

bition at such time and place in the year 1870 as they may determine.

2nd. *Also resolved*, That the Society hold a ploughing match in 1870, and draw from the funds a sufficient sum for a list of prizes.

3rd. The Directors were authorized to import a few barrels of early Rose Potatoes.

FINANCE.

The accounts show a balance in hand of \$147.88. W. B.

[From the Report sent by Mr. Blair, the Secretary, it is obvious that the Onslow Society is in a thoroughly efficient state, and productive of benefit in the district.—Ed.]

REPORT OF THE BOULARDERIE AG. SOCIETY.

The Directors find that at the Annual meeting, 1868, there were funds in the Treasurer's hands,

to the amount of.....	\$118.86
Paid by order for clover and other seed.....	75.33

Balance.....	\$43.53
Subscriptions for 1869.....	45.00
Collected for wheat and other seeds, due from last year....	16 07

Whole amount in Treas. hands \$104.60

The officers for the ensuing year are, Henry McKinnon, *Pres.*; Ezekiah Stubbart, *Vice Pres.*; Angus W. J. McLean, *Sec'y.*; Donald McLean, Esq., *Treasurer.* *Directors*—Solomon Knock, Robt. Wayson, Donald McKay, John Morrison, and Murdoch McLean.

The seed Wheat procured by the Central Board from Canada and purchased by the Society gave general satisfaction. Our stock is likely to improve much by our purchase of the Ayrshire Bull, (Carrick Farmer) imported by the Central Board from Canada. But the Cotswold lambs brought from Nova Scotia, proved rather a disappointment. We had likewise a Berkshire Boar from the same quarter, 'and which proved only a Bore' We intend the ensuing year, to hold an Exhibition of stock and produce, as likely to create an interest in our vicinity in favour of the Society.

ANGUS W. McLEAN,
Boularderie, Dec. 15, 1869. Sec'y.

[It ought to be stated that the Bore referred to was not imported by the Board of Agriculture; there is plenty of that breed in the Province already. We suspect that the Cotswold lambs were not of those imported by the Board, otherwise the results would not have been disappointing. But now that we have in the Province thorough-bred stock from strains of established reputation, there is no reason why our farmers should not with

care and good feeding, raise animals as fine and perfect as those of Stone, or Miller, or Cochran.—Ed.]

NOVA SCOTIAN INSTITUTE OF NATURAL SCIENCE.

The Nova Scotian Institute met Dec. 13, at the Institute Room, Province Building. Prof. Lawson, of Dalhousie College, read a Monograph of the Ranunculaceæ of the Dominion of Canada and adjacent parts of British America.

The Ranunculaceæ are an order of plants characterised by the perfect separation of all the parts of the flower, the calyx of separate sepals, the corolla of separate petals, the stamens numerous and free, and the fruit composed of separate carpels. All these parts arise directly from the thalamus or receptacle; there is a great development in the size of the sepals, and a tendency to suppression or malformation of petals. The Ranunculaceæ are mostly herbaceous plants, with much divided leaves having broad sheathing petioles. They are characteristic of northern countries; in the Monograph, 48 indigenous and six introduced species, making 54 in all, are described, so that in proportion to territory there are fewer species in the Northern States (61,) and still fewer in the Southern States (51). The most interesting point in distribution, however, is the intimate relation of many of our British American plants to those of Eastern Europe and Asia, respecting which many details were given.

The genera of our Ranunculaceæ are 16 in number:—1. *Clematis*, with fruit consisting of feathery-tailed achenes, and valvate calyx, large and petal like. 2. *Pulsatilla*, with equally large petal-like sepals and feathery-tailed achenes, but herbaceous plants with a large involucre, and imbricate aestivation. 3. *Anemone*, differing from the preceding in the absence of feathery tails. 4. *Syndesmon*, with ribbed fruit, large petaloid sepals and involucre foliage. 5. *Thalictrum*, with usually ribbed carpels, diœcious or hermaphrodite flowers, and very compound leaves, but no involucre verticil. 6. *Ranunculus*, with small green sepals, large, usually yellow petals, and single seeded achenes. 7. *Myosurus*, with a great development of the receptacle into a body resembling a mouse's tail. 8. *Calla*, with a fruit composed of separate, several-seeded carpels or pods and entire leaves. 9. *Trollius*, with similar fructification but palmately divided leaves. 10. *Coptis*, with cucullate petals and ternate leaves. 11. *Aquilegia*, with trumpet like or spurred petals. 12. *Delphinium*, with the uppersepal produced downwards into a spur. 13. *Aconitum*, with irregular hooded calyx enclosing small abnormal petals. 14. *Cimicifuga*, with deciduous sepals and foliolar fruit. 15. *Actæa*, with deciduous sepals and fruit of many-seeded berries. 16. *Hydrastis*, with a fruit of many single or two-seeded berries.

The various species belonging to these genera are fully described in the paper; their synonymy is investigated and their distribution traced in detail throughout all the Provinces, and their range in other countries is likewise given. The effects of the dry and hot inland climate of Ontario are conspicuous in the absence from that Province, of many plants common to the North West and Maritime Provinces.

Several plants that have been described as Canadian, are shown to have been so recorded through mistakes, and many unsettled points are suggested for investigation. Of *Clematis*, we have two species, one local and the other general in its distribution, viz: *C. Virginiana* which grows around the rifle range at Bedford, and also at Windsor, N.S., it extends to lake Winnipeg, Isle Verte being its last point north-eastwardly. *Pulsatilla* is confined to the North West, whence numerous specimens have been received from Governor McTavish. The common form of the species named *P. Nuttalliana* is now known to be identical with *P. Wolfgangiana* of the Russian botanists, which is itself a variety of the European *P. patens*. Two forms from the North West are described, one of which does not accord with Regel's *Wolfgangiana*. *Anemone dichotoma* is shown to be the proper name for the plant, hitherto known as *Pennsylvanica*. Of *A. nemorosa*, the Windflower of the English forests, four varieties are described as inhabiting the Dominion, one a small northern form, and another found at Belleville by Mr. Macoun. *Richardsonii* received only from the Hudson Bay Territories. *A. Hepatica* is shown to be essentially an Ontario and New England plant, although found to extend into Nova Scotia, having been gathered at Windsor by Professor How. *A. acutiloba* is restricted and more northern in range. *A. narcissiflora* is not known to exist within British America, although it occurs in the United States in the Rocky Mountains. *A. purviflora* is a North-Western plant, and is found also at Gaspé by D. BELL of Montreal, and at Anticosti, and is found to have usually 5, not 6 petals as described. *A. multifida* has not yet been collected in Canada, except on the Gulf Shore and in the North-West, but will probably reward some diligent searcher in Ontario. *A. Pennsylvanica* has a wide and southern range. *A. cylindrica*, a sand-hill plant, confined to central and western Ontario.

Syndesmon is a curious little plant, a link between the Windflowers and the Meadow-rues, but has only been found in two localities, although in the adjoining States it is not rare; its Canadian habitats are St. David's, Dr. P. W. MACLAGAN; Hamilton, Judge LOGIE.

Thalictrum Cornuti is a stately plant with large masses of showy white blossoms, rendering it conspicuous along the Sackville River and on the meadows at Beaver Bank, and is of general distribution throughout the Dominion. *T. purpurascens*, differing in its sessile stem-leaves, greenish flowers and drooping anthers, is to be looked for in dry situations; its record as a Lower Canadian is, however, a mistake, and possibly it does not reach so far north as the St. Lawrence. *T. dioicum* has a wide range, but there are two distinct forms about Kingston which require further investigation, one growing near Kingston Mills and the other at the Penitentiary. *T. alpinum*, an arctic European plant, is confined with us to Anticosti and Newfoundland; it is general within the Arctic circle, and runs down the Rocky Mountains to low latitudes, as Arctic plants are apt to do. *T. clavatum* is a York Factory plant, remarkable for its pod-like, stipitate carpels without furrows, but with embossed veins. Of *Ranunculus*, 18 species are described and 1 excluded. *R. repens* is the most common, as a weed, but rare as an indigenous plant, in which character it grows near Toronto. *R. bulbosus* has been