

therefore recommend that the money remain in the bank at interest for the present, so that when the Government is in a position to give the necessary encouragement, it may be applied to the use for which it was appropriated, in such way as the Legislature may determine.

The importations of Grain and other Seeds made by the Board have been considerable. In addition to annual importations of Wheat, there have been brought to the Province and distributed among the Societies, Russian flax seed, which gave great satisfaction, English Horse Beans, Barley, Canadian Field Peas and other Grains; and the various sorts of Potatoes known as the Goodrich Seedlings imported by the Board a few years ago, and now universally spread over the Province are in great requisition on account of their superior quality, great yield and the power of some of the sorts of effectually resisting the much dreaded "potato rot." Last spring the Board imported from Western Canada 360 bushels of spring Wheat of the variety called Fyfe Wheat, from having been originally raised in Canada by a farmer of the name of Fyfe. This wheat was sold to Societies at cost price, and has now, from that and a previous importation, had a fair trial in various parts of the Province. The results have been very satisfactory. From every locality where it has been tried, from Cape Breton to Yarmouth, favorable reports have been received, and it is believed that by the careful selection of seed wheat farming may become much more successful and profitable than it has hitherto proved in the Province. Mr. Sprott, Secretary of the Lower Musquodoboit Agricultural Society, reports that the Society having obtained 20 bags of the wheat from the Board, sold it, a bushel to each member, at \$1.25 per bushel. During the previous year there had been hardly a bushel of wheat raised in the district in consequence of repeated discouragements. But with the new seed in 1868, out of the whole forty trials only three failed, and in many instances there was far above an average crop. Some of the sowings were made as early as the 1st of April, and some as late as the 1st of June; the early wheat was the best. Results more or less similar to those of the Musquodoboit Society have been communicated to the Board by Societies throughout the whole Province.

This season (1869) an importation of wheat from Northern Russia, of a character likely to be suitable to our soil and climate, has been made by W. J. Stairs, Esq., and he has kindly placed a considerable portion of it at the disposal of the Board of Agriculture.

Whilst the introduction of improved seeds is one means of increasing the pro-

duce of our farms, it requires to be seconded by improved cultivation and enrichment of the soil. Our farmers may now obtain unlimited supplies of Bone Dust at reasonable rates, at Mr. Stanford's Bone Mill, Three Mile House, established under the patronage of the Board.

The last duty laid down in the Act as devolving upon the Board is the carrying out of a system of Provincial Agricultural Exhibitions. In 1866 the Board, by special resolution, called the attention of the Agricultural Committee of the House to the importance of holding a Provincial Exhibition, and the autumn of 1868 was approved of by the Legislature as a proper time for such Exhibition. The necessary arrangements were accordingly made. After much consideration it was resolved to conjoin with the Agricultural Exhibition a General Exhibition of Arts and Manufactures. In order to carry out the scheme successfully, the Board felt it to be necessary that the practical work should be undertaken by gentlemen resident near the city who could give almost daily attendance at meeting- and constant attention to the various arrangements required. It was therefore determined by the Board to call a public meeting in Temperance Hall, which was held under the presidency of His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, and the whole subject of the Exhibition was thus brought prominently before the public by spirited addresses and resolutions. At that meeting a Committee was named to carry out the Exhibition; and their Report, when submitted, will show the effective manner in which they have discharged their duty.

The Board beg to submit herewith the Treasurer's Accounts, for the past year, with relative vouchers and Auditing Committee's report thereon, and general abstract of sources of income and expenditure.

There is likewise appended hereto a detailed statement of the present condition of the Agricultural Societies in the various counties of the Province, showing in reference to each the number of members, the names of the Executive Officers, the amount of subscriptions actually paid during the year as attested in terms of the Act, and the amount of grants assigned by the Board.

A tabular synopsis of Returns of the Crops in the several counties during the season of 1868, as reported by the various Societies, is also submitted herewith.

By direction of the Board of Agriculture.

ALEX. MACFARLANE,
President.
GEORGE LAWSON,
Secretary.

To the Hon. W. B. VAIL,
Provincial Secretary.

THE SPARROWGRASS PAPERS.

CHAPTER I.

Living in the Country—Rural Anticipations—Early Rising—Baked Hippopotami—Our new Chickens—A discovery—The advantages of having a watch-dog in the country—A finale to the First Garden, and unpleasant prospects for the future.

It is a good thing to live in the country. To escape from the prison-walls of the metropolis—the great brickery we call "the city"—and to live amid blossoms and leaves, in shadow and sunshine, in moonlight and starlight, in rain, mist, dew, hoar-frost, and drouth, out in the open campaign, and under the blue dome that is bounded by the horizon only. It is a good thing to have a well with dripping buckets, a porch with honey-buds, and sweet-bells, a hive embroidered with bees, a sun-dial mossed over, ivy up to the eaves, curtains of dimity, a tumbler of fresh flowers in your bed-room, a rooster on your roof, and a dog under the piazza.

When Mrs. Sparrowgrass and I moved into the country, with our heads full of fresh butter, and cool, crisp radishes for tea; with ideas entirely lucid respecting milk, and a looseness of calculation as to the number in family it would take a good laying hen to supply with fresh eggs every morning; when Mrs. Sparrowgrass and I moved into the country, we found some preconceived notions had to be abandoned, and some departures made from the plans we had laid down in the little back-parlor in Avenue G.

One of the first achievements in the country is early rising! with the lark—with the sun—while the dew is on the grass "under the opening eyelids of the morn," and so forth. Early rising! What can be done with five or six o'clock in town? What may not be done at those hours in the country? With the hoe, the rake, the dibble, the spade, the watering pot? To plant, prune, drill, transplant, graft, train, and sprinkle! Mrs. S. and I agreed to rise early in the morning in the country.

"Richard and Robin were two pretty men,
They laid in bed till the clock struck ten;
Up jumped Richard and looked at the sky:
O Brother Robin! the sun's very high!"

Early rising in the country is not an instinct it is a sentiment and must be cultivated.

A friend recommended me to send to the south side of Long Island for some very prolific potatoes—the real hippopotamus breed. Down went my man, and what, with expenses of horse-hire, tavern bills, toll-gates and breaking a waggon, the hippopotami cost as much a piece as pine apples. They were fine potatoes, though, with comely features, and large languishing eyes, that promised increase of family without delay. As I worked my own garden (for which I hired a