

ful, although some of them, as the *Cannas*, lose a little of their brilliancy at this dull time of year. The variegated *Pelargoniums* were very pretty. Mrs. Pollock has been the fashionable sort for some years, but we see her brilliant zoned leaves beginning to peep out of humble windows in Water Street, and fortunately for aristocratic gardens and conservatories, the Grieve family have come to the rescue, and several of these are thought to be much better, besides being more select, than the world-renowned Pollock. *Abutilon striatum* is one of our very best Conservatory plants, stately and of neat growth, clean in foliage and flowering freely. The Ivy leaved *Pelargonium* is one of the best Conservatory climbers, after being established for some years, and we hope Mr. Black's will be trained permanently in this way, and not thrown out when it becomes large and old, which is the orthodox method of treating pelargoniums; the Ivy leaved never grows too old, as age brings additional beauty. One of the most striking foliage sorts in the Conservatory is one called Oak Wreath, or some such name; the leaves are unusually large for a pale leaved sort, of bold, almost lobed, outline, and with a very broad white margin. When placed amongst dark foliaged plants, or, as it is at Mr. Black's, in a shady corner, the effect is striking. We observed an unusually large plant of the neat little *Mahernia*, just beginning to show blossoms. There were also *Polyanthus Narcissi*, the ever graceful *Deutzia gracilis*, with its snowy bells, humble green ferns and tall *Araucarias*, Hesperidian orange trees, nodding *Cyclamens*;—but we must not count the leaves of the forest, or our readers will say we are giving them a botanical catalogue. The Vinery showed strong healthy canes that give promise of good clusters; the fig trees are singularly healthy well grown trees, and the peach trees are already covered with their evanescent peach blossoms. A few hardy *Polyanthuses* are beginning to show their pips in the Vinery, and a large pan of Mayflower attested the accuracy of the statements made in Temperance Hall on Tuesday night by the President of the Young Men's Christian Association that our native emblem prefers the mossy bank to the most elegant culture. We have not for a long time spent a pleasanter half hour than that occupied in walking round Mr. Black's Conservatory. It only remains to be said that the plants are all in excellent health, and well arranged, and that there is throughout the perfect order and neatness that may be expected in such an elegant establishment.

The Agricultural Society of Noel and Maitland is making arrangements for importing for its Members one or two hundred bushels of Fyfe Wheat from Wes-

tern Canada. We are almost daily receiving fresh evidence of the extension of Wheat Culture in our Province, and feel assured that the time is coming when many of our farmers will have flour to sell instead of having to buy all their breadstuffs, and they will then rejoice when prices run up.

We lately paid a visit to the Halifax Nursery to examine one of the most interesting plants that have ever bloomed in Halifax, viz., a variety of the Banana, the one cultivated in European Conservatories, *Musa Cavendishii*. A very good account of it was given in the *Colonist*, which we append. On a future occasion we may add some further particulars:—

"Some five or six years ago we noticed, somewhat at length, the partially successful culture of this Plantain by Mr. Betts, then gardener to W. B. Hamilton, Esq. The plants grew with great luxuriance, but the appliances at command were not suitable to bring them into fruiting, and their culture was abandoned. Mr. Harris, of the Halifax Nursery, has, however, at his establishment a plant which stands about six feet high, and with its immense leaves expanding to the length of four or five feet, seems to threaten destruction to the glass above. The spadix, or fruit-bearing stem, rises from the centre of the leaves, and the fruits hang from it in circling clusters. Mr. Harris has laboured under many disadvantages in bringing the plant to its present perfection. There are many private hot-houses throughout the city, admirably adapted, from their height and heating apparatus, to the culture of the Plantain, and we should like to see an attempt made under such favorable circumstances. That it is worth the trial will be readily admitted when it is known that one plant will produce from fifteen to thirty pounds of delicious fruit. The culture is simple, and with the hope that the experiment may be tried, we will furnish a few directions. When the fruit is cut from old plants, these are taken out of the ground, partially disrooted, and placed in pots to produce suckers. This they readily do when plunged in a bottom heat, of about 85°. These suckers are removed and set in small pots, and thence from pot to pot, until finally set in a large tub. These suckers will produce fruit within the year. A lively heat is the great essential to the culture, with a liberal amount of atmospheric moisture. 70° to 90° of heat will be necessary during the bright part of the year, and from 60° to 70° during the duller season.

COUNTY OF HALIFAX AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—Arrangements are being made to hold a meeting of the Western Halifax Society on Tuesday, 21st March, at 12 o'clock, noon, when business of great im-

portance will be brought forward. All are invited to attend. It is expected that several prominent agriculturists and patrons of agriculture will address the meeting, and the proceedings are likely to be of an interesting character.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE FOR THE YEAR 1870.

Halifax, 24th February, 1871.

To THE HON. W. B. VAIL, }
Provincial Secretary. }

Sir,—The Board of Agriculture beg to submit their Seventh Annual Report.

The Agricultural Societies of the Province are in a more satisfactory condition than they have been for several years past. The statistics appended to this Report show that they have increased in numbers, that they have raised a larger amount by annual subscriptions, and that they have expended larger sums of money in substantial improvements. The number of Societies qualified under the "Act for Encouragement of Agriculture," is now forty-nine (49), the number of members 2,752, and the amount of annual subscriptions paid during the year \$3,046.00. This sum is exclusive of special subscriptions and other monies raised for exhibitions and purchase of stock, &c., which have been considerable.

The following table represents the condition of effective Societies, from year to year, since the organization of the Board in 1864, as shown by the attested returns filed by the Board:—

Year.	No. of societies.	No. of Members.	Amt. of Subscriptions.	Grants in Aid.
1st year, 1864..	37	1,754	\$1,858.00	\$3,010.00
2nd year, 1865.	48	2,198	2,384.80	3,384.00
3rd year, 1866.	52	2,548	2,800.50	3,566.00
4th year, 1867.	58	2,833	3,051.25	3,444.50
5th year, 1868.	45	2,246	2,519.75	3,232.50
6th year, 1869.	48	2,289	2,340.50	3,001.00
7th year, 1870.	49	2,742	3,046.00	3,372.00

It will be observed that there are six more Societies than last year, and that there is an increase of \$505.50 in the amount of subscriptions raised. The Board have thus carried out the desire expressed by the Agricultural Committee of the House of Assembly, last session, that existing Societies should be sustained, and new ones induced to be formed.*

In former years the Board made extensive importations of cattle, sheep and pigs. The diffusion of these animals over the Province has resulted in a very decided improvement in the character of our Live Stock. This is most conspicuous in Cornwallis and other rich Agricultural Districts where the fattening of animals for market is systematically pursued; but in nearly all the counties of

* NOTE.—Since these returns were prepared new Societies have been organized, by which the number of members and total amount of subscriptions are both higher than for any previous year since the organization of the Board.