

# THE GLEANER:

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COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL.

OLD SERIES]

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

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## Agricultural Journal.

### LOCAL

#### GLOUCESTER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

On Tuesday, the 8th inst., the Annual Meeting of the Gloucester County Agricultural Society, was held in the Court House, Bathurst, at two o'clock, FRANCIS FERGUSON, Esq., President of the Society, in the chair. The number of Members and others who were present, was gratifying and promising. The Report of the Committee for the past year, was read by the Secretary, after which it was proposed, and unanimously agreed to by the meeting—'That the report now read, be adopted and published in the *Miramichi Gleaner*.'

It was then unanimously Resolved that the following be the Office Bearers and Committee of the Society, for the ensuing year, with power to add to their number.

Francis Ferguson, Esq.—President.  
John Woolner, S. L. Bishop, M. D., John Richey, Esquires, Vice Presidents.  
Rev. George Macdonell, Secretary and Treasurer.

William Napier, Esquire, Assistant do.

#### COMMITTEE.

For Bathurst—William End, Esq. M. P. P., William Napier, Esq. and Mr. Michael O'Brien—For Youghat—John Miller and Robert Ferguson, Esquires.—For Petit Roche—Messrs. Malloy, H. Roy, and A. Rennie.—For New Dunlop—Messrs. W. Wilson, and Robert Barbour, senior.—For Belledoune—Messrs. John Chalmers, and Patrick Malone.—For Restigouche—Mr. Robert Brown.—For Kingsale—Mr. Daniel Conoly.—For Big River—Mr. John Willis.—For New Bandon—Messrs. John Kerr, Richard Dawson, and J. Coubs.—For Shippegan—Hugh A. Caine, Esq.—For Caraqueet—Rev. Mr. Drolet, and James Blackhall, Esq.—For Saumarez—James Young, Esq.

At the conclusion, the thanks of the meeting were rendered to the President for his conduct in the chair.

#### REPORT.

One of the striking peculiarities of the present day is, the pre-eminence and high estimation in which Agricultural pursuits are held. The science and practice of Agriculture are justly deemed of the most useful and honorable character. Not only does the peer concur in this view with the enlightened peasant; princes and royalty deem it honorable to apply their best energies to this noble occupation. It is 'the art,' as was recently observed by Lord Elgin, the distinguished patron of the Provincial Association of Upper Canada,—himself a practical farmer 'by the cultivation of which a gracious and merciful God, enables his fallen creatures to extract a blessing out of the primeval curse.'

That the peaceful pursuits of the husbandman are destined to supplant and to be preferred to the profession of the warrior. We know upon the highest authority, that the world is rapidly preparing for this happy result, the accurate observer of passing events, clearly perceives. Already does military distinction possess far less of attractiveness than formerly did it. One of the most honored heroes of modern times (Sir Harry Hardinge), lately expressed himself on the subject of war, to the effect, that he is the best General who brings it to the most speedy and satisfactory conclusion. On the other hand, farmers are awakening to a sense of the importance of their calling, both as respects themselves and the public at large. The necessity of improving and advancing to the utmost in the cultivation of whatever pertains to the Agriculturalists' sphere, is becoming more and more apparent. Hence the existence and operations of such confederations (implying the formation of minor and County Associations) as the Royal Agricultural Society of England, the Highland Society of Scotland, the Royal

Agricultural Society of Ireland, the Provincial Association of Upper Canada, and the Agricultural Society of the State of New York.

The progress and success attendant upon persevering exertions are thus referred to in a speech made by the Hon. Chief Justice Robinson, of Upper Canada:—'Many years ago attempts were made to form an Agricultural Society in this province, but those attempts were not very successful; and it was only after years of effort, that a district Society sprung up, and similar ones were subsequently formed in other districts, until at length, we witness as the result of continued perseverance, the existence of this Provincial Association, which, I trust, may, before long, be followed by an Agricultural Association, extending over the whole of the British North American Colonies.' How soon this suggestion may be verified, depends mainly upon the Lower Provinces of British America. Your Committee are happy to acknowledge the receipt of a communication from the Agricultural and Horticultural Society of Saint John County, in which the proposal of a Provincial Agricultural Association for New Brunswick, the affairs of which might be managed by Deputies from the various county Societies, is brought under notice. In the desirableness of such an Association, your committee fully concur, as also in that of the appointment of a Provincial Lecturer, through whose instrumentality, the qualities and adaptations of the soil, in the various districts of the Province, together with the influence of atmosphere, climate, and other agents, would be unfolded.

The object of the Practical Farmer is, to raise from a given extent of land, the largest quantity of the most valuable produce at the least cost, in the shortest period of time, and with the least permanent injury to the soil. The sciences either of Chemistry or Geology, throw light on every step he takes, or ought to take, in order to effect this main object.\* That our own humble Association may be honored to do something towards the attainment of this end, your committee sincerely hope. For this purpose they invite the co-operation of every enlightened and patriotic member of the community. In particular, would they appeal to the Agriculturalists of the county, that as they would prove themselves not unworthy of the honorable appellation of Farmers, and not incapable of that intelligent perception of their own interests, which uniformly characterizes respectable farmers, they will enter with spirit into the design of this Society.

On the 16th day of February last, a public meeting was held in the Court House, for the purpose of re-organizing the Agricultural Society of the County. A series of rules were agreed upon, and office-bearers and committee chosen. In conducting the affairs of the Association, your committee have sought to proceed with caution and prudence. It has been their aim rather to do a little well, than when only struggling into a revived existence, to seek at once great things which would have been hazardous, and possibly destructive. During the year now expired, forty eight individuals have joined themselves in the membership of the society. The committee sought to obtain through Dugald Stewart, Esquire, the following implements of husbandry, viz:—A Cultivator, a Barrow Drill, a Horse rake, and Cattle ties. Of these, only the Cultivator and Cattle ties came to hand. They were sold by Auction to members of the society. The Committee purchased from Francis Ferguson, Esq. his Ayrshire bull for the sum of ten pounds. This valuable animal was purchased at the public sale for John Woolner Esq. for five pounds. Your committee exceedingly regret, that Mr Woolner, some time after the sale, considered it necessary to kill this bull, because he was knicked, as one of the Rules of the Society requires 'any person purchasing

\* Elements of Agricultural Chemistry & Geology, by Professor Johnson

imported Stock from the Society, shall give security that it be kept in the county for at least three years. Your committee have also ordered for circulation, nine copies of the Albany Cultivator. The sum of £12 has been received as members' subscriptions; £8 7d in donations; and of £9 19 5 for sales;—making the total amount of receipts during the year £30, which, with the £60 to which this amount entitles the Society, renders the income of the Society up to this date £90. After deducting £15 3 8d, the amount of sums paid for the Treasurer the sum of £74 16 4 to the credit of the Society.

Though, in the forbearance of the beneficent Author of all good, we have not had to mourn even an approximation to that state of failure and famine which during the season preceeding the late abundant harvest prevailed in various parts of the mother country, the product of our last autumn was not very favourable to the Agriculturalist. Wheat both in quantity and quality was rather beneath an average crop. It suffered partially from rust and in some instances from the Weevil. Oats and hay, your committee believe, were scarcely, if at all inferior to our average. In our county, as generally throughout the province the potato suffered greatly. It is estimated that with us there will be a loss of two thirds of the whole. Blighting, dry-rot, wet rot, and in some cases the total disappearance of the root, it having passed into a liquid state, or become so friable as to identify itself with the soil, have all been experienced. Where planted in burnt land, the return, generally, was so good as to form an exception. It is gratifying to know that, those potatoes which were picked for the cellar, have in numerous instances, at least, not deteriorated but improved. Indian Corn has been tried to a small extent, especially in Petit Roche, with very good success. It is deserving of much more extensive cultivation than it has yet received among us. Buckwheat has afforded to the few individuals who have tried it a satisfactory return. It appears well worthy of the attention of our farmers. Its return is ample, averaging at least, thirty fold. It seems desirable also, that the growth of Barley should be encouraged in this county. It is valuable for table use; and is found a profitable article of food for horses and pigs. The increased culture of carrots, is worthy of encouragement. In addition to other purposes, they form a very useful variety in the food of horses and are cheaper than oats. The value of the turnip is well known. The Swedish keeps better than the white, or the old Aberdeen. Peas and Beans are highly deserving of a place in the agriculturalist's list; the latter in particular, merit attention as escaping the injury from worms and mildew, to which the former are liable. The small grey, or horse bean, is recommended for field sowing. The mash is valuable as an article of strong food for pigs. When sown in conjunction with the grey, or horse pea; union is very profitable. The importance of the Beet is great and enhanced by the fact that it has been proposed as a substitute for the potato. The varieties are:

Long Blood, Early red Turnip rooted, Early Orange Turnip rooted, French Sugar, Mangel Wertzell.

The three first are esteemed best for table use; may be sown from April to June in deeply pulverised soil; the plants should stand five or six inches apart in the drills, but the seed should be put in thicker to ensure a good crop.

The two last named kinds are most valuable as good for stock. To preserve beets during the winter, pack them in a dry cellar, covering them with earth. The committee propose the introduction of Tares, as constituting an economical and beneficial kind of green food for horses. They arrive early at maturity and are said to enrich the land.

The obvious utility of muck, the mother of the meal chest is familiar to all. Certainly every care should be exercised to increase its bulk, and to improve its

qualities. Your committee may be allowed here to quote the following pertinent and humorous remarks:—'With great prodigality thousands of cart loads of valuable manure, are annually burnt upon the fields; the ashes amounting to nothing—the main substance is dissipated in smoke to the enriching of the clouds and the damage of a poor soil. Quickens, docks, thistles, hedge and gooseberry prunings, furze, broom, everything of the wood kind not fit for fuel, if covered with a little earth, will rot down in one year, and constitute a manure of excellent quality whether for garden or field. Keep clean doors, clean roads, clean entrances by every gate—the only luxury that enriches; for thus the unclean stepping which annoys both eye and foot, will in time, become gold in your hand. Wherever this plan of gathering from all quarters is pursued, the amount will be so great as to provoke the wonder whence it came, or whether it would have gone had it not been collected. Evaporation on the surface of the earth is like the insensible perspiration. But to make the idea of value more tangible, with no sensible outlay you may acquire in the course of two or three years, the invaluable treasure of sixty cart loads of the best manure, which will make all around you to flow with milk and honey. †

The value of compost heaps, are beginning, at least to be appreciated among us, provided as we are within our own borders, with lime, marl, plaister of Paris, sea weed, mud in swamps and coves together with other stimulants and manures, great culpability and blame-worthiness must attach to the cultivator of the soil, if he neglect to avail himself of advantages so clearly within his reach.

Your committee would strongly urge the importance of draining, in order to good success in hay land. When water is permitted to remain on the surface, the melted ice injures greatly or destroys in the season of spring a large proportion of the roots. Top dressing also amply remunerates the vigilant farmer. Where lime is ascertained to be especially suitable to our soil and can easily be obtained, surely it ought to be more employed as a top dressing in the production of hay. Plaister of Paris is recommended as preferable to lime in preparing seed-potatoes for planting; it more effectually retains the moisture of the ground. In the opinion of some experienced agriculturalists, steaming potatoes and other roots, is deemed a better mode than boiling or using them in their natural state.

Your committee are anxious to have introduced as soon as possible, a good threshing machine. Perhaps they could not name an article of greater utility, both in economizing the expense which is now incurred for labor in the cleaning of grain, and in more effectually doing the work. One such machine might serve as a model for imitation among our resident mechanics. Your committee would also earnestly recommend the greatly increased use of fanners among our agriculturalists. At present our grain is seldom well cleaned. The improved English Seed Sower, appears well worthy of importation, as answering the purpose of a turnip drill, and sowing the small garden seeds, such as onion, turnip, carrot, parsnip, beet, &c. and also millet and other small grains, in drills. The horse rake would also be found of vast benefit.

In conclusion, your committee would urge upon all who love their country, who understand its real interest and welfare in common with their own, to do what they can in order to advance the object of this Association. We are far behind the stage of advancement at which we might have been arrived. Unquestionably, agriculture, together with the fisheries, must rank among our most valuable resources. While we most cordially desire to see the latter zealously and wisely prosecuted, it is with the former that we as a society have to do. Its value both in a finan-

† Manse Gardea