Deep Cove Farms near Chester, we have chosen to raise pure-bred and registered Scotch Shorthorns. This spring we sent our first shipment of young breeding cattle to the United States and we are aiming at bigger and better exports with each succeeding

year. We have a small show herd at this Exhibition; while here, I hope you will take a good look at our Monarch bull the first opportunity, I hope you will come to Deep Cove see his promising calves.

To get the United States breeders of purebred stock to Nova Scotia for foundation animals, we must constantly for perfection in our herds. Taking my own breed as an example should like to see the Dominion and Provincial Government in a few of the top Shorthorn bulls of Scotland and making services available to the farmers of Nova Scotia. Raisers breeds in the Province must also show their best cattle, not the county, provincial and regional fairs, but also at the Royal Winter Fair at Toronto and the International live Stock position in Chicago. The prestige of winning a few championships at these all-important November shows in Toronto and Chicago bring American breeders in swarms to buy our products.

Nova Scotia has been bountifully endowed by nature everything needed to produce the finest cattle and sheep. The ate and the soil are ideal for this purpose. There are no cures in this Province. The best and most abundant grass world can be grown here with the application of relatively amounts of lime and fertilizer.

My industrious and thrifty Lunenburg County neighbors won world fame as successful fishermen, but it is the amazing ductiveness of their part-time farming that excites my admiration. With their small vegetable gardens, they demonstrate that one well fertilized and cultivated acre can produce more will grow on twenty neglected acres. The story goes the South Shore that one of these hard-working fishermen with great pride in the skillful cultivation of his few acres in what hours he could spare from the sea, was visited by the minister of a local church. "Tom", the minister said to him, "The Lord been awfully good to you in providing this marvelous vegetable

garden." Tom replied, "You ought to have seen this place while the Lord was working it alone."

The two great Dominion Farms at Nappan and Kentville and the excellent Provincial Farm here at Truro are demonstrating, on a large and scientific scale, the immense possibilities of the Nova Scotia soil. The problem is to get the programs developed by these governmental institutions in wide-spread use to revitalize the 32,000 occupied farms of the Province and to reclaim the 5,000 abandoned farms.

If the problem is to be solved, everyone in Nova Scotia must help. Every school, every church, every lodge, every club, every newspaper, every radio station, every bank, every merchant and every railroad agent must lend a hand. Every government official and every legislator must do his part, and there must be in the government more real farmers who own and work their own land. Farming is, after all, Nova Scotia's most important industry and, on the prosperity of the farmer, depends the prosperity of the entire Province.

Farming, moreover, is the aristocrat of occupation. The farmer not only owns his own land, but he is his own boss. If he enjoys what he is doing and wants to work 14 hours a day, no one will interfere with him.

Nova Scotia needs more farmers. The trend ought to be back to the land. To expand agriculture here, and to develop the neglected resources of the whole nation, does not call for a federal immigration policy to bring in from abroad people who are hard to assimilate. Rather it requires a policy to give Canada's own wonderful people an economic chance that will keep them at home.

Farming in Nova Scotia will find now adherents when the modern comforts and convenience are commonplace in all rural homes. I am in hearty agreement with one of the leaders of the Province who recently expressed his ambition to me to see, before he

died, a bathroom in every farm house, as well as electric telephone.

My own love of the country, of farming and cattle to my boyhood. One of the delights of those days was to foot to bring the cows from the pasture at sunrise. I then was old Bess, whom I learned to milk when I was six; a friendly and agreeable cow; whatever milk she had she down promptly. One spring day there was consternation. Bess was missing. After a full day's search, which in neighbors as well as the family, I had the great joy of finding hidden in the woods with her new twin calves, beside a bed of flowers. We have imported blue bloods from Scotland. I will never see as fine a cow as old Bess appeared to in my early golden days.

Children who are raised on farms have two great advantages over their contemporaries of the towns and cities. The satisfaction of accomplishment of useful work from chores and they learn to know the beauty of the country from their earliest hours. No greater boon could be given to city boys and girls in the summertime than the privilege of a few weeks working on farms.

It is inspiring to see the important part that the farm girls have in this Central Nova Scotia Exhibition. The farm leaders of the future, and their participation in country fairs here should serve to sharpen their ambition to excel in the future by able calling throughout their lives.

To these farm children, and to their parents, who, with the operation of the capable managers of this Exhibition and the various citizens of Truro, have been able to bring together hundreds of wonderful assemblage of livestock, field crops, vegetables and fruits, I want to express the heartfelt thanks of all of Nova Scotia for the worthy products of your hard work are the pride of the Province.