

LeMarchant, little had been done. He thought more credit was due to the Attorney General and Provincial Secretary in regard to the improvement of stock, (those gentlemen having made importations of horses), than to the Central Board. The amounts realized by the sale of the stock imported showed that the demand for such stock was very great. Many of the societies were saving their funds in order to make purchases, and the only fear was that the supply would be insufficient. The President of the Board also was entitled to credit for having made importations from Canada, but when that supply came the proper season had passed. Upon the closing of last year's accounts, he had strongly urged that a further supply from Canada be at once obtained,—if this course had been taken, the expenditure which it involved would have been returned to the treasury. He had for many years turned his attention to the subject of a Stock Farm, and believed that in no way could the stock of the country be so well improved as by this means or other improvements, as for instance, in farm buildings, so well effected. By such means the growth of the imported stock was secured. He had also been for some time looking forward to a Provincial Exhibition, but the Province having been so long without one, he would be now almost ashamed to see the attempt made. How could the farmers be expected to advance themselves without such encouragement? In going into the neighbouring Provinces one immediately saw how far behind we were in all the farming appliances so commonly in use elsewhere. If proper assistance were given, he was convinced that Nova Scotia would not be at all behind other countries in these particulars.

Mr. BOURNOUT said that no one could read the report without acquiring much valuable information. It was gratifying to know that the Board was presided over by a gentleman who devoted so much time and attention to the subject under consideration, and he could not refrain from also alluding to the secretary, Professor Lawson, who had exhibited great ability in the management of the *Journal* and in the discharge of his other duties. He wished to call attention to one or two matters which had been the subject of complaint. There had been a sale of stock in Pictou, but the notice given had not been sufficient to enable persons in Cape Breton to attend, as it took place three days after the advertisement was issued. There was subsequently a sale at Bedford, of which no notice was given in Cape Breton. He hoped that greater facilities in this respect would be afforded in future. As far as the importation of horses was concerned, he doubted if blood horses were suitable for farming purposes.

Mr. S. CAMPBELL said that the gentleman who had just spoken had anticipated what he was going to say with reference to the sales of stock. The operations of the Board had hitherto been too centralized, and it would be seen that the distribution of the stock imported had been confined to the central counties, and chiefly benefited a class of persons whose object was personal profit, and who were not the sort of persons whom the grant was intended to aid. The importations would have been more beneficial if the cattle had been gratuitously distributed. The notice given had been far too short to allow parties in distant portions of the province to be present at the sales. By the report, it appeared that the horses imported would not be sent during the present season to the distant counties, which he thought had the first claim and the greatest need.

Hon. Mr. MACFARLANE explained that the stock arrived after the time when they were expected, and so late in the season that the sale had to take place immediately on their arrival. There were, however, persons present who professed to represent Cape Breton. The fact was that four-fifths of the animals had gone into possession of the agricultural societies, and that the parties competing were not wealthy persons, but combinations of farmers who had accumulated a fund for the purpose of purchasing. Private persons would not have been disposed to give the prices realized at the sales, as for instance from \$60 to \$70 for sheep.—Those prices were unprecedented, and convinced him that importations could be made with very little loss. The sheep had averaged \$30 each, while ten years ago the average was \$12. It should be remembered that the central counties were those in which agriculture was most extensively carried on. In some of the further counties difficulties had been experienced in organizing societies, and in Guysboro' there was but one society with forty members. The horses would be found valuable for breeding purposes, but it was intended to import another class for farming purposes.

Dr. HAMILTON remarked that there were 40,000 persons in the province engaged in agricultural pursuits, besides laborers who would number about 10,000 more. The importance of the subject was therefore exceedingly great. Much improvement had been already effected, although the Board had only been in operation for two years, having imported 50 sheep, 4 horses, 4 mares, 6 bulls and 1 heifer. He thought the establishment of a stock farm would be of great benefit. Stock had been imported at great expense, but they could in this way be preserved, and the breeds reared for persons who would be desirous of making purchases, thereby supplying the animals at far less

than by the present mode. He recollected when the late Mr. George R. Young made importations years ago, and on that occasion the agricultural society of Cornwallis purchased some of the animals, and the advantages obtained were still perceptible. In reference to the *Journal of Agriculture*, he said the paper was small and should be enlarged, as it was the means of disseminating useful information. He commended very highly the exertions of the secretary of the board, and expressed the hope that the agricultural interests of the country would steadily improve.

Hon. ATTY. GENERAL said he congratulated the Board, the House and the country, on the desire manifested to advance the interests of agriculture, which were a part of the foundation of the country's prosperity. The industrial pursuits of the people of this Province were formerly but two, viz., agriculture and fishing, but within the last few years the pursuit of mining enterprise had been added. According as the latter extended the market for agricultural products would be improved. It was a matter of great consequence that something like a system should be pursued in reference to the efforts to improve the stock. The complaints which had arisen as to the distribution of the cattle sold, arose from the small number of the importation, and it would appear from the prices given that the people did not expect another supply for the next ten years. To make a permanent improvement, the establishment of a stock farm would be necessary. The freight and insurance of a horse amounted to about 30 guineas *sig.*, and the purchase itself would cost from 100 to 1000 guineas, but the cost of rearing the animals would not be a quarter of that expense, and with proper stabling and care the obstacles sometimes encountered in making importations would be obviated. It was well known that horses which were diseased in England were much improved on arriving in a different climate. In reference to the remarks made respecting the utility of thoroughbred horses for farming purposes, he would say that the system adopted in England of raising thoroughbred horses, would have to be adopted, and it had been found to produce excellent horses for all purposes, from the first cross. In England they had for general use horses of that breed, and for heavy work they had the dray horses, some weighing 2000 lbs.; if thought desirable, this latter species could be obtained. A provincial stud book could also be kept, so that any one having a horse of a good breed for sale could trace its pedigree for several generations. In reference to the production of wool, it would be found that the difference between some animals as compared with others, was 200 percent., some producing