

petition:—Col. Johnson, of London, and Col. Sanders and Mr. Murton, of Guelph.

In consequence of the above proceedings, a special meeting of the Board of Agriculture was held in this city on the 29th ult., Col. E. W. Thomson, President, in the chair. The object of the meeting having been stated, some preliminaries discussed, and explanations made by Col. Johnson as to the design and action of the Convention over which he had presided at Hamilton, the Hon. David Christie proceeded at some length to criticize and reply to the utterances then made. He thought the Board had a right to complain of the statements made by certain gentlemen present on that occasion. It was not only implied, but, he thought, directly stated, that the Board of Agriculture had thrown obstacles in the way of the passage of the Agricultural Bill agreed to by the Convention of Delegates in this city, in 1862. Now he (Mr. Christie) denied the statement *in toto*. It had no foundation in fact. The Board of Agriculture, so far as he was aware, had never thrown any obstacles in the way of the passage of that Bill. On the contrary, the members of the Board having seats in the Legislature had brought that measure before Parliament, and their efforts to carry it had been thwarted by gentlemen who did not represent the views and feelings of the majority of the agricultural community of Upper Canada. From the statements made by Mr. Cowan at the recent meeting in Hamilton, one would fancy that the Bill originated in the House of Assembly, that it passed that body unanimously, and that it was then rejected by the Legislative Council. Now what were the facts? Mr. Alexander introduced that measure in the Upper House. It passed the Upper House unanimously. It was then sent to the Lower House, and had there embodied in it amendments which were the substance of Major Campbell's Bill of 1861, and which were discussed by the Convention of 1862, and rejected by that body. It was then returned with those amendments to the Upper House. He (Mr. Christie) was not in the country at the time, but had he been present in the Legislative Council when the Bill was returned to them, he should have taken precisely the course which was taken by Mr. Burnham, and he was quite willing to share with that gentleman, and with the other members of the Board who had a seat in the Legislative Council, the responsibility of the course they took. They could not have done otherwise. The measure brought in by Mr. Alexander was the Bill agreed upon by the Convention of 1862. Nay more, at the annual meeting of the Agricultural Association held at Kingston in 1863, he stated that, as the Government had not made a Government measure of the question, he thought, if the agricultural community still desired the legislation proposed, it was the duty of the members of the Board having seats in the Legislature to bring in the Bill, and he asked the delegates if they still adhered to the amendments adopted at the Convention in 1862. The result was that Mr. Stock, of Flamboro', seconded by Mr. Tilt, of Peel, moved a resolution expressing the adherence of the Association to those amendments. The resolution passed unanimously.

The matter was again brought up and fully discussed at the last annual meeting of the Association in Hamilton, this year. A resolution was moved by Mr. Barker, to the effect that the delegates approved of the Bill passed in the Upper House, carrying out the amendments proposed at the Convention of 1862, and requested the Hon. Messrs. Alexander, Christie, and Burnham, in the Upper House, and Mr. Ferguson and other members specially interested in agriculture, in the Lower House, to look after and endeavour to have the bill then introduced passed into law. An amendment was moved by Mr. Cowan, M. P. P., to the effect that in the opinion of the meeting, the best mode of electing the Board of Agriculture would be by dividing the Province into sections, each section to elect a member of the Board. Mr. Christie read from the minutes the motion and amendment, followed by the statement that Mr. Cowan's amendment was put and lost, and the original motion carried. He believed some 60 delegates were present on that occasion. The Secretary could state if that was the fact.

Mr. HUGH THOMSON said there were about 80 in the room at the beginning of the meeting, but some had left before that particular stage of the proceedings.

Mr. CHRISTIE then proceeded to reflect in very strong terms on the course pursued at the so-called Convention held a few days since, disclaimed for himself and the other members of the Board all interested motives, and insisted that the Board should take effectual measures to set itself right before the public.

Col. JOHNSON replied at some length to Mr. Christie's address, urging that there was a very general conviction that a more popular method of electing the Board of Agriculture ought to be adopted; that there had been no design to cast aspersions on the present Board, or in any way to interfere with its legitimate functions; and stated that he and those who had acted with him would be satisfied if a Bill, similar to that which had been before the Legislature, were to be carried. They hoped, also, that the proposed petitions, added to the influence of the members of the Board who were in the two Houses of Parliament, would bring about the desired result.

Mr. CHRISTIE rejoined that it was quite correct that the present mode of electing the Board was not popular. He admitted that most fully, they had tried to correct it, but had been prevented from doing so by the action of the members for the Lower House, who tried to introduce into the Bill a mode of election which was negatived by the Convention that met at Toronto in 1862, and which was negatived again at the very last meeting of the Association in Hamilton. There could be no question about the fact that the majority of the properly accredited representatives of the County Societies of Upper Canada had affirmed that the mode of election proposed in the Bill, as introduced by Mr. Alexander, was that which they preferred. That was the mode which the members of the Board had tried to carry out. They had not sought to adhere to the present mode, as one might infer from listening to Col. Johnson's statement.

Hon. Mr. BURNHAM then gave a narrative of facts, respecting the bill introduced by Hon. Mr. Alexander, substantially the same as had already been given by Mr. Christie. Conversational discussion then ensued respecting some incidental matters, and ultimately the following Resolutions were passed, Col. Johnson alone dissenting:

1. "That, in consequence of statements having been made at a meeting held in Hamilton, on the 20th inst., the tendency of which was to create the impression that the Board of Agriculture had been the cause of the rejection of the Agricultural Bill agreed to at the Convention of 1862—statements entirely at variance with the fact—the Board of Agriculture feel that in duty to themselves and to the public they are bound to make public the facts of the case."

2. "That the President, Vice-President, Col. Denison, and Hon. Mr. Burnham be a committee to draft a circular setting forth the facts of the case, for the purpose of being sent to the various County Societies in Upper Canada."

The proposed circular will doubtless embody in brief, the statements made by the Hon. D. Christie, so that our readers have the entire case fully before them. Both the gentlemen lately convened at Hamilton, and the members of the Board, appear to be aiming at very much the same objects; at least we fail to see any very serious difference of opinion or aim. All agree as to the necessity of a more popular election of the Board, and the desirableness of an improved Agricultural statute. The discussion of the subject will do good, and now that all seem to be thoroughly roused, we may hope that the reforms universally wished for, will be obtained at the next sitting of the Provincial Legislature.

Birmingham Cattle and Poultry Show, and Exhibition of Dogs.

The sixteenth annual exhibition above mentioned came off during the last week of November, and was by far the largest and most successful of the series. There were 346 entries of cattle, sheep and pigs, in place of 284, the average of the past four years; and 168 lots of roots and grain against 156, the last four years' average, while there was a still higher increase in the feathered portion of the show.

The first animal this year was Mr. Joseph Phillips's Hereford ox; a grand beast, of splendid quality and great substance, girthing 9 feet 2 inches. This took the first prize in its class, an extra prize of £25 as the best Hereford, the £20 gold medal for being the best ox or steer of any breed or age, and then the highest honour, a 25 guinea ornamental plate, given by the hotel and inn keepers of Birmingham to the best animal, whether male or female, in all the cattle classes. The gold medal for the best cow and heifer of any breed or age was won by Mr. Wil-

liam Stedman's Hereford cow, which, of course, takes also the first prize in her class.

The Herefords have thus carried off the chief honours; a breed "noted for its beauty and good beef."

The Short-horns were in their usual force, a red and white steer owned by Sir W. de Capell Brooke taking the first prize. A larger, but less handsome animal, which girthed 9 feet 7 inches, took the second prize. Only a small number of Devons were shown. The Long-horns and Scotch cattle were numerous and of great merit. A grade animal, as near Short-horn as might be, was an object of much attention, being of large size, good substance, girthing 10 feet, and evenly loaded with meat of excellent touch. Of sheep, the Leicesters, Cotswolds, Shropshires, Lincolns and Oxfordshire Downs are highly spoken of. Of pigs, no fewer than 130 Berkshires were shown, against 35 last year. Among the roots, were cabbages weighing 31 lbs. each; long mangolds, 21 lbs. each; globe mangolds, 28 lbs. each; Swedes, 15½ lbs. each; and ox-cabbages, 58 lbs., denuded of roots and outer leaves, or 72 lbs. as taken out of the ground. These weights are considered good in view of the dry character of the past season. No less than 1,677 pens of poultry, and 290 cages of pigeons were exhibited! The poultry judges must have had a trying time of it. Turkeys of 23 lbs., and geese of 26 lbs., live weight; a trio of Aylesbury ducks, weighing 27 lbs., and a trio of Rouen ducks, 25 lbs., were among the lots exhibited. The Dog Show was also remarkably fine. £700 were distributed in premiums among blood-hounds, fox-hounds, deer-hounds, grey-hounds, harriers, beagles, pointers, setters, terriers, retrievers, mastiffs, Newfoundlands, spaniels, sheep-dogs, bull-dogs, Skyes, Pomeranians, Blenheims, Maltese, King Charles', Italian greyhounds, toy-terriers, and pugs.

The Glasnevin Training School.

This institution, designed for teaching young men how to farm, is located near Dublin, and a brief reference to it will suitably follow up some recent observations on agricultural training. A correspondent of the *North British Agriculturist* gives a long account of a visit made to this School, from which we cull a few particulars. There are accommodations for ninety pupils, but the number has of late been restricted to sixty, by the Government, at whose expense the students are boarded and instructed. The course extends over two years, and admissions are made either in January or July. Both literary and agricultural instruction is given. The literary classes are for spelling, grammar, composition, book-keeping, writing, mapping, &c. The agricultural classes comprise husbandry, chemistry, botany, geology, surveying and mensuration. These classes are taught by professional men, who are selected by the commissioners. The out-of-door instruction is partly in the garden and partly on the farm. In the gardens, the pupils are made to dig, to sow at the proper season, to graft trees, and rear vegetables and flowers, under the directions of an experienced practical gardener. On the farm, they not only receive explanations of the several operations, but they are made to take part and put their hand to everything going on.

Each student is estimated to cost for board and tuition from £35 to £40 sterling per annum. The farm attached to the school comprises 175 acres, and the operations carried on include dairying, stock-keeping, and grain and root-growing, botanical, fruit, vegetable, flower, and conservatory gardening. Everything is done in the most neat and orderly manner; weeds are outlawed; the highest cultivation is arrived at; and the average of the crops testifies to the excellence of the culture bestowed. The balance-sheet of 1862 showed a margin of profit of £109, after paying a rent of £4 per acre, a most satisfactory summing up of the year's work.

Illinois State Horticultural Society.

We learn from the *Chicago Tribune* that the annual meeting of the above Society, recently held, was well attended, and the proceedings were of an interesting character. An excellent paper on orchard sites was read, the chief object of which was to show the superiority of elevated positions for fruit culture, mainly from such situations being less liable to frost. A discussion was had as to the best fruits for general