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REPORT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

Halifax. 3rd April, 1867.

SIR,—The Board of Agriculture beg to submit the Third Annual Report of their operations.

They have the satisfaction to state that whilst there is still much room for improvement, there now exists among the farmers of the Province a steadily increasing interest in the advancement of Agriculture. The various County and District Societies have displayed, during the past year, an unwonted amount of zeal and activity.

During the first year of its existence, the Board succeeded in organizing, in terms of the Act for Encouragement of Agriculture, 37 Societies, comprising 1744 members, whose collective subscriptions amounted to \$1859.00.

Last year the number of Societies had increased to 48, comprising 2198 members, and a sum total of annual subscriptions of \$2384.00.

From the detailed statement of the present condition of Agricultural Societies, appended to this report, it will be found that this year a still farther increase has taken place. The present number of recognized Societies in the Province is

52, the number of members has increased to 2543, and their united subscriptions to \$2800.50. There remain to be added, however, five or six additional Societies, with a membership of about 400, which are not included in the official list, and did not send in complete reports of their proceedings, as they were not entitled to participate in the Legislative Grant, which is restricted by the Act to four Societies in each County. It appears, then, that the actual number of existing Societies is 58, the number of members 3000, and the sum total of their annual subscriptions, as nearly as can be ascertained, \$3200.00. The total amount of grants-in-aid voted to Societies for the year is \$3566.00.

The funds of these Societies have been, with very few exceptions, judiciously expended during the past year in promoting better systems of culture and stock raising in their respective localities.—Some have expended their means in holding local exhibitions, others have had Ploughing Matches or given premiums for Tile Draining, Root Crops, Liming, Composting and other desirable improvements; whilst a number have combined with other objects the purchase of seed grain of improved varieties, root crops, flax, fruit trees, &c. Nearly all have

promoted the circulation among their members of various publications, embracing the more enlightened views now entertained respecting the Culture of the Soil and the Rearing and Feeding of Domestic Animals. But the energies of most of the Societies have been directed to one object, which has absorbed nearly the whole of their funds, viz.: the purchase of well-bred animals for the direct and immediate improvement of Stock. This prompt action on the part of Societies, in response to the appeals of the Board, is highly creditable, and shows that there exists a sincere desire for improvement and a general willingness among the members to apply their subscriptions and the grants they receive to their legitimate objects. From the facts that have been mentioned it will be obvious that the Agricultural Societies of the Province are increasing steadily in numbers and strength, are growing rapidly in zeal, and are making satisfactory advances in other respects, and especially that their energies are being directed more and more fully into paths which afford not a mere temporary show of success but which necessarily lead to permanent improvement.

Whilst the general principle of limiting the number of Societies in a County to four is approved of, yet certain practi-