

members explained the theory of the working of societies under the Act, whereby the existence of societies dates from the first Tuesday of December of one year to the first Tuesday of December of the next, and that societies formed towards the close of a year naturally draw their grant not for that year, but for the ensuing or current year. However, to prevent any future difficulty, the Board have recommended an amendment upon the Act, so as to make the matter perfectly clear.

The Board then adjourned till half-past two.

*Tuesday, March 21,
half-past 2 o'clock, p. m.*

The Board again assembled. Present—the same members as in the forenoon.

Mr. Longworth presented, on behalf of the Colchester Exhibition Committee, the Draft Prize List for the Provincial Exhibition of Agricultural Industry to be held by said Committee, under the auspices of the Board, at Truro in October next.

Moved by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Ross, and resolved, for various reasons assigned, That the Provincial Exhibition should be held during the second week of October, commencing (for arrangement of exhibits) on Monday, the 9th.

The Board then proceeded to consider in detail the programme and rules and regulations for conducting the Exhibition. These were fully discussed and adjusted. The Board had arrived at the commencement of the list of premiums, when it was found necessary to adjourn. The prize list will be resumed to-morrow morning.

JOINT MEETING OF AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE AND THE BOARD.

*Committee Room, Provincial Library,
22nd March, 1876.*

The Board met at half-past ten o'clock. Present: Colonel Laurie, President, David Matheson, Esq., V. P., Hon. Daniel McDonald, C. E. Brown, Esq., I. Longworth, Esq., W. E. Starratt, Esq., John Ross, Esq., Professor Lawson, Secretary.

The minutes of the previous meetings (as above reported) were read and confirmed.

At eleven o'clock the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Assembly attended by invitation of the Board, viz.: Donald Archibald, Esq., M.P.P., chairman; Avar Longley, Esq., M.P.P., Annapolis; Hon. John McKinnon, M.P.P., Inverness; John B. North, Esq., M.P.P., Kings; Alexander McKay, Esq., M.P.P., Pictou; J. Newton Mack, Esq., M.P.P., Queen's; Albert Gayton, Esq., M.P.P., Yarmouth.

Colonel Laurie stated that the recently

appointed Board of Agriculture, now assembled, had re-elected him President, and it was therefore his duty to be the mouthpiece of the Board in explaining to the Agricultural Committee the present state of affairs, and the prospective work in which they hoped to engage. The object of this joint meeting was, in fact, to afford full information as to the work done during the past year, and to confer as to what should be done in the future. The annual report was in the hands of members, but if it was desired to make any enquiry, or to obtain any additional information as to the past expenditure, or other financial details, the Treasurer was prepared to afford any explanations required. Referring to the past the President said that the Board felt the great want of the Province was an improvement upon the different kinds of Live Stock. As an obvious means of accomplishing this improvement, importations of animals were made from other countries where greater advances had been effected. But importations were found to be expensive, and the prices realized were at first very low. It was felt that we should be independent of high foreign markets, and accordingly a vote was made for a stock farm. But a vote was not made to purchase animals to stock it; hence the stock farm has not been established. The money, however, has not been idle. It has been by its means, aided by occasional grants from the Legislature, that the several importations have been made during the last ten or twelve years, which have brought about such a change in the character of our live stock, and the \$8,000 is still intact on interest, ready to float another importation. Meantime, private persons have engaged in breeding pure stock, so that instead of having one stock farm, managed by the Government, we have now a multiplicity of them in several counties, such as Kings, Annapolis, Yarmouth, Hants, Colchester, Halifax, and perhaps others, managed by private persons, and with private capital,—on a small scale, it is true, but with great scope for development. These breeders may, in a few years, be able to supply the whole Province with male animals for the improvement of stock. But, in our Peninsular country, far away from the great centres of thoroughbred stock, the obtaining of superior animals from time to time to keep up good herds, is difficult, uncertain, and expensive. It is necessary, for this reason, to import animals now of a higher class than ever, so that breeders of pure stock may be encouraged, and enabled to supply others at reasonable prices with the animals needed for effecting general improvement in our herds and flocks. The importation of last year had been spoken of with approval all over this Continent, and it

was important to keep up the reputation our stock had in consequence acquired. This could only be done by annual importations, and from the disposition of the committee last year the Board had no hesitation in bringing their proposals before them on this occasion.

Mr. Longworth explained in detail the reasons that had led the Board to suggest the several amendments proposed to the Agricultural Act.

Mr. Starratt spoke of the great importance of agriculture as the foundation of all other interests. The importation of pure stock means the bringing of *productive* wealth into the country. Those who purchase benefit, those who cannot afford to purchase get benefit from the importations, and the whole country benefits. Meat, and cheese, and wool are produced not only of a better quality but at a less consumption of food. Countries like England never could have succeeded in manufactures without perfect cultivation of the soil, which was, after all, the great interest of every country.

Mr. Brown explained, in reference to the proposed change in the counties included in agricultural districts, that when the original distribution was made the shore counties were not advanced in agriculture, and there were no Western railways, and that the arrangement proposed would be found more convenient now.

Mr. Longley enquired whether the Board had considered the propriety of limiting the number of societies in a county. He thought the increase to seven societies, as in some counties, was injurious, as the grant of \$400, when divided by seven or more, was not sufficient to give effective encouragement to any of them. He believed that six should be the ultimate limit as regards numbers in one county.

Mr. Matheson expressed the difficulty the Board felt in this matter.

Mr. McKay thought Mr. Longley's proposal might tend to obstruct the formation of societies in outlying districts where some encouragement was needful, and that the country was not yet prepared for concentration.

The President explained that while the Act allowed nominally \$400 to each county, yet some counties did not qualify for the full allowance, and the sum total allowed to the Board and expended by them, instead of being \$7,200 for the 18 counties, was only \$6,000 annually.

Mr. Starratt looked to a future coalescing of adjoining societies, so as to lessen the number and increase their strength. Colonel Laurie instanced Colchester as having formed one strong society with branches ramifying over a wide area, and supplying several districts with the use of animals in a most effective manner.