

Besides the sum already mentioned, as voted by the Assembly, the Treasurer of the society intimated that £706 had been subscribed for the objects of the society, and that the annual subscriptions amounted to £300. The committee of management consisted of Judge Halliburton, T. N. Jeffrey, S. B. Robie, S. G. W. Archibald, and H. W. Cogswell. The number of societies formed throughout the Province, at the time of the institution of the Central Association, was fourteen.

Such were the first fruits borne by the letters of *Agricola*, and it is no exaggeration to say, that after the lapse of more than sixty years, their influence is being still potently felt. In closing this necessarily brief reference to the labours of *Agricola*, the writer cannot forbear referring to his now venerable son, until very lately the Chief Justice of this Province, who happily still lives, and will leave a record worthy of so distinguished a father.

We have traced, as we think justly, the main cause of the wretched condition of agriculture in the Province, when *Agricola* took up the subject, to the kind of emigrants who first settled in the country, and indicated the beginning of progress by referring to the institution of the first society formed in the Province, for the promotion of agriculture. The avowed objects contemplated by that society were to introduce summer fallow as a preparation for wheat, to extend the production of oats, to encourage the use of lime, to assist in the clearing of the forests, to get up ploughing matches, and to improve live stock, agricultural instruments, and the grain by new importations. The impetus thus given to the profession of agriculture was most beneficial, and there have been always a few earnest, thoughtful men to advocate improvement, and to carry on the good work. The House of Assembly too, though not at all times ready to legislate beneficially on the subject, has from time to time voted money, and passed measures by which the art of husbandry has been advanced.

The next decided impetus given to the cause of agriculture was when the late Dr. Forrester became its earnest and successful advocate. To him the writer is given to understand belongs the honor of being the first to suggest Provincial exhibitions, which he did in a lecture delivered at the Mechanics' Institute in 1852. The Doctor inaugurated the first such exhibition, which was held in the following year, and Sir William Young, then Speaker of the House of Assembly, entered heartily into the project, and the exhibition, though necessarily of more limited range and variety than the one held in the following year,

yet proved decidedly successful. The third Provincial exhibition was not held until 1868, when the legislature voted \$9,000 towards the expenses, to which the agricultural societies added \$1,500. Six years were allowed to elapse ere the fourth one was held, which was in 1874, under the authority of the Assembly, and the superintendance of the Provincial Government and the Board of Agriculture. This exhibition was opened by Governor Archibald in an admirable speech, full of interesting information and practical common sense. All the Provincial exhibitions had been previously held in Halifax, but in 1875 a wise measure, calculated to exert a powerful influence on the advancement of agriculture, was passed by the House of Assembly, which provided that the Central Board should be authorized to draw from the Provincial Treasury \$4,000, as a prize fund for any agricultural exhibition to be held in any county selected by the Board, and allowing \$1200 for the salaries of the secretary and treasurer. The adoption of this measure has infused new life into the agricultural proceedings of the Province. Successful exhibitions are being held yearly in the principal county towns, and the honourable rivalry thus created between the various counties has been, and will continue to be, productive of the best results. No one will venture to question the powerful influence which such exhibitions exert in fostering and promoting the science and practice of agriculture. General shows of implements and dairy produce, are held annually in connection with these societies. The advance made in Nova Scotia, or any other country, in agriculture, in any given period, cannot be calculated with mathematical precision, nor can the precise extent to which such progress is attributable to periodic exhibitions be exactly determined, yet the fact of such advancement is not the less obvious. What a contrast would the first exhibition held in 1853 present, as compared with that which was held last in Halifax. At the show of 1853, as well as that of the following year, there were no entries of superior breeds of cattle. We have it on the authority of the *JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE* for Sep., 1877, that thirteen years previous to that time there was not a single thoroughbred animal of the cattle kind with a pedigree in the Province of Nova Scotia, and in the same number of that journal was published a list of 337 pedigreed animals, all either imported or raised in the Province from imported stock since 1864. When the system of registering was introduced, not a few farmers smiled at the idea of a pedigree as if it were of no value. But if the Nova Scotia Herd Book, as it now stands, were destroyed,

and all the thorough-bred animals of whose pedigree it is the official record were offered for sale by auction, they would not bring half the price which would be commanded with the requisite reliable certificate as to descent. In 1872 the writer of this paper had the pleasure of seeing the splendid stock of Mr. Campbell of New York Mills, near Utica, which was sold by auction on the 10th of September, 1873, when 108 animals realised \$380,000. Of these 10 were bought by British breeders, 6 of which of the Duchess family averaged \$24,517, and one of them, "eighth Duchess of Geneva," was bought at the unprecedented price of £8,120 sterling, or \$40,600. Mr. Pevan Davies of Gloucestershire was the happy purchaser! Who will venture to sneer at a pedigree after such a statement of facts? The enterprising Canadian breeder—Mr. Cochrane of Hillhurst, imported in 1870, a cargo, including 40 short horn bulls and heifers, and choice specimens of Cotswold sheep and Berkshire pigs, which cost in the aggregate \$75,000. Since American breeders have established Herd Books of their own, they have made numerous sales to English breeders at long prices.

The advantages of agricultural organisation have long been recognised in every civilised country. The Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland has been in active operation for more than a hundred years. The growth and vigour of the National Agricultural Society of England has been beyond all precedent. It was established in 1838, when the membership was 466, but in twenty years it had increased to 10,000. The objects of these associations include shows of stock in the principal towns in the Kingdom, encouragement of district shows, for the improvement of breeds of stock, promotion of agricultural education, advancement of the veterinary art, the appointment of chemists, and the periodical publication of reports and prize essays. In the United States every State has its central society, which fosters local associations. In the Dominion of Canada there is new life being infused into the societies in existence, and a marked advancement in the quality of the stock and produce exhibited. We mention these facts as a stimulus and example to Nova Scotian farmers.

Coming back more directly to Nova Scotia, it may be truly affirmed that all the money which has been voted by the Legislature for the encouragement of agriculture has been *very profitably* spent. Every Exhibition held in the Province presents tangible evidence of the admirable use to which it has been put, and the poorest labourer in the Province, whether he believes it or not, derives for