

printed it in the JOURNAL, and called attention to its recommendations; they consulted the Government as to carrying out the recommendation respecting horses, and the Attorney General gave his opinion that an amendment of the Act should have been brought in to authorize the expenditure; the Government, after hearing full explanations, declined to authorize it. The Board had but one object in view, the adoption of all practicable measures for advancing our agriculture in every respect, and this could only be done by united and harmonious action between the Committee of the House and the Board. Everything done by the Board was subject to the criticism and approval or disapproval of the Committee. He was not prepared, on the moment, for discussion of the radical change just suggested; personally, whatever is best for agriculture, he would like done. The Board had no vested interests, no personal or individual rights, to conserve. But I doubt it, with present machinery and present grant, any other organization could do a greater amount of work or more efficiently. With more means at their disposal more work could be done by the Board in the advancement of agriculture throughout the Province.

Mr. Ford spoke of the necessity of Members, who were responsible to the country, being able to explain to their constituents the working of the Board and the expenditure of funds in this as in other departments of the Government of the Province. Without being in a position to do this they could neither defend nor support the Board nor the Government. He knew the Board was unpopular, and he would like to know more fully the reason of it, and whether the work could not be done with less expense. He felt that the Committee had been ignored, and that the Board had not acted as the Committee had a right to expect in carrying out their recommendations.

The Secretary explained the difficulty he had in obtaining the Report of the Committee after the close of the session, so as to ascertain what the Committee's recommendations were. But, as soon as it could be obtained (in form of an uncorrected proof kindly furnished unofficially by the Queen's Printer), action was taken by the Board.

Mr. Bell expressed his surprise that the Board were not acquainted with the Report within a few hours after it was laid on the table.

Hon. Mr. McDougall said that such documents were not available until the Journals of the House were printed; although a member of the Government, he did not usually become acquainted with such Reports until they came in an official way in the published Journals of the House of Assembly.

Mr. Ford asked if grants had been withheld from Societies because they kept grade bulls, to which reply was made that hitherto grants had not been actually withheld, but the Board had threatened to withhold them from Societies if they persisted in keeping such animals.

After some further remarks, the meeting adjourned to 7.30.

February 24th, 7.30 p. m.

The joint meeting of Agricultural Committee and Central Board took place according to adjournment. Present—same members.

The President of the Board said that some questions had been put by members of the Committee in the morning, which there was not time to answer before adjournment, and attention would now be given to them by members of the Board. As to the detail work done, he would ask the Secretary to make a brief statement for the satisfaction of the Committee. The funds at the Board's disposal had been administered to the best of their ability, with care, but if any better mode could be devised it should certainly be adopted.

Colonel Blair said this is only one Department in which it is contended public money is not well expended. It is the duty of Members to see to all, and to secure careful administration of funds in every Department of the Government.

Colonel Starratt stated that the Board were desirous of meeting the views of the Committee in every way; but committees varied from year to year. A former Committee of the House disapproved of persons being sent at expense to purchase cattle, so the Board had latterly done it by letter. Now the Chairman complained of the change. Col. S. wished to see the Committee and Board working together in unity. If any plan better than the present could be suggested he would willingly see it adopted. It was to be said, however, that the Board had undergone several radical changes since 1864, and the present organization by which Societies are represented at the Board is the result of seventeen years experience, and that the New Brunswick Legislature, who have tried various plans, finally copied ours, and have organized a Board. So in Ontario and Quebec. Whilst there are Government Departments embracing Emigration and other business, the real agricultural work that we are doing here is done by Boards. He did not wish to see Agriculture turned into a political department in this Province. Progress has not been unsatisfactory. In the matter of thoroughbred stock we have made the greatest advancement, since 1864, in proportion to our population of any part of the Dominion.

Our Societies also had steadily increased from a membership of 1744 to 5293. There was an increase of 600 members and \$600 of subscriptions during the past year. He regretted that there were not more actual farmers on the Agricultural Committee.

Mr. Schaffner replied to the last remark and stated that he represented a district deeply interested in Agriculture, that he was familiar with farming, and it was not necessary for members of the committee to be all farmers. He felt the Agricultural Committee's recommendations had been totally ignored.

Mr. McDougall, in reference to the remark that the Committee of the House, or its Members, were responsible to the country for the action of the Board, stated that it was to be kept in view that the duty of the Committee was to see that the Board performed the work assigned to it as efficiently as might be expected from the machinery and means placed at its disposal; but if recommendations of the Committee were not ratified or authorized by Act, the Board had no power to carry them out. Referring to the Report of last year, the concluding paragraph recommended that an Act be brought in to authorize the several recommendations; such an Act had been brought in and passed, but the recommendation in regard to premiums on horses was not embraced in it, so that the recommendation was inoperative, and we had the opinion of the Attorney General to that effect. He held that the duties and responsibilities of the Agricultural Committee ceased when they brought in their final Report, and it was for the Board, under direction of the Government, to carry out any recommendations that were made.

The Secretary gave an explanation of the working of the Board. In 1864, when it was organized, there appeared to be no proper system for either determining the rights of Societies to grants, or controlling their expenditure of them when received. Societies applied at the Provincial Secretary's office and got their money. No proper list of Societies was known there, and apparently no proper account of what was done with the money was expected. It was to remedy this state of things, and to lead to improvement of stock and better cultivation that the Board was organized. If we compare the Nova Scotian fields and herds of to-day with those of 1864 we shall see what has been effected. The work of the Board consists in examining carefully the attested returns, annual reports and accounts of Societies, 86 in number this year; this involves a large amount of labor. Where Societies are inactive or use their funds improperly, or fail to give proper accounts, the member for the