

# THE GLEANER:

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COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL.

Old Series]

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

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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 11th inst., shortly after 3 o'clock, P. M. F. Ferguson, Esq., President, occupied the Chair. The Report of the Committee for the past year was read by the Secretary; whereupon it was moved, seconded, and un-animously agreed to, that the Report be published in Pamphlet Form, and that one hundred copies be ordered for the use of the Society.

The following Committee were then chosen for the ensuing year, with power to add to their number, viz:—

President.—F. Ferguson, Esq.  
Vice Presidents.—John Woolner, S. L. Bishop, M. D., John Chalmers, Esquires.

Secretary and Treasurer.—Rev. G. Macdonnell.

Assistant Do.—Wm. Napier, Esq.  
Committee for Bathurst—Messrs. Charles Doucett, Thomas Matheson, James R. White, Dr. Gordon, Mr Read, Mr Deacon, Mr Napier.

For Tettagouche—Mr R. Brown.  
For Kinsale—Messrs. Benjamin James, and Alexander Brown.

For Youghal—Messrs. R. Ferguson, David Landels, and Thomas Armstrong.

For Dunlop—Messrs. R. Barbour, R. Moody, and Wm. Malloy.

For Belledune—Messrs. James Hendry and James Chalmers.

For Big River—Messrs. John Willis and James Michan.

For Salmon Beach and New Bandon—Messrs. John Glendinning, Hugh A. Caie, Richard Dawson, Jr., John Richey, and John Kerr.

For Caraquet—Mr Macintosh.

For Tracadie—Mr Young.

The thanks of the meeting were then un-animously rendered to F. Ferguson, Esq., for his conduct in the Chair. The following is the

### REPORT.

The period having now come round when it is the duty of the Committee to render an account of their proceedings for the past year, they begin by recording with gladness and gratitude, that the Society has prospered, and is in a more vigorous state than at any former period. The highest number of members during any preceding year, was forty-eight. The number of those who have subscribed and paid during the year that is now brought to a close, is sixty-one. This increase, it is hoped, indicates growing interest in the objects of the Society and an encouraging degree of confidence in its management, on the part of the community at large.

Though the recent harvest was not so animating as that of 1849, it appears to have been upon the whole, good. It is intimated that the quantity of seed deposited last spring in the ground throughout the County, and especially in the Settlements nearest Bathurst, was nearly, if not altogether, one third greater than had ever before been attained. And the returns of Autumn were such as ought to induce hearty thanksgiving to that beneficent Parent, who "crowns the year with his goodness." The Potato blight, though severely felt, was in a great measure, alleviated by the success of Oats, Barley, and various other fruits of the earth. And it is understood, that in many cases at least, the Potato is not deteriorating in the Cellar. In common with other vegetables, this valuable, but now imperilled esculent, requires adequate coolness or ventilation. In a confined apartment or a cavity, where the air is excluded excessive heat must be guarded against, as well as frost.

In a district of country, whose soil is pe-

culiarly adapted to the production of Oats, it is satisfactory to know that the return of the past season was a good average one—say of twelve to one. The Committee are also glad to be able to state that the White Potato Oat is being increasingly sown in the County. For Meal it is much preferable to the Black or Brown Oat, and it can be dressed so as to make excellent bread for family use. This is not mentioned with a view to the discouragement of any kind of Oats but to commend to the favorable notice of our Farmers an important species contributing to the variety and benefit of the products of the County. The cultivation of every description of pure Oats is highly desirable. The Black Oat will grow in poorer land than will the White, and can endure more boisterous weather. The Agriculturist, and in particular, he whose land is sharp, should remember the value of Barley both for the use of his own table and for his stock.

It need scarcely be remarked that the value of both Oats and Barley is enhanced to us from the uncertainty that seems to attend the Wheat crop in this vicinity. It is difficult to compute the success realised by the Sower last summer, owing to the variable-ness of the returns in different localities. He however, who reaped seven to one may be assured that his compensation was comparatively good. It is always to be remembered, that early sowing conduces effectually to safety and increase. In order to this, the necessity of draining and dry land is obvious. Red Wheat has the advantage of arriving speedily at maturity, although being easily shaken out by the wind, many agriculturists prefer the White, which is hardier and yields more. The Black Sea Wheat is highly spoken of, and has not, in any instance among us, it is believed, been attacked by rust.

It is pleasing to be able to say that much attention is now turned to the growth of Turnips. A larger quantity of seed was sown last season than formerly, and the exertions of the husbandman were well rewarded in the abundance of Autumn. The Committee earnestly hope that in coming years, Turnips and other Root crops, such as Carrots, may receive the attention which their importance demands. In sowing Swedish Turnips, it is of great consequence to be early. When the seed is in the ground by the middle of June, the leaves of the plant are too strong by the middle of July for the destructive fly, which makes its appearance about that time. Mangel Wurtzel should also be cultivated as a variety of food, though in general, less profitable than the Turnip. Here again the subject of draining might be pressed. With the ground properly prepared, what an advantage has the intelligent, skillful, and energetic Farmer over the apathetic and indolent proprietor or tenant of land! The Committee are happy to believe that among the members of the Society, the utility and reward of Draining have been realised.\* They would also seek to impress upon all our settlers the advantages of a proper rotation of crops. It is said that there are cases where Wheat has been sown and reaped for three successive years without change or manure, and that even then, the Wheat has been known to weigh sixty pounds per bushel. How loudly does such a fact speak in favor of the ill-treated soil, and against him who so cultivates it.

The attention of the Committee was directed to the subject of Garden Seeds at their first meeting. In accordance with the Resolution then agreed to, all the Garden Seeds on hand were sold at auction, the sales netting £2 8s.; and a quantity of those imported by Mr Napier, were purchased from him at cost and charges. This latter remains for the ensuing season.

\* It is a remarkable fact, that on an Estate in the mother country, the Hedger, whose province it is to attend to Draining, stand next to the steward in rank.

At the same Meeting, it was agreed to import two Boars and two Sows from Scotland. The Committee regret that through some inadvertency the purchased animals were not forwarded in time, for the sailing of the vessel from the Clyde, last summer. Arrangements have been entered into, for the purpose of obtaining from Cumberland, a two year old Bull, a yearling Bull, and a Cow in Calf. The Committee purchased a set of English Fanners, and imported from New York a Corn Sheller, a Turnip Drill with two wheels, a set of Riddles for cleaning Wheat, Oats, and Barley, a set of Fanners, and six dozen of the strongest Cattle Ties. These have all been sold at auction to members of the Society with the exception of the Turnip Drill and some of the Cattle Ties.

The Annual Ploughing Match and Cattle Show of the Society, took place upon the 1st of October. The exhibition indicated advancing improvement. In addition to the Swine which the Committee hope will arrive in the early part of next season, they have also taken steps for the importation of two Rams and two Ewes from the mother country. The Committee have also agreed to offer a premium of £5 to any individual who shall import into the county a really superior Stallion. The importer must pledge himself to retain the animal in the county for at least one year.

The desirableness of a Mill in the county, for the purposes of Fulling, Dyeing, and Dressing is obvious. The committee are of opinion that the Society would properly aid such an erection by paying a donation of about thirty pounds when a satisfactory building and machinery are ready to go into operation. To this could be added any sum that may accrue to this county as its proportion of the assets of the New Brunswick Society.

The following is an abstract of the Income and Expenditure of the Society for the past year.

1850.		Cr.	
Feb. 12, By balance in favor of the Society,	£47	4	8
15, Provincial Grant,	76	6	3
Oct. 30, Sales up to this date,	15	10	3
1851.		Dr.	
Feb. 11, Subscriptions and Donations,	25	5	4
Feb. 12, To cash paid for Prizes this day,	28	15	0
June, Paid for Garden Seeds,	6	5	0
Sept. 9, Paid for Agricultural Implements,	27	12	11
Oct. 1, Paid for Prizes at Show,	14	8	6
30, Paid Mr Pierce up to this date,	5	19	6
1851.		Dr.	
Feb. 11, Expences of the Society,	13	6	9

The facts now submitted evince steady advancement in connection with the agriculture of the county. The plentiful harvest and genial weather of 1849, afforded abundant Seed for the Spring of 1850, of which the rural population took avail with praiseworthy alacrity; and your committee have sought to co-operate in promoting that improvement to which we were prompted by the beneficence of Divine Providence. They have endeavored to supply superior Garden Seeds, and the excellence of the Agricultural Implements introduced by them is admitted. By such means labor will be effectually facilitated, improved methods of tillage will be introduced, and, what is of very great moment, more attention will be paid to the preparation and cleaning of Grain. When it is stated that sixteen specimens of Wheat, ten of Barley, and sixteen of Oats, of two bushels each, were exhibited at the Show of February last; and when it is remembered that these were all cleaned with extraordinary care for the occasion, the committee may point to that alone as an important beneficial influence of the Society. Nor is this all. Far beyond the bounds of the Society's actual members, their example will be copied and their progress followed. Individuals will see the desirableness of obtaining Fanners and other

useful articles of improved husbandry, for their own use, all which experience will convince them will return the cost with astonishing interest. The committee trust that in the course of the ensuing season, the importation of superior sheep, swine and horned cattle will greatly improve the breed of stock. And they do not despair of seeing the speedy erection of a Mill among us, for the purpose of fulling, dyeing, and dressing our home manufactured cloth. Meanwhile they beg earnestly to invite the attention of the community, and especially of farmers, to the importance of joining the Society. Had we double the number of members that have been recorded during the past year, more than twice the amount of good would ensue to the country at large. Surely it is not a sufficient reply to this appeal to say that cash is very scarce. The Committee are fully aware of it and regret it. But they would ask, is there a man in the county claiming or ambitious to be regarded as a respectable yeoman, who cannot command five shillings annually, in order to identify himself with an association, whose objects have been honestly and zealously prosecuted for years past, and whose exertions, it is acknowledged on all hands, have been decidedly advantageous. Such a Society with a numerous fraternity and unwearying perseverance, would prove a bond of union for the development of the capabilities of the country and for the moral amelioration of its inhabitants.

On the subject of the scarcity of Cash as a medium of business, the Committee may be permitted to state a few facts which they believe to be worthy of credibility. In the Parishes of Caraquet and Tracadie, cash is offered by the Merchants for Cod Oil. It is computed that the value of that sold last season, was not less than three thousand pounds currency. Supposing that the sellers obtained (which is believed to be within the truth) one half of this sum, we should then have fifteen hundred pounds cash, paid and received in these two Parishes last year, for the single article of Oil. Coming up to the Parish of New Bandon, we find that a sum of not less than £500 was last summer paid in cash, to their workmen, by the establishment of Messrs Sprague & Co., exporters of Grind Stone. When in addition to all this, the cash arising from a variety of itews, and in all the different parishes is taken into account, it will be conceded that the plea of scarcity of the precious metals, will not justify any well-doing man in not coming forward to join our Society.

From the statements that have been submitted it will be perceived that the committee have constantly sought the promotion of the agricultural interests of the community. That improvement is going on surely and steadily is certain. Recurring to a period further back than that at which the present Society started, a comparison between it and what we may now witness proves striking progress. Thrashing Mills are now in operation, and various other improved Farming implements introduced by the Society; the spirit of healthful emulation in Domestic Manufactures, as well as in other departments is being increasingly awakened; the necessity of enlightened attention to the preparation and application of manures, of thorough draining, of bettering the stock of the county, of studying and carrying into practical effect the best rotation of crops, and most improved modes of tillage, and of gaining an acquaintance with the science of agriculture, is at least more understood and appreciated both within and without the circle of the members of the Society, than at any former time. Such considerations are matter of thankfulness, and are fitted to animate and stimulate to farther progress. However, the country may appear in other points of view, as respects its husbandry, many things conspire to encourage and gladden the patriotic beholder who remembers the past; correctly estimates the