

CENTRAL BOARD OF  
AGRICULTURE

Committee Room, Legislative Library, }  
13th March, 1877, }

THE Board met at 3 o'clock, p. m.

Present—David Matheson, Esq., V. P., in the chair; Hon. Robert Robertson, Commissioner of Works and Mines; Israel Longworth, Esq., Truro; Colonel Starratt, Paradise; John Ross Esq., Boularderie; Professor Lawson, Secretary.

The Chairman stated that as Charles E. Brown, Esq., of Yarmouth, Member for District No. 3, had so recently been at the Board, when all the important matters likely to be brought up on this occasion were freely discussed, it was not thought advisable to urge his attendance again so soon.

After the minutes of the previous meeting were approved of, the Secretary read the following communication from D. B. Newcomb, Esq., who was present to give any further explanations. His letter was ordered to be printed:—

"GENTLEMEN,—On the twenty-first day of February last a memorial was laid before you, signed by A. McN. Patterson, C. C. Hamilton, M. D., and C. F. Eaton, touching the matter of the proceedings in King's county in reference to the Provincial Exhibition for 1877:—It was stated that at a certain meeting, held in the said county in October, a resolution passed requesting the Central Board of Agriculture to locate the Provincial Exhibition for 1877 in King's county; and that 'The Secretary, D. B. Newcomb, failed to forward the resolution at the time, for reasons best known to himself.'

"The memorial also states that at a 'further public meeting,' the resolution was re-affirmed; but it does not state that the requisition was duly forwarded by the Chairman and Secretary of the meeting, as was the case, according to the words of the resolution which read:

'Resolved, That a requisition be prepared and signed by the Chairman and Secretary of this meeting, asking the Board of Agriculture to locate the Provincial Exhibition for 1877 in this county.'

"In reply to the above statement, that I failed to forward the resolution, for reasons best known to myself, I beg leave to say that I consider the imputation was made in the memorial to prejudice the public mind against my proceedings in reference to the Exhibition, and that there was no just cause or reason for such an imputation, aspersing my motives; that I only awaited the pleasure of the Chairman of the meetings, the Hon. Samuel Chipman; and that he only awaited, I presume, the pleasure of the 'further-meeting'; and that, when the resolution was re-affirmed, the Chairman and myself prepared the requisition, signed it, and it was forwarded by Mr. Chipman, the Chairman of the meetings. And, further, that the Chairman had the greater responsibility in the matter, and could nor have had any 'reasons best known to himself' for not forwarding a requisition to the Central Board at an earlier date than was necessary.

"The statement referred to above having been received by your honorable Board, and published in the newspapers and in the Journal of Agriculture prejudicially to me, I deem it only just that my reply should be received and published just as extensively.

"Very respectfully submitted.

"D. B. NEWCOMB.

"King's County, 12th March 1877."

The Secretary likewise read a communication dated Berwick, March 12, 1877, expressing anxiety for the successful issue of the Provincial Exhibition, and suggesting the advisability of giving it this year to some other county, in order that the people of King's might have time to settle all their difficulties, and he fully prepared to carry out the Exhibition successfully in the autumn of 1878. The document is as follows:—

To the Honorable, the Central Board of Agriculture, to be convened in Halifax, March 13th, 1877:

GENTLEMEN,—

We, the undersigned inhabitants of Berwick, being interested in the industries and agricultural interests of this Province, and also being anxious for the successful issue of the Provincial Exhibition to be held in the autumn of 1877, would humbly submit for your consideration, some matters of interest to all concerned.

—You gave encouragement to the inhabitants of King's, by intimating to them your intention of aiding them in holding the Provincial Exhibition in the autumn of 1877. Prompted by a laudable ambition, we looked forward with pride to that event; but with regret we now feel compelled to state to you that circumstances have transpired in reference to the location of the site, and other matters relating to the appointment of the General Committee, &c., which have so engendered strife, as to make it but too apparent that the fatal blow has been struck to the successful issue of holding a Provincial Exhibition in King's County this present year.

We do not purpose entering into detail of the present difficulties and complaints which you have already had laid before you from other sections of the County; but this much we will say, that a strong feeling relative to some of the movements of the General Exhibition Committee relative to the fixing of the site pervades the public mind; and the fact that a number of the Committee still refuse to reconsider their doings, and obstinately refuse to rescind their former action as regards the site, does not lessen the feeling that exists. The conclusion that we have arrived at is that if the co-operation of the people is desired, that the wishes of at least a majority of them must be respected.

We do not wish to advise in the matter, but as we view the general aspect of affairs, unless a reconciliation should be effected, by a satisfactory settlement of the difficulties that now exist, we would deem it wise to give the Exhibition for the present year to some County prepared to run it, and thereby give King's County time to reconsider the steps they have taken, so that all difficulties may be cordially settled, and the County be

better prepared to hold the Exhibition in the autumn of 1878.

Respectfully submitted,

J. H. PARKER, C. P. ISLEY,  
DAVID CHIPMAN, H. O. JEFFERSON,  
WM. M. CONDON, F. A. CLARK,  
STEPHEN ISLEY, G. W. SANFORD,  
E. L. COLLINS, J. M. PARKER.

Berwick, March 12th, 1877.

Several Members of the Board remarked upon the document just read, that whilst, in view of the difficulties existing in King's, it might be desirable to accede to the request made, yet, if the Exhibition were not held in King's this year, several other counties would probably come forward in the meantime and press their claims, and the result might be that no Exhibition could be held in King's for several years to come.

The following gentlemen attended the meeting as delegates from the Exhibition Committee of King's County:—Messrs. C. F. Eaton, J. E. Starr, and Patterson; also Mr. R. W. Starr.

The following gentlemen attended as delegates from Wolfville, viz.: Messrs. Reuben F. Reid and Jas. S. Macdonald.

Mr. McDonald addressed the Board and read the following statement:—

Wolfville, N. S., March 12th, 1877

Gen. Inhabitants of  
County of Agriculture:

SIR,—Referring to the action of your Board at your last meeting, in requesting the Exhibition Committee of this County to reconsider their action relative to the selection of a site for the Provincial Exhibition; we beg to say that at a large public meeting we were duly appointed to meet the Exhibition Committee at Kentville on the 24th ult., with a view of arriving at a satisfactory understanding. The Exhibition Committee being in session named a sub-committee of five, one of whom was their Chairman, to confer with us. We took our stand on the ground that as the Exhibition Committee were sent back to reconsider their action, offers of compromise should properly come from them, with which we were prepared to deal in the most liberal manner. We were informed that the sub-committee had no power to do anything further than report any proposition we made to the general committee. After expressing our sense of the unfairness of our reception, we proposed to refer the question at issue to three gentlemen, mutually chosen outside of the county, which was also refused. We pressed for some proposition from the general committee which would indicate their desire to meet us on common ground, and expressed our belief that an understanding might be arrived at satisfactory to all parties, resulting in the success of the Provincial Exhibition of 1877. The chairman, speaking for himself and the committee, refused to make any overtures, and in the most animated manner declared that rather than reconsider their action in any particular or hold an Exhibition in any other place than Kentville, they would call a public meeting and resign. This ended the conference and we retired.

As the public meeting has not been called we may fairly assume that the chair-