

the President and Secretary, he shall also submit annually a report of his proceedings, and also give bonds to the Directors to the amount of monies received annually with sufficient sureties to the satisfaction of said Directors.

11th. The duty of the Board of Directors shall be to take charge of all stock, seeds, roots, &c., belonging to the Society, and to make such application of said property as a majority at any regular meeting may determine.

12th. All special meetings shall require four days notice from time of posting, and any resolution having passed the Society shall not be re-considered, altered or repealed at such special meeting without previous notice having been given.

13th. That seven members shall constitute a quorum to transact business at any of the meetings of the Society.

14th. That no person who is not a member of the Society shall be allowed to speak or vote on any question, and that no member shall be entitled to any of the privileges of the Society, nor shall be allowed to vote until all demands against him are paid.

15th. At the annual meeting all business of the Society for the preceding year shall be settled.

16th. The by-laws to be read at every meeting by request of one or more of the members present.

17th. At any regular meeting of the society the foregoing by-laws may be altered or repealed or amended by a two-third vote of the members present, subject to approval of the Central Board of Agriculture.

DONALD SUTHERLAND, *President.*

ALEXANDER BAILLIE, *Secretary.*

BIG BADDECK, Dec. 31, 1883.

A meeting held at Big Baddeck this day for the purpose of organizing an Agricultural Society,

It was moved, seconded, and carried, that Philip McKae be chairman to the meeting. Moved, seconded, and carried, that M. E. McKay act as secretary.

The meeting then proceeded to the forming of a society.

Moved by M. E. McKay, seconded by John Keiley, that Philip McKae, Esq., be President of this Society. Carried.

Moved by P. Keily, seconded by John Keily, that Alex. Anderson be Vice-President. Carried.

Moved by Alex. Anderson, seconded by P. Keiley, that M. E. McKay be Secretary and Treasurer. Carried.

Moved by P. Keiley, seconded by Alex. Anderson, that Malcolm Buchanan be one of the Directors of this Society. Carried.

Moved by John Keiley, seconded by Alex. Anderson, that John McKae (Big Farm) be one of the Directors. Carried.

Moved by E. D. McKay, seconded by John Arnold, that John Keiley be one of the Directors. Carried.

Moved by Alex. Anderson, seconded by Hattly H. Crowdis, that E. D. McKay be one of the Directors. Carried.

Moved by E. D. McKay, seconded by A. McAulay, that R. H. Crowdis be a Director. Carried.

Moved by Alex. Anderson, seconded by H. H. Crowdis, that the minutes and bye-laws, just read to the meeting, be adopted as the bye-laws of this society. Carried.

An adjournment moved, seconded and carried.

The meeting then adjourned.

M. E. McKay, *Secretary.*

## THE DEAD MEAT TRADE.

*From an English point of view.*

The dead meat trade has hitherto been treated by the Legislature rather as a mechanical experiment than a practice established on a permanent basis. The home trade in dead meat has fallen behind the foreign trade. By the adoption of improved refrigerating machinery dead meat from the antipodes is being delivered in the London market in better condition than dead meat from the inland counties of England, Scotland, and Ireland. There is plenty of capital in the kingdom, but, instead of investing it in the improvement of the home trade, it is being invested in the improvement and extension of the foreign trade. The United States of America and Canada not only manufacture the refuse of their slaughtering and tinned meat establishments into manure to improve their wheat crops, but they are also the rivals of the English manure factories in the purchase of the guanos, nitrates, bone ash, and dried blood of South America. The American farmers are also, like ourselves, experimenting with ensilage, so as to improve their dairy and fat stock systems. But in the carcass trade they are ahead of English farmers, for at their fat stock shows they slaughter to determine the best quality of dead meat, and the most economical mode of producing it; and the experiments already made prove also that the carcass trade is the best system of marketing. Further, their live stock and dead meat trades are being placed under a thorough system of inspection, so as to obviate the heavy loss which this country sustains for contagious diseases.

The position of the British farmer is very different. He has got a paying trade in sending his carcasses to market, but no money is forthcoming from the

capitalists for its improvement. The trade is in the hands of drovers and other middlemen jobbers who are prejudiced against any improvement. At the last Christmas market, inferior meat was selling as low as 2½d. per lb. owing to a glut in the market, there being no refrigerating stores for carrying forward the extra supplies to a future market. In some of our large towns, such as Edinburgh, Dundee, Montrose, and Aberdeen, the principal profit of the carcass trade butcher is in selling the fore-quarters at home and in sending the hind-quarters to London, including two ribs extra—the long quarter, as it is termed; or the short fore-quarter is sent to some of the large manufacturing towns. But in the live meat trade the fore-quarters sell for less in London than what they would bring in manufacturing towns, whilst in such towns the hind-quarters fetch less than in London, so that the live meat trade is a losing one.

The economy of conveyance, whether by sea or land, is, or ought to be, in favour of the dead meat trade. In 1830 it was calculated that the average weight of fat bullocks sent to Smithfield market was 656 lb. per carcass; calves, 144 lb.; sheep, 90 lb.; and pigs 96 lb. Since that date the carcass weight of fat cattle has considerably increased, so that—confining our observations to the supply of beef—three carcasses may go to the ton. The practical questions for solution then are (1) how many live beasts will a cattle truck convey to London? and (2) how many ton of dead meat will an improved carcass van convey to London? The answers to these questions may be—3 ton of live meat to 12 ton of dead meat. And, as the live bullocks stand on their feet in the trucks, they sway from side to side, the 3 ton of live meat (to which must be added the weight of the offal) producing more tear and wear upon the line and rolling stock than the greater weight of dead meat, dead meat should thus be carried at less expense than live meat.

By properly designed ocean steamers the difference is more in favour of the dead meat trade. Thus, a vessel of 4000 tons register with proper refrigerating and ventilating apparatus, would import to Liverpool the carcasses of 12,000 fat bullocks, whereas it would take twelve vessels of the same tonnage to convey 12,000 live bullocks. The expense of inspection would also be in favour of the dead meat trade, whilst the expense of refrigerating the dead meat would be less than the expense of ventilation, food, and attendance of the twelve cargoes of live meat.

In the dead meat trade, as at present conducted, inspection may be said to be *nil*, and the same is true of live meat.