

THE agriculturists of the several Maritime Provinces are becoming more and more sensible of the importance of working together in their efforts to promote agricultural improvement. Of late years several suggestions have been made with a view to coöperation in the holding of Exhibitions and such other general measures as might be more effectually carried out by a union. The sense of financial responsibility of each Board to its own Provincial Government has hitherto been the chief obstacle to such united action, which, indeed, could not be well entered into without special authority from each Government or Legislature. Progress in this direction, if thought desirable by our agriculturists, will be initiated by themselves, and such legislation by the respective Legislatures as may be necessary will in due time follow. Considerations such as these have led us of late years to give as much space in our small *Journal* as could be spared for an account of the operations of the Agricultural Boards and Societies of New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland, so that our readers may be acquainted with the efforts made in these Provinces. From the animated proceedings at a recent meeting (December, 1880,) of the New Brunswick Board of Agriculture, which we copy from the *Maritime Farmer*, it appears that proposals for coöperative action with Nova Scotia are assuming a definite form. We shall look forward with interest to the report of the committee on the proposed MODEL FARM, and for the further discussion of the proposed AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL. Both of these are measures of very great importance, and of their importance the agriculturists of New Brunswick appear to be more deeply sensible than those of Nova Scotia. The comparative success of the Guelph school in drawing pupils from Nova Scotia and Cape Breton, (who are as likely to remain permanently tilling the flats of Ontario as to return to their native hills,) should arouse our people to a sense of the direct injury that is being inflicted upon our Province by neglecting to provide at home means of educating our youth in subjects relating to their common avocations. Our several colleges and schools do something in this way, but very imperfectly, and there is none of that public importance given to agricultural education, in the way of competitions and meritorious prizes, which, where a regular Agricultural College or School is in operation, arrests the attention of young men, and creates in their minds an interest in the subject and a desire to enter upon a systematic course of study.

The action of the New Brunswick Board in regard to providing facilities for cattle shipment to England is worthy of

special remark. That the Board are not calling to the Dominion Hercules, without putting their own shoulder to the wheel, is shown by the steps taken to induce the Provincial Government to make an importation of 45 bulls, 30 heifers, 80 rams, 25 ewes, 30 boars and 15 sows. A proposal to make an importation of that extent would take away the breath of a Nova Scotia Legislature, in the present state of our finances.

We are sorry to hear of a serious accident to one of the most prominent Agriculturists and Stock Improvers of King's County. Mr. R. W. Starr writes under date 29th December:—

"I am sorry to inform you that friend Jackson is at present in bed with a broken leg and sundry contusions caused in an encounter with the Short Horn Bull "St. Nicholas" last evening, and it is only owing to his pluck and almost superhuman powers of endurance that he is alive to day. The bull had got him down against a heavy fence and had broken his leg, when a small boy twelve years old rushed in with a pitchfork and prodded him severely, taking off his attention. Jackson, still holding the nose-ring chain in his hand, clambered over the fence, drawing his broken leg after him, and then securely tied the bull to the fence post and sent the boy to a neighbor's for assistance. When assistance arrived he had crawled out of sight of the bull and was unconscious. The doctor was soon on hand, and he is now doing as well as can be expected. The leg is set all right—a simple fracture below the knee; but he suffers most from contusions of the back and abdomen. Altogether I fear it will keep him in his bed for several weeks if not months.

The bull has been getting cross for the last year past, so much so that Mr. Eaton would not keep him and he was changed and "Favorite" given for him, Mr. Jackson thinking that he could manage him (St. Nicholas) better.

This is the third serious accident since spring in this county with thorough-bred bulls, and it behoves all who have the care of such to be on their guard and not trust them at all.

We have received from R. W. Starr, Esq., Secretary, a List of Prizes offered by the Fruit Growers' Association and International Show Society of Nova Scotia, at their Fourteenth Exhibition, to be held at Wolfville, January 25th and 26th, 1881. The competition is open to the whole Province, and there is no charge for entry of exhibits. There is to be a Convention with papers and addresses by Experts, Pomologists and Scientists.

We not unfrequently hear words of regret, (either expressed or implied,) as to the profession or business which the sons of farmers choose, when they leave the paternal roof to carve their own way in the world. The feeling is a very natural one, and quite general among farmers, that their sons might follow the same occupation, and seek not only a livelihood but competency by cultivating the soil. We admit the necessity of stout hearts and strong arms to cut down our forests and clear our land, to plough and cultivate the soil, in order to provide food for man and beast, and, in common with others, believe that none are better fitted for the duties which such labors require than the young men who have become skilled to such labor on the old homesteads. The desire, therefore, that they should remain farmers is not only commendable, but of the first importance to the country. How far the desire is seconded by any efforts to secure the object is a question which might not unprofitably be considered.

In the earlier days of our Provincial history, farmers' sons became farmers themselves, as being the only thing that seemed to present itself for them to engage in, but, as new industries became established and manufactories were put in operation, the young men began to leave the farms and seek employment in them. In more recent years thousands of young men from the farms have found their way to the cities and towns in our Province, some engaged in one pursuit, some in another. We find them to-day in the Pulpit, on the Bench, at the Bar, practising medicine, in the counting room, building our railroads, as machinists and manufacturers, and indeed in all the various avocations of life in which they can secure an honorable livelihood, and from the success with which their efforts have been attended, it may fairly be presumed that there are few better places to prepare for busy, active life than in our rural country homes, where in manly honest toil both body and mind receive that healthy development so essentially necessary to withstand the wear and tear that close attention to business requires.

Under our common school system almost every branch of education is being taught to prepare our young men for active service in some direction. It is, however, to be generally regretted that in the schools of our rural districts, and among our agricultural population, some arrangement could not be made to impart at least a general idea of the composition of soils, and the elementary branches of Agricultural Chemistry.

This would only seem in keeping with the character of the employment of by far the greater part of the inhabitants of our Province. The great aim of our