

wold and Leicester sheep, and Durham bulls of a superior kind. In four years after the Board imported and sold to Agricultural Societies 22 thoroughbred bulls, 9 cows and heifers, 100 thoroughbred rams, and 20 thoroughbred pigs.

It may not be deemed inappropriate to refer here to the fruit-bearing qualities of the soil of some of the Nova Scotian counties, as well as to the progress made in this branch of horticulture, as proved by the astonishment occasioned at an exhibition held in London in 1862, when specimens of the apples raised in the Province were produced. The most absurd notions had been entertained previously in Britain, by persons who were otherwise intelligent, as to the climate and general agricultural resources of the Province, but the productions forwarded for exhibition disabused, to a large extent, the public mind of these erroneous impressions. "Our readers, and the visitors to the recent fruit shows of the Royal Horticultural Society," said the "Gardeners' Chronicle," "cannot have forgotten the surpassing beauty and equal excellence of the apples exhibited by the great colony of Nova Scotia; certainly nothing like them had been previously seen at any public exhibition in this country." The concurrent testimony of experienced judges of fruit goes to establish the fact, that for successful culture of apples in particular Nova Scotia stands in the very first rank. It is hardly necessary to add that no country in the temperate zone, which is noted for its growth, in great perfection of fruit, is deficient in the elements of soil and climate necessary for the successful cultivation of cereals and roots. The natural inference is that equal skill brought to bear on the cultivation of all such crops as would render farming profitable in Nova Scotia, would result in equal success, and place the Province on a level, as to relative quantity and excellence of production, with the more advanced of the sister Provinces.

Circumstances have recently directed attention to the benefits which would result to the Province were our farmers to devote more attention to the rearing and fattening of cattle for the British market. This is a branch of agricultural business for which the climate and soil are admirably adapted. Were we called upon to produce additional proof of this statement we would point to the quality of the roots presented at our periodical exhibitions. The writer examined those at an extensive exhibition at Montreal, and he does not hesitate to express the opinion that the specimens produced, particularly of potatoes, at the last Halifax exhibition were at least equal, if not superior to those exhibited at Montreal. There is, therefore, ample scope for rais-

ing the best kinds of roots for fattening cattle and preparing them for the British market, where well-fed animals of superior breeds will always command a good price. Governor Archibald dwelt, in his exhibition address in 1878, on the gross folly of rearing animals of inferior, instead of superior breed. The great increase in recent years in the better class of cattle shows that our farmers are becoming more sensible than ever of the loss necessarily sustained in supplying abundance of good food to cattle, which do not benefit by it to any remunerative extent. The good qualities of stock are hereditary, and hence the value of well authenticated pedigrees. The first exhibition in Nova Scotia of thoroughbred animals in classes was in 1868. Since that period great progress has been made in improving the stock of the Province. Animals have been secured from the Queen's herd at Windsor, Sir Wilfrid Lawson's short horns in Cumberland, and also from the Ayrshire stock of Mr. Fleming, Strathaven. Our farmers will commit a great mistake if they fail, on all occasions, to secure the services of a good bull, the quality of the progeny depending in a greater degree on the male than on the female. "It is doubtless important," says the able author of the treatise on agriculture in the new edition of the *Encyclopædia Britannica* being now issued—to have both animals good, but in the case of ruminants, the predominating influence of the male in determining the qualities of the progeny is so well ascertained that the selection of a bull is a matter of prime importance. We are able to state from ample personal experience, that by using a bull which is at once good of himself and of good decent, a level and valuable lot of calves can be obtained from very indifferent cows. It is indeed miserable economy to judge the price of a good bull."

When the details of this year's census are published, the progress made during the last ten years in the area of land brought under cultivation, and the growth of agricultural produce, can be marked. In the meantime we indicate the number of bushels of wheat, barley, oats and potatoes produced in the Province, according to the census of 1861 and 1871, respectively:

1851.			
Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Potatoes.
29,715.....	196,097.....	1,384,437.....	1,936,789
1861.			
312,081.....	269,578.....	1,978,137.....	3,824,814
1871.			
227,497....	296,650....	2,190,099.....	5,560,975

The census of 1861 shows 47,205 of the population engaged in agriculture. That of 1871 makes the number 49,769.

The establishment, within a few years, of nine or ten cheese factories in the Province, is a most important feature in our agricultural development. The article produced is, as a rule, very superior. A firm in the City of Halifax has purchased, during the past year, twenty-two tons of cheese from the factory at Aylesford, King's County, of a quality equal to any produced in the Dominion. A rapid extension of the trade may be anticipated. In the United States the rate of progress has been remarkable, the receipts in New York had increased from 281,318 boxes in 1863, to 2,204,493 in 1874. The imports of cheese into Great Britain amounted in value, in 1875, to £4,705,229 sterling!—one-half of which was received from the United States. The demand for cheese as well as for beef in Great Britain is practically unlimited, and the farmers of Nova Scotia have the greatest possible facilities for exportation at moderate rates.

Another proof of progress is to be found in the excellent exhibition buildings which have been erected in various towns in the Province. In the face of these indications of rapid progress, it is surely to be regretted that the agricultural committee of the House of Assembly should have manifested a disposition to reduce the Provincial grants. The object of the grants is to benefit the Province by stimulating improvement. If the counties were not putting forth efforts in the same direction, if interest in agriculture were diminishing in the Province, instead of increasing, if the successive agricultural shows presented little evidence of improvement, we could understand the policy of a reduction in the grants; but actual demonstration is from time to time presented of the progress made, and of the incalculable benefits which result to the Province from the present very moderate expenditure. It does seem, to say the least of it, extremely paradoxical that for successive years inducements should have been held out to the various counties by the legislature, to increase their contributions, so as to become entitled to the additional statutory allowance, and that, when the prize offered has in some cases been fairly won, the wet blanket of a future reduction in the grants should be recommended as the just reward of their exertions.

The quotation made at the beginning of this paper from the first letter of *Agriola*, shows the importance which is attached to the formation of vigorous agricultural societies in all the counties of the Province. A table might be here produced, which has appeared in the reports of the Central Board of Agriculture, presenting a *vidimus* of the number and strength of the societies in the respective counties of the Province for