

DISBURSEMENTS.

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| Paid premiums to amount of | \$140.00 |
| Premium for Bull, Devon | 20.00 |
| Necessary expenditure | 13.82 |
| | 142.82 |
| Balance in hand | \$56.97 |

OFFICERS FOR THE COMING YEAR:—

Pres., Dr. Geo. T. Bingay; *Vice Pres.*, Oliver Foster; *Treas.*, Wm. Y. Foster; *Secretary*, Eugene P. Troop; *Directors*, Chas. Whitman, Geo. Willet, Joseph Fellows, James Fellows, Jacob Foster.

GEO. T. BINGAY, *Pres.*

EUGENE P. TROOP, *Sec'y.*

UPPER MUSQUODOBOIT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Dear Sir:—I beg leave to forward you the following Report of the Upper Musquodoboit Agricultural Society, for the year 1866.

ACCOUNT CURRENT.

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| Balance in the Treasurers hand from 1865. | |
| and outstanding debts collected | \$15.00 |
| Annual subscription from 14 members | 44.00 |
| Provincial allowance | 33.00 |
| | \$123.00 |
| Paid for clover seed imported | \$ 40.00 |
| For prizes | 31.00 |
| Disbursements and expenses | 7.00 |
| | \$198.00 |

The Society during the past summer, expended the sum of fifty dollars in prizes, per following list.

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| Best imported Bull, Saml. L. Henry | \$8.00 |
| Best Bull calf, Geo. Parker | 3.00 |
| 2nd do. James Henry | 2.00 |
| Best Heifer calf, Matthew Archibald | 1.50 |
| 2nd do. John Parker | 1.00 |
| Best Ram Lamb, Matthew Hamilton | 2.00 |
| 2nd do. Robert Henry | 1.50 |
| Best Ewe Lamb, John Reynolds | 1.00 |
| 2nd do. Edward Stewart | 1.00 |
| Best Sow Pig, Stultz Horton | 1.50 |
| Best Wheat, William Archibald | 1.50 |
| 2nd do. George Parker | 1.00 |
| Best Barley, William Dean | 1.00 |
| 2nd do. Matthew Archibald | 0.75 |
| Best Oats, William Dean | 1.50 |
| 2nd do. Edward Leedham | 1.00 |
| Best Buckwheat, Alex. Redman | 0.80 |
| 2nd do. Edward Stewart | 0.60 |
| Best Peas, Alex. Parker | 1.00 |
| Best Cloth, men's wear, Thos. Hutchieson | 1.50 |
| 2nd do. Matt. Archibald | 1.00 |
| Best Cloth, women's wear, Robert Henry | 1.50 |
| 2nd do. T. Hutchinson | 1.00 |
| Best Potatoes, John Reynolds | 1.25 |
| 2nd do. George Stewart | 1.25 |
| Best Turnips, George H. Parker | 2.00 |
| 2nd do. David Archibald 16th | 1.50 |
| Best Ploughman, Matthew Archibald | 4.00 |
| 2nd do. David Archibald | 2.00 |
| Best Shingles, S. L. Henry | 1.00 |

CROPS, CLOTH AND LIVE STOCK.

The prizes being proportionate to our funds, and consequently small, the inducement held out to competitors was not at all what we could have wished, yet this our first Exhibition far exceeded our most sanguine expectations; the display of live stock, grain and cloth, were considering the inducements held out indeed creditable.

With respect to the crops generally in this community, for the past year we may state that Wheat, though it succeeded in

some instances, yet in consequence of the ravages of Weevil in past years, it is not sown extensively. Oats though suffering much through bad weather in harvest, yet upon the whole gave an average yield. Barley, which in the early part of the season gave promise of a large return, was in consequence of stormy weather lodged, and is therefore considerably below an average. Buckwheat is a fair yield, and in quality far above the production in past years.

In potatoes the yield is large, and far above the average, but in many cases the rot has made perfect havoc in this crop; it has been found where potatoes were planted on ground laid down some years to grass, that the disease has not prevailed. The practice in planting is to spread manure on the grass land, then plough down, slicing them out, planting in every third furrow; two weeks later harrow the ground thoroughly to prevent the growth of weeds and grass, and the work of planting is complete. The Hay crop with us is unusually large, which is the case generally throughout the Province; much difficulty was experienced in saving the crop in consequence of frequent rain and dark weather making it in many cases impossible to secure the whole, yet enough has been secured that plenty reigns.

Turnips.—This root, the growth of which is so indispensable to good husbandry, is not grown with us so generally as we could wish. The turnip fly, and mode of culture make this crop so uncertain in our locality, that farmers fear to embark largely in it; nor will the cultivation of this root (so necessary to the health and growth of our animals) be practised as it should be until our farmers are alive to the importance of artificial manure and stimulants made use of in the Mother Country, to the successful cultivation of this important root.

Yours &c.,

DAVID ARCHIBALD,
Secretary.

Miscellaneous.

THE ISLET FLORAS OF THE GREAT OCEANS.

In a recent lecture delivered by Professor Lawson before the Students Club of Dalhousie College, the Flora of Nova Scotia, was compared with the Floras of all other countries of the world, and its sources of origin thus deduced. It was shown that the Nova Scotian Flora is more various in its derivation than that of Western Canada, and in some cases the age of species appears to be greater. Dr. Hooker's researches in regard to the

Islet Floras of the Great Oceans, which present so many points of interest to the investigator of the origin of species, were referred to as follows:—

The term "Islet Floras" is applied to the Floras of those small islands or islets that rise as mere points of land from out the broad breasts of the great oceans. With few exceptions all are volcanic, all mountainous, and so small that no man has realized their smallness who has not sailed in search of them. The relationships between these oceanic islet Floras are of two kinds: First,—they show a relationship of analogy between themselves due to the physical conditions common to them all,—climate, exposure, limited area, distance from continents, &c.; thus they are rich in ferns, and mosses, they have many evergreens and comparatively few herbaceous plants, and fewer or no indigenous animals; plants which are herbs on continents become shrubby or arboreous on islets. On the mountains the alpine species are few, and the total number of species of an Islet Flora is small compared with what a continental area of equal size and physical conditions would contain. Secondly,—There is the relationship of affinity, a bona fide kinship, which the florae of islets display in common with one another or with certain continents; Madeira, the Azores and Canaries contain many plants in common that are not found on any continent, the Canarian Flora is in the main a Mediterranean one, the St. Helena Flora is an African one, and so forth. It is this relationship, independent of, or at least unexplainable by reference to, mere physical conditions of soil and climate, that we have chiefly to consider in reference to the questions of the origin or creation of species, their past history, or geographical range of species in past time and their future development, persistence or extinction.

The Madeiras have a vegetation which is essentially European, but there are many introduced plants, palms, orange, banana, sugar cane, &c. But whilst the majority of the plants are identical with European plants, undistinguishable from them, a second class differ from European plants by slight but certain characters, as varieties we say; a third class are different specifically, but nearly allied, these are representative species; and a fourth are still allied to the European plants, but of different genera, these are representative genera. These form a graduated series, not only in systematic order in structure, but also in point of numbers; the plants identical with those of Europe are both the most numerous in species and the species are most numerous in individuals, then come the peculiar varieties, then the species, then the genera, which are last and least in number of all.