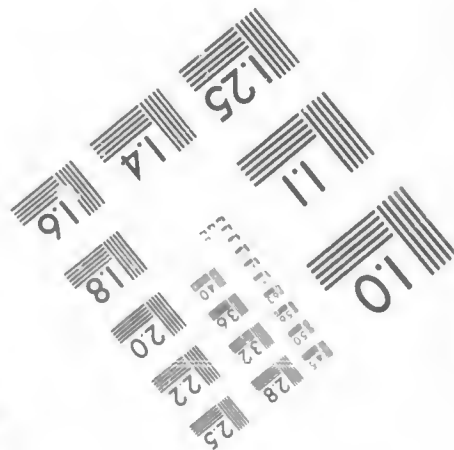
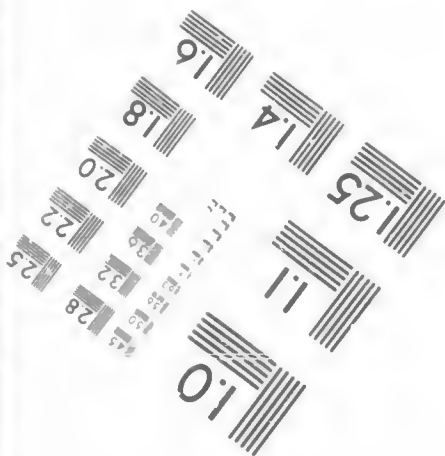
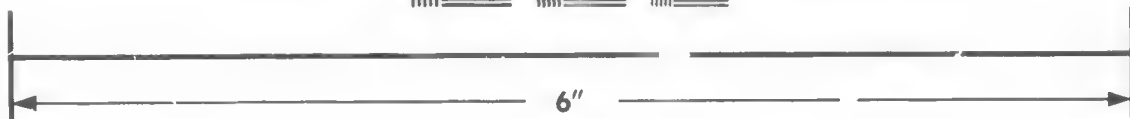
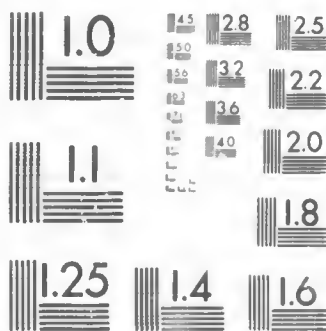


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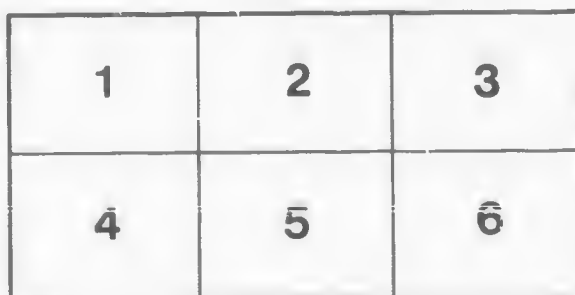
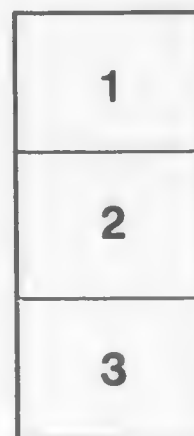
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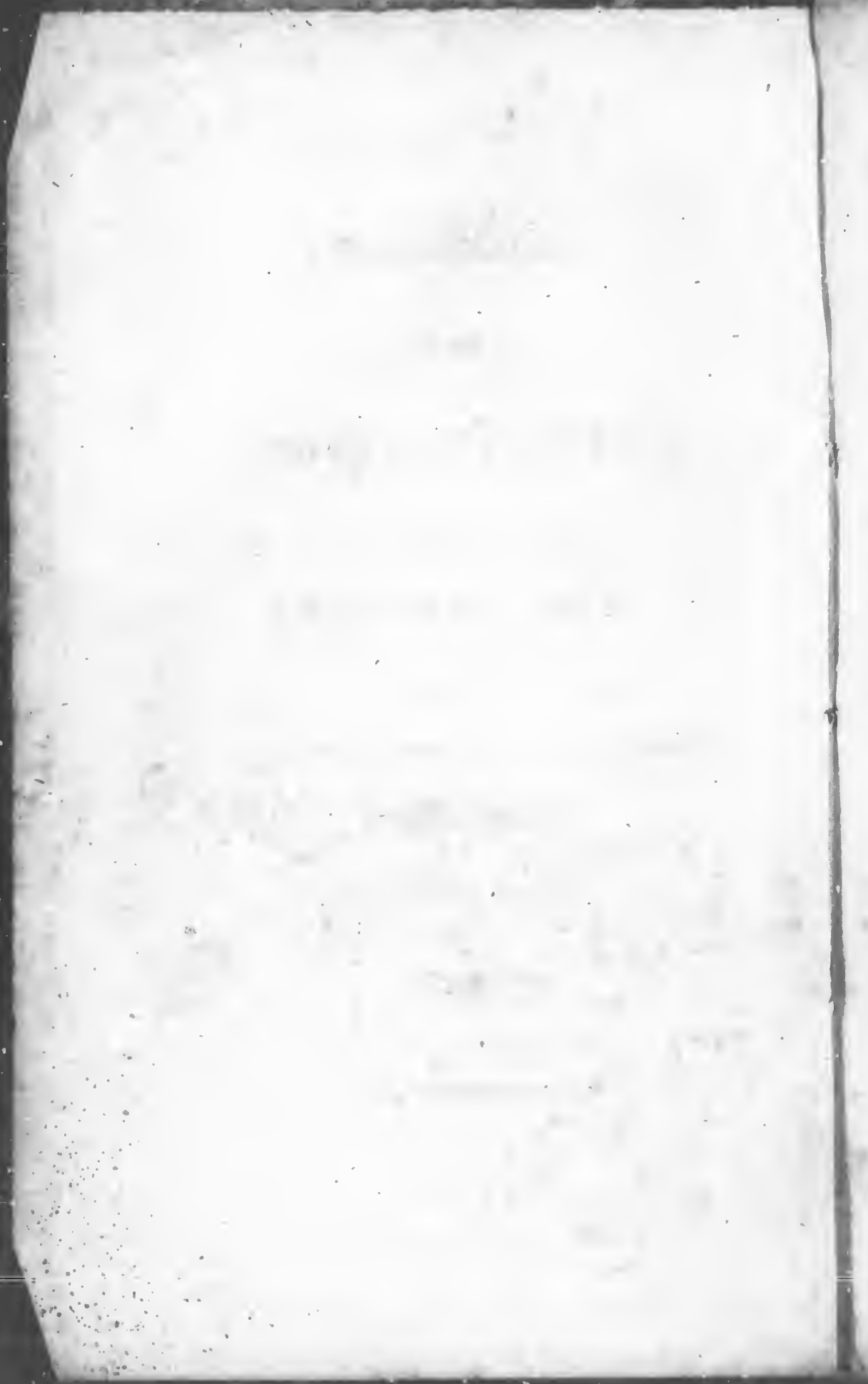
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AN
ABSTRACT
OF THE
PROCEEDINGS
WHICH OCCURRED AT THE
TWO MEETINGS
OF THE
PROVINCIAL AGRICULTURAL
SOCIETY,
DURING THE SESSION
OF
1823.

HALIFAX, N. S.

PRINTED BY HOLLAND & CO.

April, 1823.

At two o'clock on Wednesday the 12th of March, the House of Assembly adjourned, as preparatory to the meeting of the Provincial Agricultural Society at the same hour and place. The Members of his Majesty's Council instantly attended ; and the seats were speedily occupied and filled up by the gentlemen in town who are the private subscribers to the institution.

The honorable Michael Wallace as Vice President, took the Chair, and called attention to the annual Report, which was now to be read by the Secretary.

REPORT,

DELIVERED BEFORE THE

Provincial Agricultural Society.

IT is an observation verified by a long and uniform experience, that all the arts, whether of ornament or utility, are of slow growth. The inventor generally sketches nothing more than a rude draught which, though bold in the design, is likely to be inelegant in the execution; and his humble race of imitators follow the track pointed out without a single spark of that divine fire which threw the first light on the path of their labours. At times a genius arises, brighter or more fortunate than the rest, who makes some small advances either in facilitating the mode of operation, or in mastering some of the difficulties with which it is beset; and in this way, the art, from trivial beginnings, proceeds by a series of steps to some degree of excellence. But all this is the work of time. The progress throughout its whole length is distinguished by many pauses or intervals; and what is begun in one age, continues unfinished and imperfect in the next. It often takes many generations to carry the system to its ulterior pitch of improvement, and to conquer the various impediments which are successively presented.

The justness of these views could be shown aptly by a reference to the history of the elegant arts, which have at once delighted and dignified mankind, and given grace and stability to social life. But it would be idle to wander so far, when we can arrive at the same

illustration by a plainer and more direct road : for the mechanic arts have been as sluggish in their progress as the ornamental ; and among those none has taken a longer period in growing up to maturity than that of agriculture. Though it sprang up in the very infancy of civilization, and has been more or less cultivated in every age and country, it is still very far from perfection ; and in it there are questions of great moment, both speculative and practical, which have not been, and which perhaps cannot in the present condition of human knowledge, be satisfactorily solved.

Tillage and cultivation have not only had to surmount the obstacles which are common to all the other pursuits of life, but they are encompassed with extraordinary difficulties, and are kept back and checked by some peculiar causes of retardation. Thus, if any remarkable discovery were to take place in architecture, in shipbuilding, in steam navigation, in road making, or in any of the common manufactures, these in a short time would diffuse themselves over the world, and be adopted by all nations ; but very different hitherto has been the reception given to the real improvements which have originated in husbandry. Here prejudices of a most unyielding temper are arrayed against the progress of melioration ; and nothing has been found more impracticable than to change or abolish any practices which have once taken root in a country. Husbandmen of all others are tenacious of what has been transmitted by their forefathers. The methods of cropping—the structure of the implements—the species of the cattle—which have come down to them impressed with the seal of antiquity, are regarded with a sort of sacred reverence ; and it has always been an extremely hard task to clear the way for any innovation. This adherence to existing forms has rendered the inventions of one country not easily transferable to another, and has caused, in different States, almost as wide a dissimilarity in the systems of agriculture, as in the plans and maxims of government. Hence the Roman plough, which had but one handle and no mould board, and which on these accounts was faulty in the construction, maintained its ground from the origin of the republic till the final extinction of the empire in the middle of the fifteenth century—a period of nearly two thousand two hundred years. And since too the introduction of summer fallow into Scotland was of no earlier date than the reign of Queen Anne, although it had long before existed in the South of Britain, in the

Low countries, and in France—places with which the Scots had frequent intercourse, particularly after the accession of James to the English crown.

If agriculture, as has been now represented, be so tardy in its movements—if its prejudices be of so stubborn and immutable a nature—and if its discoveries be so difficult of transmission from one place to another, whence happens it, that the brief annals of our agricultural career present appearances so utterly at variance with those which have occurred in other countries? By what friendly agency have we been propelled forward at a rate of progression so prodigiously different from that of other people? and how comes it to pass, that innovation on received opinions and established practices have encountered here so little effectual resistance and trampled on every obstacle? Before answering these questions let me recel in a hasty manner the events of every successive year since the establishment and incorporation of this Society, during which our whole system has undergone in some of its parts a partial, and in others a total revolution.

In the Session of 1819 the first grant of £1,500 was given to the Central Board—a portion of which was laid out in the encouragement of summer fallow, of liming, and in the erection of oatmills. Although little was effected in these objects during the currency of that year, much attention was drawn to them, and a more than common zeal evinced to follow up the directions of the Society. The minds of men were aroused, as it were, from a fatal lethargy—the eye of curiosity and research was cast round on every quarter to explore the resources of the country—and some few essays were made in the plans recommended, but with a visible distrust of the doctrines and reasonings on which their efficacy was assumed to rest. The farmers passed the year rather in speculation than in action; and amused themselves, some in defending, others in attacking and vilifying the new order of things. The spring of 1820, when the second grant of £1000 was obtained, opened under better auspices. The trials of the past year, imperfect and scanty as they were, had partially dispelled some of the doubts which shed a malignant influence on exertion; and a faint idea began to be entertained, that Nova Scotia with industry might possibly prove independent in bread corn. The erection of oatmills gave some

colour to the first dawns of hope; and the new scheme of prizes, by which was meant to be ascertained the quantity of white and green crops procurable from an acre, promised a fair opportunity of contrasting the fertility of our soil with that of other countries. You all know the issue of that comparison, and the elevation it communicated to the public mind. Oatmeal now came rapidly into repute, and obtained in the eastern districts. In the course of eighteen months, thirty one mills for manufacturing it were at once the reward and triumph of your labours; and for these altogether £260 only were offered in the shape of bounties. At the next meeting of the Legislature in 1821, the new system had begun to settle firmly in its foundation, and to present for the first time an air of stability. The theory had been put to the test, and partly grown into practice. The incredulous began to mistrust their former conclusions—the wavering gathered confidence, and waxed more and more confirmed. Manures, throughout the whole province, were collected with greater care, and every source was examined from which materials could be drawn to augment their quantity. The method of tilling was now perceptibly improved—the drilling of green crops was coming into fashion—new implements were fabricated in several places, arable cultivation was obviously on the increase, and silently encroaching on the grazing husbandry. In the autumn of that year the effects of this fresh and growing energy became apparent in the superabundance of all sorts of vegetables and roots. Potatoes and turnips were poured into the capital in so full a tide as completely to inundate us; and these first fruits of plenty derived from our own territory were gladly hailed as a sure presage of that fullness in bread corn which would attend the future labours of the plough. Under these circumstances the last grant of £800 was voted—a sum which has been found totally inadequate to forward the objects deemed more essentially connected with the present stage of our progress.

After this succinct account, the various steps of which are within your remembrance, it will be the business of this report to trace what may be considered as the causes of this rapid and singular change in Nova Scotia, and to mark such new occurrences of favourable

omen as have more lately developed themselves, and given reason to believe that we are approaching still nearer the goal to which our efforts have been directed. The causes that have led to the change are chiefly three:—The peculiar organization of our Board of Agriculture—The honourable zeal of our leading characters in all parts of the province,—and the mixed nature of our population drawn from distinct countries, and consequently divided amongst themselves in their maxims, rules and methods of cultivation.

All along since the revival of the provincial industry, the Central Board has been the sole organ by which the legislature has acted. To it the power of direction has been transferred, and through it the grants of public money have been distributed. It has been regarded as the fountain from which the liberality of government has flowed; and on that account it has gained and preserved a preponderating influence over the minor societies. This derived and delegated superiority which it possesses in consequence of its peculiar organization, has enabled it to wield an undisputed authority and to bind in one common plan of operation the jarring energies which would otherwise have disturbed and thwarted each other. Hence to one grand point has the attention of the country been directed year after year, and the joint labours of all have been infinitely more effective than they could have been, if irregular and divergent. The Board prescribed both the objects and rules of competition, and maintained consistency in the general efforts of the agricultural body. Had the separate societies been left free of choice in their particular schemes, these would have been of an incoherent and motley character, and could not likely have been made to harmonize into a common system. One would have directed their premiums solely to the improvement of live stock—a second would have abetted greatly the domestic manufactures—a third would have thrown out lime and summer fallow as useless—a fourth would have considered oats as furnishing too coarse a meal for the delicate palates of their members—the drill machinery would have been despised by a fifth: and thus each following their own counsels and partial views would have chalked out a line of conduct that baffled and traversed that of the rest. All these evils have been prevented by the peculiar constitution of the Central Board. The Directors from the outset

fixed their eye on independence in bread corn, as the main point in which all their measures should concentrate ; and without any material aberration have proceeded towards it with an unwearied ardour of pursuit. Objects of minor importance were either neglected or thrown into the background, and this uniformity of plan has been the chief means of effecting so thorough a change in the provincial husbandry.

And this end has been also brought about by the authority and patronage of the leading men throughout the province. It is not my intention to pass an eulogy on their public spirit—a strain in which posterity much more than the present generation, will take delight in indulging ; but it is worthy of notice, that wherever these men have shown themselves most zealous, there the societies were first founded, and their effects became most visible. Hence all the counties have not partaken equally of the benefits of that new excitement, which wherever felt, passed like electric matter and was accompanied with sensations almost as quick and marvellous. In some the precepts of the new school were warmly received—in others they were listened to with indifference ; and yet, it cannot be said that in any did they meet with a firm and inflexible resistance. This is nothing more than what might have been expected. No sentiment however popular, has ever inspired a whole people with the same degree of fervency ; though, if its foundation be in reason, and no violent opposition obstruct its progress, it will in the end work its way by a silent and imperceptible tendency. There are at present manifest and pleasing indications, that the more improved methods of managing land as well as the manufacture of oats are creeping westward ; and it is more than probable that they will, before the lapse of two, or at most three years, insinuate themselves into every corner and cranny of the province.

But the third and main cause of the universality of that change which has taken place, lies in the mixed nature of our population. In old communities where society has gotten time to settle down into fixed habits, manners and customs, and into which there is little or no migration of strangers to disturb the accustomed course, all things soon come to wear one unvarying aspect. The style of living—the mode of dress—the religious opinions and the agricultural practices partake of a common character ; and by such marks nations are usually distinguished. Nay farther, so powerful is the principle of imi-

tation when it has long time to act, that even in the same kingdom, men, occupying one particular district or county, are assimilated into a closer resemblance than are those who live beyond the verge of their immediate communion. Hence the method of cultivation in every separate county of England has some striking characteristics either in the plan of rotation—in the structure of the implements, or in the manner of harvesting; and thus in every district there is somewhat of relief to break the flat uniformity of the national agriculture. It is easy to see how a colony like this, composed of the original French, the Dutch and the Germans—the American refugees—the English, Irish and Scotch, and all these mostly brought together within the last seventy years, could not yet have reared up and cherished with much partiality any common system of husbandry. Every emigrant brought along with him the prepossessions of his native hill and valley; and the only feature in which this heterogeneous mass seems to have agreed, was a decided preference to grazing, above arable cultivation. In this state the Central Board at its establishment found the agricultural body. It was loose and disjointed; with much to amend, but with no antipathy at a stricter coalescence.

These may be justly specified as the favourable causes which have contributed to our success, and which deserve to be recorded and set in this conspicuous light; in order to inspire a just confidence in the measures which have been prosecuted, and to guard against any sudden or fitful deviation from them. The organization of the society by which it has been rendered the medium of all legislative aid to the farmer, and the honorable zeal of our public men from the noble founder of this Institution and his successor in office down to the lowest gradation of rank, all cooperating heartily in one plan, have accomplished here a greater revolution in the space of four years, than the Board of Agriculture or the Highland Society, with their powerful means and influence, have been able to achieve in the English or in the Scottish practices.

The second and the last part of this Report was to take notice of any circumstances which have transpired during the last year, either to encourage hope in the ultimate accomplishment of our

independence, or to suggest the need of wise precautions against the evils with which it may be threatened.

The only circumstance of this latter description worthy of regard, has been the disturbance of the relation naturally subsisting between the prices of bread corn and of meat. When we consult any tables of the rates of provisions either in Britain, France, Germany or other European Countries, we shall find this rule to hold universally, that butcher meat is double the price of flour, and butter double that of meat; as for instance, when flour is quoted at 2d per pound—beef is at 4d and butter at 8d—the second being double and the last quadruple of the first; and that these ratios have obtained not at one time and in one place, but as far back as there are authentic annals, and in every nation where statistical accounts have been preserved*. It cannot be denied that these relations are

* As the proportion of prices here stated to exist between flour, meat and butter may be considered as purely hypothetical, I shall present some tables, constructed on minutes taken by Arthur Young in France and in England. Just before the breaking out of the revolution, that gentleman landed at Calais for the purpose of taking a survey of French husbandry; and in the prosecution of his plan, noted down every thing relating to wages, provisions, the methods of cultivation, the nature of crops, manures, and in short, all sorts of materials, which might serve as data for the political economist. These minutes were taken in 1787 to 1789 in all the departments of France; for he traversed that kingdom by three separate routes, and therefore his general averages are fairly drawn. In looking into the particular minutes, I observe that the relation between the prices of meat, butter and bread is somewhat disturbed. In arable districts, for instance, bread is lower, and meat and butter are higher than the general average; and the reverse takes place in tracts fitted for pasturage; yet the ratio on an average of the whole kingdom, comes out with wonderful accuracy. Travels in France vol. 1, page 441—under the article—Price of Provisions.

RECAPITULATION.

	French Money.	English Money,
Beef per lb. on an average of 76 minutes	7 f.	3½
Mutton do	7	3½
Veal of 72 minutes	7½	3¾
Pork of 28 minutes	9	4½
Butter of 38 minutes	16½	8½
Bread of 67 minutes	3	1½

A pound of bread, notwithstanding the labour of baking it, is always cheaper than a pound of flour, because the former is to the latter as 36 to 26, that is to say, 26 lbs of flour will, after adding water, salt and yeast, make in all ordinary cases 36 lbs. of bread. Flour therefore in France could not be less than 2d per lb, when bread was at 3 sous. The proportions then in France, from these numerous and extended minutes may be justly quoted as follows—Flour at 2d, meat on an average of all the sorts nearly 4d, and butter at 8½d per lb.

By the same writer and in the same place it is said that in England the prices in 1790 were

Beef	at 4d per lb.	
Mutton	4½	
Veal	4½	
Pork	4	
Bread	1½	equal to flour at 2½ per lb.

perpetually disturbed by the operation of demand and supply ; but still, whenever any of the articles rise above, or sink below the assumed standard, there is a tendency in the prices to adjust themselves at the points of equilibrium. The great reason for this difference of value lies in the cost of production. A farmer can raise a pound of oatmeal or flour much more easily than he can raise a pound of beef or mutton ; and therefore he should be rateably paid for his labour. But moreover, meat is more nutritious, or capable of sustaining the body longer, quantity for quantity, than bread corn; and on this other account an effective demand will always exist for the former at double the prices of the latter. Amongst us during this last year the relation subsisting between these two articles of farm produce has been entirely subverted. Beef during the greater part of winter could be purchased at $1\frac{1}{2}l$ or $2d$ per pound, while oatmeal commanded $17s\ 6d$ and flour $20s$ per cwt. At the present moment beef is worth $3d$ in the market and superfine flour at 9 dollars per barrel—that is at $2\frac{1}{4}d$ per pound. This is a complete subversion of the order which holds in Europe, and demands the most serious and grave deliberation, as involving the prosperity of our rural economy. One grand error in this country has been the want of arithmetical calculation, in reckoning up the cost of the different sorts of produce which are brought to market. Few have any just idea of what it takes to rear a pig, a lamb, or a calf. Our farmers are thus ignorant in a great measure of relative prices dependent on the expense of production, and they conduct their sales under the guidance of the blindest chance. No man surely dare affirm that a given quantity of meat can be raised as cheap as a given quantity of flour, and yet so it is that the former during the whole of last winter has been lower than the latter. In England,

In further corroboration of these relative prices see Young's tour, East of England, performed twenty years before in 1770 ; — vol. 4, page 303.

Beef, at an average of 27 places,	$5\frac{1}{2}d$ per lb.
Butter	Do
Bread	Do

See also his tour in Ireland in 1776 to 1778, vol. 2 page 149

Beef on an average of the Kingdom	$2\frac{1}{2}d$ per lb.
Mutton	$2\frac{3}{4}d$
Veal	$3\frac{1}{2}d$

Average of the above three meats is a fraction short of $3d$.

Butter

The price of bread is not mentioned, because the peasantry lived chiefly on potatoes.

where agriculturists put down every item of expense under its appropriate head, and keep books on as correct principles as does the merchant, it is recognised as an invariable rule, that unless beef fetch double of flour, the occupier should break up his grass lands and bring them under tillage. The relation in price between these two produces a perpetual oscillation between pasturage and tillage, and determines the farmer in the destination of his fields. He tills more when bread rises above, and less when it descends below its proper level.

I have been at the more pains to set this proposition in a plain light, because of its vital importance connected with our present condition and future prospects. The opinion has been long popular, that the province was fitted to be a pastoral rather than an agricultural country; and this has been received without much examination and gained an almost universal assent. It has not failed to produce a strong effect on rural industry, and to create a corresponding bias towards the hay culture. On this account our finest lands have been laid down to grass, and our marshes, which under the French were fruitful of corn, and were alternately under fallow and wheat, have ceased to be considered as arable, and been well nigh set apart for the exclusive support of live-stock. This practice has been one of the chief sources of the depression of our agriculture, and has served too long to perpetuate distress, embarrassment, and poverty. The very reverse of this favourite opinion will, I apprehend, turn out to be correct; namely, that this Province is much better calculated for agricultural than for pastoral purposes.

In corroboration of this novel sentiment, it may be stated that a cwt. of oatmeal or flour can be raised at less expense in Nova-Scotia than in Britain. To pave the way for our concurrence in this position, we may boldly refer to the comparative fertility of the two countries; and we can be justified on the best documentary evidence, if not to exalt our own above England, at least to set it on a footing of equality. Our acre will yield as much as theirs, if cultivated with like skill and capital. Should this be granted, the point at issue is no longer doubtful; because the burdens affecting land are here light and trivial compared with the taxation which the English farmers must bear. Tithes, poor rates, direct and indirect taxes jointly contribute to swell the charge of production and add to the first cost of their bread corn. In

all these points of view ours have confessedly the advantage ; and are only inferior to them in a higher rate of wages.

But if the balance be in our favour with respect to the raising of meal and flour, it inclines against us with regard to the cost of rearing beef and mutton. The British farmer can bring these latter to market at a lower rate than the Nova Scotian, and this he accomplishes by the mildness of the winter and the nature of the feed.—The sheep both in Scotland, England, and Ireland are allowed to range their native hills throughout the whole year, and to pick up a subsistence from the decayed herbage, heath, and wild plants which are but seldom covered with snow. The cattle again are fed in the foldyard for not more than two or three months, and in the more temperate districts, for less than the half of that time. The straw of white crops with a moderate supply of turnips is the species of fodder which supports them, and its principal value is always estimated by its conversion into manure. A heifer is usually taken for wintering at the rate of 20s.—a sum which here would not pay above the third of the hay which must be consumed during the long and dreary six months when our cattle must of necessity be shut up. If these data be correct, it would appear that the English farmer raises his meal and flour at a greater, and his meat at a less expense, than these can be respectively produced in Nova Scotia ; and yet in order to reimburse his outlay, he requires a difference between them of double the price ; whereas our farmer during the last year has been supplying the butcher, weight for weight, either at or below what he could obtain, for his bread-corn. That region can never be destined by nature for pasturage where the domesticated animal must be fed by hand for more than half of the year ; and where, on account of the extraordinary quantity of hay needed, the very best lands must be devoted to their use. It is this capital mistake which has so long borne down the agricultural interest, and led our landholders to pursue that branch of rural economy, where they will ever be attended with indigence and pecuniary embarrassment. The cost of rearing a pound of meat will always in this country be somewhat more than the half of producing the same weight of oatmeal and flour ; and therefore the natural relation subsisting between the prices should be adjusted at a higher level correspondent to the capabilities of the climate.

If France and England, notwithstanding the temperateness of their winters and their superabundance of straw for fodder, require that meat be double the price of flour, it is perspicuously manifest that in Nova Scotia, beef from the expense and trouble of raising it, should be elevated a little above that standard. What that proportion of rise should be is no easy matter to determine; yet the principle itself on which it depends is neither hidden nor uncontrovertible. In all the branches of a free trade, where labour and capital are not fettered by any impolitic or arbitrary restriction, they ought to have the same profit, and they will tend to this equality whenever men understand their own interest clearly. The remuneration derivable from an hundred pounds in live stock, should be equivalent to what the same amount yields in tillage; and therefore the prices of butcher meat and bread should here assume a relation resulting from the greater or less expense of production.

These views strongly inculcate a lesson of practical utility that deserves to be earnestly taught and deeply studied. Our countrymen have persevered in the hay husbandry to the obvious disadvantage of themselves and of the community; and it is now high time that they be cured of the strange infatuation. They have been selling beef at a price much below its fair and natural level, and consequently drawing from their lands a return less by the one half than these could have yielded under arable management.

And I believe that our farmers are beginning to open their eyes to their true interests. The rage for grazing is gone by, and better and juster sentiments are succeeding in its room. Our peasantry are a shrewd and intelligent race, and will not fail, in the long run, to discover the best and most advantageous methods of employing their labour and capital. Their own calm reflections and their mutual reasonings are gradually removing the prejudices which clouded their understandings, and are enabling them to descry the respective benefits of pasturage and tillage. Since the origin of this Society there has been a progressive increase of arable cultivation, and from present appearances it is not yet on the wane. Very considerable quantities of country flour have been weekly, I had almost said daily brought to Halifax during the last three months, and this event marks a new era in the records of our agriculture.

It will be recollected that when I had the honour of last addressing you in this place, I then stated, "that the prizes which had been offered for bringing a supply of flour to Halifax had baffled

“ expectation, that three parcels only amounting to 2 tons 15 cwt. had come from the interior, and that it would be vain to continue those prizes; because our husbandry seemed to have reached that point in which it could about meet the internal consumption, but had nothing to spare for the capital.” We are now advanced a step further; and without the least encouragement from the Legislature, native flour has come in all this winter as regularly as the other articles of agricultural produce. What the whole quantity may have been, it is impossible to ascertain; we know however, that it has been bought up as fast as it appeared, by merchants, bakers, and householders; and the supply is not yet stopped, but continues flowing with a steady current.

From some inquiries which I have made among the principal purchasers, there is evidence that about *40 tons have passed into their hands, besides the small parcels which have gone to housekeepers and which could not be traced with any accuracy, but may be safely reckoned at ten more.

This town too is not the only place where native flour has been exposed for sale. Pictou is now trading in it to a great extent; and oatmeal and flour are received there by the merchants in payment of debts and in the exchange of commodities. Even Liverpool, according to a late letter from the secretary of its agricultural society, had gotten 50 barrels by the 22d January last, from Brookfield and Caledonia, where three years ago the settlers began to cut down the forest.

But though we have no means of reckoning the sum total of all the domestic flour raised by our farmers above their own immediate consumption, we can refer, with the view of casting some light on this subject, to the books of the Custom House and learn whether our imports on the whole have been diminishing in 1822. When we appeal to this testimony, the information is of a most gratifying and exhilarating description. In every article of agri-

* Since the date of this Report, March 12th, a regular weekly supply has continued to come in from the country, and the whole quantity, now April 1st, cannot be less than 80 tons, as one individual, Mr. William Macara, has brought from his farm several tons. Eighty tons flour are equal to 9t 4 barrels; and these being added to the imported stock on hand will, it is believed, meet the consumption of the town till the navigation of the St. Lawrence opens again the Canadian market in May. But if our agricultural improvement were to be calculated solely by the above quantity, we would run into an egregious blunder; for it is matter of observation and of fact that the sleds and waggons returning from the town are not, as formerly, loaded with foreign flour; and therefore our tillage is now equal to the wants of the country, and has in part arrested that destructive trade carried on by our farmers since the first settlement of Halifax.

cultural produce there has been a signal reduction of imports during the last year, and in oats and in barley we have obtained an export for the first time. All these important views and facts, for the satisfaction of the province, I have thrown into a tabular form, which is subjoined to this Report, and the results of which abundantly establish our growing prosperity.

At the desire of his Excellency the Governor, an account of the Imports and Exports for the years 1818 and 1819 has been obtained from the Custom House in order to ascertain the agricultural state of the province before the existence of the Provincial Agricultural Society; but it is unnecessary minutely to go into all these particulars, as it would too much complicate the details now presented, to carry the comparison so far back. This Society began its operations in the spring of 1819 and can be supposed to have influenced but slightly the agricultural produce of that season. I shall just observe, that although the imports of both these years fall short of those of the succeeding, they swell greatly beyond those of 1822. In the first of those years we imported 51,095 barrels and 1181 half barrels of flour; and in 1819 the further amount of 50,716 barrels, 2043 half barrels and 350 bags, with bread, wheat, Indian corn and meal in proportion.

These statements should suffice to banish all despondence about our future prospects, and to inspire an unhesitating confidence in the capabilities of a country, which has repaid our efforts with so much liberality. They should also have a due effect on the guardians of the public expenditure,—inasmuch as undoubted proofs are furnished that the former grants have neither been unprofitable nor misapplied, and that every shilling taken from the treasury has been a mean of lessening our imports, and of thus saving our circulating medium; to say nothing of the great addition made to the provincial wealth. To sum up the whole, I am inclined to believe, that in the history of domestic improvement, no parallel can be found to the prodigious advances we have made in the short space of four years; and that if the mechanism now in motion, by which this province is ascending so fast to independence in corn, be neither broken down nor materially clogged in its operations, we shall soon rise superior to all our difficulties.

Halifax, March 13th, 1823.

JOHN YOUNG, Secretary.

Port of Halifax,
Nova Scotia.

Imports and Exports of Agricultural Produce, as furnished by the
Custom House.

	1820.		1821.		1822.	
	Imported,	Exported,	Imported,	Exported,	Imported,	Exported,
Flour, barrels	66197	2281	1735	354	1996	2720
half barrels	6965	781	127	50	154	262
bread, bags	59805	1284	2012	570	2083	1621
cts.	15237	622	1838		1495	1926
Wheat, bushels	43330	665	230	120	2647	2511
bags	9054	32	871	461	152	2703
Oats, barrels					91	1784
Indian meal, barrels					328	2513
Indian corn, bushels					12	30
					400	193
					95	10
					282	282
					56	50
					116	116

A comparative view of the above Imports and Exports as illustrative of the progress of the provincial husbandry.

	1820.		1821.		1822.	
	Balance of Imports above Exports, need- ed for consumption,	Balance of Exports above Imports,	Balance of Imports above Exports, need- ed for consumption,	Balance of Exports above Imports,	Balance of Imports above Exports, need- ed for consumption,	Balance of Exports above Imports,
	59222	1500	1608	304	1996	2566
	44538	662	204	570	2834	2083
	34296	533	641	274	2495	25
			9	7	88	1092
			26	131	42	107
			166	146	581	45
			50910	116	6582	305
			28236		28236	

- From these tables it appears that there has been a gradual decrease in the quantity of foreign agricultural produce needed for consumption since 1819—when the Central Board commenced its operations.
- From comparing the statements of 1820 and 1822 there is a diminution of the Imports of very near a full half in favour of the latter year—a result which could scarcely have been anticipated.

3. This great saving to the province has not arisen entirely from the extended culture of wheat, although that has operated to a certain extent, but from the substitution of oatmeal for flour, and from the increased supply of potatoes.

4. In 1820 and 1821 our exports exceed our imports only in one column, each year; whereas in 1822 the balance is in our favour in bread, in oats and barley and in Indian meal.

Meeting, March 12.

The report being finished, the Vice-President called the attention of the Meeting to the expenditure that had taken place under the two last grants, and which had been attested by vouchers and examined by a committee of Directors. But as these accounts referred to the grants of public money by the legislature, it would now be proper to appoint, as auditors, some members of General Assembly. For this purpose were named,

W. H. O. Halliburton, }
W. A. Chipman, and } Esquires.
Robert Dickson, }

and it was requested that they would inspect the accounts and report to the next meeting.

The scheme of appropriation for the current year was then ordered to be read by the secretary, and which embraced a great variety of objects and extended to the sum of £1500. With the view of revising the scheme by leaving out such objects as were deemed unnecessary or inserting others of more immediate importance, the Vice-President proceeded to name the following gentlemen as a committee.

Honourable Judge Halliburton, Chairman,		
S. G. W. Archibald, S. Bishop, James R. Dewolf, J. G. Marshall, Thomas Ritchie, R. Blair,	}	Esquires.
	John Bingay, William Dickson, Edward James, R. J. Uniacke, Daniel Wier, John Wells,	}
		Esquires.

WILLIAM LAWSON, Esq. stated that this committee could not proceed to appropriate the sum of £1500 for agricultural purposes; for he himself objected to the amount as being much greater than the funds of the province could spare. At all events he thought it was folly to divide it by a committee till it was voted in the House of Assembly.

JUDGE HALLIBURTON, replied that the scheme of £1500 which had now been read had been prepared by the Directors, in consequence

of a resolution adopted by the House of Assembly ; requiring the plan of appropriation to be laid upon their table, within fifteen days from the commencement of each session ; that it embraced all the objects which the Directors thought worthy of encouragement ; and that it remained for the Legislature to decide whether adequate funds should be voted for that purpose. If the same mode of proceeding was pursued in this as in former years, the committee would have no difficulty in the execution of their duty. It had been customary after the first meeting of this society, that the House of Assembly should immediately thereafter take up the agricultural grant, and pass such a sum as they were willing and able to bestow : And then the committee could proceed to divide that grant conformably to the general tenor of the scheme.

RUFUS FAIRBANKS, Esq. said further in explanation that the present scale of appropriation was drawn up under the idea of obtaining £1500 from the Legislature, which sum had been parcelled out among objects which he thought well entitled to the attention of the board and the community. The committee, therefore, could take that sum as a rule ; and if afterwards £1000 or only £750 were obtained from the House, a proportionable diminution could take place in the number or value of the prizes.

JAMES R. DEWOLF, Esq. said that he differed altogether from his friend Mr. Lawson as to the amount of the grant ; for he thought that the sum proposed instead of being too great ought to be enlarged.—He was satisfied that no application of the public money was so beneficial, as much good had already been accomplished. His duty called him publicly to state here the great progress which had been made in his own county within the last three years. In January 50 barrels of flour had come into Liverpool from Brookfield and Caledonia ; and although the quantity might appear small, it ought to be recollected that 50 families had lately gone there, and required to be supported. He considered that these societies were the great cause of this increased activity, and that therefore they should be upheld both by the countenance and bounty of the Legislature.

The honourable the ATTORNEY GENERAL rose and said that the testimony borne by Mr. Dewolf in behalf of our agriculture afforded him much pleasure ; and that he should consider himself

negligent not to add his testimony also to the vast and striking benefit which had accrued to the province. That was now so clear that no man in his senses could doubt it ; and instead therefore of limiting the operation of the societies by paltry sums, he expected to witness this year an uncommon liberality with respect to the grant, and that all branches would cooperate heartily in this business. The illustrious nobleman who founded this society had in view to bring all the branches of the Legislative Body into one point of action and union ; that in this Board the collective wisdom of the province might centre. It comprehended the Governor, his Majesty's Council, the members of the house of Assembly, and many respectable gentlemen in town who contributed their money and good wishes. It was painful to him to look around and see that several were not in their places ; although their official duties required their attendance ; and it was still more so to think that there were some who retained an hostility to this institution. He did not wish to point out by name those who were absent :—but they were easily discovered by noticing those who were present. He thought that all such opposition should be now laid aside ; because an improvement in the condition of the province was clear and manifest. He knew of no country that had made a like progress in so short a time ; and he was satisfied that the spirits of the farmers had revived with their improving prospects. Being a farmer himself he often conversed with his brother farmers, and could plainly perceive that their hopes were raised, because they now saw they could provide for themselves and their children. It was not long since agriculture was despised in this country ; but its reproach had been wiped off, and it was accounted both an honorable and an honest pursuit. It was the best way of rearing a family and providing for the children. This was one great advantage which had resulted from the establishment of societies ; inasmuch as it had corrected the opinions of men, and taught them to think more wisely and more according to truth.

Another great advantage which had accrued from the establishment of our agricultural institutions lay in opening the eyes of our farmers to the benefits of tillage. They had always been in the habit of raising too many cattle—a line into which they had been forced by the war, and the encouragement held out by the large

contracts of government. Although this method of employing their lands might be then profitable, it was now the very reverse. Let any man count the expense and trouble of raising a calf—the milk it consumes, the hay expended the first, second and third winters; and let him count his own time in tending it at 1s. a day; and he will find that he cannot afford beef under 6d per lb. There cannot, therefore, be a greater folly than rearing so many cattle and neglecting the plough. This has not always been the case in Nova Scotia; for he had been lately turning his attention to the ancient records of this province, as preserved in public offices; with a view to collect any facts illustrative of our agriculture. When the English took possession of this country, there might be 40,000 souls in it, and the plough was the support of this population. He found that an embargo was imposed to prevent the exportation of wheat and pease from Nova Scotia to the neighbouring state of Massachusetts. Although this may appear very strange to some, who have been crying both long and loudly that we could not raise our own bread; he could assure them that it was a positive fact. What was the consequence of the embargo, thus laid on the agricultural produce of Nova Scotia? Why the state of Massachusetts takes the alarm, and sets forth a very strong remonstrance and complaint that their supplies were cut off. On this his Majesty's Council taking their case into consideration; and willing to give them all the relief in their power, grants them a licence of three months for the exportation of wheat and pease. This plain fact, which occurred in 1752, is sufficient evidence to put down all sort of opposition, and shut the mouths of those croakers who have annoyed us so long. But, sir, in what manner did the French raise this surplus for exportation? They did not feed their cattle in those days on the finest marsh hay; but on the straw of their white crops, and on the sedges growing by the sides of the dikes. The marsh of Bellisle and the grand Prairie raised then more wheat, than the whole province of Nova Scotia now does. And it is now time for us to alter this system, and to introduce the plough into those lands which are so well calculated for wheat. The hardness of the times is compelling the farmer to look about him, and find some more profitable employment than the hay husbandry. I am only afraid, Mr. President, that the

days of our adversity have not been of sufficiently long continuance to correct our faults, and make a serious and lasting impression. It would be fortunate for us if the lessons of adversity were continued a little longer; for I fear that they will produce no adequate effect; because the resources of this country are so great and so wonderful, that they may too soon relieve us from our difficulties. It is now time to cultivate the arts of peace, and to improve the country in all the branches of industry. Commerce and agriculture must go hand in hand; for the merchant, the farmer and the consumer are linked together in indissoluble ties.

The leading features of the scheme which had been submitted to the meeting, lay in extending the culture of wheat. Of this he highly approved; because in all other respects our agriculture had been considerably advanced, but in this was still greatly deficient. He thought, however, that several things were omitted which now called for attention; and which he would beg leave to mention for their consideration.

The rust in this country was known to be prejudicial to our wheat crops, and in unfavourable years almost entirely to spoil them. He was not sure if any remedy could be found for this evil, but it was a most desirable thing to attempt it. He would therefore propose that a handsome premium should be offered to the man who could communicate any preventive to this destructive disease. As success could only be obtained and security created by a set of experiments, he thought that the sum offered should be considerable; because the investigation would require time, patience and unremitting care.

Another object for which a premium should be offered was a good treatise on domestic economy. This should comprehend every thing connected with the management of stock. It ought to point out how the family should be conducted with respect to clothing; the employment of their time; their food, and all other matters of a similar kind. It should describe the implements essential to cultivation, their number and form, and the mode of repairing and preserving them. The treatment of cattle, the best method of feeding them, the conduct of the dairy should all be included. Were such a manual put into the hands of our farmers, it would instruct them in all the different branches of their business and be invaluable as a book of reference. He could not particularize all the matter it

should embrace ; but there ought to be in it receipts for the curing of beef and pork ; rules for the forming of a garden : remedies for the diseases of cattle. And it should set forth in strong terms the mischiefs arising from our excessive consumption of animal food.

He conceived that it would be useful to the agricultural interest to be made acquainted with the improved methods of constructing farm houses, barns and offices. And he would propose some premiums to be given for the best plans to be furnished to the society. This was a matter of more moment than most people were aware of ; for it was found that in all those counties of England where a better style of culture was introduced, a more approved plan of building followed in its train.

The encouragement of our domestic manufactures also claimed some notice—for he thought that both flax and wool should be more extensively wrought up through the province. Flax mills certainly should be introduced ; as the want of them was felt to be a serious inconvenience. The farmer should now be relieved from the manual labour of breaking and skutching it. And therefore he thought that the improved machinery should be imported at once, and be attached to one or two of the grist mills in the more populous counties.

He could not conclude his present remarks, without repeating the obligations we owe to the noble founder of this society ; and he thought it a duty at our annual meetings that his name should be mentioned with respect. His Lordship had given his money liberally to the Institution, and had supported it at the outset with his whole authority. At the same time he was aware that any eulogium of this kind was a tribute of little value ; because his Lordship was much better rewarded in the silent approval of our hearts.

The honourable MICHAEL WALLACE, then stated from the chair, that a proposal to sell the stallions had been made in the meeting of the Directors ; and that he now brought this subject forward, that gentlemen might have an opportunity of expressing their sentiments on it.

On this RICHARD BLAIR, Esq. observed, that he had no objections whatever to the sale of the stallions ; because he thought they would be much better looked after as private property, and that the province would be equally benefitted by their use. The

money which arose out of this sale could be applied nowise more advantageously than in the purchase of another ; for this species of stock required in the country obvious improvement.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL supported this view of the case and cordially approved of the stallions being sold ; with this difference, however, from the last speaker, that he would prefer the proceeds being laid out in importing sheep from England. There were some difficulties in the way of accomplishing this ; but through the medium of the present Governor an application should be made to the British government, to allow a clause to be tacked to some act of Parliament, authorizing this society to import 50 or 60 sheep.—The present breed which we had in Nova-Scotia was ill fitted for the country ; because the fleece was too fine for our coarse domestic manufactures. Our wool would fetch a high price in England, because there it was wanted for finer purposes ; whereas here there was no need for it. The old Leicester sheep with their heavy fleece of coarse wool were the breed which our situation demanded, and not the Dishley or improved Leicester. The Southdown on which our farmers had long set so high a value, furnished wool by far too fine for the province.

S. G. W. ARCHIBALD, Esq. proposed that the sale of the stallions should be referred to the committee of appropriation, which had been just named, and that they should make a report to the next meeting of the society.—He entirely approved of the views which had been expressed regarding the disposal of the stallions ; and conceived that the proceeds arising from the sale might be left for future consideration. He would propose, that the meeting now adjourn to Thursday next, the 20th instant ; and before that time the house of Assembly would take up the question of the agricultural grant ; and the committee would also proceed to apportion that grant among the various objects, which had been submitted in the scheme of the Directors.

W. H. O. HALLIBURTON, Esq. observed that before the meeting came to a close, he could not refrain from expressing his good wishes towards this society and his desire of encouraging it. No public money could be applied to a better object than the promotion of our agriculture. At the same time he thought our domestic manufactures worthy of encouragement ; and on that account he highly ap-

proved of the premiums proposed for the raising and preparation of flax.

The business of the day being now concluded, the meeting was adjourned until Thursday.

Adjourned Meeting, March 20.

The Society met this day in the room appropriated to the House of Assembly; and the chair was again filled by the Honourable the Vice President. He opened the business by stating that the two committees formerly appointed should now give in their reports.

W. A. CHIPMAN, Esq. was called upon to state the result of the examination into the accounts of expenditure presented by the treasurer; and he replied, that the committee had gone over all the vouchers and found every thing correct: that the grant of £1250 was totally exhausted, and that the sum of £420 17 6, out of the last grant of £800, was expended.

The Honourable JUDGE HALLIBURTON, as chairman of the committee of appropriation, was next requested to explain in what manner the vote of £1000, passed by the legislature since the last meeting of the society, had been divided, with the view of encouraging the provincial agriculture.

The Honourable the JUDGE rose at this call from the chair, holding in his hand the scheme which had been adopted by the committee. He first of all, remarked that as £1000 had only been voted to meet the proposed objects of encouragement, which according to the Directors' scheme, required the sum of £1500, the committee took into consideration, whether they would apportion this grant on a reduced scale to all the parts of the scheme, or whether they would lay aside some articles, and select such as they conceived to be of paramount interest. The committee adopted the last of these propositions, and appropriated the £1000 among such objects as in their opinion were of most consequence. It was with some regret, that they came to this determination, because there had not been a measure proposed by the board of Directors of which they did not heartily approve, but they feared, that the premiums might become ineffective, if frittered

down so low as not to call forth a zealous emulation. For the more full elucidation of their views, he would beg leave to go over the scheme, and offer such remarks as would illustrate the principles on which the committee proceeded.

First of all he observed, that they had set apart the sum of £380 for the support of the local societies, which was to be shared amongst them on nearly the same plan as that of last year. The committee thought that this was a matter of primary consideration; because these societies were the means, by which the agricultural spirit had been excited, and by which it could be preserved; and any diminution of encouragement here might endanger the whole system which was now acting with such vigour and effect. The advantage of these associations had been universally acknowledged: and the friendly footing on which they had corresponded with the Central Board, had been a pledge of their past, and an earnest of their future usefulness. The samples of wheat which, two years ago, had been sent from all parts of the province to the board were examined by himself with the most heartfelt pleasure, and he must now state to the honour of the societies, that the different weights per bushel mentioned in the respective returns had been found wonderfully correct.

It would be observed, that the leading feature of the present scheme was to encourage the production of wheat. In this grain more than in any other, our agriculture appeared to be defective in quantity, though not in quality; and it was therefore proposed to fix the attention of our farmers to this culture, not only in those places where societies were established, but throughout the whole province in general. For this purpose the counties were divided into two classes, and a set of premiums was allotted to each, proportioned to their supposed advancement in husbandry. The five counties of Halifax proper, Lunenburg, Queens, Shelburne, and the late annexed island of Cape Breton were thought by the committee to be inferior, with respect to arable cultivation, to the other seven in Nova Scotia; and therefore a smaller number of bushels were allowed to gain the prizes which were offered to the farmers within their respective limits. The smallest quantities in the scheme were fixed at 200, 150 and 100. But in the other seven counties, viz: Cumberland, Kings, Hants, Annapolis, Sydney, Pictou and Colchester:

greater exertions were expected, and therefore the number of bushels was raised to 350, 250 and 150, and at the same time the prizes themselves were increased, with a view to excite and to reward, in some measure, the additional degree of industry.

To this plan for encouraging wheat five general prizes had been added: and it was understood by the committee that these latter might be gained by the same persons who had been the successful candidates for the former. It was thus possible, therefore, for one farmer to obtain this year the premium for the best acre of wheat in his own district, and also to receive the reward for being the greatest raiser of this grain in his own county, and even in the whole province. By thus uniting the possibility of gaining three separate prizes, a most powerful inducement was held out to extend the wheat culture, and to accelerate the auspicious period when the country would become independent in bread-corn. It was this great and national object to which these prizes were directed, and he trusted that our farmers would make becoming exertions to hasten this event. They had hitherto not been inattentive to the calls which had been addressed to them—they had made surprising efforts—and he ardently hoped that they would go on as vigorously as they had begun.

To further the same end, that of raising our own bread corn, a number of prizes was offered for the cultivation of Indian corn. He felt it his duty to state to the meeting that on this head much diversity of opinion had prevailed in the committee. Some argued, that it was a crop which deserved no encouragement from the society, because in unfavourable seasons, it entirely miscarried even in our best counties, and in others less fortunate in climate and situation, it could not be cultivated to any extent nor ever enter into a course of rotation. Nova-Scotia on the whole was deemed unfriendly to Indian corn, as our summers had not the requisite heat to bring it to perfection.

While these arguments were maintained on the one hand, others of an opposite tendency were advanced with equal plausibility and force. It was stated that Indian corn from being cultivated in drills was favourable to the improvement of the soil, and to the extirpation of weeds—that it could be followed by a white crop without violating the rules of good husbandry, and that in

many parts of the province it could be raised advantageously to a vast extent. Besides it was a crop exceedingly productive, and well worth the attention of the farmers in Hants, in Horton, in Cornwallis and Annapolis. There was one motive which had weighed with some members of the committee that he would now beg leave to explain—It had been said by some that the Provincial Society had not been useful, and that the increase of agricultural exertion was owing to the necessity of the times. He would admit that the period, in which this society began to act, was highly favourable to its views, for the school of instruction had not been opened, till there was a disposition and a necessity in the people to become scholars. We had availed ourselves of those favourable symptoms in the times; and our farmers also had seized the opportunity to learn those doctrines and maxims which had been taught them. Accordingly when we look into the books of the Custom-house, we find that our lessons have not been thrown away, and that in proportion as this society has encouraged any article of farm produce, the greater and the more extended has been its cultivation. Let us now try again the utility of the society by a new and a further test, and see whether we cannot prevail on our farmers to plant a greater quantity of Indian corn. If it shall be found that those premiums lead to this effect, that greater exertions shall be made in this department of rural art, who then will presume in future to deny the efficacy of the society?

The erection of flax-mills was considered by the committee as a very important step towards the provincial prosperity. Although this society has hitherto striven rather to feed than to clothe the population, yet we have now advanced so far in attaining the first that we can spare some portion of our attention to the second. The funds however at the disposal of the committee, were found insufficient to promote this measure recommended in the scheme of the Directors, and therefore the sum of £20 only was assigned as a bounty on the first mill that should be built in the province.

Seventy pounds were reserved in the scheme for incidental expences, and the secretary had of himself proposed, that these should be ascertained by satisfactory vouchers; but should the necessary expenditure exceed the amount, that he should be paid the surplus.

With this understanding the committee had set down the amount in the present scheme.

There was a proposal made by some of the members to reduce the salary allowed the secretary, because it seemed to bear too great a proportion to the whole sum voted for agricultural purposes.— This question had been discussed in the committee, and it was carried by a considerable majority that no alteration should be made in the allowance given to that officer. His decision, the Judge continued, was agreeable to his own opinion. Had it not been for the writings of the secretary, this society in all probability would never have been formed. By his labours and exertions he had kept up the spirit of the minor societies, and therefore whatever benefit had resulted to the country from the extension of our agriculture, to him as the mainspring they must be in a great measure ascribed. It is true, the Central Board might perhaps get a secretary for £50 a year, who would keep their accounts and record their proceedings—but such a man would not at all answer our purpose.— We needed a secretary who felt himself the glow of enthusiasm, and had the power of communicating it to others; and therefore, under all the circumstances of the case, he really thought that the diminution of the salary should not in future be a subject of discussion.

The honourable Judge then went over the articles which had been omitted in the present scheme returned by the committee, and applied to each some very pertinent remarks. The curing of beef and pork, the further erection of oatmills, the growth of flax were so obviously important as to need no sort of comment to recommend them to the notice of the present meeting; and he concluded by submitting to their consideration the propriety of applying to the legislature for further aid.

The honourable MICHAEL WALLACE proposed from the chair that the sense of the meeting be now taken as to the acceptance of the report of appropriation which had just been commented on by the chairman of the committee.

S. G. W. ARCHIBALD, Esq. then addressed the meeting, and stated that he had had the honour of being one of that committee—that he had found the £1000 quite inadequate to meet all the purposes which the Directors had contemplated in their scheme, and therefore from necessity had yielded to the omission of those articles

which had just been enumerated. The division of the counties into a twofold classification with respect to the wheat premiums had received his full acquiescence; because it was obvious that some of them were in better training, and made greater progress in the improved methods of tillage. He had entertained doubts respecting the encouragement offered for Indian corn; as he considered oats to be a much surer and more advantageous crop; but these were overruled by the wishes of the majority, and he had fallen in with the general voice. Oatmeal in Nova-Scotia had been found so useful; that in the end it must banish Indian corn, and would prove one of the main pillars on which our independence would rest. He regretted exceedingly that the curing of beef and pork had necessarily been abandoned—pease he looked upon as a very valuable crop—and the erection of oatmills in the western parts of the province was a most desirable measure; for in the eastern, their utility was universally acknowledged, and abundance of them, at least equal to the present wants of the people, had been erected. Notwithstanding these omissions in the present scale arising from the inadequacy of the grant, he was decidedly of opinion that the scheme now returned by the committee should be closed and accepted in its present shape by the meeting. He therefore moved that the present appropriation of the £1000 be agreed to.

The honourable THE ATTORNEY GENERAL followed; and began by saying that he had no doubt the committee had exercised their best judgment in drawing up the report and scheme of appropriation, but in his mind it was not altogether free of objections. I shall now say nothing, continued he, of the utility of this society, because it is established on the most irresistible proof. You have heard, gentlemen, of its efficacy in Liverpool—a place where one could hardly expect that agriculture should thrive: and you have only to go down to Mr. John Brown's wharf for a further and stronger proof of the increase of our cultivation. There Mr. Brown has shipped on board of a vessel 20 barrels of good native flour and 4 tons of bread, and these quantities will be increased before the vessel sails for Newfoundland. We shall be troubled with no croakers now to dispirit our exertions and to cry down our zeal. Whatever croaking frogs the spring may bring forth, we shall have none now muttering against the society.

There is one caution, however which I would suggest to the secre-

tary relative to the reports which were printed from the minor societies. The produce of an acre, in some of these, was rated so extravagantly high as to exceed all belief. Such improbable accounts had a tendency to mar the ends of the institution, and make the world suspect that they were printed only to deceive. When these reports go abroad, mankind must either think them a species of quackery or deception; or else that Nova-Scotia is one of the most fertile spots, upon which the sun shone and the dew and rains descended.

Further it was his opinion that all the country societies should exact from every candidate the course of tillage by which the premiums were won. By thus compelling every one to tell how the work was done; others would be instructed and follow the example. The money should never be paid till all the circumstances connected with the method of cultivation were detailed for the general benefit.

Of the leading feature of the scheme he highly approved. Nothing was so necessary for us now, as to encourage the growth of wheat; and the premiums were very happily and wisely contrived to answer this purpose. It was his opinion, however, that the number of bushels for which the general prizes were to be bestowed ought to be fixed on a larger scale; and that the highest successful quantity should be quoted at 500, and the lowest 200 bushels.

But while he gave his hearty concurrence to the wheat premiums he as heartily condemned those for Indian corn. He saw a great variety of objections to this culture; although he was disposed to allow every man to follow his own taste. First of all, these premiums could not be general and were therefore not useful; for there were only a few counties that could contend for them. He felt inclined to substitute pease in room of Indian corn, as being a much preferable crop. Corn, it is true, was very fashionable in America; because their sterile and burnt nplands were fit for nothing else; and if we would confine the culture to the sandy plains of Aylsford, there could be much less said against the scheme. But by giving £50 to induce our farmers to plant Indian corn, we were just encouraging them to do the very thing, which in reality should be discountenanced. Pease improve the soil on which they grow, by rendering it black and mellow; whereas Indian

corn is an exhausting crop, and always stands in need of manure.

But while the scheme holds out this encouragement for the production of Indian corn, the committee had obliterated from it one of its most important objects—the erection of oatmills. No man would surely tell him that the meal manufactured from these two grains was of equally nutritious powers; because a labourer who was fed on Indian meal would not require less than eight or ten diets a day; whereas a sturdy resolute Scotchman at any sort of work would outdo forty of them. Nay he would not hesitate to appeal to the brute creation in proof of his opinion. Give him only a hundred pigs from Chester or Sambro who lived there by diving for lobsters (he did not want pigs from Horton or Cornwallis, whose taste was vitiated) and to their decision he would refer the whole case. Take quantities of oats, and Indian meal, and mix them with water in separate troughs; and you would find that all the pigs would run to the oatmeal and eat it up entirely before they would touch the other.

He was also much surprised to find that the curing of beef and pork was left out of the scheme. At the present moment these were the two main articles of agricultural produce, which were calculated for an export, and neither husbandry nor commerce would thrive till an export was provided. Were some of our merchants to embark heartily in this concern, the weekly papers would announce to our farmers the price of cattle and of meat; and thus they would proceed from home with a certainty of the rates which could be obtained. The consumption of butchers meat depended at present almost entirely on the army contract; and if this from any cause were to be discontinued, cattle would fall much lower than we could possibly conceive. It was certainly a pity to confine our farmers to a demand so extremely narrow, when to us the sea was open for a large export trade.

A statistical account of the province was also overlooked in the present scheme. It would be easy for us now to collect materials for such a work; especially as we had three colleges and grammar schools without number. The questions proposed

should be printed and very extensively circulated ; so that every scholar in Nova Scotia could contribute his mite, and add to the general stock of information.—Something of this kind was called for by a most Imperious necessity ; because in some books this province was described as dreadful, and in others as delightful and productive. Let us ascertain the fact—let us note down in a variety of minutes what are the climate and the soil—and then affix to the whole the sanction of our names.

For my own part, said he, I know the value of this province—I have long contemplated its resources, and I mean to spend in it the remainder of my days ; for I give it a preference to the country where I was born. It was long a matter of dispute whether the vine was a natural product of our soil ; but this can be no longer questionable, for I am in possession of several native plants taken from the forest and growing there in a wild state. Surely, then, it is of much importance to give to Nova-Scotia its just and true character, and to accomplish this we have only to follow the footsteps of Sir John Sinclair in his collection of Scottish statistics. We want facts, not arguments and fine writing ; and by sending printed schedules through the country to be filled up, we shall be able to gather all useful information.

He was sorry, also, to observe that a very inadequate provision was made for flax mills. Nothing was more necessary to give a spring to our domestic manufactures than the encouraging of flax ; and this too was good policy when we look to our imports of linen. This plant would be very extensively cultivated, were it not for the difficulty which exists in the preparatory process of skutching it.

If the members would only go down to Mr. Brown's wharf he was sure that they would be disposed to unlock the treasury to the society, and desire the Directors to take out of it whatever was needed for our agriculture. They would give us not only money for all useful purposes, but even something to speculate on. And therefore he would now come to a close ; in the full confidence that this meeting would adopt a resolution to apply for further aid from the legislature ; that all those great objects which he had enumerated might be promoted by an adequate provision.

The Honourable JUDGE STEWART felt some hesitation in rising after the laborious exertions of his friend the Attorney general who had so eloquently thundered forth his sentiments ; and after those of Judge Halliburton who had advocated the same cause in the still

small voice of persuasion. He and those gentlemen had laboured together from the period of their youth, and could well estimate the improvement of this province. Its inhabitants are not aware of the rapid growth of its resources, and of the importance of its rising agriculture. When he first came to this country, there was a want of all the necessaries and comforts of life, inasmuch as the soil was incapable of supplying them; and both butter and pork required for ordinary consumption were drawn from Ireland. Our market then exhibited none of that fulness which we have lately witnessed. All sorts of farm produce were exceedingly rare; and native pork, beef, and poultry were not procurable for money. Within the last four years a more vigorous and fresher impulse had been communicated to the peasantry, and this good effect must be attributed in a great measure to the writings of the secretary. There can be no doubt of the fact that this country is looking up and improving in industry and wealth. The necessity of the times has been referred to by some as the cause of this alteration; but he was of a different opinion and ascribed not the whole but a great deal of it to the influence of this society. He should be extremely vexed to see any thing like a diminution of our exertions and as we had succeeded so well already, let us prosecute the same system of measures by which our ultimate and great ends may be accomplished.

Let us not, therefore, touch the report. It has been carefully prepared, and has come from good hands. If some material objects have been left out from the want of funds, let more money be applied for, and he would say, that money ought to be granted. He had always been a friend to economy; and yet he would not hesitate to declare that £1000 was certainly not the utmost we could afford from the provincial chest. Let the present scale remain unaltered and undisturbed, as it has been framed by the committee; and let further aid be solicited from the legislature.

W. H. O. HALLIBURTON, Esq. was sorry to observe that flax, pease, and other matter of great interest were left out in the plan, because the funds had been limited by the legislature according to the report of the chairman of the committee. Under those circumstances a larger sum would be most acceptable to the society; but for himself he had little or no hopes of a further grant. The £1000 already voted ought, therefore, to meet as many objects as possible; and economy should be exercised on all those parts of the scheme

which would admit of retrenchment. He was highly pleased to hear the Attorney General advocate the agricultural interests of the country; and he himself was as anxious for its success as any man although he might adopt a different method of encouragement. He was therefore little inclined to substitute flax for Indian corn, notwithstanding the many plausible objections urged against the latter crop because he thought it our wisest policy to hold out the greatest possible inducement to the farmer to raise bread-corn; and after this was accomplished, we could with more propriety and effect turn his attention to clothing. Although he approved therefore highly of flax, he thought it subordinate to the culture of grain and was not disposed to interfere with the premiums offered for Indian corn. Every object now contemplated would, he trusted, be properly cherished and supported in the course of time, for he wished the society to last long, and that its plans should ultimately be matured. In the meantime if the legislature saw meet, he should be glad to get further aid.

WILLIAM LAWSON, Esq. wished to make only a few observations. He would like that some other gentlemen than those of the Bar would express their sentiments on this subject. The effects of this society have been praised by them on all hands, although he was satisfied that the money granted to the Central Board had done no good. Instead of considering it as a matter of exultation that native flour was exporting from the country, he viewed it with regret, because American flour must be substituted in its place. For his own part he was determined to eat the flour of the country, and therefore he wished it retained for our own consumption. All the good which has been done, let the gentlemen of the bar say what they please, has emanated from the secretary and his writings and not from the Board. This was not his own opinion alone, for when he conversed with country farmers they all agreed with him, although at present they were content to sit still in silence.

The honourable the ATTORNEY GENERAL conceived that although a member of the bar he certainly was entitled to speak, for he had paid well for his knowledge of farming; and when he looked around him to the other gentlemen of the bar, he saw a very great propriety in their taking a share of the debate, because they were all more or less engaged in rural pursuits. In consequence of the dignity which had been given to agriculture by the countenance and patronage of that Board, several of those gentlemen had retired from the bustle

and contention of legal strife to the calm tranquility of the country, and certainly it was delightful to see those men pass the evening of their days in such employment. The cultivation of the earth gave full scope to all their powers of mind, as embracing every science which constitutes human knowledge. He would not therefore cease to raise his voice in this cause and would support it in every capacity in which he stood in this community. As a member of the bar, as an officer of the crown, and as belonging to the legislative body, he would defend the interests and measures of this society.

After some further observations by RUFUS FAIRBANKS, Esquire, Judge HALLIBURTON, Mr. LAWSON and others, the scheme as returned by the committee was approved of and accepted by the meeting. After some further discussion, a motion was made by S. G. W. ARCHIBALD, Esq. with the view of applying to the legislature for a

Scheme of Agricultural

For encouraging the local husbandry of the 25 societies in the province, the Central Board has appropriated to the

Provincial Society,	£20 0 0
Musquodoboit,	12 10 0
Shubenacadie and Gay's River,	10 0 0
Stewiack,	10 0 0
Colchester,	17 10 0
Londonderry,	17 10 0
Pictou, West River,	20 0 0
—, East River,	12 10 0
Sydney,	15 0 0
Manchester,	15 0 0
Cape Breton,	20 0 0
Arichat,	10 0 0
Maubou,	10 0 0
Cumberland,	20 0 0
Parisborough,	10 0 0
Hants,	20 0 0
—, East and Noel,	20 0 0
King's County,	15 0 0
Do. do. Union,	15 0 0
Annapolis,	20 0 0
Digby,	10 0 0
Yarmouth,	15 0 0
Lunenburg,	15 0 0
Sherbrooke,	10 0 0
Liverpool,	20 0 0
	————— 380.

For raising the greatest quantities of Wheat in the seven counties and districts of Annapolis, King's, Hants, Cumberland, Sydney, Colchester and Pictou, 15L are set apart to each, and to be divided into three prizes :

For the first greatest quantity,	£7
For the second ditto,	5
For the third ditto,	3—15L. in all 105L.—£405

further grant, and which motion was carried by a great majority.

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this meeting that an application be made to the legislature for a further sum of money to encourage the agriculture of the province for the present year, and which is to be applied to encourage the culture and manufacture of flax, the raising of field pease, the curing of beef and pork, and the erecting of oatmills.

The thanks of the meeting were then voted to the Hon. MICHAEL WALLACE, the vice-president, for his laudable and unwearied attention to the affairs of the society.

It is only necessary to add that on applying to the House of Assembly in pursuance of the above resolution, it appeared that the committee of supply was closed for the session, and that a further sum could not be obtained.

Prizes for 1823.

Objects and Rules of competition.

The objects in every society, this year, are limited to summer fallow, with four ploughings and harrowings,—to Lime applied in the greatest quantities—and to the largest products, on a neat undivided acre, of Wheat, Rye, Indian Corn and Oats as white crops, and of Turneps, Carrots and Mangel Wurtzel in drills, as green crops.

Rules of competition in every Society.

1. Each association is at liberty to select from the above classes of objects, such as are suited to its own condition, and to divide the sum allotted it out of the grant, into at least twelve prizes; and for this purpose a general meeting of the members shall be called in this present month of April.

2. The scheme adopted by every society, signed and countersigned by the president and secretary, shall be made up and dispatched on or before the 20th of May next, for publication. None of a later date will be received by the Board.

3. Every competitor shall point out to his own society, his object or objects of competition, and the place where he means to conduct his operations; but in white or green crops, he may chuse the *best undivided acre* in the field, before the judges proceed to inspect and examine it. The list of competitors is to be returned with the scheme.

4. The two judges, appointed by the societies to act in every district, shall ascertain the greatest extent of summer fallow executed, and of lime applied; and in the case of crops, they shall proceed to the acre of competition, measure off eight square rods, and before quitting the spot, determine the produce thereof, with such care and accuracy, as to prevent the possibility of deception either by the claimant himself or by his servants. The competitor must afterwards give in the quantity raised on the whole acre for their more correct information.

Rules of competition.

1. In the seven counties specified the first prize of £7 cannot be gained by a less quantity than 350 bushels, clean wheat; the second of £5, by less than 250; and third of £3 by less than 150 bushels. But in the five counties the first prize may be gained by 200, the second by 150 and the third by 100 bushels, clean wheat.

2. Any farmer whatever, within the limits of the county, may contend for these prizes.

Brought forward,£485

For raising the greatest quantities of Wheat in the five counties of Halifax Trooper, of Lnnenburg, Queens, Shelburne and of Cape Breton £12 are set apart to each, and to be divided also into three prizes :

For the first ditto, £5
 For the second ditto, 4
 For the third ditto, 8—12l. in all £60

For the further encouragement of raising wheat five general prizes are offered for the greatest quantities in the province :

First, 9
 Second, 8
 Third, 7
 Fourth, 6
 Fifth, 5—————35l.

For encouraging the growth of Perennial red clover seed, five prizes are offered for the greatest quantities raised in the province :

First, £8
 Second, 7
 Third, 6
 Fourth, 5
 Fifth, 4—————30l.

For encouraging the extended culture of Indian corn seven general prizes are held out to the whole province :

First, £10
 Second, 9
 Third, 8
 Fourth, 7
 Fifth, 6
 Sixth, 5 10
 Seventh, 4 10—————50l.

For erecting the first flax mill in any part of the province, a bounty is offered of £20.

Incidental expenses, £70
 Salary, 250

Amounting in the whole to £1000

3. All competitors must, on or before the first day of August next, inform the nearest local society of their intention to put in a claim, that it may appoint competent judges, in all necessary places, first, to be satisfied as to the quantity of wheat growing, and afterwards to ascertain the number of bushels thrashed.

4. Should any one of the societies in the first seven counties be of opinion, that the number of bushels in the 1st rule is fixed too high for their agriculture, such society, on giving information to the Board by the 20th June next, will be allowed to classify their county with the other five, and to contend for the £5, 4, and 3 prizes at 200, 150 and 100 bushels.

5. All claims must pass through the local societies to the Central Board, and be signed by the respective secretaries in addition to the signatures of the particular judges: and they must all be returned by the 1st of February next, in order that the legislature in session may be apprized of the results.

Rules of competition.

1. Any farmer in Nova Scotia may become a competitor.
2. A just claim for these general prizes cannot be invalidated, although the person for the same identical wheat, has gained any of the above county prizes, or even obtained in his own society the premium for the best acre of this grain.
3. As in the county prizes for wheat, all claims for these five must be intimated to the nearest local societies by the 1st of August, must be examined and ascertained by the judges appointed; and must be also returned to the Central Board by the first of February next.

Rules of competition.

1. The seed must be of crop 1823, well saved and fit for sowing.
2. The quantity must be proved by certificates from the local societies.
3. Fair and average samples must be forwarded by the claimants for the inspection of the Directors, who will determine by quality as well as by quantity.
4. For the first prize must be raised at least 400 lbs.—for the second 350, for the third 250, for the fourth 200, and for the last 150 lbs. clean marketable seed.

Rules of competition.

1. The first prize cannot be won by a less quantity than 300 bushels, shelled corn; the second, by less than 250; the third by less than 200; the fourth by less than 180; the fifth by less than 160; the sixth by less than 140; and the seventh by less than 120 bushels.
2. All farmers in Nova Scotia may contend for them; only, as in the case of the wheat prizes formerly described, every competitor must inform the nearest local society of his intention by the first day of August, that competent judges may be appointed to inspect the growing crop and afterwards ascertain the shelled corn; and must also obtain a certificate from the local secretary previous to his applying for the money at Halifax, and must have his claim transmitted either on or before the first February next.

Rules of competition.

1. The site must be approved of by the local society.
2. The mill must be a distinct building, situated on a good stream of water, and must contain the necessary machinery to prepare the flax fit for hackling.
3. When the machinery is fitted up and ready for motion, the claimant must instantly inform the nearest local society, and call without delay respectable witnesses to ascertain the date, as the bounty will be adjudged by priority of competition: but the money is not demandable till a sample of the sketched flax is presented to the Board for their inspection and approval.

Remarks.

1. The expenses must be accounted for by proper evidence and vouchers.
2. All expenses incurred must be approved of by the Directors.
3. The secretary is to be entitled to neither more nor less than the actual outlays in the management of the public service.

N. B. The agricultural minor societies can confine the local premiums (if they so incline) to their own members: but all the other prizes are general, and may be contended for by every farmer in the province.

Halifax, April 10, 1823.

JOHN YOUNG, secretary.

Scheme of encouragement for 1823,

Submitted by the Directors to the Legislature.

For the 25 societies, 10 per cent. advance on the sums of last year,.....	£4	0	0
For raising wheat in seven counties, three prizes of 7 <i>l.</i> , 5 <i>l.</i> and 3 <i>l.</i> in each,.....	105	0	0
For do do in five counties three prizes of 5 <i>l.</i> , 4 <i>l.</i> and 3 <i>l.</i> in each,.....	50	0	0
For do. do. five general prizes,.....	35	0	0
For curing and packing in barrels beef and pork,.	100	0	0
For raising perennial red clover seed,.....	30	0	0
For raising field pease,.....	25	0	0
For raising Indian corn,.....	40	0	0
For the erecting of machines to shell Indian corn from the cob,.....	19	0	0
For procuring the materials of a statistical account of the province,.....	97	0	0
For encouraging the erection of Flax mills seven premiums of 20 <i>l.</i> each,.....	140	0	0
For growing the largest quantities of flax five prizes, 3 <i>l.</i>	31	0	0
For erecting the first five oatmills in such counties and districts where none at present exist, 12 <i>l.</i> each,.....	60	0	0
For incidental expenses,.....	90	0	0
For salary,.....	250	0	0
	£1500	0	0

