

toria: Henry Davenport, Esq., Sydney, George C. Lawrence, Esq., Port Hood.

Secretary (elected by the Board): George Lawson, LL.D.

The objects and duties of the Board, and the steps successively taken for the purpose of carrying them out, were detailed at length in last Annual Report, to which reference may be made for full information on these points (Journals of House of Assembly, 1869, Appendix No. 24.) Our chief duty is the surveillance of District and County Agricultural Societies. During the past year these have been maintained in about the same state of efficiency as in the previous year. Some Societies have ceased their exertions, and are therefore dropped from the list, but several new ones have been formed to supply the place of such. There is, upon the whole, a slight decrease in the total number of Societies,—there being 43 this year, as compared with 45 last year; but there is a slight increase in the total membership (2,239 this year, as against 2,246 last year), and the amount of subscriptions raised by Societies has not diminished,—the total sum attested as actually paid being \$2,540.50. The total amount of grants voted to Societies this year, in accordance with the terms of the Act, is \$3,001,—the smallest amount since the organization of the present Board. This arises from several counties not having qualified for full participation.

The following table represents the condition of effective Societies from year to year since the organization of the Board in 1864:—

Year	Number of Societies	Number of Members	Amount of Subscriptions	Grants in aid
1st year, 1864.....	37	1744	\$1859.00	\$3010.00
2nd do. 1865.....	43	2198	2384.00	3314.00
3rd do. 1866.....	52	2543	2380.50	3566.00
4th do. 1867.....	58	2833	3051.50	3445.50
5th do. 1868.....	45	2246	2519.75	3232.50
6th do. 1869.....	43	2209	2540.50	3001.00

It will be seen that the Agricultural Societies gradually rose to a maximum, not only in number of Societies, but also in number of members and amount of subscriptions, in the year 1867, at a time when the Board was making large importations of stock. Since then there has been a decrease, and it is obvious

that there is room for a renewed effort on the part of the Board, both to increase the strength of existing Societies and organize new ones in localities where they are required. These Societies, besides importing and maintaining stock in the several localities, occasionally hold Exhibitions. With the view of encouraging County Exhibitions, it has been resolved that where any Society or number of Societies shall throw their prizes open for competition to the whole Province, the Board shall give aid to the extent of 25 per cent. on the Local Prize Fund; provided that such premiums shall not in one year exceed \$1,000 for the whole Province. This arrangement will not affect the customary rateable grants to Agricultural Societies.

The highly satisfactory results obtained from the extensive importation of thorough-bred cattle and sheep have been detailed in previous Reports. The Board were later in obtaining thorough-bred pigs, and the character of these is now being reported upon by the various Societies in a way that causes regret that a larger number had not been imported. The Lower Stewiacke Society characterises the White Chester pigs as a "decided improvement;" "they have given general satisfaction." The Noel and Maitland Society notices the great improvement in pigs that has resulted from the introduction by the Board of White Chesters, which very much exceeded their anticipations. One at eight months old weighed 274 lbs.; one, at nine months, 305 lbs., and another of the same age 336 lbs. The Yarmouth Society reports that their trial "has established the value of this breed, spring pigs having been killed last fall weighing over 300 lbs." The Maxwellton Society (Pictou) reports the Chesters as greatly superior to the native breed in size, fattening qualities, and docility of disposition. Many similar reports have been received from other counties, where the Societies have interested themselves in introducing and maintaining Stock; but in localities where Societies do not exist, it is feared that there is a condition of things similar to that reported by the Pubnico Society, which, having participated in the grant only once during the last ten years, finds that the Stock of its members has become "almost worthless."

The Board observe the recommenda-

tion of the Agricultural Committee of the House of Assembly, made in their Report last year, that in future importations of Stock a portion should be sent to Baddeck, as the most central part of Cape Breton, in order that the inhabitants of that Island may have facilities for purchase. The Board are very sensible of the importance of promoting Agricultural improvement in Cape Breton; and should they be placed in a position to make a suitable importation, they will not fail to give due attention to the wishes of the Agricultural Committee.

Whilst the Harvest Returns of the year, appended to this Report, show that the crops of all kinds were unusually heavy (except Fruit and Buckwheat, which failed in some places), it is specially worthy of remark that the grain crops were very encouraging. A larger breadth of wheat had been sown than for many years, chiefly with the Fyfe Spring Wheat and Winter Club Wheat imported by the Board during the two previous years, and the yield, both of Spring and Winter Wheat, is reported by almost every grower as most satisfactory and encouraging.

This result has served to draw the attention of our farmers more seriously than hitherto to wheat culture, and many applications for seed wheat have been received.

This subject engaged the attention of the Board at a Conference recently held with the Agricultural Committee of the House, when it was resolved to import the following quantities of seed grain for the use of our farmers this spring, viz.:

- 300 bushels Fyfe Spring Wheat.
- 100 do. Norway Oats (Ramsdell's).
- 15 do. Surprise Oats.

In regard to the potato, the stimulus given by the Board by the introduction, a few years ago, of the new race of Goodrich seedlings, has had very beneficial effects. These sorts, originally distributed to our farmers in small quantities in paper bags, are now sold in shiploads at the wharves of Halifax,—a testimony at once to their productiveness and the care with which they have been cultivated.

Varieties like the Garnet Chili and Pink Eye Rustycoat that were first shown as curiosities in the Assembly Room in 1865, are now staple articles of food for man and animals throughout the