

cultivation is chiefly confined to new clearings. HAY is returned as an average crop by three counties, as above average by eleven counties, and as rather under average by only one county. Hay was not only a large crop throughout the Province, but was everywhere secured in excellent condition, except in the Cape Breton counties. It is to be observed, however, that the "after-grass," in consequence of severe drought, was very poor, and many farmers had to put their cattle upon hay very early in the fall. In this way more hay will have been used up on the farms than usual, especially as stock generally was not in very high condition at the opening of winter. ROOT CROPS in general suffered more or less from drought, except in rich well managed lands; but the season was peculiarly suitable for POTATOES, which are returned as an average or good crop by seven counties, and as under average or poor by the same number of counties (seven); this may be taken as indicating the proportion of counties in which potatoes may be profitably grown in favorable seasons. When our farmers adopt a system of thorough drainage, the proportion of counties suited to potato culture will be largely increased. TURNIPS are favorably reported from six counties, and unfavorably from six, the crop being in some cases a total loss. It is feared that the rich soil and ample supplies of phosphatic manures required by this crop are not sufficiently understood. CARROTS, CABBAGES, BEETS and MANGEL WURZEL are reported rather more favorably than turnips; all require very high cultivation. The crop of APPLES was small, except in the case of individual orchards of young and robust trees.

The calamity to which the potato growers of this as of other countries have been exposed for many years must necessarily claim some attention from every Agricultural Board. In last year's Report it was stated that a correspondence with parties in New York State had led the Board to make an importation of several new varieties of Potato raised by the late Rev. C. E. Goodrich, and which had been selected from 15,000 seedlings, after an elaborate series of experiments extending over the last 16 years of Mr. Goodrich's life. The seedlings imported were divided into small samples, and distributed to various parts of the Province to parties who were requested to experiment with them. Reports of a very satisfactory kind have been received and published at length in the Agricultural Journal. The principal results of the experiments will be found in a tabulated Return appended to this Report.

The Board likewise distributed a number of samples of field grains that had been grown by the Rev. Dr. Forrester

from seeds received at the London Exhibition. The recipients were requested to experiment with them, and report the results; but very few reports have been received. It is feared that the samples were too small to induce much care, for farmers in all countries dislike small garden experiments. It may not be amiss to remind them that some of the finest grains now in cultivation in Europe and America have been raised from single ears and in some cases single grains. Of a sample of Wheat sent to H. Davenport, Esq., Sydney, for experiment he reported that it "turned out a very fine sample, free from every disease, and will, I think, prove valuable." The Canadian Peas were prolific, but much injured by insects; the Tender Pod Peas a decided improvement upon the old stock. The Italian Barley sent to H. A. N. Kaulbach, Esq., M. P. P., Lunenburg, yielded over fifty fold; it showed much vigor and thickness of stalk, is a six-rowed kind, and averaged about 44lb. per bushel.

Whilst the improvement of live stock has steadily engaged the attention of the Board during the past year, they are not insensible to the great importance of improved methods of cultivation. Much of our richest land is lying in a comparatively barren state, from want of drainage, and the Board have been considering in what way an impetus could be given to thorough drainage in the Province. Many farms, originally fertile, have become barren from a spoliation system of carrying off crops, year after year, without returning manure to the soil. In these cases probably the most effective application will be found to be some rich form of phosphatic manure, such as bone or fish manure or superphosphate of lime, for the phosphates seem to be sparing in quantity in our soils. As our farmers have at present great difficulty in obtaining bone-dust, although many hundreds of tons of the raw material annually go to waste even in the city of Halifax alone, the Board have determined to offer a bonus of \$600 to any party who will carry into effective operation in a suitable locality a Bone Mill of sufficient size to supply the wants of our farmers.

The growing importance of Flax as a British American crop has induced the Board to import 10 bushels of the best Riga Flax seed, which is well known to be greatly superior to the common flax grown from year to year in the country. Should the results prove satisfactory, a greater importation may be made next season.

It must be gratifying to every well-wisher of the Province to observe that so much genuine interest is being evinced at the present time in agricultural improvement. We have been hitherto dependent upon foreign countries for the supply of a large portion of the common food of our

people, and under any circumstances such dependence is not desirable. Without an abundance of the necessities of life, at reasonable rates, for our labouring population, neither fisheries, arts nor manufactures can permanently prosper. Agriculture is naturally looked upon in every country as the basis of all national wealth, and it is fortunate for the Province that Nova Scotians are day by day realizing more and more fully the opprobrium that attaches to a Country that has extensive tracts of waste lands, and yet fails to afford a sufficient supply of food to its people. It is true indeed that the great Fishing, Shipping and Mining Interests have brought upon our people an embarrassment of riches, and have tended to withdraw both capital and labour from our farms. But the great success that has attended these branches of industry has created profitable markets for farm produce, and given an impetus to agricultural progress that is likely to be productive of the best results. Let us not blame the soil, because we neglect to cultivate it. So surely as the energies of our people are applied to the cultivation of the soil, so surely will a carpet of luxuriant verdure spread over our hillsides, and our deserts blossom as the rose.

ALEX. MACFARLANE, *President.*
GEORGE LAWSON, *Secretary.*

House of Assembly.

Wednesday, March 24th.

The House met at 3 o'clock.

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

Hon. Mr. MACFARLANE laid on the table the Report of the Board of Agriculture. He said that the operations of this Board during the past two years were attended with the following results:—In 1864 there were 37 Agricultural Societies in operation, to which number 11 have since been added. The membership of these in 1865 was 1744, and in 1866 it was 2198; subscriptions were, in 1865, \$2385, being \$525 in excess of the previous year. In addition to the ordinary operations of the Board, attempts had been made during the past year to ascertain the state of the crops of the Province by holding communication with the local societies. It was known that certain counties were peculiarly adapted to the production of certain kinds of crops, and the Board had endeavored to gain such information as to lead to a practical improvement in this particular. The Board last season had done something towards the improvement of stock, and the efforts had been more successful than had been anticipated.

Mr. PARKER expressed his pleasure at finding that the Agriculturists of the country were at last beginning to make a move. From the time of Sir Gaspard