

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

The following Circular has been issued to the Secretaries of Agricultural Societies throughout the Province:—

Sir,—I am directed by the Central Board of Agriculture of Nova Scotia to request that you will call the attention of the Board of Officers, and of the Members, of your Society to the following provisions of the Act "Of Encouragement of Agriculture," Revised Statutes, Chapter 37, strict compliance with which is absolutely necessary on the part of Societies desirous of participating in the Annual Legislative Grant for Agriculture.

"18. The Annual Meetings of the Societies shall be held on the first Tuesday of December in each year, when they shall elect a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, and not more than five Directors."

(The day of meeting falls this year on Tuesday, 4th December.)

"22. The said Officers and Directors shall, in addition to the ordinary duties of management, present at the annual meeting in December, a report of the proceedings of the Society during the year, in which shall be stated the names of all the Members of the Society, the amount paid by each, the names of all persons to whom premiums were awarded, with the name of the animal, article or thing in respect of which the same was granted, together with such remarks upon the Agriculture of the County as they may be enabled to offer, and a statement of the Receipts and Disbursements of the Society during the year, which Report and Statement, if approved by the Meeting, shall be entered in the Journal of the Society, and a true copy thereof, certified by the President and Secretary to be correct, shall be sent to the Central Board."

Amendment, passed 4th April, 1876.

"4. An attested list of the Members of the Society whose annual subscription fees have been paid, together with a certified statement of the year's accounts and report as presented to the annual meeting under the twenty-second section of such chapter, shall be forwarded by the President or Secretary of each Society of the Board not later than the thirty-first day of December in each year; and Societies failing to comply with the provisions of this Section shall forfeit their claim to any share of the Provincial allowance to Societies for the year then ended."

I am further directed to call your attention, and that of the officers and members of your Society, to the Amend-

ment of 1881, providing for the holding of District Exhibitions:—

(Passed 14th April, 1881.)

"The Central Board of Agriculture shall be authorized to draw from the Provincial Treasury every year the sum of four thousand dollars for Agricultural and Industrial Exhibitions, to be held every year alternately in the following manner: (1) Agricultural and Industrial Exhibitions to be held in any County in the Province selected by the Central Board, and to be called Provincial Exhibitions. (2) Agricultural and Industrial Exhibitions to be held respectively in any of the Counties of each District into which the Province is now, or hereafter may be divided, selected by the Central Board, and to be called District Exhibitions. The said sum of four thousand dollars shall be paid by the Central Board to any Agricultural Society or responsible body as a prize fund, every alternate year, as above provided, for the purpose of the Provincial Exhibition, and every other year to similar societies or bodies within each Agricultural District as a prize fund for District Exhibitions, respectively in proportion to the number of Counties embraced in such District. Such Exhibitions shall be carried out, and all the expenses thereof borne, by such societies or bodies, under such rules as the Board may from time to time prescribe, and the Prize List for such Exhibitions shall be made up under the direction and subject to the approval of the Board and of the Governor-in-Council."

It being the duty of the Board to make Rules, Regulations, &c., for the holding of District Exhibitions, and as, in accordance with the Act, such Exhibitions will be held during the year 1884,—the several Agricultural Societies throughout the Province are hereby notified that they are required, at the earliest possible opportunity, to determine upon suitable localities for the holding of District Exhibitions for the year 1884, within the respective agricultural districts.

That the result of such vote shall be communicated to the Secretary of the Board not later than the first day of March next, in order to enable the Board to ratify the recommendation of Societies, if satisfactory to the Board.

That so soon as such recommendation shall receive the sanction of the Board, any Society, Municipal Corporation, or any other body, undertaking to carry out such District Exhibition, shall immediately submit to the Board a Prize List for approval, and shall be subject to such other rules, regulations and instructions as the Board shall hereafter order.

A separate Circular has been addressed to you requesting the officers of your

Society to nominate a person suitable for appointment to the Central Board, and accompanied by a form to be filled up.

Blank forms for attested Lists of Membership and payment of subscriptions for the year 1883 are also forwarded to your address, under a separate cover.

The Annual Reports of Societies, and their Accounts, should be made out upon ordinary foolscap paper. Such documents must be prepaid by stamps at letter rates, otherwise they are liable to be sent to the Dead Letter Office at Ottawa, and detained there until after the appropriations of government grant have been made.

I am directed by the Board to solicit your earnest attention to the several requirements of this Circular, in order to prevent disappointment to your Society, and to promote the successful working of our Provincial Agricultural organization.

I am, &c.,

GEORGE LAWSON,

Sec'y. Central Board of Agriculture.

We have frequent enquiries as to the Regulations for importation of thoroughbred animals into this Province, and have difficulty sometimes in giving satisfactory information. Vessels are apt to refuse to bring live stock to Nova Scotian ports from fear of having to take them away again. We have lately received the following telegram from John Lowe, Esq., Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, in reference to animals imported from the United States:

"Sheep may be entered at any Canadian port."

"Cattle from United States cannot be landed at Halifax."

A previous telegram from the Department, which is on file at the Halifax Custom House, and which refers to a special case, reads: "Cows (Jersey) from New York must go round by way of Sarnia for quarantine."

We interpret the above telegrams to mean that all Cattle from the United States must be imported by way of Sarnia and quarantined there, or at such other place as may be allowed by special authority of the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa, or the Inspector at Montreal.

The arrangement is certainly an awkward one for Nova Scotian importers, who are debarred from receiving their animals at the Sea Port of the Dominion, and obliged to send them round to enter by a back door at the extreme rear end of Ontario.

We are also frequently asked where the Quarantine Grounds are for English cattle at the Port of Halifax. We are not yet able to answer the question.