

DOMESTIC.

At a General Meeting of the New-Brunswick Agricultural and Emigrant Society, held at the Province-Hall, in Fredericton, on Saturday the 1st day of March, 1828 :

PRESENT,

- His Excellency Sir HOWARD DOUGLAS, Patron of the Society,
 The Hon. Judge BLISS, President,
 " " Judge BOTSFORD, Vice Presidents.
 HARRY PETERS, Esquire,
 The Hon S. P. HURD,
 PETER FRASER,
 WILLIAM CRANE,
 F. P. ROBINSON,
 G. F. STREET, &
 JOHN C. VAIL,
 RICHARD SIMONDS, Esq., Secretary and Treasurer,
 The Hon. Chief-Justice SAUNDERS,
 The Members of the Legislature, and other Members of the Society,

Read the following Report :

Third Annual Report of the New-Brunswick Agricultural and Emigrant Society.

SO numerous are the valuable publications on Agriculture ; so much has the Press of this Province done, and so usefully is it still engaged, in diffusing a knowledge of this honorable pursuit, which is confessedly the stay and support of all others ; that it might be deemed superfluous in the present Report, to expatiate largely either on the various modes of culture, or on those modern improvements in husbandry, which have wrought such astonishing effects in other countries.

But as our Agricultural Societies have been encouraged and assisted by His Majesty's Government, and by the Legislature of the Province ; as well as by the countenance and contributions of patriotic individuals ; it seems proper that a statement of our transactions should be made public at each Annual Meeting, in order that every inhabitant of the Province, may have the opportunity of forming an opinion, as to the utility of our Associations, and as to the manner in which our funds have been appropriated.

The stock ordered by a resolution of the 7th of March last, to be imported from England, being of the most approved and valuable kinds ; and as it was judged expedient to limit the cost to the amount of the available funds of the Society, only six Cows and six Bulls were imported, instead of eight of each as was at first contemplated. These together with the Dishley Rams, imported at the same time, were, agreeably to an order of the Society, sold at Saint John, on the 25th October last, at pices, equal perhaps, to what had been generally anticipated, but at a loss to the Society of £547 16 4 currency, being rather more than one half of their cost, including freight and all other charges up to the day of sale.

The Horse, for which an order was transmitted at the same time with that for the cattle and sheep, did not reach Liverpool in time to be shipped with them. He arrived at Saint John in December last, and has since been sold by Public Auction, upon the same conditions as were required of the purchaser of the Stallion imported by the Society in the autumn of 1826, and sold on the 8th day of March last. This Horse (called Eclipse,) although considered by the best judges to be a very superior animal, sold at a loss to the Society of £154 17 6. The Bulls and Cows are of the Short Horn Durham Breed ; very large, of fine figures, and perfect proportions. This breed are of gentle disposition, fattened at an early age, and are considered good milkers. The superiority as to size and symmetry of the Stock produced by the Bull Hanover, and exhibited at the late Cattle Show in Fredericton, is an earnest of the improvement, which will, in all probability, take place in the race of Neat Cattle, throughout the Province, by the recent introduction of so many valuable animals. The promising appearance of Cannon Ball's Colts ; the valuable points and pedigree of that Horse, and of the two others imported by the Society, afford us good reason to believe, that the breed of Horses will also be greatly improved ; although the qualities of their offspring, and their adaptation to the climate, pasturage and work of the country, cannot be exactly ascertained, until some years shall have elapsed after their arrival.

Cannon Ball is kept in the County of York; Buzard in Sunbury, and Eclipse was purchased for Judge Botsford, and some other gentlemen in West-

moreland. Another well bred Horse might be advantageously introduced into the North Eastern parts of the Province, where the inhabitants are desirous of improving their breed of Horses. At present on the Gulf Shore, and at Cheleur Bay, nearly all are of the Canadian breed ; and although on the Miramichi and its branches, the race is somewhat better, yet in all these districts, it would be greatly improved by judicious crossing.

So decidedly superior are the Lambs from the imported sheep, to those of the common breed of the country, that they are instantly distinguishable among large and mixed flocks, and sell at comparatively high prices.

The Northumberland Society imported from Scotland, last spring, four Cows and a Bull of the Ayrshire-Breed. Each of these Cows had a Calf, and the whole were sold at Public Auction, (as soon after their arrival as due notice of the intended sale could be given,) under such restrictions and regulations, as are calculated to extend the breed of this valuable race of Cattle throughout the county.

The cost of this importation was £234 11 9—the proceeds of the sale of the whole, amounted to £113 2s.—and consequently, the actual loss to the Northumberland Society by the transaction is 121l. 9 9, which is rather less in proportion to the cost, than the loss upon the importations of stock by the Central Society, as will appear by a statement hereunto annexed.

That these importations will prove of incalculable benefit to the Province, admits of but little doubt ; and the fact of the account of sales falling so far short of the costs and charges, affords a decisive proof of the utility of Agricultural Associations ; which, most willingly, from a sense that they are acting for the general good, incur losses, which not many private individuals could afford, and still fewer would be willing, to bear : and it necessarily follows, that were it not for the spirited exertions of these associations, the Province would in all probability remain for many years deprived of those benefits which the improvement of all kinds of farming stock cannot fail to produce.

The losses upon the several importations made by the Central Society, and by some of the County Societies, although very heavy, are not perhaps, upon the whole greater than have been anticipated ; and the main object which His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, the Legislature, and these Societies have constantly had in view, and which led to the appropriation of funds in the way they have been applied, has been accomplished, to an extent that must confer lasting benefits upon the country. Nothing is now wanting to perpetuate in this Province as valuable a race of domestic animals as is to be found in America, but care and judgement on the part of the farmer in rearing his future stock ; for it is certain that the best breeds will soon degenerate unless due care be taken, as regards their food, drink and shelter ; especially until they become yearlings.

The Hogs, and Implements of Husbandry imported from the United States (with the exception of the threshing machine, some parts of which are still missing) were offered for sale at public auction, and all the Hogs, and the greater part of the Implements were sold in July last. The latter have been taken into various parts of the country ; and in addition to the advantages which the purchasers of these derive, the Province in general will be benefited by their serving as patterns from which our Mechanics can manufacture such as the Country may in future require.

In pursuance of a Resolution of the General Meeting, in March last, a Cattle Show was held at Fredericton on the 9th October, and notwithstanding the unfavorable state of the weather on that day, the attendance was both numerous and highly respectable. The presence of Sir HOWARD DOUGLAS, who came from Saint John, for the express purpose of witnessing the exhibition, and the lively interest which His Excellency took in the proceedings, could not fail to prove highly gratifying to the vast concourse of people who had assembled from various parts of the Province, on this interesting occasion.

The Show, with regard to the number, variety, and valuable points of the animals brought for exhibition, far exceeded the expectations of the warmest friends of our Agricultural improvement. The horses of the draught kind, owned by Mr. Vail, of Kings, and Mr. Hewlett, of Queens County ; the fine two year old Colt belonging to Mr. Cunliff, of Woodstock ; Mr. Wetmore's Colt, and several

others, were much admired, and are, unquestionably, valuable animals ; although the premiums were awarded to the owners of others, which were considered superior to these. The large and beautifully formed Bull Calves (one of which belonged to Major Hammond, and the other to Mr. Archelaus Hammond, both of Kingsclear,) afforded the most satisfactory evidence of the astonishing improvement which may be effected in our Neat Cattle. These Calves are from the improved Short-Horn Durham Bull Hanover, purchased by the Central Society for Hugh Munro, Esq., of Bathurst. From their superior size and fine proportions, we have reason to look forward with confidence to a very rapid improvement in this species of Stock, by means of the six Bulls and Cows imported last summer, which have been distributed into various parts of the Province.

The almost general failure of the Wheat Crop (with the exception of that valuable kind called "rea Wheat," a fine sample of which was produced at the Cattle Show by Henry Smith, Esq.,) would have proved the most disastrous consequences to the Country had the Farmers depended upon that Crop alone : but the abundant Crops of Indian Corn, Oats, Rye, Buckwheat, and Potatoes, with which a beneficent Providence has blessed the land, lessens in no inconsiderable degree our dependence upon Foreign supply. That dependence would have been still less, the comforts of the people greatly multiplied, and the exhausting drain of specie much decreased, if a sufficient number of Mills for the Manufacture of Oats had been erected in situations, to which the generality of Farmers could have had access.

Two Oat Mills have been built in Northumberland last summer—one some time ago in Charlotte, and one is in useful operation and two others are building in Westmorland, whilst but one was ever erected in any of the Counties bordering on the River St. John ; and this one which was built little more than twelve months ago, by James Morris, of Lake George, in York County, was unfortunately destroyed by fire in the early part of the present winter. It had been kept steadily at work, and would have found constant employment throughout the season. Mr. Morris with commendable spirit has determined upon building another Mill : and so strong is the impression on the public mind in favour of such establishments, that many individuals have contributed to raise a fund towards defraying the expense of the work. The meal which Mr. Morris brought to the Fredericton market, was of good quality, and at no time sold for less than 28s. per cwt. a price out of all proportion to that of Wheat Flour, which during the same period, was never above 20s. and sometimes as low as 16s. per cwt.

Fortunately for this Province, the prejudices which once existed in it, against the use of Oatmeal, are fast subsiding. All who, for any length of time, have used it, properly prepared for the table, concur in opinion, that it is an agreeable, as well as a most wholesome and substantial article of food. Indeed, we have only to look to the inhabitants of other countries where Oatmeal constitutes their chief food, to be satisfied of its nutritious qualities. Not only the experience of other countries, but the recent failure of our crops of Wheat, (which are always more subject to accidents and diseases than those of any other kind of grain)—the unfailing certainty of a fair return for Oats sown sufficiently early in the season, in ground properly prepared, and the high price which Oatmeal bears, compared to the price of grain, and of Wheat Flour, all concur in teaching us the sound policy, and the necessity of encouraging the establishment of Oat Mills, in suitable situations throughout the Province : for even supposing our Farmers indisposed to the use of Oatmeal, as food in their families (which however is not likely to be the case for any length of time after they have given it a fair trial,) yet these Mills ought to be built among us on the score of economy and profit. Five bushels of heavy, and six of inferior Oats go to the Cwt. which in the Fredericton and St. John Markets would now readily command 28s. (and for many years past would have brought a higher price,) whilst the Oats from which it might be made would not sell for more than 10s. to 15s. The common price of this grain in all the Countries on the River St. John had varied this season from 1. 6d. to 2s. a bushel, and may now be quoted at the latter price : but if Oatmills were accessible to all the Farmers, it would then be worth from 3s. to 4s., so great would be the pecuniary advantage resulting from these Mills. The easier