

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 LIBANUS UT APES. [Comprised 13 Vol.

NEW SERIES VOL. XII. MONDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 14, 1853. NO. 7.

Agricultural Journal.

REPORT

OF THE BLACKVILLE, BLISSFIELD AND LUDLOW DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, FOR 1852.

The Blackville, Blissfield, and Ludlow District Agricultural Society, has now been in existence for nearly three years. In so short a period it would be unreasonable to expect great results. But the efforts which incite to energetic exertion, which animate zeal, and encourage peaceful competition, cannot be altogether fruitless. Already has a genial spirit of progressive improvement become manifest in the District, inspiring our husbandmen with fresh ardor, and imparting a healthy impulse to our Domestic Manufacturers. The objects of the Society have gradually become better understood, and more justly appreciated. The advantages arising from due care, from a proper selection of Stock, Seed, and Materials, and from rational diligence in their management and preparation, are not so generally overlooked as in past times, and our exhibitions are therefore annually increasing in amount and improving in quality.

In consequence of the remoteness of many settlements and the expense of transportation, circumstances which prevented a fair distribution of the benefits to be derived from the Society's Premiums, the Committee were induced at the quarterly meeting in March last, to establish separate Exhibitions and Ploughing Matches, in the several Parishes; and this measure they are gratified to say, has been attended with all the success that could have been reasonably anticipated from it. The Competitors were numerous in each place, the Ploughing Matches eagerly and skillfully contested, and the Stock and other articles which were exhibited, for the most part, worthy of commendation. The improvement in Swine was very conspicuous in each Parish. Large quantities of Grain, of almost every kind and variety, indicated the fruitfulness of the season, which under the blessing of God, had been granted to us, and afford ample proof of the ability and industry of many of our husbandmen; while the abundance and superior fabrication of the Home Manufacturers reflected much credit on the skill that contrived, as well as on the hands that prepared them. Every Member of the Society appeared to be actuated by an ardent desire, to excel. Even the murmurings of disappointed Competitors would seem to have evinced, not so much the baffled desire of pecuniary reward, as a keen sense of mortification in the defeated aspirations of ambitious rivalry.

The Contributions to the funds of the Society during the past year, including the Provincial Grant have amounted to £111 6s. 6d., and the disbursements to £115 2s. 1d. Encouraged by the evidences of past usefulness, let us earnestly persevere in our exertions, assured that they will ultimately be rewarded with success still more extensive. Several improvements which this Society is designed to accelerate are not yet much advanced, on the contrary in some of them scarcely any progress has been made. There are still too many among us who will not take the least pains to supply themselves with the approved Breeds of Stock, which have been introduced, who appear to look upon inferior seed as quite suitable for agricultural purposes, and who persist in exhausting the fertile soil which they possess, and of which they are not worthy, by successive crops without the application of manure. There are also not a few who still neglect the preparation of compost, although abundant means surround them, who disregard the benefits to be derived from a regular rotation of crops,—who neither attend to draining where it is requisite, nor to irrigation where it is practicable, whose cattle are not furnished with enclosed pastures for summer, nor with warm stables for winter, and to whom the feeding of stock with roots seems an insurmountable difficulty. Besides all this it must not be concealed that hasty and by consequence, imperfect tillage, is a general evil in this District.

It has been justly observed that when

any general evil prevails in any Country it is the most enlightened who are most to blame. Equally just is the conclusion that the most intelligent can, with the greatest readiness, by a judicious combination of effort, produce desirable changes. Having once made an impression upon them, it is therefore from the most enlightened that we may reasonably expect the greatest degree of assistance in improving and extending our agriculture. Yet as the elements of progress, thought, invention, and industry, are to be found among all classes and in all conditions, the exertions of the most humble individual cannot fail to be in some little degree valuable when rationally devoted to schemes of improvement. What an amount of goods would accrue if a determination existed, in all the Members of this Society, and in all the members of the community at large, to make improvements from time to time, proportionate to their capacity and means.

But at this juncture there are urgent reasons why the friends of progress should be peculiarly active. With a view to promote the prosperity of the people, the Government has contracted with wealthy capitalists for the construction of extensive Railways in this Province; which measure, while it will lead to the introduction of a large amount of money and labor, will at the same time greatly increase the existing demand for the fruits of agricultural industry, for home manufactures, and for every useful production of the Colony. It is evident, however, that to secure from this scheme all the advantages which it is capable of yielding, whether in its progress or after the accomplishment, strenuous efforts on our part are necessary, not only to maintain our ordinary industrial pursuits in their present state, but also gradually to increase the quantity and to improve the quality of our manufactures and productions, and if practicable to display a greater variety, so that we may be enabled to compete successfully with our neighbors in furnishing supplies to these works during their construction; that it may be in our power to make them useful to us when finished; and that we may so succeed in improving the general aspect and condition of this county as to make it a more desirable place of residence to wealthy emigrants than it is at the present time.

With an extent of land which we are unable to cultivate, with vast forests, extensive fisheries, rich mines, and superabundant water power, the advantages of which are not readily made available by a scanty and not wealthy population, deficient alike in the means of abundant production and of speedy conveyance, we may without much premeditation, venture to invite the co-operation of our fellow subjects in developing our numerous and valuable resources. Yet past experience in this County afford a salutary lesson, which on this occasion ought not to be disregarded. For nearly half a century capital and labor introduced from other lands, were sedulously and almost exclusively engaged, from year to year, in stripping our forests of their most valuable timber, and ever as their task was accomplished, disappeared from among us, bearing their profits to more congenial homes. During a great part of that period, very little effort was made to secure a permanent population; and even the enterprising yeomen, who under extreme hardships and privations, had made the earlier settlements, were too frequently allured to forsake their farms, and become hewers of wood and the paltry retainers of avaricious and ephemeral tradesmen. Agriculture was then looked upon as an unimportant pursuit, scarcely any home manufactures existed, and food, clothing ready made, implements of labor, and the luxuries of civilized life were almost altogether imported. Repeated fluctuations in trade and frequent providential calamities started without subduing the improvident spirit of those days. At length in the midst of a commercial depression of unexampled force and duration, a mysterious blight upon our fields, the profusion of former years had left multitudes unprovided with that surplus for the emergency which the labor of every people will afford, if their industry be properly directed, and due economy be observed; our cultivated lands were too limited in extent, and the soil of our districts was too much ex-

hausted by successive crops of hay, which lumbering had dissipated in the wilderness to furnish even with favorable seasons, an adequate supply of food, and hundreds of the most useful inhabitants of the County, urged by stern necessity, and disheartened and dismayed, fled from it forever.

Let us then profit by the lessons we have received. The chief error of former years consisted in the application of too great a part of the labor of the County to one branch of industry, to the neglect of those evils which are essential to permanent improvement. Let nothing divert our attention from the steady application of labor to every lucrative branch of productive industry for which our Province affords the requisite facilities. Giving the preference, as they deserve, to agriculture and to home manufactures, let it ever be kept in view that shipbuilding and other mechanical arts, the fisheries, and the mines, are capable of becoming powerful auxiliaries in the attainment of prosperity; and that with due regard to this diversity of employments, so essential to the enduring welfare of every civilized people, our forests might always have been what they are still destined to be a source of profitable exertion to many during the winter months.

JAMES L. PRICE, Secretary.

5th January, 1853.

Statement of prizes awarded to the successful competitors at the several Ploughing Matches and Exhibitions of the District Agricultural Society, for the Parishes of Blackville, Blissfield, and Ludlow, in the County of Northumberland, in the year 1852-3.

BLACKVILLE, OCTOBER 4, 1852.

Best Heifer, 2 years old A. McLaggan.	£1 0 0
Best Ram, 1 year old, do.	0 10 0
Best Ewe, 1 year old, do.	0 10 0
Best Spring Boar, do.	0 15 0
2nd Best Bull, 1 year old, do.	0 7 6
Best Spring Sow, do.	0 15 0
1st Prize Ploughing do.	1 17 6
Best Bull, 1 year old, T. W. Underhill.	0 15 0
2nd Best Heifer, 2 years old, do.	0 10 0
2nd Best Spring Boar, do.	0 7 6
2nd Best Spring Sow, do.	0 7 6
2nd Best Ram, 1 year old, do.	0 5 0
2nd Prize Ploughing, do.	1 15 0
4th Prize Ploughing, do.	1 10 0
2nd Best Heifer, 1 year old, James McLaggan.	0 7 6
Best Bull, 2 years old, do.	1 10 0
Best Colt, 1 year old, James Donaldson.	0 15 0
Best Mare Colt, 1 year old, James McKie.	0 15 0
Best Heifer, 1 year old, Michael Keenon.	0 15 0
3rd Prize Ploughing, do.	1 12 6
Best Mare 3 years old, James Donaldson.	1 10 0
	18 10 0

LUDLOW, OCTOBER 4, 1852.

1st Prize Ploughing Thomas Wilson.	1 2 8
Best Heifer 1 year old, do.	0 9 1
2nd Prize Ploughing, James Wallace.	1 1 2
3rd Prize Ploughing, James S. Mitchell.	0 19 7
4th Prize Ploughing, Hiram Freeze.	0 18 1 1/2
5th Prize Ploughing, William McCav.	0 16 7
Best Heifer, 2 years old, do.	0 12 1
Best Spring Sow, do.	0 9 1
Best Spring Boar, do.	0 9 1
Best Bull, 1 year old, do.	0 9 1
6th Prize Ploughing, George Mitchell.	0 15 1 1/2
Best Mare 3 years old, do.	0 18 1
Best Bull 2 year old, James Hovsey Jr.	0 18 1
2nd Best Heifer 2 year old, John McElwee.	0 6 0
2nd Best Heifer 1 year old, Robert Munro.	0 4 6
Best Ewe, 1 year old, Edmund Price.	0 6 0
2nd Best mare 3 years old, John Pond.	0 9 1
Best 1 year old Colt, Miles McMillan.	0 9 1
2nd Best 1 year old Colt, Thomas Brown.	0 6 0
2nd Best Spring Sow W. Richard Price.	0 4 6
2nd Best Spring Boar Charles Amos.	0 4 6
Best Plough made in District Robert Snow.	0 7 6 1/2
2nd Best Bull 1 year old Patrick Long.	0 4 6
	12 19 6 1/2

BLISSFIELD, OCTOBER 6, 1852.

1st prize Ploughing William McKay.	1 17 6
2nd prize Ploughing Hiram Freeze.	1 10 0
2nd best Ewe 1 year old do.	0 3 4
2nd best Mare 2 year old do.	0 6 8
3rd prize Ploughing George Weaver.	1 7 6
2nd best Spring Boar do.	0 5 0
4th prize Ploughing Robert Wasson.	1 5 0
2nd best Heifer 1 year old do.	0 8 8
5th prize Ploughing James S. Mitchell.	1 2 9
6th prize Ploughing Thomas Wilson.	1 0 0
Best Bull 2 years old William Horgan.	1 2 6
Best entire Horse 3 years old do.	1 0 8
Best Spring Sow do.	0 10 0
Best Spring Boar do.	0 10 0
Best Heifer 2 year old John Decantellon.	0 13 4
Best Ram 1 year old do.	0 6 8
Best Ewe, 2 years old, J. Decantellon.	0 6 8
Best Mare 2 years old do.	0 13 4
2nd best Heifer 2 years old William Betts.	0 6 8
Best Heifer 1 year old do.	0 10 0
2nd Best Ewe 2 years old Thomas Weaver.	0 3 4
Best Ewe 1 year old Jacob Green.	0 6 8
Best mare 3 year old Harvey Vickery.	1 2 6
2nd Best Mare 3 year old Peter Harris.	0 10 0
Best 2 year old colt John Arbo.	0 10 0
Best Colt 1 year old Peter Harris.	0 10 0
2nd best Colt 1 year old John Arbo.	0 6 8
2nd best Spring Sow do.	0 5 0
Best Bull 1 year old James McLaggan.	0 10 0
	19 12 6

BLACKVILLE, JANUARY 3, 1853.

2nd best Sample Butter Alexander McLaggan.	0 10 0
Best White Oats do.	0 6 0
Best White Bald Wheat do.	0 12 0
Best Dressed Homespun Cloth all Wool do.	0 15 0
Second best of the same do.	0 10 0
Best Sample Woollen Socks James Underhill.	0 17 6
2nd Best Buckwheat J. W. Underhill.	0 5 0
Best Coloured Beans do.	0 3 0
Best Sample Butter do.	0 15 0
4th Sample Butter William McKenzie.	0 5 0
2nd Best Homespun Cloth Cotton and Wool do.	0 10 0
Best Piece Flannel Cotton and Wool do.	0 10 0
2nd best Sample Woollen Socks John Connors.	0 5 0
Best Sample Red Beet Seed do.	0 4 0
Best Sample Swedish Turnip Seed do.	0 5 0
Best Sample Grey Field Pease do.	0 10 0
2nd best Coloured Beans do.	0 3 0
Best Black Oats do.	0 6 0
2nd best Sample White Oats do.	0 4 0
Best Sample Buckwheat do.	0 10 0
2nd best Sample Black Oats Hugh McGraw.	0 4 0
Best Sample Mittens do.	0 7 6
2nd best Plaid Homespun Cotton and Wool George McGraw.	0 7 6
Best Plaid Homespun all Wool do.	0 12 6
2nd best Flannel Cotton and Wool do.	0 5 0
2nd best Sample Mittens do.	0 5 0
Best Straw Hats do.	0 5 0
Best Homespun Cotton and Wool Simon Bean.	0 15 0
Best White Beans do.	0 7 6 1/2
3rd best Sample Butter do.	0 7 6
Best Sample Barley Hugh Ferguson.	0 8 0
	12 2 0

LUDLOW, JANUARY 3.

Best Homespun Cloth all Wool W. R. Price.	0 9 1
Best Sample Woollen Socks do.	0 4 0
2nd best Flannel Cotton and Wool do.	0 3 0
Best Sample Mittens do.	0 4 6
2nd best Sample Mittens do.	0 3 0
Best Sample Woollen Gloves do.	0 4 6
4th best Sample Butter do.	0 3 0
2nd best White Bald Wheat do.	0 4 6
Best Black Sea Wheat do.	0 7 3
Best Green Field Pease do.	0 6 0
Best Sample Buckwheat do.	0 6 0
2nd best Homespun all wool Wm. McKay.	0 6 0
2nd best sample woollen socks do.	0 3 0
2nd best Plaid Homespun Cotton wool do.	0 4 6
2nd best Sample Butter do.	0 6 0
Best White Field Pease William McKay.	0 6 0
Best Filled Cloth do.	0 9 1
Best Satinnet do.	0 6 0
Best Twist Woollen Cloth do.	0 6 0
Best Table Linen do.	0 4 0
Best Plaid Scarf do.	0 5 0
Best Onions do.	0 4 0