

He expressed a hope that the committee would recommend a grant to defray expense of transit of exhibits to the Dominion Exhibition at Charlottetown, if held there.

Mr. McKeen pointed out the great need of stock importations, and of a separate importation for Cape Breton Island.

Col. Starratt referred to the efforts being made in his district for the improvement of sheep and pigs, and to the numerous petitions for such importations that had gone before the House of Assembly.

The Hon. Mr. Gayton pointed out the position of the Board as a departmental body under the Government, with limited funds for the work. He could not hold out any hope that the grant would be increased, although he felt that important work was being done.

Mr. Whidden, in reference to the suggestion of Holstein cattle, thought it was a mistake to import too many kinds. We should rather aim at general excellence by a steady course of improvement in one direction, and, for the general improvement of cattle, there was no breed superior to the Short-Horn.

The Board then adjourned to 2.30 p. m.

2.30 P. M.

Attention was called to the Resolution of the Directors of the Sydney Forks Agricultural Society suggesting that at the next Exhibition to be held, no person outside of the Agricultural Societies should be allowed prizes, and that the President be respectfully requested to bring the matter before the Central Board. The Board has not thought it advisable hitherto to adopt such a rule, and, on considering the matter, could not sanction the recommendation of the Sydney Forks Society, in the absence of any reason shown why an exception should be made in that district.

Moved by Mr. Matheson, seconded by Mr. Brown, that it is the opinion of this Board that the competition at District Exhibitions should be open to the whole Province. Passed.

The Secretary submitted applications for the formation of the following new agricultural societies, with relative documents, which were carefully examined and considered:

Co. Shelburne—The Granite (Barrington) Agricultural Society. Recognized. Bye-laws to be submitted to the Board.

Co. Colchester—Balmoral Agricultural Society. Recognized, and bye-laws approved.

Co. Victoria—Baddeck Valley Agricultural Society. Recognized. Bye-laws sanctioned with certain emendations.

Co. Lunenburg—Chester Agricultural Society. Recognized. Bye-laws to be submitted to the Board.

Co. Guysborough—New Town Agricultural Society. Recognized. Bye-laws approved and sanctioned.

These Societies will be entitled to grants for the year 1884 on attested lists of membership that may be submitted to the Board before the close of the year (31st Dec., 1884).

The Board then adjourned to Thursday at 11 a. m., and arrangements were made to hold a second conference with the Agricultural Committee at noon.

13th March, 11 A. M.

Present: Major General Laurie, President; I. Longworth, V. P.; David Matheson, Hon. A. Gayton, C. E. Brown, Col. Starratt, John McKeen, Prof. Lawson, Secretary.

The forenoon was occupied in routine business, chiefly in reference to matters to be submitted to the Agricultural Committee.

At noon, the Agricultural Committee of the House of Assembly attended the Board meeting by arrangement. Present, of the Committee: Hon. A. Gayton, Chairman, Messrs. Whidden, Buchanan, Campbell, Dr. Munro.

The subjects discussed, more or less fully, were the following:—

1. Proposal to assign rateable proportion of grant for district exhibition in district No. 2, to Queen's County, on account of practical difficulty from want of roads, of Queen's taking part in an exhibition in Annapolis or King's. The members of committee present agreed with the Board in this matter.

2. Suggestion that districts No. 4 and 5 might hold a joint exhibition. The committee think the Board should deal with this matter, carrying out, as far as practicable, the intention of the Act.

3. Agricultural Education. The committee regard this as a very important matter, and refer to the report of the committee of last year as indicating their views so far.

4. The members of committee are strongly of opinion that a quarantine station should be established at Halifax, and, if possible, at Yarmouth and other ports where necessary.

5. Recommendation of Board in reference to importation of sheep and pigs is being favorably considered by the committee.

6. In reference to importations of sheep last year, upon which claims for premiums have been made, the committee feel that they cannot recommend any expenditure or action in reference to importations of the past that have not been specially sanctioned.

7. In reference to the Board's resolution recommending the opening of the competition at district exhibitions to the whole Province, the committee think that, as there is considerable difference of opinion on the subject, and the circumstances of the districts are different, the matter should be left with the committee or responsible body in each district to decide.

8. General importation of stock. This matter will engage the serious attention of the committee. The amount of advance necessary, the kinds of cattle to be selected, the modes of importation, and of sale, and other details were fully discussed by Messrs. Gayton, Whidden, Buchanan, Campbell, and Dr. Munro, and by members of the Board, until a general concurrence was arrived at on these points between the members of the committee and members of the Board.

9. Transport of exhibits to Dominion Exhibition, if held at Charlottetown. The committee would be prepared to recommend the necessary facilities for this as in the case of the St. John Exhibition.

10. Continuation of grant to Veterinary Surgeon. The importance of the duties of this officer were conceded by all, and daily experience showed the increasing necessity for his services.

The Board then adjourned till 2.30 p. m.

13th March 2.30 P. M.

Present: Same Members of Board. Messrs. McCurdy and Buchanan, M. P. P., and the Sergeant-at-arms, attended by invitation of the Board.

Mr. Haliburton addressed the meeting in reference to the choice of location for Exhibition in District No. 6, which he thought should be Baddeck. Mr. McCurdy also addressed the meeting. The Baddeck Committee is to extend their present Exhibition building and to give a prize list of from \$2,000 to \$2,500.

Mr. Buchanan read telegrams received by the Atty.-General and himself, and made offer on behalf of the Sydney Agricultural Society, of which he is President, of a prize fund of \$2,650.

After discussing the matter of location of Exhibition in District six, Messrs. McCurdy, Buchanan and Haliburton retired.

The Board then proceeded to consider the offers presented for Exhibitions in the several Districts:—

1st District.—Including Halifax and Lunenburg Counties.

Moved by Mr. Longworth, seconded by Mr. McKeen, that the application of Mr. Troop, on behalf of the Dartmouth Society and Exhibition Committee, be accepted. Passed.