

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

FOR

1850.

The Directors of the Saint John County Agricultural Society, in submitting their Annual Report, have to express their gratitude to the Giver of all Good, for the return of another propitious season, by which an abundance for man and beast has been secured in the land. With the exception of the potato crop, which has been again the victim of the mysterious blight, and on which a loss of about one-fourth of its bulk will be sustained in this County, all other crops have been productive and free from disease. Wheat, when tried in this County, has yielded a large return of remarkably heavy grain. Barley is coming more into cultivation, and invariably does well. Oats and Buckwheat have, as usual, been productive. Hay rather under an average crop. Turnips, Carrots and Beets, owing probably to cold rains after sowing, remained long backward, and until the middle of September did not promise much; since that time however they have rallied, and will now prove a fair crop. Monthly meetings of the Directors have been held regularly, and an increasing interest seems to be manifested in the improvement of Agriculture.

As the Directors had found much difficulty in maintaining a proper circulation of the books which they had obtained for a Library, they considered that, owing to the cheapness of Agricultural publications in the United States, they might, by giving books for premiums, enable Farmers to have each his own library. Books therefore were offered as premiums for all articles this year. As might have been expected, the competition was chiefly amongst those who knew the value of knowledge. Still much useful information has, by this means, been distributed in directions which would not otherwise have been reached, and which, if not immediately productive, will at least favorably affect the next generation.

The books awarded have been eight copies of Stephen's Book of the Farm, nine copies of the Encyclopedia of Agriculture, thirteen copies of Colman's European Agriculture, one copy of Stewart's Stable Economy, one copy of Buel's Farmers' Instructor, one copy of Youatt's Cattle Doctor, one copy of Johnston's Lectures, one copy of Bousingault's Rural Economy, six copies of North British Agriculturist, two copies of London Gardeners' Chronicle, and two copies of the Albany Cultivator.

The Directors would recommend that in future the first premiums might be in money, and the second and third in books.

The annual Fair and Cattle Show was held on 10th October. The Judges, Messrs. Charles Perley of Woodstock, James Ingledew of Washademoak, and Monmouth Fowler of Hampton, reported "the show of cattle as highly creditable to the Province, the Sheep as very fine, and the Swine as a superior breed and well adapted for the use of this country, and the vegetables generally as of good quality. They also reported the ploughs exhibited by Messrs. Harris & Allan as equal if not superior to any imported; the edgetools, hammers and forks exhibited by Messrs. Samuel Spiller, and E. & J. Broad as highly commendable. They expressed themselves gratified at the manifest improvement in stock, which is beginning to show itself by many of the cattle exhibited, and the zeal generally manifested by the Farmers for the improvement of the country."

The Branch Society at Loch Lomond and Golden Grove has been conducted with much spirit, and has effected considerable improvement in those districts. A Report from that Society will be found in the Appendix.

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