

COUNTY GLOUCESTER AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The Society's Exhibition of Grain, Seeds, Roots, Dairy Produce and Domestic Manufactures took place at the Court House, Bathurst, on Tuesday, the 11th January. It was by far the most successful one which has occurred since the establishment of the Institution ten years ago.

Eighteen samples of Wheat were exhibited, averaging 65½ lbs per bushel and twelve samples of Barley which averaged 54 lbs. There were also exhibited 14 samples of Oats, 11 samples of Peas, 10 of Timothy Seeds, and a fair number of other Seeds and Roots. In addition to these were 55 articles of Domestic Manufacture, and 40 samples of Butter, Cheese, Soap and Candles. The whole number of articles exhibited amounted to 208, being 60 in advance of the previous year.

As heretofore the Inhabitants of all classes turned out and took a warm interest in the proceedings, and the business of the day was closed by the Members and their friends dining together at Mr John T. Carter's in the evening.

The Judges of Grain, Seeds, and Roots, were Messrs. Carman, McNutt, and Eady; of Domestic Manufactures and Dairy Produce—Messrs. O'Brian, McManus, and McKenzie, who awarded Prizes to the following Members:—

For the

- Best Wheat 67 1-2 lbs., Richard Miller.
 Second best do, 66 1-2 lbs., John Waterson.
 Third best do, 66 1-2 lbs., John Armstrong.
 Fourth best do, 65 1-2 lbs., William Fleck.
 Fifth best do, 65 1-2 lbs., James Hendry.
 Best Barley 58 lbs., Anthony Rainny,
 Second best do, 54 1-2 lbs., James Chalmers.
 Third best do, 54 lbs., Robert Brown.
 Best Black Oats 40 lbs., Mrs James.
 Second best do, 41 lbs., Wm. Waterson.
 Third best do, 42 1-2 lbs., David Lindsay.
 Best White Oats 46 lbs., Wm. Waterson.
 Second best do, 45 1-2 lbs., James Galbraith.
 Third best do, 45 lbs., John Armstrong.
 Best Peas 69 1-2 lbs., Thomas Armstrong.
 Second best, 70 lbs., William Eady.
 Best White beans, 71 lbs. John Armstrong.
 Second best 72 1-2 lbs., John Flanery.
 Best Timothy 45 1-2 lbs., John Flanery.
 Second best 46 lbs., James Hendry.
 Best Buckwheat 55 lbs., Wm. Waterson.
 Second best, 54 1-2 lbs., Wm. Paynes.
 Best Indian Corn 64 1-2 lbs., Augustus Sutherland.
 Second best, 62 lbs., William Molloy.
 Best Flax Seed 56 lbs., Ami Milancon.
 Second best 53 1-2 lbs., Robert Ferguson.
 Best Swedish Turnip Seed, William Molloy.
 Second best, James Hendry.
 Best Yellow Turnip Seed, James Hendry.
 Second best John Flanery.
 Best Carrot Seed, John Flanery.
 Second best, Robert Moody.
 Best Swedish Turnip, John Flanery.
 Second best, James Hendry.
 Best Yellow Turnip, Mrs James.
 Second best, Robert Ferguson.
 Best Carrots, John Flanery.
 Second best, John Ferguson.
 Best Beet Root, John Flanery.
 Second best, John Ferguson.
 Best Mangle Wortzel, John Ferguson.
 Second best, John Flanery.
 Best Horse Beans, James Hendry.
 Best Altrincham do, Robert Ferguson.
 Best Cranberry Beans, William Molloy.
 Best Cheese, James Galbraith.
 Second best, John Chalmers.
 Third best, William Fleck.
 Fourth best, Robert Ferguson.
 Best Butter, William Fleck.
 Second best, Robert Ferguson.
 Best Soap, John Flanery.
 Second best, William Molloy.
 Best Candles, Robert Armstrong.
 Second best, John Flanery.
 Best piece Coloured Cloth all Wool, Alex. Nielson.
 Second best, William Molloy.
 Best Coloured Cloth Cotton and Wool, Robert Barbour.
 Second best, Richard Miller.
 Best do Woman's Wear, William Molloy.
 Second best, John Chalmers.
 Best piece Flannel, John Chalmers.
 Second best, Robert Ferguson.
 Best piece Plaiding, John Boyle.
 Second best, John Flanery.
 Best pair Blankets, David Lindsay.
 Second best, Wm. Eady.
 Best Plaid or Scarf, Wm. Molloy.
 Best Counterpane, Ami Milancon.
 Second best, Anthony Rainny.
 Best Double Mitts, Ami Milancon.
 Second best, Wm. Molloy.
 Best Mens' Socks, Wm. Waterson.
 Second best, John Armstrong.
 Best Womens' Stockings, John Flanery.
 Second best, John Armstrong.
 Best Woman's Shawl, John Armstrong.
 Best Hearth Rug, Anthony Rainny.
 Second best, Augustus Sutherland.
 Toilet Cloth, Augustus Sutherland.
 Sheets and Caps, Ami Milancon.
 Long wrought Socks, Ami Milancon.
 Hops extra, Wm. Eady.

After the List of Prizes was read over, the Annual Meeting took place, S. L. Bishop, Esq., the President, in the Chair. The Secretary then read the following

REPORT.

Before giving an account of the transactions of the past year, your Committee desire with feelings of gratitude to acknowledge the goodness and mercy of the beautiful giver of all good, for that measure of success which has accompanied their labours, and for the general prosperity of that portion of the community more immediately connected with this Society. For in taking a retrospective survey of any institution however limited the period and

the extent of its operations, the thoughtful heart cannot fail to mark how much of its success depends on the aid of an over ruling Providence, and how little, how very little on its own efforts. In presuming on such aid, however, it is very necessary that the Society's operations should be conducted with uprightness and in a spirit of justice both towards a Liberal Legislature whose funds it expends, and towards the individual members of the Society and other inhabitants of the County, for whose benefit its labours are intended. The approved Rules of the Society should in all cases, when possible, be adhered to; its operations managed with economy—the advantages of partaking of its privileges extended to all who will join it—and its object be the general good of the community rather than individual benefit.

In the management of this Institution your Committee profess to have been guided by such motives—and on that account, especially, we look to the Members and others for this approval of the statement now to be submitted.

The business of the past year has been larger than usual. The additional correspondence, accounts, and cash disbursements, consequent upon the importation of Stock and other purchases have been far from inconsiderable, and we sincerely hope that the result of all will prove beneficial to the County at large.

The winter Exhibition, held on the 8th January last, terminated the business of the previous year, and began that of the year now closing. A statement of the Show and the Prize List was published with the last year's Report—and we have only to repeat that the Show was an excellent one. The samples of Grain were numerous and fine in quality, the field roots large and sound, the dairy produce good in colour and taste, and the Domestic Manufactures of all sorts attracted much commendation from a large and respectable number of visitors who took a lively interest in its proceedings. The Prizes awarded amounted to £22 11s. 6d., which sum forms the first item in this year's account.

The Provincial Grant for 1855 amounting to £63, was received shortly afterwards; and at a full Meeting of the Committee, held on the 12th February, it was decided "that in accordance with the Resolution of the Legislature of date April 1854, there be imported from Prince Edward's Island or Canada, a selection of Stock, consisting of Horn Cattle, Sheep and Hogs—and that the Secretary write and obtain information from parties in these Provinces, to be submitted to a future Meeting." The Secretary was also instructed to order from any respectable Nursery in Canada, 300 fruit trees of various sorts; and from the United States a selection of improved Agricultural Implements. The whole to be disposed of immediately after their arrival, at cost and charges, to Members, otherwise to be sold by Public Auction.

At a subsequent Meeting, held on 13th May, communications from Mr Irving, of Bonshaw, Prince Edward's Island, Secretary to the P. E. I. Royal Agricultural Society, from Mr Dodds Petit Cote, Montreal, and other parties, were submitted, and taken into consideration, when it was decided that the Stock should be imported from Prince Edward's Island; that Mr John T. Carter be appointed to proceed to that Province, and that Messrs. Bishop, Miller, and the Secretary, be a sub-committee, to make arrangements about the purchase, importation, and sale of the animals.

At a Meeting of the Board, on the 5th August, the Secretary reported the arrival of the Fruit Trees and their Sale, agreeably to Resolution of Committee. The sum realized and passed to account was £22 16s. Reported also the sale of all the Agricultural Implements, part by private sale, and the remainder by Public Auction, the net amount realized for the whole was £17.

The sub-committee on imported Stock reported that they had made arrangements with Mr Carter, who had gone to P. E. Island, and selected from various Stocks, 5 Cows and a Bull, 5 Sheep and 4 Pigs, the total cost of which, with all charges, amounted to £125—-that immediately on Mr Carter's arrival with the Stock the whole had been sold by Public Auction on favourable terms, bonds being taken from the parties purchasing to secure compliances with the requirements of the Law and the Rules of the Society. The net amount of Sales being £69 4s. 5d. as per statement, (See Appendix.) The Secretary reported that a copy of statement of cost of Cattle was forwarded to the Provincial Government with an application for a warrant for the one half, which was promptly attended to, and the amount of £62 10s. received. The grass seed was also disposed of and realized £18 0s. 10d. net, vide ap.

The results of the improved breeds of farm stock introduced into the county by the Society cannot as yet be fully estimated. The Cows received the past season look well and promise to make a change for the better in time. The Ayrshires milk beautifully, but the milk is not nearly so rich as that from the Alderneys, who certainly make the best butter cows. Any permanent improvement however, to be derived from either, and indeed from every kind of stock must necessarily depend on the attention bestowed on them by the parties to whom they were sold. The Committee have taken every precaution in their power to prevent any infringement of the Rules of the Society and the intentions of the Legislature. It will be the duty of our successors to take care that these requirements are observed. The Sheep imported from Prince Edward's Island do not look better than the breed we already possess—the change of blood however will prevent deterioration, and may improve both. The long wool or Leicester Sheep are preferred at the Shows. Although neither so hardy nor so fine in the flesh and wool as the Cheviots, they are more profitable, coming, as they do, much sooner to maturity, and yielding a larger fleece. Although there is great improvement in the Sheep around our neighbourhood, additional importations are still required.

The returns of the state of the crops from the different districts vary considerably. In some localities there appears little reason for complaint, in others nothing approaching a general average is obtained, and in some places a failure is reported. And this difference is observed not only between one district and another, but also between farms in close proximity. The collected information given here will therefore appear to some persons as being too favourable, to others again as rather discouraging.

Notwithstanding many instances of almost total failure in consequence of the Fly and the Rust, and of deficiency in some of the best producing districts—the WHEAT crop will be an average one. The quantity sown last season exceeded that of former years; in not a few cases very heavy crops were obtained, and thus amidst occasional disappointments the returns average nine bushels to one, or 18 bushels an acre. Various remedies have been suggested and tried, to eradicate the evil, to which this grain has been long subjected, such as sowing late, deep ploughing, cleaning the Seed well, &c.; all however agree that no permanent cure has been found so good as starving the insect out, by abandoning the cultivation of wheat for a few years. This can be easily done in this County where the districts are so isolated. Barley of course should be the substitute.

OATS this season for the first time to any extent suffered from the effects of the Fly and the Rust. Numerous fine crops however have been gathered in; what has been already brought to the market is well filled in the grain and weighs well, and the average returns received give a yield of 34 bushels per acre. The oats imported from Scotland nearly two years ago did not prove very suitable to the climate. We observe that the P. E. Island Agricultural Society imported from England a quantity of TARTARIAN Oats, which turned out well. In one trial 54 bushels sown on two acres of land produced 90 bushels, and in another a similar quantity sown on one acre, yielding 48 bushels. We notice in the very interesting report of the Society just referred to, that it adopts a different, and we think a better mode of disposing of the Seeds imported than is the practice with us, viz.—dividing it into equal portions, and giving them to different parties, on the understanding that the Society receive back the original quantity and take the remainder of the produce at a given rate per bushel, which is then held for sale to members.

There are few complaints of the BARLEY crop, none where it had been sown seasonably—say early in June, and on old and well tilled land. We still maintain the opinion formerly expressed, that if there is a cereal that can be successfully grown here, with a view of exportation, it is Barley—and the Committee are glad to learn that preparations are being made to export some lots on trial next year. The returns received show a produce of eleven bushels to one, equal to 33 bushels per acre.

The Grass on pasture lands and for cutting was good; but the season proved very unfavourable for HAY-making, consequently, much of it was housed in poor condition; the crop, on the whole, is considered an average one.

The POTATOES are more irregular and more defective the past season than any other crop, in consequence of the early blight. This disease has acted in a way the most erratic. One field yielding a fair crop of good potatoes, is almost abutted by another not worth digging. The crop is therefore greatly under an average one, and were it not for the quantity grown on burnt land, which is good, might be pronounced a decided failure. A change of seed is greatly to be desired. The black cup long a universal favourite here is altered in its appearance, and has become less productive than it formerly was, and for the first time, the effects of the blight is more severe on it than on any other kind. (See appendix). The early blue, once most successfully cultivated here, has degenerated both in size and quality. A limited importation from the Southern part of the Province, or from Europe is suggested.

The TURNIP still continues to be extensively cultivated. In consequence of the crop of potatoes turning out unusually heavy in 1855, a great breadth of land was planted with that useful root, the past season, which considerably limited the culture of the turnip; the failure of this year's crop of potatoes, however, will tend to increase the sowing of turnip next year to a larger extent than ever.—And therefore it would be well that every means be taken to promote its successful cultivation.

A stimulant is greatly wanted to force on the early plant so as to enable it to cope with the fly and the effects of the burning sun. No better manure for this purpose has been found than Guano. It has been tested in this as well as in other places, and it is in your Committee's power to furnish the result of experiments made by Mr Thomas Mathison, on both turnip and potatoes on a farm belonging to Mr Ferguson, near Bathurst. Mr Mathison describes the land as being high, and the soil dry. Two successive crops of Oats had been taken off, and the ground broken up in the fall. In the spring following it was twice ploughed and the drills laid off 22 inches wide with a single moulded plough and thus prepared as if to receive stable manure, one side of the ridges of nine drills were turned into the furrows, and a bushel of Guano sowed thereon with the hand. The other side of the ridges were then turned in, the roller used, and the seed (purple top swedes) sown with the common drill barrow. Twelve loads of stable manure were then deposited into nine drills close along side, covered in and the seed sown in the usual manner. The result was that the 9 drills manured with Guano produced 108 bushels, and the 9 drills with stable manure yielded 45 bushels. On the same field, on the 4th of June a like number of drills were laid off and planted with potatoes. The nine drills that were manured with Guano produced exactly double the quantity of the nine drills manured from the stable.

This extraordinary difference in the yield, however must not be expected in all cases, even where the treatment is the same. When the land is low and moist, and the season moderate, more will be obtained from the hot stable manure, but even were the produce nearly equal, the Guano would be the most profitable, as the 12 loads of stable manure would exceed in price the bushel of Guano which only cost 12 shillings. Besides the expense of the cartage—no small item—would fall to be added to the former.

The following extract, relative to the quantity used, and the mode of application taken from the P. E. Island reports may be useful:—

"I had a piece of potatoes, after oats, in front of my home, containing an acre and one-eighth manured with fifty-one horse cart loads of mixed manure from the farm-yard, which produced a very good crop. The land was ploughed and sown during the first week of May the fol-