

THE GLEANER:

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

OLD SERIES]

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

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MONDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 16, 1852.

No. 17.

Agricultural Journal.

REPORT

OF THE
NORTHUMBERLAND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, FOR 1851-2.

The undermentioned sums were voted by the Board as *special grants*, recommended by the Judges:

To John Porter, Esq., for a piece of Tartan, cotton and wool, for which article no provision is made in the list of prizes, £0 10 0
To Mr R. P. Whitney, North West, for a piece of dyed milled Cloth, for which no provision is made, 0 10 0

The Directors have to acknowledge the receipt of the following donations to the Society's funds, made this day, and for which they tender the thanks of the Society:

From R. P. Whitney, Northwest, 0 5 0
" J. Chalmers, Douglstown, 0 5 0
" Michael Searle, Napan, 0 7 6
" D. Baldwin, Douglasfield, 0 5 0
" A. Crocker, Northwest, 0 5 0

The Treasurer's Account—an abstract of which is hitherto annexed—has been duly audited by the Board. It shows a balance of cash on hand of £79 19 10½.

The manual operations of the Farmer are perhaps better performed in this County, than in any other part of the Province. Our Ploughing in particular has called forth the meed of praise from Professor Johnston, the Hon. James Brown, and many other competent Judges. But then we must not forget that this is but the work of the *farm servant*, rather than the farmer himself. In order that we may keep pace with the progress of agricultural improvement in other countries, the farmers of this county must work, not only with their hands, but with their heads—they must *work head-work*. They must learn not only to cultivate, but also to analyze their soils. They must—if they expect to thrive as farmers—ascertain, not only of what elements any soil is constituted, but of what elements these *valuable substances* are constituted, with which they would sustain and enrich that soil. Every intelligent farmer now knows, that he must feed his Oats, his Barley, his Potatoes, and his Turnips, with the same care and discrimination that he would feed his cattle, his horses, or his sheep. But then, many, nay, nearly all our farmers, have yet to learn the best food, or fertilizing substances, with which these plants should be fed.

It is a notorious fact, that the Agriculture of this Province is very far from being in that state of advancement, which the progress of knowledge makes attainable, or the interests of its population require. The crops raised by us fall far below those raised, on *worse soils*, in England, Ireland, and Scotland: and the natural enquiry is, what occasions this difference. The answer is an easy one. The farmers *there* understand their business better than we do *here*. Being capable of analyzing their soils, they discover to a nicety what substances every field requires, to make it yield abundantly the intended crop. They know the kind of crop best suited to each field, and the system of cropping best calculated, to ensure the best returns.

Now under such circumstances, surely the question noticed at the commencement of this Report, demands our serious consideration, viz: "What means should our Legislature adopt, in order to place within the reach of all who value it, a thorough, practical knowledge of Agriculture."

In every other pursuit or profession, except agriculture, Schools of some kind—even in *New Brunswick*—are in operation, for the purpose, so far as education can do it, of instructing those who are to engage in them. The farmer, however, in this respect, has been passed by, as if education had nothing to do with his profession, or his profession with education. Convinced, however, that not only farmers themselves, but every intelligent well-wisher of the Province, now begin to see the necessity that exists for agricultural advancement, and that this advancement can only take

place by the diffusion of useful agricultural knowledge, the Board would suggest the erection, at some central part of the Province, of such an institution as would subserve the interests both of the farmer and the mechanic. They are of opinion that this institution should eventually have connected with it, a *Farm* of considerable extent, embracing, as far as practicable, a great variety of soils, where the various crops could be raised, and experiments made, to test the qualities of these soils, and their adaptation to particular crops. The institution should embrace several departments, of which the following may be noticed, not, however, with the view of dictating what should constitute the studies and instruction of the institution, but as mere suggestions: say, 1st, a department for *Scientific Instruction*, in which Mechanics, Mathematics, and other Sciences of a physical and practical character should be taught. 2nd, a department for *Agriculture proper*, in which should be taught the character of the different soils, their adaptation to certain crops, the most profitable rotation, the best and cheapest method of fertilizing, of draining, &c., the best and cheapest method of preparing the ground, of putting in, cultivating, harvesting, and securing crops, in all of which the pupil should take more or less a working part. In connexion with this, should be given instruction in *Agricultural Chemistry and Vegetable Physiology*, where the pupil should learn the component parts of the different varieties of soils, and the manures that are likely to be used in the best course of husbandry—the best time and manner of their application, and the component parts of every crop. From these investigations the pupil would discern what crop is best adapted to particular soils, and what manure will be most beneficial. 3rd, a *Veterinary Department*, in which instruction should be given to the pupil with the animal before him. He should be taught how to distinguish between animals; their good and bad properties; the best method of improvement, and of remedying defects in breeding; the diseases of animals, and every thing connected with the Veterinary Department. In connexion with this department, the *Management of Dairies* should be carefully considered in all its details. *Horticulture* should also be taught, so that the pupil may be made acquainted with the different varieties of fruit, and the best method of cultivation; and in connexion with this department, *Gardening and Ornamental Shrubbery* should also receive attention.

A staff of experienced, well-qualified Teachers, should be placed at the head of this institution; men such as Professor Johnston in England, or Norton in America, could recommend; men in whom the utmost confidence could be placed, as to character and capability.

To this institution the Schoolmasters of the Province—or at least the more intelligent portion of them—should repair annually for instruction, at little cost; because the only, or at least the best, way by which to leaven the whole mass of the community with a fair share of the knowledge taught at this institution, would be, to make provision for its introduction among the ordinary branches of school education, taught at our elementary schools. The Farm connected with this institution should be rendered highly productive, that it might aid in defraying the expenses of the same.

Through the influence resulting from such an institution, if judiciously conducted, the coming generation of farmers in this Province would be an intelligent, a reading, and a thrifty class of men. Agriculture would then cease to be a mere *calling*, and would most appropriately be denominated a profession. Young men educated at such an institution, or by teachers issuing therefrom, would not only be initiated into the arts, mysteries, and beauties of their profession, but they would be qualified to take a high position in all the active, useful, and public stations of life.

Surely every farmer must see that he would work to better advantage if he knew exactly what his soil and his plants needed; and such knowledge would prove a source, not only of profit but of pleasure: *profit*, in an increasing ability to obtain the largest return, with the smallest expense; and *pleasure*, as light is thrown upon the sim-

ple, yet beautiful systems, which the Great Author of all things has established, and which he is permitting us gradually to unfold.

Respectfully submitted,
JAMES CAIE, Secretary.

OFFICE BEARERS FOR 1852-3.

John Wright, Esq., *President*.
Alexander Goodfellow and John M. Johnson, Esquires, *Vice Presidents*.
George Kerr, Esq., *Treasurer*.
James Caie, Secretary.

DIRECTORS:

John Porter, Richard Sutton,
Michael Searle, Henry Cunard,
Daniel Witherell, Peter Mitchell,
R. P. Whitney, John Chalmers,
G. Johnston (Napan) David Steel,
A. A. Davidson, Wm. J. Fraser,
Alex. Jessamin.

By Order of the President,
JAMES CAIE, Secretary.

REPORT OF THE JUDGES OF FARMS.

Miramichi, August 6, 1851.

Gentlemen,—The Committee, or Judges, to whom was referred the onerous duty of awarding the several Prizes granted by the Board, on the 19th June last, having attended to that duty, now submit their Report.

The Hon. A. Rankin, from unavoidable absence, not being able to co-operate with the Committee, the other members succeeded in prevailing upon Mr James Brown, of Bartibogue, a practical farmer, to make a third party.

The applicants were ten in number, viz: Patrick Morrissey, Daniel Witherell, and James Mitchell, at Newcastle.

Charles Marshall, John Wyse, Alexander Jessiman, and John Porter, at Douglas-town.

Michael Searle, George Johnston, and Daniel Elkin, in Napan.

The application of R. McLeod, Esq., of Tabusintac, came too late.

Pursuant to notice given, the Judges proceeded to inspect the farms of the several applicants on the 24th and 25th of July last, and after weighing the several merits and claims of each, most minutely and deliberately, and with feelings of no ordinary embarrassment and perplexity, your Committee have come to the conclusion that the—

1st prize, of £5, is due to James Mitchell, Newcastle;

2nd prize, of £4, is due to M. Searle, Napan.

3rd prize, of £3, is due to John Porter, Douglas-town.

Your Committee are fully sensible that they entered upon a duty fraught with difficulties, from which they would have shrunk, had they not felt an ardent desire to do all in their power to carry out the wishes of the Board, and thus promote the general interest of agriculture—stimulate our farmers to greater exertions—to induce them to copy the example of the best and most systematic farmers, by adopting as near as possible a Rotation of Crops—by paying greater attention to the formation of Compost, and more particularly, a more liberal use of Lime.

The difficulties of the duty have been greatly enhanced by the small number of prizes, which, had it been within the power of the Committee, they would have gladly divided into five, instead of three. They are induced to make these observations, not with a view of reflecting upon the Board, but to show that other of the competitors, in the cultivation and management of their farms, so nearly approach those to whom the several prizes have been awarded, as to entitle them to some consideration. These are more particularly the farms of Mr John Wyse and Mr Jessamin, though the other competitors, Mr Witherell and Mr Morrissey, of Newcastle; Mr George Johnston and Mr Elkin, of Napan, and Mr Marshall, of Douglas-town, merit great praise, and perhaps, in the eyes of other Judges, might be thought worthy of prizes.

In conclusion, your Committee beg leave to say, that whatever may be the opinion of others, they feel no small degree of satisfaction in being able to assure your Board, that they have performed their duty to the

best of their ability, and free from bias in favor of or against any of the competitors.

JOHN M. JOHNSON,
JOHN WRIGHT.

To the President and Directors of the Northumberland Agricultural Society.

AWARD OF THE JUDGES.

We, the undersigned, having been appointed to act as Judges in awarding prizes, by the Board of the Northumberland Agricultural Society, as their meeting on the 19th June, 1851, having attended to that duty, do award and determine that the

1st prize of £5 is due to James Mitchell, of Newcastle.

2nd prize of £4 is due to M. Searle, Napan.

3rd prize of £3 is due to John Porter, Douglas-town.

JOHN WRIGHT,
JOHN M. JOHNSON,

Miramichi, 28th July, 1851.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FLETT'S MILL.

We, the undersigned, Alexander Goodfellow, John Norman, and Alexander Jessiman, having been appointed a Committee by the Board of the Northumberland Agricultural Society, for the purpose of examining and reporting upon the efficiency of the Cloth Dressing, Dyeing and Carding Establishment of Mr John Flett, in the Parish of Nelson, beg respectfully to state, that being notified by Mr Flett, that his mill was in a state for inspection, in accordance with our appointment, we this day examined his establishment, when we found the same in full and effective operation in the several departments, consisting of a Carding Machine, a Fulling Mill, a Dyeing Establishment, together with Wapping and Cloth Dressing, and Pressing Machines. In each of these departments we consider Mr Flett's establishment, such as to give ample satisfaction to the country, and believe him to have fully complied with the conditions of the bounty granted by the Board. We also inspected the Cloth manufactured, and in process of manufacture, in the said Mill, and are much pleased to be able to express our complete satisfaction with the work; and we consider the said establishment such as to meet the want so long felt by the community in that particular department of manufacture.

Respectfully submitted,

ALEXANDER GOODFELLOW,
JOHN NORMAN,
ALEXANDER JESSIMAN,
Newcastle, December 23, 1851.

Communications.

MASONIC CORRESPONDENCE.

St. John, January 16, 1852.

Sir,—Courtesy dictates to me to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th ult., although its verbose style creates a contrary feeling within me.

I do not wish you to imagine for a moment, that I desire to gainsay your statements; but, on my part, in the absence of the slightest personal knowledge, or written information respecting you, from those whose duty it is to communicate to me such appointments as you state you have received, I must decline entering into any Masonic correspondence with you at present.

You charge me with *carelessness*. If, as you state, you are a Mason, you must be fully sensible that I would be exposing myself to greater censure, if, under existing circumstances, I complied with your wishes.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

A. BALLOCH.
Mr David Pearce Home, Miramichi.

Most Excellent ALEXANDER BALLOCH, Esq., Provincial Grand Superintendent of Royal Arch Masonry, New Brunswick, holding of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland.

Sir,—I have been impatiently awaiting your reply to my letter of the 20th ult., which fully demonstrates "carelessness" on your part. Courtesy prompts you, after a month's reflection, to answer my "ver-