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REPORT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

Halifax. 3rd April, 1867.

SIR,—The Board of Agriculture beg to submit the Third Annual Report of their operations.

They have the satisfaction to state that whilst there is still much room for improvement, there now exists among the farmers of the Province a steadily increasing interest in the advancement of Agriculture. The various County and District Societies have displayed, during the past year, an unwonted amount of zeal and activity.

During the first year of its existence, the Board succeeded in organizing, in terms of the Act for Encouragement of Agriculture, 37 Societies, comprising 1744 members, whose collective subscriptions amounted to \$1859.00.

Last year the number of Societies had increased to 48, comprising 2198 members, and a sum total of annual subscriptions of \$2384.00.

From the detailed statement of the present condition of Agricultural Societies, appended to this report, it will be found that this year a still farther increase has taken place. The present number of recognized Societies in the Province is

52, the number of members has increased to 2543, and their united subscriptions to \$2800.50. There remain to be added, however, five or six additional Societies, with a membership of about 400, which are not included in the official list, and did not send in complete reports of their proceedings, as they were not entitled to participate in the Legislative Grant, which is restricted by the Act to four Societies in each County. It appears, then, that the actual number of existing Societies is 58, the number of members 3000, and the sum total of their annual subscriptions, as nearly as can be ascertained, \$3200.00. The total amount of grants-in-aid voted to Societies for the year is \$3566.00.

The funds of these Societies have been, with very few exceptions, judiciously expended during the past year in promoting better systems of culture and stock raising in their respective localities.—Some have expended their means in holding local exhibitions, others have had Ploughing Matches or given premiums for Tile Draining, Root Crops, Liming, Composting and other desirable improvements; whilst a number have combined with other objects the purchase of seed grain of improved varieties, root crops, flax, fruit trees, &c. Nearly all have

promoted the circulation among their members of various publications, embracing the more enlightened views now entertained respecting the Culture of the Soil and the Rearing and Feeding of Domestic Animals. But the energies of most of the Societies have been directed to one object, which has absorbed nearly the whole of their funds, viz.: the purchase of well-bred animals for the direct and immediate improvement of Stock. This prompt action on the part of Societies, in response to the appeals of the Board, is highly creditable, and shows that there exists a sincere desire for improvement and a general willingness among the members to apply their subscriptions and the grants they receive to their legitimate objects. From the facts that have been mentioned it will be obvious that the Agricultural Societies of the Province are increasing steadily in numbers and strength, are growing rapidly in zeal, and are making satisfactory advances in other respects, and especially that their energies are being directed more and more fully into paths which afford not a mere temporary show of success but which necessarily lead to permanent improvement.

Whilst the general principle of limiting the number of Societies in a County to four is approved of, yet certain practi-

cal difficulties have occurred in one or two Counties, which induce the Board to recommend that in cases where more than four Societies are organized in any County, the Board should be empowered, if deemed judicious, and on special application to recognize such additional Societies, and to apportion the County Grant among all the Societies of the County which they thus recognize.

The raising and feeding of Stock forms so important a feature in our husbandry, that the improvement of the Breeds of Cattle is entitled to a large share of attention from the Agricultural Board. This becomes more obvious when we consider that our Province has lagged behind other countries in this respect, that the great majority of our farmers have not had the opportunity of seeing pure Stock of the different breeds so as to become acquainted with their respective qualities, and that there is hardly a breeder of pure Stock, at least to any extent, to be found. Our farmers have hitherto depended upon occasional importations from other countries. If really good stock is to be raised a system must be established whereby a sufficient supply of well-bred male animals may be raised in the Province to supply the wants of our farmers, or else there must be regular annual importations from countries where there are breeders of pure stock. Considerations of this kind led the Board to recommend, in their last year's report, the establishment of a Government Stock Farm. The Legislature voted a sum of \$8000.00 for this purpose, and the Board proceeded at once to carry the scheme into effect. After ascertaining what Farms were for sale in various parts of the Province, the Board appointed a Committee to visit the most likely ones; and after much deliberation the Mass House Farm at Shubenacadie was selected. The title to the property had been examined and found good, and arrangements were accordingly made for completing the purchase. But, at the last moment, an unforeseen difficulty occurred, which prevented the proper execution of the Deed, and the Board found it necessary to relieve the seller of his bargain on his paying the expenses that had been incurred. This unlooked for result, occurring at the close of the season, caused much inconvenience and disturbed the arrangements of the Board. The Committee were directed to select another Farm, but have not yet made a definite selection.

The pressing wants of many of the Agricultural Societies, whose members were desirous of investing their funds in the purchase of Stock, induced the Board to make an importation from Canada of seven Short Horn Bulls, two Herefords, two Ayrshires, one Devon, and three Short Horn Heifers; eleven Cotswold Rams, eleven Leicesters, one Shropshire

Down, one Southdown, and five Ewes of the above breeds. These animals were selected by the Secretary of the Board partly on the grounds of the Provincial Exhibition at Toronto, and partly from the Herds and Flocks of some of the best known breeders in Western Canada: Miller, Beattie, Stone, Arkell, Douglas, Fawcett, Lawrie, Perdue, Bethel, Milne. The animals were brought down by Grand Trunk Railway and Steamboat from Portland to Halifax, and all reached their destination in safety. After due notice by advertisement and otherwise, they were exposed for sale by public auction at the Richmond Depot. They brought good prices, in several cases considerably more than was paid for them at Toronto, and seem to have given general satisfaction. They were pretty equally scattered over the Province, chiefly going to the Counties of Annapolis, Cape Breton, Colchester, Halifax, Hants, Inverness, King's, Lunenburg and Pictou.

At the sale of the Canadian Stock, the Board likewise disposed of most of the Horses so as to make them available for general use over the country, wherever their services might be required, and at the same time relieve the Board of the great expense of their maintenance. The whole of the Stock was sold under the usual restriction, that they were to be retained in the Province for breeding purposes. The Chestnut Horse "Lassitude" has been retained.

The Board has received from the Upper Canada Agricultural Association, a present of a few bushels of the Wheat which gained the first prize annually offered by the Canada Company. A quantity of genuine Fife Spring Wheat has likewise been obtained (48 bushels), and two barrels of the second prize Fall Wheat. The Board has also obtained from Canada 18 bushels of Peas well adapted for field culture, and a package of small field Beans. A quantity of English Horse Beans has been ordered, and is expected to arrive from Liverpool this month.

A few bushels of a very large-grained Naked Barley, of superior sample, were presented to the Board last spring by Sandford Fleming, Esq., C. E. It is the Naked Barley of Nepal. The grain was distributed to several farmers, in different parts of the country, but being very late in the season before it arrived, and the fall proving a very wet one, the results were not satisfactory in some cases. The crop formed a very strong straw, but rusted and did not fill well. In other cases a very fine crop was obtained, indicating that if sown in proper time the Nepal Barley will answer well in our climate, and probably form a fair substitute for wheat where that grain does not succeed.

The Riga Flax Seed imported by the Board last spring turned out well. Abraham Hebb, Esq., M.P.P., has sent to the Board a sample of beautiful fibre measuring three feet nine inches in length, raised from the imported seed. Accounts equally satisfactory have been received from other cultivators.

The several varieties of Goodrich's Seedling Potatoes, imported by the Board two years ago, have been raised in considerable quantities by many of our farmers, and are now spread pretty generally over the Province. The anticipations expressed respecting them, in a former Report of the Board, have been more than realized. The Pictou Society reports that: "the samples of Potatoes have given very good returns during the past season, both in quality and quantity," and that "they promise to be a valuable addition to the varieties already in cultivation of that important esculent." H. Davenport, Esq., Sydney, reports that: "the Goodrich Seedlings yielded enormously." The Maxwelton Society reports as follows: "The Society's Secretary informed us that he had received 15 bushels of the Goodrich Potatoes, sent to him by the member of the Central Board in Pictou, which were divided among five members of the Society, in quantities of 3 bushels each; they report as follows, viz., that each 3 bushels produced on an average 45 bushels, and very few affected with rot, being more productive and less affected by rot than other varieties planted in the same fields at the same time, and under the same circumstances." The St. Ann's Society reports that the average yield (Gleason's) was "at the rate of 30 bushels to the bushel," and that "the Board has conferred a boon upon the country by the introduction of such a valuable article." Many similar reports have been received.

The *Journal of Agriculture* has been issued monthly during the year. A large portion of its space has been occupied by the reports of Societies, official notices, pedigrees of Stock and current agricultural news. Several valuable articles on Dairy Management and Manufactures, Improvement of Live Stock, and other subjects, have been contributed by Members of the House of Assembly, of whom may be named George Whitman, Esq., Francis R. Parker, Esq., and H. A. N. Kaulback, Esq.; and a large number of farmers throughout the Province, have, by their communications, frequently anonymous, increased the interest of the publication. John Northup, Esq., of Bel Air, prepared an article on the cultivation of Mangel Wruzel, the Orange Globe variety of which he had raised very successfully from seeds imported by General Doyle. Alfred Thomas, Esq., of Windsor, called attention to the importance of early spring Grasses for pasturage. Dr

Bingay, of Granville, has given instructions for the home manufacture of Superphosphate of Lime, and has written likewise on Sugar Beet, Belgian Carrot and Orchard Grass. Henry E. Decie, Esq., Belle Isle, has described his successful method of field cultivation of Cabbages, and has given valuable hints on feeding pigs and other animals. Benjamin Zwicker, Esq., Mahone Bay, has described some forms of cattle disease; Mr. Johnston, of Ellershouse, has given very full instructions for the raising of Strawberries by the most improved methods now employed in English gardens; Duncan Campbell, Esq., of the Emigration Department, has called attention to the agricultural capabilities of Cape Breton, and the eastern part of the Province; and, in a recent number, an important communication from J. B. Young, Esq., C. E., containing full details of the merits and mode of working of the Dry Earth Closet System has been published. There have likewise appeared during the year several articles on Agricultural Chemistry, Botany and Physiology, the Blights and Diseases of Farm Plants, the Constitution of Milk and Dairy Products, Use of Bones in renovating the soil, and other subjects, some of which have been largely quoted in the English and American Agricultural papers.

The subject of a Bone Mill was referred to in last year's report. The difficulties that our farmers have hitherto experienced in obtaining crushed bones, superphosphate, guanos, and other powerful manures, have greatly retarded agricultural improvement. In the case of upland farms that have become run out by continued cropping, which have thus become completely exhausted of their phosphates, it is practically impossible to recover their fertility without the aid of some such materials, whilst even in the richest soils bone manures give a powerful stimulus. The Board have, therefore, been desirous of encouraging the production of such manures, but have found it difficult to induce capitalists to embark in the undertaking. They are now, however, in a position to state that the necessary preparations are being made for the immediate erection of a Bone Mill at the Three Mile House, convenient to the city and railway, that the waste bones of the city are now being collected, and that they will be ready for sale to the farmers, in a manufactured state, in time for sowing this season.

The holding of Provincial Agricultural Exhibitions is one of the objects contemplated by the Act for Encouragement of Agriculture. The attention of the Agricultural Committee of the House was called to this subject by special resolution of the Board last session, and the autumn of 1866 was approved of by the Legisla-

ture as the time fixed for the first Exhibition.

The Board felt very strongly that a well understood system of Exhibitions, in which the whole farmers of the Province could take part, and which they could all look forward to, and prepare for, at stated intervals, was imperatively required for the proper development of our agricultural resources. We see that, in other countries, great benefits arise, interest is excited, information diffused, and a stimulus given to exertion. Whilst the rapid advancement of agriculture in Britain, Canada, and the United States, is to be attributed to a variety of means employed, the most potent of these has undoubtedly been the systems of Agricultural Exhibitions that form so conspicuous a feature in each of those countries. In Nova Scotia the same beneficial results must follow. Better systems of culture, better crops, better breeds of animals, better fed stock, better implements,—in short, better farmers, are to be obtained by bringing the farmers together, so that they may compare products and stock, and discover for themselves the manifold ways in which improvement may be effected. It is the desire of the Board that not only the farmers of the whole Province, but the whole people as well, shall interest themselves in these Exhibitions. A committee is now at work making preliminary arrangements, with the view of directing public attention to the subject, in a prominent manner, on an early day.

The Board beg to submit herewith the Treasurer's Accounts for the past year, and relative vouchers, together with the Finance Committee's Report thereon. From these documents it will be observed that the balance in the Treasurer's hands at the 15th March, 1866, amounted to \$5183.38, and that the balance at present in hand, exclusive of grant for Stock Farm, amounts to \$4858.64.

A tabular synopsis of returns of the crops in the several counties of the Province, during the season of 1866, is submitted herewith, to which is appended a statement of the progress and peculiarities of the season, and the way in which the weather affected the various crops. The peculiar character of the season, both in Spring and Harvest time, gave our farmers much anxiety and extra labour, but the returns were, upon the whole, satisfactory.

By direction of the Board of Agriculture,

ALEX'R. MACFARLANE,  
President

GEORGE LAWSON,  
Secretary.

To the Hon. Charles Tupper, M.D.,  
Provincial Secretary.

## THE DEBATE ON AGRICULTURE IN THE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,  
Friday, April 5, 1867.

Hon. Mr. McFARLANE asked leave to lay on the table of the House the Annual Report of the Board of Agriculture, and in doing so, stated that he was able to say that the department was working most satisfactorily. A very large amount of benefit had been derived from its establishment. It was well known to every one that a very large proportion of the population of this country was interested in agricultural pursuits. The subject of agriculture attracted the attention of "Agricola" many years ago, and through the influence of his writings agricultural societies were established. In the course of time, however, the interest of the people dwindled, and but few societies existed when the present Board was established a few years ago. At present there were 58 societies in Nova Scotia—in fact, they had increased in all the counties. These societies were composed of 3000 members, and had contributed \$3200 in 1866. These funds were devoted to various purposes connected with the promotion of this branch of industry. The Board had used the sums granted to them for the improvement of stock. For many years the stock of this country had been steadily deteriorating. The stock imported by the Board had been scattered over all parts of the province. Everywhere was the greatest interest taken in procuring new stock. At the recent sale held in the autumn, the stock was competed for by the counties of Cape Breton, where, it was believed, agriculture had not arrived at such perfection as to require such fine breeds of cattle. These counties, however, largely competed and carried away some of the best animals from those counties which had always given a great deal of time and attention to stock. The Board had endeavored, for the first time, to get something like a statement of crops—what crops best flourish in particular localities—what was the description of stock to which the counties appeared best adapted. The Board had chosen a Stock Farm at Shubenacadie, but unfortunately, owing to some defects in the title, they were obliged to give it up, and so far they had been unable to find a place that would answer their purposes equally well. The funds, however, devoted to that purpose were deposited, and ready for use when required. The gratifying fact had also been exhibited, that very large prices were willingly paid by the people of the various counties for the stock imported. This fact shewed the great and growing interest taken in the agriculture of the country.

## THE GOVERNMENT HORSES.

Mr. McDONNELL referred to the mode in which the horses had been distributed throughout the Province. It was the intention, he presumed, that the various sections into which the Province was divided should have the benefit of the services of those animals during the season. Inverness, however, among others, had not enjoyed their services, though it is one of the finest agricultural counties, and is particularly noteworthy for its excellent horses. Richmond, also, was overlooked. Now he had ascertained that the horses had been sold, and the Province deprived of their services.

Hon. Mr. McFARLANE replied that it was found that these horses were very expensive to keep, and three of them were therefore sold and one kept. The persons to whom they were sold had to give bonds that the animals would not be sent out of the Province.

## REPRESENTATION OF RURAL DISTRICTS AT THE BOARD.

Mr. McDONNELL pointed out what he considered defects in the present law. For two years Inverness and Richmond had not had any representation at the Board. As the law now stood, any two counties combined together, could keep the members within themselves, and exclude any section from having a representation at the Board. He would recommend that it should be made imperative that each section should have a representative at the Board.

Hon. Mr. McFARLANE said that the desire was to make the Board as popular as possible, and the appointment of representatives had been left with the Agricultural Societies. They had four societies in Inverness. Three of them never recommended any body. Two of these three voted for Mr. Davenport, who did not live in the county, while the fourth did not vote at all.

Mr. McDONNELL said that was the reason why the law should make it imperative on each section to have a representative at the Board, independent of the action of any societies.

## THE STOCK IMPORTATIONS.

Mr. KAULBACK said that the horses had been very judiciously distributed over the country. As there has been no stock farm, it was thought advisable to dispose of the horses under certain conditions.

Mr. ROSS said that he had been appointed by a majority of the societies, and had always done his best to promote the prosperity of such associations. He would, however, go out in the course of next year. Mr. Davenport, a gentleman who took a great interest in agriculture, had been appointed from Cape Breton.

Mr. PARKER said that it had been a mistake to put too high a price on the

horses during the season. He was gratified at the readiness with which the people, interested in farming, had come forward and bid for the other stock. The stock brought here realized exceedingly satisfactory prices. Hereafter it would be received at much less expense, as the means of conveying it would be more satisfactory, for we would soon have speedy communication by steamers and eventually by rail with Canada. Each county should have its representative at the Board, and he knew that many societies were very negligent in making any recommendations. It would be wise for the Secretary to make a notice of those societies that had recommended no one. He considered that the importations of stock had been exceedingly satisfactory. He thought it, however, injudicious to have disposed of the horses, and deprived the country of their services. If we had a larger stock of horses, it would have done a great deal of good.

Hon. ATTY. GEN. said that the horses cost a great deal, and thought they had been disposed of at rates that were hardly a justification for the course pursued. He was of the opinion that these horses could have been kept at Shubenacadie or Truro, for a small sum, and the Province during the forthcoming year would not have been deprived of their services. If we expected to have anything of an improved breed, the horses should have been kept together by the Government or else by some capitalist. If no capitalist was ready to engage in the enterprise, then it was the duty of the Board to do so. He believed we had the nucleus of a fine breed of horses in this country, and therefore regretted that the Board should have felt it at all necessary to have disposed of the animals.

## IMPORTANCE OF ENCOURAGING THE GROWTH OF WHEAT.

Mr. S. CAMPBELL said that the people of this Province were now paying a very large sum for the staff of life, and urged that more pains should be taken to encourage the growth of wheat. He had now in use in his own house as fine flour as could be procured in Halifax, and it was made of wheat grown on a piece of land belonging to himself. Attention ought also be paid to under-draining, so invaluable to agriculture.

Mr. CHURCHILL said that he fully agreed with the remarks of the hon. members who had preceded him, for he had learned with much regret that the horses had been disposed of. No doubt these horses would find their way, in course of time, to the United States, where they would bring the best prices. He was inclined to believe that the farmers of this Province did not pay that attention to the true principles of agriculture that they ought to do. In the

article of ploughs, for instance, there was great room for improvement.

Dr. HAMILTON alluded to the difficulties that had arisen in connection with the purchase of the farm. The horses, he explained, had been found too great a source of expense: they had, however, been sold under certain restrictions, and were now just as available as if in possession of the Board. He stated that the insect which had hitherto prevented the satisfactory growth of wheat was now disappearing, and our farmers would no doubt be soon enabled to return to that crop.

Mr. McDONNELL said that the Government ought to be just as well able to keep the horses as private individuals.

Mr. D. FRASER expressed his satisfaction with the quality of the stock that had been imported. He believed if good wheat was imported at cheap rates, it would be a great advantage to the farmers.

Mr. HERR alluded to his experience in wheat growing—especially to the satisfactory results that accrued from the sowing of Russian wheat. He believed that money might be advantageously expended for the importation of a similar description of wheat.

## Communications.

## ALSYKE.

OR PERENNIAL HYBRID CLOVER, TRIFOLIUM HYBRIDUM,  
*the great desideratum for Land which has become "Clover Sick."*

To the Editor of the Journal of Agriculture of Nova Scotia.—Aliske Clover is indigenous to Sweden, where it has been cultivated for the last hundred years; it grows to the height of five feet, the root is fibrous and the heads globular. The plant bears a greater resemblance to the White (Trifolium repens) than to the Red Clover (Trifolium pratense perenne), and, although its stems are recumbent, they do not root into the soil like those of the White Clover; it has flesh colored flowers. It has been found growing on poor bare obdurate clays in the Morea, where no other plants could be made to vegetate, and yet flourishing with an uncommon degree of luxuriance under such unfavorable circumstances. Sturm tried its cultivation in Holland along with a great number of other clovers, and the result convinced him that there was no other clover equal to it for the purposes of cattle feeding. The Red Clover (in Great Britain) will only last in perfection for two years and often, if the soil be cold and moist, half the plants will rot, while the Alsyke when once established, will remain for a great many years in full

vigour, producing annually a great quantity of herbage of excellent quality.

The Alsike will not suffer from the severest frosts, and will flourish on the most barren soil where few grasses will grow at all, producing a heavy crop of seed, and affording an abundance of nutritious herbage for horses, oxen and sheep; and where land has become "clover sick" and cannot be depended on for a crop of the ordinary sorts of clover this has never been known to fail.

The best way of disposing of the crop of Alsike, is either cutting it for hay, mowing it occasionally as green food, or feeding it down with sheep; in the latter case it may be turned on sooner than any other crop, and if eaten quite bare, the next crop will come sooner, than any other species of clover so treated, and will afford a good bite until the land be required for autumn ploughing, when a heavier crop of wheat is invariably produced after Alsike than any other clover.

If mown for hay it should be cut as most of the heads are in full bloom, and before they begin to die away, for if allowed to stand until the bottom leaves turn yellow, it will lose more at the bottom than it gains at the top.

The weight of seed required to be sown is about 12 pounds per English acre.—The hardy nature of the plant is proved by the fact of its thriving by transplantation, it will admit of being taken up, at the expiration of two or three years and planted in any other situation. The plant when taken up is merely divided by any sharp instrument and planted over at equal distances so that the farmer need never be at a loss for a clover crop.

A. SAUNDERS, *Seedsman.*

168 Argyle Street, HALIFAX.  
April, 1867.

## WHAT IS OUR DUTY TO THE FARMER?

SECOND LETTER.

*To Professor Lawson, Editor of the Agricultural Journal.*

DEAR SIR:—With your permission, I will resume the subject of "What is our duty to the Farmer?" The force of this question is in the application. I have said "to the farmer," and I do not mean to the grazier; the latter delights in salt marsh and in fresh water marsh. The one he calls dyked marsh, and the other brackish intervale, after suffering manipulation; both of which moderate skill and care will keep in good condition for an indefinite period. He is the gentleman farmer (if I may so speak) of Nova Scotia. He has the best land, and he knows its value. He is master of the situation; and with his natural magazines of salt mud and bog mud, and in some instances

marl, and in others certain banks, from which he can draw some powerful stimulants, he affects an indifference for agricultural chemistry, and its silicates—its phosphates and its super-phosphates—its sulphates—its carbonates and its ammonia, &c. &c. But my business at present is not with him, and I will leave him firmly planted in his alluvial soil, until science approaches him on his weak side, as we shall see. But to proceed: My sympathies are principally with another—with a different individual, who, with a light heart and a sharp axe, penetrates into the forest, destroying all before him. In this desolating business he is accompanied and assisted by specimens of oxen, to which I shall again refer, and deer-like, hairy woolled sheep, to which a five feet fence is no obstacle in the way of their desire to ramble in unlimited space. This, or these, if I may include them in the same category, are our pioneer upland farmers—these hardy, useful, and, I may say, heroic men, and their no less hardy animals, though nominally more denizens of the forest than of the farm, for the one lumbering and the other browsing chiefly for an existence, from the stern necessity of their condition carry with them the inevitable result of leaving exhausted land where they found a primitive forest. To the farmer there is no mystery in the process that produces this result. I write neither to censure nor to instruct farmers; but I trust there are competent and zealous parties in the field, whose desire is not to blame the disease, but to endeavor to apply the cure—not at once, with a sweeping flourish of theory, but gradually, and by degrees, with the material aid. And first, that which lies neglected in our streets; and, as great results from small beginnings rise, afterwards with more complicated but not less well understood compounds, which science has matured and experience has proved. There is more in this than meets the eye. Our forests are disappearing, and what then?

With your permission, Mr. Editor, I propose to make out a case for the upland farmer—to establish his claim to our respect for his energy, our sympathy with him in his hardships, and our interest in his necessities. I propose to shew that, of necessity, there are thousands of acres of exhausted upland crying aloud against the wholesale plunder that has reduced it to the verge of starvation; and this is going on while fourte. a thousand dollars worth of bones—one great source of its vitality—are recklessly wasted in our streets, or, which is, in effect, the same, sent from our shores to pamper more fertile lands. This cry, mute appeal for help, cannot be choked down, and all good citizens are requested to remember that "one who causes two blades of grass or two ears of corn to grow where but

one has grown before, is a benefactor to his country." They are also reminded that they can make good their claim to this proud title, by attending to the advertisements in *Chronicle*, *Express*, and *Agricultural Journal*, and by taking especial care of their bones.

Yours, respectfully,  
SUPER-PHOSPHATE.

## THE LABOUR DIFFICULTY, AND THE REMEDY.

*To the Editor of Journal of Agriculture.*

SIR,—I observed in reading the Journal, a short note on the labour difficulty in England and Nova Scotia, and as some of the Agricultural Societies take the liberty of offering suggestions to the Central Board of Agriculture, I would take the liberty of offering the following suggestions, if such be allowable. While it must be admitted by all, that the Central Board of Agriculture has done much for the improvement of live-stock in the Province, and the general improvement of Agriculture, there is yet a great deal to be done in order to remedy the "labour difficulty" in this Province.

I need scarcely mention that mining operations and increased public works have put the price of labour altogether too large for the farmers' obtaining it, and our farms in general are altogether too large for the farmer's family to work themselves, and in too many instances our young men leave their homes to work at the gold diggings or elsewhere, where they may obtain more remunerative employment and ready cash than they can make by farming, consequently much less must be done and that in a worse condition, as our late springs require great expedition when the period for cropping arrives.

If the Central Board of Agriculture would introduce improved field grubbers to this Province, I have no doubt it would give a greater stimulus to Agriculture than anything else they could do at present. In England where labour is comparatively low to what it is here, farmers could not get through with their spring work at all without the use of field grubbers. By their use one man or boy with a good team can do as much work in preparing the soil for grain crops in one day as two or three men could do in three days by the use of the common plough besides the work would be done in a far superior manner.

Let it not be understood that I hold the grubber as a superior implement to the plough. In its proper place and for general use the plough supersedes every other implement, and it is much to be regretted that we have not an opportunity of getting the plough castings of a most improved description from the Mother country. The importation of plough



metals is left solely to the choice of the hardware merchants of Halifax, whose sole object is profit and not improvement in that very valuable implement—the plough. I have already stated that by the use of a grubber the work could be done much speedier and better. This is from the fact that it will take a three feet width at once, whereas a plough turns only eight or nine inches, and by its sole-plate running along the bottom of the furrow, leaves a hard polished surface on which the horses walk, which is very injurious to the soil, whereas the grubber's long teeth penetrate below this hard pan or surface and thereby give free access to air, moisture, or the roots of the plants, which is of the greatest importance to the growing plants. Our farmers in general are very willing to take hold of any improvement in agricultural implements if it can be introduced to them. The mowing machine and hay-rake have got into common use among us and no farmer will do without them where they are at all available. And I have no doubt but if your Central Board would only introduce the field and drill grubber they would be anxiously sought after by our Agricultural community in general as they would prove more useful in their own place than the mowing machine and hay-rake do in theirs.

Yours respectfully,  
JAMES GRAHAM.

ON THE CAUSE OF ROT IN GRAPES,  
POTATOES AND OTHER VEGETABLES.

PITTSBURG, PA., U. S.

To the Editor of Nova Scotia Journal of Agriculture.

SIR—Seeing in the New York weekly *Herald* part of an article on Diseases of Plants, copied from your Journal—I take the liberty of forwarding to you (as enclosed) my views of vegetable blights.

It is undoubtedly true that plants containing most nitrogen are most severely injured by blight, (as the horse bean or Windsor bean) and that the nitrogenous parts of plants show the injury more plainly than the non-nitrogenous parts.

The grape rot appears first in July, when the Catawba grape is nearly half of its full size. It shows itself by a little speck on the skin and a discolored appearance of the pulp underneath, usually on the exposed shoulder or side, and rarely on the underside. The part discolored has ceased to grow, and communicates its disease to the neighbouring parts, until the whole berry is affected, then dries up to a brown dead matter, which is sometimes blown or rubbed off, and at other times remains attached to the stem until gathering time. It is first noticed after thunder storms, and after and during wet, sultry weather. Whatever grapes escape

being attacked in July, if dry weather prevails afterwards, are not affected. The same wet, sultry weather will produce rot up to the time of gathering.

In October, 1865, when the Concord grape was fully ripe, and during the days of gathering, this weather produced rot; but seeing that the berry was full of juice, the rot showed itself by the breaking of the skin and fermentation of the juice.—Every part of the country where wet sultry weather prevails is affected by rot, in wet seasons destroying from half to nine-tenths of the crop; in all seasons destroying some. In dry, favorable seasons it has been noticed that some particular soils and situations are less affected than others. Tough, clayey and marly soils that are very retentive of moisture are most liable. Soils that are sandy or porous, are less liable. It might be thought that the limestone soils of northern Ohio would be sufficiently dry and porous to escape rot; but in fact limestones do absorb and retain moisture, and although the surface where exposed to the atmosphere in a current of air does dry rapidly, yet the interior surfaces in the interstices of the layers of stone are covered with moisture, and wherever clay intervenes it becomes a soil of the most retentive character. Sandy soils are unfit for raising wine grapes; thus it appears that all our wine soils are subject to producing rot. Those soils that are best adapted by their character to produce the highest development of the good qualities of the grape are most liable to rot.

With regard to situation it has been said (vide Cincinnati, 1848, report Horticultural Committee), that the cause of the rot in grapes was their location being in confined situations, not fully exposed to the air, and their proximity to orchards and woods. This is incorrect; vines running on trees escape rot; vines nearest the forest and orchard trees partially escape rot; vineyards that have never been hoed and so are full of weeds escape the full extreme of rot. So the most unfavorable situations for developing the qualities of the grape are the situations for escaping rot, and a premium is offered for careless cultivation and neglect. To sum up, the best soils produce rot and the most favorable situations produce rot, the worst soils are least subject to rot, and the most unfavorable situations are least liable to rot, and thence conclude, with this anomaly in nature, that its highest grade of produce is most injured by its most favorable provisions.

It has been remarked by some that the very cold nights and mornings that sometimes follow sultry weather, ending in rain, might produce and does produce frost and causes rot. This is incorrect, and need not be taken into consideration. It is worth while, however, to refute the proposition of some, that the sudden

check of growth attending this sudden change of high to low temperature produces rot, by remarking that the cold is never so severe as to stop the circulation of the sap, and so could not cause the death of any part of the plant or berry. A wet summer and our usual sun, then produce rot, and here again we must conclude with another anomaly in nature, that her most fruitful season is each most inimical to the grape crop. Shall we rest here, finding out that as the *New York Tribune's* Agricultural Report for August, 1866, says, "We are fighting against nature trying to raise grapes in Ohio;" give up the culture of the grape as under a curse, or vindicate nature and show that as wine, earth's highest product, may be made a curse by excess of its use, so this apparent curse of richest soil, best situations and most favorable season is a blessing when properly taken advantage of.

In God's province all of his gifts are good for man; the soil does its best, according to its capability furnishing solid food, the water does its best, serving as a diluent or disintegrant; the air does its best, acting as a digestant, and the sun does its best, settling all into activity, nourishing, warming, cherishing; no one of these does injury but only good; and shall they all when working at their highest product rest in evil? It cannot be—it can only be man's inability to take advantage of God's blessing. In an attempt to reason let us begin by saying that there must be no excess; if we give all soil, all water, or all air, or all sun, we shall have no product; or if we give an excess of any of these the result is injurious. Now we cannot give an excess of earth, we can prevent an excess of water, we cannot control excess of air, nor can we control an excess of sun. Can it then be water in excess? A faithful lover of nature who believes in God's goodness in all his works, in spite of whatever appearance, brought on this whole investigation by remarking that 'water never hurt anything' and this essay is in vindication of this remark. Nature, like a true lover, discloses to her beloved all her secrets.

It is not water in excess, inasmuch as this would show itself in marshy, swampy, undrained land, where the vine would not live, and does not exist in our vineyards. Neither is the rot caused by the deficiency, as in the only matter we can control, namely, water. A season deficient in water always produces a crop of grapes free from rot, a dry season making a rich wine but not a large quantity. Here let it be remarked that a dry summer is always a hot one. Again we come to a negative conclusion, and as the rot is neither caused by excess or deficiency, let us look elsewhere. It is not caused by insects or birds. It is not caused from within by disease of the plant in roots or

branches, otherwise all the branches or berries would be affected, and not (as is the case) individual berries on some of the branches. Then it is caused by some external influence; and, if external, it must be mechanical—an effect.

In its manner of action it is shown to be local, a blow or wound received—more or less minute causing death to the part receiving it, and spreading its decomposition into the parts surrounding. What is there in nature that gives blows causing death? Lightning does. Lightning is an effect, and therefore mechanical. It is prevalent in summer and not in winter. It always takes place during close, damp, sultry weather, which it clears in showers of rain. It will be necessary to explain in what manner lightning gives this deadly stroke.

JOHN F. BENNETT.

[The remainder of our correspondent's letter, or, as much of it as we can find room for will be given in next month's number.—Ed.]

Miscellaneous.

EASTER BEEVES

Mr. John Caldwell of Jacob Street has just purchased from Mr. John Allison Jr. of Newport, who is already celebrated for fattening cattle, a pair of beeves for Easter which fully sustain his reputation. It is calculated that when dressed they will weigh some 26 cwt each.—*Citizen*.

There were on exhibition in the area of the City Market House on 16th April, twelve very large and fat oxen, which had been brought from Cornwallis. They were purchased by Mr. Thomas Casey, Mr. Parker, Mr. Thompson Woodill, and Mr. Nelligan. The large price of \$308 was paid for one pair of these really fine cattle. Now is the time to look out for a cut of Easter beef.—*Colonist*.

We had the pleasure of seeing the animals referred to in the above paragraphs, and were much pleased with them. Mr. Allison's two oxen were especially fine and unmistakably showed the two essential requisites of fattening,—breed and feed.

PROVINCIAL AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.

Our readers are aware that it has been in contemplation for some time to hold a General Provincial Exhibition in Halifax. The House of Assembly last year fixed the time of such Exhibition for the season of 1868, and the Board of Agriculture has taken preliminary steps with a view

to have the Resolutions of the Legislature carried out with effect.

The citizens of Halifax are likewise moving in the matter, and are not likely to fail in doing their part. The Requisition which follows was presented to His Worship the Mayor, on 10th April, requesting a meeting of the citizens:—

TO HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR OF HALIFAX.  
Halifax, 12th April, 1867.

SIR,—We beg to request that you will call a Public Meeting of the Citizens, to be held at an early day, for the purpose of considering the propriety of holding a PROVINCIAL INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION, in the city next year, and of initiating such arrangements as may be necessary for carrying the project into effect.

We have the honor to be your Worship's most obedient servants,

- |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| W. B. Bliss,         | James A. Moren,      |
| J. M. Wilkins,       | P. C. Hill,          |
| A. M. Uniacke,       | William Hare,        |
| J. W. Ritchie,       | G. C. Harvey,        |
| J. Forman,           | A. Mackinlay,        |
| Henry Pryor,         | S. A. White,         |
| John Tobin,          | Sandford Fleming,    |
| S. L. Shannon,       | Brenton H. Collins,  |
| P. Lynch,            | John McCulloch,      |
| James Cochran,       | John D. Nash,        |
| B. Wier,             | John Stairs,         |
| Hugh Hartshorne,     | John Northup,        |
| Stephen Tobin,       | D. Henry Starr,      |
| A. G. Jones,         | Nepean Clarke,       |
| Duffus & Co,         | A. K. Mackinlay,     |
| Wm. J. Stairs,       | J. B. Young,         |
| Wm. M. Allan,        | George E. Morton,    |
| W. B. Campbell,      | D. Falconer,         |
| Wm. Amund,           | Edward Kenney,       |
| Henry Baleam,        | W. B. Fairbanks,     |
| S. Tupper, Jr.,      | Peter Ross,          |
| Edward Leahy,        | W. M. Richardson,    |
| J. H. Anderson,      | John Doull,          |
| W. & C. Silver,      | Thomas Wesley,       |
| G. H. Starr,         | McEwan & Co.,        |
| Joseph Kaye,         | Gordon & Keith,      |
| Dr. Avery,           | Wm. Fraser & Sons,   |
| Edward McDonald,     | Robert A. Brehm,     |
| Charles Starr,       | J. Reeves,           |
| J. R. Willis,        | J. Parker, Jr.,      |
| Wm. Gossip,          | Wm. Compton,         |
| W. Whytal & Co.,     | John T. Compton,     |
| John C. Whytal,      | John Pugh,           |
| P. Power,            | R. & J. Wetmore,     |
| John G. Cabot,       | Henry Wisdom,        |
| George Blauklock,    | J. Hunter Duvar,     |
| Henry Peters,        | P. S. Hamilton,      |
| James Stanford,      | J. M. Geldert,       |
| J. J. Sawyer,        | E. W. Chipman,       |
| Wm. T. Townsend,     | D. Blackwood,        |
| C. D. Hunter,        | Bell & Anderson,     |
| Fraser, Paint & Co., | Jeremiah Northup,    |
| Alex. Stephen,       | J. Henry Sutherland, |
| S. J. Payzant,       | Wm. Dumar,           |
| B. G. Gray,          | Jeremiah Conway,     |
| Geo. A. Sanford,     | Wm. Finlay,          |
| Robert Davis,        | David Sterling,      |

And others.

MAYOR'S OFFICE,

Halifax, N. S., April 15th, 1867.

Pursuant to the above Requisition, I hereby give notice, that a Public Meeting, for the purpose therein mentioned, will be held in TEMPERANCE HALL, on THURSDAY NEXT, the 18th inst., at 3 o'clock. p. m. M. H. RICHEY, Mayor

The meeting was attended by about 150 of the most influential merchants, mechanics and professional men of Halifax; but, as the stormy state of the weather and the occurrence of the funerals of two highly respected citizens at the same hour, prevented many others attending, it was judged advisable to call another meeting, so that all might have an opportunity of taking part in the proceedings.

The adjourned meeting was accordingly held in Temperance Hall on Wednesday evening, 24th April. It was very largely and respectfully attended.

His Excellency the LIEUT.-GOVERNOR presided on the occasion.

Addresses were delivered by His Excellency, by his Worship the Mayor, the Hon. Alex. McFarlane, President of the Agricultural Board, A. M. Uniacke, Esq., Alderman McCulloch, P. C. Hill, Esq., the Rev. Dr. Forrester, Principal of the Provincial Normal School, Peter Lynch, Esq., Alderman Nash, Jos. J. Northup, Esq., Andw. McKinlay, Esq., and others. The various speakers urged strongly the necessity of holding a Provincial Exhibition, which besides being an exponent of the condition of our Industry, would exercise a highly beneficial effect upon our people, by stimulating them to improvement in the various arts and manufactures, and affording information of a kind that could not be brought home to them by any other means. We hope on a future occasion to find room for a detailed report of some of the speeches.

The following are the Resolutions, which, on being separately put to the meeting, were unanimously adopted:—

Moved by A. M. Uniacke, Esq., seconded by J. McCulloch, Esq., and resolved—

1. That whereas much benefit has been experienced, and a great stimulus given to industry, by the holding of Exhibitions of Industrial Products and Manufactures; and whereas it has been announced by the Board of Agriculture that it is intended to hold a General Provincial Exhibition in or near the City of Halifax in the autumn of 1868, in accordance with a provision in the Agricultural Act: *Therefore resolved*,—That this meeting of citizens cordially approve of the proposal, and hereby tender to the Board such co-operation as it may be in their power to give.

Moved by P. C. Hill, Esq., seconded by the Rev. Dr. Forrester:

2. *Resolved*,—That a Committee be appointed to adopt such measures as may be deemed requisite to assist the Board of Agriculture in successfully carrying out such Exhibition.

Moved by Peter Lynch, Esq., seconded by A. McKinlay, Esq.:

3. *Resolved*,—That the following gentlemen constitute the Committee, with power to add to their number:—

- |                         |                |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Hon. The Chief Justice, | Chairman.      |
| His Worship the Mayor,  | Vice Chairman. |
| Andw. McKinlay, Esq.,   | do.            |
| A. M. Uniacke, Esq.,    | do.            |



Peter Lynch, Esq.  
Hon. Prov. Secretary,  
Alfred Jones, Esq.  
P. Power, Esq.  
John Doull, Esq.  
Hon. W. A. Henry,  
J. M. Watson, Esq.  
J. M. Jones, Esq.  
Andw Downs, Esq.  
George Yates, Esq.  
John Tobin, Esq.  
Wm. Gossip, Esq.  
John McCulloch, Esq.  
Captain L'Estrange,  
S. R. Caldwell, Esq.  
Captain Clearnley,  
J. Johnston, Esq.  
Dr. Parker,  
Jos. Jennings, Esq.  
W. T. Townsend, Esq.  
Prof. How,  
A. McDonald, Esq.  
Sandford Fleming, Esq.  
Geo. Esson, sr., Esq.  
J. R. Graham, Esq.  
John Naylor, Esq.  
P. C. Hill, Esq.  
Stephen Tobin, Esq.

Geo. Sandford, Esq.,  
Hon. J. H. Anderson,  
Hon. J. McCully,  
Hon. Sol. General,  
W. Dodge, Esq.,  
Hon. S. L. Shannon,  
W. S. Symonds, Esq.  
Geo. Buist, Esq.,  
John Starr, Esq.,  
Alex. Robinson, Esq.,  
Thos. Leahy, Esq.,  
Jas. Hunter, Esq.,  
Joseph Kaye, Esq.,  
Julius Cornelius, Esq.,  
W. B. Hamilton, Esq.,  
Dr. Gilpin,  
Mr. Hutton,  
Wm. Finlay, Esq.,  
David Stirling, Esq.,  
J. D. Nash, Esq.,  
Jas. Stanford, Esq.,  
W. Montgomery, Esq.,  
R. H. Wetmore, Esq.,  
J. H. Duvar, Esq.,  
G. Smithers, Esq.,  
Edward Longard, Esq.,  
George Bowes, Esq.

A meeting of the General Committee was held on Tuesday, 30th April—the Hon. Chief Justice in the chair—when arrangements were made for organizing Sub-Committees, and for communicating with the various Agricultural Societies throughout the Province, with a view to their engaging at once in the preliminary work necessary for getting up a creditable Exhibition.

#### DESTRUCTION OF HALIFAX FLOUR MILL AND STEAM BAKERY.

##### DISASTROUS FIRE.

It is with regret we announce the fact that about one o'clock this morning a fire broke out in the Halifax City Mills and Bakery situated on the corner of Duke and Argyle streets, and owned by Moir & Co. The premises which are of brick, and recently built, were very extensive, being 130 feet on Duke, and 12 on Argyle Street, and five stories in height. One part of the structure was used as a flouring mill, another as a bakery, and that portion fronting on Argyle street as a warehouse, sales room and office. It is supposed the fire originated in the vicinity of the furnace, and the flames finding good fuel made very rapid progress, and soon burst from the windows in nearly every part of the building. The firemen were at the scene of disaster soon after the alarm was given, and as usual worked heroically, but the most strenuous efforts of the brigade failed to subdue the flames before the interior was very badly damaged, and much stock destroyed. The exterior walls, however, are not much injured. That portion of the building in which the mill was located, is almost completely gutted, and the machinery rendered utterly unserviceable. The Union Protection Company were promptly on the spot, and succeeded in saving a large lot of flour, and several hundred boxes of

biscuit, in a damaged condition, but, notwithstanding, much stock of this nature was consumed. Soon after the alarm was given a brigade, under the command of an officer, with three portable fire engines, arrived from the French Ships of War, now in the harbour, and performed valuable service in assisting to subdue the flames. Both the steam fire engines belonging to the city were employed on the occasion. At one time the buildings adjoining, which are of wood, were in imminent danger, but were saved through the strenuous exertions of the fire brigade and the French sailors. Fortunately the stock of wheat on the premises was not large, but all in store was destroyed by fire and water.—*Colonist*.

#### ADVERTISEMENTS!

Churning made Easy & Butter Good.

#### TOMLINSON & CO.'S BUTTER POWDER.

BY the use of this inexpensive Powder the churning of hours is reduced to minutes, and is applicable to the making of Butter at all seasons of the year; a small quantity added to the Milk or Cream at the time of churning will produce Butter in much less time, in larger quantity, and of a superior quality, flavour, and consistency, so much so that it increases its value from 1d. to 2d. per lb. In winter it removes the unpleasant flavour caused by the cows feeding on turnips, cake, mangolds, weeds, &c.; and in summer the rancidity peculiar to some Butter, also makes it firmer and sweeter even in the hottest weather. Butter made with this Powder invariably takes the prizes at the Agricultural Shows throughout the Kingdom.

Sold by the principal Druggists and Storekeepers throughout the Colonies, in boxes at 3d. 6d., 1s., 2s. 6d., and 7s. 6d. each; and wholesale of the Manufacturers,

TOMLINSON & HAYWARD,  
*Chemists, Lincoln, England.*  
AVERY, BROWN & CO.,  
*Halifax, N. S.*

#### FOR SALE.

A thorough-bred DURHAM BULL, two years old. Apply to  
LEWIS W. HILL,  
*Falmouth.*  
May, 1867.

#### FOR SALE!

A three year old BULL, from a DURHAM DAM and ALDERNEY SIRE,—and gets superior Stock.  
SAMUEL CREELMAN.  
*Up. Stewiacke, May, 1867.*

#### FOR SALE.

A Superior DURHAM BULL, one year and nine months old. Apply to  
C. C. HAMILTON.  
*Cornwallis, May, 1867.*

#### FOR SALE!

A 3 year old BULL, part Ayrshire and part Durham, rather a fine animal.  
*Antigonish, Nov. 1866.* CHAS. BIGELOW.

#### Notice.

ALL BONES suited for Agricultural Purposes will be received and paid for in cash, at my Store in future. Parties having large quantities of the above, can have them removed from their premises regularly, say once a week, by giving notice as above, at prices from 30 to 50 cents per 100 lbs., according to quality.

As it is intended to place the whole of the Bones ground at the Mill at the service of agriculturists at reasonable rates, the co-operation of parties favorable to the development of farming interests is respectfully solicited,—which they will manifest by taking especial care of their bones.

JAMES STANFORD.

N. B.—Store—just north of Police Office. Mill—at Three Mile House.

#### CHESTER WHITE PIGS.

For Sale—A BOAR of the above justly celebrated breed, seven months old. Price \$25.

....ALSO....

During the Season, PIGS, one month old, pure blood, at \$6.00 (six dollars) each. Apply to

JAMES CROSBY,  
*Sec'y Yarmouth Agri. Soc'y.*  
*Halton, Yarmouth, May, 1867.*

#### BULL FOR SALE.

An ALDERNEY BULL, 4 years old, a fine animal, not cross, and raises fine stock. Lowest price, \$30. Apply to

H. B. MITCHELL,  
*Sec'y Chester Agri. Soc'y.*

#### Alderney Bull!

JONATHAN HARVEY has still his pure-bred ALDERNEY BULL for service, at Rose Bank Farm, North-West Arm.  
*Halifax, May, 1867.*

#### FOR SALE.

A very fine imported RAM (Canadian Leicester); also a BOAR, seven months old, imported from Prince Edward Island; and pair of improved English Dorkings (imported last fall). For further particulars apply to the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture.  
HALIFAX, March, 1867.

#### BOAR FOR SALE.

Twenty months old, cross of Berkshire and White Chester, of large size, remarkable for symmetry, and a sure stock getter. Price—\$40.  
G. F. PIERCE,  
*Annapolis.*  
Feb'y, 1867.

#### The Journal of Agriculture

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