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OLD SERIES]

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

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THE PLOUGH BOY.

The sun is set,
Day lingers yet,
And homeward I am creeping;
The evening guide,
On the other side,
Just through the woods is peeping.

I'll leave my plough
And labor now,
Till morning dawn is breaking;
And then with seed,
Away I'll speed,
Before my friends are waking.

I love the lawn,
At early dawn,
That leads me to my labor,
Where fresh winds blow,
And flowrets grow,
Sweet nature is my neighbor.

I'll plough and sow,
And reap and mow,
And fill my barns to overflowing;
The country's health—
The country's wealth,
Is in earth's bosom growing.

Then let me raise
My heart in praise,
To God the gracious giver;
Of mercies all,
Both great and small,
O, let me praise for ever.

And then to Christ,
My great High Priest,
I'll pay, who lives in heaven;
For he hath died—
Was crucified,
That I might be forgiven.

St. John Courier, November 9.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SAINT JOHN AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The Directors of the St. John County Agricultural Society, in submitting their Annual Report, have to express their gratitude to the Giver of all Good, for the return of another propitious season, by which an abundance for man and beast has been secured in the land. With the exception of the Potato crop, which has been again the victim of the mysterious blight, and on which a loss of about one-fourth of its bulk will be sustained in this County, all other crops have been productive and free from disease. Wheat, when tried in this County, has yielded a large return of remarkably heavy grain. Barley is coming more into cultivation, and invariably does well. Oats and buckwheat have, as usual, been productive. Hay rather under an average crop. Turnips, carrots, and beets, owing probably to cold rains after sowing, remained long backward, and until the middle of September did not promise much; since that time however they have rallied, and will now prove a fair crop. Monthly meetings of the directors have been held regularly, and an increasing interest seems to be manifested in the improvement of Agriculture.

As the Directors had found much difficulty in maintaining a proper circulation of the books which they had obtained for a library, they considered that, owing to the cheapness of agricultural publications in the United States, they might, by giving books for premiums, enable farmers to have each his own library. Books therefore were offered as premiums for all articles this year. As might have been expected, the competition was chiefly amongst those who knew the value of knowledge. Still much useful information has, by this means, been distributed in directions which would not otherwise have been reached, and which, if not immediately productive, will at least favorably affect the next generation.

The books awarded have been eight copies of Stephen's Book of the Farm, nine copies of the Encyclopedia of Agriculture, thirteen copies of Colman's European Agriculture, one copy of Stewart's Stable Economy, one copy of Buel's Farmer's Instructor, one copy of Youatt's Cattle Doctor, one copy of John-

ston's Lectures, one copy of Bousingault's Rural Economy, six copies of North British Agriculturist, two copies of London Gardeners' Chronicle, and two copies of the Albany Cultivator.

The Directors would recommend that in future the first premiums might be in money, and the second and third in books.

The annual Fair and Cattle show was held on 10th October. The Judges, Messrs. Charles Perley of Woodstock, James Ingledew of Washademoak, and Monmouth Fowler of Hampton, reported "the show of cattle as highly creditable to the Province, the sheep as very fine, and the swine as a superior breed and well adapted for the use of this country, and the vegetables generally as of good quality. They also reported the ploughs exhibited by Messrs. Harris and Allan, as equal if not superior to any imported; the edgetools, hammers and forks exhibited by Messrs. Samuel Spiller, and E. & J. Broad as highly commendable. They expressed themselves gratified at the manifest improvement in Stock, which is beginning to show itself by many of the cattle exhibited, and the zeal generally manifested by the farmers for the improvement of the country."

The Branch Society at Loch Lomond and Golden Grove has been conducted with much spirit, and has effected considerable improvement in those districts. A Report from that Society will be found in the Appendix.

The Directors would recommend that Branch Societies be formed in the other Parishes of the County. When such Societies are in operation in each Parish, competitors are placed more on an equality, and articles of proved excellence only are brought to the County Show.

The Directors would here call the attention of the Society and the public to the necessity, now becoming apparent, for a suitable piece of ground in or near the city being secured for a cattle market. The Monthly Fair is now necessarily held on the street, and must soon be felt as a nuisance. Had a situation been secured ten or twenty years ago, it would have been obtained for a trifle; it will now cost a considerable sum, but every year will add to the expense. As such a site will sooner or later be indispensable, the Directors recommend that the Corporation or the Sessions purchase or procure at least an acre of ground in or near the City, erect sheds and cattle pens upon it, and fix a small charge for each animal brought into it for sale. The benefit this would afford to sellers and buyers is obvious.

The Treasurer's account is herewith submitted to the Meeting. It will be seen that the amount received for subscriptions for the year was £59 5s., and the Government allowance, £117 15s.

The expenditure has been £25 premium for an Oat-mill, £6 16s. 2d. for expenses of Fair, £80 paid and accounted for by the Branch Society, £15 loss on Thrashing Machine imported and sold, and £10 salary and office rent paid to the Secretary.

A balance of £130 remains in the Treasurer's hands. The amount of subscriptions, with the Legislative allowance, for the next year will add about £120, which will be a sum quite sufficient for all the purposes of the Society.

A prize Essay on Scientific Agriculture, by Professor Norton, of Yale College, was this year extensively distributed by the New York State Agricultural Society. This Essay furnishes in plain language a short compendium of all that practice, aided by science, has been doing of late years for the improvement of agriculture, and the directors would suggest that a small portion of the Society's funds could not be better appropriated than towards publishing a cheap edition of this work. Copies might be furnished to members of the Society, and probably other So-

cieties in the Province may take quantities at cost price for a like purpose. One or two thousand copies can be printed at six-pence each.

The Directors have received from the New Brunswick Society for the Encouragement of Agriculture, Manufactures and Commerce, fifty copies of Reports on various subjects, which have been distributed. These reports have been got up with great care, and are calculated to be of much service. The Directors would recommend that subscriptions be made in this County towards the support of this Society.

By aid of grants made by the Legislature, a Bone-mill and Tile Machine have been imported and placed in the Penitentiary. The Directors trust that farmers will be ready to avail themselves of the privilege thus afforded to them. With tiles the land can be drained much cheaper and more effectually than with stones, and most farmers may collect every year as many bones as will manure an acre of land.

A quantity of seeds was distributed by the Society among the colored population at Loch Lomond, and premiums, forwarded by several benevolent gentlemen in England, through Mr Duval of the Normal School, were awarded. By this means considerable improvement has been made in the habits of this class of people, and many of them have, by their own industry, raised this year and the last, sufficient food for their own use—a state of things quite new to them.

As Flax is not grown to any extent in this county, the Directors have inserted in the Appendix directions for the cultivation and dressing of this crop, to which they call especial attention. As an article of clothing it might, to a considerable extent, supersede the imported linen and cotton, and the seed is of much value. After the oil is extracted the cake forms the best food known for fattening cattle, and by its use the manure is nearly doubled in value. The dressing spinning and manufacture of the fibre would also afford profitable indoor employment during the winter.

The Directors think it their duty to bring before the Society and the public the connection they have had with the survey of the Province by Professor Johnston.

The character of New Brunswick as a field for emigration or agricultural settlement, stands in Great Britain and Europe at probably the lowest point. While the surplus population of the Old World is almost circling the globe to find a resting place; while Australasia, Southern Africa, and even Gothland are absorbing thousands of that intelligent and energetic race, whose destiny it is to subdue the wilderness and carry the blessings of civilisation over the earth; while thousands of wealthy farmers are annually pouring into Canada and the Western States—New Brunswick is passed by. What little emigration there is, is by accident, or of those who take advantage of the cheap passage by the returning timber ships, to get to the United States.

One reason for this is, that New Brunswick is either quite unknown to the middle classes of Great Britain, or regarded as a barren and inhospitable wilderness, where the wolves and the bears contend with the nearly-as-savage lumberman for the scanty pitance which he can extract from a soil, which has scarcely time to be thawed from the snows of one winter before it is sealed with the frost of another.

One cause for this unfavorable impression is alluded to in Professor Johnston's Report. He says, "Two very different impressions, in regard to the Province of New Brunswick, will be produced on the mind of the stranger, according as he contents himself with visiting the towns and inspecting the lands which lie along the seaboard, or ascends its rivers or penetrates by its numerous roads into the

interior of its more central and Northern Counties."

"In the former case, he will feel like the traveller who enters Sweden by the harbor of Stockholm or Gothenburg, or who sails among the rocks on the northern coast of Norway. The naked cliffs, or shelving shores of granite or other hardened rocks, and the unvarying pine forests, awaken in his mind ideas of hopeless desolation, and poverty and barrenness appear necessarily to dwell with the iron bound shores. I have myself a vivid recollection of the disheartening impression regarding the agricultural capabilities of Nova Scotia, which the first two days I spent in that province, around the neighborhood of Halifax, conveyed to my mind. Had I returned to Europe without seeing other parts of that province, I could have compared it only with the more unproductive and inhospitable portions of Scandinavia."

"A large portion of the Europeans who visit New Brunswick, see only the rocky regions which encircle the more frequented harbors of the province. They must therefore carry away and convey to others very unfavorable ideas, especially of its adaptation to agricultural purposes."

Again, owing to the great profits arising from lumbering or timber getting, farming has been always regarded as a mere makeshift, as a matter of quite secondary consideration. It was easier to cut and hew a few sticks of timber for a barrel of flour or pork, than to plough, manure, sow, and wait patiently for the earth to yield its increase.—and as habit forms a second nature, it came at length to the general and settled opinion of the great majority in this country, that because, as compared with the apparently more profitable pursuit of lumbering, and followed in a slovenly and improvident manner, farming did not pay, therefore it would not pay, and ought not to be attempted; that it was folly to think of being able to raise the staple articles of consumption, such as wheat, corn and pork. Finally, that this was not an Agricultural Country! The Directors of this Society, in common with many intelligent men through the country, have long dissented from this prevailing opinion. They thought, on the other hand, that this country possessed superior capabilities for agricultural pursuits. That the soil was fertile, the climate quite favorable to the production of grain and vegetables, and that increased population, more capital, and a better system of farming were all that was required to advance that interest, and with it all the other interests of the country, to a state of prosperity.

The Directors saw, in the announced visit of Professor Johnston to New York, an opportunity of putting their opinion of the country to the test.

Professor Johnston has attained celebrity in Europe as a lecturer on Scientific Agriculture. He is regarded by the scientific and intelligent throughout the world as cautious, searching and trustworthy. His opinions on all points connected with his profession are held as of the highest authority. The Directors therefore addressed the members of the Government, requesting them to invite the Professor to visit New Brunswick, and report on its agricultural capabilities. This request was responded to. The assent of the Legislature was obtained, and the Professor came. After spending three months in the province, travelling upwards of two thousand miles through the length and breadth of the land, issuing queries and obtaining replies from seven Agricultural Societies and fifty five of the principal farmers, he furnished as the result, a report, which places the Agricultural capabilities of the province in a most favorable point of view, and fully corroborates the opinions held by those who were esteemed the most extravagant in their notions.