

three of them in any part of the Province, could do it themselves, and would do so without waiting for any society or the Central Board to act for them. Importations have been made repeatedly in this way by our farmers from the Upper Provinces of Canada, New Brunswick, Prince Edward's Island, the United States and England.

Our Society was organized thirty-five years ago, with a view of promoting the growth of grain, other crops, and orcharding, and of circulating information concerning agricultural literature, rather than the holding of exhibitions or attending to the improvement of live stock. The terms of the Act then, as now, gave the Society a general scope of objects to expend their money upon, if they did not desire to have exhibitions, but with the permission of the Central Board. With the special permission of the Central Board of that day, and sanctioned by the different Central Boards ever since, we have kept those objects steadily in view. Parrsboro' was considered then as now a backwoodplace for farming, compared with many other places in the Province, as it has so few marshes to supply hay or manure, and because navigation, ship-building and lumbering are the leading occupations of its people, yet much is done in the way of agriculture, and there is a chance for doing much more, when capital, industry and skill are properly applied to the business. Amidst the discouragement of long winters, failures in crops, poor markets, high wages, and distance from our chief markets, many are persevering and studying closely how to make their farms fruitful and paying. Several have achieved a good measure of success both in crops and live stock, and their example in management and industry has a beneficial influence over those who are still striving for the same success. There is a decided improvement looking back to thirty-five years in which our Society may fairly claim some credit for the encouragement it has given to the different branches of the farmer's business. Thirty-five years ago there was a prejudice against raising wheat, it was said it would not ripen near the sea-shore on account of fogs, we have proved that it ripens just as well on the sea-shore as on the inland farms. For forty years in succession it was sown on a farm lying on the sea-shore, except for two years, and never once was there a failure either from rust, weevil or fog. Inland farms were partially affected by the weevil during the years that insect prevailed, but no fields of wheat or farms near the sea-shore were attacked by it. It was also said that fogs would prevent us from raising apples on the sea-shore, that theory has also been proved to be erroneous from long

experience. Thirty-five years ago no attention had been paid to making composts. Agricola's twelve celebrated letters on composts and manures had not been read, or, if read, not acted upon. Now the compost heap is looked upon as indispensable about every barn, owing in a great measure to the stimulus given by the bounties of our Society and the information circulated concerning them by it. Covered sheds for saving manure under is now receiving special attention from the Society, with the decided approbation of the many farmers who have experimented with them. With plenty of manure of a good quality, the farmer can always have good crops, except when afflicted with providential scourge, such as the potato blight, the weevil in wheat, or an unpropitious season, such as a drouth, too much rain, a too late or too early frost. With plenty of hay and grain and large stores of vegetables, which compost and top dressing do much to ensure, he may always have his cattle, horses, sheep and pigs in prime condition, save when attacked by disease, or when they meet with accidents, maiming or killing them. These cannot always be prevented, but they are frequently cured of injuries and sickness, so that the losses from these causes have generally been light in this district.

The country naturally adapts itself to its most urgent wants. In managing the Society here it has been governed by the most pressing suggestions of its members. These members are the practical farmers of the country, and know better what is needed than the Central Board itself, which is sometimes composed of men more theoretical than practical in their ideas and knowledge of farming, and not intimate like our own farmers with our local defects and wants. If the result of an experiment should be a failure, it would be no individual loss to any one of the members of the Central Board; but, the same failure would be injurious to a week society or to the practical individual farmer. To meet the wishes of members who at different times have required the Society to experiment in Stock, it has purchased five bulls, six rams and a boar. A loss of sixteen dollars was sustained on the bulls, four of the six rams were lost, and the other two sold at a discount entailing a loss of about thirty dollars on the Society. No earnings from the rams is credited, but a good deal of indirect benefit is acknowledged. The boar, a white chester, cost upwards of eighty dollars for his keeping, for three years, and his earnings were some two or three pounds and as much more on being sold. The improvement derived from him is very generally acknowledged, although we had a very satisfactory breed of pigs

in the place before procuring him. We now have a resolution on our books allowing us to purchase a thorough-bred Ayrshire Bull, but limited to a cost of twenty dollars, and another resolution allowing us to purchase a thorough-bred Jersey Bull, limiting us to a cost of forty dollars, delivered here. The object in these purchases is, if possible, to improve our dairy stock, to which business considerable attention is given by our farmers. We are willing to carry out these resolutions, not merely to comply with the terms of our Agricultural Act, or to meet the wishes of the Central Board, but to answer the demands of those members of our Society who are urging it, and in the hope of conferring a great benefit on our section of the country. We wish, however, to proceed slowly and cautiously for fear of imposition and failure, and thus damaging the standing and credit of the Society, and accomplishing little or no good.

In offering bounties on covered sheds for saving manure under and for top dressing, we had no idea that there would be so large a draft on our funds for them as there was last fall or we would have made them much smaller. As they were promised, however, we paid them in full to prevent dissatisfaction and willingly satisfied that it was every way beneficial.

Our Society, although it has had no exhibition of its own, gave liberally to the Provincial Exhibitions of 1853, 1868 and 1874. It has also done what it could in circulating Agricultural papers. It took one year several numbers of the *Maine Farmer*, another ten copies of the *Canada Farmer*, and it has always patronized the Nova Scotia Agricultural papers issued by our Central Boards. First, for several years the *Colonial Farmer*, edited by the late Titus Smith; next for several years *The Nova Scotia Journal of Education and Agriculture*, edited by the late Dr. Forrester; and of late years *The Journal of Agriculture for Nova Scotia*, edited by Professor Lawson.

The Society also gave premiums and bounties extensively to promote orcharding, a branch of husbandry that had been very much neglected in this place. Now it is closely studied and practiced by many persons who have been incited thereto by the operations of the Society and by the papers and articles on fruit growing circulated by it among our members. We have made it known that apples can be raised here in abundance and of prime quality if only the necessary conditions are observed.

One, perhaps the principal, function of an Agricultural Society is to make experiments on objects or matters not understood, that an individual is not able or not willing to make. We have