

Session, the reduction of the grants to \$350 to each County, expressing a hope, however, that the full sum would be given to Societies if possible. The Act provides that the distribution of grants to Societies shall be made on the basis of \$400 to each County, and no amendment was brought in to effect the change suggested.

In these circumstances the Board applied to the Honorable the Attorney-General, who gave as his opinion that the Report of the Committee had not the effect of controlling or amending the Statutes, but is merely an expression of the views of the House of Assembly; that it is desirable the Central Board should carry out these views as far as practicable, and a bill will probably be introduced embodying them at the present Session of the Legislature. Considering that many of the Societies had incurred heavy liabilities by purchasing valuable animals, in several cases at the instigation of the Board, before the terms of the Committee's Report became known, the Board felt it to be their duty to ask the Government to allow, for the present year, a sum sufficient to appropriate grants to Societies on the scale of \$400 to each County as formerly.

The Assembly's Committee also recommended the reduction of the annual grant to the Board to \$1500, and the reduction of the salary of the Secretary and Treasurer of the Board to \$700 per annum. The Board, having appointed their officer for the year and fixed his salary at \$1200, could not give immediate effect to this recommendation, but his term of office has now expired, with that of the Board for 1880, and it will be for the new Board to make such arrangements for the future as shall be satisfactory to the Government and the Legislature. It is hoped, however, that provision will be made for the proper discharge of the extensive and varied duties which have hitherto devolved upon the Secretary and Treasurer.

The Provincial Exhibition of 1880 was held at Kentville. Several improvements were made on the buildings and in the general arrangements, suggested by the experience of former years. The list of prizes appended to this Report affords full information relative to the nature and extent of the Exhibition. It is not necessary here to do more than remark that a comparison of this Exhibition with its predecessors affords unmistakable evidence that agricultural improvement in the Province is proceeding at a yearly increasing rate of speed, that the breeds of cattle are at once rapidly improving in quality and increasing in numbers, that special manures are being more extensively employed, improved machinery introduced, and the growth of roots and

grain extended. There is every indication that a large number of our farmers are preparing, as actively as the capital at their command will allow, to profit by the new and insatiable English market that has been opened for animal produce. The show of fruit was especially remarkable. It is believed that no larger or finer exhibit of apples had ever before appeared at any Exhibition.

The Agricultural Committee of the House of Assembly having recommended a special grant for an Exhibition in the Island of Cape Breton, the Government made provision for the same, and requested the Board to undertake the general control of the arrangements necessary to carry it out. The Agricultural Societies of the Island entered heartily into the scheme, contributed to the prize fund, and assisted in other ways. The Exhibition was held in the month of October, 1880, at Baddeck, where land had been purchased and a suitable Exhibition Building had been erected. It is gratifying to the Board that, notwithstanding the many difficulties necessarily attendant upon a first Exhibition, they are able to report, in unqualified terms, that the Island Exhibition was successful, and that, in the number and quality of exhibits, it greatly exceeded the anticipations of the people themselves as well as strangers who visited the Island. The show of live stock embraced a considerable number of thoroughbred Ayrshire and Devon cattle, the condition of which gave evidence of generous and careful treatment. The roots and vegetables demonstrated at once the fertility of the soil, and the suitability of the climate for such crops, whilst the grains indicated an increased attention to this important department of agriculture. The extensive show of apples, plums, grapes, tomatoes, indian corn, squashes, etc., showed that, whilst the season is later in Cape Breton than in the western parts of Nova Scotia, yet the mild weather being more prolonged, there is sufficient time before the autumn frosts begin to ripen any crop that can be grown successfully in other parts of the Maritime Provinces. The display of butter was very extensive, the quality of many of the samples was excellent, and the cleanliness and taste shown in arranging the exhibits in this department might be profitably imitated by even the exhibitors at the Royal Agricultural Society's shows in England.

With the view of following up effectively the start given by the success of the first Cape Breton Exhibition, one of the Societies—that of Christmas Island—has recommended a change in the mode of appropriating Exhibition grants in the future. It is suggested that, instead of holding Provincial Exhibitions annually, they should be held every

second year only, and in each intervening year there should be six local District Exhibitions, one in each of the six Districts or groups of Counties into which the Province is divided by the Agricultural Act,—the Exhibition grant of \$4000 to be apportioned equally among the several counties, and each Exhibition to be held at such a place in the district as shall be determined by the vote of the Societies, subject to approval of the Central Board. The Board not having met since the report containing these suggestions was received, have not had an opportunity to give them full consideration, and consequently commend them to the attention of their successors in office, and the Legislature.

In obedience to the recommendation of the Agricultural Committee of the House of Assembly, the Board made an importation from England of six thorough-bred Short-Horn Durham bulls, one cow and two heifers of the same breed. These were imported in November in the steamship *Brooklyn*, and reached Halifax in safety and in a condition of perfect health. The regulations for cattle importation, however, required that they should remain in quarantine for ninety days. This period having elapsed, and the animals being still healthy, they have been released, and arrangements have been made for their sale at Halifax on Thursday, 24th March. Whilst in quarantine, the three females each dropped a calf, so that there are now seven males and five females to be disposed of.

By order of the Board of Agriculture.

DAVID MATHESON,
Vice-President,

GEORGE LAWSON,
Secretary and Treasurer.

Statement showing the number and strength of Societies in the respective Counties of the Province, for 1881.

COUNTIES.	Number of Societies.	Number of Members.	Total amount of Annual Subscriptions.	Total amount of Gr. in aid.
Annapolis ...	7	347	\$402 00	\$400 00
Antigonish ...	3	242	273 75	400 00
Cape Breton ...	5	306	306 00	400 00
Colchester ...	9	415	422 00	400 00
Cumberland ...	7	413	468 00	400 00
Digby ...	3	151	161 00	322 00
Guy'sborough ...	2	111	117 00	234 00
Halifax ...	4	201	202 00	400 00
Hants ...	6	242	347 00	400 00
Inverness ...	6	313	319 00	400 00
Kings ...	6	312	565 50	400 00
Lunenburg ...	4	264	206 50	400 00
Pictou ...	6	453	569 50	400 00
Queen's ...	4	226	230 00	400 00
Richmond ...	2	82	82 00	164 00
Shelburne ...	2	114	114 00	228 00
Victoria ...	4	201	203 00	400 00
Yarmouth ...	3	354	563 40	400 00
	83	4697	\$5551 75	\$6548 00