

posal of His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, for the importation of what is called a Leicester Hunter, an animal which cannot be bought, of superior quality, under £250, Sterling.

Upon the subject of Stock, they recommend an examination of the annexed Plates;—the two volumes of *Lower Illustrations and Plates of the Domestic Animals of Great Britain*, also annexed; and three volumes on Cattle, Sheep and Horses, published by the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, which they have procured from London. These may be seen on application to the Secretary, and give full information as to the best breeds, their character, qualities and value. In this sphere of enterprise the Province is susceptible of vast improvement, and they trust, before the term of the Board has expired, to be the means of introducing the finest breeds for which England is so justly celebrated, and which, in the last twenty years, have added millions to the annual produce of the Kingdom.

They annex in the appendix the accounts of the cost, sale or other disposition of the Stock imported, and of the monies that have passed through their hands. They will likewise lay on the Table of the Assembly for the inspection of the Legislature, all the reports that have been sent in by the Societies, and regret that some few of them are deficient. Those from Horton, Cornwallis and Guysborough contain valuable hints, and are intended, with some of the others, for publication in the Colonial Farmer.

The establishment of this excellent Agricultural paper is another pleasing feature of the by-gone year. As the Board are authorized to expend a part of the sum at their disposal in the encouragement and circulation of Agricultural publications, they conceived that they could not appropriate £50 of it more wisely, than in subscribing for 250 copies of the Farmer to be distributed gratuitously, and trust they will be able this year to afford a moderate sum to the Mechanic and Farmer published at Pictou, and which is also a very useful Agricultural Journal. They refer with great satisfaction to several excellent original Essays and details of experiments from gentlemen devoted to Agricultural pursuits, which have appeared in these papers, and trust the laudable spirit thus exhibited will be preserved in and copied by others of equal talent. They ordered also from Scotland 200 copies of Jackson's admirable work on Agriculture and Dairy Husbandry, containing the modern scientific views, and the best recent practice and improvements, at the moderate price of 3s. 4d. per copy, and as they offered for every copy ordered by a Local Society and paid for out of its funds, to furnish an equal number of copies at the expense of the Board, a considerable proportion of these have been distributed; and the Board enter themselves with the belief that they have thus been the means of circulating much useful information, and diffusing the elements of sound knowledge among the farming classes at a small expense.

They have likewise imported from Boston and shipped for various Societies a number of improved implements, which were exposed to public view in the Hall of the Province Building for some weeks, and may be had in any quantity and at moderate prices. They are pleased also to learn that it is in contemplation to establish a shop for the sale of Agricultural Implements in Halifax;—and they are satisfied from the information they have attained that the Board and the Local Societies have before them a wide field of exertion in introducing the best implements used in other countries as to render labour more efficient—in other words, to do more work with the same amount of physical strength—and to render the soil, by suitable tillage, fitted to yield a more abundant return.

In laying before the Legislature this detail of their past labours—the errors committed and the experience acquired—for the Board feel it due to themselves to act with perfect openness and candour, they think it right to accompany it with a brief sketch of their future plans, and the improvements which may yet be introduced, in the spirit with which they are animated be responded to by the Legislature and the Country.

And first, be it remarked, that the Board are sensible that the correspondence with the local societies has not hitherto been conducted with the regularity and efficiency they deserved. The wishes of the Board themselves have not been followed up in this respect without entering into further explanation, they beg to say that they intend to place this department under a different system, and to exclude for the future all reasonable grounds of complaint.

Second, they intend to add to their importations of Stock,—but, led by past experience they mean to send their orders, so that their Agents at the different shipping ports may have abundant time and opportunity to select the Animals they order, not from the

first breeders only, who always demand very high prices, but from the Stocks of substantial farmers, where, they have assurance, animals of first rate quality and good points, may be procured at comparatively moderate prices. These must be shipped in large vessels early in the season, and bargains may be perhaps made with the owners of vessels here for the freight. They wish it to be understood that they have no desire to interfere with the Local Societies, if they can make suitable arrangements for the importation of Stock from their own funds, and will be ready, at all times through their Secretary, to afford them every aid and whatever information and references they may require.

Third, They mean, during the ensuing season, to devote a sum to the introduction of new and better seeds, and specimens of approved Agricultural Implements. They have been prosecuting extensive enquiries on these subjects, and have acquired a considerable amount of practical and useful information.

To these different objects the Board are prepared to give their immediate and earnest attention; and as they can have no desire except to elevate the Provincial Agriculture, to dignify the pursuit and to promote the general good, they trust that the Members of the Legislature will be ready to assist them with their counsel and experience. They will of course be less liable to run into mistakes if controlled and guided by the combined intelligence of the Province.

In the Reports before submitted to the Legislature *Statistics* have been referred to, to shew the important effect which the improvement of Agriculture has upon national wealth. They refer to the Report from the Committee of Agriculture contained in the Journals and laid before this House in 1839. By returns lately laid before the Imperial Parliament, it is calculated that the consumption of Agricultural produce per head in Great Britain is equal to £8 sterling. In this Province it must be at least as much, for the people live better and consume a larger quantity of Agricultural produce. Taking it, however, at the same rate, that is £10 currency, and the population of Nova-Scotia at 200,000 souls, the gross annual value of the Agricultural produce of the Province must be equal to about two million of pounds—more than the gross amount of all our imports! The Board however are sensible that to ascertain the actual condition of the local agriculture, in what points it is most defective, and in what encouragement is most required, it would be important to have returns of the Stock, Crops and Produce from every County and District, and they have it in intention, as soon as the return can be made practicable, to suggest the preparation of these returns to the Local Societies; and thus to be enabled to submit to the Legislature at some future, and they trust, at no very distant time, a tabular view of the Statistics of our Agriculture, supplied by the zeal and talent of the Local Societies.

However cheering this prospect may be to the friends of Agricultural improvement, from the kindly feeling extended to the operations of the Board throughout the Province, it is undoubted that the practice of our Agriculture is infinitely inferior to that of the best cultivated districts of the old world, and especially to that of England; and yet it is admitted by men of the first skill and of acknowledged patriotism, that the Agriculture of England, with all its recent improvements and advancement, is yet in comparative infancy; and that there are projects and discoveries now proposed, and in the course of experiment, likely to give an entirely new impulse and destiny to the landed interest and the tillers of the soil. The Board give two extracts, and but two, in the Appendix, out of a volume they might refer to in proof of this position—the first from the address for 1839 of the Central Agricultural Society of Great Britain and Ireland, instituted in London in 1835; and the second from the brilliant speech delivered before the Royal Agricultural Association of England, by Lord Stanley on the 22d July last at Liverpool, at its public dinner, where 5000 gentlemen sat down to table at one time.

If this field of boundless enquiry and exertion is open in England—if so much there remains to be done—it is surely our duty to follow at a humble distance, and as we cannot imitate at least to keep a watchful eye upon the improvements and discoveries effected, and by circulating them abroad to induce our best farmers gradually to copy them and thus raise their fields into a pattern to be admired and followed.

The Board annex to this Report the Publications collected this season for their use of the Highland Society of Scotland, of the Royal English Agricultural Society founded in London, and of the Improvement Society of Ireland—their list of premiums—the