

THE GOVERNMENT HORSES.

Mr. McDONNELL referred to the mode in which the horses had been distributed throughout the Province. It was the intention, he presumed, that the various sections into which the Province was divided should have the benefit of the services of those animals during the season. Inverness, however, among others, had not enjoyed their services, though it is one of the finest agricultural counties, and is particularly noteworthy for its excellent horses. Richmond, also, was overlooked. Now he had ascertained that the horses had been sold, and the Province deprived of their services.

Hon. Mr. McFARLANE replied that it was found that these horses were very expensive to keep, and three of them were therefore sold and one kept. The persons to whom they were sold had to give bonds that the animals would not be sent out of the Province.

REPRESENTATION OF RURAL DISTRICTS AT THE BOARD.

Mr. McDONNELL pointed out what he considered defects in the present law. For two years Inverness and Richmond had not had any representation at the Board. As the law now stood, any two counties combined together, could keep the members within themselves, and exclude any section from having a representation at the Board. He would recommend that it should be made imperative that each section should have a representative at the Board.

Hon. Mr. McFARLANE said that the desire was to make the Board as popular as possible, and the appointment of representatives had been left with the Agricultural Societies. They had four societies in Inverness. Three of them never recommended any body. Two of these three voted for Mr. Davenport, who did not live in the county, while the fourth did not vote at all.

Mr. McDONNELL said that was the reason why the law should make it imperative on each section to have a representative at the Board, independent of the action of any societies.

THE STOCK IMPORTATIONS.

Mr. KAULBACK said that the horses had been very judiciously distributed over the country. As there has been no stock farm, it was thought advisable to dispose of the horses under certain conditions.

Mr. ROSS said that he had been appointed by a majority of the societies, and had always done his best to promote the prosperity of such associations. He would, however, go out in the course of next year. Mr. Davenport, a gentleman who took a great interest in agriculture, had been appointed from Cape Breton.

Mr. PARKER said that it had been a mistake to put too high a price on the

horses during the season. He was gratified at the readiness with which the people, interested in farming, had come forward and bid for the other stock. The stock brought here realized exceedingly satisfactory prices. Hereafter it would be received at much less expense, as the means of conveying it would be more satisfactory, for we would soon have speedy communication by steamers and eventually by rail with Canada. Each county should have its representative at the Board, and he knew that many societies were very negligent in making any recommendations. It would be wise for the Secretary to make a notice of those societies that had recommended no one. He considered that the importations of stock had been exceedingly satisfactory. He thought it, however, injudicious to have disposed of the horses, and deprived the country of their services. If we had a larger stock of horses, it would have done a great deal of good.

Hon. ATTY. GEN. said that the horses cost a great deal, and thought they had been disposed of at rates that were hardly a justification for the course pursued. He was of the opinion that these horses could have been kept at Shubenacadie or Truro, for a small sum, and the Province during the forthcoming year would not have been deprived of their services. If we expected to have anything of an improved breed, the horses should have been kept together by the Government or else by some capitalist. If no capitalist was ready to engage in the enterprise, then it was the duty of the Board to do so. He believed we had the nucleus of a fine breed of horses in this country, and therefore regretted that the Board should have felt it at all necessary to have disposed of the animals.

IMPORTANCE OF ENCOURAGING THE GROWTH OF WHEAT.

Mr. S. CAMPBELL said that the people of this Province were now paying a very large sum for the staff of life, and urged that more pains should be taken to encourage the growth of wheat. He had now in use in his own house as fine flour as could be procured in Halifax, and it was made of wheat grown on a piece of land belonging to himself. Attention ought also be paid to under-draining, so invaluable to agriculture.

Mr. CHURCHILL said that he fully agreed with the remarks of the hon. members who had preceded him, for he had learned with much regret that the horses had been disposed of. No doubt these horses would find their way, in course of time, to the United States, where they would bring the best prices. He was inclined to believe that the farmers of this Province did not pay that attention to the true principles of agriculture that they ought to do. In the

article of ploughs, for instance, there was great room for improvement.

Dr. HAMILTON alluded to the difficulties that had arisen in connection with the purchase of the farm. The horses, he explained, had been found too great a source of expense: they had, however, been sold under certain restrictions, and were now just as available as if in possession of the Board. He stated that the insect which had hitherto prevented the satisfactory growth of wheat was now disappearing, and our farmers would no doubt be soon enabled to return to that crop.

Mr. McDONNELL said that the Government ought to be just as well able to keep the horses as private individuals.

Mr. D. FRASER expressed his satisfaction with the quality of the stock that had been imported. He believed if good wheat was imported at cheap rates, it would be a great advantage to the farmers.

Mr. HERR alluded to his experience in wheat growing—especially to the satisfactory results that accrued from the sowing of Russian wheat. He believed that money might be advantageously expended for the importation of a similar description of wheat.

Communications.

ALSYKE.

OR PERENNIAL HYBRID CLOVER, TRIFOLIUM HYBRIDUM,

the great desideratum for Land which has become "Clover Sick."

To the Editor of the Journal of Agriculture of Nova Scotia.—Alsike Clover is indigenous to Sweden, where it has been cultivated for the last hundred years; it grows to the height of five feet, the root is fibrous and the heads globular. The plant bears a greater resemblance to the White (*Trifolium repens*) than to the Red Clover (*Trifolium pratense perenne*), and, although its stems are recumbent, they do not root into the soil like those of the White Clover; it has flesh colored flowers. It has been found growing on poor bare obdurate clays in the Morea, where no other plants could be made to vegetate, and yet flourishing with an uncommon degree of luxuriance under such unfavorable circumstances. Sturm tried its cultivation in Holland along with a great number of other clovers, and the result convinced him that there was no other clover equal to it for the purposes of cattle feeding. The Red Clover (in Great Britain) will only last in perfection for two years and often, if the soil be cold and moist, half the plants will rot, while the Alsike when once established, will remain for a great many years in full