

this year embraced a concise statement of the financial operations of every society in the Province that had received a share of the public money. The committee would be pleased to hear that the difficulties in King's County in reference to the Provincial Exhibition of 1877, had been, to a large extent, overcome, and there was reasonable hope that the dissatisfaction that existed would rapidly subside, and that not only the whole county, but the whole Province, would unite in carrying out what was likely to prove the best Exhibition ever held in the Province. The chairman then referred to the propriety of introducing into the Legislature a general act for the Province, giving counties the power, if they desired to exercise it, of erecting exhibition buildings. He likewise alluded to Mr. Hendry's proposal to establish a joint stock dairy farm, to Mr. Dupe's application for a vote to assist in the establishment of another bone mill, to the desire of the Board to make a small importation of cattle and sheep in the fall, and to a proposal that the Secretary should visit various sections of the Province during the summer, and lecture on suitable subjects connected with practical agriculture. The chairman then pointed out the financial position of the Board, and stated what amounts of grants were required to carry on the operations of the year, viz:—

1. For the general purposes of the Board and expenses of management.....	\$2,000 00
2. For Prize Fund Provincial Exhibition.....	4,000 00
3. Amount required to cover loss on Stock Importation so as to bring Stock Farm Fund up to original amount of \$3,000.....	2,895 42
4. Amount of grants required to meet claims of Societies for 1876 in excess of \$6,000 voted.....	255 00
5. For Societies in 1877.....	6,000 00
	\$15,150 42

These are the minimum items required for carrying on the Board's operations. The last (5) is limited to the amount stated in the Act, but will probably be insufficient to meet Societies' claims under the Act to the extent of about \$500. If the amount is not increased to \$6,500 it will probably be necessary next session to make up the deficiency before the grants to societies can be paid.

Several proposals have been brought before the Board, involving additional expenditure, but they do not press these upon the committee, not knowing how far the state of the finances may justify a further increase in the vote. The Board, however, desire to request the committee to recommend the Legislature to authorize them to use the stock farm fund, as formerly, for a small importation this year, which they hope will not involve much loss. The chairman invited members of committee to express their views, and

stated that the Board would be glad to afford any additional information that might be desired in regard to their operations.

Mr. McKay, Mr. Archibald, Mr. Longley, Mr. Starratt, and Mr. North all spoke in reference to the subjects alluded to, and first in regard to the bone mill, the general impression apparently being that the Wellington Bone Mill supplied all the bone dust for which there was a demand at present.

Mr. North thought, if Col. Laurie could manufacture bone manures as cheaply and as good as those imported, there would be no difficulty in selling all that could be made in Nova Scotia. He approved very highly of the proposal to introduce a bill for a general Act to enable counties to erect Exhibition buildings.

Mr. Longworth, having been engaged in auditing the accounts of the Board, explained fully the finances and the grants required. The Board were unwilling at the present time to ask for any increase that could be avoided. The apparent increase arises from two causes: First, the loss on last year's importation, which was authorized by the Legislature on the understanding that the loss would be made up by a vote this year, and, secondly, the excess of grants resulting from the increase of Societies.

Mr. Starratt spoke of the different ways in which importations had been made by the Board, of the experience gained, and of the special kinds of animals now required to infuse new blood of the highest possible character into our thoroughbred herds, which, in their turn, would tell upon the stock of the whole Province.

Mr. Archibald did not wish to discourage the Board, but the state of the finances of the Province seemed to render a general reduction of expenditures necessary. If no importation were made this year, it might encourage the sale of thoroughbred animals raised in the Province. He thought the scheme of having the Secretary to visit various sections and and promote enquiry among young farmers by lecturing on scientific agriculture would be of great public benefit.

Mr. McKinnon thought that the Board were engaged in a great work and should be encouraged. The importations caused a small apparent loss in dollars, but they were in reality an immense gain to the country. The agricultural grant should be the very last to be reduced,—should be increased, if possible, rather than lessened. The stock should be kept up by fresh importations. He approved of a general Act to facilitate the erection of Exhibition buildings; thought bone mills, after the encouragement they had already received, should now be allowed to rest on a commercial basis.

Mr. McKay approved of the remarks of the chairman of the committee (Mr. Archibald), as to the necessity and desirability of economy in every service, but disagreed entirely as to reducing the grant for agriculture. Importations should be continued every year, if practicable. The whole sum required was not much, and might be saved from unnecessary services.

Hon. Mr. Robertson referred to the encouragement that had been formerly given for the establishment of a bone mill, but, in view of the many pressing claims presented by the Board, there might be difficulty in repeating such votes, even if desirable, which some of the speakers doubted. He saw the necessity of a general law for Exhibition buildings, and suggested that the committee might frame a suitable bill. He thought an importation of stock should be made, if possible, but not too extensive, so as to keep down loss.

Mr. Longley presumed the Board wished to know the opinions of the committee, and how far funds would be forthcoming. He doubted whether the House would be willing to increase the grant, and even if willing, whether they had the means. Very considerable loss had been sustained by the importations over a number of years, and, in proportion to the length of pedigrees, would be the probable losses in future. The country would not suffer much to go without an importation this year.

Mr. Ross was rather surprised at a member from a famed farming county like Annapolis speaking as he had done. Such remarks would have come with better grace from himself (Mr. R.) who came an outlandish place across the Strait. His county did not directly benefit by the importations, but he felt they were a great public benefit.

Mr. McKay was sorry Mr. Longley took the view he did. He preferred the remarks of the Hon. Mr. Robertson, who, whilst sensible of the necessity of retrenchment, expressed his willingness to meet the wants of the Board.

Mr. Longley explained that it was not from any want of appreciation of the importance of encouraging agriculture that he had made his remarks; important as that is he doubted the prudence of increasing the grant just now, simply in view of the serious financial condition of the country.

Mr. Gayton thought the operations of the Board were of the first importance to the country in every way. The remarks of Mr. Longley were worthy of a good deal of consideration, but we should leave such an interest as Agriculture to be one of the last to be touched.