

## CENTRAL BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

## ANNUAL MEETING.

Committee Room.

Province Building, March 6, 1883.

Present—Hon. A. J. White, Attorney-General; David Matheson, Pictou; C. E. Brown, Yarmouth; W. E. Starratt, Paradise; John McKeen, Mabou; C. N. Sprott, Musquodoboit; Prof. Lawson Secretary.

Moved by Mr. Brown, seconded by Col. Starratt, that Mr. Matheson be elected President of the Board. Passed.

Moved by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Sprott, that Mr. Longworth be elected Vice-President. Passed.

Moved by Mr. McKeen, seconded by Mr. Sprott, that Prof. Lawson be elected Secretary and Treasurer. Passed.

Moved by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Sprott, that the Executive Committee consist of Colonel Starratt, Mr. Longworth and Mr. Sprott, with the Government member and President of the Board. Passed.

Moved by Colonel Starratt, seconded by Mr. Brown, and passed, that the Treasurer be authorized to draw the amount of grant to societies for the year 1882, amounting to \$6,480, from the public treasury, by authority of the Provincial Secretary, and that warrants be issued forthwith to the several societies to which the money has been appropriated, in terms of the Act.

The Secretary made a request on behalf of Mr. Longworth that he might be excused from attending the present meetings of the Board, which request was complied with and the Board desired to express deep sympathy with Mr. Longworth in the great bereavement which deprived the Board of his wise counsel on this occasion.

Mr. Spence, M. P. P., appeared before the Board in reference to registration of some thoroughbred stock, and the Secretary was authorized to make the necessary entries when the requirements of the Board were complied with.

Hon. Atty-General White, having been requested to consult with the Hon. Mr. Gayton, Chairman of the Agricultural Committee of the House of Assembly, as to a conference with the Board, a conference meeting of the Agricultural Committee and Board was arranged for Thursday, 8th March, at 10 a. m.

Colonel Blair, M. P. P., attended the meeting and presented the regulations and prize list for the Provincial Exhibition to be held at Truro in September. He explained the arrangements that had been made.

The President, Mr. Brown and Col. Starratt were appointed a committee to examine the prize list and report to the Board.

Mr. Matheson reported that the Treasurer's accounts for the year had been audited by Mr. Longworth and himself, and they were ordered to be sent to the Hon. Provincial Secretary for presentation to the Legislature.

The Board then adjourned to Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock.

7th March, 1883.

Present—David Matheson, President; C. E. Brown, W. E. Starratt, C. N. Sprott, John McKeen, Prof. Lawson, Secretary.

Mr. Brown, on behalf of the committee appointed for that purpose, reported upon the prize list and regulations of the Truro Provincial Exhibition, which were found to be generally satisfactory, the total prize list amounting to over \$5,000, but several suggestions and recommendations were made, particularly the following:—

1. That Jersey and Guernsey cattle should not compete together, but that the Guerneys, (being few) should be eliminated, or separate prizes offered for them.

2. That in herds of thoroughbred cattle at least two of the females should be cows, and the male at least twelve months old and fit for service.

3. That separate prizes should be offered for grades other than Short Horn, as hitherto customary.

4. That in case of ducks, the special breeds for which prizes are offered should be specified.

5. That in class 6, sec. 18, the number of varieties of vegetables forming collections be not less than 12, and that separate prizes be offered for sweet corn for table use.

6. That in class 8, dairy, sec. 2, the required quantity of butter be not less than 5lbs.

7. That in prizes for ox-yokes, class 10, sec. 13, prizes should be increased to \$2 and \$1.

8. That in regard to class 12, sec 1, separate prizes be offered to professionals and to amateurs for ornamental plants.

9. In class 12, sec. 28, it would be well to specify in what way cut flowers are to be exhibited.

10. That in class 13, sections be added for prizes for different kinds of home made bread, as voted by committee.

A letter was read from Mr. Thomas G. Wilbur, Wallace, Cumberland, detailing his efforts in the importation and improvement of sheep, and requesting encouragement therein from the Board. The consideration of Mr. Wilbur's application was deferred until the Board could confer with the Agricultural Committee, Mr. Wilbur having made a similar application to the House of Assembly.

Moved by Colonel Starratt, seconded by Mr. McKeen and passed, that the present system of offering bonuses for the importation of sheep by the union of the societies of districts be discontinued, and the amount available therefor, viz., \$100 for each county, be added to the annual legislative grants to societies.

On motion of Mr. McKeen, it was resolved that the system of offering premiums on importation of horses be discontinued, and the stock farm fund be reserved for the importation of thoroughbred stock by the Board.

The Secretary reported that the result of his enquiries in reference to Polled Angus cattle was, that prices in England had risen so rapidly (single animals having sold as high as six hundred guineas), that it seemed hopeless to attempt to make an importation at present without greater loss than it would be prudent to incur, or indeed than could be afforded. He had been informed by Mr. Cochrane, in a recent interview, that the high prices in England were not fancy prices, as in the case of Short Horns, but were the natural result of the demand from Western ranches greatly exceeding the supply in England, so that there was no likelihood of speedy abatement. In these circumstances it was agreed to defer making any recommendation for the present, in regard to importation of cattle.

On motion of Mr. Sprott, resolved, that there being considerable demand for sheep and pigs in different parts of the Province, the Board recommend that the Committee on Agriculture that the Board be authorized to use the stock farm fund, of which about \$2,000 will be available, for an importation of sheep and pigs from England, to be sold at Truro during the Provincial Exhibition next September,—the money to be replaced to the credit of the stock farm fund to the extent of the proceeds of the sale.

The Board then adjourned to Thursday morning at 9.30.

8th March, 1883.

The Board met at 9.30 a. m. Present—David Matheson, President; Hon. Attorney General White; C. E. Brown, C. N. Sprott, John McKeen, Colonel Starratt, and Prof. Lawson, Secretary.

Minutes of previous meeting were read and approved of.

Moved by Mr. Brown and resolved, that as a new Society in Yarmouth Co., the Public Agricultural Society, had been deprived of its grant for 1882, apparently through a misunderstanding of the requirements, and, as he believed the society was in good working order and effectively carrying out its objects, the grant for 1882 be given to the Society, providing the returns prove, on examination, to be in every respect satisfactory.

At 10 a. m., the Agricultural Committee of the House of Assembly met with the Board. There were present, of the Committee: Hon. A. Gayton (Chairman); Messrs. Power, Whidden, Buchanan, Blair, Campbell, LeBlanc and Dr. Munro.