

but it is proposed to resume ploughing matches another season. The committee's report embraces many useful suggestions. It is proposed to hold exhibitions once in two years, the funds during alternate years to be devoted to importation of stock, improved seed, &c. In consideration of the importance of a proper system of farm culture, it is proposed to have a visiting committee to report upon the farms of members, as to yield of crops, culture, and rotation, arrangement of barns, yards, &c.; medals and other tokens of merit being given as first, second, and third prizes, to the most deserving farmers. The report is thus concluded:—"The committee hail with much satisfaction the recent Act for the encouragement of agriculture by the Legislature, and view it as the dawn of brighter days for the agriculturists of Nova Scotia, and feel, from the encouragement held out, that if we, with energy, industry, and skill, pursue our avocations, with the blessing of God upon our labors, there shall soon be abundance within our borders for man and beast and also to spare to others."

VICTORIA COUNTY.

BADDECK AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Subscriptions paid, \$44. Government grant, \$68. Amount in Treasurer's hands, \$112.

President, Alexander Taylor. *Vice-President*, William Jones. *Secretary*, Robert A. Jones. *Treasurer*, James Crowdis. *Directors*, David McCurdy, David Dunlop, George Ingraham, Donald Robertson, Abner Crowdis.

The officers of this society meet quarterly. Arrangements are being made for the purchase of breeding stock and seeds.

ST. ANN'S AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

This Society was formed on the 15th, September, 1864. Number of members 41. Subscriptions paid, \$41. Provincial grant, \$80. Arrangements are in progress for the purchase of two young bulls, and for introducing seed of the best improved spring wheat. Quarterly meetings are held for the purpose of discussing subjects connected with agriculture.

President, John Robertson. *Vice-President*, Luther McLeod. *Secretary*, John Morrison. *Treasurer*, Laughlin McKinnon. *Directors*, Duncan Morrison, John McAuley, Angus McAuley, John McKay, Murdoch McDonald.

NORTH SHORE ST. ANN'S AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Steps are now being taken by some of the leading farmers in the North Shore Settlement of St. Ann's, for the formation of a society, but the organization is not yet sufficiently advanced to enable the society to participate in the Government grant.

MIDDLE RIVER AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

Balance in Treasurer's hands, \$108. Subscriptions paid, \$81. Government grant, \$120. Total receipts, \$309. Paid for 250 bushels improved black oats, \$125. Agricultural implements, \$64. Balance in Treasurer's hands, \$120.

"The Expenditure has been under the old Act, previous to the organization of the various societies under the provisions of the new Act."

YARMOUTH COUNTY.

YARMOUTH TOWNSHIP AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Balance from previous year, \$15.06. Subscriptions paid, \$40. Government grant, \$80. Disbursements, \$9. Balance in Treasurer's hands, \$126.06.

President, Josiah Raymond. *Secretary*, James Crosby.

The society is making arrangements for the purchase of improved stock, particularly sheep.

In respect to information on the Agriculture of the County, it is to be regretted that so little interest is felt, and that so few of our farmers can be induced to contribute the small sum required to constitute themselves members of this society, many of whom are ready to acknowledge that the society has been of essential benefit, especially in the introduction of improved breeds of animals, &c. It is to be hoped that a deeper and more wide spread interest may be incited, by the more liberal appropriations of the Legislature for its advancement and encouragement, and that more important benefits may yet be realized.

HISTORY AND CULTIVATION OF THE TURNIP CROP.

It is a remarkable fact that the origin of many of our most important economical plants is either involved in obscurity or altogether unknown. Such is the case with several of the cereals, and was particularly so in regard to Wheat until Fabre a few years ago showed it to have taken its rise from a insignificant weedy grass which has been long open to observation on the southern shores of Europe. Such is likewise partially the case with the Turnip. Familiar as the plant, in its many varieties, is to us in cultivation, the researches of botanists have not been able to tell us precisely the country or countries to which the wild plant was originally indigenous. There is a wild Turnip, indeed, found in the fields and by the way sides; but as this weed grows only in localities where turnip crops have been in cultiva-

tion, it is reasonably believed, that instead of the plant which originally gave rise to our excellent varieties, it is rather to be regarded as an accidental straggler from the farmer's fields. In all civilized countries, cultivation, and the other arts of industry are rapidly bringing about most remarkable changes in the character of their native Floras, so much so, that in lands long civilized, it is often impossible to tell from observation what are indigenous and what exotic plants. To the Turnip we are quite entitled to apply the line of reasoning adopted by Link, the celebrated botanist, in regard to Rape:—"The original native country of many cultivated plants cannot now be determined by empirical proof, but only by rational investigation. Thus Rape is no longer met with in its wild state, but when we adduce proof from all extra-European countries that it is not indigenous to them, we must conclude that it is of European origin, although its wild state has disappeared through cultivation."

The common wild Turnip (*Brassica Rapa*, L.) is a biennial plant belonging to the Natural Order *Cruciferae* (*Brassicaceae*, Lindley) an order readily distinguished from all others by the cruciform flowers of four petals, by the stamens being tetradynamous (that is four long, and two short), and by the fruit, which is usually either a pouch or a pod, with a central replum.

Although the Turnip was duly appreciated by the Romans, it must be regarded as quite a modern feature in British as in American husbandry. Gerard's account of the Turnip would lead us to believe that, in his time, it was only known in England as a kitchen-garden crop:—"It groweth in fields and divers vineyards, or hoppe-gardens, in most places of England. The small turnep groweth by a village neere London (called Hackney), in a sandie ground, and are brought to the Crosse in Cheapside, by the women of that village to be sold, and are the best that ever I tasted. The bulbous or knobbed roote, which is properly called rappa or turnep, and hath given the name to the plant, is many times eaten raw, especially of the poor people in Wales, but most commonly boiled."

The time of the Turnip's original introduction to Britain as a field crop is not distinctly known, but it seems to have been applied to the feeding of cattle about the middle of the seventeenth century.—It was not till the beginning of the eighteenth century that its value was sufficiently appreciated to lead to its general culture. Lord Townshend, while attending George I. in a continental tour, remarked the extensive and beneficial cultivation of Turnips throughout Germany for feeding purposes; this crop seemed to spread fertility over lands naturally barren. He was thus led to introduce the