

the Province marked results have been obtained from the introduction of thorough bred animals. Thus in the Middle River valley of Cape Breton the Leicester rams have doubled the produce of wool, whilst the Berkshire Boars have enabled the farmers to raise nearly twice the weight of pork formerly obtained, and at a far less cost of feed. At Truro, during the past season, some of the finest pigs ever seen in the province were shown. In short the Annual Reports of our forty-nine Agricultural Societies, printed in the "Journal of Agriculture," are replete with evidence of the good results flowing from the introduction by the Board and the Societies themselves of Thorough Bred Stock. But another result showed itself, which, although highly gratifying, was somewhat embarrassing to the Board, during the past season. The introduction and diffusion of these animals throughout the Province had fostered a taste for Thorough Bred Stock among our farmers in the various counties, and created a desire for more, and, if possible, animals of a still higher class. Several of the Societies took upon themselves the importation of pigs and sheep, but in the case of expensive horned cattle, which had to be brought long distances, the Societies felt that the expense and risk were too great to justify them in making the attempt.

The necessity of the Board coming to their aid was so strongly felt that, although no appropriation was made by the Legislature for importations, yet it was deemed advisable by the Board to make the purchases required to meet the immediate wants of Societies.

To enable the Board to do so, the Provincial Government made a loan to the Board of \$2000.00 on condition that it should be repaid before the close of the year, out of the proceeds of the sales. The Hon. Mr. McJeffrey and Messrs. Northup and Lawson were deputed to attend the provincial fair at Toronto, and purchases were made by them to the extent, including expenses of conveyance, keep and sale, of \$3,695.83. In accordance with a desire expressed by the Agricultural committee of the House of Assembly two years ago, a portion of the stock was transmitted to Baddeck and there sold by public auction. The rest of the animals were sold in a similar manner at Halifax. Those sold at Halifax realized very good prices, in several cases considerably more than had been paid for them at Toronto; but at the Baddeck sale it was very different and a heavy loss was incurred. On this account the small amount of surplus funds held by the Board has been exhausted, and therefore no further importation of cattle or seed grain can be made without a special appropriation by the Government or Legislature for that purpose.

The balance in hand of the Treasurer of the Board at the beginning of the year 1870, was \$319.24,—against which there were arrears of grants to societies then due and since paid, \$761.60. The usual grant of \$6000.00 was drawn by the Board for the past year, and the grants to societies for 1870 are now in course of payment. The apparent balance in the Treasurer's hands is at present \$2,828.84. The arrears of grants to societies amount to \$2,769.00, which, when paid, will leave only \$59.84 in hand, and the other liabilities of the Board cannot be met.

The principal liability which the Board is desirous of discharging is a sum of \$1,117.42, being the amount of the interest that had accrued on the stock farm deposit, and which the Board borrowed to aid in the purchase of stock, on the understanding that it was to be replaced on deposit along with the principal sum as soon as possible. The Board would suggest that the Legislature might with propriety allow them to appropriate the above mentioned interest, which has been expended in purchase of thorough bred stock, and therefore as nearly as possible in accordance with the purposes of the original grant. Should it be thought better, however, that the money should be replaced, the Board would beg leave to request an additional vote of not less than \$1000 this year, over the usual grant of \$6000, in order that this liability may be discharged, and the grants to societies and other necessary expenditure met. The Board have less hesitation in requesting this small additional grant, as the deficiency has arisen from the Board providing, during the year 1869, for the grants to societies and the whole years expenditure, entirely out of the savings of previous years, without any grant from the Legislature or advances from the Government.

The Board have only further to report that they have continued their exertions, through the Agricultural Societies and otherwise, in promoting improved cultivation and the introduction of new and improved varieties of agricultural plants. The Fyfe wheat, which has been so largely introduced, has proved very successful and the numerous reports published in the "Agricultural Journal" show that wheat culture is rapidly extending throughout the Province. The efforts of the Board to introduce hemp culture have not been so successful as could be wished. This is attributed partly to the imperfect preparation and manuring of the soil, and partly to the want of suitable mills for preparing the fibre, the erection of which would have involved more expenditure than the Board was in a position to make. Prizes for hemp fields have been awarded as follows:—To John Prat, New Ross, County of Lunenburg, \$20; to Rupert Fulton,

Stowiacke, Co. Colchester, \$15; to Chas. Mitchell, Merigomish, Co. Pictou, \$15. The Norway oats and the Surprise oats, largely distributed by the Board last spring, have proved quite as successful as was anticipated. The Surprise oat is reported from all districts where it was tried as a most beautiful oat, clean and heavy, and well adapted for the manufacture of meal. The Norway oat was known to be a rather coarse oat, but it has given enormous yields wherever it was sown in good soil. The new varieties of potato continue to receive increased attention, and several of the Goodrich seedlings, introduced by the Board some years ago, are now largely cultivated. The Early Rose, which has been extensively grown in several districts, is one of the most productive and promising kinds, although not so free from rot as some of those previously introduced.

Upon the whole, the Board may justly congratulate the Legislature upon the success of the efforts that have been made in the improvement of the agricultural condition of the country. They trust that these results, and the judicious economy displayed in the expenditure of the grants hitherto placed at their disposal, will induce a still more liberal appropriation in time to come, for they believe that by assisting the farmers to introduce needed improvements, and thereby increase the amount and heighten the quality of the productions of the soil, the Legislature will, in a substantial manner, promote the enrichment of the country, and increase the comfort and happiness of the people.

By order of the Board of Agriculture,
ALEX. MACFARLANE, Pres.
GEORGE LAWSON, Sec'y.

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

An Informal Meeting of the Board of Agriculture was held on the 24th Feb. The general half yearly meeting of the Board being required by the Act to be held during the month of March, it was thought necessary to call together a few of the accessible members to make preliminary arrangements for that meeting, and to sanction the Report of the Board to the Legislature, the presentation of which could not well be deferred this year to the usual time.

The Hon. R. A. McJeffrey presided, and there were likewise present, Henry Yeomans, Esq., V. P., Rev. A. S. Hunt, Supt. of Education, Joseph J. Northup, Esq., J. B. Calkin, Esq., Principal of the Normal School, and Professor Lawson, Secretary.

Messrs. Yeomans and Calkin, Auditors, presented their Report of the Treasurer's Accounts for the year, which were found