

bringing directly under their observation the results obtained and progress made in agricultural developments and industrial pursuits. This can only be efficiently done by taking the Exhibitions periodically to the doors of the people. To centralize them permanently in any one place would seriously cripple their usefulness, and render them of little or no advantage to the great bulk of the agricultural population of the country, who can neither afford the time nor expense to undertake long journeys to visit them.

4. The experience of agriculturists in the mother country, where such Exhibitions are not of yesterday, demonstrates the soundness of the principle contended for. The Royal Agricultural Society's Exhibitions in England, and those of the Highland Agricultural Society in Scotland, are held annually in different parts of the country, East, West, South and North,—and, be it remarked, that not only are the richer districts visited, but the poorer districts as well, to the manifest advantage of all, and to the marked encouragement and development of agricultural industry—in all its branches.

5. The experience in Nova Scotia is as yet limited, but so far it is conclusively in favor of localized, as against centralized, Exhibitions. It is indisputable that, as regards agricultural exhibits, those shown at the Exhibitions held in Truro and Kentville were, in extent, variety and general excellence, considerably in advance of those shown at Halifax. On the other hand, it is conceded that exhibits of manufactured articles were more varied and complete at Halifax, which goes to prove the utility of holding Exhibitions occasionally, by turns, in industrial as well as in agricultural centres.

6. The deputation have thought it proper to refer to these points, and to establish the general principle that ought to regulate the selection of localities in which to hold the annual Exhibitions, because of late claims have been put forward in the city press and by certain influential persons, to have next and subsequent Exhibitions held in Halifax. Such a proposal is not merely at variance with the spirit of the legislation, the policy of the Government, and the deliberately expressed opinion of the Central Board on the subject, but is also opposed to both experience and common sense, and if adopted would go far to nullify the objects sought to be attained.

7. That the permanent establishment of the Exhibitions in Halifax will not be nearly so beneficial and advantageous to the agriculturists of King's county and western Nova Scotia generally, as periodic Exhibitions held in their midst, is so obvious as scarce to require illustration. The deputation, however, submit for the information of the Central Board the following statistics:

The total number of passengers carried by railway from Annapolis to Windsor for the Halifax Exhibition was.....	772
And the number from Yarmouth and points beyond Annapolis was.....	160
Making a total of.....	932

passengers from this section of country. These 932 persons were carried at less than single fares from Yarmouth and all places up to Kentville, and from Kentville to Windsor at a single fare. Nor was there any detention or change of cars at Windsor, as had been the case for the preceding two years. It results, therefore, that with special inducements

in the way of fares, with railway communication all the way from Yarmouth, and with a removal of the annoying restrictions and change of cars at Windsor, the total number of persons who visited the Halifax Exhibition from western Nova Scotia, as herein defined, was only 932, of whom it is safe to say that not more than one-half represented "agriculture" pure and simple.

8. When the Exhibition was held at Kentville in 1877 there were 3,218 passengers by rail alone who visited it, although at that time the Windsor and Annapolis Railway, smarting under the injustice of their ejection from the Windsor Branch, charged full fares over all portions of their line, and passengers arriving at Windsor had to procure tickets and change cars. From Annapolis county—exclusive of large numbers who travelled with private conveyances from Wilmot and the eastern part of that county—there came by rail 530 persons to Kentville, against 221 who went to Halifax last year. In addition to upwards of 3,000 persons who came to Kentville in vehicles from all quarters of the county, no less than 1,045 from King's county came by rail. The number who visited Halifax from the county was a trifle under 500.

9. The fair deduction to be drawn from these facts and figures is that, to effect the maximum of benefit, and to attract and influence the bulk of the population, the Exhibitions must be held at the different agricultural centres in different parts of the Province. King's county is wholly an agricultural county, and the 500 persons who visited the Halifax Exhibition last year from this county as against about 4,500 who visited the Kentville Exhibition, may be taken as a fair index of the influence these Exhibitions may be expected to exert upon the general agricultural population according as they are permanently located in one place—for instance Halifax—or periodically brought home, as it were, to the doors of the people. These figures are of themselves conclusive, and further comment seems to be unnecessary.

10. While it is the object of this deputation to press upon the Central Board at this time the paramount claims of King's county to have the next Exhibition held at Kentville, they desire to say that they endorse the sentiments of the Board as expressed in their report above referred to, in the fullest manner. To be of general and Provincial benefit, the Exhibitions should, without doubt, be held alternately in different sections of the country, nearest the agricultural and industrial centres. As yet, a large section of western Nova Scotia, represented roughly by Yarmouth, Shelburne and Queen's counties; of eastern Nova Scotia, represented by Pictou, Antigonish and Guysborough counties; and the whole of Cape Breton, have not participated as they should in the benefits to be derived from such Exhibitions. If these sections of country combine to purchase lands, erect buildings, and otherwise comply with the regulations and stipulations required by the Acts and Central Board, the people of King's county will be the first to hail with satisfaction such evidence of intelligent interest in the material progress and development of the country, and will raise no dissentient voice against the Exhibitions being held in regular rotation in the several localities selected by the people as most suitable for the purpose.

11. At the present time only three centres of agricultural and manufacturing industry have complied with the requirements of the

Statutes and the Central Board, viz., Colchester, Halifax and King's counties, with Exhibition Buildings respectively at Truro, Halifax and Kentville. The Exhibitions were held in 1876 at Truro for Colchester district; in 1877 at Kentville for King's district; in 1878 at Truro for Colchester district; and in 1879 at Halifax for Halifax district. It will be seen that if it had not been that Halifax stepped in and complied with the regulations on the subject, the Exhibition should, in order of rotation, have been held in Kentville last year. King's county at that time, representing western Nova Scotia, were pleased to see Halifax, tardily though it was, come to the front at length, and frankly waived its own claims in furtherance of the general principle.

12. The delegation submit now, however, with the utmost confidence, that the section of country they represent is entitled, not more in respect of legislative enactments, than of the inherent fairness and justice of the case, and the general benefits to be derived and aims to be attained, that they have a paramount and indisputable claim upon the General Council to locate the next Exhibition in Kentville.

13. Independent of the general principle which, in the opinion of the delegation, it is the function and duty of the General Board to carry out, it is contended that, when King's county complied with the legislative enactments, and with the recommendations of the Board, by purchasing lands and erecting suitable buildings and conveniences at considerable expense, it is only fair and equitable that these lands and buildings should be utilized for the purposes for which they were intended in regular rotation. The inference that this should be so is irresistible, and was indeed freely admitted by members of the Board to Mr. C. E. Eaton when he was urging the claims of King's county and arranging to have the 1877 Exhibition held at Kentville. A contrary assumption is at variance with the whole spirit and purpose of the legislation, would largely neutralize the beneficial results anticipated, and is directly hostile to the further extension of the principle, since no county or responsible body would undertake to recommend the expenditure of \$10,000 to \$15,000 of public money, and ask, and obtain and use donations from private citizens, in the mere expectation that only one Provincial Exhibition would be held at the site selected.

14. The delegation assert that, in view of all the circumstances of the case, King's County was induced to undertake onerous expenditures for land and buildings on the well grounded expectation that they should be periodically used for Provincial Exhibitions; and they authoritatively say that but for expectation, and with this end in view, the county would not have incurred the expenditures referred to. Therefore, the delegation, for themselves and the important interests they represent, protest emphatically against any interference with the well established principle that the Exhibitions should be held periodically in the several counties which have complied with the law and regulations, and erected suitable permanent Exhibition Buildings.

15. In the confident hope that the General Board, recognizing the legitimate rights and claims of western Nova Scotia, will select King's as the county in which the next Provincial Exhibition shall be held, the delega