

Comparative Statement showing the number and strength of Societies in each year, from 1864 to 1880, inclusive.

YEAR.	Number of Societies.	Number of Members.	Amount of Subscriptions.	Grants in aid.
1st yr. 1864...	37	1744	\$1859 00	\$3010 00
" 1865...	48	2197	2334 00	3314 00
" 1866...	52	2543	6850 00	3566 00
" 1867...	58	2833	3051 50	3444 50
" 1868...	45	2246	2519 75	3232 50
" 1869...	43	2209	2540 50	3001 00
" 1870...	49	5752	3046 00	3372 00
" 1871...	57	3245	3672 80	3543 00
" 1872...	60	3597	4004 50	3901 00
" 1873...	41	3586	3929 00	5785 00
" 1874...	64	3971	4495 03	6839 00
" 1875...	66	4140	4767 75	5790 50
" 1876...	75	4150	5633 00	6255 00
" 1877...	74	4114	4860 00	6592 50
" 1878...	77	4130	4860 82	6478 00
" 1879...	79	4327	4829 50	6594 00
" 1880...	83	4697	5551 75	6549 00

CENTRAL BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

PROVINCE BUILDING,  
March 22, 1881.

Present—Honorable H. F. McDougall, David Matheson, Pictou; Charles E. Brown, Yarmouth; John Ross, New Glasgow; Israel Longworth, Truro; Colonel W. E. Starratt, Paradise; Professor Lawson.

Mr. Matheson read from the *Royal Gazette* of 23rd February proclamation of appointments to the Central Board of Agriculture for 1881, in terms of the Act, and in accordance with the nominations of agricultural societies in the several districts.

The members of the Board expressed regret at the absence of Col. Laurie, the former President, who had gone to South Africa to engage in active military service, and who was not expected to return in time this season to resume the duties on the Board which in former years he so ably discharged.

Moved by Mr. Longworth, seconded by Hon. Mr. McDougall, and passed unanimously, that David Matheson, Pictou, be elected President of the Board for the present year.

Moved by Mr. Ross, seconded by Hon. Mr. McDougall, and passed unanimously, that Charles E. Brown, Yarmouth, be elected Vice-President.

Moved by Mr. Longworth, seconded by Mr. Ross, and passed unanimously, that Professor Lawson be re-elected Secretary and Treasurer of the Board.

Arrangements were made for a meeting on Wednesday morning with the Agricultural Committee of the House of Assembly; also to receive a deputation

from City Council, or their committee, at 3 p. m., Wednesday, in relation to the Dominion and Provincial Exhibition.

Ordered, that the imported cattle advertised to be sold on Thursday, be on exhibition at the cattle sheds, Richmond, daily, from 10 a. m., till 4 p. m., but that visitors be not admitted at other times.

PROVINCE BUILDING,  
March 23, 1881.

Present—David Matheson, President; C. E. Brown, Vice-Pres.; Hon. H. F. McDougall, Israel Longworth, John Ross, Colonel Starratt, Professor Lawson, Secretary.

Of the Agricultural Committee of the House of Assembly there were present—Colonel Blair, Chairman; Messrs. McGillivray, Morrison, Spence, Ford, LeBlanc, Shaffner and Bell.

The President of the Board expressed his satisfaction at this opportunity of conference with the Agricultural Committee of the House. The Board had but one desire, to advance the agricultural interests of the Province. The Annual Report recently presented gave a statement of the work done during the year, and members of the Board now present would be glad to afford any explanations or further information required. As for the future work of the Board, that was a matter in the hands of the committee.

Colonel Blair, Chairman of the Committee, stated that he had last year represented to the Board facts and views pressed upon the committee by their constituents, and the action they had taken. He had incurred undeserved odium in this matter, and felt that he could yield to no one in singleness of purpose in endeavoring, in every way in his power, to advance the interests of our Agriculturists. He explained the objects of the recommendations made by the Committee in their report last year, which was, unfortunately, too late in being presented to allow of any definite action. He thought the Board had done perfectly right in continuing to carry out the provisions of the Act as it existed, rather than attempt to follow the recommendations of the Committee, which had not the force of law.

The meeting was also addressed by Mr. McGillivray and other gentlemen, and Mr. Ford called special attention to the present arrangement of the Counties of the Province into agricultural districts, which he thought could be improved upon; but, as the hour arrived when members had an engagement in the House of Assembly, the Conference was brought to a close, to be resumed at 7.30 p. m.

The Board then proceeded with ordinary business.

The rules and bye-laws of Le Moine Agricultural Society were presented and considered clause by clause. Rule 5,

clause 3rd, relating to fines, was deleted. To rule 15, relating to changes of rules, were added the words: "But shall not take effect till approved by the Board of Agriculture." In other respects the code was approved.

A letter of explanation having been read from the Secretary of the Millford Haven Agricultural Society, it was moved by Mr. Brown, seconded by Colonel Starratt, and passed, that the Millford Haven Society be allowed the usual rateable grant this year on amended list now before the Board, and that the Secretary of the Board apply to the Hon. Provincial Secretary for the additional amount necessary to pay the same, viz., \$80.

The Secretary was instructed, in sending warrant for grant to Parrsborough Society to direct the Society to cease giving premiums on compost, covered sheds for manure, grains and roots raised, &c., and to recommend the Society to devote their funds to the purchase of thoroughbred live stock.

3 p. m.

Present—David Matheson, President; Messrs. Brown, Longworth, Starratt, Ross, Lawson.

Colonel Starratt represented the present state of affairs in the Caledonia's Society, Queens County, which, being satisfactory, he moved, seconded by Mr. Brown, that the grant to the Society be paid. Passed.

The prize list of the proposed Dominion and Provincial Exhibition was submitted and partially examined, Mr. A. K. Mackinlay, Alderman Spellman, Mr. C. W. Anderson, and Mr. D. Henry Starr having been named as a committee to act for the City Council's Committee in conferring with the Board.

7.30 p. m.

Present—All the members of the Board as before; also all members of the Agricultural Committee of the House of Assembly.

After some remarks by Col. Blair and Mr. Longworth, the President stated that the Secretary of the Board would explain to the Committee the nature of his work in connection with it, which the Board felt was necessary in order to remove misapprehensions that evidently prevailed.

Professor Lawson explained very fully his connection with the Board during the last sixteen years, and the nature of the work performed by him, and expressed his willingness, in view of the straitened circumstances of the Province, and the reductions that had been made in other departments to continue to perform the duties as heretofore for \$1000 per annum. But, if the Committee thought it better to make some other arrangement, there need be no hesitation in doing so. Having had the working details of the Board