

**THE NOVA SCOTIA AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES
AND THE IMPORTATION OF STOCK.**

THESE societies understand the importance of improving the stock of the country by importations of thorough-breds, and we only wish this question was as well understood by our societies. The following account of their proceedings for the last year will illustrate their way of employing the government grant.

Upper Stewiacke Agricultural Society.

We have purchased two bulls for the use of the society for the past year; one of them is a very fine animal, and we expect that our stock will be materially improved. We have them still on hand, and it will take one-half of our surplus funds to feed them through the winter.

We have also purchased twenty-eight ram lambs, three ewe lambs, and seven other rams of one and two years, in P. E. Island, and sold them to members of the society on three months' credit. The largest number of the lambs are fine animals, being chiefly of the Leicester breed. I have received an account of the weight of three of the lambs, on the 1st of December,—the first weighing 120 lbs., the second 105 lbs., and the third 95 lbs; these were not the best, but perhaps a little above an average.

Stirling Agricultural Society.

To meet the increasing wants of the society, they have this year imported from P. E. Island four ram lambs of the Leicester and the South Down breeds, and with those belonging to the society we expected to have had one in each of the eight sections in which the society is divided, but unfortunately one of those imported last year died.

This society has also purchased a boar of the Berkshire breed, a very good animal, and have sold him to one of the members, to serve the society one season.

To meet the arrangements of the Board, the society has disposed of the agricultural implements on hand from last year, by public auction, which resulted in a small loss to the society.

Pictou Agricultural Society.

Your society would express their gratitude to the Board of Agriculture for the deep interest manifested by them in the general agricultural interests of the Province, by the importation of improved breeds of horses, cattle, and sheep, and also of wheat and potatoes, and particularly for what of the latter they have sent to this society.

In accordance with a resolution of the society, passed at a meeting held on the 22nd of September last, there has been neither exhibition nor ploughing match, in connection with the society during the year,—the whole of the funds having been devoted to the purchase of stock.

In January last a young Berkshire was purchased by the society, and at the sale of the sheep brought from Canada, by the Board of Agriculture, which took place at Acadia Farm, in November last, one Leicester ewe and two Leicester ram lambs, and one Cotswold ewe, and one Cotswold ram lamb, were purchased at a cost of \$193.

The property of the society in stock, therefore, consists of the five sheep referred to,—the two rams imported from P. E. Island in 1863, and the Berkshire boar,—all of which are distributed within the limits of the society, to be taken care of during the winter.

Your committee would beg leave to state, that this would, in ordinary circumstances, appear an extravagant over-expenditure of the funds of the society; they did, under existing circumstances, what they believed to be expedient and justifiable. They believed that no kind of stock was more appreciated nor more eagerly sought after, not only by members of the society, but by the farmers of the district generally, and as the sheep purchased were of the kinds generally approved, but also superior specimens of these kinds, your committee felt that they were not only conducing to the general interests of the community, but that they would thereby largely increase the roll of members of the society, and also, that by purchasing both ewes and rams of pure breeds, they would so increase the stock of pure blooded sheep in the district as in a short time to have not only a sufficient supply for ourselves, but also have to spare for other localities.

Maservelton Agricultural Society.

In September last a member of the society proceeded to P. E. Island and purchased a number of rams, at a cost of £24 2s. 1d.; the expense connected with their purchase will be seen in the annual account. But owing to the number of societies in the different counties of the province who had purchased rams previous to our society, the rams purchased by us were not of so superior a quality as we expected, and having still a part of our funds in hand we agreed to purchase one of the rams imported from Britain last summer,—and a gentle-