

The following report of the Strathlorne Agricultural Society, County of Inverness, was received after the report of the Central Board was printed:

I have the honor to present you the following report of the Strathlorne Agricultural Society for the year ended 6th December, 1881: The annual meeting was held on December 1st, in due form, Mr. D. E. MacKay in the chair, all the officers and directors being present. The report for the year was pre-ented and passed unanimously. The following officers and directors were appointed for the ensuing year:—*President*, D. A. Campbell; *Treasurer*, Archd. Boyle; *Secretary*, Robt. Gunn.

Directors—D. D. McLellan, Angus McDonald, A. Campbell, M. P. P., Donald McLeod, Angus Kennedy.

The following is a statement of accounts:

Amount in Treasurer's hands.....	\$152 39
Government Grant	50 16
Amount realized by sale of thoroughbred bull	27 00
Amount realized by sale of pigs and sheep ..	73 50
" subscriptions 49 members	40 00
Dr.	\$343 05
Paid for Journal of Agriculture.....	\$ 4 00
Amount paid for bull King Don ..	80 00
Charges and keeping bull for 3 mos. ..	45 00
Amount paid for sheep and pigs. ..	59 25
Charges on do.....	5 40
	\$223 65

Balance on hand..... \$119 40

You will see by the above figures that the Society purchased the thoroughbred Durham bull King Don, which animal was kept during the season in a central place, for the benefit of the Society, and sold afterwards at public auction. There were also eight thoroughbred sheep and two thoroughbred pigs, purchased on the Government Farm, P. E. Island, and sold at public auction for the benefit of the Society.

All of which is respectfully submitted.
ROBT. GUNN, Sec'y.

KING'S COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.
—The following account did not appear in the proceedings of this Society printed in the Annual Report of the Central Board:—

Treasurer's Report for year ending Dec. 31, 1881

RECEIPTS.	
By Balance from last year.....	\$ 76 90
Provincial grant	71 27
Due from members	112 00
Services of bull	41 00
	\$307 17
EXPENDITURE.	
To Purchase of bull ..	\$140 00
It. Wickwire for keep and attendance ..	23 50
Rent of hall	4 00
Stationery and postage	2 95
Journals Agriculture ..	4 00
Allowance to Sec. & Treas.	8 00
	\$182 45
	\$124 72

THOS. TUNZ, *President*,
J. B. BOWSER, *Sec. & Treas.*

(From the Maritime Farmer.)

PROVINCIAL FARMERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

RIVERSIDE, Feb. 8.

The Association met at half-past seven o'clock, the President, Howard Trueman, in the Chair.

There was a fair attendance of delegates and visitors in spite of the most boisterous weather.

The full list of accredited delegates present were:

King's—G. C. White, Col. Beer, R. E. McLeod, Thos. Roach, Major Arnold, A. B. Hayes.

Queen's—S. L. Peters, John Slipp, John McAlpine.

Albert—Alonzo Stiles, G. M. Peck, Elisha Peck, Valentine Smith, Joseph McAlmon, Samuel J. Calhoun, Jas. McLatchy, C. J. Osmair, Judson Bishop, W. A. West, E. H. Robinson, F. W. Watson, W. H. A. Casey.

Westmorland—Harmon Humphrey, Howard Trueman, O. E. Flewelling, W. Fawcett.

After routine, the President delivered the following address:

The tendency towards organization, which is one of the marked features of the present age, has fairly taken hold of farmers. And we have Dairy Conventions, Short Horn Breeders' Associations, Granges, Farmers' Clubs, and Associations like the present one, all of which point out clearly that farmers, at last, are fully awake to the importance of adding to their own experience the experience of their brother craftsmen. I think, too, it may be taken as a plain indication that there is a sincere anxiety to get out of the old ruts and grooves of the past, into a better and more profitable system.

Whether this increased desire for information is the springing up of a love of knowledge for its own sake or whether the stern logic of events has had most to do with bringing it about, it is certain that the sharp competition in the world's great markets of to-day makes it a matter of the first importance that farmers should thoroughly understand the practical as well as the theoretical part of their business, and this means more than is generally conceded. But, some one may be saying, "You know better now than you practice." That is true to some extent, and it is but human. Our knowledge, however, is too largely of that nebulous kind that makes it unsafe, or, at least, dangerous to the pocket, to put it into practice. It is negative, rather than positive. We perhaps know that this system of feeding stock, or that method of cultivating land is not profitable, but just what system will yield the right percentage, and the knowledge to carry the details of such system into practice, is what we do not know, but what we must learn if we would succeed in making our business either profitable or pleasant. It seems to me that the great question or problem that confronts us now is, "How shall we make this negative information positive?" How can we, in the shortest space of time, and, at the least cost, place within reach of the farmers of New

Brunswick the means to secure that amount of knowledge relative to their business, which will place them on an equal footing—so far as a practical understanding of their art goes—with the producers of other countries?

In attempting to solve this problem it will be in point to look at and examine the steps taken by other countries in attaining the position we are aiming for. And, in doing this, if we commence the examination with the United States, our nearest neighbors, it will be found that about thirty years ago the Northern or North Eastern States were in several particulars very much in the same position we are to-day. Their wheat crop very uncertain, their virgin lands becoming exhausted, and the competition of the West just then beginning to loom up before them. What did their leading men do in these circumstances. A writer in *Blackwood's Magazine* for 1851 can tell you better than I can. This writer, after speaking of the multiplied proofs of the zealous and intelligent spirit of improvement which was extending rapidly over all the Northern-Eastern States, says:—"We find the central government of the Confederation occupied in organizing the plan of an Agricultural Bureau on a scale worthy of a great and enlightened nation." And, just here, let me say I am very glad to hear that the present enlightened government of the Confederated Provinces of Canada are organizing a plan for a similar bureau in this country.

We find also the same writer goes on to say "that several State Legislatures were anxiously encouraging every species of improvement; that of New York in particular devoting large grants to the support of exhibitions; preparing to found an Agricultural College; distributing widely and gratuitously the annual public reports on the state of agriculture; and finally sending to Europe for a celebrated chemist to assist in maturing the plans, and setting Senators and great officers of State at the foot of a British Gannet, laying down the law to them on the true principles of the all important science of agriculture. Nor are the owners of the land asleep. It is a strong indication of the growing desire for information that seven or eight agricultural periodicals are published in the State of New York alone." From this energetic and intelligent beginning, improvement and advancement was very rapid. Agricultural Colleges were soon founded in the leading States. The Agricultural Bureau was a centre, aided by the Consular Service of the State, from which new seeds and new plants, after being tested, were sent out into the country. And new modes of cultivation and the experience of other countries was brought before the people by the same institution, until the amount of agricultural products exported from that country is something astonishing, even in this age of large figures.

At the risk of being tedious, I am tempted to give you one illustration of what the agricultural department did for the rural population of Virginia. These people had been accustomed to go out in the fall and gather the leaves of the wild sumac, which are boiled up and sent to the cities to be sold. The American sumac is an inferior article, its sale value being found in the tannin it contains. The imported sumac is said to be richer in tannin, and the American article sells at a much lower price. Added to this is the fact that the native sumac discolours the