

that there was a Manganese company now operating in the locality, and that a good deal of business was transacted there, which required postal facilities.

The following petitions against the proposed scheme of Confederation were also presented :

By Mr. Churchill, from G. Armstrong and 109 others in North Hants.

By Mr. S. Campbell, from 175 persons in the Strait of Canso, Guysboro.

By Dr. Brown, from 170 persons in South Kings; another from J. L. Brown and others of Wolfville; and a third from a number of persons in Lower Horton, Kings.

By Mr. McLellan, from Brookfield, Colchester.

By Mr. Ross, from 90 persons in Boulardrie, Victoria.

Mr. BLANCHARD presented a petition from the inhabitants of Margaree, in reference to the act passed last session for the protection of river fisheries. Petitioners consider the provisions of the law too stringent, and state that it is rather intended to benefit "genteel fishermen."

AGRICULTURE.

Hon. Mr. MCFARLANE, in laying on the table the Report of the General Board of Agriculture, stated that that Board was called into existence by the act passed last session, and that its operations had been already attended with most beneficial results to the farming interests of the Province. At present there were some 37 associations in existence in the province, containing 734 members. The counties of Queens, Shelburne, and Richmond had not sent in their returns for the year. The Board have, among other things arrived at the conclusion that it was advisable to hold a Provincial Exhibition in 1866.

They had also adopted that portion of the act which imposed upon them the calling into existence an Agricultural journal. They had not long met before they found that such a paper was indispensable, in order to afford the information to the Agriculturists of the province that was required. They have, however, come to the conclusion that it is advisable to have this journal henceforth published once a month, instead of quarterly. They also have given a great deal of attention to the potatoe disease, and have enquired into the advisability of adopting the remedy which had been suggested last winter by the Legislature—namely, resorting back to the original potatoe plant. They have taken great pains in reference to the matter, by making enquiries in N. York of parties who for a number of years have expended large sums of money in endeavoring to remedy the disease, and have come to the conclusion, after considering the results of these experiments that it would not be expedient to introduce the system here. They have, however, been able to procure a certain quantity of improved seed. The Board also recommend the importation of improved stock. Last summer they sent on some of their members, who bought a small amount of stock, which was sold at Windor at public auction for more than its actual cost.

Mr. PARKER doubted the propriety of importing horses, but was strongly in favour of introducing improved stock in the shape of cattle and sheep. He pointed to Colchester in support of his opinion, of the high condition to which farmers might bring their stock. He

thought that a farmer should have been sent to New Brunswick to select stock instead of a Doctor.

Hon. Mr. MCFARLANE interrupted him to state that Mr. John Brown, of Falmouth, was engaged in the selection of the stock as well as Dr. Hamilton.

Mr. PARKER said that the Doctor, at all events, got all the credit, and went on to show the necessity there is for using every care in the selection of stock. We should not have old, but young stock of pure blood.

Dr. HAMILTON regretted that he had not known the Report was to be presented that afternoon, as he would then have brought forward some interesting facts and statistics connected with the subject. He presumed that it would be admitted that the cultivation of the soil was one of the most important objects that any people could pay attention to. Therefore any matter which increased the productiveness of the soil, and the value of its products bore a very important relation to the welfare and prosperity of the country. Hence the propriety of introducing such improvements as would increase the productiveness of the soil and the quality of its products. The number of persons above the age of 15 engaged in agriculture in this country amounted to 50,000, a larger proportion of our population than was engaged in any other active pursuit. He referred especially to the great importance the proper application of manures was to the farming interests of this country. He thought that the first time this subject was brought to the notice of the public was in the celebrated letters of "Agricola," who laid down certain principles which he believed were found as true in their character at the present day as at the time they were published. It was a very great source of regret to him that publications of this kind had not been followed up from time to time, although he was aware that Dr. Dawson had published a little work which was also very useful in its way. If the principles these books laid down were only better understood in Nova Scotia the fertility of the soil would be greatly improved. Therefore he thought that the publication of an agricultural journal would be found of very great benefit to the farmer, by given him a means of obtaining reliable information in respect to his calling which, under existing circumstances, was not so accessible. Dr. Hamilton then went on to refer to the importance of having improved stock introduced into the country. In this connection he mentioned that since the first importation by the late G. R. Young, the stock of the province had increased in size at least one third. It was not now an uncommon thing to see an ox which would weigh from 1000 to 1500 lbs., and whilst at Fredericton last summer, he had the pleasure of noticing one which in size, height, and beauty of form could not be exceeded. It was raised, he believed, in Westmoreland County, and weighed 3400 lb. alive. He mentioned that he had a cow which during thirteen years had produced £650 worth of milk, had never all that time went dry four weeks on an average, and had a calf every year. This fact showed the importance of having improved stock, and he was therefore glad to see the recommendation made in reference to a fresh importation in the report which had just been read.