

in farming, particularly dairy farming, would pay as well here as it does there, and there, if one may judge by the appearance of the farms and by information communicated, dairy farming pays remarkably well. In that country, however, an enormous amount of capital is invested in farming, particularly stock and dairy farming. This has an excellent effect, and gives a higher tone to the business of the agriculturist. Just the reverse is the case here. Those who have made their money by trade sneer at the agriculturist, and at farming, as an investment for capital, unworthy of attention.

The agricultural product of Nova Scotia in comparison with larger and more populous countries appears a small concern, but it really concerns the welfare of Nova Scotia as much as the agricultural prosperity of Great Britain, or the United States of America, or of France concerns these countries.

When the agriculture of a country languishes every other industry must suffer in a like degree.

This will appear self-evident when it is considered that about one-half the population of the world are directly engaged in agriculture; these are called the productive class. The other classes, artificers, and merchants, or traders, depend for their success upon the former. Nova Scotia, however, on account of geographical position and surroundings, possesses so many facilities for trade that every man who can command a little capital turns both his industry and his capital in that direction.

The unwisdom of this course is self-evident, and it is proper to remind the better class, which includes the capitalists, that it behoves them to aid and foster the farmer, and encourage the young men of the country to go more into agriculture. Heretofore an unwise amount of assistance has been given to young men to commence trade with small means, and much of the "hard times," as the present depressed condition of the trade of the country is termed, may be traced to that cause. There is no famine in the land, and bread and the common necessities of life are cheap. Over trading then must be the cause of the trouble complained of, that is want of confidence between the trader and capitalist.

The thirst for a knowledge of the science of husbandry and the spirit of agricultural improvement which existed in the country some years back has greatly fallen into disuse. This apathy is on the increase, and and it becomes the duty of the governing class, and those who have laid up their store of dollars, to consider the producing class, to aid by example, to, as it were, hold up a beacon of encouragement, and show the young men of the country that by a proper application of skill and industry agriculture may, all things considered, be as profitable, as respectable as, and more certain than any other trade or profession.

The above remarks are introductory to a proposal to organize an Association to be called THE NOVA SCOTIA AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION.

1. The special object of this Association will be the managing and working of a stock and dairy farm in such a manner as will best advance the agricultural interests of the Province of Nova Scotia.

2. The great success which has resulted from stock raising in Great Britain, and on the Continent of Europe, in the United

States, and in Western Canada, shows that the objects of this Association must lead to substantial results.

3. While much has been done to improve the condition of agriculture in the Province by the patriotic labors of the Central Board of Agriculture, aided and fostered by liberal money grants from the Legislature, and of local Agricultural Societies, yet these combined efforts do not altogether meet the requirements of the Province, for although stock of a good pedigree and suitable for the country has been imported, the example of a well-conducted model stock farm has for many years been a desideratum, first to show by ocular demonstration the profits derived from raising a good well-bred beast; second, it will be the means of keeping the best breed of animals in the country; third, that example is better than precept.

4. It is, therefore, proposed to obtain, by lease or purchase, a tract of good land, lying in a favorable part of the country, to be used and erected into a Model Farm. The farm will consist of at least a thousand acres, with suitable farm-steadings, implements, &c. The stock will consist of the most improved breeds of horses, sheep, swine, and neat cattle, in other words, a Model Stock Farm.

5. The farm will be managed by a Superintendent, who will be under the direction of five gentlemen to be elected by the Shareholders.

6. The capital for working the farm will be £5000, divided into one hundred shares of £50 each.

7. An annual sale will be held regularly after the second year's operations of the Association.

The advantages of the farm would be to keep the stock in the country, and, so far as paying is concerned, I think it can be shewn that a properly managed dairy would pay the working expenses of the whole farm. That it will be self-sustaining there can be no reasonable doubt.

The foregoing is submitted for the consideration of the Provincial Board of Agriculture, in the hope that the Board may be induced to take an active part in starting the scheme for a stock farm. If the Board would do so, say become interested to the extent of one-third or one-fourth, I have no doubt at all that one hundred gentlemen in Halifax, if properly approached, would readily take an interest to the extent contemplated.

29 Victoria, chapter 22, appears to authorize the Board of Agriculture to invest in a stock farm.

W. A. HENDRY.

March 14th, 1877.

Several members made remarks on Mr. Hendry's proposal. The Chairman and Mr. Longworth, whilst approving of the Board giving encouragement in every way to any proposals tending to agricultural improvement in the Province, did not see how the Board could become partners in a joint stock company; if they sought and obtained permission from the Government to do so, their connection with it would, in effect, amount to a Government guarantee on a private commercial scheme. If funds were available it would be better for the Board to establish a Stock Farm of their own, which would be the property of the Province,

and under control of the Government, or a Board responsible to them. It might be possible, however, to offer encouragement in some shape to the carrying out of Mr. Hendry's views. The scheme itself was then commented upon; the general impression was that the capital stated, £5,000, was too small to work a thousand-acre farm.

After consideration—

"Resolved, That the Board are not authorized by the Act to become shareholders in such a scheme, and have no funds available for the purpose, but will bring the matter under the notice of the Agricultural Committee of the House of Assembly, with the view of ascertaining whether substantial encouragement can be offered, in any way, to promote the establishment of such a joint stock farm as the one contemplated."

The application of the delegates from King's County Exhibition Committee for an increase of \$1,000 on the prize fund was then taken up, and fully discussed, after which the following decision was arrived at:—

Owing to the increased amount of grant required this year for carrying on the regular operations of the Board, caused by increase in the number of county and district societies, and loss on the last importation, it was resolved that the Board could not recommend any increase to the prize fund grant for the Provincial Exhibition, as suggested by the King's County Committee.

15th March, 1877.

The Board met at 10 a. m. Present—D. Matheson, Esq., V. P., in the chair; Hon. Robert Robertson, Commissioner of Works and Mines; Israel Longworth, Esq., Truro; John Ross, Esq., Boularderie; Colonel Starratt, Paradise, Ann.; Professor Lawson, Secretary.

After some preliminary business, the Board met the Agricultural Committee of the House of Assembly, of which the following gentlemen attended, viz.:—Donald Archibald, Esq., M.P.P., Halifax, (Chairman); J. B. North, Esq., M.P.P., King's Co.; Albert Gayton, Esq., M.P.P., Yarmouth; Alex. McKay, Esq., M.P.P., Pictou; John J. McKinnon, Esq., M.P.P., Antigonish; Avaril Longley, Esq., M.P.P., Annapolis.

The chairman stated that it gave the Board much satisfaction to meet the Agricultural Committee again, as formerly, to explain their work during the past year, to foreshadow what was contemplated during the present season, and to ask the gentlemen of the Committee how far the proposed measures were likely to meet with their support. He explained that the Board had been more strict than formerly in dealing with societies; that in every case where proper accounts of the disposal of a society's funds had not been received the Board had made explanations imperative. The result was that the Annual Report to the Legislature for