

## AGRICULTURAL REPORT.

[CONCLUDED.]

Every true friend to the prosperity of the Province, must, for years past, have beheld with regret, the constant and ruinous export of specie from this country to the United States, to pay for supplies of bread, which article might have been produced within the Province, had the energies of its inhabitants been directed to Agriculture. If it be true, that the active and long continued exertions of a very considerable proportion of the people of this Province in lumbering and shipbuilding, have left but little or no profit to those concerned in these branches of trade, or to any other class of our population, we are inevitably driven to the humiliating conclusion, that we have in reality, been working not for our own advantage, but for that of the Agriculturists of other countries; and that our industry has operated as an incitement to the increased and better cultivation of their Lands, whilst our own have been suffered to lie in a state of comparative neglect. The branches of business above alluded to, have ceased to yield any profit; and even if they should become as productive as they ever were, in the best of times, it would be very questionable whether any solid benefit would accrue to the Province, unless the principal part of the food which the persons engaged in these avocations require, were the produce of our own soil. Lumbering and ship-building are, both, manufactures; and these can seldom be carried on to the real, permanent advantage of any country, the Agriculture of which has not arrived at such a state of advancement as to yield subsistence for its entire population.

The Annual Report of the Saint John County Society, dated in October last, gives a gratifying account of the labours of that Institution. The several new Districts located under its superintendance appear to be in a thriving condition, the people happy and contented, and the quantity of Stock and of cleared land in these districts, are, in the aggregate, greater than could have been expected, considering the many difficulties and privations which new settlers in a country like this, must unavoidably meet and suffer, for some years after entering upon their wilderness allotments. The whole of the Report having been published in the Provincial papers, it is unnecessary to enter into the details here with which that document has already furnished the public.

The Report of the Northumberland Society affords convincing evidence, that the difficulties with which its Members and the County generally, have had to struggle, since the desolating fire of 1825, have not abated their zeal, or paralyzed their exertions in support of the good cause in which they have engaged. The Report, dated 8th January, states, that "the Society, until the last year, having turned its attention mainly to the improvement of wilderness lands, the cultivation of field-crops, and the importation into the county of implements of husbandry, and seeds of various descriptions," thought it right to appropriate part of its last year's funds to the improvement of the Stock of the county, particularly of Neat Cattle; and accordingly at the Meeting held in the early part of last year, ordered from Scotland, a Bull and four Cows of the Ayrshire breed: these valuable animals, as has been mentioned in another part of this Report, arrived at Miramichi, last Spring, and were sold in the county.

The Northumberland Society not, however, losing sight of other objects of importance, ordered at the same meeting, "that 41l. of its funds should be laid out in the importation of a general assortment of the most useful kinds of field and kitchen Garden Seeds. Although these did not arrive so soon as had been expected, they were still in time to be of great service to the Agricultural part of the community; and a good assortment of them remain on hand in readiness for the approaching Spring."

Certain regulated premiums were awarded at the Northumberland Cattle Show; and two extra premiums have been paid out of the funds of that Society; one for the greatest quantity of Flax produced by one Farmer; and the other for the greatest quantity of Oats, (47 bushels, weighing 47lbs. each,) raised on one undivided acre.

In another part of that interesting report, it is stated, that the Oat, Potatoe, and Grass Crop of last season were very luxuriant, and that "Flax, Indian Corn, Buckwheat, and Barley, which a few years since were almost unknown in that part of

"the Province, are now cultivated in many parts of the County, and are found to answer well." The Northumberland Society expended last season, 313l. 19s. 5 1-2d., and notwithstanding the serious loss it sustained by the great fire in 1825, and the large importations of Seeds, Implements, and Stock, which has since made, and the amount of Premiums it has paid, is, however, clear of debt.

The Report of Charlotte County Society, dated on the 8th of January, is highly gratifying, inasmuch as it proves that "a gradual improvement in the mode of cultivating the soil, is apparent; and the importance, and necessity of making it the principal dependence on which to rely for subsistence, appears to be better understood, and more generally admitted." The Report further states, "that the President and Directors have appointed a Committee to provide such quantities of Seeds for the use of the County, the ensuing Season, as may be deemed necessary, and they are happy to say, that so excellent are the Oats raised in the County, from the Seed imported by the Society, that it is not considered necessary to have recourse to other Countries for a further supply at present."

The Report speaks favorably of the appearance of the Bull and Ram purchased at the Central Society's Sale, and sent to Charlotte County, but suggests, that "as there is already an excellent breed of Horned Cattle in the County, it may become a question whether the funds of the Society (Charlotte County) may not be better appropriated to the purchase of implements of husbandry, and for other purposes tending more immediately to an improved system of cultivating the soil." And the President and Directors in conclusion, most strenuously recommend a steady perseverance in the good cause in which the Society has embarked; and trust that renewed efforts, and continued perseverance, will overcome the obstacles still impeding its legitimate course to extended and practical improvement; and ultimately attain the grand object of its formation—the prosperity of the Country in which we live."

A Society has recently been formed at the Grand Lake, under the denomination of the "Grand Lake Agricultural Society." It consists of 41 Members, who have raised, by subscription among themselves, the sum of 20l. 10s. Its first Meeting was held on the 14th January last; and from the spirit with which its Members appear to be actuated, and the very judicious measures they have already adopted, there is great reason to believe, that this Institution will be eminently instrumental in promoting the best interests of that part of the Province.

A highly gratifying Report, dated 8th February, has been received from the Sunbury Society, from which the following are extracts:—"Last Spring we sent for as many Seeds and Implements of Husbandry as our funds would admit of, and we have ordered a fresh supply for the present year, of Wheat, Lucerne, and such Agricultural Implements, as we think will be most useful in the Country." \* \* \* "The Ploughing Match was held here on the 13th October. Six teams were engaged in the animating contest, and a good degree of skill was displayed in the management of the Plough. In the opinion of good Judges, there was a great improvement both in the appearance of the Teams, and skill of the Ploughmen since last year."

The following is an extract from the Report of Messrs. G. Miles, W. Barker, and R. Smith, the Committee appointed to award Premiums for domestic manufactures in the County of Sunbury:—

"They award to Major Harding the sum of 2l. for a very handsome web of Woollen Cloth, 3-4 wide, full and dressed, manufactured in his own family. To Mr. Brown 1l. 10s., for the best plaid homespun, in our opinion inferior to none ever made in the country. To Miss Harding the sum of 1l., for the best sample of men's half hose. To Mrs. Covert 10s., for the second best ditto. To Miss C. Harding 1l., for the best sample of Mitts, in the manufacturing of which, the Judges say, the young lady displayed more of ingenuity and taste, than they thought it possible to exhibit in such articles." \* \* \* "The Judges regret exceedingly, that the Rules of the Society will not allow them to award a premium to Mrs. Simonson, for exhibiting some half hose of a very superior quality." \* \* \* "The Members of the Society were highly gratified at viewing some of the articles exhibited. They thought them both

"elegant and useful, and superior to those manufactured in any other part of the Province."

It is also mentioned that from one acre, Mr. Upton raised 84 1-2 bushels of Indian corn; and that from the same quantity of land, Mr. Miles raised 34 bushels of Wheat; and the Report concludes by stating that the South Down Sheep, could not now be purchased for three times the price for which they were sold in 1826, so superior are they and their Lambs to the native breed.

By a communication recently received, it appears that an Agricultural Society has been formed at Bathurst, in the County of Gloucester. From the public spirit which seems to animate the Officers and Members of this Infant Institution, very beneficial results may be anticipated from its future operations.

A most interesting and valuable report from the Honourable Judge Botsford, President of the Westmoreland Agricultural and Emigrant Society, dated on the 26th January last, of which the following is a copy, has been transmitted to the Secretary of this Society.

"In making the Report of the proceedings of the Westmoreland Auxiliary Agricultural and Emigrant Society for the last year, I derive great gratification in being able to bear testimony in favor of the warm interest, which the Members continue to take in its welfare. Sensible of the benefits which have already been received, they appear to view them only as the earnest of still more important advantages which are to be derived from the Institution. The reduction in the price of grass seeds, in consequence of the importation of large quantities by the Society, has induced many of our farmers to turn their attention to the improvement of marshes and low meadows; and the number of acres which have been turned up with the plough in the course of the last autumn will greatly exceed that of any former year. To instance the degree of spirit, with which this part of the husbandry of the country is carried on, I need only to mention, that the quantity of Grass Seed which the Society, at its meeting in November last, ordered to be imported for the use of the Members the ensuing year, was little short of three thousand pounds weight.—The Society still adheres to the plan at first adopted, by appropriating its funds for the improvement of the breed of cattle, and for the importation of grass seed, as being preferable to the granting of premiums for Cattle Shows.—Judging that until the breed of the imported stock should be more generally distributed throughout the Country, the competition and premiums would be confined to few individuals. This Society having taken two of the spring Pigs which were imported by the Central Society, directed them to be sold at public auction in November last, when the boar brought the sum of six pounds ten shillings, and the sow two pounds ten shillings. The reports made at the last November meeting of our Society, were highly interesting as they regarded the Dishley Sheep, and went to confirm all the previous accounts of that valuable breed.—They were represented as enduring winter without injury;—are more profitable for their wool, and will thrive faster, on the same feeding, than the native breed of the country. To make use of the term of the farmer, it is very easy to put flesh upon them. In size, they are greatly superior to our own Sheep.—One of the Lambs of the half bred, weighed, when six months old, one hundred and twenty pounds.—We have now in this County two imported Bulls of the Devonshire and Durham short horned kinds; the crossing of these with the kine of the County, will, we trust, produce a race of cattle excellent for the Dairy and the Shambles. In our Wheat crop, this County has suffered in common with the rest of the Province; in some of the Parishes, there has been a total failure; in others the return was not more than the third of a crop. The inconvenience, and indeed I may say the distress, which the inhabitants would have felt in being deprived of a crop so essential to their support and comfort, will be greatly, if not wholly relieved by the abundant crops of Oats, Rye, Buckwheat, and Potatoes. Until within a few months since, it would have been a subject for ridicule with the inhabitants of Westmorland, to have mentioned Oats as a substitute for Wheat. But our Farmers, warned by the late seasons which have proved so unfavourable to the growth of Wheat, and taught by this salutary lesson that they are not to de-