

Last March an Alderney bull was bought in Windsor, at a cost of \$44 to the Society, which is still kept in their service; and it is thought that the stock raised from him will prove beneficial to our breed of cattle, especially with regard to the dairy, the Alderney being considered about the most valuable breed for milking qualities on soils like ours. It remains with the members, to-day, to decide whether said bull shall be disposed of, or still kept for the use of the Society.

The two Cotswold rams purchased last January, were of course too late for use at that time, and being the two last remaining on hand, were evidently the culls of the flock; yet we hope that the effects of the cross upon our native breeds will tend to the increase of weight both of fleece and carcase.

The Berkshire hogs introduced were beautiful specimens of their breeds, and showed clearly their vast superiority over the sharp-nosed, long-legged varieties, too common with us, both in quality and quantity of meat, and in economical feeding. It is to be regretted that on account of the sow proving barren, she was slaughtered in the autumn, producing some 380 lbs. of pork at an age of but ten months. Several litters from crosses of the boar have been had, but we trust another sow will be procured, so as to preserve and increase the breed in its purity, which we feel confident will prove very valuable.

The Suffolk pigs have done well, and we would recommend them as a valuable breed to raise to slaughter at an early age, the excellent quality of the meat, and the extreme smallness of bone, being profitable qualities.

Seed oats and grass seeds, to the value of \$41.80 (including expenses) were purchased by the Society last spring, and sold at auction among the members, realizing \$33.31; and a bushel of Riga flax seed was also purchased, but it not reaching us in the sowing season, the greater part of it remains on hand for another year. One sample of it was grown with flattering results, its growth far exceeding the article grown here hitherto.

At our Agricultural Show, held in October, the display of cattle was highly creditable, many of the animals exhibited being a credit to their owners, and such as would not have disgraced shows of greater pretensions. The samples of grain, roots, &c., were comparatively few, and not very choice, the general remark being, "Had I known this, I could have brought much better from home." But a good feeling was induced, and a spirit of emulation and improvement fostered, which will be manifested in the much better samples and more numerous parcels of seeds, &c., shown at our next Exhibition—though we we fear our funds will scarcely allow of another being held during the ensuing season. Owing to the number of societies in the County having increased, our allotment of the Provincial grant has only been about one-half the amount obtained the year previous, nor is it likely to again increase.

The past season has not been a very profitable one for our farmers—the hay and grain crops both proving light, and potatoes rotted badly. Fruit, however, was good, and the produce of the dairy and fowl-yard very remunerative.

Our Society now numbers 52 members, and this number could be easily increased to 100, were each one of our present members to exert a little for this purpose, and ask his neighbour to become a member. Let us all arouse ourselves, and endeavour to stir up

our friends, and especially the farmers, and have them flock in and swell the list of members, which will not only add to the funds of the society, and increase the amount drawn from the Province, but also awaken a spirit of enquiry, and a desire for progression, which must eventuate in good.

On behalf of the officers,  
H. B. MITCHELL, Sec'y.

REPORT OF MAHONE BAY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The officers of the Mahone Bay Agricultural Society beg to hand the following report on the state of the crops and the society:—The hay was something short of last year. Barley, in wet land, less than half a crop, in dry land an average crop. Oats something similar to barley. Winter Rye an average crop, but the wet weather hurt the quality of it. Potatoes were never a shorter crop; the white early were more destroyed by the blight than ever known before. Some farmers merely saved the seed. The vegetables a very short crop of every kind.

The Society cannot report much progress as yet. The lambs bought by the President at Richmond are doing well, and will much improve the stock. The bull bought last year is bringing good stock. The balance in hand the society intend either to purchase stock or award prizes with.

The annual meeting took place the first Tuesday in December, as the law directs, when the following persons were appointed office-bearers for the ensuing year:—Pres., Benjamin Zwicker; Vice Pres., Wm. Kedy; Sec'y, George Duncan; Treas., Jos. Zwicker. The following is the account:—

Cr.	
Balance on hand from 1865.....	\$17 38
53 members paid in \$1 each.....	53 00
Government grant received.....	104 00
Amount collected from Bull, besides wintering him.....	7 59
	\$181 88

Dr.	
Amount of seeds bought.....	\$78 47
Sheep, and expenses to get them... ..	30 00
Pigs.....	7 50
	115 97

Other expenses, rents of hall for meeting, animals, &c.....	6 00
	\$69 53

Balance on hand.....	\$63 53
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The foregoing is a true copy of the state of the Mahone Bay Agricultural Society, leaving a balance on hand, \$63.33, with the grant this year, \$61, which we intend to spend as is stated in this report.

Respectfully submitted,  
GEO. DUNCAN, Sec'y.

Mahone Bay, Dec. 31, 1866.

YARMOUTH AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Hebron Yarmouth, Dec. 24th 1866.

DEAR SIR:—In compliance with terms of the Agricultural Act, I herewith forward report of the annual meeting of the Yarmouth Agricultural Society, together with a statement of financial matters &c.

Society met on Tuesday the 4th inst., President Josiah Raymond Esq., in the chair. Treasurer's and Secretary's accounts examined and passed. Appointed as office bearers for the ensuing year:—

President, Josiah Raymond Esq.; Vice President, Henry Sanders; Secretary, James Crosby; Treasurer, C. Cahan; Nelson Corning Esq., William Murphey, H. Burrell, Wm. Durker, and Charles Butler Directors,

RECEIPTS FOR THE YEAR.

Funds on hand December 1865.....	\$108 29½
Subscription from members.....	63 00
Provincial grant on drawn.....	118 00
Received for sale of sheep.....	5 00
	\$289 29½

EXPENDITURE.

Cash paid premiums.....	87 80
Thirty copies Ag. Journal.....	15 00
Advertising.....	2 12½
Expenses cattle show.....	16 48
Rent, Expenses & officers fees.....	3 81
	\$125 21½

Leaving balance on hand of \$165 08  
JAMES CROSBY,  
Secretary of Yarmouth A. Society

Miscellaneous.

THE ISLET FLORAS OF THE GREAT OCEANS.

[Continued.]

Oceanic Islands are to the naturalist what comets and meteorites are to the astronomer. How is the stocking of an oceanic island with plants from a continent to be accounted for?

Either (1) seeds were carried across the ocean by currents or the winds, or birds, or similar agencies; or (2) the islands once formed parts of the continent, and the plants spread over intermediate land that has since disappeared. To a superficial observer, either of these causes may appear admissible or feasible and sufficient, but the naturalist takes nothing for granted, and he finds insuperable obstacles to the ready acceptance of either.

On one point nearly all are agreed,—that those plants which occur both in the island and continent were not independently created in both localities, but that they did pass from one to the other.

Another settled point,—those peculiar insular plants which have no affinity with continental ones, are relics of a far more ancient vegetation than now prevails in the mother continents. There is proof of this in the fact that the same plants, or their congeners, are found fossil in the tertiary strata of Europe. Within the lifetime, then, of those Atlantic species, the vegetation of Europe has undergone a complete revolution.

The European fossils at a very remote period were formed of trees that are now characteristic of Asia and America; these have been driven out by the Northern and Eastern floras, which, however, did not reach the islands in such force or numbers, and thus spared these living witnesses. Just as white races drive the savages before them, and who in like manner take shelter in remote islands. The configuration of land, both continents and islands, was of course, very different at that time.

Some means of transport are always in operation. Birds carry seeds on their feet, their beaks, and in their stomach. The land birds of the Canaries are all European. There is an annual transoceanic transport or migration of American birds to Europe and European birds to Greenland. Oceanic fish devour seeds, birds feed on fish, and the contents of their stomachs may be deposited on distant islands. Dust is blown one thousand miles