

bly, with the request that should they deem it of the great importance in which it is held in the estimation of this Board, they will report the matter to the Legislature in such manner as they deem most advisable to accomplish the object contemplated by this resolution.

Recommended, that it is thought exceedingly desirable by the Board that the Legislature should be applied to, through the Committee of Agriculture, to increase the County Grant to Agricultural Societies with a view to their greater efficiency; that the urgent necessity for such increase may be seen in the case of Central Agricultural Society of King's County, one of six Societies in the most important agricultural county in Nova Scotia, receiving no more than \$21 40 from the annual grant. Also, that in the future, not disturbing existing Societies, the number of Societies in any one county should not exceed six, unless in the opinion of the member of the Board for the district, the county is so territorially situated, that not to increase the number injustice would be done to a large class of farmers who could not conveniently belong to any existing Society. And that the Agricultural Act be so amended as to legalise such limitation of Societies. The necessity of some such legal restriction upon multiplication of Societies is pressing itself upon the Board on account of the large number of Societies at present established in several counties; in connection also with the fact that the present grant to each county is considered by the Board quite too small to materially conserve the interests of Provincial agriculture when divided among too many Societies in any one county.

Also recommended, That it is thought very desirable, in the opinion of the Board, that the Agricultural Committee be requested to suggest to the Legislature the necessity of a special grant of four thousand dollars (\$4,000) for an importation of sheep and pigs, now very much required—the animals to be sold at Halifax next autumn, 1882.

Moved by Hon. Mr. MacDougall, seconded by Mr. McKeen, and

*Resolved*, That in the event of such special grant being recommended, and in view of the inconvenient situation of the agriculturists in the Island of Cape Breton, and the disadvantages of attending a sale at Halifax, a portion of such grant (not less than one-fourth) be separately devoted to an importation to be sold in Cape Breton during the Island District Exhibition, and that the selection of stock be made in accordance with a decision to be arrived at by a meeting of delegates from the several Societies;

*And further*, That such Societies be allowed to supplement the grant with contributions from the Societies directly, and the proceeds of sale revert to the Board of Agriculture, after deducting expenses and amount supplemented by Societies—purchase and sale of stock to be conducted subject to approval of Board.

Moved by Mr. Longworth, seconded by Colonel Starrat, and passed,

That the Agricultural Committee of the House be applied to for the purpose of recommending a special yearly grant to pay the actual necessary travelling expenses of the Secretary of the Board in carrying out a systematic course of lectures on agricultural subjects before the Agricultural Societies of the Province, the details of such course to be arranged by the Board. As the principal item of expense would consist of railway and steamboat fares, the railways and steamboat companies might be applied to, in the interest of the public, to give a free pass over their lines for such purpose.

The Secretary read affidavit of C. P. Blanchard, of importation of a half-bred Percheron Stallion, and claiming bonus of 10 per cent. on purchase money, in accordance with recommendation of Committee of House of Assembly.

FEBRUARY 24TH, 1882.

12 o'clock, noon.

The Agricultural Committee of the House of Assembly met in conference with the Board, viz:—Colonel W. M. Blair, M. P. P., Chairman; Caleb W. Shafner, M. P. P., Co. Annapolis; Angus McGillivray, M. P. P., Antigonish Co.; W. C. Bill, M. P. P., Kings; Adam C. Bell, M. P. P., Pictou Co.; L. S. Ford, M. P. P., Queen's Co.; Isidore LeBlanc, M. P. P., Richmond Co.; John Morrison, M. P. P., Victoria Co.

The President stated that the Board were pleased to have a conference with the Committee to afford opportunity for explanations of the work of the past year, and for friendly discussion of future action in regard to the various matters that come within the jurisdiction of the Board.

Colonel Blair, Chairman of Agricultural Committee, said that agriculture was one of the greatest interests of the Province, and deserved the most careful consideration. The present machinery of the Board did not seem to meet the requirements. Members of the House have to defend, in their constituencies, the action of the Board and the Government, or else to secure reforms. Most members of the present House believed that it was to a large extent throwing away money to give it to agriculture on the present system, some go so far as to say that it is an utterly useless waste of money. The Agricultural Committee made recommendations, and the Board paid no attention to them. They had recommended the payment of a percentage on first cost to encourage the importation of Agricultural Horses. The Board had made no arrangements to carry that recommendation into effect. The recommendation of District Exhibitions had not been met promptly by the Board, otherwise Truro would not have applied for the Provincial Exhibi-

tion this year. Two years ago the Committee recommended the importation of a few select Short Horn cattle. The Board had not imported what was wanted, most of the animals being inferior. It was obvious that a change is necessary, either the present organization must be so altered as to enable it to do the work which the county requires, or a new system, such as a Government Department of Agriculture must be instituted. Before maturing a scheme the Committee wished to know what the Board had to recommend with a view to cure the present expenditure, which many thought wasteful, and secure greater efficiency in the performance of the work.

Mr. McGillivray said that he represented an agricultural county, and was not himself ignorant of agriculture. There was undoubtedly an impression abroad that the business of the Board could be done more cheaply than at present, or that the money now expended might be applied to better uses for the promotion of agriculture. There was one thing to be said, however, that the Annual Report of the Board was chiefly occupied with the proceedings of Societies, and the work actually done by the Board itself was briefly dismissed in two pages. It is known that the Board does more work, and he would like the members to explain what they did do. There was no notice of the Pedigrees of Cattle in the Report, and there must be a large correspondence on various matters respecting which the House has no information. If all this was in the Report, or otherwise accessible, members would be able to know better what the Board was doing. The principal question for the Legislature at present seemed to be whether the Board should be continued, or a transference of the work could be made to a Department of the Government, so as to save members of the Board coming from a distance, at an unseasonable time of the year and at considerable expense, to perform the duties. At present the House is not possessed of sufficient data to lead to a wise decision. He was sorry that the discussion had taken a turn that he had not anticipated. He understood the main object of the interview was to obtain information as to the working of the Board.

Mr. Longworth stated that there was an evident misapprehension on the part of the Committee as to the working of the Board, and that the fullest information should be given. In regard to the percentage on horses, the Committee had not last year intimated in conference with the Board, any intention of making such recommendation, and it only came to the knowledge of the Board incidentally when the Report was seen some months afterwards. As soon as the Board obtained the Committee's Report they