

have been reduced, or, rather, second and third prizes have been struck out, where it seemed probable there would be little or no competition, likewise some that seemed to be repetitions of others have been removed, but, in a number of cases, the amounts have been raised, and additional prizes added, so that upon the whole a certain increase has resulted, viz.:

On Class 2—Cattle—an increase of.....	\$82 00
" 3—Sheep " "	07 00
" 4—Pigs " "	13 00
" 5—Poultry " "	5 00
" 7—Grains and Seeds—an increase of....	13 50
" 9—Woollen and Flax Manufactures—an increase of.....	43 00
	\$223 50

If the Committee do not wish to take the responsibility of this increase, it will not be difficult for them to reduce the prizes in Class 11, Fruits, the total amount of which, \$545.50, is, in the Board's opinion, greatly in excess, portionally, of that of any other class. The Board do not desire from choice to reduce the prizes for fruit, especially as they know the facilities for a creditable display which are presented by the circumstance of the Exhibition being held this year in a Western County, but they feel that they cannot allow other departments of equal importance to the country at large to be impoverished.

The Secretary was directed, on receiving back the finished Prize List from the Committee with the alterations made by the Board confirmed, to transmit the same to the Honorable the Provincial Secretary, with the recommendation of the Board, in order that it might be submitted to His Honor the Governor in Council for approval, in terms of the Act.

THE Board, being desirous of promoting a taste for scientific agriculture throughout the Province have resolved to make the following announcement:—

Professor Lawson, the Secretary of the Board, will be prepared, during the summer months, to deliver a few Lectures on agricultural subjects to a limited number of Societies. The Lectures will be given gratuitously, but the Officers of the local Society will be required, in each case, to find a hall, or other suitable place, and to defray any small expense incurred in doing so. If they think it advisable, they may make a charge for admission sufficient to cover their expenses. Societies desirous of obtaining Lectures should communicate with the Secretary.

The following are some of the subjects:—

1. On Soils—their different kinds—mechanical texture—chemical composition—effects of cultivation—of manures—of drainage.
2. Farm Crops—how they grow and ripen, and ferment and acidify and decay.

3. The Theory of Animal Feeding—experiments on foods—how vegetable foods are converted into flesh, fat, bone, milk, &c. Effects of breed, feed, and climate on the growth of animals. Capacity of different breeds for feeding. Methods of curing or preserving meats.

4. Milk—its chemical constitution—changes which it undergoes, spontaneously and in manufacture—differences of milk in different breeds—effects of feed. Theory of Cheese manufacture. Theory of Butter manufacture. Causes of deterioration and how it may be prevented. Preserved Milk and other lactic manufactures.

In each case the Lectures will be illustrated by diagrams, preparations under the microscope, and chemical experiments.

The following draft of Annual Report of the Board to the Legislature for the year 1876, was submitted and approved of:—

HALIFAX, 1st March, 1877.

To the Honble. P. Carleton Hill, Provincial Secretary:

SIR,—We are directed by the Central Board of Agriculture to submit, for the information of the Government and Legislature, the Annual Report of the proceedings of the Board for the year 1876, together with the Treasurer's Accounts of Income and Expenditure, and relative vouchers.

This Report embraces the customary statistics and other details relating to the operations of Agricultural Societies throughout the various Counties of the Province, together with an abstract of the Annual Reports of the Societies and their Accounts, as recommended by the Agricultural Committee of the House of Assembly, from which Members will be able to ascertain definitely how far the subscriptions and other funds raised by Societies together with their annual grants from the Legislature, have been applied to the advancement of Agriculture in the respective Counties.

The County and District Societies in active operation under the Act for Encouragement of Agriculture, and entitled to participate in the Legislative Grant for the year 1876, were seventy-two in number; paying members 4150; total amount of subscriptions actually paid (as shown by the attested Returns) \$5933.00; total amount of Grants in Aid \$6255.00. It will be seen from the following tabular view that these numbers are the highest that have ever been reached in the history of our Agricultural organization; that in the course of thirteen years the number of Societies has risen from 37 to

72, that the number of Members has increased from 1744 to 4150, and that the subscriptions of members have increased from \$1859.00 to \$5633.00.

YEAR.	Number of Societies.	Number of Members.	Amount of Subscriptions	Grants in aid.
1st year, 1864....	37	1744	\$1859 00	\$3010 00
2nd " 1865....	48	2197	2384 00	3314 00
3rd " 1866....	52	2513	2850 00	3566 00
4th " 1867....	58	2833	3051 50	3441 50
5th " 1868....	45	2215	2519 75	3232 50
6th " 1869....	43	2209	2510 50	3001 00
7th " 1870....	49	2742	3016 00	3372 00
8th " 1871....	57	3245	3672 80	3543 00
9th " 1872....	60	3597	4004 50	3904 00
10th " 1873....	61	3586	3929 00	3785 00
11th " 1874....	61	3971	4195 00	5830 00
12th " 1875....	66	4140	4757 75	5710 50
13th " 1876....	72	4150	5633 00	6255 00

The following table exhibits the number and strength of the Societies in the respective Counties of the Province for 1876:—

COUNTIES.	Number of Societies.	Number of Members.	Amount of Annual Subscriptions	Amount of Grant in aid.
Annapolis.....	6	300	\$312 50	\$400 00
Antigonish.....	3	132	221 00	400 00
Cape Breton.....	4	203	203 00	400 00
Colchester.....	6	405	423 00	400 00
Cumberland.....	9	532	557 50	400 00
Digby.....	2	209	205 00	354 00
Guyshorough.....	3	163	215 00	400 00
Halifax.....	3	176	199 50	399 00
Hants.....	7	323	394 00	400 00
Inverness.....	2	113	113 00	226 00
King's.....	6	309	755 00	400 00
Lunenburg.....	2	107	107 00	211 00
Pictou.....	5	316	418 25	400 00
Queen's.....	3	138	138 00	276 00
Richmond.....				
Shelburne.....	6	280	280 00	400 00
Victoria.....	3	193	193 00	386 00
Yarmouth.....	2	191	\$91 25	400 00
	72	4150	\$5633 00	\$6255 00

Whilst the increase in the number and strength of Societies is highly gratifying to the Board, it is necessary for us to report to the Government and the Legislature that that increase has now reached a point beyond which it cannot be carried without a corresponding addition to the Legislative Grant. The Board is entitled by the Act to draw from the Treasury annually such sum, not exceeding \$8000.00, as the Governor in Council may authorize. Out of this amount a sum of \$2000 is required for the general purposes and working expenses of the Board, leaving \$6000 to be distributed among the County and District Societies. The sum allotted to the Societies of each County, by the Act, is \$400, so that, if all the eighteen Counties were to qualify fully, the sum required to meet their claims would be \$7200, instead of \$6000