

We have received the following from the Secretary of an Agricultural Society:

QUESTIONS.

In consequence of there being different views of the annexed subjects entertained by considerable numbers connected with Agricultural Societies, I beg leave, most respectfully, to submit them in a catechetical form for your answers, with a view to set them effectually at rest for the future, at least hereabout. Your early answer will oblige.

1st. May a member of any Agricultural Society become a member of another Agricultural Society at the same time, and derive benefit from both?

2ndly. When the retiring officers of any such Society make up their annual report and accounts over their own signatures, is it right or proper for their successors to alter any particular item in such report or account after both were adopted and passed at the annual meeting?

3rdly. Is it proper for the newly appointed officers, in forwarding copies of such report or account, so altered, to the Central Board of Agriculture, to substitute their own names to such copies, for the names of the retired officers who made up and signed the originals?

4thly. Should any Agricultural Society, at the close of its annual meeting, fall nine or ten short of forty members, and at same time neglect or refuse to adjourn said meeting to future given day in order to fill up its roll of members, will such a Society be entitled to elect new officers and directors, and continue to canvass or fill up its roll of members until the time for forwarding such roll to the Central Board?

5thly. When funds belonging to a Society are lost through the negligence of its officers, can such funds be recovered from said officers?

6thly. If a Society number sixty members at the annual meeting, and that during the period between said meeting and the time for forwarding report, etc., to the Central Board, ten or twenty more members be enrolled, can such be added to the sixty, so that seventy or eighty may be entitled to share of the grant in aid.

REPLIES.

1. A person by becoming a member of an Agricultural Society does not thereby deprive himself of the right of joining any other Society and participating in its privileges. Should abuses arise in the exercise of this right, it will be the duty of officers of Societies to call the attention of the Board to them, with a view to enquiry, and the adoption of such remedy as may be deemed expedient.

2, 3 and 4. The annual report and accounts of Societies should be completed at the annual meeting and signed by the retiring officers. If it should be found necessary, after election of the new officers, to make any additions or corrections before sending the report and accounts to the Board, such additions or corrections should be signed by the new officers. The attested list of members need not be completed at the annual meeting, but may be kept open till end of December, and attested either by the new Treasurer or Secretary or the retiring Treasurer or

Secretary according as the former or latter has obtained the subscriptions and is able to testify to the facts.

5. This is a legal question that can only be answered by judge or jury after evidence of the facts of a particular case. Officers are bound to account for all funds passing into their hands, and negligence cannot be pleaded as an excuse for loss.

6. Societies are allowed to the end of December to fill up their lists of membership qualifying for participation in the Legislative grant.

EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS OF JOHN THORNTON, ESQ., ADVISING OF SHIPMENT OF CATTLE TO BOARD OF AGRICULTURE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

I received your letter on the 18th October, and at once proceeded to put it into execution. There were three sales to come off, Mr. Fawcett's, of Booth blood, on the 20th, and Mr. Robinson's on the 22nd, of Bates blood, but I could not purchase any. Lord Penrhyn's sale was on the 26th, and, as there were two first class herds in the neighbourhood, I went on the 27th to see them. Mr. Oliver had only a Grand Duke suitable, and he was afterwards sold for 700 guineas, no heifers to sell. Mr. Loder had no bulls old enough, and his heifers and young cows were not in suitable condition to send out. Lord Penrhyn's cattle were, for the best, too high. On the 29th I continued my journey into Gloucestershire, to Mr. W. Garne's herd, he had some good young bulls and one very good heifer. I went carefully over them and took careful notes of them and their prices. From Mr. Garne I went to Lord Fitzhardinge, at Berkley, he had three bulls, two old enough, but, being of his fashionable Duke of Connaught and Siddington blood, I could not do any business. The heifers too were out of the question.

On the 30th I went to Mr. Thompson of Badminton, he had no bulls but some capital heifers, but as he asked 200 and 300 guineas each, I could do nothing. Thence I proceeded to Col. Kingscote, his bulls were all under a year old, and none of the heifers were in calf, and he was not disposed to sell.

Nov. 4th I went to Col. Lloyd Lindsay, he had several bulls preparing, like Mr. Garne's, for the Birmingham show, but I got the pick of these and had a hard struggle to get the two for —, he wanted —, and if you see the prizes he has won, and the prices he gets at Birmingham, they were worth it.

Nov. 5th I went into Essex to see Mr. Green's herd, I also saw Mr. Clear's herd.

Nov. 6th I went to Mr. Lloyd in Surrey, he had two good bulls, for which he asks — and —, so that I could not do business, no heifers suitable, so I saw Capt. Moir's, he had a very good bull, Earl of Surroy, for which he had refused —, so I got him at —. He is a large, good animal, out of a very grand cow I gave 115 guineas for as a heifer, and her sire is a son of the Duke of Connaught, the highest price bull in the world, 4500 guineas.

Nov. 8th I went to Mr. H. Bettridge, East Hanney, he had six good heifers for exhibition at Abingdon, and, after much persuasion, I got the pick of them at —, he wanted —, and they were worth it. Both are, I consider, beautiful animals, and due to calve in December or January.

Col. Lloyd Lindsay's bulls are good, and I could only show your stipulation to get them at the — average. The same with Mr. Garne's, and I fought hard for his red cow at —, but he would not part her under —, and seeing she is in calf, and by the Duchess bull Grand Duke of Geneva 2nd, she is worth it. The bulls are, I think, a healthy, good, robust lot, that will do credit to you in the Colony, and improve the stock. I have endeavored to study your wishes as to blood, but I have gone more for a really good animal, for we are, through the American taste, going so much to blood that we are in danger of losing the substance.

And now with regard to the shipping. We find we could get better terms with the Dominion line—a difference of £3 per head,—so we got a good ship, and I sent up my head man, Mr. Truelove, to see carefully to them, and also to get the food, stalls and other arrangements made, as well as engaging a good man to take them out, and to whom we paid £3,—as per annexed account.

The animals are all clearly branded on the horn according to their numbers given on the annexed pedigrees. Sir Robert Frogmore, first prize bull at Gloucester is, I consider, one of the grandest animals in the country, and, as an animal, superior to even the Duke of Connaught.

The ship did not go out of dock till this morning owing to the storm. Earl of Horton is a Kirkeavington bull and sire of some useful animals.

I shall hope to hear of the safe arrival of the animals and of your approval.

Believe me truly,
JOHN THORNTON.

We invite our readers to read the article, "Farming in New England," and to notice whether, after substituting "Nova Scotia" for New England in the title, they can discover a single sentence that needs to be altered.