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HALIFAX, November 8, 1871.

The present Board of Agriculture was organized in August, 1864, under an Act passed during the preceding session of the Legislature. The original Members were appointed by the Governor in Council. The Act provided that the Principal of the Normal School and the Superintendent of Education should be permanent members, *ex officio*, and that of the other members one half in number should annually retire in rotation, the retiring members being eligible for re-election, Thus (after the first year) the term of office of each member was two years. The election of members devolved upon the Agricultural Societies, and the various Counties of the Province were, for this purpose, combined into six electoral districts,—the city and county of Halifax having four representatives, and the remaining four "Rural" or electoral districts having each two representatives at the Board. The annual meetings of Societies, held on the first Tuesday of December, was the occasion fixed for

elections, each Society being required to nominate a person, and the person who received the highest number of votes in the district was entitled to take his seat at the Board. In some of the Counties this system worked well, but in most of them, and especially in those where the members of Societies were widely scattered, there was found to be great practical difficulty in securing a simultaneous election, and it was many months after the December Meeting before the nominations were so far perfected as to enable the Board to ascertain who were the members elect. To remedy this difficulty an Amendment of the Act was passed in 1865, transferring the power of nomination to the Directors or Officers of each Society. It was thought that it would be easier for the officers than for the whole Society to meet together and make choice. The experience of the past six years has shown that the change was an improvement.

The appointments to the Board being entirely in the hands of the officers of

the various Agricultural Societies throughout the Province, it would not have been surprising had local jealousies, differences and difficulties shown themselves, from time to time, in some of the Counties. But neither the Board nor the Legislature were ever called upon to consider any complaint of this nature until last session, when, it is understood, a petition was presented to the House from a portion of the members of one of the Societies in King's County. In accordance with the prayer of the petition, an Act, introduced by D. M. Dickie, Esq., M. P. P., was passed, increasing the Board to twenty-one members, so that each County should have the power to send one member, and the City and County of Halifax four, and the old system of nomination by the whole members, instead of the officers, of Societies was reverted to.

The Act was passed on the 4th April, but not having been seen by the officers or members of the Board, they had no opportunity of ascertaining its details until the month of August last, after it