

ment, Mr. James Graham, of Nine Mile River, who complained to the Board that the Hardwoodland or Nine Mile River Agricultural Society had allowed certain irregularities, financial and otherwise, to get into the Society, at variance with the Laws for the encouragement of Agriculture, and the constitution and bye-laws of said Society. Mr. Eben McDonald attended in behalf of the Society.— Having heard the statements of the above named parties and examined the Books of the Society, I have to report as follows: Mr. Graham first complains that the members never met for the transaction of business at the time appointed by Law from the 1st December 1871, until the 1st December, 1872, although meetings were duly advertised at the proper time. In reply Mr. McDonald stated that the Annual Meetings were held at the proper time, and that on account of snow storms other meetings were not held at the time first intended. On examining the Society's Books, I find regular minutes of the Annual Meeting held 5th December, 1871, also one held the 1st April, 1872, one June 4th, 1872, one 4th October, 1872, and also the Annual Meeting, 1872, when officers were appointed and other business transacted.

Mr. Graham's second complaint is that the Government Grants for the past two years have been made a personal use of. In reply to the second complaint, Mr. McDonald states that early in the last Spring the Society appointed him to go to Pictou to procure 25½ bushels of seed wheat and that he received the money to purchase it from the Treasurer on the order of the President, and at the same time he was authorised to purchase 110 lb. Northern Clover seed. He went to Pictou, but did not think the wheat suitable, *did not get any*, but some time after by order of a special meeting purchased 34 bushels of Barley and the Clover Seed in Halifax, and says that neither he nor any other member of the Society made a personal use of the funds, but they were fairly and honestly expended for the benefit of the Society. I may add that the Treasurer's Book shews an expenditure, (dates) from March 11th, down to October 11th, of \$114.30 for Barley, Oats, Clover Seed, keeping the Bull and other necessary expenses.

Mr. Graham's third complaint is that the Constitution and Bye Laws of the Society have never been carried out in reference to the purchase and improvement of stock, and that the Society have taken no interest in the appointment of a member to represent this County at the Central Board. Mr. McDonald admitted that the Bye Laws which are very stringent, have not been fully carried out, but on examination of the Books I find that three or four Bulls

and several Rams and Boars of improved breed have been from time to time owned by the Society, and that at the last sale of stock they wished and intended to purchase an Ayrshire Bull, but their means were not large enough, and they had to content themselves with a Grade Alderney Bull, which is still owned by the Society and doing well, and have purchased Seed Wheat, Oats, Barley and Clover Seed at different times, and that, *except* at the last Annual Meeting, the Law was carried out as regards the appointment of a member to represent at the Central Board, and *it* was an oversight which was partially rectified by the officers before the member for this year was appointed, by conveying to Henry Allison, Esq., M. P. P., and the representative for Newport Agricultural Society their wishes on the subject.

I may say in conclusion that, in looking over the Books, this Society have had frequent meetings, something more than four per annum since it was first organized, and the Books appear on the whole satisfactory, excepting this present year; but as they were not fully made up for this year when I saw them, I see no reason why they may not be finished, balanced, &c., at or before the Annual Meeting in Decemb. next.

All which is respectfully submitted,

J. J. O'BRIEN.

Noel, 6th November, 1873.

MR. E. L. CULL has furnished the Department at Washington with some useful hints on the Beet-Sugar Industry.

Allow me (he writes,) to suggest to the Department that the best possible method of helping forward the manufacture of beet-root sugar would be the establishment at the various schools of agriculture and of technology in the country of a rough-and-ready set of utensils such as a farmer on a large scale, or the small manufacturer, is accustomed to use. If the sirup is made in accordance with the instructions concerning the use of such utensils, which I have already given in a pamphlet entitled "The Whole History and Mystery of Beet-Root Sugar," it will be fitted for the operations of the refiner, and will, under his treatment, yield without difficulty the maximum of sugar, as also of potash and other salines, all of which are equal in value to the sugar, at least, weight for weight. Sirup can be prepared on farms and in their immediate neighborhoods to much greater advantage by the farmer or the small manufacturer than by proprietors of large refining-works, the latter requiring, to do business on a profitable scale, the products of a far larger amount of roots than can be grown within hauling distance of the refinery. The refiner must carry on his business from one year's end to another—perhaps

night and day; and by so doing will refine many hundred tons of sugar in the course of a year. His business is quite complicated enough without including the growth and reduction of the roots, the feeding of cattle, and the production of the general crops, which are required on all land devoted to the raising of one principal crop, inasmuch as all land, however good, requires the amelioration afforded by extra tillage, and the careful application of the elements which go to the support of cereals. Even if the refinery is fully supplied with the rough beet-sirup, it must embrace several distinct branches of manufacturing: first, the production of refined sugar; secondly, the production of alcohol from the molasses produced, which is too full of saline particles and other impurities to be profitably used without this elimination; thirdly, the production of salines, such as potash and soda, from the wash, after it has given up its alcohol by the processes of fermentation and distillation. These three processes convert the rough sirup into three separate and distinct articles of great commercial value, and are quite sufficient to engage the attention of the capitalist. On the other hand, the farmer produces the root as one of his ordinary crops, excellent in carrying out a system of rotation. Conversion by himself of the roots into rough sirup would afford him occupation during the winter, and supply a most valuable auxiliary food for his cattle during the time he is fattening them, as well as a highly nutritive aliment for his milch-cows and young cattle and sheep. If he can produce more of this food than required for these purposes, he stores his cakes of pulp for summer use to help his stock over the droughts of summer and the failure of the pasturage with which our American climate is so often afflicted. The leaves of the beet not only afford him a valuable food for his cattle during the time he is storing his roots, but also an excellent coat of manure for the succeeding crop. The farmer need not be over particular about getting the last drop of juice from his roots—it is this which requires powerful machinery; if he does not get the last drops his cattle do, and there is no waste; whereas, in the hands of the great manufacturer who grows his own roots, the whole of the juice must be extracted, even that remaining in the pulp being washed out with water; otherwise the loss becomes ruinous.

The farmer would grow more roots than he now does if he could get an immediate and profitable return for them; but, as now too often situated, few only can command sufficient capital to procure the necessary cattle for the food at hand. Could farmers feel sure that the sugar-beets they might grow would not only provide a means of feeding their cattle,