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Nec araneorum sane textus ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignunt, nec noster vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes.

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Miramichi, Saturday Evening, April 22, 1843.

Agricultural Journal.

THIRD ANNUAL REPORT OF THE RISTIGOUCHE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, 1843.

ROBERT FERGUSON, ESQ., PRESIDENT, IN THE CHAIR.

The Secretary produced a Report of the proceedings of the past year, which he read as follows:—

Your Committee in submitting their Report on the termination of the Third Year of the existence of the Ristigouche Agricultural Society, commence by detailing an account of their Proceedings in the order in which they occurred; viz, on the 10th of January, 1842, at a Meeting of your Committee, it was ordered:—

That a Competition for Grain and Hay Seeds will take place, on Tuesday the 12th day of April next, in the Court Hall at the hour of Eleven in the Forenoon, under the same regulations as were observed last year.

That a Cattle Show be held in the Farmyard of the Secretary, on Tuesday the 4th day of October next, and the same Premiums offered as were given last year; and in addition thereto, in order to encourage the keeping over of Bulls of the best quality, until they arrive at maturity, there be offered, for the best three year old, fifty shillings—and for the best four year old seventy shillings.

That a Ploughing Match be held on the following Tuesday, the 11th of October, under similar Rules and Regulations and the like Premiums as were observed and given last year.

That the Secretary do import from Britain, six Sheep of the Leicester and South down Breeds; two Bulls and two Heifers of the West Highland Cattle, to be disposed of after their arrival by public auction; of which due notice will be given; and also a further supply of Grass Seed.

That on the second Tuesday in April last, the Grain Competition was held accordingly, when the following Premiums were awarded: viz.—

FOR WHEAT.
First Prize to Sack No. 2, containing two bushels, weighing 133lbs. 1 oz equal to 66lbs. 8½ oz per bushel, grown by John Currie, of Point Le Leme, from Seed imported by the Society last year, 20s.

Second Prize to Sack No. 6, weighing 65lbs. 25oz. per bushel, owned by John Douglas, 15s.

Third Prize to Sack No. 10, weighing 65oz. per bushel, owned by James Menzies, 10s.

BARLEY.
First Prize to Sack No. 1, for the best two rowed, weighing 107½ lbs. equal to 53lbs. 12oz. per bushel, by John Currie, 20s.

Second Prize to Sack No. 9, weighing 52lbs. 10oz. per bushel, by Robert McIntosh, of Nash's Creek, in the Parish of Durham, 15s.

Third Prize to Sack No. 7, for the best four rowed ditto, weighing 53½ lbs. per bushel, by Donald Connacher, 20s.

Fourth Prize to Sack No. 2, weighing 52 lbs 15 oz. per bushel, by Donald M'Neish, 15s.

OATS.
First Prize to Sack No. 4, for the best black, weighing 81 lbs. 1oz equal to 40½ lbs per bushel, by A. M'Nair, of Heron Island, 20s.

Second Prize to Sack No. 11 weighing 59½ lbs. per bushel, by Walter Blair, 15s.

Third Prize to Sack No. 6, for the best white, weighing 45½ lbs. per bushel, by Donald M'Millan, of Black Lands in the Parish of Colcorne, 20s.

Fourth Prize to Sack No. 4, weighing 45 lbs. 19½ oz. per bushel, by Donald M'Neish, 15s.

GRATIFICATIONS.

For a sample of six rowed Barley, weighing 53 lbs. 9 oz per bushel, grown by John Dickie, Parish of Durham, 20s.

For a sample of Siberian Wheat or beardless Barley, weighing 64 lbs. 8½ oz per bushel, by John Douglas, 20s.

For a sample of Field Peas, two bushels, by James Menzies, 15s.

The attendance at this exhibition was highly gratifying, the samples of grain generally pure, and of an improved quality; the Wheat in particular was very superior, of which alone there were thirty bushels, the lightest weighing 61½ lbs; and it is worthy of remark, that the best samples was the produce of the Society's imported Wheat of last year, that weighed but 61½ lbs, per bushel; thus clearly proving the advantage of a frequent change of seed from a distance; and the whole Exhibition presenting a cheering assurance of the capabilities of our soil, the adaption of our climate to the culture of Grain, notwithstanding the shortness of our summers and in ordinary seasons, of a certain reward to the husbandman for his labour when industriously and judiciously applied. It was pleasing to witness the lively interest shown by those concerned in the prosperity of this Society, and the spirit of emulation manifested by the competitors whose greatest pride appeared to be not only in having the heaviest Grain, but the freest from mixture with other grain or the seeds of noxious weeds.

After which, a Meeting of your Committee was convened, when it was resolved that the following Premiums be offered for the Growth of the current Year; viz:—

WHEAT.
For the best Spring, £1 0 0
The second ditto, 0 15 0
The third ditto, 0 10 0

BARLEY.
For the best two rowed £1 0 0
The second ditto, 0 15 0
For the best four rowed 1 0 0
The second ditto, 0 15 0
For the best six rowed ditto, 1 0 0
The second ditto 0 15 0
For the best Siberian Wheat 0 15 0

OATS.
For the best black, 1 0 0
The second ditto, 0 15 0
For the best white, 1 0 0
The second ditto, 0 15 0

GRASS SEEDS.
For the best sample of Timothy, (a bushel) 1 10 0
The second ditto, 0 15 0

For the best sample of Clover, (a bushel,) 1 10 0
The second ditto, 0 15 0

INDIAN CORN.
For the best sample, not less than two bushels, 1 0 0
The second ditto, 0 15 0

PEAS.
For the best sample, not less than two bushels, 1 0 0
The second ditto, 1 10 0

BEANS.
For the best horse, not less than two bushels, 1 0 0
The second ditto, 0 15 0

VEGETABLES.
For the best general show of Vegetables, 1 10 0
The second ditto, 1 0 0
The third ditto, 0 10 0

For the best Show of Potatoes, in bushel samples, 1 0 0
The second ditto, 0 10 0

For the best Swedish Turnips, 1 0 0
The second best, 0 10 0
For the best Carrots, 1 0 0
The second ditto, 0 10 0

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.
For the best improved Agricultural Implement produced by the inventor or maker, 1 10 0

The second ditto. 0 15 0
CLOTH.
For the best Cloth not less than 15 yards, 1 0 0
The second ditto, 3 15 0
The third ditto, 0 10 0

STRAW BONNETS.
For the best, 1 0 0
The second ditto, 0 15 0
The third ditto, 0 10 0

STOCKINGS.
For the best lamb's wool, not less than 6 pair, 1 0 0
The second ditto, 0 15 0
The third ditto, 0 10 0

The Grain samples to contain each two bushels, and the whole to be the Growth produce and manufacture of the County of Ristigouche; the show to take place at the Annual Exhibition, to be held on the second Tuesday in April next.

That as soon as it was known that the Cattle and Seeds ordered on the 10th of January, together with the Oats and other articles remaining since the previous year; and sundry Implements of Husbandry, had arrived in the Bay, a schooner was dispatched to bring them from Port Daniel, the Port of arrival, and were advertised for sale on the 1st of June last; but the schooner not having returned in time, the sale was postponed until the 6th of that month, when it took place at Public Auction. They did not realize the first cost and charges, which was owing in a great measure to the difficulty in procuring a conveyance direct to this Port from Britain, and the consequent expence of transporting them from Port to Port in search of such conveyance; a circumstance unprecedented since the commencement of the timber trade in this Port, and altogether unexpected, arising from causes beyond the control of your Committee or their infatigable correspondent at Ardloch; still the object of your Committee has been attained in their importation, and the Funds of the Society appropriated to their legitimate purpose; and your Committee trust that the County will ultimately profit thereby.

The Cattle Show was held on the 4th of October as ordered, when the following Premiums were awarded; viz.—

For the best three year old Bull, to Donald Fraser, £2 10 0

Two year old ditto, to John M'Lean, 1 10 0

Year old ditto, to Donald Fraser, 1 0 0

Two year old Heifer, to James M'Pherson, 1 1 0

Year old ditto, to Walter Blair, 0 15 0

Calf, to Donald Fraser, 0 10 0

Two year old Ram, to Walter Blair, 0 15 0

Year old ditto, to William Craig, 0 10 0

Lamb, to Walter Blair, 0 10 0

Three year old Ewe, to Walter Blair, 1 0 0

Two year old ditto, to John Ferguson, 0 15 0

Year old ditto, to ditto, 0 10 0

Lamb, to ditto, 0 10 0

At this Exhibition there were 27 Cattle and 40 Sheep entered for competition; all superior animals, and such as would do credit to a much older Country.

Immediately after, a Fair for the disposal of Live Stock took place, when the Cattle Sheep, and Horses intended for sale, were collected in the Farm yard of the Secretary, agreeably to a notice of the 10th of September proximo, and a number changed hands. This was the first Fair ever held in the County, and it was very respectably attended; all

present expressed themselves highly gratified with the facilities that such a method of marketing afforded. Your Committee recommend their continuance and that the number to be held annually, should be increased.

The Ploughing Match being advertised for the 11th of October, (the subsequent Tuesday) for the like Premiums and under the same Rules and Regulations as were observed last year, when—

The first Prize was awarded to Andrew Douglas, £2 10 0

The second ditto to William Douglas, 1 10 0

both natives of the County. The Office bearers, Judges, Competitors, and a number of the Members of the Society then repaired to the Royal Hotel, and sat down to a sumptuous dinner ordered for them, which was served up in Mr. Hamilton Fleming's usual good style.

The Treasurer's Accounts exhibit a balance of £137 9s. 4d. in favour of the Society, and the stock of Grain and seeds on hand are in good condition. In addition to which, your Committee recommended the importation of other varieties of Grain, in order that the means of changing them may be placed within the reach of all who may wish to avail themselves thereof. And here your committee would call the attention of your Society to the circumstance of the Growth of Wheat being confined to the spring varieties, probably for the want of seed of the winter kind; your committee therefore, suggest the expediency of ordering a small quantity, that trial may be made of its adaptation to this climate; and in making that trial, your committee submit for consideration of the practical Farmer, the propriety of late sowing, say in October, as a remedy against the effects of frost during the winter; as by too early sowing the Wheat plant will have time to grow that fall to a good length, and it invariably has one large root penetrating downwards into the ground, which may be termed the 'tap root,' and at this stage strikes deep; besides a number of small fibres or roots extending round, near the surface in search of food; the action of the frost raises the ground, and either pulls up or breaks the tap root, when the plant must die. This, late sowing will avoid; and your committee deem it worth a trial. And they further recommend dry land; for where by its position, or want of draining, water lodges, there is great danger that Wheat sown on such lands will freeze out or winter kill. This destruction is performed in the spring months, when the ground is nearly bare, and freezes at night after thawing during the day.

Your Committee invite the attention of the Farmers to an industrious use of their spare time in autumn and fall, in preparing their ground for the reception of seed the following spring. Following is the most effectual way of cleaning land; and when it is infested with noxious weeds, repeated ploughings or thorough following are the only modes that can be depended upon to fit it for a crop in this country; the operation is assisted by the