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HALIFAX, 1ST DECEMBER, 1873.

The new Act for "Encouragement of Agriculture" has been published in the *Royal Gazette*, and the operations of all Agricultural Societies in the Province will be conducted under its provisions.

The Act requires that the Annual Meetings of Societies shall be held on the first Tuesday of December, which falls this year on the second day of the month. The Members of each Society shall then elect a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, and not more than five Directors.

The officers and Directors shall present at the Annual Meeting a Report of the proceedings of the Society during the year, and a copy thereof shall be sent to the Secretary of the Central Board within one month from the date of meeting.

It is further the duty of the officers of every Society, immediately after their election, to nominate a person suitable for appointment to the Central Board, and the Secretary of the Society is required to transmit forthwith to the Secretary of the Central Board, the name and address of the person nominated.

Societies that fail to comply with the Act forfeit their claims to participate in the Provincial Grant for the year.

The Act increases the Annual Grant to Societies from four to six thousand dollars, so that in most of the Counties Societies will be able to draw double the amount of subscriptions raised and paid

within the year. This increase should act as a great stimulus to Societies. The sum for each County is limited to \$400, and for one Society to \$250.

The Provincial Exhibition which is to be held at Halifax, during the first week of October, 1874, will necessarily form a prominent subject for discussion at the Annual Meetings of Societies. Some of the Societies, as those at Yarmouth and Halifax, have already had the matter before them at their quarterly meetings, and the Halifax Committee has resolved to recommend the Society to vote \$200 towards the Exhibition. Every Society is expected to do its duty in this matter, and not merely to give a handsome subscription, which it can now well afford to do out of the increased grant, but to furnish the Board with suggestions for the Prize List, so as to ensure a fair representation of the Agricultural riches of every County of the Province.

It will be recollected that at the October meeting of the Board of Agriculture, a complaint was brought forward from Mr. James Graham, containing charges against the Nine Mile River and Hardwoodland Agricultural Society. The Board commissioned the member for the County, J. J. O'Brien, Esq., to investigate the matter, and we now publish his Report, preceded by Mr. Graham's complaint. The whole matter will come up for adjudication by the Board at the meeting to be held in March.

NINE MILE RIVER, }
28th August, 1873. }

Dear Sir,—I have to regret that the Nine Mile River and Hardwoodland Agricultural Society has so completely failed in complying with the laws for the management of Agriculture as well as the rules of the Central Board of Agriculture, that it has forfeited any claim to a share in the County grant, and is unworthy to be recognized as a Society.

I would first intimate that the members never met for the transaction of business at the time appointed by law from the 1st December, 1871, until the 1st December, 1872, although meetings were duly advertised at the proper time.

2nd. That the Government Grants for the past two years have been made a personal use of.

3rd. That the constitution and bye-laws of the Society have never been carried out in reference to the purchase and improvement of stock and that the society have taken no interest in the appointment of a member to represent this County at the Central Board.

There are many details arising out of these and other cases of careless indifference in reference to the proper and efficient working of a Society which certainly require a strict investigation. Hoping you will bring the grievances before the Central Board with the view of obtaining an early investigation, I remain

Yours respectfully,

JAMES GRAHAM.

J. J. O'Brien, Esq., C. R., &c., &c.

To PROF. GEO. LAWSON, LL. D., SECRETARY OF CENTRAL BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, HALIFAX.

Sir,—As requested by the Central Board of Agriculture, I met by appoint-