

1868, of \$12,047 76 in favor of the Board. This balance a month later, December 31st, 1868, had been reduced to \$8,253 76, the Treasurer having during the month of December paid \$3,794. Besides this the Bank of British North America now holds a note for \$3,800 against the Board. Mr. Christie concluded by declaring that the Board courted the utmost publicity, but had been unfairly dealt with by the premature publication of a one-sided report. He considered that there must be a motive for this, and he believed the object was to oust the present Board at the approaching elections. But, though the time was short, they would take care to defend themselves, and believed that they would get a verdict in their favor from the public they had served so long and so well.

The following resolutions were then adopted in relation to the matter :

Resolved, That Messrs. Christie, Stone, and Alexander be empowered to take the necessary security from the Treasurer for the balance due by him to the Board.

Resolved, That Messrs. Patton, Osler, and Moss be consulted as to security.

Our space does not admit of extended comment upon this unpleasant business, but we cannot dismiss it without briefly remarking :

1. That the country has reason to congratulate itself on the practical working of the Act passed by the Provincial Legislature last session, by means of which thorough inquiry into the affairs of the Agricultural Association has been secured.

2. That the Commissioner of Agriculture, so far from being open to complaint for the course taken by him, is entitled to the thanks of the country for having laid open a state of things which urgently needed investigation. His promptitude is especially to be commended, since, had he been at all tardy, the Legislature would have been prorogued, and the Annual Meetings of Agricultural Societies over, before the returns were given to the public.

3. That it is very plain certain members of the Board, the President and Secretary at least, must have been aware of the unsatisfactory state of the finances, especially in view of the protested note held by the Bank of British North America against the Board, which is signed by the President as maker and by the Treasurer as

endorser, and could only have been rendered necessary by the funds of the Association not being forthcoming.

4. That there is no difficulty now in understanding how it has come to pass that prize-taking exhibitors all over the Province, have been unable to obtain their premium moneys. The extreme difficulty of obtaining prize money has discouraged many persons from exhibiting, and it is every way to be regretted, that the difficulty should have arisen from a cause so discreditable.

5. That a still more thorough scrutiny on some points appears to be required, so much so that we think the Government would be warranted in appointing a Commission, with power to examine witnesses and call for documents, and we trust they may be induced to do so.

6. That the farmers of Ontario have the future of the Provincial Agricultural Association in their own hands ; and, as it devolves upon them, under the new Act, to reconstruct the Board at the annual meetings about to be held, it will be their own fault if they do not appoint suitable members, and put the whole concern into good working order.

[NOTE.—Since the above was put in type, the Board of Agriculture have published as their defence, an account of the proceedings taken at their recent meeting. Mr. Thomas White has replied, showing that the Board acknowledge the truth of all the substantial allegations of his report; that the statement as to their being no bank account was Mr. Denison's and not his (Mr. White's), and that there is pretty conclusive circumstantial evidence that such statement was made, but that this is a comparatively unimportant point, though that against which the defence is chiefly directed; and finally, that Mr. Christie's surprise at these revelations about the state of the funds is feigned, and not real, since he could not but be aware that the Treasurer was in default. Mr. R. L. Denison has also published a letter, in which he maintains his right to the \$6,338 of per centage charged by him, says "there are other claims" which he feels "equitably entitled to," that are still unsettled between him and the Board, declares his readiness to pay "the balance, (if any)," at any moment, clears Mr. Christie and the rest of the Board of all responsibility, and pending further explanations, asks the public to withhold its judgment. This completes the history of the case up to the date of our going to press, Jan. 12. — Ed. O. F.]

A monthly fair will be held in the village of Paisley, on the last Tuesday of every month.