

*(From the Colchester Sun.)***AGRICULTURE IN COLCHESTER.**

An Agricultural Meeting has, for the past year or so, been held in the Court House at Truro, during the week of the Court of Sessions, for the purpose of bringing together the farmers of the County and discussing the important interests that are allied to their avocation. These meetings in the past have done good. From one of them sprang a Local Exhibition a few years ago, and latterly, from another, arose the late Provincial Exhibition. The meeting for this year was called by the General Committee of the Exhibition, although the Onslow Agricultural Society had also made provision for convening the same. On Thursday evening, the 14th inst., the meeting was opened by calling W. A. Patterson, Esq., M.P.P., to the chair, and Geo. Fulton, Esq., was appointed Secretary. The Chairman briefly stated that the object of the meeting was to hear the report of the Exhibition Committee, and to take the necessary steps for holding a County Exhibition during the ensuing autumn.

The Secretary of the Exhibition then read the Report, which will be found at the end of this article. After the reading of this paper, the Chairman called the attention of the meeting to the paper and asked farmers and others interested to speak on the various subjects brought up in the report. Mr. Logan thought that these meetings did good, and that such a public gathering, though not as large as it should be, should be held every three months. He was much pleased with the Exhibition, and with the manner in which it had been conducted. Mr. Longworth explained some parts of the report that he thought were not as clear as they might be, especially in relation to the matter of fencing more ground and increasing the extent of the Exhibition.

Mr. James Clarke was greatly pleased with the Report. He feared that in place of the handsome surplus of \$1000 to the credit of the County, the meeting had been called to request a subscription from those present to make up some deficiency.

Mr. James Miller expressed himself greatly satisfied with the work of the Committee, and considered that they had faithfully performed the task assigned to them.

Dr. Page had listened attentively to find some fault, if possible, but he could find none. No one, except those engaged in the work, had the remotest idea of the herculean task that had been performed by the Committee, and their several sub-committees. The County deserved credit for the position it had assumed, being the first in the Province to provide the necessary buildings for a Provincial Exhibition. By this step we

were much in advance of other Counties in the Province. We now possess a valuable property and are in a position to hold either Provincial Competitions or County Exhibitions. He would recommend fencing as much ground as could be obtained around the Buildings. The property was valuable, and was increasing in value year by year. He referred, in very complimentary terms, to the indefatigable work of the Lodging Committee during the week of the Exhibition. He would like that the County could say to the Central Board, we are ready for the next Provincial Exhibition, if no other County puts in a claim for it, yet he thought our local interests would be better served by having a County in place of a Provincial Exhibition this Fall. He concluded his speech by moving that the thanks of the meeting be tendered to the General Committee for the satisfactory manner in which they had performed their work.

Mr. Gourley thought the Committee had done so well in small matters that they would do well as legislators and great financiers, and could be safely entrusted with the economic expenditure of larger sums of public money. He spoke in favor of a Provincial Exhibition and of the beneficial effects of competition in all trades. He seconded Dr. Page's motion, which passed unanimously, and Major Blair, the Chairman of the Committee, in reply said: He regretted the smallness of the meeting, and feared that in the County an apathy existed among farmers that should not. He was strongly in favour of a County Exhibition, both Agricultural and Industrial, and believed that such could be successfully carried out, if we went to work with a will. Let the mechanics form a union of some kind, and endeavour to raise money sufficient to give a good Prize List in their department—he knew the farmers would not be backward, and if all worked together success must crown their united efforts. The ball was now rolling, let us keep it going. Difficulties had been overcome in the past, greater than any barrier the future could present. On behalf of the Committee he returned thanks for the expression of confidence in their work that the meeting had just given.

Mr. Longworth also spoke as a member of the Committee, and explained the nature of the vote of \$4000 given yearly by the Government. The Provincial Treasury would not admit, as yet, of a similar vote to other industries. He hoped to see a County Exhibition this Fall.

Mr. Dimock stated some of the difficulties the Committee had to contend against in their work. The next Exhibition, Provincial or County, would be an easier

undertaking. The way was now paved for expeditious work. The late Exhibition was, in every department but one, larger than that of 1874. The entries were double as great. A generous rivalry had sprung up in all sections of the Province. A distinguished stockowner, the western part of the Province had already made preparations for new importations, while in our County, apart from the valuable increase made at the time of the Exhibition, we lately had obtained in Colchester one of the best, if not the best, Ayrshire bull in the Dominion. He thought we should have a County Exhibition, with a small fee for every entry made.

Mr. Calkin spoke in favor of both an Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition. Entry fees could be arranged, and a considerable fund would likely be derived, which would materially assist in making up the Prize List.

Mr. Wm. Cummings thought the magistrates must be better employed by attending Prayer-meeting, as the prayers were, on this night, specially for them, than in giving their presence to an agricultural meeting. He highly complimented the Chairman of the Committee for the work he had done. All classes were benefited by these Exhibitions. He would give \$100 towards the Prize List if a friend at his left would give the same.

Mr. W. N. Dickson thought that the suggestions, thrown out by most every speaker, were good, relative to a County Exhibition. He hoped to see a local competition rather than another Provincial Exhibition.

Mr. Robert Putnam made a "real good" speech, which we hope those present took to heart. He regretted deeply the apathy on the part of farmers in relation to their own interests. The farmer requires, if not as much book learning as the professional man, yet as much good judgment and common sense. Most every day the real farmer has to exercise a care and thoughtfulness, that those in other professions did not give him the credit of possessing. If he would succeed he must ennoble his vocation, he must study the great work before him, he must experiment, and he must show others that his is a calling that requires all the care and attention and good sound judgment that he can bestow upon it.

Dr. McRobert said his association with the Chairman of the Exhibition, during the Summer, had not made him one whit more an agriculturist than it had made the worthy Chairman a mechanic, for now he heard him arguing for an Industrial Exhibition. He thought that both should go together, and he saw no reason why they should not succeed, and why a successful Exhibition should not be held this year.