

was laid at 900 of beef. Since coming to town, I have been informed that F. R. Parker, Esq., of Shubenacadie, lately received \$180 for a pair of three year old steers, laid at 1,500 pounds dead weight. And Mr. Leaman, the butcher referred to, has bought for Easter, at 13½ cents a pound, Mr. James Norrie's splendid pair of four year old Durhams, stall-fed six months, and laid at 2,500 of beef. One girls 7 feet 9 inches and the other 7 feet 11, and, for all those nice points which distinguish the breed, would fill the eye of a good judge of cattle from Smithfield Market.

But it must not be supposed that the late Board has done all that can be desired to promote the cause of agriculture, and that nothing remains for the present one to accomplish. Unfortunately, "the results of their recent successful efforts" can only be found, and to a limited extent, in the more advanced agricultural districts, where agricultural societies have been in operation, and have not extended to the more remote, but equally fertile farming sections, which must be reached before Nova Scotia becomes, as I hope it will ere long become, in an agricultural point of view, as it is in a geographical, the frontier Province of the Dominion of Canada. This can readily be understood from the fact that not more than 3,245 out of 50,000 inhabitants who follow the plough, are members of the Agricultural societies, the principal recipients of the benefits accruing from the operations of the Board. And when it is considered that there are at least 120,000 milch cows of common breed in the Province, and 330,000 sheep, in some parts not much better than a cross between a woolly dog and a goat, upon which any improvement in the breeds must be founded—we may well exclaim, what are the few animals hitherto imported for breeding purposes among so many? Indeed! before the 150,000 steers in Nova Scotia of the large-boned, long-legged and long-lived breed can be worked out and replaced by fine and thrifty animals of the description noticed, and before the character of our sheep, both for mutton and wool, can be materially improved, the Province has yet to make many large and judicious importations of stock.

It is quite evident that agriculture, cattle farming, sheep husbandry, and every other important branch of agriculture, as carried on in Nova Scotia, is capable of vast improvement; and to my mind, it is the paramount duty of the legislature, and should be our highest aim, to see that that improvement takes place. It is impossible for it to go on without benefitting the inhabitants in many direct and indirect ways, largely increasing the revenue, causing the Province to become a more attractive field for immigration, and generally producing a wonderfully beneficial

effect upon the resources of the country. Besides bringing people into the place, an advanced state of agriculture will keep the sons of our farmers at home, many of which valuable class, unfortunately for our husbandry and well-being, are tilling the soil and developing the resources of other lands.

The small attendance of members of this Board is much to be regretted, but owing to the impassable state of the roads from a succession of heavy snow-storms, almost without precedent in the history of the country, is unavoidable. I was in hopes that every member would have been here, prepared to state the present urgent agricultural requirements of the Societies and Counties represented; and that, for the information of the Legislature, from the various statements, an estimate might be formed of the money grant needed to meet those requirements. To my mind, it is exceedingly desirable that some very decided steps of progress be made in the cause. While the Government might, to the great advantage of the country, establish a School of Agriculture, where young men could be instructed in the art of farming, and qualified to become more successful agriculturists than their fathers ever dreamed it possible for them to become; and, while the same authority might, with like good effect, order an agricultural survey of the Province, and let it be known where good farming lands are vacant, and what parts are better adapted than others, for certain agricultural pursuits, it would seem that the more important duties of this Board are to foster Agricultural Societies, encourage their formation where none exist, import stock and seed grain, and generally promote those objects which more immediately concern the welfare of the farmer. After carefully surveying the whole ground, the members of the Board present have come to the conclusion, leaving the importation of stock out of the question, that they cannot, with advantage to the Province, perform what they conceive to be their duty with anything short of a legislative grant of \$10,000; and, they are strongly of opinion that an additional amount, equal to the sum invested for a Stock Farm, will be necessary for an importation of stock, now very much required.

We therefore earnestly hope that our legislators will fully appreciate the grave importance of the subject under consideration, and that they will evidence their appreciation by placing at the disposal of the Board such a grant of money as will prove an effective lever in its hands to raise the Province to a higher agricultural position than it has ever occupied, and better prepare the country for the reception of the tide of immigration which the Government, by laudable efforts, are striving to bring to our shores.

FLAX MACHINERY.

A desire having been expressed by David Matheson, Esq., of Pictou, for information respecting flax machinery, suitable for a water power in Pictou County, we made enquiries of Professor Buckland, of Toronto, which resulted in the following correspondence:—

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURE AND ARTS,
ONTARIO,

TORONTO, March 23, 1872.

My Dear Sir—Your favor of the 29th of February was duly received.

Mr. Donaldson, to whom I applied for specific information, being out of town, I could not reply before. Mr. D. informs me that he has written to you, and forwarded his pamphlet on Flax. He expects to see the manufacturer referred to at a public meeting, in the course of a week or two, when he will inform you as to price, &c.

We have very severe weather for the season, though not much snow in this section. I fear we have a poor lot out for winter wheat. The ground was so dry when it was sown, germination in many instances was prolonged and imperfect, and a weakly plant has been subjected to alternate freezing and thawing, with much of the surface unprotected by snow. I was at a farmers' meeting at Markham yesterday, when a general opinion was expressed, that a slight covering of rough manure, straw, leaves, &c., at the beginning of winter would be very beneficial.

I learn that you have had on the seaboard, and many miles inland, very severe snow storms.

Yours truly,

GEO. BUCKLAND.

Professor Lawson.

TORONTO, 22nd March, 1872.

Sir,—At the request of Professor Buckland I have now the honor of sending you a small pamphlet on the culture of flax, written by me some years ago.

At present, this business, is doing remarkably well in the counties of Wellington, Waterloo and Perth, some sixty miles west of this. Flax fibre as well as seed has brought high prices; 13 and 14 cents per lb. has readily been obtained for fibre, and \$1.40 and \$1.50 per bushel of 56 lbs has been obtained for seed. We have in Ontario some thirty Flax Scutching Mills.

The machinery used for Scutching is very simple, being steel knives placed in a shaft, and the best brake for preparing the flax for Scutching has been manufactured at the foundry of Jacob Beck, of Baden, County of Waterloo.