

Entire nation closely watches expanding resources program here

There are four prongs to the province's resources development program: economic research, community development, adult education and industrial development.

Through the efforts of Premier Walter R. Shaw, the program was introduced in this province about two years ago. Since that time a cabinet committee was formed to direct the program and a provincial development council, consisting of about 45 representatives from all parts of the province, was set up.

In addition, about 12 resources development areas were set up in the province and it is hoped that by the end of this year the whole province will be organized into a major development area.

PAYS HALF COST
The federal government is assisting in the program and approved projects pays half the cost under the provisions of the federal-provincial agreement on agricultural rehabilitation and development.

Recently 11 projects were approved under the agreement. There were five reforestation projects at Brookville, Palmer Road, Iris, Campbells Cove and Tyne Valley. Five water conservation projects which will include the construction of dams, were approved for Orwell, Murray Harbor, Louis Montague, Bonshaw and Granville.

Establishment of a 100-acre park at West Point was approved and construction has begun on that.

Also approved recently was an economic study of West Prince

County which will be carried out by federal department of agriculture economists.

Projects under the program are suggested by local development groups and passed to the provincial council for approval.

Next, the projects have to be approved by the provincial cabinet committee and finally by federal authorities before they can be started.

HANDICRAFTS
The provincial handicrafts program is qualified as a resources development project and consequently the federal government pays half of the cost of it.

Awaiting approval as resources projects are two parks, more dams and two sizeable reforestation projects.

Recently the whole development program in Eastern Canada was placed under the direction of the Maritime Marshland Reclamation Administration of Amherst, N.S.

During 1962, two new resources groups were formed in Rustico and Wellington and requests for the formation of groups in Alberton, Lunenburg, Summerside, Tyne Valley, Montague, Cranford and Victoria are being studied.

Speaking of the long-range effects of the resources development program, provincial research director Hartwell Daley said, "It is hoped that the program will accomplish at least three things: raise considerably the economy of all areas, balance agriculture with industrial jobs and help to retain a larger percentage of our younger people in the province."

"Already there is a change in attitude in areas where the program is working. At one time many people believed that not much could be done to improve conditions but this is changing and they are now convinced that by working together much can be done."

"In the coming year, the development program will be greatly expanded. We will be adding to the staff of our research department and opening an office in Prince County."

"In research, every effort will be made to investigate every economic prospect that can be found: ideas from all parts of Canada and other countries will be studied to see if they can be used here and specific studies of specific projects that may be developed in this province will be made."

PROVINCE-WIDE
"In the field of community development, areas not organized in the development program will be organized with the view of having the whole province participate."

"In adult education, we intend to make regional high schools the centre of our educational efforts. Academic subjects will be taught as well as music, art and drama."

"As far as industrial development is concerned, we plan to set up some type of contact in the Toronto area so that financial, industrial and business contacts can be maintained and this province promoted as a place for industry and investment. In this province, encouragement



GROUP VIEWS HOMEMADE JEWELRY

FULL WEIGHT OF GOVERNMENT IS THROWN BEHIND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

THE ISLAND'S resources program which involves nearly every government department has three main goals: to balance the island's economy in every sector; to balance agriculture and industrial jobs and keep young Islanders at home. To do this the program has reached into many island communities in preliminary steps to get the plan moving. Surveys have been held to determine the best ways in which people can be helped to help themselves and resources councils have been formed in communities from one end of the Island to the other.

Already there has been a notable change in attitude on the part of many people, says Research Director Daley. In centres where the program is working many people previously convinced that nothing could be done to improve their conditions are now changing their minds. The full resources of the government are behind the program as evidence in the top photo, where Premier Shaw (left) discusses the program with provincial officials. The potentially lucrative handicrafts program is only one



GRADUATION DAY FOR ONE OF MANY HANDICRAFT COURSES
Prong of the resources plan. In the photo on the right Provincial Secretary J. D. Stewart presents a graduation certificate to a woman who completed a handicraft course at a provincial sanatorium.

Handicrafts mean \$\$\$ to Islander

There has been tremendous response in the province to the government's handicraft training program.

When the program was launched last October with a handicraft exhibition at Birchmount High School which featured samples of handicrafts from New Brunswick, at least 1,200 persons filled in applications to participate in courses.

Provincial director Mrs. Muriel Lister said "the response has continued to be amazing and we are booked solid for courses during this season."

Five courses are available. They are in textile painting, leathercraft, jewellery, woodturning and weaving. Already at least 17 courses in handicraft making have been conducted in various parts of the province.

SKILL PRINCIPLE
Mrs. Lister, herself a weaving instructor, said the courses enable persons to learn the basic principles of handicraft making. "Plenty of practice after each course is needed," she said, "so that a person will be able to turn out quality items for sale."

The New Brunswick handicraft industry, which has been growing for about 16 years, has been referred to a million-dollar industry. Handicrafts are readily bought by tourists and have local sales value as well.

With such success in New Brunswick, it has been forecast that this province's handicrafts will mean a sizeable income, perhaps amounting to hundreds of thousands of dollars within a few years.

One drawback in this province's program has been the shortage of qualified instructors. Except for two, the instructors had to be brought in from New Brunswick. This condition will probably continue until enough persons who, after taking courses here and get plenty of practice, become proficient enough to qualify as instructors.

At present basic handicraft courses are given. Advance courses are in any craft which is available to a degree of proficiency satisfactory to the instructor.

Mrs. Lister said that it is anticipated that a provincial handicrafts council will be organized whenever a sufficient number of trained and proficient craftsmen become available and indicate a desire for such an organization.

"These groups in New Brunswick," she said, "are called summery craftsmen and work co-operatively in furthering the sale of their handicrafts."

It is expected that from the craftsmen's council a standards committee will be formed to set standards and judge workmanship and so island crafts will be accepted for display in any government sponsored exhibition or sale until they have met the requirements of the committee.

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