THE

"MARITIME FARMER,"

the most largely circulated and most popular family newspaper published in Fredericton, is issued from the Office,

Corner Queen and Carleton Streets,

Every Wednesday Afternoon.

Subscription Price, - $1.00 per Year,

IN ADVANCE.

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Every variety of JOB PRINTING promptly executed.

LORAN C. MACNUTT,
Editor and Proprietor.

Maritime Farmer.

FREDERICTON, N. B., December 29, 1886.

A Happy New Year to All.

Well begun,
Is half done—*Old Proverb*

From earliest times there has always been a special importance attached to New Year's Day. This probably arose from the feeling, that the commencement of any work was of no ordinary importance, a feeling that has been expressed in the practical proverb, "Well begun, is half done." The Romans had a god to preside over the beginning of everything, as well as over the doorways or entrances. They called him Janus, and from this name the first month in the year is called January. New Year's Day was the principal festival of this god, and was very rigidly observed. The people were very careful that all they thought, said or did, on this day, was pure and favorable, because they thought that it was ominous for the events of the whole succeeding year. They all wore holiday garments, and did not give way to quarrelling or cursing. They had a kind word for every one they met, with an expression of favorable wishes; and they tried to think about all they hoped to do during the year, and if possible to make some little beginning of it all. One universal custom was to give presents on this day to their friends, to promote kindly feeling. These presents were generally some form of candy, or a special copper coin with the double head of Janus on one side and a ship on the other. Of course printing had not then been invented, but had it been within their power, a favorite present would have been a copy of the MARITIME FARMER. There was a special name for these New Years gifts, "strena" from an old Sabine word, meaning *strength* and health, which is represented among us by "strenuous." The word is still used by the French for their New Years' gifts which are called *Etrennes*, and New Years day is called from them, *Le Jour d' Etrennes*. On New Year's day in Paris alone, it is estimated that candies to the value of $100,000, are given away. Women luckily are exempted from giving, but they receive from all their friends, who are expected to give according to their means. Some persons spend as much as a fifteenth of their years' income in presents on this day; for each man is expected to call on all his friends, and never to come empty handed.

The Copts have inherited a beautiful custom from their Christian ancestors of calling each month as it comes, Blessed, which is meant as a wish that that month may be blessed to all faithful Christians.

Our custom of visiting friends with good wishes for the New Year, is very pleasant, and, as we have said, is very ancient. In England, three and four hundred years ago, the favorite present was a pair of gloves when gloves were generally more expensive than they are now. The courtiers of Queen Elizabeth spent a great sum in providing handsome jewels and embroidered robes as presents to the Queen on New Year's Day, and some lists of such presents made by the Queen's command, have come down to our times. But all cannot afford this, while all can afford good wishes and kindly salutations, which promote good fellowship.

The prospects of the New Year, which will have opened before our next issue, are more hopeful. Trade is reviving: more railways are centreing in Fredericton, the Northern and Western is in prosperous running; the Central is pushing on; the Short Line is becoming a certainty: the railway bridge will soon be a reality, the contract for the steel superstructure has been agreed upon. Then for the more lighthearted, the new Trotting Park is in order, and the Toboggan slide will be in slippery condition as soon as the weather permits; the curlers are eager for the "roaring game;" and last, but not least, Lady Tilley is still in Government House, the centre of good works, whether for the benefit or the social enjoyment of all within her reach.

It is then with no gloomy forebodings but with hopeful prospects that we look forward to the New Year. To our subscribers we send this sheet, hoping that they will never decrease, but speedily increase in number, and prosperity. To all, whether subscribers now, or shortly about to become so, and also to those unfortunates who do not subscribe, we heartily wish

A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

There is no back down in the Dominion Government on the Fishery dispute, Saturday's *Canada Gazette* contained the important notice that the Act amending the Fisheries Act, which was reserved at last session of Parliament, has received the Imperial assent and become law. This is a very important fact. The act provides for the confiscation of American fishing vessels entering Canadian harbors for any purposes other than the four provided for in the treaty of 1818, namely, shelter, repairs, obtaining food or obtaining water, and the Imperial authorities in giving their assent to this enactment, practically justify the action of the Canadian Government, and decides that the latter has the right to confiscate vessels entering Canadian ports for the purpose of obtaining bait or ice.

The Conservatives of Northumberland are to meet January 5th, to nominate a candidate in opposition to Mr. Snowball. It is believed that Peter Mitchell has taken his final leave of the county, and that the contest will be a strict party one, between Mr. Adams and Mr. Snowball.

The Board of Agriculture.

This important institution held its annual session here last week, and promptly disposed of the business committed to its care. The able address, clearly outlining the most striking features of the Board's oparations during the past year, delivered by President McLellan, will be found elsewhere. Mr. McLellan gives in detail, the history of the horse importation, a matter of special significance to the farmers of New Brunswick. From him we learn, that the thirteen horses purchased in England by the Government, cost, including the Provincial Secretary's expenses, £2,847 sterling or about eleven hundred dollars for each. Two others secured in Ontario, cost, including expenses $3,182, or nearly sixteen hundred dollars each. One of the horses having died, the purchase of three more has been ordered, and the total cost of the eighteen will exceed twenty thousand dollars. The Board has decided that the services of the horses be offered singly for sale at public auction to the highest bidder; that the period of hiring be one season; that the sale be on the last Wednesday in March; that it take place in Fredericton; that the horses be returned September 18; that each lessee give a joint and several bond with two sureties for $1,000 for draft horses and $1,500 for the others. It is proposed that each of the districts shall have three horses.

We are quite sure that the policy of the Government and Board with regard to the horses, will meet with general approval among the farmers of the Province. The Agricultural Societies have already voted their approval, by re-electing to the Board, all the members who voted in favor of the importation. Not one complaint has been heard from the Societies in the matter, but on the other hand, they warmly commend the new move. The cost of the importation is to be defrayed by a reduction of the grants to the Societies, but this will not take place till 1888, and only a portion of the whole cost, say $4,000 will be paid annually. That is, instead of the Government making the usual grant of $12,000 per annum the the Societies, after 1887, they will receive only $8,000 per year, until the cost of the importation is met. The opinion has before been expressed by the FARMER, that horse breeding can be made profitable in New Brunswick, and in support of this, we need but quote the experience of Prince Edward Island That little Province last year, with its population of 100,000, exported horses to the value of $300,000. We observe that Mr. McLellan gives some statistics in this connexion, which are worthy of careful study. Now that the Government has done its share towards encouraging horse breeding, a responsibility rests with the farmers, to secure the best possible results from the large outlay made by the Province.

We may add that the members of the Board, without exception, dealt intelligently with the matters submitted to them, having a single eye to the best interests of the Province.

Churchill's Resignation.

The latest sensation in English politics, is the sudden and unexpected resignation from the Government, of Lord Randolph Churchill, Chancellor of the Ex-chequer, and leader of the Government party in the House of Commons. The reason given for Churchill's retirement, is, that he considers that exorbitant estimates have been prepared for the army and navy departments, which were uncalled for by the state of foreign affairs. Lord Randolph himself says that his decision to retire was the result of due deliberation, and arose from no ill-temper or weariness of office. The suddenness of his act, however, took everybody by surprise, even his most intimate friends. A well informed London correspondent assures his readers, that there was no justification for the resignation, the estimates not being at all in excess of ordinary demands. They are, therefore, merely the pretext which Churchill as Chancellor of the Exchequer, has adopted to cover his retreat on domestic and Irish questions, in the face of his impossibility of presenting an economical budget, which he had promised. To describe the excitement in political, and especially Tory circles, would be impossible. The future is totally uncertain, owing to the suddenness of the event, and no Tory leader being in the House of Commons. The formation of a coalition Government, with Lord Hartington as Prime Minister and Lord Salisbury as Foreign Secretary, is the most probable, naturally followed, by a coalition of Lord Randolph Churchill and Mr. Chamberlain. Ultimately, the present split means a more rapid triumph of the Gladstonian party.

The *Times* says it is possible for Lord Salisbury to go on with an administration constructed on the lines of the present one. Lord Randolph Churchill was much more than Chancellor of the Exchequer. He was leader of the House of Commons, and the autumn session showed that whatever may be his quality as a financier, he has in a high degree the gift of managing men, and especially of guiding a loosely organized and impressionable popular assembly. No statesman who does not possess that gift can lead the House of Commons to any good purpose, and unless the House is skillfully led, even a great and loyal majority will not avail to save the ministry from disaster.

General John A. Logan who was the Republican candidate for the vice Presidency of the United States in 1884, is dead. There has been a strange fatality with the public men of the Republic during the past few years. Grant and Garfield, Hendricks and Arthur, Tilden and Hancock, McLellan and Adams are, among the eminent men who have passed away in a short time. All but the last two were successful or unsuccessful candidates for the Presidency and vice Presidency. Rutherford B. Hayes is the only living ex-President.

The Toronto *World* says that it has heard all the platform speakers in the Conservative party over and over again, and can honestly say, that Mr. Foster is decidedly the best of the lot, fair in his statements, honest in his argument, and entertaining in his manner of talking.

Mr. Blaine has not by any means given up his fight for the Republican Presidential nomination in 1888. He proposes taking a European tour next summer, and during his absence will pay a lengthened visit to Ireland.

Col. Scott will retire from the representation of Winnipeg in Parliament, and will support the candidature of Sir Donald Smith in the Conservative interest.

Mayor Howland's re-election in Toronto is being opposed by Mr. Blain, ex-M. P.

The Quebec legislature has been called for January 27.

GENERAL NEWS BUDGET.

The Doings of the Week Concisely Chronicled.

A branch of the Imperial Federation League has been organized in Halifax.

The estate of the late W. D. Lawrence, the great Nova Scotia shipbuilder, is valued at $750,000.

The ticket office of the Grand Trunk station, Hamilton, was burglarized Monday morning, and over two thousand dollars in cash stolen.

Mr. F. M. Kelly, A. B., the principal of the Sunbury grammer school, has resigned, much to the regret of the people of Sheffield and vicinity.

The Temple Theatre at Philadelphia, was burned Monday, and when the roof fell in, it buried two firemen, who were burned to death. Loss, $400,000.

The steamer "York City," which arrived at Halifax, the other day from Hamburg, brought 10,000 bags of beet root sugar for Montreal refineries.

Mr. J. A. Wood, a New York architect, is at present in Quebec preparing plans for the erection of a new hotel, to be built on the site of the old Parliament building, at a cost of $300,000.

A farmer living near Little Rock, Arkansas, while playing with his three year old son, was bitten on the thumb by the boy. Shortly afterward the hand began to swell, and the man died of the wound.

R. B. Mackintosh & Co., wholesale grocers and produce brokers of Halifax, have assigned. Creditors to the amount of $8,000 are preferred. The estate will probably pay 40 cents on the dollar.

Robert Beckwith, barrister, died on Christmas day, at his home, Bay Verte road, Westmorland County. Mr. Beckwith was a popular young man and highly respected by his professional brethren.

Henry Fox, proprietor of large planing mills on King street west, Toronto, was found dead in his arm chair Saturday morning, where he had been left sitting when the family retired for the night.

The following appointments are gazetted in the County of York; Michael Doherty, as vendor of liquors in the Parish of Dumfries under the Canada Temperance Act; James E. Pomeroy to be coroner.

Saturday afternoon, John Dawson, an old settler living on the outskirts of Mitchell, Ont., was gored to death by a ferocious bull, and his wife running out to the barnyard and seeing the bleeding form of her husband on the ground, fell dead.

Helena, Mont., says the Chicago *Canadian American*, has a club in whose affairs an old New Brunswicker, Mr. I. S. G. VanWart, is prominent. The club has adopted a very handsome costume and will participate in the St. Paul Winter Carnival.

It is understood in Ottawa that in the distribution of North-West medals to members of the Mounted Police they will be granted to those only who were actually under fire at Duck Lake, Cut Knife Creek, Batoche, Frenchmen's Butte or on board the "Marquis."

The other day the Canadian Pacific Railway, working in connection with the Commercial Cable, had a test of speed between New Westminster, B. C., and London. Messages were exchanged in one minute. The cable worked direct by Canso N. S, over 4,000 miles of wire.

After the violent gale and unusually heavy snow storm, a rapid thaw set in throughout England on Saturday. The storm did great damage to the grounds around Buckingham Palace. In Hyde Park, London, trees were blown down and all over the country telephone and telegraph wires were destroyed and railway trains impeded.

Mr. George A. Haggerty, mechanical superintendent of the N. B. Railway, has favored a number of his friends and the FARMER included with a Christmas souvenir, a poem written by himself, entitled Our Little Bears, giving a brief history of the origin, capture, habits in captivity of the two bears which he has at McAdam.

Yarmouth woollen mill goods are now being ordered from Jamaica and are sold in England, the United States, Bermuda and Western Canada, and are winning a world-wide reputation for their excellent quality. The mill has now orders for all it can manufacture for the next six months. The Yarmouth Woollen mill is a direct result of the National Policy.

At the forthcoming annual meeting of the Dominion Artillery Association in Ottawa a leading topic of discussion will be whether or not an artillery team shall be sent to the England next year. It is expected that many will favor instead holding a great artillery competition at the Isle of Orleans, near Quebec, at which trophies should be offered of sufficient value to bring terms from all over the Dominion. The commander of the Durham, England, artillery has written expressing a desire to bring a team to Canada next summer.

Montreal society is stirred, because the Governor General and Lady Lansdowne are to spend part of the winter there. Lord Lansdowne will take with him his suite, consisting of Captain Streatfield, Military secretary, Hon. Capt. Anson and Hon. Capt. Byng, aides-de-camp, and Lady Lansdowne will be accompanied by her ladies in waiting, Lady F. Churchill and Lady F. Streatfield. His Excellency proposes also to take his own servants, horses and equipages. He will hold numerous receptions, dinner parties, assemblies, and will probably give a grand ball.

Prince William street, St. John, was the scene of a lively scrimmage, last Thursday afternoon, when H. G. Betts, a young lawyer, and Sandy Philips, ticket agent, exchanged the fistic compliments of the season. The dispute occurred in Betts' office about an old law suit. High words followed and Betts' expectorating upon Philips, blows followed. The contestants forgot the stairs in their desperate struggle and the consequence was that both came down the steep stairway in a kind of a mixed up fashion, and rolled out into the street. A large crowd gathered, but the contestants could not be separated before blood had been let from both.

A movement is on foot which, if successful, St. John will witness on the 20th June next, one of the grandest demonstrations in the history of the city. On that day will occur the 50th anniversary of Her Majesty's ascension to the throne, the anniversary of the laying of the corner stone of the Oddfellows Hall, and the anniversary of the great fire. In the proposed demonstration, St. George's Society, the Oddfellows and the Polymorphian club are expected to take a leading part. The latter organization, under the proposed arrangement, will make a display in gorgeous costume, representing every class or people in Great Britain and the colonies.

In the Ontario local elections yesterday, the Mowatt Government was sustained by an increased majority. This result was not unexpected, Mr. Mowatt having gerrymanded forty-four constituencies to suit himself. Mowatt's victory will be heralded as an omen of coming Conservative disaster in Dominion politics, but it will be well to remember, that both Sir John and Mowatt obtained sweeping victories in Ontario in 1882. The constituencies, the franchise, and the issues in the local and Dominion contests, are entirely different, and while Mowatt achieved great success yesterday, there is no good reason why Sir John will not be able to do the same thing a few months hence. Mowatt's majority in the new assembly will be at least thirty in a house of eight-eight members. It was about twenty during the past three years.

Somebody tried the other night to destroy Sir John A. Macdonald's life while he was travelling to Toronto on his political tour. The porter of the car says every one on board but himself was asleep at the time. There were two distinct explosions. The window of the door, the end window alongside of it, and the first side window, the one around the corner, were all blown out and the fragments scattered about the car. The glass was of thick plate. Besides this the frame work of the door, of the heaviest hardwood, was badly damaged. It was not a shock, but a noise. It was such that it awakened every one in the car. Mr. J. J. Curran, M. P., of Montreal, was sleeping on the sofa nearest the door, and he is sure it was an explosion. Sir John affirms that he heard a a distinct explosion, so does his secretary, Mr. Pope. An examination of the car shows that it was no accident. Some one either had a bomb planted on the track or threw one at the passing car and timed it well. The fright sustained by the inmates of the car was such that one of them said he frankly believed his hour had come.

A Heavy Load.

"When I ate, my food was like a lump of lead in my stomach. I took Burdock Blood Bitters. The more I took, the more it helped me, I am like a new man now," says Ezra Babcock, Cloyne P. O., Township Barrie, Ont.

POINTED PARAGRAPHS.

Newsy Notes and Notions of Everything.

After the sweets of married life depart the family jars remain.

M. de Lesseps says 137,500,000 francs are still needed to complete the Panama Canal.

It is estimated that the costs of the Campbell divorce case will amount to $125,000.

French papers have been warned not to publish military news which would be of use abroad.

The bazaar in aid of the building fund of the Victoria Rifles' armory, cleared about $5,000.

The fastest mile paced during the past year was 2:13½, made by Little Mac at Detroit, July 31.

Chicago is a great place for tobogganing. One of the slides is 1,000 feet in length, and has four chutes.

The number of those who are now invalids in the United States as the result of the war is said to be 265,864.

Thirty-one thousand six hundred and twenty-nine immigrants arrived in the United States during November.

French "criminal statistics" for the past year show 800 duels to have been fought and not one drop of blood shed.

Although 312 trotters entered the 2:30 list of 1886, none of them beat 2:30, and only two of them reached that mark.

It is said that of all the graduates of the old Harvard University not one devotee of tobacco ever stood at the head of the class.

A Russian War Council have adopted a scheme for the occupation of Central Asia as far as the Pindoo-Koosh Mountains including Herat.

Five car loads of heavy guns and ordnance material from Halifax, passed through Winnipeg last week for the defences of British Columbia.

Fifty-five million five hundred and forty-seven thousand and forty cans of tomatoes were packed in the United States during the past season.

A Military Council at Berlin, recommends Germany to fix the strength of her standing army at 450,000 men, with a service period of three years.

P. T. Barnum has caught the tobogganing craze in its most virulent form. He is building no less than three toboggan slides at Bridgeport, Conn.

The Duke of Westminster tops the list of winning owners on the English turf, having secured the sum of £24,430 as the result of this year's winnings.

HACK! HACK! HACK! You need not have that hacking cough, why do you keep it, when you can buy a bottle of Minard's Honey Balsam for 25 cents that will cure it.

A portion of the town of Shenandoah, Pa., has settled from two to four feet. As the surface sank the houses swayed and tottered and the frightened people ran in search of places of safety.

A toilet luxury in every respect, Ayer's Hair Vigor never fails to restore the youthful freshness and color to faded and gray hair. It also eradicates dandruff and prevents the hair from falling.

Salvator Mortabelli, a native of Malta, has begun a seventy-two days' fast at Phillippeville, Algeria. He was formerly in the British navy. Being shipwrecked once, he was cast upon a desert island and tasted no food for seventy-two days.

Queen Victoria now rejoices in four daughters, three sons, four daughters-in-law, four sons-in-law, ten grandsons, six granddaughters and three great granddaughters, making in all thirty-four descendants.

Uneasiness is felt over the rapidity with which the Government is working to place the armament of France in the most complete condition possible. The State manufactories of arms and ammunition are all being worked to their utmost capacity.

There are in New York 293 evangelical pastors, distributed among the denominations as follows: Baptist, 34; Congregational, 6; Lutheran, 22; Methodist, 53; Moravian, 2: Presbyterian, 64; Episcopalian, 74; Reformed Episcopal, 1; Reformed (Dutch,) 26, and Independent, 11.

It has been the fashion of late to deride the United States navy," says the *New England Farmer*, "but perhaps the army might be the legitimate butt of a few jokes when a captain and five armed men surrender to three robbers, as was the case at a train robbery in Texas last week."

In the Italian Chamber of Deputies the other day Signor Ricotti, Minister of War, declared that Italy was now in a position to mobolize and victual 400,000 troops, not counting the reserves. He believed that Italy would be well prepared in the event of an outbreak of hostilities.

Beach, on his arrival at Sydney, received an unparalleled welcome, half a dozen addresses, many articles of jewellery, and a purse of 2,000 sovereigns. The mayor, prominent statesmen, wealthy merchants, and all classes and conditions of men joined in making the reception a memorable event.

The Severn tunnel, which has just been opened for passenger traffic, is close on four and a half miles long, two and a quarter miles of which is under the bed of the river. The ventilation of this immense length of tunnel is described as simply perfect, the machinery provided for the purpose keeping up a constant breeze of perfectly pure air.

The *London Spectator* tells of remarkable progress in Palestine. The population of that once-favored land is, it seems, increasing steadily. Commerce is making rapid strides, and manufactures are being instituted. Seaports and inland towns are growing almost out of recognition to those who had seen them twenty years ago, and land has risen very greatly in value.

The largest farm in England has been thrown on its owner's hands. It is in Lincolnshire, and consists of 2,700 acres. The tenant paid $5 per acre this year. A reduction of fifty per cent was made to him, but, finding that, although an experienced and energetic farmer, even at this reduction he could not make two ends meet, he has thrown up his farm.

The late King Alfonso of Spain is not yet officially buried, although he has just been dead a year. According to rigid Spanish etiquette royal personages must become "mummified" before being finally laid to rest, and so their coffins are placed in a special chamber in the rock, where water falls constantly upon the corpse until it is completely petrified. So the body of the late king is still undergoing the process.

The United States *Army and Navy Register* gives the first published announcement of the test of the new Krupp gun, which has just been completed there. The weight of this piece of ordnance is 118 tons. Eight hundred and forty pounds of powder are used in a single charge, and it sends a shot, weighing nearly two tons, through thirty-eight inches of solid iron, at a distance of over half a mile. The test proved entirely satisfactory.

The *Army and Navy Gazette* says: "The Canadian militia is the first branch of the auxiliary forces to receive the new order of merit. Capt. Bage of the Dominion service, gets the decoration for the battle of Ginis. The Canadians should, and no doubt will, appreciate the honor done to them through their representative in Egypt, and it should act as an incentive to the colonists to prepare themselves to play their part in any military operations in which the mother country may engage."

The first steel steamer ever entirely constructed in Canada, is now being built at Deseronto. She will be of the following dimensions:—250 feet in length, 40 feet beam, 11 6 deep hold, 47 6 over all, and is expected to run 18 miles per hour. The steel hull is constructed by Mr. W. G. White of the Vulcan Boiler Works, Montreal. The steamer will be erected in the shipyard of the Rathbun Company, during the winter. The engines are being built in Scotland. The boilers, six in number, will be built in Canada. Mr. White is also building a steel steamer for Capt. Murphy of Pembroke, and also one for the Muskoka Navigation Company.

Still Another.

DIPHTHERIA CURED.—I hereby certify that Minard's Liniment cured my daughter of a severe and what appeared to be a fatal attack of Diphtheria, after all other remedies failed, and recommend it to all who may be afflicted with that dreadful disease.

JOHN D. BOUTILIER,
French Village, Halifax Co., Jan., 1883.

MESSRS. C. C. RICHARDS & CO.:
Gentlemen,—We consider Minard's Liniment the best value of any in the market, and cheerfully recommend its use.

DR. J. H. HARRIS,
Bellevue Hospital.
DR. F. U. ANDERSON,
F. R. C. S., Edinburgh,
M. R. C. S., England.

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

President McLellan's Exhaustive Address at the Annual Meeting last week

The Horse Importation and other Striking Features of the Year's Work.

I am glad to meet you once more in annual session. It is a matter of congratulation that gentlemen with important private interests requiring their attention are willing to lend their assistance from year to year, and be subject to calls at unexpected times, in order to advise and assist the Government in administrating affairs connected with the encouragement of Agriculture. I can assure you that there is no subject coming under the notice of the Government, in which my colleagues feel a greater interest and which they are more anxious to promote than Agriculture, and I have much pleasure in making a public acknowledgement of the hearty co-operation and valuable assistance which we have at all times received from the Board. In view of the course taken by the Board in regard to the holding of a Provincial Exhibition, and the importation of horses, the latter in particular, as it will directly affect the financial position of the Agricultural societies for several years to come, the fact that you have been nominated by your several districts must be as gratifying to you as it is satisfactory to the Government. It may be justly claimed, I think, that the large importation of horses for stock purposes, the funds to be provided by the reduction for the time being of the Agricultural grants, is the most important innovation in connection with the matters coming under the control of the Board which has been made in many years. I felt that it would be not unreasonable if there should be a difference of opinion upon the

EXPEDIENCY OF SUCH A COURSE

although I myself believed that its advantages and certain benefits were so apparent that they would commend themselves to the great majority of the people. So far as I have been able to gather from the expressions of opinion in the public press and elsewhere, and especially from the renomination without exception of you gentlemen upon whose recommendation and advice the Government acted, there has not been a dissenting voice as to the advisability of the importation. At the last annual meeting of the Board a communication was read from the St. John Agricultural Society directing your attention to the importance of introducing into the Province improved breeds of horses for draught and Agricultural purposes, also communications for the Union Agricultural Society of Kings, the Elgin Society of Albert, and the Kincardine Society of Victoria, endorsing the suggestion. Other societies also gave it their approval. You thereupon unanimously resolved:

Whereas, It is desirable that a number of high-bred draught or agricultural horses should be imported into the Province for breeding purposes, and,

Whereas, The Board is not in a position to make such importation, therefore

Resolved, That the Board respectfully request the Government to import a number of stallions in time for service next season, such stallions to be of the several breeds deemed most suitable for the purposes intended.

On my communicating this resolution to my colleagues in the Government, they immediately determined to give effect to it if satisfactory financial arrangements could be made and you were accordingly called together on the 18th day of March last, and consulted upon the subject. You thereupon unanimously resolved:

Whereas, The law requires that the Board of Agriculture shall hold an Exhibition during the current year, and,

Whereas, The proposed importation of Horses and other circumstances render it inadvisable that a Provincial Exhibition should be held this year. Therefore

Resolved, That the Government be requested to take the necessary steps to relieve the Board of the obligation to hold a Provincial Exhibition during the year 1886, and,

Further Resolved, That the Board recommend that the amount appropriated by law for such an Exhibition with such other sums as may be available be devoted to the importation of Horses.

At the earliest possible day, the Government requested one of your number, James E. Fairweather, Esq., to proceed to Ontario and purchase horses. Mr. Fairweather accepted the commission taking with him Mr. Jas. D. Murray of Campbellton, who had an extensive acquaintance in Ontario, where he had resided for some time. Notwithstanding that no time was lost in sending these gentlemen to Ontario, it was a little too late in the season when they arrived there for them to be able, with the limited means at their disposal, to select from a very wide field. Most of the best horses had already had their routes for the season marked out, and their owners were not willing to sell them unless they were compensated for the season's business. They succeeded in finding two horses at prices which they were in a position to pay, one a six-year-old Percheron and the other a three-year old Clydesdale, both pure bred in their class. The following

ORDER IN COUNCIL

was made in regard to these horses:

"That the services of the stallions be put up to public competition for the incoming season, the stallions to remain the property of the Crown, and the society or person purchasing the season's service be required to enter into a bond to the Crown with sufficient sureties in a sum equal to the value of the stallion, conditioned for the proper care taking of the animal and due compliance with the terms and conditions of the hiring as prescribed by the Committee of Management and announced at the sale.

"That the Committee of Management of the Stock Farm be authorized to prescribe the terms upon which the services of the stallions shall be let for the present season taking care that all sections of the Province have an opportunity of competing for the stallions. That the horses shall not be sold but shall remain the property of the Government, and shall not be taken out of the province."

The services of the horses were accordingly sold at public auction in the city of St. John, and the Percheron horse was obtained by the Sussex and Studholm Agricultural Society of Kings County, and the Clydesdale by the Cambridge Agricultural Society of Queens County. The competition at the sale was keen and the animals were liberally patronized in the localities where they stood.

At the time of the sale of the services of these horses there were many expressions of regret that more were not available, as there were many districts which would like to have a good stock horse. My own enquiries in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and elsewhere satisfied me that there was perhaps no one subject to which the farmers of New Brunswick could more advantageously give their attention than to the raising of large draft and carriage horses. I was not insensible of what private breeders and the societies had done and were doing in the way of providing pure bred sires, but I felt that circumstances prevented as much being done in this way as ought to be done. In the first place the number of private individuals who were both willing and able to import pure bred sires was small, and they were for the most part resident in places where the generality of farmers could not reach them without expense and loss of time. In the next place the means of the societies were not large enough to enable them except, in a few cases, to go to the expense of importations, and consequently some of them were investing their money in half bred horses, which is for stock purposes a most unsatisfactory investment. In the third place it seemed desirable, not only that good horses should be brought into the province, but that they should be kept here, instead of being sold to go abroad as soon as their value as stock getters was proved. It also seemed to me that an effort should be made to

SUPPLY ALL PARTS OF THE PROVINCE

with first-class sires, and that the price of the service should be placed within the reach of everybody. These several considerations, and others which I need not particularize, it seemed to me could be best met by the Government making a large importation of pure bred animals, retaining the ownership of them and hiring their services for one or more seasons at public auction, subject to such restrictions as the Board should recommend, and very many persons with whom I talked on the subject expressed similar views. On my stating my view to my colleagues it met a very favorable response, and it was the opinion of the Government that if the idea met the approval of the Board and if you would consent to the appropriation of a part of the grant to the societies for the purchase of the horses, that a large enough importation should be made to supply the probable demands of every section of the province. You were called together in special session on July 13th last, and the scheme, having been submitted to you, you passed the following resolution:

That the Government be asked to import eight or ten horses for stock purposes, to be paid for out of the grants to the agricultural societies by instalments taken from the society grants each year till the whole was paid, and in the event of the horses being sold the proceeds to go to the credit of the appropriation to the societies and in reduction of the cost of the importation.

You also at the same meeting passed a resolution expressing the opinion that the President of the Board should make the selection and purchase of the horses. The Government therefore decided that the importation should be made. For the sake of having the greatest possible variety, and the largest number to select from, as well as from what were thought to be, and have been proved to be economical considerations, the Government deemed it advisable to purchase the horses in Europe, instead of from importers in America. In consequence of your request, I was asked by the Government to assume the responsibility of the selection and purchase, and in deference to your wishes and those of my colleagues I accepted the task, with the result of which you are already acquainted. On my arrival in England I made enquiries regarding the localities where the several breeds of horses that I was in search of

COULD BEST BE OBTAINED

and among those from whom I enquired was Prof. Sheldon of Ashburne, England, who most willingly offered to assist me in any way his services could be turned to account.

This gentleman has visited New Brunswick on several occasions, and he has at all times spoken very highly of the agricultural qualities of the land and has recommended his friends and acquaintances in England and Scotland to visit this country before settling elsewhere in Canada, and I have no doubt that we may in the near future receive visits from quite a number of English and Scotch farmers wishing to purchase land in America. After visiting several breeding establishments in Derbyshire with Prof. Sheldon, and looking over the stock, I visited several large stables in Yorkshire endeavoring to secure such horses as I thought would be acceptable to the people of this Province. Not finding what I wanted, I turned my attention to Scotland and there found in the stables of Mr. David Riddell and others a very large number of thoroughbred Clydesdales, but the same objection I met with in Yorkshire and Derbyshire presented itself again, that is, nine out of every ten horses were marked with a white face and two or more white legs. Knowing our people strongly objected to horses marked in this way I tried to avoid as much as possible purchasing that kind of animals. By the time I had gone over the ground named I came to the conclusion that it would be difficult to find, for the money placed at my disposal, a suitable lot, the American and Canadian buyers having been from six to eight weeks ahead of me. Knowing that Mr. Simon Beattie, of Annan, Scotland, had purchased the stock of cattle for the Government in 1881, I called on him and found that he had been pretty well over Scotland and England,

PURCHASING CATTLE AND HORSES,

and consequently was in a better position than any other person to give me the required assistance. I do not hesitate to say that the assistance I received from Mr. Beattie was the means of saving hundreds of dollars to the Province, his experience with the farmers and dealers enabling him to buy at a much less rate than a stranger. The horses I bought are acknowledged by good judges to be a fair lot and I am satisfied that while they are not in every respect what I should have liked, they are as good as could be got for the money I had to expend. The horses are all entered in the Stud books excepting the coaching stallion and one of the Percherons, the parties from whom they were purchased promised to have them entered at once. I have also furnished the Secretary with certificates of soundness from veterinaries of first class standing, and I am satisfied that the horses when shipped were all sound and right. My purchases embraced:

One Cleveland Bay Stallion....	3 years old.
One English Coaching Stallion.	2 "
Two English Shire Stallions....	3 "
One Clydesdale Stallion.....	4 "
One Clydesdale Stallion.....	2 "
Two Clydesdale Stallions.....	3 "
One Percheron Stallion.....	4 "
Two Percheron Stallions.....	3 "
One Clydesdale Mare.....	3 "
One Clydesdale Mare.....	2 "

In all thirteen animals. These were shipped on the Allen line steamer Corean from Glasgow for Quebec, and arrived safely. The voyage proved too severe for the three year old mare, and she died a few days after landing. The others were all more or less affected by the voyage, the change of climate and so on, but you will be glad to know that they are now in excellent health and condition.

On my return from England, and after consultation with some of your number, as well as my colleagues in the Government and a number of gentleman who take a great interest in horse breeding, I was satisfied that it would enable us to give more general satisfaction, and would make your course in the premises more generally acceptable, if that can be said of a step which has evoked no unfavorable comment, if a few additional horses were purchased. The original amount appropriated to the purchase not having been exhausted I was in pursuance of this view, directed by the Government to

PROCEED TO ONTARIO

and purchase two or more horses. I had heard in England of several fine young horses which had been shipped to Canada early in the season, and Mr. Fairweather had told me of several very choice animals, which, though not for sale in the spring, could, he thought be purchased in the fall. I went to Ontario and there purchased a Cleveland bay stallion seven years old, and a Clydesdale stallion three years old. These with the horses imported, and those purchased in the spring, give us two Cleveland bays; one English coach horse; two English sire horses; six Clydesdales; five Percherons; in all fifteen horses pure bred in their several classes. The idea has been generally expressed that horses should be provided for each board district, and if this is carried into effect it will be necessary to purchase three additional horses. A number of gentlemen whose views upon such a subject are entitled to great weight having urged that an English thorough-bred race horse and a Vermont Morgan should be added to the list, after having given the matter careful consideration, I made exquiries as to where such horses can be best obtained. These are not yet concluded, but I feel safe in saying that if it is the pleasure of the board that the number of horses should be increasad to eighteen, or three to each district, and will recommend the same to the Goverment, a thorough-bred and a Morgan can be obtained at prices that will give satisfaction. The Government desires the advice of the Board as to the best course to be adopted in regard to the management of these animals, and I have it in charge to request you to prepare a set of regulations for that purpose, believing that what you may recommend in this respect will meet with general approval. I have every reason to hope that great good will result from this new and important step. The adaptability of our Province to the production of horses of a high class has been proved time and again, and it is

SATISFACTORY TO NOTE

not only that there is a demand within our borders and in the United States for a superior class of horses, but that the imperial authorities are looking to Canada for a supply of horses for the cavalry and artillery services. An extensive purchase was made in Canada for this purpose last summer, and I am informed that it proved very satisfrctory. When once it can be demonstrated that first class horses can be bred in New Brunswick and sold in England at a profit, we may expect English breeders to turn their attention to this Province, and may anticipate a great development of that industry. But, be this as it may, the New England market will doubtless take all the horses we may raise for years to come.

In this connection it is interesting to note the following statement of the number of horses shipped and carried over the Intercolonial railway from P. E. Island. These are in addition to the horses shipped from the island by other routes,

1883-4	Via	Point du Chene,	963
	"	Pictou Landing,	452—1415
1884-5	"	Point du Chene,	1046
	"	Pictou Landing,	234—1280
1885-6	"	Point du Chene,	978
	"	Pictou Landing,	317—1295
		Total,	3990

The capacity of this Province to produce horses must be very much greater than that of Prince Edward Island. Consequently our resources are much greater than those of the Island for the development of this industry.

The past season has been on the whole a favorable one, though perhaps a little dryer than usual. I do not know of any [illegible] in which there is anything which may be called a shortage, although some districts report hay below the average. Any deficiency in this respect will probably be met by the unusual length of time that animals were able to feed out of doors owing to the remarkable character of the autumn. I think that our farmers as a whole enter upon the winter with their

BARNS AND CELLARS WELL FILLED,

and their stock in good condition. We have once more abundant reason to feel thankful to Providence for the greatness of his bounty to our Province and for our immunity from severe storms and catastrophes such as has fallen upon other lands. I am glad to learn that the accounts of the Societies are in an unusually satisfactory condition, and that the reports of the Secretaries are of more than ordinary interest.

During the past year the attention of the English public has been directed to Canada, and to New Brunswick as a part of the Dominion by the Colonial and Indian exhibition, which I had the opportunity of attending. The samples of our cereals shown elicited much praise. In connection with the Exhibition, the Government caused to be circulated a large number of copies of the New Brunswick hand book, and you will be glad to learn that considerable interest has been excited in regard to the Province. Very many favorable comments upon the agricultural resources and manufacturing development of the Province have appeared in the English papers, and I am informed by the Secretary of the Board that he has been in receipt of a number of enquiries from persons, who by reason of the facts brought to their notice, by the exhibition and otherwise, have been led to think of settling in New Brunswick. Nearly all those who are making these enquiries are persons with some capital. I am sure that you will agree with me that if immigrants of this class are induced to come to the Province, the expenditure and trouble incident to the presentation to the people of the mother country of the true facts in regard to New Brunswick, will not have been lost. The absence of the usual amount of competition at the Stock Farm sales is not, I think, to be taken as indicative of any falling off in interest in the improvement of farm stock. Several causes are assigned for this, but I doubt if it is possible to settle definitely upon any reason. Fluctuation in the prices which animals bring at such sales occur in the history of all similar establishments, and cannot be avoided. It is satisfactory to know that, although the prices are low, the country gets the benef