

THE GLEANER:

AND NORTHUMBERLAND, KENT, GLOUCESTER AND RESTIGOUCHE
COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL.

OLD SERIES.]

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

[COMPRISED 13 VOLUMES.]

NEW SERIES.]

MIRAMICHI, TUESDAY EVENING, JANUARY 30, 1849.

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REPORT

OF THE

NORTHUMBERLAND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

FOR 1848-9.

The mere history of your Committee's procedure during the past year—however concise—will of necessity occupy all the space which is usually assigned to an Agricultural Report. Instead, then, of submitting anything like scientific or statistical information, the Board of 1848 shall attempt little beyond a plain account of their own doings, or a detail of your Society's proceedings during the year that is past.

At their first meeting, which took place on Wednesday, the 26th day of January—a few days after their appointment—several important matters, having reference to the prosperity of your Society, were brought up for discussion. 1st, with the view of lessening the amount of business which had to be got through, on this, the day of the Annual Exhibition, it was resolved that the Ploughing Match and Cattle Show should take place on the same day; thus limiting the business to be done at the Annual Exhibition, to the examination of Grains, Garden Seeds, Dairy Produce, and Home Manufactures. 2nd—It being obvious, that the young men, natives of the place, are now, perhaps, not much inferior to our Old Country bred Ploughmen, and the Board being most anxious that "fair play" should be the distinguishing characteristic of the Ploughing Match, resolved unanimously, that the competition should be open to all, except persons who had taken the first prize on any two former occasions; and that the six prizes range from £1 17 6, the highest, to £1 5, the lowest, lessening after the rate of 2s. 6d. each prize, instead of 5s. as heretofore. 3rd—Having had cause to suspect, that the expense of ferrying cattle and horses across the Miramichi River, to and from the Ploughing Matches and Cattle Shows, had tended to lessen the attendance on these occasions, the Board resolved, that the Society pay the "ferryage of all horses, cattle and live stock, having to cross the river for the purpose of exhibition or of ploughing." 4th—Three well-selected Committees were appointed to prepare separate codes of Rules and Regulations for the Ploughing Match, the Cattle Show, and the exhibition of Grains, Dairy Produce, and Home Manufactures; and 7 persons were chosen a Committee, to take into consideration the best and most judicious method of applying the funds of your Society. The meeting thus described, was adjourned till Saturday, the 18th day of March, on which occasion nearly every member of the Board was in attendance.

The various Committees to which reference has just been made, now submitted their respective reports. These Reports having undergone a few slight alterations, were unanimously adopted.

The Cattle Show Committee, with the view of extending the range of premiums, &c., recommended that instead of £12, previously granted for this purpose, the sum of £20 7 6 should be substituted. This suggestion was readily acceded to, and the latter sum was placed at the disposal of the Committee.

With the same view, a similar recommendation was submitted by the Committee for Domestic Manufactures, Grains, and Dairy Produce; and the sum of £17 13 6, was substituted for that of £14, previously voted.

The Committee of seven, appointed to take into consideration the best method of applying the funds of your Society, unanimously agreed to recommend that £125 sterling, be applied towards the importation of stock, "at as early a period as possible, to comprise two Bulls (yearling), and the residue of money in two year old Heifers, to be in calf at the time of shipment." The President of the So-

ciety, JOHN WRIGHT, Esq., was, accordingly, requested to correspond with an old and excellent friend of the Society, JAS. GILMOUR, Esq., now in Scotland, with the view of ascertaining the cost of these animals, and all other matters connected with their importation. The President having been favored with a reply from Mr. Gilmour in due course, convened the Board on Tuesday the 22d May, for the purpose of laying before them the communication received from Mr. Gilmour; when, after mature deliberation, it was at length resolved unanimously,

"That owing to the low state of the Society's funds, the present high price of Cattle in Scotland, the scarcity of money here, and the great loss which the Society would necessarily sustain by the importation of the contemplated Stock this season, the Board do not deem it expedient to import any Cattle from Britain at present."

On Thursday the 29th of June, a special meeting of the Board took place, to take into consideration a proposal made by Mr. Charles Richardson, to import from England a Stallion of the Cleveland breed. Mr. Richardson proposed to import an animal of so superior a description, of the Cleveland breed, as would ensure him the 1st or 2nd of the premiums offered for the importation of such horses by the Legislature of the Province. Mr. R. agreed to keep the animal entire, in this county, for the period of two years, and to abide by such terms for the services of the horse, as the Board might dictate, on condition that the Society would assist him with a sum of money, to enable him to purchase and bring out the animal.

The meeting cordially agreed to grant Mr. Richardson the loan he required, on approved security being given; acceded to his other proposals, and appointed a Committee to carry out the views of the Society. This Committee, however, having met with difficulties of an insurmountable kind, caused a meeting of the Board to take place on the 6th of July, at which they submitted the difficulties in question. The Board, after applauding the conduct of the Committee, resolved, "That the Resolution passed on the 29th June, appropriating the money for the Horse, be now rescinded." At the same meeting, however, it was resolved, "That this Society will give a premium of Fifty Pounds to any person or persons who will import a Stallion of the Cleveland Breed, to which the Provincial bounty (first or second) shall be awarded; the money to be paid on a certificate of the money being awarded, and security being given to keep the Horse entire in the County of Northumberland the two first seasons, say 1849 and 1850."

After a protracted discussion, it was also determined at this meeting, not to expend any of the Society's funds in the importation of Clover and Garden Seeds from Britain, for next year; and the Secretary was directed to give this Resolution publicity in the *Gleaner* newspaper, as also the preceding one. The motive by which the Board was induced thus to depart, at least for a season, from the wonted custom of the Society, was a desire to encourage thereby the home growth of these Seeds, and in this way secure to the County a safer and superior article; experience having shown that Seeds, the production of any remote soil and climate, are seldom so healthy and vigorous, nor can they be so congenial to the soil, as Seeds produced in a home locality.

PLOUGHING MATCH.

The Society's Ploughing Match and Cattle Show took place at Newcastle on the day of the Annual Fair, being Thursday the 3rd October; the former in fields situate in rear of the dwelling house of Mr. Calvin Nivan, and the latter on the premises of Mr. D. Witherell. No less than 16 Ploughs having made their appearance at an early hour, it was found that the field selected for the occasion was not half the size that would be necessary. A second was soon obtained on the same farm, both fields together, were, however, not only too small, but they proved to be both wet and stony, and

in other respects but ill adapted to such a purpose.

The utmost care should be exercised by the Society to guard against the recurrence of an error so injurious in its tendency to the interests of the Society.

The Judges were Messrs. Thos. Johnston, (Bartibogue) John Irvine, and Richard Coulard, and their decision was as follows:—

AWARD OF PREMIUMS.

No. 8—James Johnston, son of Mr G. Johnston, V.P. of the Society, 1st prize, £1 17 6
No. 6—James O'Hearn, ploughman to W. Leison, Esq., Chatham, 2d, 1 15 0
No. 16—James Orr, son of A. Orr, Farmer, Napan, 3d, 1 12 6
No. 4—A. Dick, 2d son of Mr A. Dick, Napan, (eldest son winner of two prizes before, not eligible), 4th, 1 10 0
No. 15—D. Baldwin, son of Mr D. Baldwin, Farmer, Beck Lots, 5th, 1 7 6
No. 7—J. Dixon, son of Mr John Dixon, Farmer, Newcastle, 6th, 1 5 0

The Cattle Show of 1848, if not a failure, was certainly far inferior to many of those that have preceded it. Of £20 12 6 appropriated by your Society to premiums, only £9 12 6 were paid to competitors. This singular circumstance was owing to two causes, viz., the absence of certain kinds of animals, to claim the prizes offered for competition; and the inadequacy of others, though present, to the right of competition.

The President of your Society, JOHN WRIGHT, Esq., whose efforts in behalf of Agriculture are too well known and appreciated to require either comment or commendation from your Committee, fortunately discovered that Mr. Rust, of Newcastle, was the owner of a fine looking Bull, of the pure Ayrshire breed, which he intended to kill very soon, if he could not dispose of it otherwise. Impressed with the belief that it would be wrong on the part of your Society to allow this, almost the only animal of the pure breed in the County, to be lost to it, the President convened a meeting for Thursday, the 13th day of October, at which, having fully described the appearance, age, and size of the animal, and related the circumstances which had induced him to call the meeting, it was resolved, "That the Bull described by the President, be purchased by the Society, for the sum asked by Mr. Rust; that it be sold at Public Auction, by J. M. Johnson, Esq., Auctioneer, on Thursday the 19th of October, subject to such conditions as the Society may dictate." Mr. J. Hea, of Chatham, became the purchaser, and is bound to keep the Bull in this County, at least two years, and to charge for his services, say to members of this Society, not over 4s., and to others whatever sum his personal interest may dictate. The Bull may therefore be found at any time, at the stables of Mr. Hea, and it is hoped he will prove of mutual benefit to the purchaser and the county at large.

The proceedings of this day are well known to you all. With much to occupy their time and attention, and having but lately received the decision of the several Committees of Judges, it can hardly be expected that the Board can supply anything like a full or detailed account of the various doings of this day. The weather has been exceedingly agreeable. The supply of Grains, Domestic Manufactures, &c., submitted for exhibition, has been very great, and what is still better, it has been of very excellent quality, particularly the Grains, as may be seen by reference to the weights affixed to each prize.

The Judges of Domestic Manufactures, Dairy Produce, &c., were Messrs. Wm. Loch, James Johnson, and John Chalmers; and of Grains, Messrs. Gavin Rainnie, Oliver Willard, and E. Willis.

The prizes have been awarded as follows:—

DOMESTIC MANUFACTURES.
James Brown, best Homespun Cotton, all wool, 0 12 6
Anthony Rodgers, Jr., do second do, 0 7 6
J. Dixon, Homespun, cotton & wool, best, 0 12 6

D. M. Kay, ditto, second best, 0 7 6
J. Goodfellow, Flannel, 1 piece, all wool, best, 0 12 6
D. M. Kay, ditto, second best, 0 7 6
D. M. Kay, Plaid Tartan, 10 yards, all wool, best, 0 12 6

PRODUCE OF THE DAIRY.

David Steel, Butter, 20 lbs., best sample, 0 10 0
J. Dixon, Newcastle, do 2d best, 0 7 6
Anthony Rodgers, Jr., do 3d best, 0 5 0
G. Johnstone, Napan, do 4th do, 0 2 6
Do. Cheese, 20 lbs, best, 0 10 0
David Steel, do 2nd best, 0 5 0

GRAINS, &c.

S. Hamilton, 65 lbs. Wheat, bald white, 2 bushels, best, 0 12 0
M. Searle, 65 do., 2nd best, 0 7 6
R. Whitney, 64 lbs. Wheat, red bald, best, 0 12 0
D. M. Kay, 61 lbs. do. 2d best, 0 7 6
G. Johnstone, 44 lbs Black Oats, best 0 6 0
T. Vanstone, 43 do. 2d best, 0 4 0
J. Wye, Douglastown, 43 lbs White Oats, best, 0 6 0
James Brown, 43 lbs do. 2d best, 0 4 0
James Dixon, Napan, 54 lbs Barley, best, 0 8 0
A. Dick, Napan, 53 lbs. do 2nd best, 6 5 0
Do. 68 lbs Pease, white field, 1 bus best, 0 7 6
Do. (special case) 63 lbs do 2d best, 0 5 0
J. Wye, 67 lbs green Pease, best, 0 7 6
G. Johnstone, Napan, 46 lbs Timothy Seed, best, 0 10 0
E. M. Dairmid, 45 lbs do. 2d best, 0 5 0
M. Searle, Carrot Seed, red, 1 lb. 0 2 0
D. M. Kay, Beet Seed, red, best, 0 2 0
D. Witherell, do 2d best, 0 1 3
M. Searle, Turnip Seed, yellow, 4th best, 0 5 0
Do. Swedish Turnip, best, 0 5 0
R. Whitney, Indian Corn, 1 bushel, 0 7 6
J. Porter, Windsor Beans, 1 bushel, best, 0 5 0

* Submitted to the consideration of the Board. Rejected by them as not a *Field Pea*, but being an excellent article, the premium was made a special grant of 5s. 000, 11 0000

The Treasurer's account, an abstract of which is hereto affixed, has been duly audited, and found correct and satisfactory. It shows a balance on hand in favor of the Society, of £125 19 7½.

Never, perhaps, have the efforts of your Society been more urgently called for, than at the present moment. *Lumbering*—long our staple, indeed our only trade—has at length reached that inevitable destiny, to which it has long been tending. The *Mineral*, and other resources of the County, instead of having been explored, excavated, and turned into wealth, have been utterly overlooked; and our *Fisheries*, although 'reckoned' by the 'calculating' American, as a 'catch-penny' of the utmost value to him, have been esteemed by us, as a thing not worth looking after. At such a crisis, and under such lamentable circumstances, surely an effort the most strenuous should be put forth in favor of Agriculture.

Perhaps the task of discussing what would be the best and most judicious means to employ for this purpose, does not lie within the sphere of duty assigned to your Committee. Nevertheless, they cannot but state their conviction, that if some scheme, to emanate from the government of the country, were devised, by which adjacent settlements could be connected by good Roads; if greater facilities were presented to the emigrant on his arrival among us; and if the capabilities of our soil and climate were better known in the mother country; if, for instance, it were known there, that our climate and soil are favorable to the growth of Oats, Wheat, Barley, Rye, and all kinds of Vegetables; that few countries possess a larger amount of soil fit for cultivation; and that Freehold Farms can be purchased in Northumberland for less money than the annual rent of similar lands in older countries; in a word, were it possible to persuade the Legislature and the country at large, that *Agriculture must form the basis of the wealth and independence of New Brunswick, as it does of almost every other country*; that the pecuniary and other difficulties under which we are now pining, have been brought about in a great measure by its neglect; and that the only panacea for the past, and desideratum for the future, are to be found in clearing and cultivating our soil on an enlightened and extended