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OLD SERIES] *Nec araneorum sane textus ideo melior, quia ex se fila pignunt, nec noster vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes.* [COMPRISED 13 VOLUMES.

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Agricultural Journal.

The Sixth Annual Report

OF THE
RESTIGOUCHE AGRICULTURAL
SOCIETY;
JANUARY 6TH, 1846.

THE First Report of this Society, dated 5th January, 1841, embodied in it an Account of Agricultural Produce imported into the County of Restigouche, in the years 1839 and 1840, to maintain its inhabitants, amounting to about £37,000; which it stated, might easily be grown in the County, if proper attention were paid to its Agricultural interests. Five years having now elapsed, and the Trade of Restigouche being considered equal the last two years to what it was then, your Committee deem it desirable to draw a comparative statement of the Imports during the last two years, with those of the two first, with a view of arriving at the amount of benefit that has been derived, if any, by the exertions of your Society.

The Statement of 1841 being compiled from the Customs' Department, your committee applied to the Collector of Her Majesty's Customs, who kindly favored them with the necessary extracts from his Accounts for the years 1844 and 1845, to enable them, for the same authentic source, to draw the desired comparison, by shewing that there was,—

	IMPORTED IN		1844 & 1845	
	1839 & 1840	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Bacon,	572	1 7		
Barley,	232	10 0		
Barley-Meal,	13	0 0		
Beef salted,	1848	6 3	373	16 0
Butter,	1601	12 8	123	14 1
Cheese,	163	2 1	51	12 4
Corn-Meal	1174	4 9	990	10 4
Flour,	12559	10 10	4461	7 11
Hams,	135	5 3	16	13 1
Oat-Meal,	2156	17 4	192	14 3
Oats,	5961	4 0	2447	2 30
Pearl Barley,	219	17 11	33	5 10
Pens,	245	14 1	64	5 4
Porto Split,	10	2 2		
Pork,	8521	19 2	4600	4 6
Potatoes, and all kinds of Vegetables,	1114	19 7	221	5 0
Total	36,530	7 8	13,606	16 6

Gain to the County.

	£ s. d.
On Bacon,	572 1 7
Barley,	232 10 0
Barley-Meal,	13 0 0
Beef salted,	1474 10 3
Butter,	1477 18 7
Cheese,	81 9 9
Corn Meal,	183 14 5
Flour,	8058 2 11
Hams,	118 7 2
Oat Meal,	1964 3 1
Oats,	3514 1 2
Pearl Barley,	156 12 1
Pens,	181 8 9
Porto Split,	10 2 2
Pork,	3921 14 8
Potatoes, Vegetables, &c.,	393 14 7
Total	£22,923 11 2

Thus it appears that a saving of £22,923 11s. 2d. sterling, has been effected in the importation of Agricultural Produce in the years 1844 and 1845, as compared with the years 1839 and 1840 in the articles enumerated, over and above the quantities of Lard, Candles, Soap, Home-spun Cloth, Flannels, Blankets, and Hosiery, that have been made, not enumerated; a great portion of the produce of the Parish of Durham taken to the County of Gloucester, in preference to our own county markets, in consequence of the Great Road being completed all the way to Bathurst, while it is only partially so leading hither; and the quantity of Barley exported to Britain last season, by our enterprising townsman, WILLIAM HAMILTON, Esquire. At the same time, those interested in the Trade of the county confidently expect more of the Staple articles of Export to market the ensuing spring, than ever have been exported in any previous year.

Your Committee feel great pleasure in

making this communication, as it must be gratifying to every well-wisher to the best interests of the county, and encouraging alike to the Agriculturists, your Society, and the Legislature of the Province, who have each in their respective spheres contributed to this happy result.

On the 8th of April last, the Annual GRAIN SHOW was held as usual, in the Court-Hall, when the following Premiums, viz.—For the

	£ s. d.
Best sample of Spring Wheat, weighing 64lb. 4oz. per bushel, to Donald McNish,	0 15 0
Second best, 64lb 8oz to D. Stewart,	0 11 3
Third best, 62lb 13 oz to J. Conacher,	0 7 6
Best Siberian Wheat, 63llbs to Walter Blair,	0 15 0
Best White Oats, 49lb 9oz to Donald McNish,	0 15 0
Second best do. 41lb 10oz to J. Currie,	0 11 3
Best Black Oats, 42lb 0oz to Ditto,	0 15 0
Second best do. 41lb 2oz to J. Conacher,	0 11 8
Best Field Pens, 65lb 5oz to W. Blair,	0 15 0
Second best do. 62lb 15oz to Dugald Stewart,	0 10 0
Best six-rowed Barley, 54lb 2oz to John Robertson,	0 15 0
Second best do. 52lb 1oz to Donald McMullen,	0 11 3
Best two-rowed do. 52lb 2oz to Walter Blair,	0 15 0
Second best do. 55lb to J. Douglas,	0 11 3
Best four-rowed do. 57lb 14oz to Dugald Stewart,	0 15 0
Second best do. 55lb 6 1-2oz to Donald McNish,	0 11 3
Best Timothy Seed, 42lb 13oz to W. Blair,	0 15 0
Second best do. 42lb 5oz to J. Robertson,	0 10 0
Best piece of Homespun Cloth, to D. Stewart,	1 0 0
Second best do. to John Ferguson,	0 15 0
Third best do. to John Currie,	0 10 0

On the 22nd of May, the Cheviot Sheep and Guano, ordered last fall, arrived, and were disposed of.

On the 2nd of June last, a Special Meeting of your Board was held, to take into their consideration a communication they received from the Northumberland Agricultural Society, respecting the importation of a Horse for the benefit of the Northern Counties of the Province, and to obtain the Provincial Grant of 125 pounds towards that object, and recommending that such Horse should be of the most approved breed or pure blood; that he should be got out to Miramichi this fall; that he should stand the first season at Miramichi, the second in Bathurst, and so on alternately; and asking your Society to contribute from its funds towards the purchase of the said Horse, the cost of which was estimated at from £250 to £350. In reply to which it was "Resolved, As the opinion of this Board, that a Horse of the most approved breed is desirable, and that the President of this Society do authorize the Northumberland Society to draw the Provincial Grant; and import a Horse of the description, and upon the terms expressed in the communication. And further Resolved, That from the remoteness of any benefit this county can derive from or by the importation of such Horse, both as to time and distance, this Board is not disposed to contribute from the funds of the Restigouche Agricultural Society any sum in aid of the Provincial Grant for that purpose." Since which, your Committee is without further information on that subject.

On the 24th of September a CATTLE SHOW took place at Dalhousie, when the following Premiums were awarded, viz.—For the best

	£2 12 6
4 years old Bull, to Peter Stewart,	£2 12 6
Mountain Brook,	1 2 6
2 years old do. to Donald Fraser,	0 15 0
1 year old do. to Dugald Stewart,	0 15 0
2 year old Heifer, to M. Delany,	0 11 3
1 year old do. to Louis Arsineau,	0 7 6
Calf, to Donald Fraser,	0 15 0
3 year old Ram, to Dugald Stewart,	0 11 3
2 year old do. to John Douglas,	0 7 6
Year old do. to Peter Rigby,	0 7 6
Best Lamb, to Walter Blair,	0 15 0
3 year old Ewe, to Dugald Stewart,	0 11 3
2 years old do. to do.	0 7 6
One year old, to John Barberie,	0 7 6
Best Lamb, to John Douglas,	0 15 0
Best Boar, to Dugald Stewart,	0 15 0
Best Sow, to ditto,	0 11 3
Second best do., to Donald Stewart,	0 11 3

There was a marked improvement in the young Stock exhibited at this Show, proving the cross by the imported sires, to be superior even to the thorough-bred, in both Cattle and Sheep.

On the 29th of the same month, another Show was held at Campbellton, when the Prizes were taken for the best—

	£ s. d.
3 year old Bull, by J. Duncan, sen.,	1 17 6
2 year old do. by Robert Parker,	1 2 6
Year old do. by Arthur Ritchie,	0 15 0
Best Calf, by ditto,	0 7 6
2 year old Heifer, by Robert Adams,	0 15 6
Year old ditto, by ditto,	0 11 3
Best Calf, by James Thomson,	0 7 6
3 year old Ram, by James Gerrard,	0 15 0
2 year old ditto, by John Douglas,	0 11 3
Year old do. by Joseph Pratt,	0 7 6
Best Lamb, by John Douglas,	0 7 6
3 year old Ewe, by James Gerrard,	0 15 0
2 year old do. by John Douglas,	0 11 3
Year old ditto, by ditto,	0 7 6
Best Lamb, by ditto,	0 7 6
Best Boar, by John Duncan,	0 15 0
Second best ditto, by Robert Parker,	0 11 3
Best Sow, by Rev. James Steven,	0 15 0
Second best ditto, by ditto,	0 11 3

This was the first Cattle Show ever held in the vicinity of Campbellton, and was but thinly attended. Those of the inhabitants who did attend, expressed themselves much pleased with the proceedings at the Show, and their determination to come better prepared another time.

The Fairs and Cattle Shows were advertised to be held on the same days as was customary, but your Committee are not aware that any business of moment was transacted at either of the Fairs. There appeared to be purchasers, but none inclined to sell; excepting a few Sheep that changed hands at Campbellton, which was very desirable for the improvement of the Stock in that neighbourhood. Still your Committee recommend the practice to be continued, in the hope that at no very distant period, both Fairs and Markets will be established and well attended.

The first PLOUGHING MATCH this season, took place on the 1st of October, at New Mills, where were awarded

The first Prize to D. McMillan	£1 17 6
The second to John Robertson	1 10 0
The third to A. McAllister	1 2 6

The other Ploughing Match took place at Campbellton, the 6th October, where were awarded

The first Prize to J. Douglas	£1 17 6
The second to Joseph Pratt	1 10 0
The third to John Ferguson	1 2 6

Immediately after the prizes were awarded, the Judges, Ploughmen, Office-bearers, and as many of the Society as were on the ground, repaired to Mr Wm. Murray's, and wound up the business of the year, according to usual practice, by dining together; discussing the matters that came under the notice of your Committee the past year, and suggesting improvements for the future.

At this time, the far spread Potatoe disease was not known in this County; and it was a theme of thankfulness then expressed, to the Giver of all Good, that while such a thing was heard of from a distance, the inhabitants of this County were blessed with an extraordinary abundant crop of them, as well as a bountiful harvest generally. But it was not long after the Potatoes were secured for the winter, when whole cellars were found in a state of fermentation, occasioned in many instances no doubt, by larger quantities than usual being put up together, and probably not in a dry condition. The alarm soon spread, and all turned their attention to their pits and cellars. Many had recourse to charcoal, others to lime, and some few to gypsum, each of which appear to have had the effect of arresting the progress of a disease that is difficult to account for in a satisfactory manner. The most feasible to your Committee is, that it was the effect of an uncommonly wet season on Potatoes that were predisposed to rot, from being too long grown from tubers that were degenerating. From the best information your committee can collect, and which they deem worthy of remark, is, that the Potatoes grown on elevated situations, where the

waters had a free passage to run off, and others that were grown in hills in new land that had been well earthen up, are comparatively free from the disease; while those grown on flat or basin ground are generally affected the most. And those that were late planted, or early blackened by the frost, show no symptoms of the disease. It is to be lamented that the loss thus sustained, will occasion great scarcity in the spring; yet your Committee do not contemplate a total want. This subject has elicited the fact, that there are Potatoes indigenous to the soil, to be found in some parts of the Restigouche, in their native state, and your Committee suggest the expediency of encouraging their cultivation, in the hope of improving their quality, and in producing a new generation of that most useful root.

The Accounts of the Treasurer and Secretary have been audited, and found correct, leaving a balance in hand of £100 16s.

The Stock has also been examined, and is in good condition. No invoice having been received with the Guano and Sheep imported in the spring, the amount is not known, nor has any remittance been made on account thereof. In addition to which, two tons more of Guano, and two hundred weight of Cow-grass Seed, are ordered for the spring.

Agreeably to a previous understanding, the next year's Ploughing Match will be held in or near Dalhousie. Your Committee did intend to recommend additional exhibitions of this kind; but from the limited amount of your funds, they are constrained to confine them to the usual number. They however suggest, that Three Fairs and Cattle Shows may be held the ensuing season with good effect;—one in Dalhousie, a second in Campbellton, and the third in one of the lower Parishes. A number of new Subscribers were added to your list, after the last Cattle Show at Campbellton, but nothing like the number that ought to have been; and it is to be regretted, that all do not unite in augmenting the funds, and thereby aid in extending the usefulness of a Society, that has for its object the permanent improvement of the county, and the elevation of its Agriculturists to that position in society, which their profession is entitled to, as the most respectable and independent.

Submitted, by Order,

DUGALD STEWART,
Secretary and Treasurer.

Ordered—That this Report be received and published.

Moved, Seconded, and unanimously Resolved—That the best thanks of the Annual Meeting of the Restigouche Agricultural Society, are due, and are hereby given to the Office Bearers for the past year.

Resolved—That Andrew Barberie, Esq. be re-elected President.

Hugh Montgomery, Esquire, and Mr Walter Blair, Vice Presidents.

That Donald Stewart, Arthur Ritchie, J. M. Wilson, Jamer M'Pherson, and John Douglas, be the Committee for the ensuing year.

And that Dugald Stewart do continue Secretary and Treasurer.

A Meeting of the Board as then constituted, was held; when it was Ordered—That the Annual Grain Show should take place as usual, in the Court Hall, at Dalhousie, on Tuesday the 14th day of April next, for the same Premiums that were offered last year. The articles to be the growth, produce, and manufacture of the county, the year 1845.

That there be three Cattle Shows and Fairs held in the county, the current year—one at Campbellton, on Monday, 14th September—another at Dalhousie, on the Thursday following, the 17th—and the third at or near Mr Robert (Hervie's), on Saturday the 19th of the same month; for the like Premiums that were offered at Campbellton and Dalhousie, last season.

That no Prize shall be awarded to any Article or Animal, unless considered by the Judges as meriting it.