

district investigates and reports to the Board. In performing such duties of an inquisitive and corrective nature the Board necessarily renders itself obnoxious in some districts, it would fail in its duty if it did not do so; but the statement that the Board is generally unpopular in the country, or that there is general hostility to it, is quite new. In addition to the time given by members at the Board meetings in Halifax or elsewhere, they attend to the business of the Societies in their respective districts by personal intercourse or correspondence with the officers or members, assisting in organizing new Societies, attending meetings, settling disputes between Societies, &c. The Board also consider questions relating to Exhibitions, examine and approve or disallow prize lists of Provincial Exhibitions, and see that the grant is properly expended; they also make occasional importations of stock. The work of the Secretary and Treasurer consists of attending meetings, noting minutes, receiving and preparing returns, corresponding with Societies, keeping accounts of all financial transactions, editing *Agricultural Journal*, preparing annual report to the Legislature, keeping registers of thorough-bred cattle, issuing warrants for grants, certificates of registration, answering letters, and generally attending to the detail work of the Board. About a thousand official communications pass between the Agricultural Societies and the Secretary in course of a year, besides the general correspondence with individuals. Occasionally the Secretary visits Societies to assist in their organization, to lecture on Agricultural subjects, or to examine their accounts. The preparation of the new Herd Register is laborious, and has to be done in the summer season, the daily work of the Board in winter requiring every moment of spare time at command of the present officer. The Secretary concluded by expressing his surprise at Colonel Blair's statements respecting the importation of Short-horn cattle, made last year, which was by far the best importation that had ever been made, such was the opinion generally expressed—and the best proof of it was that, although they unfortunately were not in as good condition as they ought to have been at the sale, they brought \$2,585—two of the bulls selling for over \$400 each, and the average of the whole (not counting the calves dropped in quarantine) being \$261.66 for each of the nine animals.

Mr. Morrison said that the Board claimed to be a check on expenditure of monies, notwithstanding which he found by the present year's report that one Society (Parrsboro') had expended money as bounties on manure sheds and compost, and that whilst the Board were strict with

some Societies they must be lax with others.

The Secretary explained that the small items noticed in the Parrsboro' Society's report, were arrears of a former year that the Society was legally liable for, but that during the past year no such bounties had been allowed.

Mr. McGillivray, in reviewing the discussion, said that he had gained much information in regard to the working of the Board of which even members of the House were not generally aware. He had not known that abuses existed in the Societies in the way of distributing seeds, &c.; that was unknown in his County. It was important for the Board to check this. He was pleased and satisfied upon the whole at the explanations given, and so far as they went. If more were known about the working of the Board he thought there would be less dissatisfaction. He asked that the Board should make suggestions as to any changes desirable, or any measures they thought likely to promote agricultural progress.

Mr. McKeen said as a young member of the Board, who had only received his commission yesterday, he had hitherto been to a large extent ignorant of the work done by the Board, but had received much information during the discussion. The allegation of unpopularity of the Board was entirely unknown in Cape Breton, so far as he was aware. Where the workings of the Board are best known, and Societies are disposed to spend their funds honestly, the value of the Board is appreciated.

Colonel Blair said an attempt had been made to explain the reason for the unpopularity of the Board but it was not successful. It was evident some change was necessary. He asked if the Board had any suggestions to offer. It was desirable that more should be done than was being done to advance our agriculture both in regard to material and educational appliances. Should recommendations be given the Committee would carry them out, if the Board were not abolished.

The President stated that the difficulty in the past had been that when the Board had made recommendations the reply was no money.

Col. Blair said the money did not concern the Board. The Committee wanted recommendations or suggestions, and would see to getting the money. The Province was now in a more favourable position financially than it had been.

The President stated that instead of striking into new paths, the Board would like to carry out more effectively and extensively the improvement of stock which had been so successful hitherto, considering the limited expenditure. The most pressing need at present was im-

portations of thorough-bred stock, not only cattle and horses, but especially sheep and pigs.

Mr. Ford spoke strongly in favor of sheep, and suggested the propriety of giving a bonus to encourage the keeping of sheep in flocks of say 500 or 1000 each.

Several other members spoke in favor of sheep.

Mr. Billenquired if the Board intended to import any more Polled cattle. The President said that the Board had no intention at present, but were ready to receive suggestions from the Committee as to the desirability.

THURSDAY, March 2, 1882.

The Board met. Present: David Matheson, President; Israel Longworth, V. P.; Hon. H. F. McDougall, Donald Archibald, Warden of Halifax; Colonel Starratt, John McKeen, Prof. Lawson, Secretary. Mr. Donald Archibald laid on the table his commission from His Honor the Lieut.-Governor in Council, and stated that the impassable state of the roads in his district had prevented his attendance at the first meeting of the new Board.

A letter was also read from Mr. Chas. E. Brown, Yarmouth, dated 21st Feb'y. expressing his regret that the snow blockade prevented his attendance.

Minutes of Board meetings of 23rd, 24th and 25th February were read in detail, approved of, and confirmed.

Moved by Hon. Mr. McDougall, seconded by Mr. McKeen, and

Resolved, The following further rules and regulations shall be adopted and observed for the purpose of carrying out the District Exhibitions:—

The Board shall determine the localities in which District Exhibitions shall be held by adopting the vote and recommendation of a majority of the Societies within such district, the Board having due regard to such locality affording the necessary buildings and other accommodations, and also that of the parties undertaking the Exhibitions contributing such supplementary contribution towards carrying out the Exhibitions as will ensure its success. The amount required to supplement the Exhibition grant shall not be less than a sum equal to the amount of the grant provided by the Legislature. The Society, or any other body undertaking the Exhibition, shall forward for the approval of the Board, a list of their officers, general regulations, and a prize list.

The Secretary presented communications from fifty-nine Societies, on the subject of District Exhibitions. These were replies to the application of the Board for information as to the choice of suitable localities in the respective districts, but also contained various suggestions and enquiries in relation to District Exhibitions generally, and the regulations applicable to the circumstances of the several districts. These communications