

As empowered by the Act, the Board has made arrangements for the publication of a quarterly Journal for the diffusion of Agricultural and Horticultural information, adapted to the condition and circumstances of the country. The first number has been published and widely circulated, and there is reason to believe that the continuation of this publication will serve to maintain a lively interest in Agricultural Science and Practice among the farmers, while affording, at the same time, a convenient medium of communication between the Board and the Officers and Members of the various County and District Societies. By the Act, the publication is limited to a "quarterly or semi-annual" serial; but it is found that a more frequent issue is desirable, and that a monthly Journal can be published at very little more expense.

The Act contemplates the holding, every third year or oftener, should the Board deem it advisable, in some central and suitable locality, a general provincial Exhibition of Agricultural and Horticultural Products, Animals and Domestic Manufactures. Arrangements have accordingly been made for holding such an Exhibition at Halifax in the Autumn of 1867, and a Committee of the Board is at present engaged in preparing the List of Premiums proposed to be offered on that occasion.

As regards the crops of the past season, the Returns received, and information otherwise obtained, show that there was generally a good yield, and that produce was of a fair quality. Wheat gave good returns in many places within the influence of the sea breeze. Hay, turnips, and grain suffered by the drought of early summer, and in the later parts of the Province, haymaking was prolonged by wet weather, whilst early frosts destroyed late unripened oats; but these effects were not of serious extent, and there was, upon the whole, a bountiful harvest.

The important subject of the Potato Disease has engaged the attention of the Legislators of this Province, as of public bodies in other countries, and there are several documents on the subject on record in the Journals of the House. Of the various remedies suggested, the plan of importing fresh seed from the native coun-

try of the Potato has been prominently noticed, and the officers of the Board entered into correspondence with the New York State Agricultural Society, and adopted other means of acquiring information on this point. It appears that the Rev. C. E. Goodrich, recently deceased, conducted very elaborate and careful series of experiments extending over the last 16 years of his life. He received the wild Peruvian Potato in 1851, but found that it could not be relied upon in a sickly season. In 1848 he received a variety from Bogota, on the elevated table lands of the Andes, but it was too late in maturing, and speedily declined, although when first received it was very hardy. In 1850 Mr. Goodrich received another variety from the same place, a little earlier in maturing, but it could never be adapted to the climate of the Northern States, and was rejected. In 1851, eight varieties were received from Panama, supposed to have been brought from the coast of Chili. Six of these were all too late for a northern climate, and four of them showed disease, both on vine and tuber, the first year; but one proved valuable, the Rough Purple Chili, parent of the Garnet Chili. In 1852, three others were obtained, one bought in the market at Callao, and one at Valparaiso, both of which were likewise too late, and gradually declined in health. The third sort from wild bushy pastures near Valparaiso, spread its roots like quack grass, became badly diseased, and never set a tuber.—In short, one only out of twelve sorts had any permanent value. This record of Mr. Goodrich's importations and experiments conducted at great labour and expense, did not encourage the Board to undertake a renewal of the experiments; but as Mr. Goodrich had succeeded in raising, from the ball of the wild potato, as well as from cultivated sorts, several varieties (carefully selected from 15,000 seedlings) which are highly spoken of as hardy and of superior quality, arrangements have been made for obtaining, in time for the ensuing season's planting, samples of these sorts now in the hands of Mr. Goodrich's family. It is believed that some of the Goodrich seedlings will prove valuable additions to those already cultivated in the Province.

In submitting this Report it is hardly necessary to do more than simply to refer to the great importance of developing more fully the agricultural resources of our Province. At no former period in its history has there been a louder call upon our farmers to exercise their ingenuity in increasing the amount of marketable produce. The increase of mining operations in various parts of the Province has tended on the one hand to withdraw from agricultural labour a certain number of able bodied workmen, and at the same time to increase the demand for and raise the prices of agricultural produce. These circumstances point out the propriety of seeking what aid can be obtained from the use of those labour-saving implements and machines which now form so conspicuous a feature in the agricultural systems of the most advanced countries. There is still great room, likewise, for more thorough cultivation, for draining, and for the use of fertilizers. In order that our Province may make steady progress in mining, manufactures, fisheries and commerce, it is essential that there should be abundant supplies of food and clothing materials at reasonable prices, so that labor may be obtained on terms that will enable our capitalists to compete successfully with those of other countries. Without a successful system of agriculture, indeed, there can be no successful development of the numerous other resources of Nova Scotia.

Of late years the cotton famine has called the attention, not only of the planters of tropical lands, but likewise of the agriculturists of temperate countries, to the growth of fibres. A great impetus has thus been given to sheep husbandry in many countries, and although our woolen factories are not yet in a condition to encourage the production of the finer wools, yet the demand for the common long-staple wools is sufficient to give great encouragement to our sheep farmers, and to induce an increase in their flocks.—There are likewise vegetable fibres that may be profitably raised in Nova Scotia. Flax is an old crop with us, which succeeds well, and might be raised in much greater quantity than at present, especially were local factories established to purchase the crop as pulled on the fields, so as to relieve the farmer of all the after labor. This method is now adopted in Canada with the best results.

ALEX. MACFARLANE, *President.*
GEORGE LAWSON, *Secretary.*