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

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GLOUCESTER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

On Tuesday the 10th February, the Society's Annual Exhibition of Grains, Domestic Manufactures and Dairy Produce, took place at the Court House, Bathurst. At no period of the Society's history did its Show create more lively interest. The competition was entered into with great spirit. The number of members, and other inhabitants of the County present, exceeded that on any previous occasion. The rooms were well filled by the Ladies of Bathurst, who minutely inspected the various articles, and afterwards countenanced by their presence the public meeting. Twelve specimens of Wheat were exhibited, the average weight of which was 63 lbs. 5 oz. Nine specimens of Barley, averaging 53 lbs. 10 oz. Thirteen specimens of White Oats, of most superior quality, averaged 47 lbs., and five of Black Oats averaged 41½ lbs., together with some large Roots. There were nine lots of Cheese and ten lots of Butter, seventeen pieces of Cotton and Woollen Cloth, and a variety of other articles of domestic manufactures.

The Managing Committee were Doctor Bishop and the Secretary; the Judges of Grain and Roots, Messrs. Cate, Matheson, and Hendry; the Judges of Dairy Produce, Messrs. Duncan, Brown and Eady; the Judges of Domestic Manufactures, Messrs. McKenna, Carter and Dowling.

Immediately after the Judges gave in their Report to the Managing Committee, the Annual Public Meeting took place, John Woolner, Esq., senior Vice-President in the Chair, when the Secretary read the following

REPORT.

At a time when the progress of the new year reminds us all of the approach of that season when the husbandman, casting the precious seed into the soil, will be seen plying his labours, your Committee once more are required to submit to the Society a Report of the business transacted by them during the year that is now ended; and they trust it will be found, that humble and imperfect as their operations have been, they have been characterized by a spirit of good faith, and have been calculated to promote that great interest which they profess to have in view—the interest of Agriculture and the Agriculturist. This being the termination of the fifth financial year since the re-organization of your Society, your Committee, at the same time, will shortly review the proceedings and results of the past, and draw your attention to the prospects for the future.

The hopes entertained of progressive improvement, and of extended usefulness, founded on the gradual increase of members in preceding years, have not been realized, and your Committee have to announce with regret a considerable decrease in the number for the year now closing, a too certain indication of a lessening interest in the objects of the institution. At the last annual meeting a considerable number of practical farmers were placed on the Committee, with the view of increasing the interest and stimulating the exertions of the agricultural population in its favour. This, however, has not been attended with the expected success, which is the more to be deplored, as the County, in various ways, furnishes ample and undoubted evidence of its having largely benefited by the Society's transactions. It appears to your Committee unaccountable that an institution fraught with good to the agricultural population, should engage so little of their attention; that aid offered by a patriotic Legislature, in the most liberal spirit, should be coldly received, or altogether neglected by those for whose benefit it is more especially intended. It is truly disheartening to observe, that the settlers in many parts of the County take no interest whatever in its progress—that in the large farming districts of New Bandon, and of Salmon Beach, and in the fertile Parish of Saumarz, only three members are to be found, while in the comparatively small settlements of Belledoune and New Dunlop, in the Parish of Berasford, and of Youghal,

in the Parish of Bathurst, the inhabitants have taken a lively interest in it from the beginning.

Notwithstanding all these discouragements, your Committee are disposed to recommend to this Society to prosecute its useful and honorable aim with unabated diligence, and vigorously to pursue a course of action so well calculated to promote the welfare and happiness of a class second to none in the Province. They would remind the intelligent supporters of this association, that without the virtue of perseverance in well-doing, no great amount of good can be realized; and it is only the man who adheres to a cause in the day of difficulty and trial, as well as when the sun of prosperity shines cheerfully upon it, that is entitled to claim the possession of this virtue. Such perseverance always brings along with it its own reward, and this reward is not like that which may attend a fitful and rapidly accomplished act—soon over and past. It is rather a permanent enhancement of personal advancement, and has an exemplary and influential tendency to advance the social and public good.

Amidst the many causes for regret, your Committee rejoice to have in their power to congratulate you on the decided improvement in the Agriculture of the County—on the increased and increasing comforts of the rural population, and on a general tendency to adopt a system of husbandry fitted to make those comforts permanent. Prominent in importance is the raising of animal food for the market. In this department that part of the County more immediately under the influence of your Society, will show favorably in comparison with any other similar district in the Province, both in the increase, in the quantity, and in the improvement in the quality of its Pork. To the kindness of gentlemen connected with the different mercantile establishments in Bathurst, your Committee are enabled to state that, subsequent to the closing of the navigation in November last, there have been delivered for business purposes alone, twenty eight and a half tons of Pork, equal to 320 barrels, and this is in addition to the large increase required for home consumption, consequent on the improved circumstances of the inhabitants. It appears from the Custom House returns that the importation of Salted Meats has fallen off to an astonishing extent of late years, and that, too, in the face of an increased trade. In the year 1847 the quantity imported into the upper part of the County was 332 barrels, valued at £1,146 sterling, while the average importation of the last three years did not exceed 97 barrels, valued at £271; the import trade of the port having increased the past year £4,700, and the exportations £7,000. With respect to the quality, the Committee have only to direct your attention to the Hogs bred and fed on Mr Ferguson's farm, as exhibited to the members of the Society. The carcasses alone of the two oldest weighed respectively 770 lbs. and 745 lbs., and of one only 14 months old, from a breed (supposed to be Berkshire) imported by the same gentleman, weighed 620 lbs.

The benefit to the district arising from the increased and improved cultivation of Oats, is also remarkable. The importation of that Grain, manufactured and raw, into the port of Bathurst in 1849, was 15,930 bushels, valued in the Custom House Entries at £978 Sterling—equal to about £1200 Currency, and the average importation on the two last years does not exceed 1400 Bushels, valued at £125. The saving to the district, in calculating the balance of trade, cannot be fairly estimated under £2,000 on these two articles of product.

It is in the culture of Turnip, however, that the greatest progress is to be observed. In this part of the Country it is pleasing to mark the rapid increase in the cultivation of this most useful esculent, during the few past years. Until within the last five or six years only a few pounds of Turnip Seed were required to supply the demand; now they are annually imported and sold along with your Society's Garden Seeds, nearly three bushels. Formerly, with a few exceptions, only small patches of ill-cultivated ground were sown down, now fields of considerable extent of well drilled Turnip, are neither few nor far between. One practical farmer in the district of Youghal, informed

your Secretary that he had housed last fall 600 barrels.*

The Potatoes are gradually recovering from the disease with which they were so extensively affected. In many districts last season, the blight struck them early; the result was a large decrease in the quantity. A number of the growers around Bathurst did not lift one-third of the usual crop—some much less. In the remote districts two-thirds were obtained, and your committee feel warranted in coming to the conclusion that, on the average, the crop did not exceed one-half the usual yield. The rot has, however, been far less malignant than in former years, and but few complaints are to be heard of decay in the cellars.

Wheat, in most parts of the County, continues to be successfully cultivated. The crop in the field last season grew most luxuriantly, and promised an abundant return. On the banks of the streams at and around Bathurst, however, on heavy soils, and where late sown, it suffered severely from the effects of the early frosts. In other places, and under more favorable circumstances, it was all that the farmer could wish for.

The Oat still continues a favorite cereal. The cultivation of the Potato Oat is widely extending throughout the County, and it has proved to be well adapted to the soil and climate. It can be reaped early, and some samples exhibited at your last Grain Show, weighed 47½ lbs. per bushel, while the best Black Oats scarcely reached 42 lbs. per bushel. The Potato Oat ripens very irregularly, a fault which does not apply to the Pollard Oat, a description equally early.

The cultivation of Barley is not yet sufficiently appreciated. Its advantages are many. The shortness of the period required to bring the Grain to maturity, renders it a sure crop, and allows of its being sown at a comparatively late season of the year. The return is good. As an article of food for man, in various ways, it is most valuable, and for feeding and fattening every kind of animal, from the barn-door fowl to the horse, it has no superior. This is, in an especial degree, a Barley-growing country, and if ever it should become a grain-exporting one, Barley will unquestionably be the most remunerative.

Your Committee will now proceed to record the current business of the Society for the past year.

At the regular meeting of the Committee in April, the subject of a Mill for Fulling and Dressing Cloth, was brought under their notice. The Secretary stated that it had been intimated to him that £10 or £12 might be obtained from the New Brunswick Society in aid thereof. A Resolution was thereupon passed, guaranteeing the third of the expense required for a Fulling and Dressing Establishment, providing that the sum allowed should not exceed £50, the site also being satisfactory to the Committee, and the Mill to be put in efficient operation. No application has been made to your Committee, and the subject remains to be taken up by their successors.

The Committee at the same time agreed, "that if five pounds were raised in the district from Nigidou upwards, or in that from Fergus's Brook downwards, the Society would be prepared to appropriate ten pounds towards a Cattle Show and Ploughing Match in either place." This offer was not accepted, and it will be now for your Society to decide whether or not it will be advisable to have the general Cattle Show and Ploughing Match for 1852, held in a convenient place in the Parish of Berasford.

Early in May the Pigs ordered from Scotland arrived, and the two retained by the Committee—a Boar and a Sow—were

* Note.—The importance attached to the Turnip Crop is every where increasing. In Scotland, within the last ten or fifteen years, the number of acres had been more than doubled. To enable us fully to appreciate the importance of the crop, it should be considered in different aspects. First—as a cleaning Crop, or in the relation it bears to the other crops as part of a rotation. Second—as valuable for the amount of food it places at the disposal of the farmer for his animals, and third, as important, as increasing the manure on the farm, for it has been estimated that in the consumption of an acre of Turnip fed with straw, 13 tons of dung will be produced

sold subject to Rule 16. The Sow died immediately afterwards. The two Bulls, and the Cow and Calf ordered from Westmorland arrived a few weeks after the Pigs, and were sold at the same time, subject to the same rule. The Turnip Drill imported last season was also disposed of.

On the 7th October the Annual Ploughing Match and Cattle Show took place, agreeably to the arrangements, and under the management of a sub-committee. The Ploughing was competed for on Mr Deacon's farm, and the Cattle Show took place in Mr Ferguson's farm yard, near the Village, Bathurst.

Neither the Stock nor the attendance of members were so great as on former occasions. The weather was delightful, but that was rather injurious than otherwise to the Show, the farmers having doubtless taken advantage of it to get under cover the large quantities of Grain then in stock throughout the County. The Horned Cattle were but indifferent. Mr Mulloy, of Salt Ash, and Mr Alexander Brown, showed some superior Hogs, and the appearance of the Sheep indicated considerable improvement both in mutton and wool.

Messrs. Chalmers, Matheson, and Fleck acted as Judges, and the list of the premiums awarded were duly published.

The Sheep ordered from England, and expected along with some for the Restigouche Agricultural Society, did not arrive. Your Committee are not prepared to assign the reason why, but they have no hesitation in pressing upon the Society the great benefits that would accrue to the County, were a new Breed procured, to cross that already in use.

The Society's Account with the Treasurer stands thus:

By this amount on hand at the	
Annual Show in Feb. 1851,	£67 18 0
Provincial Grant drawn for	78 16 0
Nett sales Turnip Drill, Cattle, Pigs and Seeds,	16 19 0
Donations of J. A. Pierce and W. Napier,	3 8 0
Subscriptions received to Jan. 1, 1852,	9 15 0
	£176 16 0

Dr.

Prizes at Grain Show, in Feb. 1851,	£20 2 0
Secretary's salary and other charges, in 1850-51,	10 12 3
Mr. Pierce's bill, printing sundries	3 0 0
Paid Jas. Hendry for Threshing Mill,	34 0 0
" for 2 Pigs imported in Glasgow, & charge's,	13 15 7
" for 2 Bulls, Cow and Calf, from Westmorland,	28 0 0
Prizes at Cattle Show, in October, 1851,	9 17 6
Bill for printing & other charges,	2 15 0
Office rent, fuel and postages,	2 0 0

Balance on hand Jan. 1, 1852, £52 14 6—£176 16 0

There are two classes of our community to whom your Committee, in conclusion, would venture to submit a few remarks—Emigrants and native Colonists. They would ask the first, Have you not sought the land of your adoption with a view to better your circumstances? have you, by the blessing of Divine Providence, been successful? and if so, are you not under obvious obligations to seek the welfare of the people and the place where your lot has been cast? is it not the case, that in their peace and prosperity you are deeply concerned? and while you manifest a becoming interest in the promotion of every lawful and laudable cause which has for its aim the general good, is it not your obligation, will it not be your honor, to cherish and evince a practical and a patriotic attachment to that branch of industry, and means of livelihood, upon which the population