

Bingay, of Granville, has given instructions for the home manufacture of Superphosphate of Lime, and has written likewise on Sugar Beet, Belgian Carrot and Orchard Grass. Henry E. Decie, Esq., Belle Isle, has described his successful method of field cultivation of Cabbages, and has given valuable hints on feeding pigs and other animals. Benjamin Zwicker, Esq., Mahone Bay, has described some forms of cattle disease; Mr. Johnston, of Ellershous, has given very full instructions for the raising of Strawberries by the most improved methods now employed in English gardens; Duncan Campbell, Esq., of the Emigration Department, has called attention to the agricultural capabilities of Cape Breton, and the eastern part of the Province; and, in a recent number, an important communication from J. B. Young, Esq., C. E., containing full details of the merits and mode of working of the Dry Earth Closet System has been published. There have likewise appeared during the year several articles on Agricultural Chemistry, Botany and Physiology, the Blights and Diseases of Farm Plants, the Constitution of Milk and Dairy Products, Use of Bones in renovating the soil, and other subjects, some of which have been largely quoted in the English and American Agricultural papers.

The subject of a Bone Mill was referred to in last year's report. The difficulties that our farmers have hitherto experienced in obtaining crushed bones, superphosphate, guanos, and other powerful manures, have greatly retarded agricultural improvement. In the case of upland farms that have become run out by continued cropping, which have thus become completely exhausted of their phosphates, it is practically impossible to recover their fertility without the aid of some such materials, whilst even in the richest soils bone manures give a powerful stimulus. The Board have, therefore, been desirous of encouraging the production of such manures, but have found it difficult to induce capitalists to embark in the undertaking. They are now, however, in a position to state that the necessary preparations are being made for the immediate erection of a Bone Mill at the Three Mile House, convenient to the city and railway, that the waste bones of the city are now being collected, and that they will be ready for sale to the farmers, in a manufactured state, in time for sowing this season.

The holding of Provincial Agricultural Exhibitions is one of the objects contemplated by the Act for Encouragement of Agriculture. The attention of the Agricultural Committee of the House was called to this subject by special resolution of the Board last session, and the autumn of 1866 was approved of by the Legisla-

ture as the time fixed for the first Exhibition.

The Board felt very strongly that a well understood system of Exhibitions, in which the whole farmers of the Province could take part, and which they could all look forward to, and prepare for, at stated intervals, was imperatively required for the proper development of our agricultural resources. We see that, in other countries, great benefits arise, interest is excited, information diffused, and a stimulus given to exertion. Whilst the rapid advancement of agriculture in Britain, Canada, and the United States, is to be attributed to a variety of means employed, the most potent of these has undoubtedly been the systems of Agricultural Exhibitions that form so conspicuous a feature in each of those countries. In Nova Scotia the same beneficial results must follow. Better systems of culture, better crops, better breeds of animals, better fed stock, better implements,—in short, better farmers, are to be obtained by bringing the farmers together, so that they may compare products and stock, and discover for themselves the manifold ways in which improvement may be effected. It is the desire of the Board that not only the farmers of the whole Province, but the whole people as well, shall interest themselves in these Exhibitions. A committee is now at work making preliminary arrangements, with the view of directing public attention to the subject, in a prominent manner, on an early day.

The Board beg to submit herewith the Treasurer's Accounts for the past year, and relative vouchers, together with the Finance Committee's Report thereon. From these documents it will be observed that the balance in the Treasurer's hands at the 15th March, 1866, amounted to \$5183.38, and that the balance at present in hand, exclusive of grant for Stock Farm, amounts to \$4858.64.

A tabular synopsis of returns of the crops in the several counties of the Province, during the season of 1866, is submitted herewith, to which is appended a statement of the progress and peculiarities of the season, and the way in which the weather affected the various crops. The peculiar character of the season, both in Spring and Harvest time, gave our farmers much anxiety and extra labour, but the returns were, upon the whole, satisfactory.

By direction of the Board of Agriculture,

ALEX'R. MACFARLANE,
President

GEORGE LAWSON,
Secretary.

To the Hon. Charles Tupper, M.D.,
Provincial Secretary.

THE DEBATE ON AGRICULTURE IN THE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
Friday, April 5, 1867.

Hon. Mr. McFARLANE asked leave to lay on the table of the House the Annual Report of the Board of Agriculture, and in doing so, stated that he was able to say that the department was working most satisfactorily. A very large amount of benefit had been derived from its establishment. It was well known to every one that a very large proportion of the population of this country was interested in agricultural pursuits. The subject of agriculture attracted the attention of "Agricola" many years ago, and through the influence of his writings agricultural societies were established. In the course of time, however, the interest of the people dwindled, and but few societies existed when the present Board was established a few years ago. At present there were 58 societies in Nova Scotia—in fact, they had increased in all the counties. These societies were composed of 3000 members, and had contributed \$3200 in 1866. These funds were devoted to various purposes connected with the promotion of this branch of industry. The Board had used the sums granted to them for the improvement of stock. For many years the stock of this country had been steadily deteriorating. The stock imported by the Board had been scattered over all parts of the province. Everywhere was the greatest interest taken in procuring new stock. At the recent sale held in the autumn, the stock was competed for by the counties of Cape Breton, where, it was believed, agriculture had not arrived at such perfection as to require such fine breeds of cattle. These counties, however, largely competed and carried away some of the best animals from those counties which had always given a great deal of time and attention to stock. The Board had endeavored, for the first time, to get something like a statement of crops—what crops best flourish in particular localities—what was the description of stock to which the counties appeared best adapted. The Board had chosen a Stock Farm at Shubenacadie, but unfortunately, owing to some defects in the title, they were obliged to give it up, and so far they had been unable to find a place that would answer their purposes equally well. The funds, however, devoted to that purpose were deposited, and ready for use when required. The gratifying fact had also been exhibited, that very large prices were willingly paid by the people of the various counties for the stock imported. This fact shewed the great and growing interest taken in the agriculture of the country.