

# 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 Vols

New Series.

SATURDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 11, 1854.

VOL. XIII

### Agricultural Journal.

#### ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE NORTHUMBERLAND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY FOR 1853-4.

On the following day the Secretary addressed a note to the Corresponding Secretary of each of the Societies just named, of which the following is a copy.

Chatham, Miramichi, 26th May 1853.

SIR—The Board of the Northumberland Agricultural Society being desirous to avail themselves of the conditional Grant passed during the last Session of our Legislature, to enable County Agricultural Societies to import Stallions of superior breeds from Great Britain, Canada, or the United States, have directed me to ascertain

1st. From what County (if any) your Society intends to procure a horse.

2nd. Whether does your Society intend to employ an agent or send a person from this Province to purchase such horse and convey him to your County.

Our Board are of opinion, that a much better choice might be made in Britain, than in Canada or the United States, and perhaps an animal from that Country would be more highly prized than from any other; but the risk of transportation, the danger of deterioration in the animal, and his offspring from change of Climate and usage, and the greater expense of importing from England, are considerations which weigh heavily against this choice. If however, any scheme could be devised by which the expense of sending a person to Britain could be borne conjointly with other Societies, the Board of the Northumberland Agricultural Society would be disposed to waive as a consideration, the risk and danger just named, and would agree to send a well qualified person to England, to purchase Horses of the required breeds for it, and all other County Agricultural Societies disposed to join in the enterprise, or such as might feel desirous to intrust their Horses to the care of the persons so employed.

I beg the favour of an early reply, stating fully the mind of your Society on the subject.

I have the honour to be, dear sir, very truly yours,

(Signed) JAMES CAIE, Secretary.

To \_\_\_\_\_, Corresponding Secretary, \_\_\_\_\_ Agricultural Society,

Having been favoured with replies from most of the County Society, and also from Judge Peters, the Secretary called a meeting of the Board for Thursday the 16th June, at which, having read these replies and also a printed circular, and a letter from the New Brunswick Society, recommending the very scheme contemplated by this Board, it was Resolved as follows:

1st. That the Society import from England a Stallion of the Suffolk Punch Breed, whose weight shall, not be less than 11 cwt., and age not over 6 years.

2nd. That this Society employ Dr. Cumming of St. John to purchase a Horse in Britain, under the guidance of the New Brunswick Society.

3. That a Committee of three persons prepare a Code of special instructions for Dr. Cumming's guidance in selecting the Horse, &c.

Having been furnished with special instructions from eight County Agricultural Societies, and with general instructions from the New Brunswick Societies. Dr. Cumming sailed for Liverpool in the Royal Mail Steamer from Halifax, about the 24th June, and arrived about the 5th July. By the middle of September, the Secretary of the New Brunswick Society, Dr. Robb, received a letter from Mr Cumming, stating that he would sail from Liverpool in the packet ship Eudocia, for St. John, on the 3rd September with:

Two Suffolk Horses, for Northumberland and Albert.  
One Cleveland Horse for York.  
Four Clydesdale Horses, for Queen's, Charlotte, St. John and Westmorland, and  
One Cob Hunter for Kent.

These Horses were not purchased till their stock was seen by Doctor Cumming, and every enquiry made and satisfactorily answered, as to their breeding powers, Pedigrees, and all particulars sufficiently ascertained were also obtained.—Two full sets of clothing, bridles, halters, and all other necessaries both for the ship and afterwards, were provided for each Horse. Hay, oats, bran, and water, were laid in for sixty or seventy days. The ship was fitted up in a first-rate manner, the stables were roomy and well ventilated, and a groom for each Horse was engaged, who came out for his passage and provisions. Notwithstanding these excellent arrangements, three of the eight Horses were lost on the passage. The Eudocia had heavy weather all the way out, but it was during a dreadful hurricane which she encountered a few days after leaving Liverpool, that these three noble animals were flung from their slings and perished. The Eudocia arrived at St. John, on Monday, the 17th October after a passage of 41 days, and landed the remaining five Horses in excellent condition.

The Counties of Albert and Northumberland had each ordered a Suffolk Punch, and one of these was among the lost Horses. In order, therefore, to determine to which County the living Suffolk should belong, it became necessary that the agents of the respective Societies at St. John, should cast lots. Robert Jardine and Francis Ferguson, Esqs., had kindly consented to act as the agents for this

County, and by a Telegraph Despatch, dated 20th October, they announced the issue of the Lottery by the following short but spicy note—"We cast lots, Young Ruler is yours."—On receipt of this gratifying intelligence Mr Michael Searle—engaged previously for that purpose—was despatched to St. John to bring Young Ruler home. Mr Searle returned to Chatham with his charge on Saturday, the 30th day of October, and on Thursday the 10th November, Young Ruler was put up at Public Auction, and sold to Mr W. Kelly, Chatham, for One Hundred and Thirty Five Pounds. The Purchaser having given his Bond to the Queen for £300 with two approved sureties, to keep the Horse always in excellent condition, to retain him in this County for Five Years, to charge for his services a sum not exceeding Thirty Shillings, and not to work him between the first of April and the first of August, nor at any time during the remainder of the year except at farm work.

Young Ruler is truly a noble lion-looking animal. Ever since his arrival at St. John he has been the admiration of all, who having seen, are capable of judging of his qualifications. Only four years old, he stands 16½ hands high, weighs upwards of 17 cwt., and is of perfect symmetry. He cost, including two sets of clothing, and all expenses £306 15 6 currency, and sold as already stated for £135.

Should his progeny resemble their progenitor we may reasonably expect, that the coming "Young Rulers" of this County for farming and lumbering purposes, will equal, if not surpass, those of any County in the Province; and that instead of expending a large sum annually in the importation of heavy horses from Prince Edward Island and Cumberland, we may shortly realize a handsome sum yearly by supplying other places with such horses. Viewed in this light, the benefits which not only this County, but the Province at large may expect to reap from the late importation of horses, will amply compensate for the comparatively small sum expended, and the wisdom of the Legislature in granting a liberal sum in aid of such an object, will appear obvious, even to the most scrupulous.

#### GENERAL EXHIBITION.

The Committee whose duty it was to make the preparatory arrangements for the General Exhibition, took care to secure the spacious Hall of the Sons of Temperance for the occasion, than which a better place could hardly be found anywhere for such a purpose. But if the Cattle Show proved a failure, the General Exhibition has proved a disgrace.

Who that was not present will believe, that at the Annual Exhibition of the Northumberland Agricultural Society, neither Black Oats, Beans, nor Barley of any kind, was present for Exhibition, yet such was the fact.

The Judges of Grains were Messrs. Daniel Witherall, Charles Vanstone; and Judges of Domestic Manufactures, Dairy Produce, &c., John Mackie, John Macdougall, and William Samuel, Esqrs.

#### PREMIUMS.

For the best Homespun Cloth all Wool, not less than 10 yards, Donald McKay,	£0 15 0
second best do, William Morrison,	0 10 0
Best Homespun Cloth, Cotton & Wool, D. McKay,	0 10 0
second best do, William Morrison,	0 10 0
Best piece of Flannel, all Wool, George Johnston,	0 15 0
Best piece of Flannel, Cotton and Wool, 10 yards, William Morrison,	0 10 0
second best do, James Gray,	0 5 0
Best Wove Counterpane, Andrew Crocker,	0 10 0
Best sample Woollen Socks, not less than six pairs, William Morrison,	0 7 6
second best do, Andrew Crocker,	0 6 0
Best sample of Mitts not less than 6 pairs, Wm. Morrison,	0 7 6
second best do, Andrew Crocker,	0 5 0
Best Straw Hat, Richard Coulart,	0 4 0

#### PRODUCE OF THE DAIRY.

For best sample of Butter, not less than 30 lbs. Daniel Baldwin,	£0 15 0
Second best do., Donald McKay,	0 10 0
Third best do., George Johnston,	0 7 6
Best Cheese, not less than 20 lbs, George Johnston,	0 12 6
Second best do., David Steel,	0 7 6

#### GRAINS &c.

For best sample of White Bald Wheat, 2 Bushels, 63½ lbs., M. Searle,	0 12 6
Second best do., 64 lb. 8 oz., John Wyse,	0 10 0
Best sample Red Bald Wheat, 2 Bushels, 67 lbs. 12 oz. John Wyse,	0 12 6
Second do., 61 lbs. 8 oz., Donald McKay,	0 10 0
Best sample White Oats, 46 lbs. 8 oz., John Wyse,	0 7 6
Second best do., 46 lbs., David Steel,	0 5 0
Best sample White Field Pease, 69 lbs., George Johnston,	0 10 0
Best sample Green Pease, 66 lbs. John Wyse,	0 10 0
Best sample Timothy Seed, David Steel,	0 15 0
second best do, George Johnston,	0 12 6
Best Red Carrot seed, not less than 2 lbs, M. Searle,	0 5 0
Best Yellow Turnip seed, 4 lbs. do,	0 5 0
Best Sugar Loaf, do,	0 3 0
Best Parsley, do,	0 2 6

For a sample of Canary Seed, in and out of the ear, a special premium of 10s. was recommended by the Committee and awarded by the Board, to Mr W. L. Scott, of Douglastown, the same having been grown by him last season.

#### CONCLUDING REMARKS.

From the Review thus taken, it will be evident, that so far as the Directors of your Society are concerned, no pains have been spared to render its actions as efficacious as possible. It is a lamentable fact however, that these exertions on the part of the retiring Board, have not been seconded by Farmers as they should have been.

The following summary of your Society's operations as already related, will suffice to show that its ordinary business, and new schemes have been vigorously prosecuted, though in some instances unsuccessfully consummated.

The experiment made by your Society with the view of ascertaining correctly, whether young Apple Trees may be safely removed from remote soils, and planted in this, has proved, that this may be done with perfect ease, and safety, and the question, as to whether our soil and climate are favourable to the growth and fruitfulness of such Trees, has now been set at rest.

A Horse, not surpassed in point of cast, symmetry, and weight, by any animal of his kind in the Province, had been imported from England. By this enterprise which originated with your Society, it is but reasonable to hope, that the size of our Northumberland Horses, will be greatly enlarged, and their physical powers much improved.

A REAPING MACHINE, calculated to save a vast amount of labour—or in other words, a vast amount of money—has been imported from the United States, where, at an Agricultural Show held at Rochester, its powers and other properties were tested, and found to be excellent.

THRASHING MACHINES of a new and superior construction have been secured by the bounty of your Society, and these may be obtained of their Inventor and Maker, Mr James Murray, Newcastle, at the low price of Fifteen Pounds each.

Every effort which assiduity could prompt, and prudence justify, was applied by the Board to render the October and January Exhibitions something like creditable to the County and our Farmers as a body. But it is with feelings of unfeigned regret they are compelled to admit, that instead of being creditable, these Exhibitions only go to prove, that if our Farmers as a body (there are many exceptions) be not absolutely dead to their best interests, they are alarmingly drowsy and indifferent, and unless speedily awakened to a sense of duty, they must inevitably drop behind the Agricultural advancement of the day, and like too many of their antiquated brethren in Britain and other lands, be driven by poverty from their Farms, like so many drones from a Beehive.

Notwithstanding the praiseworthy exertions of a few faithful friends, it cannot be concealed, that the Northumberland Agricultural Society is at this moment in a prostrate condition, and unless energetic measures be forthwith adopted, by which fresh life shall be imparted to it, it must soon die a natural or rather an unnatural death, being the martyr of those whose name it bears.

This community generally, may feel it their duty, if not their interest, to second measures intended for the advancement of Agriculture, but surely it is to farmers, and farmers only, that Agricultural Societies must ever look for their chiefest support and choicest friends.

The question then is simply this. Do the Farmers of this County believe that the Northumberland Agricultural Society is calculated to promote their interests? If so, instead of grumbling at every imaginary grievance, let them give tangible proof of the reality of this belief, by instantly subscribing to the Society's funds, and furthering its views hereafter by every lawful mean in their power.

If they do not believe this, why, let the Northumberland Agricultural Society go down at once. Better this than allow it to linger on at the expense of a few friends, without any prospect of its accomplishing any good.

It is said there are some who think, and think perhaps conscientiously, that among its Office-bearers, there are too many who are not Farmers by profession, and there are others who view this as the cause of its prostration. Then why do not such persons candidly avow their opinions, and manfully endeavour to remove the supposed grievance of which they complain? Among such objectionable individuals it may be safely presumed, there are few who are really very ambitious of holding office, and fewer still who would not prefer to see their places occupied by better qualified persons.

Others again imagine, that it is not so much the want of will as the want of time, that has prevented so large a portion of our Farmers from attending the Agricultural Meetings, Ploughing Matches, Cattle Shows, and General Exhibitions of this Society, and caused them otherwise to neglect its interests. Then, who it may be asked, can be supposed to have time to spare for such purposes if Farmers have not? What class of men have their time so fully at their own disposal as they? No ambitious schemes which may dazzle to-day and die to-morrow, disturb or disorder "the even tenor of their way." The most hurried Farmer in Northumberland, might easily by a little prearrangement, manage to devote a whole day now and again to public duties, and who on earth could have less to hinder him from attending a Farmers Club, a Mechanics Institute, or any such Society, during our long Winter evenings than the Farmer of steady and correct habits. So that, view it as they may, the present prostrate condition of the Northumberland Agricultural Society is solely attributable to the conduct of the bulk of the Farmers of this County, and if something be not done by