

THE GLEANER:

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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

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Agricultural Journal.

Gloucester County Agricultural Society.

The Annual Meeting of this Society was held in the Court House, Bathurst, on Tuesday, the 12th inst., at three o'clock, P. M., F. FERGUSON, Esq., in the Chair. The Report of the Committee for the past year was read by the Secretary, approved of, and adopted by the Meeting. It was moved, seconded, and agreed to—“That the Report now read be published in the *Miramichi Gleaner*; and that 75 copies be ordered for the use of the Society.” It was then moved, seconded, and agreed to—“That the thanks of the Society are due, and are hereby tendered to the President, Vice Presidents, and Committee for their zealous and gratuitous assistance in conducting the business of the Society for the past year.

The following Office-Bearers and Committee for the ensuing year, with power to add to their number, were then proposed and agreed to:—

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

Assistant Do.—William Napier, Esq.
Committee—for Bathurst—Wm. End and Joseph Read, Esqrs., M's. P. P., Dr. Gordon, Mr Napier, Mr Desbrisay. For Youghal—Mr Millar, and Mr R. Ferguson. For Petit Roche—Mr Malloy and Mr A. Renney. For New Dunlop—Messrs. Wilson and Barbour. For Belledune—Mr John Chalmers and Mr James Galbraith. For Tettagouche—Mr Robert Brown. For Kinsale—Mr Alex. Brown. For New Bandon—Mr Caie, Mr John Kerr, and Mr R. Dawson. For Big River—Mr John Willis. For Caraqueet—Mr Blackhall and Mr Macintosh. For Shippegan—John Harding, Esq. For Saumarez—Mr Young.

The thanks of the Meeting were given by acclamation to the Chairman for his excellent conduct in the Chair.

REPORT.

Three years have now elapsed since your Society commenced its operations. The last two of these in particular, have been years of trial and anxiety to all classes of the community. Owing to the depressed state of business and other causes, the circumstances of our population are reduced and enfeebled. Such a state of things may well suggest to the mind of the members of the Society, the encouraging consideration that many may be sincerely on our side who have not expressed their approbation in the most effective manner.

Perseverance in good, is always more difficult than to run well for a brief period. We need not then be surprised if some who at the beginning of the Society's career, appeared warmly enlisted in support of its objects, have since ceased to enrol themselves among the number of its members. Your Committee, however, desire to feel thankful to the Author of all Good, in being able to state that the strength of your Society will still bear a favorable inspection. Forty-eight members joined in our ranks during the first year of our existence; last year the number descended to forty-six; forty-seven members are entered in the Treasurer's Book as paid for the year now closing. This last result, your Committee submit, should be viewed as animating and a stimulus to farther exertion.

With a view to promote a taste for the literature and science of Agriculture among our rural population, your Committee, at their first meeting in February last, resolved to order several Periodicals and Treatises. Three Sets of the “Canadian Agriculturist” and three Sets of the “Farmer and Mechanic” were in consequence regularly received up to the close of the year 1849; two of these Sets were appropriated as Prizes at the Cattle Show and Ploughing Match held in October last, the rest remains the property of the Society. Two copies of Johnston's

Elements of Agricultural Chemistry and Geology, and two copies of Liebig's Treatise on Agricultural Chemistry were also received, and are now eligible to the members of the Society.

The Committee having become aware of the superior quality of an assortment of Garden seeds imported by Mr Napier, purchased from him to the amount of £7 6 7½. Nearly the whole of these, together with those previously belonging to the Society, were sold at Auction to members of the Society in the beginning of April, netting to the Society the sum of £10 15.

In taking a retrospect of the past year, your Committee would refer with devout gratitude to the bountiful harvest with which, in the mercy of Divine Providence, we have been sustained and cheered. If we would be aided in estimating aright the value of last Autumn's treasures—more valuable than gold, we have only to recur in thought, to the fears and the dread which as spring-time advanced and passed on, we could not banish from our minds; and what frightful consequences must have followed, had the labors and the aspirations of the tillers of the ground ended in failure. How grateful is the remembrance that the result was far otherwise. Our solicitude was relieved, our ardent wishes were gratified. The goodness of the season was in no ordinary degree seasonable. It revived the hopes of the husbandman and invigorated the little strength that remained among the people at large. Then, the gladdening Autumn was followed by a period of mild and genial weather, scarcely, if ever, equalled in the country, and continuing up to December. During this period there was afforded ample scope for the clearing of new land, and for what is of higher moment still—the preparing for improved cultivation that already reclaimed.—Doubtless our farmers ought to be in favorable circumstances next spring, both as respects seed and the state of the ground.

Your Committee would here enter a little into details as respects the principal products of our Agriculture. In former years Wheat was wont to average a return of ten-fold. The Wheat of the past season did not probably exceed nine-fold. But though thus below the increase to which we had in a sense become accustomed, it was better both in quantity and quality than that of the year preceding. It can scarcely be too much urged that the character and condition of the Seed-Grain are of the highest consequence. The best, best cleaned, may be relied upon as the most likely to reward the exertions of the sower. It were better to obtain from a great distance, and at advanced price, superior Grain than to sow inferior, could it be had gratuitously, or were it brought to the field free of all expense. To clean Seed-Grain is always important; to do so in the case of wheat is most important. Drying also is entitled to great attention. When this is neglected the effects of the omission will be evident. With the easy access to Lime and Plaster of Paris, which this neighborhood furnishes, the vigilant Sower will not fail to dry the Seed previous to sowing.

Indian Corn, “which,” says H. Rutan, Esq., President of the Agricultural Association of Upper Canada, “I consider as standing next to wheat in importance,” your Committee believe was grown last summer to a much larger extent than formerly. The returns were very satisfactory. An increased production of Buckwheat was also evident. The return of Barley last season was not less than twelve to one. Taking the average as from ten to eleven-fold, this result was excellent. This Grain is not held in that estimation which it deserves, among us. It is productive and sanative. Its utility as an article of food for Pigs is well known.

Oats last season yielded more than an average return. Supposing the average to be eleven to one, the late harvest is pronounced an abundant one, having yielded about twelve to one. And it is likely that the yield would have exceeded that, had it not been for the deleterious influence of the grub, which though par-

tial, was sensibly experienced. The best preservation against this enemy is hot lime sprinkled on the ground immediately after sowing. White Oats seem preferable to Black for sowing. They afford a larger return, weigh heavier, and make better meal. An instance of superior and successful cultivation of the white Oat deserves to be recorded. In a field belonging to F. Ferguson, Esq., the President of this Society, the size from four to five acres, there were sown fifteen bushels, which resulted in one hundred and ninety-three bushels of well-cleaned Oats. This is a return of 12 13-15, or nearly 13 to 1. These Oats weighed 46lbs. 2oz., per bushel, and each bushel yields 25 3-4lbs. of meal. The seed were obtained from Mr McLaggan, of the South West Miramichi. Your Committee believe that there is but one opinion as to the necessity and encouragement for directing our agricultural energy to the production of Oats. Professor Johnston in his late Address before the Mechanics' Institute at St. John, in reply to the question “how many men will the same land support?” says,—“To arrive at this we must take some standard, some kind of food for men. I have taken oats as this standard; of all grain, oats thrive best in this Province; they are therefore the proper staple grain of the Province. What changes in the relative production of the various grains in this country, may result from continual clearances of the land and consequent changes of climate, we cannot tell; but at present oats are the most sure crop to this country. The principle then is this, that the land that will grow a ton of hay will grow 20 bushels of oats; one is equal to the other; thus 50, 40, 30, and 20 bushels of oats per acre will represent the different ratio of productiveness of the various qualities of the land.” When it is stated upon authority that the establishment of Messrs. Ferguson, Rankin & Co., imported from Canada and P. E. Island, last year, Oats to the amount of £1000, all paid for with cash, what an argument should our rural population feel this to be, inciting them to the greatly enlarged growth of this essential grain.

The Potato appears to have nearly recovered from that singular and hitherto inexplicable malady, under which for several seasons it suffered. The Root was last season in general, healthy, and yielded fifteen to one or upwards. Turnips also were very successful. They are worthy of cultivation to a far larger amount than hitherto has been bestowed upon them. It is estimated that one acre of land is capable of producing 150 to 200 barrels of Turnips. How important then the growth of this esculent.—The Swedish Turnip especially, is adopted for our soil. When the land by reason of moisture or otherwise is unfit for early sowing, the White Globe may be profitably sown. It is surer than the Aberdeen Yellow. Turnips in general appear to be more remunerative than Mangel Wurtzel. Hay which in Nova Scotia last year was a failure, and nearly so in various parts of this Province, yielded with us a pretty good though light crop.

Upon the 2d of October, the Society's Annual Cattle-Show and Ploughing-Match, took place on Mr Fraser's Farm. Though the day was exceedingly unfavorable, by reason of heavy rain, which continued throughout the whole of the proceedings, the business was carried through with great spirit. The attendance of competitors and others interested, was good; and the Show of Cattle, notwithstanding the untoward circumstances, superior to that of the preceding year. Six ploughmen were entered for competition and tested with their ploughs and pairs, their comparative skill. The Judges of Cattle were Messrs. Woolner, Deacon, and J. T. Carter; of Ploughing, Messrs. Woolner, R. Ferguson, and R. Millar.

The following premiums were adjudged.

FOR PLOUGHING.

FIRST CLASS.

First Prize, Robert Moody, ploughman for F. Ferguson, Esq. £1 0 6
Second do. A. Taylor, 12 6

Third do. A. Cantley, 7 6

SECOND CLASS.

First Prize, James White, 17 6
Second do. Robert Barbour, 10 0
Third do. Archibald Alexander, 5 0

FOR CATTLE.

James Hendry, best Bull, 1 0 0
F. Ferguson, best do. calved in 1847, 15 0
R. Barbour second best do. do. 10 0
R. Ferguson, best do. calved in 1848, 12 6
Ami Melancon, second best do. do. 7 6
F. Ferguson, best Cow of any age, 1 0 0
A. Cantley, second best do. do. 12 6
John Woolner, third best, do. an Agriculturist F. Ferguson, best Heifer calved in 1847 15 0
John Woolner, second best do. do. 10 0
T. Armstrong, third best do. do. Farmer and Mechanic
F. Ferguson, best do. calved in 1845 12 6
A. Brown, second best do. do. 7 6
R. Ferguson, best do. calved in 1849 10 0
Archd. Alexander, second best do. do. 5 0
F. Ferguson, best Ram, 10 0
R. Ferguson, second do. 7 6
F. Ferguson, best Ewe, 10 0
W. Napier, second do. 7 6
F. Ferguson, best Ram lamb, 7 6
T. Millar, second do. 5 0
F. Ferguson, best Ewe do. 7 6
R. Barbour, second do. 5 0
T. Millar, best entire Horse, 15 0
F. Ferguson, best brood Mare, 15 0
Archd. Alexander, second do. 7 6
R. Mann, best male Foal, 7 6
R. Anderson, best female do. 7 6
F. Ferguson, best Sow, 15 0
A. Brown, best spring Boar, 7 6
F. Ferguson, best Sow, 7 6

Your Committee would here again request the attention of the Agriculturist to the value of Turnips and other Root Crops. When he is well supplied with these, he can not only sustain but fatten his Stock during Winter. And it may be of use to mention that Cumberland Cattle which are considered much superior to those raised in this County, may be purchased in the fall of the year at one half the price which they command in spring, when in all probability they are in a much poorer condition. The production of Pork also is one of the most remunerating kind. Some of the Committee lately witnessed the carcass of a Hog, aged 2½ years, the property of F. Ferguson, Esq., which weighed exclusive of Lard, 658lbs. We are not able to estimate the value of the Pigs obtained from this Sow. Of six, littered by her at one time, one when killed, weighed 437lbs., the lightest weighed 320lbs, the age being fifteen months. These facts the Committee deem sufficient to prove the profitableness of raising Pork.

Your Committee feel it to be their duty to urge upon the Agricultural Community the advantages of draining. “Thorough draining” would pay well. One acre of land so drained, would in all likelihood be found to have had its value and fertility more than tripled. It is clear that when there is water even at the depth of three feet below the surface, its influence will render the manure that may be applied to the surface, comparatively inoperative. The rain which, were the land dried, would fertilize the soil and descend to the drain, through ground which had previously become porous by draining, will unite with the waters that ascend from the wet and sour subsoil, and carry off the manure and most nutritive portions of the land. It may be true that when labor is high and new land easily available, the cost of thorough draining, may deter the new settler. But when we reflect that new land soon becomes old, and that concentrating business and consequent saving of time and labor, will ever be objects aimed at by the wise and judicious, we shall probably admit the economy of thorough draining. We have already more land cleared than we profitably employ. The following quotation from the last Report of the St. John Agricultural Society, will show the appreciation in which the leading men of that Association hold the system of thorough draining. “For the purpose of inducing the farmers of this County to test the utility of thorough draining, the Directors offered premiums to such as would undertake the experiment, and report on the results.”