

Province, in October last, and then exhibited (for the first time in this Province) in classes according to breed, must have felt a just pride that our Agriculture was entering upon a new and important phase, that had never before been attained. To allow these Societies to fall to the ground, after all the energy and money that have been expended upon them during the last few years, would be a grievous loss to the country. But the Board trust that, on consideration, the Government and the Legislature will not permit any such result, but will see the importance of maintaining in efficiency an organization which is so manifestly beneficial to the Province at large. From the communications received by the Board, there can be no doubt but that an increase in the Agricultural Grant at the present time will give much satisfaction in all parts of the country, and the Board believe that it will prove of great permanent benefit.

The next object contemplated by the Act was the publication of an Agricultural Journal. The Board commenced the publication of a Journal in March, 1865, which has been regularly continued, and they have endeavoured, as far as consistent with the nature and size of the publication, to supply the farmers of the Province with the latest information respecting improvements in Agriculture that are being carried out in various parts of the Province as well as in other countries. During the past year the Journal was occupied to a large extent with information respecting the Provincial Exhibition; and the arrangements made from time to time by the Committee, as well as the Prize Lists, were published in the Journal, as the most ready means of reaching the agricultural community. A large portion of the Journal is likewise necessarily occupied with the Reports of County and District Societies, which it is essential to make public for obvious reasons. In addition to such information a large number of articles on practical agriculture have been published, including, besides those prepared and selected by the Secretary, a number of valuable communications from correspondents.—Mr. Bustin, of the Carlton Farm, Yarmouth, contributed elaborate papers on the potato disease and the field culture of cabbages; Mr. Saunders, of Halifax,

articles on the use of lime and of salt in agriculture; Colonel Sinclair, on potato blight, and on the drain tiles suited for field purposes; Mr. Jas. Hutton, Jr., on the horticultural exhibitions of Scotland; and Chas. E. Brown, Esq., results of experiments in the culture of strawberries; Mr. Foorde furnished an interesting article on tea culture in India; and there were many other contributions by members of the Board and others.

As regards the importation of live stock and improved grains and seeds, the labours of the Board have been considerable. In October, 1864, a Committee of their number visited the Triennial Provincial Exhibition of New Brunswick, held that year at Fredericton. Many of the animals shown were found on examination not to be so suitable for Nova Scotia as was anticipated, and the purchases made were comparatively few. However, several excellent animals were obtained, including the:

First Prize Devon Bull,  
First Prize Durham Bull,  
Young Stock, and several excellent Rams.

These animals were sold by public auction to Societies, and brought good prices.

In the following year (1865) an importation of thorough-bred Leicester Rams was made from England, which were sold on 11th November, and were chiefly purchased by Agricultural Societies, several of them bringing nearly 100 dollars each.

Another importation of 10 Rams from Lower Canada, chiefly Leicesters and Cotswolds, was made shortly afterwards, but the animals did not reach Halifax in time to be sold earlier than 8th December, and although the stock was good, yet the prices realized were not large.

In the fall of 1866 a large importation was made. The Secretary of the Board was sent to the Provincial Agricultural Exhibition of Upper Canada, with instructions to purchase such animals as were suited to the wants of our farmers, and could be obtained at reasonable prices. He returned with the following stock, all thorough-bred:

8 Short Horn Durham Bulls,  
2 Hereford Bulls,  
2 Ayrshire Bulls,  
1 Devon Bull,  
3 Short-horn Durham Heifers,  
11 Cotswold Rams,  
11 Leicester Rams,  
1 Shropshire Down Ram,  
1 Southdown Ram,  
5 Ewes.

These animals were chiefly sold to Societies and brought high prices.

Next year (1867) another importation was made, consisting of purchases from the Provincial Agricultural Exhibition of Ontario, which was held that year at Kingston. These animals suffered considerably on the voyage and the prices realized were not so high as at the sale of the previous year. The animals were:

2 Short-horned Durham Bulls,  
5 Ayrshire Bulls,  
3 Ayrshire Heifers,  
3 Short-horned Durham Heifers,  
18 Leicester Rams,  
5 Southdown do.,  
5 Shropshire and Hampshire Down Rams,  
8 White Chester Boars,  
5 Berkshire "  
4 Yorkshire "  
3 Yorkshire Sows.

There have thus been imported and sold to Agricultural Societies during the last four years, not fewer than 22 thorough-bred Bulls, 9 thorough-bred Cows and Heifers, upwards of a hundred thorough-bred Rams, and 20 thorough-bred Pigs, all of the very best breeds that could be procured. The progeny of these animals may now be seen in every part of the country where there is an active Agricultural Society, and the recent improvement in the character of our farmers' live stock is obvious to every careful observer.

Notwithstanding these importations, the wants of the country are far from being satisfied. In wealthy agricultural countries, especially where grain and other feed are cheap and abundant, the raising of thorough-bred stock is frequently engaged in by amateur breeders, and the wants of the farmers are thus supplied; but there is no immediate prospect of our Nova Scotian farmers having their wants met in this way. It is necessary, therefore, in order to continue the improvement in our stock that there should be frequent introductions of fresh blood into the Province, without which our thorough-bred stock will run out again. It was contemplated at one time to establish a Stock Farm for the raising of thorough-bred male animals for distribution, and a sum of \$8000 was placed at the disposal of the Board for this purpose by the late Government, prior to the Union of the Provinces. The amount is now lying in the Merchants' Bank at interest at the credit of the Board, but it is not sufficient to carry out the scheme efficiently without an additional annual grant as originally intended, and this the Board do not feel justified in applying for at the present time, when there is difficulty in meeting even the ordinary claims of local societies. The Board