

cal difficulties have occurred in one or two Counties, which induce the Board to recommend that in cases where more than four Societies are organized in any County, the Board should be empowered, if deemed judicious, and on special application to recognize such additional Societies, and to apportion the County Grant among all the Societies of the County which they thus recognize.

The raising and feeding of Stock forms so important a feature in our husbandry, that the improvement of the Breeds of Cattle is entitled to a large share of attention from the Agricultural Board. This becomes more obvious when we consider that our Province has lagged behind other countries in this respect, that the great majority of our farmers have not had the opportunity of seeing pure Stock of the different breeds so as to become acquainted with their respective qualities, and that there is hardly a breeder of pure Stock, at least to any extent, to be found. Our farmers have hitherto depended upon occasional importations from other countries. If really good stock is to be raised a system must be established whereby a sufficient supply of well-bred male animals may be raised in the Province to supply the wants of our farmers, or else there must be regular annual importations from countries where there are breeders of pure stock. Considerations of this kind led the Board to recommend, in their last year's report, the establishment of a Government Stock Farm. The Legislature voted a sum of \$8000.00 for this purpose, and the Board proceeded at once to carry the scheme into effect. After ascertaining what Farms were for sale in various parts of the Province, the Board appointed a Committee to visit the most likely ones; and after much deliberation the Mass House Farm at Shubenacadie was selected. The title to the property had been examined and found good, and arrangements were accordingly made for completing the purchase. But, at the last moment, an unforeseen difficulty occurred, which prevented the proper execution of the Deed, and the Board found it necessary to relieve the seller of his bargain on his paying the expenses that had been incurred. This unlooked for result, occurring at the close of the season, caused much inconvenience and disturbed the arrangements of the Board. The Committee were directed to select another Farm, but have not yet made a definite selection.

The pressing wants of many of the Agricultural Societies, whose members were desirous of investing their funds in the purchase of Stock, induced the Board to make an importation from Canada of seven Short Horn Bulls, two Herefords, two Ayrshires, one Devon, and three Short Horn Heifers; eleven Cotswold Rams, eleven Leicesters, one Shropshire

Down, one Southdown, and five Ewes of the above breeds. These animals were selected by the Secretary of the Board partly on the grounds of the Provincial Exhibition at Toronto, and partly from the Herds and Flocks of some of the best known breeders in Western Canada: Miller, Beattie, Stone, Arkell, Douglas, Fawcett, Lawrie, Perdue, Bethel, Milne. The animals were brought down by Grand Trunk Railway and Steamboat from Portland to Halifax, and all reached their destination in safety. After due notice by advertisement and otherwise, they were exposed for sale by public auction at the Richmond Depot. They brought good prices, in several cases considerably more than was paid for them at Toronto, and seem to have given general satisfaction. They were pretty equally scattered over the Province, chiefly going to the Counties of Annapolis, Cape Breton, Colchester, Halifax, Hants, Inverness, King's, Lunenburg and Pictou.

At the sale of the Canadian Stock, the Board likewise disposed of most of the Horses so as to make them available for general use over the country, wherever their services might be required, and at the same time relieve the Board of the great expense of their maintenance. The whole of the Stock was sold under the usual restriction, that they were to be retained in the Province for breeding purposes. The Chestnut Horse "Lassitude" has been retained.

The Board has received from the Upper Canada Agricultural Association, a present of a few bushels of the Wheat which gained the first prize annually offered by the Canada Company. A quantity of genuine Fife Spring Wheat has likewise been obtained (48 bushels), and two barrels of the second prize Fall Wheat. The Board has also obtained from Canada 18 bushels of Peas well adapted for field culture, and a package of small field Beans. A quantity of English Horse Beans has been ordered, and is expected to arrive from Liverpool this month.

A few bushels of a very large-grained Naked Barley, of superior sample, were presented to the Board last spring by Sandford Fleming, Esq., C. E. It is the Naked Barley of Nepal. The grain was distributed to several farmers, in different parts of the country, but being very late in the season before it arrived, and the fall proving a very wet one, the results were not satisfactory in some cases. The crop formed a very strong straw, but rusted and did not fill well. In other cases a very fine crop was obtained, indicating that if sown in proper time the Nepal Barley will answer well in our climate, and probably form a fair substitute for wheat where that grain does not succeed.

The Riga Flax Seed imported by the Board last spring turned out well. Abraham Hebb, Esq., M.P.P., has sent to the Board a sample of beautiful fibre measuring three feet nine inches in length, raised from the imported seed. Accounts equally satisfactory have been received from other cultivators.

The several varieties of Goodrich's Seedling Potatoes, imported by the Board two years ago, have been raised in considerable quantities by many of our farmers, and are now spread pretty generally over the Province. The anticipations expressed respecting them, in a former Report of the Board, have been more than realized. The Pictou Society reports that: "the samples of Potatoes have given very good returns during the past season, both in quality and quantity," and that "they promise to be a valuable addition to the varieties already in cultivation of that important esculent." H. Davenport, Esq., Sydney, reports that: "the Goodrich Seedlings yielded enormously." The Maxwelton Society reports as follows: "The Society's Secretary informed us that he had received 15 bushels of the Goodrich Potatoes, sent to him by the member of the Central Board in Pictou, which were divided among five members of the Society, in quantities of 3 bushels each; they report as follows, viz., that each 3 bushels produced on an average 45 bushels, and very few affected with rot, being more productive and less affected by rot than other varieties planted in the same fields at the same time, and under the same circumstances." The St. Ann's Society reports that the average yield (Gleason's) was "at the rate of 30 bushels to the bushel," and that "the Board has conferred a boon upon the country by the introduction of such a valuable article." Many similar reports have been received.

The *Journal of Agriculture* has been issued monthly during the year. A large portion of its space has been occupied by the reports of Societies, official notices, pedigrees of Stock and current agricultural news. Several valuable articles on Dairy Management and Manufactures, Improvement of Live Stock, and other subjects, have been contributed by Members of the House of Assembly, of whom may be named George Whitman, Esq., Francis R. Parker, Esq., and H. A. N. Kaulback, Esq.; and a large number of farmers throughout the Province, have, by their communications, frequently anonymous, increased the interest of the publication. John Northup, Esq., of Bel Air, prepared an article on the cultivation of Mangel Wruzel, the Orange Globe variety of which he had raised very successfully from seeds imported by General Doyle. Alfred Thomas, Esq., of Windsor, called attention to the importance of early spring Grasses for pasturage. Dr