

Pictou is agriculturally in a healthy condition. The County Exhibition of last Fall was very successful, and the Prize List is reported at length in another part of this number. That Exhibition was the result of the combined efforts of the Societies in the county, which is the right way of managing County Exhibitions.

On the 25th January, the Pictou Agricultural Society held, in the Court House, the first of a series of Meetings for the discussion of Agricultural subjects. There were present about fifty of the leading farmers of the district, some from a considerable distance. The meeting was presided over by David Matheson, Esq., the President of the Society, and was addressed by Mr. Donald Fraser of Acadia Farm, and several other experienced agriculturists. Most of the time was occupied by Prof. Lawson, Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, who addressed the meeting on several points in scientific agriculture as bearing upon the present methods of Nova Scotian farming. He did not advocate thorough draining and high cultivation to start with; the first thing was to find out the leaks in bad cultivation, waste of manure, and waste of feed, and to stop them. Then more rapid progress could be made, for farming would become more and more profitable. By our present want of system it is impossible that it can be. The remarkable fact was brought out by several speakers that of late years there had been a great depreciation in the assessed value of farms in Pictou County. One gentleman instanced a similar depreciation in the fertile districts of Cumberland, and the Sackville marshes, where thousands of tons of hay were annually sold off the farms, and nothing returned to the soil to keep up its fertility. In Ontario, the wheat lands are giving out from the same cause, and in Massachusetts farms are yearly passing into bush land. Facts like these, which touch not only the material welfare, but the very existence, of our people, should be investigated by our statesmen as pointing to the greatest problem in political economy that remains to be solved on this continent.

COLCHESTER is a noble county, and Colchester is ambitious. With her immense accession of thorough-bred Stock within the last few years, and the Provincial Exhibition at Truro again this year, and her classic number of seven active Agricultural Societies, not to speak of the Farmer's Grange and Club Meetings, one would think that Colchester might be satisfied. But it is not so. On 28th January a Meeting was held at Great Village, Londonderry, at which active steps were taken to form another vigorous organization. The following particulars are taken from Wednesday's *Sun*:

At about 1.30 p. m., a goodly number had assembled in Plymouth Hall. Joseph Spencer was called to the Chair, and Luther Spencer appointed Secretary. The Rev. A. McLean opened the meeting by prayer. The Chairman then asked Dr. Peppard to state the object of the meeting. He said that some weeks ago the "Great Village Mutual Improvement Society" had mooted the matter, and he, with others, had been appointed a committee to call the meeting. He thought the time had come when Londonderry should have its Agricultural Society, and he believed that if one was started it would have the sympathy and support of the whole community. A short programme had been arranged; the Dr. introduced Colonel Blair of Onslow and I. Longworth, Esq., of Truro.

Mr. Longworth read a decidedly interesting sketch of the life of the late Judge Robie, which was listened to with much interest, and during the reading of which, as anticipated, the meeting had become largely augmented in numbers, and by the time the paper was finished there were upwards of sixty persons in the room, many of them farmers from quite a distance.

Colonel Blair, spoke with his usual vigor and was listened to attentively. He had come with pleasure on the invitation of the Committee, to assist at the formation of an Agricultural Society. He had been introduced to them as a successful Agriculturist, but he felt that he came far short of that honorable distinction. He was, however, always willing to do what he could in the interests of Agriculture. He was not much acquainted with the district of Londonderry, its agricultural capabilities, etc., but had heard that the first Agricultural Society in the County had its headquarters at Great Village. We had to deal with the present, and the first question to be considered was one of importance: Is the formation of an Agricultural Society necessary? This question might be answered by asking others: Is the state of Agriculture in this district just what it should be? Were there any farms run out, impoverished? Had they the right kind of stock, etc.? He believed that these matters were not all as they should be, and he therefore presumed that a Society was necessary. Why is it that some localities flourish while others languish? He would endeavor to answer this question by a story he had heard of one of our early sea captains, who always, and under all circumstances, made quick passages across the Atlantic, and, when one of his competitors, determined on finding out the secret of his success, crossed with him, he found this successful ship-master ever at his post, studying the weather, winds, tides and currents, taking advantage of

every circumstance that would any way tend to waft his vessel towards the desired haven. In like manner, we, if we desire to become successful farmers, must study the pursuit in every particular, and take advantage of every circumstance that will make us proficient in our calling. Some farmers understood their business and worked intelligently, while others did not, and he was sorry to think that the latter class was by far the most numerous. Farmers as a class were not as well educated as they should be, and one grand means of obtaining information peculiar to their calling, was through Agricultural Societies or other Associations. Other classes had their Associations and Improvement Societies, and if there was one class more than another that needed them it was farmers. We now had opportunities to be educated, thanks to the men who gave us our free schools, which our fathers knew not of, and he was proud to know that every young farmer in the county could now get a good common school education. But the time had now fully come when farmers must aim higher, when they needed such information as was only imparted through Agricultural Colleges, and as there was only one in the Dominion, he did not see how we could get on much longer without one. The nature of our soils needed to be thoroughly and well understood by those called on to work them. They could not be robbed with impunity; what we take from the soil in one way we must return to it in another. But if we go on from year to year impoverishing our lands, we may not only expect short crops, but grains attacked by weevil, rust and other evils, simply because the soil is not vigorous enough to give the crops the energy necessary to withstand the ravages of such pests. As with grains, so with potatoes and other root crops. He referred to the marvellous strides which this County had made during the last few years, and spoke of the interest taken in Exhibitions, and he was right glad to know that this large and important section of our fine country was about to take a step in the right direction. Mr. Longworth, he said could tell them how to form a Society, and would give them the law on the subject. I. Longworth, Esq., on again taking the stand, made a good speech; he very clearly explained the *modus operandi* by which a good Society could be started and kept alive.

Dr. Peppard moved, seconded by L. C. Layton, "that this meeting considers it advisable to form an Agricultural Society, and that a paper for signature be at once opened." Squires McKim, Foreman, Dill, and Fountain, together with Allan R. Flemming, Messrs. Yuill, McLellan, and Peppard, spoke to the resolution which passed unanimously.