

Mr. Longley suggested to the Board a reorganization of societies,—placing each in its proper district and within proper limits.

Mr. Matheson said Mr. Longley's views were exactly those that had been arrived at by the Board, but the difficulty was to work them out.

A statement of the probable grants required for the present year was then submitted for consideration.

Mr. Longley thought that appropriations should depend upon the financial state of the Province, and be made from year to year accordingly.

Mr. Mack said: There are other branches of industry of importance in this country besides agriculture, yet it is the only one encouraged; it is the only one that is not in a languishing condition, and it is the agricultural counties that derive the benefit of the railways that have been built with the public money. He thought any increase in the grant should be carefully considered, that money should be properly applied, and was glad to hear the explanation that had been given as to the reason that animals had not realized better prices at the sale. He was inclined to oppose too much money being spent on importations, and especially the expenditure of societies in supplying their members with grain.

Mr. Longworth suggested that an importation might be made at the time of the Provincial Exhibition, which would be a good occasion for selling.

Mr. Gayton said it was true in one sense that agricultural industry was encouraged at the expense of others, but he had good authority for saying that no Local Government could directly give any effective encouragement to fishermen as they could do to farmers.

Col. Laurie instanced the expenditure by the Dominion Government on navigation securities, which benefited the fishermen and shipping interests, and required a very large, but at the same time judicious, expenditure of public money, derived from the farmers as well as others.

Mr. North said he represented an agricultural county, and had strong sympathies with the farmers, and a greater love of the farmyard than even the shipyard. The present depression in other industries was the result of overactivity in the past. Agriculture, more than any other, is a productive interest, the foundation of all prosperity. Agriculture supplies the life-blood of a country; stop the shipping, and you stop its circulation. Traders are gleaners. More production and less trading is the panacea for our present depression. We cannot encourage agriculture too much, only what money we give should be judiciously expended. Let us do what we can now, and establish

our agriculture that it may flourish in the future whatever may happen. He thought importations might be accomplished to some extent by agents in countries where good stock are to be found. He likewise suggested higher premiums for thoroughbred animals, and the encouragement of private persons willing to import suitable animals by offering special premiums.

Mr. McKay said in his county more attention was required to grades. His constituents thought the pedigree animals got the lion's share of the prizes. He handed in a letter from Pictou County on this subject, which the President said would be considered by the Board.

Mr. Longley called attention again to Mr. North's suggestion that as the Board did not propose to import horses this year they might accomplish as much by offering a premium of three or four hundred dollars for the importation of a horse by a private individual, as if they imported one at the expense of the Province.

Several other suggestions of a practical kind were made.

The views expressed by members of the Board and the explanations given, appeared to be generally satisfactory to the committee.

The various suggestions of the committee will be fully considered by the Board to-morrow.

The joint meeting was a very satisfactory one. Both bodies had but one object in view—the advancement of our agriculture—their opinions as to the most satisfactory mode of accomplishing this were not diverse, and their harmony of action is the best security that it will be attained.

Committee Room, March, 23, 1876.

The Board resumed business this morning. Present—Colonel Laurie (President), Messrs. Matheson, Brown, Ross, Starratt and the Secretary. Mr. Longworth had been suddenly called away by telegram on account of family sickness.

A return received from the Arisaig Society was submitted, but not having been furnished before the close of the year, and being imperfect, the Society could not participate in the grant for 1875.

The Agricultural Committee of the House of Assembly joined the Board at noon, viz: Donald Archibald, Esq., Chairman; Avar Longley, Esq., Alexander McKay, Esq., J. N. Mack, Esq., J. B. North, Esq., Albert Gayton, Esq.

Mr. Archibald stated that the committee had examined the accounts of the Board and were well satisfied with the proceedings of the past year, and, after careful consideration, had agreed to recommend the amounts necessary for carrying

out the purposes of the Board for the present year.

A discussion ensued as to the propriety of allowing societies to use grade bulls. The President, Mr. McKay, Mr. Ross, Mr. North, and Mr. Longley severally expressed their views. The general impression was that we had not yet arrived at that stage of progress which would enable the Board to limit societies strictly to full-pedigree animals, but that no animal should be used by any society unless it had some crosses of pure blood, and had, at least, one of its parents recorded in the Register.

The President explained the nature of the proposed importation of stock, which, he thought, ought to be obtained in England.

Mr. McKay thought the expense of sending a deputation would be too great, as they would have to stay there some time before they found out where and how to purchase the best animals. Mr. North thought if a good agent could be got it would be the better way. Mr. Longley would prefer if twenty or thirty thousand dollars were at the Board's disposal, to send a person, but with so small a sum as we have to deal with, the Board ought to avail themselves of the Secretary's experience, acquired during his residence in England last summer, and rely upon agents. Economy and discretion had been shown in the last importation, and he hoped the Board would have results as satisfactory to show with the next.

Mr. Longley called the attention of the Board to the importance of Local Exhibitions.

The President explained that one reason why Colchester had been selected for the Provincial Exhibition was that permanent buildings were offered. In whatever counties these should be erected it would be an inducement for local exhibitions in future years.

After the Agricultural Committee retired the Board made arrangement for future work.

They meet at Oakfield to-morrow (Friday) morning, by invitation of the President, to examine his Herd of Devons.

Tuesday, March 28th, 1876.

The Board met by adjournment this morning and sat till evening, Colonel Laurie presiding. The whole day was spent in a final revision of the Prize List of the Provincial Exhibition of Agricultural Industry to be held at Truro during the second week of October. Mr. Blair, President of the Colchester Exhibition Committee, stated that he expected the Prize List would be printed and ready for circulation in the course of about ten days.

Several applications from Societies for recognition under the Act were deferred