

scriptions raised by each Society during the year, the amount allowed by the Board in proportion thereto as provided by the Act, and the names of the chief officers of each Society.

Many of these Societies, having been very recently organized, there has not been much time for the development of their efforts in agricultural improvement. But the Reports that have been received afford evidence of vigorous action on the part of most of them. Several Societies have held local Exhibitions and Ploughing Matches during the past season, whilst others, and by far the greater number, have devoted their funds chiefly to the introduction of improved breeds of Neat Cattle, Sheep, Pigs, and improved Seed, Grain and Potatoes. It has been felt that, in many parts of the Country, much benefit was not to be looked for from local Exhibitions, until efforts were first made to improve the native Stock, by the introduction of thorough-bred animals.— This has induced the Board to encourage Societies to devote their funds, for the present, to the purchase of superior breeding animals, by which means much new blood has been infused into the Stock of the country, that cannot fail to prove of permanent benefit, and to show its influence in after years. Without entering into detail, it may be mentioned that the importation of superior Rams and Ewes from Prince Edward Island has been especially large.

The Board took other steps, for the purpose of aiding farther in the improvement of Stock. Being aware that in October last a triennial Provincial Exhibition was to be held at Fredericton, New Brunswick, and that the Prizes offered on that occasion were such as to be likely to bring together all the best animals of that Province, as well as some from the adjoining States, the Board named a Committee to examine the animals, and select such as were really likely to prove useful in our Province. The Committee found that many of the animals exhibited were not so well adapted to the purpose as was anticipated, and the purchases made were comparatively few. Several excellent animals were, however, obtained, including the first Prize Devon Bull, and first Prize Durham Bull, both pure animals and good

specimens of their breeds; likewise some young stock, and a number of excellent Rams. The purchases at Fredericton amounted in all to \$312.05. The whole of the Stock so purchased was afterwards exposed for sale by public auction at Windsor, on the condition that the animals were to be retained in the Province.—The amount realized at the sale was \$332.50. Thus more than the actual purchase money was recovered, and the only expense to the Province has been the charges for keep and carriage of the animals, together with the Auctioneer's Commission at Sale, and other incidental items. Particulars of the intended sale had been sent to the officers of the various Agricultural Societies, besides being advertised in the Newspapers; most of the animals were secured for Societies, and all fell into good hands.

Notwithstanding this small purchase made by the Board, and the independent importations of the different Societies, already referred to, there is still very great want of pure Bulls, Rams and Boars in nearly every part of the Province, a want which, in the present state of Agriculture is not likely to be supplied, to any appreciable extent, by private effort.— Whilst in some special counties, and more sparingly throughout the Province generally, there are those who devote much attention to breeding and improving their stock, yet unfortunately the great mass of farmers continue to raise stock without due regard, many without any regard at all, to breed or race. This must be looked upon as a national evil, which limits both the amount and quality of our produce, and prevents Nova Scotia taking that place in the scale of Agricultural Countries to which her soils and climate entitle her. On some of the best sheep lands in the Province, the farmers acknowledge that their breeds of sheep are hopelessly "run out," and that sheep are becoming scarcely worth raising in consequence.

One circumstance which operates against the maintenance of pure breeds, especially in the case of neat cattle, is the fact that by judicious crossing, grade animals are often superior to those of pure breed for the purposes of the dairyman and grazier. In this way immediate advantage is apt to be gained at a sacrifice of future benefit, for it is obviously necessary to maintain pure stock in order that we may have the

means of making successful crosses. The circumstance here alluded to is what renders frequent importations necessary until the time shall have arrived when pure stock is appreciated by farmers generally to such an extent as to render the raising of it sufficiently profitable to engage private enterprise.

In regard to the Horse, an animal so important to the country in many respects besides his use in Agriculture, there is equal need of improvement as in the case of other kinds of stock. At different times entire Horses, some of them of great excellence, have been brought into the country, a large number of excellent colts have been raised from them, and the general breed of horses has in this way been very greatly improved wherever the farmers availed themselves of the imported animals. But of late years there has been no Horse of any celebrity in the Province, and a gradual deterioration is now going on, not only in the class of carriage and riding horses, but likewise in the heavier breeds used for farm labour.

The propriety of taking more energetic steps for maintaining and improving the breeds of Horses and Cattle, has seriously engaged the attention of the Board.— It has been felt that single animals brought into the Province from time to time, although of great service, yet too often exercised only a sporadic and temporary influence, the benefits of which are to be rapidly lost. These, and other considerations, have led the Board to the conclusion that it is essential to import from England, without delay, at least three thorough-bred Horses, one of them a Clydesdale, three pure Durham Bulls, and two Heifers of the same breed. With such an importation the members of the Board feel that they could make arrangements to give the use of these Horses to all the more important agricultural districts; whilst in the case of the Cattle, the importation of both Bulls and Heifers, of pure Durham blood would enable pure male animals of this important breed to be raised in the Province, and thus, in course of time, the various agricultural districts might be supplied with the means of crossing and improving the native breeds. The Board submits these suggestions, believing that the sum required for carrying out so important an object will be a wise and economical expenditure for the country.