

so long in hand, he would feel it specially imperative upon him to give every assistance in his power to facilitate any change which the Committee might desire to carry out.

Mr. McGillivray addressed the meeting, and spoke of the great importance of agriculture in his county, Antigonish. He called attention specially to the subdivision of the Province into districts, and urged that the suggestion made as to the modification of these should be carried out. He called for explanation as to delays in recording pedigrees. The explanation given was that applicants had refused to comply with the rules.

Mr. Spence stated that from representations made to him in the country, it was evidently necessary that members of the House should examine carefully the operations of the Board. The statement of the Secretary would enable members to explain several matters respecting which dissatisfaction existed.

Mr. Ford thought that the expense of the Board might be reduced by reducing the work. He knew there was dissatisfaction in the country with the Board as a machine that was expensive. But the objections to it were not always clear and well grounded. He had asked one of his complaining constituents to place his complaints in writing, which he had done, but, for the credit of his county, he would not take the letter out of his pocket.

Mr. Morrison thought re-adjustment of Districts for Representation and District Exhibitions would be a proper course. The Province could be divided into five districts. This system, he felt confident, was the true one for ensuring the steady progress of the Province at large, especially of the outlying districts that could not possibly benefit in any direct or practicable manner, or at least to any reasonable extent in the advantages of Provincial Exhibitions, the advantages of which must be necessarily confined, to a large extent, to the districts in which they were held. By alternating District with Provincial Exhibitions every interest would be secured practically, to as large an extent as could be expected of any system.

Mr. Schaffner spoke of the system of Herd Prizes as objectionable, because it gave a double advantage to rich men who could maintain and exhibit Herds and take prizes for them as well as for the individual animals.

Mr. Longworth offered some explanatory and suggestive observations.

Mr. Spence and Mr. Ford again spoke; also Mr. LeBlanc, Arichat. It was remarked that in the accounts there was a discrepancy in the travelling expenses of Members. This was explained as arising from two causes, one being that some Members had to come to meetings much

greater distances than others, whilst on the other hand, members of the Executive Committee had occasionally to meet at Halifax, when the other members of the Board did not attend.

Mr. Brown thought that the Committee of the House should pause before doing anything to hamper the operations of the Board, which depended more than might be thought upon an efficient Secretary, upon whom much responsible labour rested on account of the distance from the city of most of the Representative members of the Board.

Colonel Blair referred to agriculture, education and mining as the three important questions of this Province. As to the district exhibitions, he suggested a change should be delayed till the opinions of the districts could be definitely ascertained. He hoped the financial condition of the country would enable the grants to agriculture to be increased rather than diminished.

Mr. Bell was of opinion that the expenses of the Board were too great, especially the Secretary's salary.

Mr. Starratt made an eloquent appeal on behalf of the improving agriculturists of the Province, many of whom had made great efforts and sacrifices to introduce and improve the live stock of the country. It was for the advantage of the country at large that everything possible should be done to advance the agricultural interest at the present time, and, as the youngest member of the Board, he hoped the Committee would strengthen the hands of the Board and enable it to accomplish greater benefits than had yet been attained.

After expressions of satisfaction at the results of the conference the meeting adjourned.

#### PROVINCE BUILDING,

March 24, 1881.

The sale of short-horn stock having been advertized to take place at Richmond at noon, a morning meeting was not held, but the members of the Board attended the sale, the total proceeds of which amounted to \$2,585. The cost of the animals in England, freight and expenses up to the time of landing at Halifax, amounted to \$2,641.20. The loss thus appears as \$56.20; but to this amount have to be added the expenses of keep in quarantine for three months, railway freights to and from the quarantine station, advertizing and other expenses of sale. The Board have reason to be well satisfied with the results of this sale, by means of which twelve thorough-bred animals of a very high class have been permanently added to the stock of the Province at comparatively small cost to the public.

7.30 p. m.

Present—David Matheson, President; Hon. H. F. McDougall, Christmas Island; Colonel Starratt, Paradise; John Ross, New Glasgow; Professor Lawson, Secretary.

The Board met in conference with a sub-committee from the City Council's Prize List Committee, viz.: Alderman Spelman, and Messrs. A. K. Mackinlay and A. Stephen, Jr.

The prize list of the proposed Dominion and Provincial Exhibition was considered in detail.

Moved by Mr. Starratt, that separate prizes be offered for calves, male and female, under six months, and over six months and under twelve. Passed.

Moved by Hon. Mr. McDougall, seconded by Colonel Starratt, and passed, that separate prizes be offered for two year old heifers, dry, and two year old heifers, in milk.

Also resolved, that herd prizes, 1st, \$50, 2nd, \$40, should be offered for each of the following breeds of thorough-bred stock, viz.: Short-horn Durhams, Herefords, Holsteins, Ayrshires, Devons, Guernseys, Jerseys and Angus, such prizes only to be awarded if the animals in competition shall be deemed worthy. It was subsequently arranged (on motion of Mr. Longworth, seconded by Mr. Starratt,) that a herd shall consist of one bull, not less than a year old, and five females, four of which must be in milk or in calf, and the fifth may be in milk or in calf, or a yearling. (The object of this last provision is to exclude infertile heifers.)

Also—That a full list of prizes be filled in for Angus cattle to correspond with the others.

Recommended that, in the department of Plants and Flowers, provision be made in the prize list, either by an enlarged prize list or by special classification, for sufficient openings for the different classes of exhibitors, so as to encourage as extensive a competition as possible.

Also—That special prizes should be offered for the best collection of apples from a county—25 of such prizes, of \$6 each, to be awarded at the direction of the judges, but not more than one prize to the same county or the same exhibitor.

Also—That additional prizes be offered for dairy butter. The details of preparing the list referred to the Hon. Mr. McDougall.

[At a subsequent meeting of the Prize List Committee appointed by the City Council all the above recommendations were adopted, except the separate prizes for calves under six months.]