

horned cattle, was in many instances but a degenerate physical stock.

On motion of Mr. A. D. Stirling, seconded by Mr. S. L. Peters, the chairman, Mr. J. E. Fairweather, presented the thanks of the meeting to the several speakers.

The discussion was listened to attentively by all present.

[From the *Amherst Gazette*.]

OUR GREAT ALLUVIAL LANDS.

It will be difficult to find a finer tract of country than that which skirts the head of the Bay of Fundy. Here lives a larger proportion of independent, well-off people, by far, than is generally found. The dress, furniture, carriages, houses, and farms of the inhabitants all denote that they are the favored participants in a beneficence which few rural districts can boast of or enjoy. We are proud to say that the intellectual status of the population keeps pace with the material.

The stranger noting all the evident signs of thrift and prosperity around us, inquiringly asks the reason for it all. Proudly pointing to our broad marshes, give the pertinent and sufficient reply.

This strange alluvial deposit, which borders the Bay of wondrous tides, which we call marsh, is the cause of all the advantages the farmer here possesses, and the great source of his prosperity. Without it he might sustain life, and eke out existence in a contracted, primitive manner, but it would be only existence with hard, slavish toil, and not independence.

This marsh land is of great fertility—equal to, if it does not surpass, the richest in the world. Egypt's boasted land depends entirely on the extent of the overflow of the Nile, for its crop; the far-famed bottom lands of the Mississippi become exhausted; and Western prairies, after a few magnificent harvests, forget to give back returns for the farmer's toil; but our best marshes have not ceased to yield good crops of hay for more than two hundred years, without demanding renewal by either animal or mineral fertilizers.

Although this land of wondrous fertility does not demand the application of manures to keep up its vigor, still, care and labor are demanded, or the product soon becomes greatly lessened. It requires drainage. English marsh can be renewed by plowing, but this practice tends to wear out the soil, when the only way that the land can be restored to its original richness is to allow it to be again submerged with the tide.—Made by the tide, the tide is its natural food, and when exhausted it can only be renovated by the tide. It is not too much to say that the marsh actually under cultivation is not half ditched.—Then marsh owners are

entirely too much afraid of the tide. Under a sound, practical tidal system, large tracts of land, now almost or quite worthless, could be made up into the very best of soils, poor soils greatly improved, and the much dreaded tide, under proper control, would be a wealthy benefactor, ever ready to assist man in his efforts of production.

The great Saxby flood dispelled illusions and taught lessons of experience which will be of great benefit in future years. The farmers saw with utter dismay the marsh swept clean of the hay only just harvested, their cattle drowned, dykes destroyed and desolation all around. What then appeared complete ruin, in a year, or two at most, was realized to have been a blessing in disguise. Great as was the destruction at that time, if a balance were struck now, a heavy amount would have to be placed to the credit of the flood. Mud was deposited, moss destroyed, the grass roots fertilized, the crop increased, the quality of the hay greatly improved; for now a large proportion of the marsh grass thickens up with white clover,—in fact the marsh which laid in a situation to receive the benefit of that great overflow, has been increased in value from five to twenty dollars per acre on the lower marshes.—just in proportion to the time it was under the tide and the amount of alluvium deposited. That strange tidal freak, overleaping man's puny barriers and threatening utter destruction, taught foolish man, in a costly lesson, the necessity of bringing in the tide to his assistance if he would have the fertility of his wonderful marsh sustained. That tide even now has been of great benefit, and few are only now beginning to realize it, what will it be when we have reaped the full virtue of it through many years to come?

The difficulties, necessity and advantages of having the tide carried to the upper marshes will be discussed in a following article.

Reports of Agri. Societies.

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF KING'S COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY FOR 1873.

The officers of King's Co. Society, for promoting Agriculture, respectfully report, in obedience to the requisition of the Legislature—that the records of the Directors for the past year indicate that their exertions in the cause of Agriculture continue concentrated on the objects stated in former reports of preceding years.—That, of introducing and distributing—so far as their limited means permit—improved stock that which have been and are most esteemed after the test of many years, by the best breeders in England, and the Dominion of Canada.

The importation of improved Breeds of Cattle by the Directors and individual mem-

bers of the Association, have contributed largely to supply a desideratum much felt—and the results particularly in the class of Short-Horns, are very satisfactory.

The increasing demand for wool, and the enhanced price of meat, have in a great measure been instrumental in creating a more lively interest in sheep. The farmers in this vicinity in the selection of their breeds—having an eye to profit—appear to do so with some judgment; as they cannot afford to keep sheep just for their wool, the hardier and larger breeds are generally preferred, on account of their furnishing more and better mutton. In this class the Directors would appear to lead.

The effect that sheep have in improving pastures being a matter of some interest to farmers generally, and on which there exists a diversity of opinion, the Directors have made enquiries relative to the subject of the principle sheep raisers of their acquaintance. The result of their investigation has not led to definite conclusions except that all pastures are not improved, neither is it considered good economy to keep sheep upon them, to the exclusion of other stock. Rough, hilly ground where bushes and coarse herbage abound, are much improved by being stocked in part or wholly with sheep. With respect to this latter, the Directors are of the opinion that it is bad economy to substitute sheep for bush-hooks.

Every farmer is aware that sheep are the most profitable stock he can raise. Lamb in the months of June and July, at 14 cents a pound is an object well worthy of consideration. We cannot omit to urge upon farmers the necessity of giving greater attention to their flocks, both in feeding and breeding, selecting the best gimmers, and constantly crossing with some of the most approved breeds. Farmers go-a-head, you have the heart-felt felicitations of the consumer.

This Association has always recognised the value of both sheep and swine, and the important position they assume in the economy of the farm. The knowledge which our farmers have gained by practical experience and close observation cannot be overlooked, and it is satisfactory to remark, that individual enterprise, both within and beyond the limits of this Society has always, to a great extent 'bossed' these latter departments.

Pigs invariably have been objects of especial interest, as they supply an article of food indispensable in a farmer's household. Various breeds, from time to time, have been introduced, but in the absence of reliable data it would be difficult to determine the relative merits of either. Some farmers advocate large breeds, others give a preference to the smaller, amateurs usually recommend the latter. Notwithstanding the expense and trouble incurred periodically in procuring and distributing the various improved breeds, there are not a few farmers that look upon pedigree-pigs with supreme contempt. To them a hog is a hog—a pachyderm, whose omnivorous stomach and untiring jaws are good for an extra bin of potatoes—with rooting qualities sufficiently developed, and underpinning of the most substantial nature, is, in their estimation a model of perfection. The Directors having given some attention to this subject, we are enabled to submit the following as the result of their investigation: From observation and enquiry it would appear that very favorable results are obtained from