

usefulness, and so as one Society, if there be no more than one, in any of the said Counties, may receive, with the assent and approval of the said Board, the whole of such grant; and that the President and Secretary of each Society shall be entitled to draw out of the Treasury, for the purposes of this Act, the sum that may have been assigned to it as aforesaid by the said Board; Provided always, that no Society shall be entitled to any portion of the said grant which shall not raise annually by private contribution the sum of Ten Pounds at the least; and that not more than three Societies shall receive any proportion of the said grant in any one county; and provided also, that in all cases where a Central County Society, with a branch or branches in the county, shall be formed and approved of by the Central Board, that the said sum of Seventy-five pounds shall be given to the said Central Society for distribution, for the purposes of this Act, in all cases where the sum of Twenty Pounds shall have been raised by the Central Society, and Branch or Branches thereof, jointly, in manner before mentioned.

And be it enacted, That the sums, so assigned and paid to the several Societies, shall be applied and expended by them in the importation of Live Stock, implements or seeds, the offering of judicious premiums, or in such other Agricultural objects and uses, as in the judgment of each Society may be best adapted to its local position and wants; and that such objects may be varied or altered, from time to time, at the discretion of each society; but no part of such sum shall be applied in the expense of managing the said Societies.

And be it enacted, That each one of the said Societies throughout the Province, shall render to the said Board, on or before the thirty-first day of December, in every year, a full and exact account, verified by the oath of the President or Secretary thereof, to be administered by any one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace, of the expenditure of the sum so assigned and paid to such Society out of the aforesaid grant; as also of the amount and appropriation of the funds contributed by or belonging to such Society, with a report of its proceedings for the past year; and that any Society which shall neglect or refuse to furnish such account and report, unless excused therefrom by the said Board, shall not be entitled, in any future year, to receive any proportion of the aforesaid grant.

And be it enacted, That this Act shall continue in force for the period of four years, and from thence to the end of the then next Session of the General Assembly.

In accordance with a provision of the above Act, a Central Board of Agriculture has been formed at Halifax, and is now fully in operation. Several of the gentlemen composing this Board, are possessed of some practical knowledge of Agriculture, but time and experience will alone evidence the benefits resulting to the country from their efforts, as much depends upon harmonious action with the County Agricultural Societies. Annexed is the proceedings of their first meeting:—

The Central Board of Agriculture held their first meeting on Thursday the 29th day of April, 1841. Present: Hon. James McNab, William Young, Matthew Richardson, John E. Fairbanks, Thomas Williamson, Edward Allison, Edward Pryor, Junr. Esquires.

Read the Act of Incorporation and Commission by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor appointing the above gentlemen, residents in Halifax, together with Samuel Chipman, Esq. for the Middle Division, Richard A. Forrestall, Esq., for the Eastern Division, James Holdsworth, Esq., for the Western Division of the Province, and Edward Sutherland, Esq. for Cape Breton, to form a Central Board of Agriculture at Halifax, for the purposes expressed in the act, with all the privileges and powers conferred thereby.

Whereupon it was unanimously resolved, That the Hon. James McNab be the Chairman of the Board.

That William Young, Esq. be the Vice Chairman, and that Edward Allison, Esq. act as Treasurer.

Resolved, That the office of Secretary be offered on trial to Mr. Titus Smith.

Mr. Smith having accepted the appointment.

Resolved, That he attend in the Speaker's room, Province Building, (which has been obtained for the use of the Board) every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 11 to 2 o'clock, p. M.

Resolved, That application be made to Government by the Chairman and Vice Chairman, in such way as may be found most advisable, for having the correspondence of the Board conducted free of postage; and that in the meanwhile the Deputy Postmaster General be requested to keep an account of the postage on all letters to and from the Board, to be paid, if required, out of the funds at its disposal, and that all letters on the business of the Board be addressed to the Secretary.

Resolved, That the leading Farmers in the several Counties be invited to form themselves into Societies conformable to the Act, and to enter into correspondence with the Board who will be happy to receive and consider all such suggestions as may be offered for the improvement of the Provincial husbandry, and to furnish such information or assistance, (by impartations or otherwise) as may be in their power for promoting the views of the several Societies in connection with the Central Board.

Resolved, That the Act of Incorporation and the Minutes of the proceedings of this meeting be inserted in the newspapers, and that 1000 copies of the Act and of said Minutes be struck off for gratuitous distribution.

TO THE FARMERS OF NOVA-SCOTIA, NEW-BRUNSWICK, AND P. E. ISLAND.

In presenting the first number of the Colonial Farmer, we may be permitted to offer a few words to those whom it is mainly intended to benefit, respecting the object and character of our enterprise.

The progress of knowledge in any country, is dependent mainly upon the encouragement held out for the diffusion of cheap and useful publications, treating of Science, Literature, & Mechanic Arts, and other studies, among the great mass of the population. In Great Britain and the United States, most decided benefits have resulted from a general diffusion of useful knowledge in a cheap form, accessible to the most humble condition in life. The various improvements in the Art of Printing, by the application of machinery and steam, in those countries, by which labour is reduced about one half, and which enable enterprising publishers to supply what seems to be the general want—cheap information, will continue to place within the reach of all, the means of self education and improvement.

The Merchant and the Mechanic of our own Country, have each their several Societies and Institutions for the protection of their interests and the improvement of their minds: the Farmer is alone unthought of, or nearly so. While men of science are bending every energy to the promotion of knowledge among the different classes of the population in the denser communities, having particular reference to the nature and character of their several employments, the peculiarities of the soil, from which we all in common derive our support, or means of existence, and the various methods of tillage, scarcely command a passing thought. Now, it will be readily admitted that our Agriculture is radically defective, and that we are, at least in this particular, many years behind the age. And why is this the case? Has it ever occurred to any of you that it is chargeable to a want of information, and of an acquaintance with the modes and practices which the experience and superior knowledge of older countries have adopted with unbounded success? It is true the writings of an Agricola and a Slick, have done much in arousing the latent energies of Novascotians—in giving them new ideas in the science and practice of Agriculture—the nature and responsibility of their honorable calling, and in infusing a more general spirit of enquiry and research; but their influence is not sufficiently permanent. Periodical information is required, and with a view to meet this apparent want the present work is established. In New-Brunswick, we know of a Gesner, a Bayard, and a Wederburn, they will stimulate by their example