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CONTENTS:

| | PAGE. |
|---|---------|
| EDITORIAL—Present condition of Agricultural Societies throughout the Province—A new Society at Pugwash River—Additional Nominations to Board of Agriculture—The Horton Farmers' Club—Annual Reports of District Societies—Liberality of the New Brunswick Legislature to the Agricultural interest..... | 721-723 |
| Grants to Agricultural Societies In Nova Scotia for 1871..... | 723 |
| Mr. Roberton's Paddocks..... | 723 |
| Additions to the Chase Herd of Short Horns..... | 724 |
| Constitution of the North Queen's Agri. Society..... | 724 |
| COMMUNICATIONS: | |
| Stock your Bee Pasture. By J. W. Hodson..... | 725 |

| | PAGE. |
|--|-------|
| ANNUAL REPORTS OF AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES: | |
| Sydney Agri. Society..... | 725 |
| Mabou and Port Hood Agri. Society..... | 726 |
| Sydney Mines and Little Bras d'Or Agri. Society..... | 726 |
| Morristown Agri. Society..... | 729 |
| St. Andrew's Agri. Society..... | 726 |
| Merigomish Agri. Society..... | 727 |
| Pictou Agri. Society..... | 727 |
| Sterling Agri. Society..... | 727 |
| West Cornwallis Agri. Society..... | 727 |
| Amherst Agri. Society..... | 728 |

Halifax, 20th February, 1872.

WHEN we consider the peculiar difficulties under which the Board of Agriculture has laboured during the past season, we must regard the present condition of the Agricultural Societies of the Province as highly satisfactory. There are now Societies actively at work in every County of the Province, except Richmond, and some steps have been taken towards filling up the blank there. Shelburne and Pictou have each six Societies. Colchester and King's have five each; Annapolis, Cape Breton, Cumberland, Digby, and Halifax, have each the original statutory number of four. Hants and Queen's have each three; in Antigonish, Victoria and Yarmouth there are two in each, and Guysborough, Inverness and Lunenburg have each one. The total number of active Societies is 57, and there are several

additional ones in course of formation. The total number of Members of the Societies, counting only those whose subscriptions have been attested as paid in proper time, is 3245. These three thousand two hundred and forty-five farmers have paid in to their respective Societies during the year annual subscriptions amounting to \$3672.80. In addition to that amount they have raised extra money for Exhibitions, for purchase of new seed and live stock, agricultural publications, &c. It would be a strange thing if an organization like this did not tell upon the welfare of the country, and we look forward to its increase in extent and importance as not unlikely to lead, in course of time, to practical results such as even the most sanguine do not at present anticipate.

In order, however, that the natural

development of this organization may go on, it will be necessary to provide, from time to time, the requisite legislation and the requisite funds to maintain it in a healthy condition. The list of grants to Societies, published in the present number, cannot fail to receive some attention from those who are interested in the "encouragement of Agriculture," for we fear that some of the Societies will consider their annual allowances this year as not extravagantly liberal. In Pictou County four of the Societies receive less than twenty dollars each, and in Colchester and King's the grants to several of the Societies are not much higher. Such piteances arise from the circumstance that the Legislative Grant is inadequate to meet the original intention that every Society should receive two dollars for every dollar subscribed. The arrangement