

THE GLEANER:

AND NORTHUMBERLAND, KENT, GLOUCESTER AND RESTIGOUCHE
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.

[COMPRISED 13 VOLUMES.]

NEW SERIES, VOL. VII.]

MIRAMICHI, TUESDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 27, 1849

NUMBER 18.

Agricultural Journal.

LOCAL.

COUNTY GLOUCESTER AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Upon Tuesday the 13th February, the Society's Annual Show of Grain and of Domestic Manufactures, took place in the Village, Bathurst. The variety and quality of the Grains exhibited, surpassed the expectation of all who witnessed them, and the interest generally manifested was lively, and the competition well sustained.

The Annual Meeting of the Society was held in the Court House, Bathurst, at 3 o'clock, p. m. In the absence of the President the chair was taken by JOHN WOOLNER, Esq. Vice President, and the chairman having requested, the Secretary read the Report of the Committee for the past year.

The following Office Bearers and Committee were then unanimously chosen for the ensuing year, with power to add to their number.

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

William Napier, Esq. Assistant do. Committee.

For Bathurst—William End, and Joseph Read, Esqrs., M.P.P., Dr. Gordon, Messrs. Napier, Desbrisay, and Michael O'Brien. For Youghal—Messrs. Millar and R. Ferguson. For Petit Roche—Messrs. Rennie and Malloy. For New Dunlop—Messrs. Wm. Wilson and M. Barbour. For Belledune—Messrs. John Chalmers and J. Galbraith, sen. For Tettagouche—Mr. Robert Brown. For Kinsale—Mr. Alex. Brown. For New Brandon—Messrs. John Kerr and R. Dawson, jun. For Big River—Mr. John Wilks. For Caraquet—Rev. Mr. Paquet and Mr. Blackhall. For Shippegan—Mr. Caie. For Saumarez—Mr. Young.

REPORT.

The year whose principal occurrence in connection with your Society, we are about to review, has been one of unparalleled depression to the province generally, and to this neighborhood in particular. Amidst commercial and pecuniary embarrassment, our agricultural population have also been severely tried, by the failure, to a considerable extent, of the wheat crop, and of some of the other valuable productions of our soil. It will not, therefore, be expected that your committee can chronicle events of a very exhilarating or exciting description.

And yet, the record of the history of the year now completed, would show that our humble association is not only possessed of life, but of energy and efficiency for the objects which it contemplates. The mercantile houses that commenced business two years ago, and has been able, honestly and steadily, to pursue an onward, safe, and beneficial course, will be pronounced to have done well. A similar verdict, may, it is hoped, be claimed by your society, during the period of its revived existence. Its re-organization in February 1846, implied the hope that, notwithstanding the distress prevalent in various parts of the mother country, and unprecedented financial difficulty,—which would infallibly tell upon the trade and capabilities of the colonies, there was enough of available intelligence, capability and integrity in our community, to warrant the step then taken. With gratitude to the Author of all good, we now witness that the hope was not a vain one.

By means of zealous exertions on the part of your committee, forty six members are enrolled as paid, in the Treasurer's Book for the year just closed. This amount, it will be observed, is two less than the Society numbered the preceding year. But whilst this fact reminds us of the necessity that exists for sustained and increased efforts to add to our strength, the small diminution, considering the pressure of the times, certainly affords matter of encouragement. It is indeed feared, that unworthy prejudices or vain expectations have prevented some from coming forward, or caused the falling back of others who had actually joined us. But while we would gladly welcome all who desire the welfare of themselves and their country, we shall steadily adhere to those principles; that aiming at general improvement upon which we set out; and which the selfish and the narrow minded are often too

late in appreciating. The spirit and design of our constitution desire to benefit individuals only in subserving to the advancement of the public at large.

In accordance with the Report of last year, which expressed anxiety to have introduced as soon as possible a good threshing machine,—your committee, at its first meeting in February, resolved to take the requisite steps for obtaining one. The iron work was ordered from Scotland, and the wood work was furnished by Mr Henry of Belledune, who also manufactured the machine. It was leased at auction, upon the 31st July, to Mr Malloy, for one year, with the understanding, that he should be ready to hire it out by the day, at a moderate rate, giving a preference to members of the society. The committee are unable to specify the cost of the threshing machine, the account for the iron work not having yet come to hand.

The introduction of this implement among our agricultural community, is one of the pleasing indications of social improvement, and of the beneficial influence of our Society. It is also gratifying to know that during the year, other two threshing machines have been bro't into the County. It is hoped that the day is at hand when many shall be in operation among us, and when a class of farmers shall have arisen to us, who shall follow the example of our President, in having the threshing machine a fixture in one of the buildings of the farm yard, for private use.

Your committee imported from London a large package of Grass and Garden Seeds. Owing to the lateness of their arrival, they were not opened, the spring being past. The Committee here desire to express their grateful sense of the courtesy of Messrs. J. & R. C. Woolner, of London, through whose agency the seeds were procured and forwarded, for a handsome donation on the part of these gentlemen, of a variety of samples of superior grains to the Society. Among them were three small bags of winter wheat, one fine Kent white Wheat, one fine Chatham, white Wheat, grown in Surrey and Essex, and one Essex White. These were severally portioned out in small quantities, to members of the Society, and sown in different places. The experiment which is thus being made, may lead to very beneficial results.

With a view to the improvement of the breed of sheep in the County, your Committee agreed, "that a Ram and Ewe of the Cheviot breed, and a Ram and Ewe of the Leicester breed be procured." In November, two Rams and two ewes were purchased for the Society in Dalhousie, which was subsequently sold at auction to members, pledged to conform to the Rule, respecting imported stock. Although the lambs were not in the best possible condition, and although some of the sheep previously in the county, are apparently much superior, yet the advantage flowing from changing the breed, may, the committee trust, justify the course which they followed.

Upon the 3d of October, the Society held a Cattle Show and Ploughing Match, upon the farm of John Frazer, Esq. The day was auspicious, and the competition in Cattle laudable and promising. The committee regret that the prizes offered for superior ploughing were not responded to by a larger number of competitors.—Only four Ploughs were entered. The judges of the ploughing were, Messrs. Woolner, John Chalmers, and Alexander Rait,—of the cattle, Messrs. Carter, Wetherall, and G. Wilson. The following prizes were awarded and paid.

FOR THE PLOUGHING MATCH.

First prize, to Patrick O'Neil, for M. Ferguson £1 0 0
Second do., David Doucett, for G. Wilson, 0 12 6

The sum of Five Shillings was given respectively to Richard Henderson and John Brennan—the other two ploughmen—for the merit of their work, 0 10 0

FOR CATTLE.

Best Bull, owned by James Henry, £1 0 0
Second best do, Robert Barbour, 0 12 6
Best Bull, calved in 1847, F. Ferguson, 0 12 6
Second best do., R. Barbour, 0 7 6
Best Cow, F. Ferguson, 1 0 0
Second best do., Wm. Napier, 0 12 6
Best Heifer, calved in 1847, John Woolner, 0 12 6
Second best do., Wm. Malloy, 0 7 6
Best heifer Cal, F. Ferguson, 0 10 0
Second best do., Wm. Malloy, 0 5 0

FOR SHEEP.

Best Ram, Wm. Malloy, 0 15 0
Best Ewe, F. Ferguson, 0 15 0
Second Best do., Wm. Malloy, 0 10 0
Best Ram Lamb, F. Ferguson, 0 10 0
Best Ewe, do., do., 0 10 0

FOR PIGS.

Best Sow, F. Ferguson, 0 15 0

Best Spring Pig, do., 0 12 6
Second best do, Rev. G. McDonnell, 0 7 6

Amounting to 12 17 6

The following is a digest of the Treasurer's Account for the year just ended.

1848.	Da.
Feb. 8. To cash paid for prizes this day,	13 10 0
16 Secretary,	10 0 0
March 23. Mr Pierce, for printing, Messrs. Ferguson Rankin & Co, for Draft of £18 Sterling,	1 17 0
Oct. 3. For Cattle Show and Ploughing Match, D. Stewart, Esq., Dalhousie, for implements ordered in 1847,	22 10 0
Expenses on Cask of seeds,	12 17 6
11 8 4	
November. For Rams and Ewes, Dalhousie,	1 2 0
Carriage of Do.,	7 0 0
2 0 0	
1849.	
Jan. 8 To Cash for Office Rent, Auction Commissions and Stationary,	2 0 0
Paid for Postages,	0 11 11
Paid Mr Pierce for printing,	2 5 0
Balance in Treasurer's hands,	12 2 3
	99 13 10

1848 Cr.

Feb. 8 By Balance in hands this day,	74 16 4
April 4 Sale of Toronto Cultivator,	0 10 0
1849.	
Jan. 8 Sales of Rams and Ewes,	2 18 0
Feb. 13 Subscriptions of 46 Members,	11 10 0
Donations,	5 14 6
Rent of Threshing Machine,	4 5 0
	£99 13 10

In addition to the Balance at present in the Treasurer's hands, the sum of £49 13, will, immediately on its receipt, be at the Society's credit. It has been drawn for by the President, from the Provincial Treasurer, the income of your Society for the current year having been £24 17 6.

Your committee will now endeavor to take a rapid glance at the history of our agriculture during the past year. Such a survey, with the hints it is fitted to suggest and urge, should lead to improvement and correction—to salutary change, rather than foster indolence, prejudice, indifference, or self-complacency.

It may be affirmed of crops in general, last season, that they were inferior and scanty. This is especially true of wheat. If it be assumed that a twofold increase constitutes a good return from seed wheat, in this county, this was scarcely obtained in any case. If we say that eight to one was about the best return actually realized, we shall not probably be far from correct—and this, very few farmers are so successful as to receive. Many came short of five fold; and many suffered nearly the entire loss of their wheat crop. The principal and proximate cause of this was Rust. The weevil, also, was to some extent injurious; but the former is, by far, the more dread enemy of wheat. When it assails, its ravages affect the whole product. The damages caused by the latter is limited to the grains into which it insinuates itself. What is untouched by it, escapes detriment.

Oats, though scarcely equal to an average crop, were much more successful than wheat. They, in common with other grain, were retarded, and in some instances, prevented ripening, by the cold and wet weather. The return, notwithstanding, was good. It certainly is the interest of our farmers, to sow increased quantities of this important and nutritious article. It is ultimately hardier while progressing to maturity than wheat. Its increase is greater, yielding in favorable circumstance, when the ground is properly prepared, fifteen fold. The straw, also, is better, and more invulnerable than that of wheat, as fodder.

Barley also, succeeded last season. This is advantageous and worthy of cultivation more generally, especially when we take into account, that it may be sown later than other grain, and that it arrives at maturity in a shorter space of time. When the land is in "good heart" it will yield twelve to one. Though apt to be laid, if the crop be heavy, it is not liable, like wheat, to the rust.

It affords your committee much pleasure to have learned that the growth of Indian Corn

was more attended to during the recent season, than at any preceding period, in the county; and that the results have been most satisfactory.

In Petit Roche, where particularly its culture was sought, the increase was very great, amounting occasionally, it is said, to almost or altogether, an hundred fold. The quality, too, of the meal furnished by it, is superior to any hitherto imported from the United States. The plentiful return of this article in the above named settlement, has greatly promoted the comfort of its population, and tended to preserve them from that pinching poverty, to which, otherwise, many might have been subjected.

The potato, though still experiencing a partial failure, appears to be progressively recovering. The return of last year was better than that of the preceding. It was then estimated at not more than one third of a crop. The more recent one was probably two thirds. It is hoped that whatever may have been the causes of the disease which threatened destruction to this almost essential esculent, its recovery will soon be perfectly established.

Carrots, where sown in loamy soil, are believed to have done well. This is the more important as their increased consumption among farm stock, as a variety of food, would prove beneficial. Buckwheat was discouraging. Hay yielded an average return. Great improvement would follow in its production if draining were more practised, and a top dressing of lime or compost applied to the land.

How much is it to be regretted that the mass of farms in our county are so little productive. Until an amelioration take place in this respect, the reproach of culpable neglect is deserved. Is not the soil of this county, under proper and practicable tillage, capable of supplying its own bread stuff? Nay, suppose the condition implemented, is it not adequate to afford a profitable export, of agricultural produce. And might not a similar enquiry be proposed to every intelligent and spirited stock farmer? Never was there a time when the necessity of our position, so energetically called upon every man, and eminently upon every agriculturalist, to do his duty. It is vain, it is to be guilty of folly and falsehood, if we only seek to excuse our own heartlessness and want of enterprise, by blaming the Country. Let the country be fairly tested, and we are sanguine that it will be proved a good farming country. No country in the world could prosper, it has been observed, as a farming country, under the system pursued by ourselves. With gratitude to the Divine Ruler in providence, let us be animated with the persuasion, that it is not too late to remedy our mistakes. While in other lands revolutions and civil war distract their inhabitants, perfect peace reigns within our borders. And, not only is commercial prosperity reviving in the mother country, the enlivening influence of which will in due time be felt in the colonies, we have the near prospect of what can scarcely fail to impart new life and animation to New Brunswick and all the N. A. Provinces. This great national undertaking may be regarded as the most felicitous and promising means of advancement possible. Not only will our mode and speed of transit and travelling be rendered analogous to the style of the great trans-Atlantic and other Steamers; our resources of every kind, including those of our fisheries and minerals, will be incited, and, we trust, developed. New markets will be presented for what the country can be made to yield, and for the skill of the handicraftsman; new inducements will be brought to bear on whatever of activity or excellence the Provincial inhabitants may possess. It is not needful to say that we allude to the great Halifax and Quebec Railroad. This vast undertaking, which, in all likelihood, be ere long commenced under the fostering auspices of Britain. Did time permit, the benefits to the neighborhood of the Bay of Chaleur might be enlarged upon. But it will be more suitable to point out some steps that would prove of very material benefit, either apart from the Railway, or connected with it.

Generally speaking, there is too much clearance on our farms—that is, considering the benefit derived. It were better to clear only half, and to double the efficiency of the cultivation. One acre of ground thoroughly drained, skillfully farmed, is decidedly preferable to twice that quantity, managed after the "canna be fash'd" system of Mrs McClary.

The necessity of insisting upon the importance of the husbandman cleaning his seed grain exists among us. Our soil is fearfully infested and impoverished by sowing weeds. The ground which these occupy, the nourishment which they derive from the earth, the good seed which they choke and destroy: all this accumulation of evil might, in a good degree, be remedied, if the seed sown were properly cleansed.

The committee may be allowed to refer to