

PICTOU COUNTY.

Pictou Agricultural Society—Members, 194. Subscriptions, \$194. Accounts to be explained.

Egerton Agricultural Society—Members, 58. Subscriptions, \$70. Attested subscription list does not tally with accounts. Seeds appear to have been purchased for distribution, and prices should have been refunded.

Millbrook Agricultural Society—Members, 52. Subscriptions, \$52. Grant withheld for explanation about Timothy seed, as no credit appears in sales of it to members.

Merigonish Agricultural Society—Members, 40. Subscriptions, \$40. Money expended in seeds should be reimbursed by sales.

River John Agricultural Society—Members, 41. Subscriptions, \$41. Difference of \$12, on balance from last year, to be explained; also what bulls the grant has been spent upon.

QUEEN'S COUNTY.

North Queen's Agricultural Society—Members 40. Subscriptions, \$40. Society to be informed that phosphates and seeds should be sold at cost and charges, but that funds cannot be used for gratuitous distribution.

Liverpool Agricultural Society—Members, 70. Subscriptions, \$74. The Committee approve the judicious practice of this Society in offering prizes for calves raised from their own bull.

SHELBURNE COUNTY.

Shelburne West Passage Agricultural Society—Members 65. Subscription \$65. Society to be asked to explain why a sum of \$50, was spent on seeds that realized only 80 cents.

Mutual Benefit Agricultural Society—of Pleasant River. Members 41. Subscriptions, \$41. The Committee approve of the Society's purchasing stock, but not grades. The government grant is placed on the wrong side of the accounts.

Barrington Agricultural Society—Members, 41. Subscriptions, \$41. No returns for \$48 worth of seeds sold. Passed.

Shelburne Agricultural Society—Members, 40. Subscriptions, \$40. Passed.

Wood's Harbour Agricultural Society—Members, 40. Subscriptions, \$40. Society to be informed that the Board cannot encourage Grade bulls. There is a charge upon the Society's funds of \$64.59 for seeds, and no returns.

Cape Negro Agricultural Society—Members 52. Subscriptions, \$52. Seeds should be sold at cost and charges, and Grade bull should be discontinued.

RICHMOND COUNTY.

Richmond Agricultural Society—Members, 53. Subscriptions, \$78. Committee approves of Society's purchase of thorough-bred stock. Passed.

VICTORIA COUNTY.

Middle River Agricultural Society—Members, 32. Subscriptions, \$82. The Committee, whilst approving of purchase of seeds and other operations of this Society, recommend establishment of rule to sell seeds only at cost and charges. Passed.

Baddeck Agricultural Society—Members, 41. Subscriptions \$41. Committee hope that the failure of the Ayrshire bull will not discourage the Society. Passed.

St. Ann's Agricultural Society—Members, 50. Subscriptions, \$50. List of members who repaid amount of \$30, required. Clover and Timothy seed purchased, but no explanation as to how disposed of.

YARMOUTH COUNTY.

Yarmouth County Agricultural Society—Members, 160. Subscriptions \$235. Passed. Yarmouth Township Agricultural Society. Members, 50. Subscriptions, \$60.25.

Applications from the following Societies, now in process of organization, were examined by the Committee, and recommended to the favourable consideration of the Board, the Secretary, meantime, to transmit their papers to the Member of the Board for district No. 6.

CAPE BRETON COUNTY.

Christmas Island Agricultural Society.

INVERNESS COUNTY.

Port Hastings Agricultural Society.

RICHMOND COUNTY.

Isle Madame Agricultural Society.

In reference to the Wallace Agricultural Society in Cumberland County, a letter from John Robertson Esq., was laid before an adjourned meeting of Sub-Committee of the Executive Committee of the Board, in which he states that the Wallace Society has failed in getting a sufficient number of members to reconstitute, this year. The Southdown Ram purchased at the Truro sale in 1876 was unfortunately killed by another Ram before the Society had any benefit from him, and the thorough-bred Bull Sir Roger Tichborne has proved almost a failure. As the Society will not qualify for any portion of the annual Legislative grant this year, the amount due to the Board for the Southdown Ram, \$14, will be deducted from the allowance to Cumberland County.

At the recent Islington (London) Exhibition of Fat Cattle, "the PRINCE OF WALES'S OX," "best ox in the show," was a chief notability. This was a Devon Steer, 38 months old, weighing 1634 lbs. He not only won 1st among the Steers (not exceeding 2 years and 3 months), but was declared best Devon in the Show and best male in the Cattle classes. How is this to be accounted for? Either the Devons must be excellent feeders, and possessed of great beef capabilities, or else His Royal Highness has become an accomplished farmer, and knows better than other people how to fatten his heeves. The editor of the *Agricultural Gazette* says: "Those who claim a high place for the Devons as the beasts to graze the lighter and rougher pastures may be proud to see their favourite breed so admirably represented."

IN the construction of greenhouses, conservatories, vineries, and other kinds of plant houses, the one great point to be observed above all others in our climate is the capacity of the house for retaining heat in severe weather. It is feared that our architects, in planning horticultural structures, do not always keep this in view. It is true that a greenhouse is an ornamental structure, and ought to be artistic; but then, it is a melancholy picture to see all or many of the plants in a house frozen or dead on a cold frosty morning, as was witnessed by too many of our horticulturists during the sudden cold snap that followed the Christmas holidays this year. It is quite certain that the modern light airy style of construction of mixed glass wire and filigree work, is very inferior as a defence against the weather, and sudden changes of temperature, to the old wooden plant houses. We have heard old gardeners deplore the degeneracy of gardening as a consequence of the "curvilinear" and such like innovations. The late Dr. Neill, when he went on his famous horticultural tour through Europe, some fifty odd years ago, found Dutch plant houses that were built with as strong wood work as ocean ships, but the plants in them were fine nevertheless. The old Scotch gardeners, like McNab the elder, of the Edinburgh Botanic Garden, grew, in such like heavy, wooden buildings, magnificent heaths, camellias, and other hot house shrubs such as we now look for in vain in artistic modern greenhouses. If this is so in Britain, the thought will aptly occur to Nova Scotian nurserymen and gardeners that it may not be amiss, after all, in our severe climate to go back again to the old shipbuilding style, and and make houses that will defy the severest colds of winter, and modify the most ardent droughts of summer. It is winter's cold we have most to fear. Whether the heat is more easily and economically maintained in large or small houses is a moot point in England, but *The Garden* has recently pointed out, what must be obvious to every one when he reads it, that the maintenance of the requisite temperature, easily and economically, in hothouses, does not depend so much upon the relative size of the structure, as upon the number of cubic feet of air it contains in proportion to the radiating surface exposed in the roof, ends and sides; in other words a large and lofty house is sooner heated proportionally, than a small house, and keeps its heat longer.

MR. SIMON BEATTIE, so well known as an importer of expensive Short Horn Stock, in conjunction with the Hon. M. H. Cochrane, is now in Indiana, but is expected in Halifax early in February, on his way to England.