

tures of the two Provinces is very remarkable:—

Our Legislature, with a laudable desire to encourage agriculture, passed, in 1854, an Act authorizing the expenditure of the large sums of \$11,200, or \$10,400 per annum, as certain conditions were complied with, to be drawn from the Treasury in order to foster the pursuits of farming; and the records of the Provincial Secretary's office will show how much money has actually been drawn during all these years for that purpose. Supposing the annual draft has been only to the extent of the latter sum, there has been appropriated \$176,800, which is surely of sufficient magnitude to show such tangible results that there should be no cavilling about the judiciousness of the expenditure, at least of farmers! In addition to the above, there has been, since 1860, a triennial grant of \$3,000, to aid a Provincial Exhibition, and the machinery of an Agricultural Board put in motion, costing annually perhaps, \$1,200 more. Since 1860, therefore, there has been a further cost to the Province, in aid of its agriculture, of \$25,000; so that the agricultural appropriations directly made by the Provincial Government since 1854, have been considerably over \$200,000. As far, then, as farmers are concerned, they cannot but feel that their interests have been carefully cherished and looked after; and now comes up the complaint, that the local shows are not of such importance as to call for much encouragement in sustaining their annual occurrence.

Indeed, the Agricultural Bill passed last winter, provided that only double of the amount of the local subscriptions should be awarded as premiums. In other words, supposing a Society just pays in subscriptions of the minimum amount, to entitle it to the agricultural grant, viz., \$60.00; it can only give in premiums \$120.00, and the balance must be spent in some other way. Now the sum of \$120 is an exceedingly small amount to form a premium list for an agricultural show, and here, therefore, comes up the question, whether it is judicious to encourage such petty shows? Their very paltriness brings them into such contempt, that the question is now asked by legislators and people—what is the use of them?

Supposing this state of things is continued from year to year, the Report of the Board of Agriculture can only continue to receive and publish the Reports from the local secretaries that the local shows are being held—of the small encouragement they receive—of their lingering life, and their weakened vitality. To be sure some secretaries, who are what the Phrenologists term of a sanguineo-nervous temperament, write with a great flourish, that their society has introduced some thorough-bred stock, and sold it for one-third or one-half the first cost—or of having imported a mowing machine and patent horse rake to hire out to the members,—or a threshing machine or a seed sower, or patent ditcher for a like purpose,—or a quantity of Norway oats to experiment with.

These may in the opinion of over-zealous amateurs or country traders, be considered highly commendable way, to aid in disbursing the balance of the Agricultural grant, but it is still a matter upon which people will entertain different ideas notwithstanding. There are some views of the question, however, that occur to the writer, and they are given to aid in a further elucidation of the subject during the leisure season of the winter.

GRANTS TO AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES FOR 1871.

ANNAPOLIS COUNTY.

Bridgetown Agri. Society, - - -	\$55 86
Eastern Annapolis Agri. Society, -	50 78
Annapolis Agri. Society, - - -	71 10
Paradise Agri. Society, - - -	55 86

\$233 60

ANTIGONISH COUNTY.

Morristown Agri. Society, - - -	100 00
St. Andrew's Agri. Society, - - -	102 00
	\$202 00

CAPE BRETON COUNTY.

Boularderie Agri. Society, - - -	67 74
Sydney Agri. Society, - - -	58 40
Sydney Mines & Little Bras d'Or Agricultural Society, - - -	53 73
North Sydney Agri. Society, - - -	53 73
	\$233 60

COLCHESTER COUNTY.

Shubenacadie Agri. Society, - - -	27 56
Sterling Agri. Society, - - -	33 08
Onslow Agri. Society, - - -	115 08
Tatamagouche Agri. Society, - - -	30 32
Lower Stewiacke Agri. Society, - - -	27 56
	\$233 60

CUMBERLAND COUNTY.

Amherst Agri. Society, - - -	36 80
Parvborough Agri. Society, - - -	90 70
Malagash Agri. Society, - - -	68 45
Wallace Agri. Society, - - -	37 65
	\$233 60

DIGBY COUNTY.

Digby Central Agri. Society, - - -	72 25
Union Agri. Society of Digby, St. Mary's Bay, - - -	55 39
Clare Agri. Society, - - -	52 98
Weymouth Agri. Society, - - -	52 98
	\$233 60

GUYSBOROUGH COUNTY.

Milford Haven Agri. Society, - - -	\$114 00
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HALIFAX COUNTY.

Lower Musquodoboit Agri. Society, -	43 72
Upper Musquodoboit Agri. Society, -	47 94
Dartmouth Agri. Society, - - -	47 09
Halifax County Agri. Socy, - - -	94 85

HANTS COUNTY.

Fenwick Agri. Soc'y of Noel and Maitland, - - -	62 97
Windsor Agri. Society, - - -	113 75
Mardwoodland or Nine Mile River Agri. Society, - - -	56 88

\$233 60

INVERNESS COUNTY.

Mabou and Port Hood Agri. Soc'y,	\$80 00
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KING'S COUNTY.

Union Ag. Soc'y of East Cornwallis,	72 47
Aylesford Agri. Society, - - -	48 55
King's Co. Agri. Society of Lower Horton District, - - -	28 85
Cornwallis Central Ag. Soc'y, - - -	30 26
West Cornwallis Agri. Society, - - -	53 47

\$233 60

LUNENBURG COUNTY.

Mahone Bay Agri. Society, - - -	\$116 00
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PICTOU COUNTY.

Pictou Agri. Society, - - -	67 46
River John Agri. Society, - - -	19 01
New Gairloch Agri. Society, - - -	91 90
Maxwelton Agri. Society, - - -	18 11
Egerton Agri. Society of Fish Pools, East River, - - -	19 01
Merigomish Agri. Society, - - -	18 11

\$233 60

QUEEN'S COUNTY.

North Queen's Agri. Society, - - -	74 16
Mutual Benefit Agri. Society of N. Queen's, - - -	79 72
Kempt Agri. Society, - - -	79 72

\$233 60

RICHMOND COUNTY.

(No Societies.) - - -	\$00 00
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SHELburne COUNTY.

West Passage Agri. Society, - - -	34 73
Barrington Agri. Society, - - -	34 73
Shelburne Agri. Society, - - -	44 29
Sable River Agri. Society, - - -	38 21
Eastern District of Shelb. Ag. Socy,	35 61
Cape Negro Agri. Society, - - -	46 03

\$233 60

VICTORIA COUNTY.

St. Ann's South Agri. Society, - - -	94 00
Middle River Agri. Society, - - -	134 00

\$228 00

YARMOUTH COUNTY.

Yarmouth Township Agri. Society,	40 67
Yarmouth County Agri. Society,	192 93

\$233 60

Total amount of Grants to Societies,  
1871, - - - \$3543 20

MR. ROBERTSON'S PADDOCKS.

We often wish to see one or two energetic and wealthy men go into farming in our own Province somewhat in the style of the Western Canadian or Australian farmers. In a recent Melbourne paper an account is given of the farm of a plain Mr. Robertson, who, if he were to do things on the same scale here, would be justly looked upon as a prince of farmers, and by a good many no doubt as a madman. However that may be, it will do our readers no harm to hear how he manages his twenty-three paddocks of thirty thousand acres:—

This pretty station—the cream of the colony of Victoria it may be called without fear of contradiction—is about four miles from Colac, on the Western-road. The homestead is prettily situated on the side of a hill, which is tastefully and naturally studded with blackwood trees, and commands a view of the township of Colac and lake also of the same name, with Mount Gellibrand in the background—one of the prettiest views conceivable. The station comprises some 30,000 acres of rich black and chocolate soil country, subdivided into twenty-three different paddocks securely fenced, all of which are extensively furnished with splendid and costly tanks, dams and made-springs for the use of the stock during severe droughts, or else by large, deep and natural lakes of water; as well as some of them having large cow-sheds on improved principles for the housing and feeding of