

gardening. Late frosts and heavy dews are a necessary consequence of undrained lands, from the circumstance of the water which has evaporated from the sod lying over such lands, and, as soon as the temperature of the air becomes a little lower than sufficient to keep the moisture suspended, it is deposited as dew, or floats as fog over the soil, thus constantly tending to retard the progress of vegetation—rendering the crops liable to injury in the spring, and delaying the time of harvest to a later period than necessary.—*Gyde's Lectures.*

MINUTES OF A PUBLIC MEETING,

Held at Brockville on the 4th day of December, 1844.

At a Meeting of Merchants and others, held in the Court House, this evening, for the purpose of considering the propriety of forming a Society, whose objects shall be the improvement of Agriculture in the District of Johnstown.

On motion of Wm. Buell, Esq. seconded by John Bland, Esq.,

Adiel Sherwood, Esq. was called to the Chair.

On motion of Wm. Buell, Esq. seconded by R. Watson, Esq.,

William Brough was appointed Secretary.

Thereafter it was moved by James Stevenson, Jr. Esq. seconded by Wm. B. Richards, Esq. and unanimously carried, that

It being considered a matter of essential importance to the general interests and prosperity of the district of Johnstown, that Agriculture in its various branches should be fostered and encouraged more than it now is, by merchants and others, who although not practically engaged in Agricultural pursuits themselves, are nevertheless directly interested in the labors of the Agriculturist. Be it therefore resolved, that a Society be now established to be designated the "*Mercantile and General Agricultural Improvement Society of the District of Johnstown.*"

William Matthie, Esq. then read the draft of a Constitution for the government of the Society, and moved its adoption; the motion was seconded by John Esdaile, Esq. after which the articles of the proposed Constitution were read by the Secretary, *seriatim*, and with a few alterations they were agreed to by the Meeting. (The Constitution as adopted will be found below.)

On the motion of John Bland, Esq. seconded by Ormond Jones, Esq. it was Resolved,

That the following gentlemen, viz: Messrs. Wm. Matthie, James Stevenson, junr., Robert Watson, Thomas Webster, Wm. Brough, John Ross, junr., Wm. Buell, Ephraim Dunham, and John Esdaile, be appointed a Committee to procure subscriptions to this Society, and that this Committee Report to a Meeting of the Members of the Society, which shall be held on Tuesday, the 4th day of February next, at 12 o'clock noon, for the purpose of electing Office Bearers, and the transaction of other business.

On the motion of John Esdaile, Esq. seconded by Robert Watson, Esq., it was

Resolved, That the proceedings of this Meeting be inserted in the Brockville Newspapers.

On motion of W. B. Richards, Esq. seconded by John Esdaile, Esq. it was

Resolved, That the Chairman do leave the Chair and that Ormond Jones, Esq. be called thereto.

Another motion was then duly made, seconded and carried, *nem. con.* tendering the thanks of the Meeting to the Chairman and Secretary, for the manner in which they had discharged the duties of their respective Offices during the evening.

W. BROUGH, Secretary.

CONSTITUTION OF THE MERCANTILE, AND GENERAL AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY, FOR THE DISTRICT OF JOHNSTOWN.

Article I. The object of this Society shall be the assisting in such steps as may be necessary to procure the institution of regular Fairs and Markets for the sale of Agricultural Stock and Produce in the District; the dissemination of the best published Treatises on Agriculture; the collection and diffusion of information concerning improvements in that Science; the procuring of good seeds, improved breeds of Cattle and Agricultural implements for the use of the Farmers of the District; the awarding of Premiums for the best samples of Produce, and specimens of Stock; and generally the promotion of measures calculated to develop and improve the Agricultural resources of the District.

II. Each Subscriber of Ten Pounds to the Funds of this Society shall be a member thereof for life. Each subscriber of Five Pounds, shall be a member for five years; and each subscriber of One Pound and Five Shillings, shall be a member for one year.

III. The affairs of this Society shall be managed by a Committee consisting of nine members; who shall be annually elected by the members of the Society, from their own body by ballot, and the Committee thus elected, shall at their first meeting choose and appoint from their own body, a President, a Vice President, a Treasurer, and a Secretary.

IV. The Committee shall have full power to raise money, frame Bye-Laws and adopt any measures, by uniting with similar institutions or otherwise, which to them may seem advisable for carrying out the objects of the Society.

V. The Committee shall meet not less than once a month. All meetings of the Committee to be convened by the President, or in his absence, by the Vice President and Secretary.—Three members of the Committee shall form a quorum for the transaction of business.

VI. The annual meeting of the Society shall be held on the first Tuesday in February, in each year, when a report shall be presented by the Committee of their transactions during the preceding year, and of the state of the affairs of the Society. At this meeting also, the Committee for the following year shall be elected.

VII. Extraordinary meetings of the Society, may be called at any time the Committee or a ma-