

provinces. Accordingly the Legislature was pleased to vote the sum of \$10,000 to enable the government to make an importation of suitable animals.

The Hon. Dr. Tupper, Provincial Secretary, and the Hon. W. A. Henry, Attorney General, having visited England on public business last summer, were requested by the government to make enquiries, and to purchase, if favorable opportunities offered. They found that owing to the season of the year and other circumstances the time was a favorable one for obtaining valuable horses at unusually low prices. Purchases were made of four entire horses and four mares, all, except one of the mares, thoroughbred; likewise of 25 rams, ewes and lambs of the pure Leicester breed. The animals arrived by the steamer "St. Lawrence," in the month of September 1865, and although in a reduced state, yet in as good condition as could be reasonably expected. A few of the sheep died during the voyage; some others that were in a sickly condition, as well as one or two that seemed to be in good health, died after their arrival. A list of the animals, including the pedigrees of the horses, is appended to this report, and the accounts of the Board will show the prices paid, expense of transit, and subsequent cost of keep of the horses up to the end of February 1866.

In order that proper care might be exercised in transporting the horses and in their treatment after reaching the Province, the services of Mr. George Plumb, an English Groom accustomed to the handling of thorough-bred horses, were engaged for one year. The horses have improved very much in appearance since their arrival, and are all in good health. Under judicious management these animals may be expected to bring a speedy and marked improvement in the breed of horses in our Province. It is well known that the blood horses of England excel all others in fleetness and strength; and it is found, as a general rule, that these qualities descend to their offspring with whatever breed they may be crossed. Thus horses of spirit and endurance may now be raised from the mares in the country.

It is but just to observe that much care has been required from members of the Board, in providing, in an economical manner, for the proper accommodation and management of the horses during the winter; and the Board feel under deep obligation to one of their number, Joseph Northup, Esq., who has not only devoted much valuable time to the requisite arrangements, but has likewise personally overlooked the horses almost daily since their arrival.

With the view of rendering the horses as serviceable as possible the Board have determined to send them into the country

for the ensuing season, under charge of competent and careful men. The number of horses (four) is too small to travel the whole Province, and it is proposed, therefore, to send to counties in rotation in successive seasons. Some of the richest agricultural counties in the western, northern and eastern parts of the Province may be supplied this season, and the extreme western, and all the southern shore counties, as far as possible, next year. But the Board have not yet completed their arrangements.

The Hon. Alex. Macfarlane, President of the Board, having visited Canada last summer, was desired to embrace the opportunity to obtain if possible, some suitable horned cattle and sheep. He accordingly purchased two Durham bulls and one Durham heifer; likewise 28 sheep and lambs of Cotswold and Leicester breeds. The bulls and heifer have been kept at Pictou during the winter. As it is desirable to render these animals available for use during the ensuing season, it is proposed to bring two of the Durham cattle to Halifax, to be sold by public auction during the present sitting of the Legislature.

The sheep imported from England, as well as those obtained from Canada, were sold by public auction, with a view to their general distribution throughout the Province. The English sheep were sold at Halifax, and the Canadian ones partly at Pictou and partly at Halifax. It will be observed from the returns that the prices realized were very satisfactory, affording evidence indeed of the appreciation by our farmers of pure stock, and of a determination on their part to improve their flocks. In all, 43 sheep and lambs were sold, realizing the sum of \$1340.50, that is, an average price of \$31 each. One of the English rams brought \$94 and none of them were sold under \$70; the ewes and lambs of course brought less. One of the Canadian rams was sold for \$66 and another for \$64.—The sale of the last lot was rather too late in the season to secure high prices. All the animals have fallen into good hands, and the purchasers are bound to retain them permanently in the Province.

The Board have had under consideration for some time the subject of a Stock Farm; and it has become obvious that such an establishment is absolutely required. On a farm of this kind the imported horses, and other animals, might be kept in safety and health at a moderate expense, and their services given to the country in the season. Pure breeds might be permanently maintained without the necessity of constant importations, and Societies or private individuals desirous of such might visit the farm at their own convenience, and select such surplus animals as would answer their purpose. Such an establish-

ment would likewise afford scope for introducing to the notice of our farmers some of the more recent improvements in farm buildings, and improved modes of cultivation adapted to the country. It is believed that a suitable farm in a central locality may be purchased, and the requisite buildings erected, for a sum of from \$8,000 to \$10,000; and the Board respectfully recommend that this sum may be placed at their disposal to enable them to carry out the important object in view.

The Board commenced in March last year to issue a monthly "Journal of Agriculture," which is extensively read by the more intelligent class of farmers and Members of Agricultural Societies. In consequence of the small size of the Journal the numbers are sometimes barely sufficient to contain the Reports of the County and District Societies, without any other reading matter. It appears to be desirable to enlarge the publication so as to admit of the fuller discussion of general agricultural topics.

During the agricultural season of 1865 the Secretary of the Board applied to many of the leading farmers and officers of societies, in the various Counties of the Province, for Returns of the state and progress of the Field Crops in their respective Districts. Much valuable information as to the peculiarities of the season, and the progress of the principal Field Crops, was thus obtained and made known to the public, from month to month through the Agricultural Journal and the leading newspapers of the Province, into which the reports were copied. A brief Synopsis of these Returns has been prepared, and is herewith submitted as a permanent record of the crops of 1865. A reference to that Synopsis shows that favorable reports of the WHEAT crop have been received from six Counties, unfavorable reports from four, while the others give average returns. Early sown Wheat suffered most from the so-called weevil during the past season, some fields being a complete failure. OATS are returned as better than average by eight Counties, being heavy and fine with much straw; but in three or four Counties the crop was light, caused chiefly by rust. BARLEY is very favorably returned as a "good," "average," "excellent," "unusually good," and "splendid" crop, and in one or two Counties only was the crop light. The experience of the last few years seems to offer great encouragement to the more extensive culture of Barley, inasmuch as the yield of grain is good, and there is no more suitable crop for laying down land to grass; the only drawback is the small amount and poor quality of the straw. RYE is only partially grown in the Province, but has done well, especially Winter Rye. BUCKWHEAT is favorably spoken of by the six counties that return it as a crop, but its