

THE GLEANER:

AND NORTHUMBERLAND, KENT, GLOUCESTER AND RESTIGOUCHE
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 VOLUME

New Series, Vol. XI.

MONDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 9, 1852.

No 16.

Agricultural Journal.

REPORT

OF THE

NORTHUMBERLAND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, FOR 1851-2.

The Society is aware, that for upwards of a year, the predecessors of the present Board of Directors continued to offer a bonus of Fifty Pounds, as an encouragement to any person disposed to undertake the erection of a Carding, Fulling, Dyeing and Dressing Machine, in the Parishes of Chatham or Newcastle, subject to certain conditions laid down by the Society. Nothing definite, however, towards the accomplishment of this desirable object, was effected, until at a meeting of the present Board, held at Chatham on the 3rd day of April last, a proposal was submitted by Mr John Flett, of Nelson. This proposal set forth, that should he obtain the promise of this Society, to award him the £50 bonus, just named, Mr Flett would be prepared to bind himself to erect a Carding, Fulling, Dyeing and Dressing Establishment, at Flett's Cove, Nelson, and put the same in operation by the month of November then ensuing. Whereupon the Board resolved unanimously, That the sum of £50 be granted to John Flett, to assist him in erecting a Fulling, Carding, Dyeing and Dressing Mill, at Flett's Cove, in the Parish of Nelson, subject to the Rules and Regulations offered to William Wilson, with this addition, that Mr Flett enter into a Bond for the fulfilment of these conditions and of his own offer."

Mr Flett having complied with the prescribed terms, received the £50 from this Society, and the Mill has been in full operation for several months past, as will be seen more fully by reference to the annexed Report of the Committee of this Board.

The fourth meeting of the Board was convened at Newcastle, for the purpose of disposing of the Threshing, Winnowing, and Wood-cutting Machine, which was imported by your Society from Boston last spring. After several members of the Board had expressed their views, respecting the best and most beneficial mode of disposing of the Machine, with the view of rendering its services most useful to the community at large; it was at length

"Resolved, That it shall be placed in the hands of some trusty person, at the rate of 2s. 6d. for every day that it shall be worked; the party to give security that it shall be returned in good order—and that two members of the Board be a Committee to let out the Machine, the same to be taken and given up on eight days' notice by either party, and that Messrs. Peter Mitchell and Daniel Witherell be said committee."

This Machine, which is of the latest and most approved construction, performs the work of Threshing, &c., expeditiously, and with the greatest possible perfection. The rate charged for it per day by Mr Jas. Mitchell, the gentleman to whom it was leased, was £1 2 6, Mr Mitchell finding the horses, and a man to work it. The quantity of Oats, which it was capable of threshing, with the same pair of horses, was about 80 bushels per day.

At a meeting of the Board, however, held at Chatham on the 7th of November last, it was

"Resolved, That the Threshing Machine, Cleanser, Fanners, and Saw Power, be sold at public auction on Saturday the 15th instant, at noon. The Fanners and Saw Power to be sold separately, and that a credit of three, six, nine, and twelve months be given for the Threshing Machine; and three and six months for the other articles, on approved joint notes. The purchaser of the Threshing Machine, Fanners and Saw Power to be bound to keep the same in the County for one year from date of sale, and to permit such persons as the Society may authorize, through the Secretary, to take patterns from the machinery at any time when the same is not in actual use."

The sale accordingly took place at Douglastown on the day appointed:

Purchaser of the Threshing Machine and Cleanser, or Riddle, Mr John Wyse, at	£35 0 0
Purchaser of the Wood Cutter, Mr Charles Marshall, at	3 5 0
Purchaser of the Fanners, P. Mitchell, Esq., at	7 10 0
In all,	£45 15 0

The Society has sustained a small pecuniary loss, as might have been expected, by this speculation; but if this loss, say about 25*l.*, be placed in the balance, with the benefits which the community may expect to derive from the introduction of such valuable labour-saving machines, from which similar, or improved ones, may be constructed, it will be found that the sum has been wisely expended.

PLOUGHING MATCH AND CATTLE SHOW.
The Annual Ploughing Match of your Society came off at Chatham, in a large lay field, the property of John M. Johnson, Jun., Esq., on Thursday, the 2nd of October last.

The weather—which for some time previously had been stormy and wet—became exceedingly suitable for such an occasion, being dry and comfortably warm.

Here another anomaly occurs in the history of your Society. The Board, with the view of creating competition, offered ten prizes, but strange to say, only nine of these prizes were competed for. So very flush of cash did our farmers appear to be, that the insignificant tenth prize of seven shillings and sixpence was not deemed worthy of being bagged. Why, instead of being a greedy set of fellows, as some have slanderingly styled them, our farmers, or at least the bulk of them, should be designated a *cash-despising* class! It will certainly puzzle the successors of the present Board, to hit upon a scheme, in all its details, so complete, as to be capable of convincing some of them, that it is not bad policy to hold fast, when the "sillar" is pressed into their fists.

The Judges of Ploughing were Messrs. Jonathan Carmalt, James Orr, and Robert Johnston. The Prizes were awarded as follows:

1st prize, J. Stohart, Newcastle,	£1 10 0
2d " Jas. Johnston, Napan,	1 7 6
3d " James Gray, do.,	1 5 0
4th " J. Coulard, Newcastle,	1 2 6
5th " A. Campbell, Napan,	1 0 0
6th " J. Galloway, do.,	0 17 6
7th " A. Fenton, Chatham,	0 15 0
8th " W. Brown, Napan,	0 12 6
9th " W. McKnight, do.,	0 10 0
10th " No competitor.	

The question as to whether it would be advisable to offer, in future, many small prizes for competition, or a small number of larger ones, is one to which the retiring Board would respectfully direct the attention of their successors in office, but it is one respecting which they decline offering any opinion.

The Cattle Show of last year was more creditable to the Society than any of the Shows of the preceding three or four years. Not less than twenty fine Horses and Mares, of three to four years old, were exhibited, yet the Judges found it difficult to discriminate with accuracy as to which really merited the prizes. Among the whole there was scarcely a faulty animal. Of Horned Cattle and Sheep, the number was tolerably large, and the quality passing fair. Of Pigs there were only three, but they were whoppers.

Judges of Cattle—Messrs. Richard Coulard, William Stohart, and Richard Wall.

Best Bull, 3 years old, C. Nevin, Newcastle,	£1 10 0
Best do., 2 do., Geo. Johnston, Napan,	1 0 0
Second best do., John Rainnie, Newcastle,	0 10 0
Best Heifer, 2 years old, W. Hay, Chatham,	1 0 0
Second best do., Geo. Johnston, Napan,	0 10 0
Best Heifer, 1 year old, do.,	0 15 0
Second best do., 1 year old, David Steel, Napan,	0 7 6
Best Ram, 2 year old, G. Johnston, Napan,	0 15 0
Best Ram, 1 year old, J. Galloway,	0 10 0

Second best do., 1 year old, M. Searle, Napan,	0 5 0
Best Ewe, 2 years old, do.,	0 10 0
Second best do., 2 years old, D. Elkin, Napan,	0 5 0
Best Ewe, 1 year old, J. Creighton, Napan,	0 10 0
Second best do., W. Hay, Chatham,	0 5 0
Best Sow, 1 year old, G. Johnston, Napan,	0 10 0
Second best do., F. McDiarmid, Napan,	0 5 0
Best Entire Horse, 4 years old, John Rainnie, Newcastle,	3 0 0
Best Mare or Gelding, 3 years old, Joseph Jardine, Napan,	1 10 0
Second best do., D. McDonald,	0 15 0
Best Mare or Gelding, 2 years old, Edward Fee, Douglastown,	1 0 0
Second best do., W. Hay, Chatham,	0 10 0
	£14 2 6

For the undermentioned prizes there were no competitors:

Second best Bull, 3 years old,	0 15 0
Second best do., 2 years old,	0 7 6
Best Boar, 1 year old,	0 15 0
Second best do.,	0 7 6
Best Entire Horse, 3 years old,	2 0 0
	£4 5 0

Here is another proof that the farmers of this County are perfectly indifferent as to money matters, or in other words, to their own interests. There is a Rule of the Society which expressly states that Judges of Cattle, &c., shall not withhold any prize merely on the ground "that the object exhibited is unworthy of such prize;" yet here were four prizes, amounting to £4 5*l.*, which no one thought proper to carry away. Persons unacquainted with the predilections of our farming population, would naturally suppose that the large County of Northumberland could only muster some two or three young Bulls, Rams, Horses, or Hogs; and if such persons were told that the paucity of these animals, at the Exhibition, was by no means occasioned by their scarcity in the County, but by the want of spirit, or something else, in their owners, how such persons would stare, and wish they were farmers of Northumberland. That the absence of the above mentioned animals was owing to the latter, and not the former cause, will appear pretty evident from the following information extracted from the Census of the County, lately taken.

There are in this County no less than 6,453 Neat Cattle, 1,628 Horses, 10,602 Sheep, and 3,397 Swine.

With respect to Grains, Potatoes, Hay, &c., as quoted below, it should be remarked, that the quantities raised last season must have been nearly double what were produced the preceding year, or the year to which the quantities named in the census have reference, yet the return is as follows: Hay, 14,139½ tons; Wheat, 30,853 bushels; Barley, 4,823½ bushels; Oats, 120,366½ bushels; Buckwheat, 8,338½ bushels; Indian Corn, 1,295½ bushels; Pease and Beans, 3,854½ bushels; Turnips, 51,306 bushels; Potatoes, 289,436 bushels; and other Roots, 3,493½ bushels. Number of Cows, 4,218. Quantity of Butter 201,837 lbs.; Woollen Cloth Manufactures, 43,872 yards.

Contrasted with the productions of preceding years, the above statistics afford proof of a rapid agricultural improvement in this County, while a corresponding diminution in the increase of Breadstuffs, &c., confirms the accuracy of these returns.

THE ANNUAL EXHIBITION.

The Exhibition of to-day is the first that has merited the designation of an *Exhibition*. The spacious Hall of the Sons of Temperance, has afforded an excellent opportunity for the exposure and inspection of our County productions; and it is gratifying to witness the interest manifested by the large assemblage of people—male and female—who are comfortably, but carefully examining each article as they pass round the Hall.

Among the articles brought to the Hall as novel specimens, are a Thermometer Barrel Churn, a self-acting Cheese Press, a Hydraulic Ram, a Vegetable Press and a

Chain Pump, lately imported by that indefatigable friend of the farmer, George Kerr, Esq., the Treasurer of your Society. These specimens are deservedly claiming the admiration of all present, and it is to be hoped that from these, our mechanics may construct many similar ones.

The Judges of Grains were Messrs. John Hea, Henry Wyse, and T. Vondy; and the Judges of Domestic Manufactures, Dairy Produce, &c., Alex. Loudoun, G. H. Russell, and Michael Ryan, Esquires.

The Receiving and Arranging Committee were Messrs. Wm. J. Fraser, and John M. Johnson, Esquires.

The Prizes were awarded as follows:—

best sample White Winter Wheat, 2 bushels, 65 1-8, H. Cunard,	£1 10 0
second best do., do., 63½, G. Kerr,	1 5 0
best Red Wheat, 2 bushels, 65 7-8, A. Crocker,	1 5 0
second best do., do., R. P. Whitney, 65 1-2,	1 0 0
best black Oats, 2 bushels, 44 7-8, John Porter,	0 10 0
second best do., do., 43 5-8, Mungo Wilson,	0 7 6
best White Oats, 2 bushels, 49 1-4, John Wyse,	0 10 0
second best do., do., 49 1-4, James Mitchell,	0 7 0
best Barley, 2 bushels, 56 5-8, J. Chalmers,	0 14 0
second best do., do., 54 5-8, Chas. Marshall,	0 12 0
best White Peas, 2 bushels, 66 3-4, R. P. Whitney,	1 0 0
second best do. do., 61 3-4, John Chalmers,	0 15 0
best Green Pease, 2 bushels, 64 7-8, John Wyse,	1 0 0
best Timothy seed, 1 bushel, 46 1-4, Henry Cupard,	1 0 0
best Carrot seed, 2 lbs., M. Searle,	0 12 0
second best do., do., H. Cunard,	0 10 0
best Red beet, 2 lbs., M. Searle,	0 10 0
best Swedish Turnip seed, 4 lbs., M. Searle,	0 10 0
best White Beans, 1 bushel, 61 lbs., Daniel Baldwin,	0 15 0
best Windsor Beans, 1 bushel, 56 lbs., Michael Searle,	0 15 6
best Buckwheat, 2 bushels, 55 1-4, Michael Searle,	0 15 0
Parsley, 1 lb., Michael Searle,	0 4 0

PRODUCE OF THE DAIRY.

best sample Butter, not less than 30 lbs., Daniel Baldwin,	0 15 0
second best do., do., D. McKay,	0 10 0
third do., do., Michael Searle,	0 7 6
best sample of Cheese, not less than 20 lbs., George Johnston,	0 12 6
second best do., do., David Steel,	0 7 6

DOMESTIC MANUFACTURES.

best Homespun Cloth, all wool, not less than 10 yards, D. McKay,	0 15 0
second best do. do., A. Goodfellow,	0 10 0
best Homespun Cloth, cotton and wool, Daniel Baldwin,	0 15 0
second best do., do., D. Elkin,	0 10 0
best piece Flannel, all wool, Jas. Brown,	0 15 0
best Wove Counterpane, Andrew Crocker,	0 10 0
best piece Flannel, cotton & wool, 10 yards, Daniel Elkin,	0 10 0
second best do., A. Goodfellow,	0 5 0
best piece Plaid Tartan, all wool, 10 yards, Donald McKay,	0 12 0
best Straw Hat, R. Coulard,	0 4 0

By the reports of the several Committees, just audited by the Board, it appears that there have been exhibited this day about twenty samples of Wheat, weighing about 66 lbs. and under; fourteen samples of Oats, weighing about 50 lbs. and under. Of Barley, Beans, Buckwheat, and Garden Seeds, there was a fair display. The Barley and Beans were very superior, the former weighing as high as 66 5-8, the latter 61 lbs.

The Domestic Manufactures and Dairy Produce, were creditable to the County; but the Board hope, that as Mr Flett's Dyeing, Fulling, Dressing and Carding Establishment is now in full operation, our farmers, and others, will avail themselves of it, and that by this time twelve-months, our manufactures will have assumed a much higher character, in point of appearance and quality, than they now do.

The Board are gratified to learn, by a letter just read from David S. Kerr, Esq.,