

**BOULARDERIE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.**

**CROPS—REPLY TO MR. CAMPBELL'S COMMENTS ON THE POTATOES AND PIGS OF CAPE BRETON.**

*Little Bras d'Or, 15th Dec., 1866.*

SIR,—I have to inform you that the Boularderie Agricultural Society held their annual meeting on the first Tuesday in Dec., when the directors read the enclosed report, and the former officers and directors were re-installed in office with the exception of the Vice President; the names are as follows:—*Pres.*, Hugh McKinnon; *Vice Pres.*, Angus McKinnon; *Sec.*, Murdoch McDonald; *Treas.*, Donald McLean; *Directors*, Henry McKinnon, Thomas Campbell, John Ross, Jas. Dunlap, John Fleming.

In reference to our crops I may briefly observe that in consequence of cold and wet weather in the earlier part of the season, our hay and grain are no more than average crop.

But as for our potatoes, we never had a larger crop nor of better quality; and any person in search of a good potato, unless he will get it in Cape Breton this season, he will run a good chance of finishing his career in this world without the pleasure of seeing one; even when the blight and rot were most prominent there were several localities in Cape Breton that were not much affected with it. During those years, potatoes could be had at St. Ann's, North Shore, Asby Bay, and particularly Bay St. Lawrence, as good as ever graced the dinner table, notwithstanding Mr. D. Campbell's assertion to the contrary.

I think our pigs will compete favorably with the same breed any where else. I have known several which weighed 400 pounds at eighteen months old, and by proper care and maintenance the number would not be "few and far between." There was one killed recently in one of our rural settlements which brought the owner thirteen pounds eighteen shillings and nine pence, and only twenty-six months old.

M. McDONALD, *Sec.\**

\*We are quite sure Mr. Campbell did not mean to depreciate anything he saw in Cape Breton, which he has elsewhere described as a noble Island, much less to give offence to the people whose hospitalities he enjoyed. Had he visited any other part of the Province, his views, would, no doubt, have been expressed in a similar free and easy way. He may have seen Cape Breton through a Scotch mist, just as many Nova Scotians see Canada through a Bay of Fundy fog; but better acquaintance will bring a better understanding. Taking all this into account, we have omitted from Mr. McDonald's letter a few comments that are not suited to our columns. We give merely his statements of fact.—Ed.

**DIRECTORS' REPORT.**

We have to report that we have imported six ram lambs and three ewe lambs, of the Cotswold breed, from H. E. Dec'e, Esq., Annapolis; and likewise an Ayrshire bull, bought at the government sale. Both lambs and bull were sold by auction to the members of the Society.

**FINANCIAL ACCOUNT.**

On Treasurer's hands since 1865, . . .	\$194.31
Subscriptions of 1866, . . . . .	57.00
Lambs sold for, . . . . .	24.50
Bull, . . . . .	170.00
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	\$365.81

**EXPENDED.**

9 lambs, at 15.00, . . . . .	\$135.00
Expenses to N. Sydney, . . . . .	55.44
Bull, . . . . .	135.00
Expenses, . . . . .	9.42
Seeds imported for Society, . . . . .	16.35
Secretary, for salary, stationery & postage, . . . . .	6.80
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	\$357.97

On Treasurer's hands, . . . . . 7.84

HUGH MCKINNON, *President.*

**NORTH-EAST MARGAREE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.**

*County Invernes, Dec. 4, 1866.*

The Secretary stated, that this day is appointed by law for the election of office-bearers for the Society, when the following members were made choice of:—

*President*, Thos. Ethridge; *Vice P.*, Donald McDonald, Esq.; *Secy.*, Jno. Munro; *Treas.*, Joseph Ingraham; *Directors*, Ebenezer Leadbetter, Malcolm McLeod, Esq., James Ross, James Phillips, Donald Ethridge.

In presenting this report for the past year, the officers and directors of the North-East Margaree Agricultural Society have to regret the little that has been done, in comparison to what might have been done, had larger means been placed at their disposal; but in this part of the County of Invernes, where almost every resident is engaged in agricultural pursuits, and where it might reasonably be supposed that some interest would be shown in its improvement, there has been found some difficulty in obtaining the requisite number of subscribers to entitle the society to their portion of the Provincial Grant for the present year. Let us hope that in future each individual member will use his utmost exertions among his friends and neighbors, that we may yet have to boast of being, if not the best, at least one of the best Agricultural Societies in the Province; and that the farms of its members may be examples of skillful farming, and their improved stock excite to emulation those who have hitherto thought but little of the advantages of Agricultural Societies. No better investment can possibly be made of the people's money, than that part which is appropriated to branch societies for the encouragement of agriculture; nor can a dollar a year be more profitably spent than in investing it to the same purpose.

A desire was expressed by the members of the society, that the funds in hand should be expended in the purchase of stock, doing away, by public sale, with such as were pur-

chased or imported two years ago from Prince Edward Island. An opportunity had been afforded in the month of November last to procure the services of a member of the society going to Halifax, who was requested to attend the public sale at Richmond on the 2nd November, of the valuable stock imported from Canada. He fulfilled his mission by purchasing for the society a Durham bull, being lot No. 2, "Yeoman"; a Cotswold ram, and two Leicester rams. These animals safely arrived in Margaree, and although expensive, with costs and charges, being of the pure breed, the members of the society anticipate favorable results. Such a stock has never appeared in the county before.

The society take the liberty of referring the Honorable Board at Halifax to the prices of the stock, in the general account herewith sent.

**STATE OF THE CROPS, 1866.**

*Wheat*—A good crop in most localities, but very sparingly sown, our farmers having generally discontinued its cultivation within the last few years, by reason of repeated failures from the weevil and other causes.

*Oats*—From the season having been unusually wet, oats run much into straw, and did not fill well; still an average crop.

*Barley*—A full average crop.

*Hay*—A good crop, above the ordinary average; but from the wet season was in many instances heated in a dangerous state.

*ROOT CROPS.*—*Potatoes*—A very ordinary crop. They suffered from an overwet season, and the blight took them earlier than usual.

*Turnips*—A fair crop, but not raised to any extent by our farmers, many of whom raise none at all,—a sad neglect, and for which it is hard to allege a reason. In no part of the world is such a crop more required, with our long cold winters while the cattle are kept on dry food for upwards of six months in the year. The truth is, our farmers are not as yet fully aware of the great benefit the cultivation of that valuable root would be to them. Their cows would reward them with more milk, which is of itself of no small value in the winter season, and their manure heap would be doubled in bulk and value by a feed of turnips being given to their cattle every day.

*Bets, Carrots and Mangel Wurtzel* are not raised to any extent by any of our farmers, except in small patches in our gardens.

*Cabbages* are sparingly paid attention to.

**ACCOUNT CURRENT**

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By balance in Treasurer's hands per acct. rendered, 1865, . . . . .	\$156.58
Leicester Ram, to John G. Croudis, . . . . .	3.20
" " Donald Ross, . . . . .	4.00
" " J. T. Phillips, . . . . .	3.30
" " John McLeod, . . . . .	4.10
" " Ken. McKay, . . . . .	3.00
" " William Coady, . . . . .	2.20
" " J. T. Phillips, . . . . .	1.70
" " Moses McDaniel, . . . . .	3.70
" " John McLeod, . . . . .	3.10
Bull, sold to Daniel Phillips, . . . . .	28.30
" " M. McLeod, £8 2s. less 6s. 6d., . . . . .	31.20
By cash from J. G. Croudis, bal. on pig, . . . . .	3.50
" amount of subscriptions for year 1866, . . . . .	45.00
" sum received from Dr. Lawson to account of this year's bounty, . . . . .	60.00
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	\$352.88