

HALIFAX, MAY 1ST., 1873.

WE have another incidental expression of the feelings entertained by the FARMERS OF KING'S COUNTY towards the Central Board. In their Annual Report, just received, the King's County Society "express their gratitude to the Members and Secretary of the Board of Agriculture in importing improved breeds of Stock, which are much sought after, and command high prices; the average prices are NEARLY ONE HUNDRED PER CENT HIGHER THAN FORMERLY. It was remarked by some persons that on the Grand Pre, where during some years a thousand animals are pastured, NOT A SINGLE "SCRUB" WAS TO BE SEEN AMONG THEM last season." Then the Society speak of the support, encouragement and attention given by the Board to the cause of Agricultural progress, and of the annual grants from the Legislature, which have been the source of many of those improvements now visible in the District in every department of Agriculture.

WE desire to call the attention of the Manufacturers and Farmers of the Province, and especially of the Members of the Central Board of Agriculture, to the correspondence printed in another column on the subject of an INTER-COLONIAL EXHIBITION OF ARTS, MANUFACTURES AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIONS, which has been proposed by the Provincial Board of Agriculture of New Brunswick. We shall be glad to hear from Secretaries of Societies what is thought of the proposal in their respective districts, and many persons who are not Secretaries may discuss the matter in our columns from more general points of view. The chief objection that seems at present to present itself to the Inter-Colonial scheme is the influence for evil which it might exert upon our own Provincial Exhibition, which it is proposed to hold next year. Now, we do not think that the Inter-Colonial Exhibition can possibly form a substitute for a Provincial Exhibition; nor is it desirable that it should; nor is it impracticable to hold both Exhibitions during the same year; nor is it necessary to do so. Let our readers think over the whole matter, and give us the benefit of their thoughts. We have now been without an Exhibition of any kind for five years; in these five years more substantial improvement has been effected in the live Stock of the Country than during any other five or ten years in the history of the Province, many new Factories have been established, avenues of industry unknown in 1868 have been opened up,—and all the most important industrial interests of the country are loudly calling for a Public Exhibit of our Resources and Civilization.

Through the kindness of A. Heatherington, Esq., we have received a parcel of the GARBANZO OR SPANISH PEA, accompanied by the following explanatory note, which we take the liberty to publish. We shall place the Peas in good hands for experiment, and hope that the result will be to add a new crop to our kitchen gardens, a new vegetable to our dinner tables, and a new claim on the part of Mr. Heatherington to the gratitude of Nova Scotians for his numerous efforts to promote the industry and welfare of the country:—

HALIFAX N. S., MARCH 31, 1873.

Dear Sir,—From the interest which you take in matters of Agriculture, it has occurred to me that you might like to try to acclimatise the Garbanzo or Spanish Pea, which I believe is unknown on this continent. I make free to send you a few. They should be planted early: one seed in each hole, and a couple of inches apart. The pod contains but one seed. The pea is cooked when quite ripe, and is an excellent accompaniment to boiled pork; at least so Sancho Panza said, and the Spaniards of the present day, and others who have tasted the dish, do not dispute the point.

Very obediently yours,
A. HEATHERINGTON.

We have to correct an unfortunate slip in the April number, whereby two honourable Members of the Legislature were made to appear as present at meetings in Antigonish County, whereas the persons really intended were two other gentlemen of the same names, but minus the M. P. P.

The Chapter of Revised Statutes, "OF THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF AGRICULTURE," embodies all the provisions of the original Agricultural Act and its several Amendments, together with the new Act of the present session. On this account, we publish the whole Chapter in our present number, in order that Members of the Board and Secretaries of Societies may have an opportunity of studying out its general scope and working details, in anticipation of its coming into force sometime during the present season. A new Act of Parliament naturally suggests to the Reader the exercise of the critical faculty. If a violent party man, he is sure to see smiling faces of beneficent friends or scowling visages of enemies of the other party looking out from behind the sections. To hope, then, that nobody will find fault with the new Statute, would be to shut our eyes to all the weaknesses of human nature. We wish, however, to say a few words as to the character of this Act, to assist those who wish to judge it on its merits to be able to do so. In the first place, it is perfectly free from political bias, and in this respect resembles the original Agricultural Act of 1864. It is not a hasty piece of legislation, designed to strike at an abuse, or to work out a showy reform, or to

satisfy a popular clamour; but is merely a business Act, drawn up in a plain business form, to enable the Central Board and Agricultural Societies to carry out their operations in a satisfactory manner. It proceeds, therefore, upon the principle, not of organizing a new experiment, not of making a new agricultural machine on a new and untried model, but of simply taking account of the working experience of the last nine years, since the Board was organized, and the practical effects of the various legislative enactments that have been made since then,—and founding upon this course of experimental legislation and executive experience, a system that shall most effectually promote the healthy working of Agricultural Societies throughout the Province with the least possible amount of friction. We trust that the Officers of Societies in the various Counties will read the Act carefully and each and all lend a helping hand in carrying it out. This is the true way to strengthen the hands of the Central Board, and to give the Members of it courage to undertake Schemes of Improvement on a scale commensurate with the national importance of the interests at stake, and such as our enlightened agriculturists have a right to expect.

Intelligent men say, what has the Board done of late years? Why has it not done this? Why has it not done that? But, amid the doubts and uncertainties and changes of the last few years, it would have been the height of imprudence for the Board to have engaged in protracted systematic schemes. All that could be done was to make furtive efforts now and again as opportunity offered, to import grain or cattle, and sell them off as rapidly as possible, and have the accounts always balanced, ready for a dissolution. Financial liabilities could not be incurred with safety. We hope that all those days are past, that the Act, with increased grants to societies, will furnish an active working Board enjoying the confidence of the Legislature on the one hand, and of the farmers on the other. With hearty support, there is no limit to the exertions of the Board, or to the benefits which the Province may derive from its operations.

The disappearance of snow and thawing out of the soil at an unusually early period has given a spring aspect to the fields and gardens, and has induced unusual activity among amateur horticulturists. During the last ten days, we have noticed the porches of city dwellings gradually filling up with flower pots, and what of the flowers the winter has left behind;—in some cases fuchsia and geranium sticks without any leaves, but in others, large collections of healthy plants that seem to have defied the dry air of fire-heated rooms, and the sulphur-