

Your Committee at once solicited the Board of Agriculture to locate the Provincial Exhibition for 1877 in Kings County, and after considerable correspondence, and a personal conference of the chairman as delegate, assisted by C. C. Hamilton and J. E. Starr, Esquires, the Board finally acceded to the request of your committee.

Your Committee then proceeded to examine sites at Berwick and Wolfville, offered under favourable conditions by the people of these localities, but at length fixed upon the grounds owned by Mrs. Maloney at Kentville, consisting of 10 acres of land having a soil of loose sand and gravel suitable for exhibition purposes, and located near the Railway Station. This land was valued at \$1000 and had been offered free by the inhabitants of Kentville and vicinity, towards the Exhibition, and your committee have seen no reason to regret their choice in the matter of location.

The next matter considered was the preparation of a prize list. This was placed in the hands of a Sub-Committee,—was afterwards submitted to the General Committee for their approval, and finally sent to the Central Board of Agriculture for their sanction.

After much discussion and a protracted delay, the Board, having considerably altered the prize list, returned it to your committee for publication and distribution.

Your Committee regret that the delay thus occurring prevented an early delivery of the prize list. 4000 copies were printed and the distribution was at length satisfactorily made through the Exhibition Committee in King's County, and by the Board of Agriculture in the other parts of the Province.

Your Committee would here beg to say, that at any future exhibition held in this County, many suggestions and improvements might be made in the prize list which would render it more explicit and they believe, more satisfactory to exhibitors generally.

The next measure was the appointment of a sub-committee to prepare a plan and specification for the main Exhibition building. The committee appointed were C. C. Hamilton, Esq., Leander Rand, Esq., and J. L. Dodge, Esq., who in due time reported to the General Committee.

The plan was approved and agreeably to their instruction, they let the same by tender to Mr. Reuben Farnham, his being the lowest and most satisfactory.

Your Committee are pleased to say that the building erected by Mr. Farnham under their supervision, has proved itself very commodious and eminently suitable for the purpose for which it was erected, and is in appearance stylish and creditable to the County.

A Committee consisting of E. C. Foster, E. M. Jordan and J. V. Margeson, and afterwards of R. W. Starr, was appointed to make plans and prepare estimates of the probable cost of fencing the grounds, erecting sheds for cattle, levelling the grounds, preparing roads and a track for the horses, and obtaining a supply of water. The cost of the sheds very much exceeded the first calculation, owing to the increased accommodation required for the unusually large entries of horses and cattle.

The prize list offered amounted to \$5,413.75, which included \$40 offered by Jas. Vick, of Rochester, N.Y., for flowers and cut blooms, and the prizes of Messrs. R. S. Mas-

ters and M. G. DeWolfe, amounting to \$5, and a subscription in aid of the prizes on flowers made by several gentlemen and presented by C. C. Hamilton, amounting to \$25. Many of the prizes, however, were not awarded owing to a lack of competition.

In connexion with the carrying out of the exhibition your committee have to state that to various sub-committees were assigned certain parts of the work, that these duties were faithfully carried out, and that several gentlemen also rendered valuable assistance in arranging the several departments of the Exhibition. Mention must also be made of the valuable assistance of Capt. Tuzo in the arrangement of the flags, which formed a very pleasant feature of the Exhibition.

Capt. Ryan of the Volunteer Artillery, and Capt. Ross, with their companies, very kindly escorted His Honor the Lieut. Governor from the Railway Station to the grounds and formed a guard from the gate to the building. On Tuesday afternoon, Oct. 2nd, the Exhibition was formally opened by Governor Archibald; addresses being made by the Governor, Col. Laurie, President of the Board of Agriculture, and Sir William Young, and continued during the three following days and on Wednesday and Thursday evenings, the building being well lighted.

During the Exhibition the attendance was good, and the weather, until Friday, all that could be desired. On that day the rain fell in torrents and the attendance at the closing ceremonies was consequently somewhat decreased.

The Exhibition was closed on Friday afternoon with addresses by Dr. Hamilton, who gave a somewhat detailed account of the proceedings of the Committee in locating, arranging and managing the exhibition, and the Honorable P. C. Hill, Provincial Secretary, who made a very appropriate speech and declared the Exhibition closed.

The band of the 63d Volunteer Regiment of Halifax was in attendance throughout the Exhibition, and their music, together with that of the Highland Piper, added very much to the success of the occasion.

Your Committee have to state that the number of entries at the King's Co., Exhibition nearly, if not quite, doubled those at Truro in 1876, and a comparison in each department may be made without any disparagement to the Exhibition lately held.

The number of exhibitors amounted to 7200, and the entries to nearly 7000. The exhibits of Stock in the several classes excepting Swine, were large and of great excellence; grain and field seeds were abundant and chiefly from King's County, the winter and spring wheat, peas and beans, being especially fine. Vegetables of all kinds were shown in large quantities and were pronounced by judges to be of superior quality. Gourds were strikingly large and fine. The exhibition of apples is said by persons who have attended similar Exhibitions in the Upper Provinces of the Dominion and in the United States never to have been surpassed in either quantity or quality; and it is believed that there were not less than from 10 to 15 barrels of fruit not opened for want of room. Pears and crabs were abundant and very fine for Nova Scotia. Grapes were more numerous in kind and of better quality than at any previous Exhibition in Nova Scotia. The magnificent display of fruit elicited great praise from the strangers present from Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick,

and the United States, and on the whole your Committee feel assured that since the Exhibition of 1876, at Truro, and that recently closed at Kentville, no further question can be raised as to the success of Provincial Exhibitions in the country parts of the Province.

Your Committee have expended much time, care and labor in the whole matter, and if there have been omissions and failures, it must be attributed rather to a lack of acquaintance with all the minutiae of such an immense undertaking than to the want of active co-operation on the part of the several members of the Committee.

Your Committee have only, in conclusion, to submit a statement of the moneys secured and the sources from which derived, together with detailed statements of all expenditures. They regret to announce a deficiency of nearly \$1000, for which provision has yet to be made. This deficit is owing to the increased expenditure for sheds rendered necessary by the number of entries in classes 1 to 5—to the rain which occurred on Friday—and the difficulty connected with the railways. The Committee must at present assume this liability, but they place the matter before the Court of Sessions and Grand Jury, to be dealt with as they, in their wisdom, may think best. No charge for time or expenses connected with the work of the Exhibition is made in the accounts submitted herewith by any member of the Committee; but it is submitted for the consideration of your honorable Court whether the actual cash paid out by the several members of Committee should not be refunded to them.

Your Committee take this opportunity to suggest that at an early day steps be taken by the several Agricultural Societies of the County to prepare for a cattle and fruit Exhibition to be held in the autumn of 1878, when it seems probable, as the building and grounds are already prepared, a surplus of at least one half of the deficiency might be realized from entrance fees after paying a handsome prize list.

On behalf of the Committee,
C. F. EATON, Chairman.
W. EATON, Secretary.

Oct. 30th, 1877.

The Committee then adjourned until Thursday morning at 10 o'clock.

Committee Room, Provincial Library, }
17th January, 1878. }

The Executive Committee met at 10 a. m. Present: Colonel Laurie, President; David Matheson, Esq., Pictou; W. E. Starratt, Esq., Paradise; Israel Longworth, Esq., Truro; Professor Lawson, Secretary.

The whole of the forenoon was spent in examining the prize list presented by the Colchester Committee, who were represented by Major Blair, by whom explanations were given. The Executive Committee pointed out several important modifications required before they could accept the prize list.

At one o'clock the meeting was adjourned till 2.30.

At 2.30 p. m., the committee resumed consideration of the prize list, and sat till 5 o'clock, when Mr. Blair retired.