



Published under direction of the Board of Agriculture of Nova Scotia.

VOL. II.

HALIFAX, N. S., JANUARY, 1875.

No. 109.

HALIFAX, N. S., JAN. 22, 1875.

It speaks well for the health of our agricultural organization throughout the Province that the most interesting matter with which we can furnish our readers, consists of the Reports of County and District Agricultural Societies. The present number is entirely filled with such, which will be a sufficient apology for the absence of other matter. We have still a large mass of Reports ready for the printer, and hope to overtake the whole in the February and March numbers.

We wish to notice the subject of Bone Dust as a Manure. The importance of promoting its more general use has for some years engaged the attention of the Central Board, but the measure of success attained in securing the co-operation of societies and farmers has not been commensurate with the efforts that have been made. We wish to enquire into the causes of this, and to place the whole subject fairly before our readers. In order to do so satisfactorily it is necessary that we should know the results that have been obtained, whether satisfactory or otherwise, by those who have used Bones in the Province; and we shall therefore feel much obliged for any information of this sort with which Correspondents may favour us. If Bones cannot be used as profitably in Nova Scotia as in other countries, it is time to know the reason why.

MOOT POINTS IN THE AGRICULTURAL ACT.

PARADISE, Dec. 12, 1874.

My dear sir,—Owing to a discussion having taken place relative to the correct meaning of some parts of the Agricultural Law, touching the time of making up of the accounts of Agricultural Societies, as well as points in connection with the making out of returns, I beg to submit a few questions to your consideration, and request that you will be pleased to send me answers thereto:

1st. Does the Agricultural year end on the first Tuesday of December of each year, this being the time of holding the annual meeting?

2nd. Should the accounts be made up at that meeting and the books balanced?

3rd. Is it required that there should be 40 paid up members reported at the annual meeting for the Society to participate in the annual grant for the year just ending?

4th. Can a weak society that has not the 40 paid up members at the annual meeting, raise its membership "after said meeting and before the time allowed for the returns to be in at your office," to 70 or 80 members—and draw annual grant on them, or should they be considered as new members for the ensuing year?

5th. Are two Societies considered on equal terms for division of grant—the one in the position as shown in question 4th, the other with 80 actual paid up members during the year, having expended its funds in the purchasing of stock

and advancing the interests of agriculture in other respects?

Yours truly,

W. E. STARRATT,

To Professor Lawson, Sec'y, Central Board of Agriculture, Halifax.

REPLY.

1st. Yes. The Agricultural Societies' year ends on 1st Tuesday of December, so soon as the Directors' report has been approved of. The election of new office-bearers constitutes the first act of the new year.

2nd. Yes. Accounts should be made up, balanced and reported to the annual meeting.

3rd. Societies are not necessarily required to report 40 paid up members at the annual meeting. They are allowed to collect arrears and receive new subscriptions up to the close of the calendar year,—the rule being that their return shall be sent in on or before 31st Dec. To some persons it is not quite clear that this is the intention of the Act, but the Board have tried various methods, and find this to be the only workable one. No new Society can be formed later in the year than September, three months notice being required to enable the Board to enquire into the necessity for its organization.

4th. Some Societies require all their members to pay up before the annual meeting, and then open a new list, carrying the new subscriptions over to the