

THE GLEANER:

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Old Series.]

NEC ARANEARUM SANE TEXTUS IDEO MELIOR, QUIA EX SE FILA GIGNUNT, NEC NOSTER VILIOR QUIA EX ALIENIS LIBAMUS UT APES.

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NEW SERIES.

SATURDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 17, 1855.

VOL. XIV.

COUNTY NORTHUMBERLAND.

REPORT OF THE NORTHUMBERLAND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY FOR 1854-5.

EXHIBITION OF GRAINS, DAIRY PRODUCE, &c.

The Annual Exhibition of Grains, &c., took place at New castle, on Tuesday, the 9th January instant.

A strong reaction having taken place in favor of selling the Prize Grains, the Board deemed it best, to revert to the system of selling these Grains at Public Auction, immediately after the award of the Judges had been announced.

There can be no doubt but that the more these heavy Grains are scattered over the County, the more prolific will the soil become and the heavier, and more valuable, will the returns prove!

Were every winner of a prize to carry home with his prize money, the Grain that won it, no one would be benefitted by the Exhibition, except the successful competitors; but by the method now adopted, the purchasers of the prize Grains of this year will most likely become the winners of prizes the next; and in this way, the Farmers of the County will be more generally benefitted by the Exhibition; and a fairer and wider field will be open for competition.

The Judges of Dairy Produce and Domestic Manufactures were Messrs. Daniel McGruar, Richard Davidson, and William Park. The Judges of Grains, Messrs. Bartholomew Stapledon, Richard Sutton, and James Tweedy.

PRODUCE OF THE DAIRY.

Best Sample of Butter, (30 lbs.)	George Johnston,	£0 15 0
Second do., do.,	Donald McKay,	0 10 0
Third do., do.,	William Morrison,	0 7 6
Best Cheese, (20 lbs.)	George Johnston,	0 12 6
		£2 5 0

DOMESTIC MANUFACTURES.

Best Homespun Cloth all wool, 10 yards,	William Morrison,	0 15 0
Second do., do.,	Donald McKay,	0 10 0
Best Homespun Cloth, cotton and wool,	do.,	0 15 0
Second do., do.,	James Tweedy,	0 10 0
Best piece Flannel, all wool,	James Brown,	0 15 0
Best piece do., cotton and wool,	Andrew Crocker,	0 10 0
Second do., do.,	George Johnston,	0 5 0
Best Wove Counterpane, Andrew Crocker,		0 10 0
Best sample Woollen Socks, (6 pairs,) Donald McKay,		0 7 6
Second do., William Simpson,		0 5 0
Best sample Mitts, do., Donald McKay,		0 7 6
Second do., do., William Morrison,		0 5 0
		5 15 0

GRAINS, &c., (including price also.)

Best White Wheat, 2 bushels, 64 lbs. 2 ozs., Richard Coultard,	£1 10 0
Second do., do., 64 lbs. Michael Searle,	1 5 0
Best Red Wheat, do., 64 lbs. 4 ozs., Donald McKay,	1 10 0
Second do., do., 61 lbs., A. Crocker,	1 5 0
Best sample Black Oats, do., 41 lbs. 4 ozs., W. Simpson, Burnt Church,	0 12 6
Second do., do., 37 lbs 12 ozs., Michael Searle,	0 10 0
Best White Oats, do., 43 lbs. 10 ozs., David Steel,	0 12 6
Best sample Barley, do., 52 lbs., Richard Coultard,	0 15 0
Second best, do., do., 49 lbs. 10 ozs., John Porter,	0 13 0
Best sample Green Peas, 46 lbs., Daniel Baldwin,	1 10 0
Best sample Timothy Seed, 1 bushel, James Grey,	1 10 0
Best Red Beet Seed, 2 lbs., W. L. Scott,	0 10 0
Best sample Swedish do., do., Michael Searle,	0 10 0
Best Drumhead Cabbage, 1 lb., W. L. Scott,	0 6 0
	£12 19 0

SPECIAL GRANTS.

To W. L. Scott, on recommendation of Seed Committee, a Prize for Curley Kale Seed exhibited with a plant as it grew last season 5s.

To Wm. Morrison on recommendation of the Domestic Manufacture Committee, a Prize for a piece of chocolate coloured Drugget 7s 6d.

To Wm. Simpson, Burnt Church, on recommendation of the same Committee, a Prize for a Shawl exhibited 5s.

Donations were received and duly acknowledged from John MacDougall, Esq., 0 12 6; Donald McKay, Esq., 0 5 0; Richard Coultard, 0 5 0; William Morrison, Burnt Church, 0 5 0.

Tuesday, the 9th instant, the day of the Annual Exhibition was delightful, and the travelling, by land and water, most excellent, yet the display of Domestic Manufactures, Grains, and Dairy Produce—particularly the latter—was anything but creditable to so fine a county as Northumberland!

For Dairy Produce, there were five prizes offered for competition, only four of which found competitors! The number of Cheeses exhibited were only three altogether! These however, would have been no disgrace to any English, Gloucester, or Cheeshire like occasion; yet as they all belonged to one person, (Mr. George Johnston, Napan,) he was only entitled by the Rules of the Society to the first prize, the second prize for Cheese, had therefore no one to claim it!

For Domestic Manufactures, £7 10s. were offered in prizes but £5 15s. only were claimed by the competitors. The second best piece of Flannel, (all wool); the best piece of Tartan; the Straw Bonnet and Straw Hat, were not competed for. And of £32 14s 6d voted for Grains and Garden Seeds, only £12 19s. 6d. were claimed.

Or in other words, the sum appropriated by the Society for the purpose of encouraging the Manufacture of Domestic Cloths, &c., improving the quality of our Grains, Garden Seeds and Dairy Produce, was £42 17s. but of this sum the Farmers of New Brunswick allowed your Treasurer to carry back no less than £21 17s. 6d! Why? Because the amount it would seem, was not deemed commensurate to the trouble of carrying to the Exhibition such articles, as Pease (of which there were only one sample, to compete for three prizes,) Buck Wheat, Timothy Seed and Garden Seed!

Of White and Red Wheat there were seven samples exhibited, and of Barley only two; of Black Oats four samples. White Oats two; of White and Green Peas, one only of the latter; Timothy Seed, one sample; Clover Seed, none; Yellow Turnip and Carrott Seed, none; Beet and Swedish Turnip Seed, one sample each.

Of Butter there were seven samples; of Cheese three, (same person); of Homespun; Four parcels of Socks; three parcels Mitts; and Twenty-three Pieces Cloth; Blanketing and Counterpanes.

Truly unless some new and more successful schemes can be devised to render your Society more useful by inducing Farmers to join it more generally, it might as well cease to exist, for Ploughing Matches, Cattle Shows, and Exhibitions of Grains, Dairy Produce, and Domestic Manufactures, instead of having had a stimulating, seems rather to have had a sickning influence.

At their Meeting of the 15th July last, the Directors appointed a Committee to take charge of and test the quality of the Reaping Machine imported from Boston the year previously. The Report of this Committee is highly gratifying; they found that the Machine will easily cut a field if any thing like level, without leaving scarce a straw for the gleaner, and it lays the Grain down in rows for binding with far greater precision than Reapers could do. It is just the kind of article required by our Farmers, and there can be little doubt that it will prove a great acquisition to the Settlement to which it may belong when sold.

It remains in the possession of Mr Alexander Jessimen, Douglstown, and may be examined at any time on application to that gentleman.

The Board recommend that it be sold at an early date.

The Treasurer's Account, an abstract of which is hereto annexed, has been duly audited this day, and found correct and satisfactory. It shows a balance in the hands of the Treasurer of £39 14 1.

PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, HABITS, &c., OF FARMERS.

No doubt various causes have conspired, to render the present circumstances of our Farmers less auspicious than they would otherwise have been! A succession of bad crops, the exorbitant price paid for labour and a host of evils, arising out of these casualties, have all tended to this result, yet it is a notorious fact, that while these things have been telling seriously on the success of some Farmers, there are others who have been but little affected by them!

Bad crops and high wages, are casualties to which every Farmer should look forward, and against which he should eagerly provide! During years of abundance, he should be able to husband enough to supply the scarcity occasioned by a deficient crop, and lay by enough to meet the extra outlay, occasionally required for high wages!

If we ask the most prosperous portion of our Farmers, what they think would be best calculated to promote their interests, they will tell us, they ask nothing but a fair field for competition and good markets.

If we ask the unsuccessful part, the same question they will answer, we want money or means wherewith to farm, and they will assert, that the want of this has all along kept them back, and that they must remain in this prostrate condition, till money be brought within their reach.

It has been asserted, that not an instance can be adduced in this County of an industrious, prudent man, however poor at first, having prosecuted the business of Farming, and that only—during the last 25 or 30 years—without having succeeded well.

It has also been asserted, that very few—if any—instances can be pointed out of Farmers (so designated) having prospered, who have coupled Lumbering, Fishing or Vessel Loading with their Farming operations.

The Board conceive that—if from among a thousand men—who had commenced Farming at the same time, and had presented it under similar circumstances, they could instance but Ten who had prospered, while the rest had not, they might fairly argue, that were it not for some cause either physical, moral or intellectual, every man of the nine hundred and ninety, might have succeeded just as well as every man of the Ten.

To what cause then is the wonderful difference in the present circumstances of the different Farmers of this County to be traced?

Query.—May not restlessness, discontent or a dislike of Farming as an occupation, have had as much to do with this matter as bad crops, high wages, or the want of ready money. Allured by the wilder and more exciting habits of the Lumberman, and the prospective large balance to be pocketed "when the Timber comes to market," have not many of our Farmers and their sons, forsaken the interests of the Farm, to attend to the business of the Forest? Has not this fact retarded the prosperity of many of the Farmers of this county, and passed many a farm—on which much labor had been expended—from the possession of the Farmer himself to the credit side of his account in his Merchant's Ledger.

Every body knows that between the habits and customs of

the real Farmer and Fisherman there exists the most inveterate antagonism. It cannot have escaped your observation, that along the shores of these Provinces, and indeed along the shores of thinly peopled countries generally, the worst cultivated Farms are to be seen. The reason is obvious, the Farmers along shore too frequently divide their time and labour between their Farming and Fishing operations, and unfortunately the claims of both are urgent alike at the same period of the year. The consequence is, being neither Farmers nor Fishermen—yet professing to be both the duties of neither occupation are half performed, and half performed duties can hardly be expected to prove remunerative. On the contrary they are more likely to prove ruinous. Query then—Has not the ridiculous notion of coupling Farming and Fishing together which has so long been practiced along shore, and in a lesser degree on the banks of this River, had something to do in retarding the success of some of our Farmers and rendering their present circumstances very different from what they would otherwise have been?

In most cases, the old adage "Money makes the mare to go" may be true enough, but in the case of the Farmers of this County, its applicability is very questionable. That money placed within the reach of the cautious, economical and industrious, yet needy Farmer, would be beneficial in enabling him to carry out more extensively, perhaps more profitably, his farming operations, may be very true, but that Capital, placed at the disposal of the thoughtless and indolent Farmer, would be advantageous to him, is equally untrue. What capital had our now most independent Farmers when they commenced to clear and cultivate their farms? Most of them commenced with scarce a pound in their purse, but they had stout hearts and strong arms, and with these, and the constant exercise of economy, prudence and industry, they have achieved wonders.

It is often argued that Scotland is more indebted for its present advanced state of Agriculture, to the peculiar system of Banking established in that country during the last century, than to any other cause. The north of Scotland at that time in a comparatively neglected Agricultural condition, has since risen in point of Agricultural importance, to a position little inferior to that of any country on earth. Now it is not denied that this rapid improvement is mainly attributed to the judicious pecuniary aid afforded by these Banks, to the cautious and frugal yeomanry of that country! But then the question is were we who had but lately laid aside the axe and boathook, for the spade and plough, in circumstances similar to those of Scotland, fifty or eighty years ago. If our habits of economy, industry and frugality were equally high toned and genuine, then it may be presumed we were equally well qualified to be entrusted with capital, to aid our Agricultural enterprise. If not—as well might we expect that an asylum of maniacs, would be benefitted by placing within their reach, an ample supply of razors, as that a district of extravagant, indolent and imprudent men, assuming the title of farmer, would be benefitted by placing capital at their command.

From these remarks it must be obvious, that although bad crops, high wages, and want of capital may have conspired to render the present circumstances of the farmers of this County less prosperous than they would otherwise have been, yet the chief cause of the disparity between what has been termed the successful, and unsuccessful portions of these men, is unquestionable to be found in the greater industry, stability and perseverance of the former, and the providence, instability, and extravagance of the latter. Both parties have had to contend with hardships, but the one has nobly triumphed over these, while the other has succumbed to them.

STATISTICS REQUIRED BY LAW.

While preparing the required statistics, the Board have done all they could to arrive at something like precision, or the truth, but after all, they are constrained to admit, that many of the answers given to the questions asked, are but mere guesses, and they suspect that until some method be adopted, by which every County Society will be required to collect such statistics annually, but very little information of a correct or reliable kind, will be obtained from such returns as that which is now to be submitted for your adoption.

JAMES CAIE, Secretary.

OFFICE BEARERS FOR 1855-6.

John M. Johnson, Esq., President.
John Porter, Daniel Weatherall } Vice-Presidents.
George Kerr, Esq., Treasurer.
James Caie, Esq., Secretary.
Directors.—Michael Searle, D. McKay, James Johnston, (Napan.) Alexander Jessimine, Thomas Vanstone, P. Mitchell, Bartholomew Stapledon, William Russell, Richard Coultard, Richard Sutton, John Wyse, Findlay McDermid and W. J. Fraser.

News of the Week.

EUROPE.

CHINA.—We have received advices by this conveyance, from China, to the 27th Nov., which confirms the intelligence brought by the Trieste telegraph.

We learn that Sir J. Bowring has had an interview with the Imperial Commissioners, on the 3rd November, when Sir John was attended by a guard of 160 marines and sailors, and was received by the imperial officers, in tents near