

Lauchlan to Sheffield, and show him the stock of Mr. Burpee, which has been pronounced second to none in the Dominion; I would like to take him to Sackville and show him the Ayrshire and Durham stock of that locality, mainly brought into the country by local enterprise. He must have sent an incompetent man when he sent to purchase stock. We have good stock in the Province, but not enough of it. Westmoreland, Kings, and Sunbury have good stock; the latter county was at one time famous for sheep, but they have got run down.

Mr. McLauchlan—So far as the importation of sheep is concerned, Mr. Sterling has acknowledged I am correct in my statements. He says we did not send the right man to buy stock, but I would like him to tell me where the stock could have been had. We sent out to purchase five yearling bulls, two Devons and three Ayrshires.

Mr. Sterling—Mr. McMonagle would be glad to supply the Ayrshires and Mr.—

Mr. McLauchlan—Those parties were visited; Mr. Fairweather had an animal, but not being anxious to sell, his price was such that the man could not afford to pay it. Neither Mr. Marven nor Mr. Scovil had any animals of that description. Mr. McMonagle had an animal, but he would not sell him unless he got a very high price for him. Mr. Flewelling's stock of Devons is very questionable, I question their purity (Mr. Inches: No, no.) Some of the stock was sold out, and I am informed Mr. Flewelling had no such animals last year. Mr. Smith had no such animals. The man we sent to buy stock then went to Westmoreland and all I have got to say about them is, that I am sorry they ever came to Carleton County, for they have sunk the reputation of that stock in that vicinity. The stock we wanted was not in the country.

Mr. Phillips—The gentleman sent out a delegate to buy cattle, and confined him to a price. It is not good policy to confine a delegate to a price, because it is better to pay a large sum and get good stock than to pay a less price and get inferior animals.

Mr. Swim—There is a large amount of stock imported into the Province through local enterprise. During the last year local Societies expended \$3,956.64 in the importation of stock.

Mr. Dixon (chairman)—I am in favor of the importation of stock by the Board, and also am in favor of holding an exhibition. I am an ardent advocate of annual exhibitions, because in order to make them a success we must not let the interim between them be too long. The most successful part of this Dominion in Agricultural exhibitions is Ontario, where they have been held annually since 1846.

Their exhibitions are not surpassed by any on the Continent, and yet they began in 1846 in a very small sort of way, \$1000 being all they offered in premiums that year. They do not go upon the principle that premiums are to be given only to the products of Ontario; on the contrary they give the prize to the best animal, no matter where it comes from, but of course it must be owned in Ontario. If it has been imported within the year, and it is of the best class, they will not only give it the first prize, but treble it, because it has been brought into the country by individual enterprise. That is a principle which I should like to see embodied in our exhibitions hereafter, because it would stimulate private enterprise very much. The breeders of Ontario have imported largely from England and the United States, getting the best stock they could, and now they are selling them back to England. I am in favor of the importation of stock by the Board, but I cannot see how we can this present year make a respectable importation with the funds we have, or how we could bear the loss that would ensue from a large importation of stock. The stock we want to bring into the country will cost a large sum of money, and this stock in our former efforts we could not get for want of funds. Why is it we have not enterprise enough among us to make an importation of stock to pay expenses? Nova Scotia last year made an importation of \$10,000 worth of stock from Ontario, which stock was landed at Halifax with the loss of one of their horses. When this stock was sold, parties came from all parts of the Province, a splendid sale took place, and the importation more than paid the expenses. We must either come to the conclusion that our enterprise is not equal to that of Nova Scotia, or that we do not need improved stock as much as they feel they do. There was no great gathering at Halifax at the time the sale took place, except people coming directly to the sale, but when our sale took place it was at the time when the Provincial exhibition was held, when the Agricultural interests of the Province were represented here largely. One would have supposed that under these circumstances our sale would be more of a success than the sale in Nova Scotia, but it was not. I feel a good deal embarrassed on this question; I would regret to abandon an exhibition for one year, because I think these annual exhibitions will be an advantage to the country as they have been to Ontario. We must have these annual exhibitions held in different localities, and they will be a School for every locality where they are held. There have been buildings erected in Fredericton for holding exhibitions in, and grounds prepared, and these buildings and grounds are a credit to the enterprise

of the people of Fredericton. This City, with its Steam and Railway connection with all parts of the Province, is a central place to hold an exhibition. I am sorry to see the building is not kept in a proper state of repair, but I hope yet to see it in as good condition as when built. I know this expense is too heavy for the York Society alone. I think that building ought to be placed under the control of the Board of Works, and be kept in repair at the public expense, for such provincial purposes as may be required, for an Intercolonial Exhibition, for if such an exhibition should be held in this Province, it would be held in Fredericton on account of its fine grounds and buildings, there being nothing equal to them in the Dominion.

If called upon to decide between this resolution and the amendment, I should not really know which way it would be best to vote; they are both well worthy to be supported, and I do not know but what we can have an exhibition and an importation of stock as well. If we can hold an exhibition for \$1000, and make an importation of stock for \$1000, we will only require an additional \$1000 to have them both, and that ought not to be a large sum for the Board of Agriculture to raise. I think we had better defer this question for a time until we make up our minds upon it.

Mr. Beckwith—It is very important to the country that there should be an importation of stock, but the funds that are at the disposal of the Board are not sufficient to enable us to make an importation which would be successful and give satisfaction. The annual meeting of this Board takes place during the session of the Legislature, and after the Government have appropriated all their funds for the ensuing year, therefore to make an application to them for funds for the importation of stock would embarrass them. But if a delegation from this Board would call upon the Government during the session and say, "We want to make a handsome importation of stock during the year 1874. We will then contribute the thousand dollars we have, and we think the local societies will contribute \$2000; we want you to contribute \$5000. Then with \$8000 which we would have, we would be perfectly safe, when the time came, in borrowing \$2000 from the banks, because we know the sale of the stock would enable us to repay the bank. If the Executive will say that in 1874 they will include the sum of \$4000, all the rest would follow as a matter of course. I think there is less apathy now amongst the farmers than there was when we made the former importation. I have taken a great deal of interest in these matters, but have become discouraged by the apathy shown by farmers of ample means.