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paid to Agricultural Districts—all importations to be made by the united societies in the district, such bonus not to exceed \$200 to any one district. One object of this arrangement was to throw the selection of animals upon the societies themselves, as they best knew what was wanted.

Mr. McKee thought the proposed bonus of 50 per cent was liberal, but the limitation to \$200 to a district rendered it nugatory, as it would amount, in the Cape Breton Counties, to only \$10 for each of the twenty societies.

Mr. Spence said the \$200 was intended to cover the loss, and it would enable the societies to make large importations, if judiciously managed.

Mr. Bill asked if the Board intended to do anything to encourage importation of horses other than Agricultural. He said that large carriage horses were much required. Col. Starratt also spoke in favor of such. Mr. McGillivray cautioned against encouragement to trotters, of which, he thought, we had rather too many.

In reference to District Exhibitions, the President pointed out the necessity of the Districts exerting themselves to furnish sufficient prize lists.

Mr. McGillivray explained what was being done in Antigonish County.

Mr. Morrison explained how distant Counties had hitherto been debarred from participating in Provincial exhibitions and importations of stock, whose benefits were chiefly enjoyed by the central localities. This would be improved by the new system of exhibitions and premiums on importations.

The question having arisen whether the stock imported by Districts should be offered for unreserved sale to all, or only to members of the importing societies, the Chairman said the Committee's desire was to strengthen Societies by limiting the sale to members. As to whether District Exhibitions should open their competition to the Province there was considerable difference of opinion; the prevailing view being that in the central and advanced Districts, such a course was highly advisable, whilst in outlying Districts that had hitherto enjoyed fewer advantages it would be better to limit the prizes to the District.

Mr. Longworth, in conclusion, said that whatever might be the fate of the Board, it was to be hoped the present Committee would all return next year to carry on the work. The President having thanked the members of Committee for their attendance and the attention given to the several matters brought before them, they withdrew.

After receiving explanations from several Societies of their reports, and other routine business, the Board adjourned.

(For the Journal of Agriculture.)

STARR'S POINT, Feb. 22, 1882.

PROF. LAWSON:

Dear Sir,—Being confined to the house from ill health and bad weather, I have spent a little time in thinking and reading up on the subject of special manures for our farm crops, and although I have, as well as many others, been for years using several kinds of commercial fertilizers, in addition to the manures made on the farm, I am still at a loss to know which, among the whole list, pays best for the outlay and labor of application; and the means by which we can get at anything like a satisfactory solution of the question is to institute a careful series of experiments with the various manures or fertilizers and accurately note the results. Now these experiments to be of practical use, consume a great deal of time and labor, and are consequently so expensive to the ordinary farmer that they are seldom undertaken, or, if they are undertaken, when harvest time comes, the results are guessed at, rather than weighed and measured, and become of little real value to himself or his neighbors.

Now I have a suggestion to make. I understand that the grant of \$4000 for Exhibitions is this year to be divided among the five agricultural divisions of the Province, and I would recommend that the Board should devote a small sum in each district as a prize for the best and most accurately-conducted series of experiments with special manures on certain crops, say, for instance, take an acre of spring wheat, divide it into squares or strips of the same size, treat one with a certain number of pounds of superphosphate, the next with bone-meal, next with Peruvian guano, another with fish guano, fifth with wood ashes, sixth with ground plaster, seventh with lime, eighth salt, and so on, leaving one without anything, and some with combinations of manures. Number each plot and mark it, and note the results through the season and at harvest, weigh and measure both straw and grain, giving results in writing, with particulars of soil, cultivation, kind of wheat, date of sowing and harvesting, &c. Other crops, such as oats, potatoes, clover or turnips, may also be experimented upon, much to the advantage and general knowledge of our agriculturists, and to have that knowledge published generally will do a great deal more good than to have the few dollars it will cost given in prizes for overgrown potatoes and turnips, or the carefully prepared, hand-selected specimens of grains we so often see on such occasions.

Hoping that these few crude ideas may lead to some practical results, and

that some of our more thoughtful and able farmers may be induced to go to the trouble and expense of experimenting in this way, whether the Board move in the matter or not, and, when they have done so, let them give us their results through the medium of the press, so that all may reap the benefit,

I am, yours truly,
R. W. STARR.

PROSEN COTTAOR,

Newport, near Dundee, Scotland,
February 22nd, 1882.

Such lovely weather we are having, it is quite warm in the sun, the spring flowers are begun to bloom in the garden. We have a white lily just coming out. Just fancy, we have not had a snow-storm all winter, and only a day or two of frost in the end of the year.

BERMUDA, Feb'y 22nd, 1882.

900 barrels of Early Rose potatoes from Bermuda sold in New York three weeks ago, at \$9 per barrel.

YARMOUTH, N. S., March 3rd, 1882.

We are having almost summer weather, snow nearly gone, and people begin to look up seed potatoes for planting.

SACKVILLE, HALIFAX COUNTY,
March 6th, 1882.

The Old Windsor Road has been blocked up with snow drifts for a month, mails stopped, persons having lumber, hay and other produce to sell cannot stir, and those who have animals to feed have to put them on short allowance. The fencing of highways is one of the most barbarous customs of this climate.

THE rush for new land in the Great North West appears to be depreciating the value of the farms of Old Canada. The *Globe* contains advertisements such as the following: "A splendid lot of improved farms for sale on time, cheap; interest low." "Farms and other properties, the largest list in the Dominion." "Rare chance for first-class farmers." "First-class farms along the Grand River, will be sold reasonable." "1,000 acres of grazing land, in the most productive country in the world,—will sell for less money than land can be bought within 25 miles of Winnipeg."

In Austria there has been one hour's rain in six weeks.

THE daily receipts of cattle at the stock yards in Chicago are not much above half of what they were in 1881. Iowa, Illinois and Nebraska are feeding from one-fifth to one-half of the cattle they had last year. While demand increases, supply decreases. Result, high prices.