

Victoria County.

Middle River Agri. Society.....	\$140 00
St. Ann's do .....	90 00
Baldock do .....	82 00
Christmas Island Agri. Society.....	20 00
	<u>\$344 00</u>

Yarmouth County.

Yarmouth County Agri. Society.....	<u>\$250 00</u>
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In view of the small amount of grant which it has been in the power of the Board to assign to Societies in several of the counties where a large number have been established, the Board have renewed the recommendation, contained in their Report for 1882, viz.: That the County Grant to Agricultural Societies should be increased, with a view to their greater efficiency, and that the number of Societies in a county should be limited, for the reasons set forth in that Report (page xxxi.) In reference to this matter the Clements Agricultural Society, in Annapolis County, reports as follows:—"We sincerely hope that the recommendation of the Central Board to the Legislature to increase the county grant to Societies, with a view to their greater efficiency, may meet with the consideration it deserves. That the multiplication of Societies in counties be in some way restricted, is greatly desired. Annapolis has now seven Agricultural Societies, and the small amount received by each from the grant is quite insufficient to materially conserve the interests of Agriculture in our County."

At last meeting of the Board Mr. Brown called attention to the small proportion of grant available under the present terms of the Act for large County Societies. Thus, whilst in several counties the grant amounts to about two dollars for every dollar subscribed, so that the four Societies in Halifax County subscribe a total sum of \$207 and obtain grants to the amount of \$400, yet in Yarmouth County, where the County Society subscribes \$425, more than twice that of Halifax, and annually carries on an extensive County Exhibition, the grant amounts only to \$250, or little more than half that of Halifax County.

To the Editor Journal of Agriculture:

WINDSOR, N. S., Feb. 12, 1884.

DEAR SIR,—I have not written for your Journal for some time, but I hope you have still room for an old correspondent. I intended to have applied to the House of Assembly for a small grant to enable me to present two or three farmers of standing, as evidence before the Committee on Agriculture on the Drainage Question; also at the same time to have read a paper in furtherance of the same object; but circumstances have

altered my plans, and I must rest content with my present action. I assume this work myself only on account of the position I have held as a writer on the subject, and from the practical experience that I have had in the work itself; the advocacy of it has ceased to be to me by any means a labor of love, not on account of any defect in its usefulness or desirability that experience has shown; the reverse in fact, as my main object in producing impartial evidence was not to show that it (the drainage results) had exceeded my most sanguine expectations, but because the continued opposition, or worse, apathetic indifference, shown by those whose intelligence, education, and position should make them its greatest advocates, had disheartened me. To bring this article within the compass of your Journal it will be necessary for me to condense as much as possible, and, as I have to cover a considerable extent of ground theoretically, this is a somewhat difficult operation, to accomplish which it will be necessary for me to confine myself to statements made entirely on my own practice and experience, at the risk of egotism and the annoyance of making ones own affairs somewhat public; but I confess that I feel extremely loth to abandon a scheme that I have taken so prominent a part in advocating, (I mean the passage of a Drainage Act), and which every year convinces me more and more of its desirability. It is necessary for the instruction of my readers that I should show concisely what my farming position was about ten years ago, after having completely drained and subdued my own little farm of sixty acres, as I thought that I could work to advantage by largely increasing my area, even at the risk of borrowing money for working capital; this I failed to accomplish, as I was fairly told by the Halifax capitalists that I was ahead of the times, although no doubt right in my ideas. I was then of course involved in numerous difficulties, and only my little farm left in my hands, without stock, capital, implements or anything to work with, and, to make the matter worse, a large portion of the best part of the farm was in fallow, that is, ready for grain and grass seeds.

The farm was advertised for sale to cover any pecuniary liabilities, about the first of July, and, as there were certain reasons which made it doubtful whether a sale could be effected, I requested the parties who had advertised it to postpone the sale for about two months, to give me an opportunity of seeding the land with grass and grain. This very reasonable request was refused, and the result was exactly what I anticipated, the rich drained land became immense thistle beds, the object of censure to every

passerby as the final result of the so called English farming, and, owing to the extremely disadvantageous position in which I was placed, where I had not the control of the farm myself, although seven or eight years have transpired I have only now come to the last of these fields in rotation, so that you may easily imagine, sir, what the loss has been to me for want of the few facilities that are given in every so called civilized country. I wish your readers to fully understand that I imply censure to nobody, certainly not to private individuals or companies of any kind, for I believe that the disadvantages that I have labored under are what every one must expect who takes an advanced position in any thing, and it is only by these personal, although unwilling sacrifices, followed by judicious and intelligent legislation that the benefits of civilization are extended to the multitude. I have a great horror of the man that is never appreciated, or thinks that he is not, so that should any of you feel inclined to drop the paper from a lack of interest in my doings, I can assure you that I shall only refer to them as necessary testimony to the advantages to be gained by following a like system, avoiding what was evil and improving on that which was good.

I will not enter into details as to how the farm has been managed for the last seven or eight years, or since the time before referred to; of course things were not satisfactory to me, there was neither sufficient capital nor skill to do such a farm justice, however I managed to exist and keep up a tolerably good rotation, which is everything—and the thorough drainage did the rest, or in fact I should almost say everything, as even the rotation could not have been kept up without it. The way I managed may be useful and amusing, as it was certainly not accomplished by any royal road, as the farm was let on the halves. I had nothing but my share of the crop for expenses, and, to save any deterioration of the property, I annually provided artificial manures in sufficient abundance to complete the root crop, about four acres; this, if it did not procure the heaviest yield, at least ensured a certain portion of the farm being cleaned and worked every year, the great secret of success on a farm. Sometimes losses occurred from downright bad farming, and often from want of pluck, but that the main object was gained, that is the keeping up of the actual, not imaginary, value of the property, I will proceed to show from incontrovertible testimony. One little episode in connection with my farm experience, and which is worthy of notice, occurred last March, my half-worker, or partner I suppose you call it, gave me about a week's notice to quit,