

to any person who shall grow the greatest acreage of hemp in the province during the ensuing season, notice to be given to the Secretary of the Board by intending competitors in time to allow inspection of the standing crop, and not later than the 1st of July, 1870, and a fair sample of the crop to be sent to the Board not later than the end of September, 1870.

A prize of \$50 for the best sample of prepared Hemp fibre, in quantity of ten hundred weight to be exhibited at Halifax.

A prize of \$10 for the best bushel of Hemp Seed, raised by the competitor in Nova Scotia, and sent to the Board at Halifax not later than the end of Sept., 1870. The fibre and seed will remain the property of competitors, whether successful or not.

Mr. Calkin gave notice of a resolution having reference to the encouragement of County Exhibitions, which will be taken up to-morrow.

The Board occupied some time in conversation on various proposed means of promoting the advancement of Agriculture, but being desirous of conferring with the Agricultural Committee of the House of Assembly before taking decided steps,—the Meeting adjourned till to-morrow, (Friday) morning at 10 a. m., when a joint meeting will be held.

ADJOURNED MEETING.

AGRICULTURAL OFFICE.

New Provincial Building,
4th March, 1870.

An adjourned meeting was held this day, when the Board met in consultation with the Agricultural Committee of the House of Assembly. Present, of the Agricultural Committee:—Amos Purdy, Esq., Chairman; David M. Dickie, Esq., Elkanah Young, Esq., David C. Landers, Esq., Alex. Campbell, Esq., John Ross, Esq.

Of the Board of Agriculture there were present:—The Hon. Alex. MacFarlane, President; The Hon. Sir Wm. Young, Kt.; The Hon. R. A. McHefsey, M. E. C.; Hon. J. McKinnon, Antigonish; Rev. A. S. Hunt, M. A., Supt of Education; Dr. C. C. Hamilton, Canard; Joseph J. Northup, Esq.; J. B. Calkin, Esq., Principal of Normal School; Henry Yeomans, Esq.; Avarad Longley, Esq., Paradise; H. A. N. Kaulback, Esq., Lunenburg; George C. Lawrence, Esq., Port Hood; Prof. Lawson, Secretary.

Col. Laurie was likewise present by invitation.

Mr. Ross, Mr. Campbell, and other members of the Agricultural Committee, as well as of the Board, expressed strongly their opinions as to the importance of importing seed grain, to meet the wants of our farmers this spring. Thereupon it was moved by Dr. Hamilton, seconded by the Hon. Mr. McHefsey, and

Resolved,—That the following quantities of Seed Grain be obtained without delay, and sold to Agricultural Societies, or others, at cost prices, viz—

300 bushels Canada Fyfe Wheat,
100 do. Norway Oats,
50 do. Surprise Oats.

It is expected that the Seed Wheat will arrive at Halifax before the end of March, and will be sold to Societies and others at a dollar and a half per bushel. Persons desiring supplies are requested to send their orders immediately to the Secretary of the Board.

Moved by Dr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. McHefsey, and

Resolved, That the Board import a number of Sheep and Swine, or other desirable stock, of pure breed, and have them for sale in November.

Moved by Mr. Calkin, seconded by Mr. Longley, and

Resolved, That with the view of encouraging Exhibitions of Stock and Agricultural and Horticultural produce, in the various Counties of the Province, the Board resolve that where any Society or number of Societies shall hold an Exhibition, the prizes of which shall be open for competition to all persons in the Province, either free or at a reasonable entrance fee, the Board shall give in aid of such Exhibitions a premium to the extent of 25 per cent. on the amount of the Prize Fund subscribed and paid in the locality, irrespective of the regular subscriptions of Societies,—provided that such premiums shall not in one year, exceed \$1000. And should this sum of \$1000 be insufficient to yield 25 per cent. on the various prize funds, then the premiums will be awarded by the Board in rateable proportion to the amount of fund raised in each locality. Societies desiring to participate are required to make application and send in a copy of their prize list and subscription list, not later than 1st June, 1870.

Mr. Northup exhibited specimens of several new potatoes from Mr. Alfred Saunders, Argyle street, viz;—

Reilly or Worcester; Climax—a very fine sort; Early Rose; Bresee's Prolific.

BEEET SUGAR.

The growth of beet for the manufacture of sugar and spirit forms the most important branch of farming in France, Belgium, and Germany. It has proved to be such a source of national wealth to those countries, that it naturally takes precedence of all other agricultural topics. For the past ten years, the growers and makers have supported a newspaper (*Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*) devoted to beetroot culture and sugar-making. I mention this as an indication of the importance of the trade. That sugar could be extracted from beetroot

was known as early as 1747. The discovery was made by Margraf, a chemist of Berlin; but his discovery excited but little attention. About the close of the last century, another Berlin chemist, Achard, gave to the world an account of the process carried on at his beetroot sugar factory in Silesia, by which he extracted some 4 per cent of sugar. The scientific men of the Continent from that time were aroused to the importance of the subject. The attention of Napoleon having been directed to it, he determined upon introducing the manufacture on an extensive scale, his view being the breaking up of the Colonial prosperity of Great Britain, by excluding from France and the Continent the important Colonial produce of sugar. The first factory was established about 1809, since which time it has made steady and, considering the difficulties, fiscal and otherwise, rapid progress. In less than thirty years from its introduction, no less than 50,000 tons of sugar were made from beet; and, according to the last return, there are now in France 470 beetroot sugar factories; in Belgium, 116; and in Prussia, 255. In the Zollverein, 2,500,000 tons of beet are annually converted into sugar. In Austria, Hungary, Russia, and other parts of Europe, the process is also successfully carried on. To France, that which was commenced as a military expedient has proved to be not only an important department of national industry, but the most powerful stimulant to French agriculture.

The late Mr. Frere wrote six years ago as follows:—"When we see what a mighty agent the introduction of beetroot, as an industrial crop, has proved for the regeneration of agriculture in the north of France, we may see reason to note and ponder such statistics in our minds, even if at present we cannot advantageously turn them to practical account." To show the appreciation in which this branch of industry is held in France, at an agricultural meeting held a few years ago at Valenciennes, a triumphal arch was erected, on which appeared the following inscription:—"The growth of wheat in this district before the introduction of beetroot sugar was only 122,000 qrs., the number of oxen 700; since the introduction of this sugar manufacture, the growth of wheat has been 146,000 qrs., and the number of oxen 11,500." Since I have looked into this subject, I am surprised that it did not sooner occupy the serious attention of English agriculturists. Perhaps the indifference arose from the failure of early attempts made at Chelsea, Wandsworth, Minely, Belfast, and other places, as well as from a settled belief that our climate was not adapted to the growth of the particular kind of beet required for the manufacture. That the climate and soil of the drier parts of