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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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Agricultural Journal.

REPORT OF THE Northumberland Agricultural Society, for 1850--51.

Two facts are plainly discernible from the above tables.

1st—That the winter in Western New York is twenty one days shorter than it is on the River St. John; and

2nd—That it is only ten days shorter than it is in Northumberland.

Now, three points of importance, more or less, affect the advantage which the New York farmer will derive from this greater length of summer.

1st—The period which elapses, on an average, between sowing and reaping, or the time the crop takes to grow. If this time be longer in the State of New York—as your Committee conceive it is—it will lessen, of course, in a proportionate degree, the time which will remain for ploughing, and preparing the land in the fall.

2nd—The number of rainy days which occur in the fall, in comparison with this Province, and in the months of April and May, when the spring work is being performed.

These rainy days are, on an average of 20 odd years, as follows:—

	At N. York.	St. John.	Chatham.
April,	6 days.	4 days.	4 days.
May,	15 days.	7 days.	7 days.
Sept.,	8 days.	11 days.	5 days.
October,	9 days.	12 days.	7 days.
Novem.,	7 days.	6 days.	4 days.
	45 days.	40 days.	27 days.

If we consider these as safe averages—and there is every reason to believe that they are so—we should conclude that the 22 days longer weather, which the New York farmer has, over the St. John's, for out-door labour, is diminished by rainy days, to sixteen, or one day for spring, and 15 for fall work; but that in this County, we enjoy for out-door labour, three days longer time, than the farmer of New York, and that, too, independent of the shorter time our crop may require to arrive at maturity.

3rd—The effects produced on the soil by the frost of winter. Mr R. Gray, of York County (in whose opinion Professor Johnston places implicit confidence), states "that the frost of winter leaves the land in a very friable state, and in better order for green crops than any number of ploughings done in winter could make it. On this account, I believe a pair of horses could work as much land here, under a given rotation, as they would in Scotland." "This opinion of Mr Gray," says Professor Johnston, "appears to settle the whole question, which is altogether an economical one. The question is—Does the shortness of a summer necessarily impose upon our farmers the necessity of maintaining a larger force of men and horses, than the British farmer would require, in order to do the same work, plough and sow the same number of acres, and so on? and Mr Gray, taking into account only the effect of the soil, distinctly answers that it does not.

If, then, it be really true, that this County is superior, in point of Agricultural capabilities, to Canada, and most of the American States; and if it be equally true, that our climate is more healthy, our markets more remunerative, Labour nearly as low, and the water of our fountains more pure and limpid (and who will now venture to deny these things, seeing they have been pronounced true by an authority so high and impartial as Professor Johnston), why, it may be asked, have so many of its inhabitants been seeking homes in less favored lands? Now, the reason of this may be traced to four very natural causes. They are—

1st—Persons who formerly engaged in Lumbering have been deprived of their wonted employment by the failure of that branch of trade.

2nd—Persons deeply in debt, whose farms were mortgaged to their full value; and who, having lost hope and heart, were desirous of beginning the world anew, in some other country.

3rd—Persons who, though fond of farming, have devoted little skill or industry to their calling, or who have neglected that frugal economy which hard times require; and

4th—Persons having friends in Canada or the States, who allured them thither, by pictures, always one-sided and highly-coloured; or whom the love of excitement and change inclined readily to forsake a comfortable competence, for the prospect of greater and more rapid, though more uncertain, gains.

In the removal, however, of such classes of men, the country has nothing to fear or regret! "for such men," says Professor Johnston, "are but the weedings of the population, which will not only cease henceforth to shed an evil influence around them, but whose places will be occupied by more useful plants."

Various unfavorable causes are noticed by Professor Johnston as having conspired to render the Agricultural portion of our people less prosperous; the Agricultural interests less influential, and the Agricultural capabilities of our soil less appreciated, than under more favorable conditions, they would undoubtedly have been.

1st—The emigration from the Province, already noticed.

2nd—The Wheat Midge (or Weevil, as we call it), the Rust, and the Potatoe Disease; and

3rd—The want of protection from foreign competition, &c.

But then, it should be remembered, that these circumstances have really nothing to do with the natural capabilities of the soil itself; and that they do not in reality interfere with the natural adaptation of the country, as a field of Agricultural exertion. "It has been very satisfactory to my mind," says Professor Johnston, "that the unanimous reply to all my enquiries in every part of the Province has been—'that those who have confined themselves to their Farming operations alone, and have been ordinarily skillful, industrious and prudent, have in no case failed to do well.'"

The latter pages of Professor Johnston's Report, are devoted to numerous suggestions of a plain and practical nature, to which every Farmer, having his own interests at heart, will do well to attend. Of these suggestions the following are selected:—

1st—The evil consequences of shallow Ploughing.

2nd—Erroneous Rotation of Cropping.

3rd—Great advantages of skillful Green Cropping.

4th—The impropriety of allowing Grain to over-ripen.

5th—Alterations necessary in order to our advancing towards the more remunerative system of modern Agriculture, such as Agricultural Schools, Thorough Arterial Draining

—This he names as particularly applicable to Napan, and certain other places. Some method of affording information to Emigrants on their arrival in the country. An Agricultural Journal, &c.

To shew the different chemical characters of such of the soils, as he considered it desirable to select, during his tour through the Province, Professor Johnston analysed five specimens, as follows:

Specimen No. 1, Is a spot near Woodstock. No. 2, Mr Grey's Island Farm on the St. John River.

No. 3, A spot near the mouth of the Keswick.

No. 4, From Burnt Land on which a second growth had come up, consisting of Scrub Pine, Red Pine, and White Pine, with Fern; a poor Sandy Soil taken three or four miles from Steves's towards St. John, on the right side of the Petitcodiac.

No. 5, From the stiff clay soil of the Napan settlement, near the residence of Mr James Kerr, Richibucto Road.

	No. 1	No. 2	No. 3	No. 4	No. 5
By Analysis					
Organic Matter,	4.75	4.20	4.16	3.38	3.99
Oxide of Iron,	10.98	6.09	5.43	2.81	7.11
Alumina,	3.46	4.42	4.78	5.04	7.68
Carbonate of Lime,	0.31	0.33	0.41	0.39	2.83
Carbonate of Magnesia,	0.21	0.53	0.73	0.73	2.93
Sulphate of Lime,		0.32		trace	trace
Salts of Potash and Soda,	1.98	1.02	0.06	0.19	0.14
Phosphoric Acid,	0.27	0.17	0.12	0.12	0.14
Insoluble Silicious Matter,	7829	8326	83.49	8883	7570
	100.25	100.34	100.08	100.77	100.02

The particulars of this day's Exhibition are known to all present. The somewhat gloomy appearance of the morning has no

doubt kept many away who intended to be present; there have been, however, a respectable assemblage of spectators, and a fair display of Grains, Domestic Manufactures, &c.

A meeting of the Board was convened at an early hour for the purpose of appointing sub-committees to receive and number the articles of competition, as they came in—to act as Judges respectively of Grains and Domestic Manufactures—to audit the Treasurer's account, and to complete the business of the by-gone year.

It is very remarkable that, although at many former Exhibitions, abundant samples of Cheese, that would have been no discredit even to the far-famed Dairies of Gloucester and Cheshire, were exhibited by Messrs. George Johnston, David Steele, and Michael Searle, of Napan, and other farmers of our County, there has been but one sample exhibited to-day, to which no premium has been awarded.

There were exhibited about twenty samples of Wheat, weighing from 66½ lbs. per bushel to 62½ the lowest. Of Oats ten samples, weighing from 47 14-16ths to 39 lbs.; of Barley, six samples, weighing from 55½ lbs. to 25½ lbs.; of white and yellow Beans, seven samples, weighing from 68½ to 67 lbs.; of Windsor Beans, three samples, weighing from 55 6-16ths to 48 14-16ths lbs.; of Timothy Seed, seven samples, weighing from 46 10-16ths to 43½ lbs.; of Butler, ten samples; of Cheese only one; of Homespun, ten pieces, and of Flannel five.

The following Special Grants have this day been made from the funds of the Society:

To Mr John Maltby, Newcastle, for the introduction of a <i>Mortising Machine</i> , (as a Model,) calculated to save a great amount of labour,	£1 0 0
To Mr Tavish McTavish, North West, in consideration of the superior quality of a piece of Wool-lean Tartan, to which no prize is applicable,	0 10 0
To Mr William L. Scott, for a sample of <i>Mangel Wurtzel</i> ,	0 5 0
Your Committee have the pleasure to announce the receipt of the following Donations presented this day in aid of the Society's Funds:—	
Mr J. A. Pierce, deduction on bill,	£3 10 0
Mr John Wyse, Douglstown,	0 15 0
Mr John Maltby, Newcastle,	0 15 0
Mr Robert Whitney, North West,	0 5 0
W. L. Scott, Douglstown,	0 5 0
John Porter, Esq., Douglstown,	0 2 6

Judges of Grains—John M. Johnson, Esq., and Messrs. Thomas Vanstone and Daniel Elkin.

Judges of Domestic Manufacturers and Produce of Dairy—Wm. Loch, Esq., and Messrs. P. Watt, and M. M. Sargeant.

The Premiums were awarded as follows:

PRODUCE OF DAIRY.	
Best sample Butter, 30 lbs., Daniel Baldwin,	£0 15 0
2nd best do. do. James Brown,	0 10 0
3rd best do. do. T. McTavish,	0 7 6
DOMESTIC MANUFACTURE.	
Best Homespun Cloth, all wool, 10 yards, Donald McKay,	£0 15 0
2nd best do. do., Robert Whitney,	0 10 0
Best Homespun Cloth, cotton and wool, 10 yards, F. McDiarmid,	0 15 0
2nd best do. do., J. Porter,	0 10 0
Best piece of Flannel, all wool, Jas. Brown,	0 15 0
Best Wove Counterpane, Andrew Crocker,	0 10 0
Best sample Woollen Socks, six pairs, Donald McKay,	0 7 6
Best piece Flannel, cotton and wool, 10 yards, James Gray, Napan,	0 10 0
2nd best do. do., Tavish McTavish,	0 5 0
Best piece of Tartan Plaid, all wool, Donald McKay,	0 12 6
Special grant, for same article, being very superior, Tavish McTavish,	0 10 0
Straw Hat, Richard Coulter,	0 2 6
Best sample Mitts, six pairs, Donald McKay,	0 7 6
2nd best do. do., A. Goodfellow,	0 5 0
GRAINS.	
Best sample Wheat, (white) 3 bushels, 66½ lbs., Robert Whitney,	0 12 0
2nd best do. do., 66 lbs., John Wyse,	0 7 6
Best sample do. red, 66½ lbs., Robert Whitney,	0 12 0
2nd best do. do., 65 14-16ths, John Wyse,	0 7 6
Best sample Black Oats, 3 bushels, 43 4-16ths, John Wyse,	0 6 0
2nd best do. do., 42 1-4, Jas. Brown,	0 4 0
Best sample Barley, 55½, Finlay McDiarmid,	0 8 0
2nd best do., 54 12-16ths, J. Wyse,	0 5 0
Best sample white Oats, 47 14-16ths, John Wyse,	0 6 0
2nd best do., W. Falconer, 47 lbs.,	0 4 0
Best sample White Pease, 2 bushels, 67 1-4, James Brown,	0 10 0

Best sample Green Peas, 66½, John Wyse,	0 16 0
Best sample Buckwheat, 65 1-4, D. Baldwin,	0 7 6
2nd best do., 53½, Michael Searle,	0 5 0
Best sample Timothy Seed, 46 10-16ths, James Brown,	0 10 0
2nd best do., 46 6-16ths, J. Wyse,	0 5 0
Best sample Carrot Seed, 2 lbs., M. Searle,	0 4 0
Best Swedish Turnip Seed, 4 lbs., M. Searle,	0 5 0
Best Red Beef, 2 lbs., D. Wetherall,	0 4 0
2nd best do. 2 lbs., M. Searle,	0 2 6
Best sample Indian Corn, 2 bushels, 61½ lbs., Robert Whitney,	0 7 6
2nd best do. 61½ lbs., D. McKay,	0 5 0
Best sample Beans, all one colour, 2 bushels, 68 lbs. John Porter,	0 7 6
Best Windsor or Broad Beans, 1 bushel, 55 6-16ths, M. Searle,	0 10 0
2nd best do. 54 1-4, John Wyse,	0 5 0
Best White Beans, 2 bushels, 68 1-4, John Wyse,	0 10 0
2nd best do., 67 6-16ths, D. Wetherall,	0 5 0
Special Grant for Mangel Wurtzel, to W. L. Scott, Douglstown, (donation to the Society),	0 5 0

Owing to the rapidity with which Professor Johnston passed through this section of the Province, he could form but a very imperfect conception of its husbandry, or the actual extent of our agricultural improvements; yet he thus notices Woodburn, the Farm of Henry Cunard, Esq., near the town of Chatham—"Mr Cunard," he says, "has skillfully and completely dried some of his fields by this method (*i. e.*, thorough Drainage), and, as he assured me, with a reasonable expectation of profit. Others, in the same neighbourhood—for there are upon that River, (Miramichi), and its tributaries, many excellent and zealous farmers—have, I believe, drained to a small extent, but generally throughout the Province very little has been done in making trials upon the efficiency or profit of this means of improvement."

His fellow traveller, Mr Brown, now the Hon. James Brown, than whom, perhaps, there is not in New Brunswick a man better qualified to offer a clearer or more correct opinion on such a subject—bestows on this County the following gratifying encomiums. "Foremost in Agricultural improvement stands the County of Northumberland, where thirty years ago, it was confidently affirmed that as soon as the pine timber disappeared, the inhabitants would disappear also. In Newcastle, Douglstown, Chatham and Napan, in particular, the appearance of the fields, the ploughing, the implements of husbandry, stock, buildings, fences, &c., all indicate an advancement in agricultural skill, beyond what is to be found in any other part of the Province.

Two or three instances, among many, to which the Board might refer; shall here be noticed, as tending in some measure to prove the accuracy of Mr Brown's statement, in reference to the capability of our soil, and the agricultural advancement of this County.

On somewhat less than an acre of ground, in rear of his residence at Bushville, the Hon. Thomas H. Peters produced last season 862½ bushels of large and regular sized Swedish Turnips. Half of this ground grew Indian Corn the year before, the other half grew Oats. That part on which the Oats grew, produced somewhat superior Turnips to that on which the Indian Corn grew; but over the whole field the Turnips were large, regular, and of almost equal size. With the view of facilitating his spring work, Mr Peters stitched his Turnip drills in continuance of the Potato drills, with which the other end of the same park was being planted, thus causing the Turnips drills to be unusually far apart. The Turnips were measured under the supervision of the President of this Society, who, with a view to precision, caused three adjoining drills, in different parts of the field, to be measured, and closely trimmed top and bottom. It was thus ascertained, that the acre of ground would, at the usual width allowed for Turnips, have contained 15 additional drills, which, if added, would, at the same rate, give a product of one thousand and sixty five and a-half bushels to the acre of ground.

A few yards to the eastward of the Turnip ground just noticed, Mr Peters has a small field, on part of which he grew *White Belgian Carrots*: the Carrot seed, however, was so very inferior, that after filling up the vacancies, with Turnip plants, it would almost appear doubtful, as Mr P. expressed it, as to whether a crop of Carrots or Turnips was aimed at. Nevertheless, the average measurement of eleven large cart loads, raised on the small patch, was computed at 15 inches long by 3 inches in diameter, one third from the top.

The Board are not ignorant of the fact, that it by no means follows as a matter of course, that all those who produce the largest amount of crop, on any given number of acres, are of