

knowledge has been immense, and the improvement in horticulture, agriculture, stock and farm management has been as great. The study of Agriculture has become a recognized branch of education in our Dominion as elsewhere. In Ontario there is an Agricultural College with Experimental Farm attached, and there is a Government Stock Farm in New Brunswick. We have neither of these institutions in Nova Scotia, but strong pressure is being brought to bear on the Government for the introduction into our public schools of the study of Agriculture, and, in many respects, our Province is not far behind the rest of the Dominion in agricultural matters. In the cultivation of Fruit, particularly the apple, this Annapolis valley, in which our lines are so pleasantly cast, is leading the Province. This is due largely to the efforts and influence of the Fruit Growers' Association. The work of this Society has been of incalculable value to the farmers of this valley and the Province at large. Through its influence our apples have been introduced and taken the first place in the markets of the world, and its efforts have supplied the farmers with all the best new varieties, and taught them improved methods of culture, packing and marketing. Members of all the Agricultural Societies in the Province are also members of this Association, and are interested in it.

There are now about ninety societies in the Province, with a membership of rather more than five thousand farmers, and all are engaged in the good work of improving stock, etc. No doubt our Society has done, and is doing, her share of the work; but it is nevertheless true that she is not exerting that influence for the improvement of the community, in the highest sense, that she might and should do; and we ought to enquire into the cause of this failure and seek a remedy. One reason, we think, why the Society is not more prosperous and influential is, that a large number of farmers in the District have not joined the Society and do not seem to appreciate its advantages. Our membership has increased of late; but the farmers who are not members of our Society probably outnumber those who are enrolled on our list. There are seven societies in King's County, and the membership of our Society is one of the smallest of the seven, and our Legislative Grant the smallest. Last year the grant to the Union Agricultural Society, with a membership of one less than ours, was \$81.43, and ours \$28.66. When the County Grant is divided among so many societies, the amount received by each is necessarily small, and we would respectfully request the Central Board to continue to urge the Government to increase

the County Grant to societies and to limit the multiplication of societies in the counties. We should adopt some plan to increase our membership, so that we may obtain a fair share of the Grant to the County. How far the Society itself, the officers, and we (the Directors) are to blame for this lack of members, is a question for us to think about and discuss with all earnestness. It is apparent to all that the majority in the Society take very little interest in the meetings and business transactions.

How can we revive an interest in the Society, and make it more popular and useful? In the first place, every member should make his personal influence as widely felt as possible, and thereby conduce to the prosperity and advancement of the Society. We should, also, as a body, pay more attention to the social element. The dinner, for which we are shortly to adjourn, is a step in the right direction, and should become an annual institution. Members are drawn together around the social board as they can be in no other way, and the speeches and discussions of various topics afford a pleasant means of spending a few hours, and interchanging thoughts and ideas. And, secondly, members might organize themselves into a Farmers' Club, and hold meetings during the long winter evenings; and provide lectures and debates on agricultural subjects; and journals could be read, and the results of farming operations talked about; and social evenings spent at each other's houses. It would also be a good idea to use any surplus funds of the Society for the purchase of seeds of new varieties of grain and roots, and distribute them among the members. In these and many other ways an increased interest might be aroused in the Society.

Your Directors hope these suggestions may meet with your approval, and lead to improvement and progress.

The retrospect of the past year is not so bright as that of some previous years in our history. The rainy spring of 1883 was repeated, and a wet spring in this locality, where the soil is clayey and the drainage deficient, means a late planting, a press of work through the whole season, and a poor crop. Not only was the spring unusually wet; but day after day throughout July and August—our hottest and driest months—the rain fell until the least superstitious among us began to believe that a rainy St. Swithin's really was followed by a forty days' rain, and some people almost began to doubt the promise of seed time and harvest. Never, within the memory of the oldest inhabitant, has there been such a continuous rainfall through these summer months. Potatoes were washed out of the ground, and many fields were so soft and full

of water that no hoeing could be done, and the weeds grow and covered the land. The crop in those fields was a total failure. The land was either ploughed to kill the weeds, or the rows turned over with the plough and a few potatoes picked out. Some dry knolls were planted earlier and hoed once, and yielded an average crop; but, on the whole, there was only one-third of a crop, and up to this date there has been no demand for them. The only sale so far has been made to Caldwell & Murray,—a thousand barrels for the Bermuda market, a dollar a barrel. Two years in succession the potato crop has proved a failure, and the year when the crop was abundant the price was so low that the bulk of it was fed to the cattle and converted into beef. These two years of failure, and the fact that we have no market except when the crop is a failure in the United States, should teach our farmers that the potato is no longer the staple crop, and should be replaced by some other. In our opinion the farmers in this valley should turn their attention to fruit of all kinds, and stock raising. There is no doubt that ten years hence this Garden of Nova Scotia will be truly a garden in an orchard from end to end—from the Annapolis Basin on the west to the Avon on the east, and the profits from the fruit will far exceed that from all other sources. The man who has the foresight and pluck to go into orcharding and small fruit will, as surely if not as speedily, make a fortune, as those who are planting orange groves in Florida, and be free from the chills and fever while he is doing it. Such a season as the past brings out sharply the disadvantages of undrained or badly drained land—an average crop on knolls, a total failure on flat, wet fields. Farmers who have money to spare will reap a larger profit from it sunk in underdrains on their farms, than notes and mortgages will yield them at six per cent. Tiles can now be obtained at a moderate price, and if a plan of survey was made and a system of underdraining begun, the decrease in labor and increase in crop would soon pay the expense. There were many fears that the hay crop would also be a failure, and all that was cut in season was badly damaged, and, on some meadows and intervals and along the banks of rivers, hay was floated away or partly covered with water, but there was an average crop on the dykes, which, with the straw, will provide plenty of fodder for the stock. The most of the haying was done the last week in August and first of September. The hay was well dried then, but too old for good fodder. When the Timothy seed sifts off, the stalks and weeds are too hard and wiry to be easily digested. We think, as a