

NOVA SCOTIA

JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE

Published under direction of the Board of Agriculture of Nova Scotia.

Omnium rerum, ex quibus aliquid acquiritur, nihil est agriculturâ melius, nihil uberius, nihil homine libero dignius.—Cicero : de Officiis, lib. I, cap. 42.

VOL. IV.

HALIFAX, N. S., FEBRUARY—MARCH, 1882.

No. 21.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CENTRAL BOARD OF AGRICULTURE OF NOVA SCOTIA, FOR YEAR 1881.

Hon. S. H. HOLMES, *Provincial Secretary :*

Sir,—The Central Board of Agriculture have the honor to submit, for the information of His Honor the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislature, their Annual Report for the year 1881.

The Board have examined with care the Annual Reports and attested Returns of Membership of the Agricultural Societies established under the Act, in the several counties of the Province. Abstracts of these documents, embracing such information as is likely to be acceptable to Members of the Legislature, are embodied in this Report; also the Prize List and financial statement of the Dominion Exhibition held at Halifax, with which our Provincial Exhibition was combined.

The Accounts of the Treasurer of the Board, and relative vouchers, which have been duly examined, are also submitted.

There are now 86 District and County Societies in the Province, with a membership of 5293, and the attested subscription lists show the aggregate amount actually paid by members within the year to be \$6186.12—an increase over last year of 596 members and \$634.37 of subscriptions. Not included in these statements are several other societies which have been organized subsequent to 30th June, and are consequently not entitled to qualify for the grant of the past year. The amount of Government grants for which societies have qualified

is \$6827.00, which exceeds by \$327.00 the amount recommended by the Agricultural Committee last year. Under the present Act the Board have no option of modifying the amount, so as to bring it within limit of \$6500 00 specified by the Committee, each County being entitled to \$400.00, if qualified by attested subscriptions.

The several recommendations made by the Agricultural Committee of the House of Assembly last year have been carefully considered, and acted upon as far as practicable. The working expenses of the Board have been reduced. A fee for registration of animals has been imposed. Arrangements have been made for carrying out the system of District Exhibitions. The Committee recommended the payment of a bonus of 10 per cent. to any party importing a horse or horses, but no amendment to the Act was brought in to provide for this arrangement being carried out. During the present sitting of the Legislature, the Board may have an opportunity of conferring with the Committee as to regulations, restrictions and terms of payment, so as to secure the object desired, and define the limit of liability. The information obtained by the Board during the recess has not shown that it is desirable to disturb the present arrangement of the Counties into Agricultural Districts.

In view of the impetus given, within the last few years, to the Transatlantic Cattle Trade, and the entire absence, in our Province, of one of the breeds most valued in England for beef, the Board

applied to the Government for permission to use the Government Stock Fund to make a small importation of Improved Polled Angus or Aberdeen cattle. The permission was granted, and purchases made accordingly, through Mr. Thornton, of London, who secured the services of Mr. Bruce in making the selection. On account of the unprecedentedly stormy season, two of the animals were lost on the voyage, and one died subsequently; the survivors, six in number—three males and three females, are now in quarantine, and it is proposed to sell them by auction in March, under the usual restrictions.

The attention of the Board has been called to the propriety of granting a yearly bonus to a competent veterinary surgeon, approved by the Board, who should have his permanent residence in the city, and be ready to give his services throughout the Province, at a reasonable expense to those engaging him. Much loss might thus be prevented.

By order of the Central Board of Agriculture.

DAVID MATHESON, *President.*
GEORGE LAWSON, *Secretary.*

GENERAL ABSTRACT OF TREASURER'S ACCOUNTS.

Ct.	
By Balance, February, 1881.....	\$ 504 55
Provincial Treasury.....	12243 00
Stock Farm Fund, — ..	\$1279.10;
interest, \$75.03	1354 93
Collected for cattle sold, & arrears	1843 53
Collected, arrears for Sugar Beet....	13 98
Fees for Registration of Cattle.....	24 40
Subscriptions for Ag'l Journal, '81.	330 50

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