

March 2

THE COLONIAL FARMER,

DEVOTED TO THE AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS OF NOVA-SCOTIA, NEW-BRUNSWICK,
AND PRINCE EDWARD'S ISLAND.

VOL. 1.

HALIFAX, N. S., APRIL, 1842.

N.O. 10.

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE KINGS COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, FOR 1841.

The Committee, to whom was entrusted the duty of preparing the report of the proceedings of this Society, during the past year, have great pleasure in congratulating it upon the altered circumstances of Agriculture since our last Annual Meeting. For several years our Society, alive to the benefits which must ever result from extensive associations of individuals to promote any particular object, omitted not to present their Annual Petition to the Legislature, for the establishment of a Provincial Society or Central Board, through whose instrumentality the whole Province might make an united and powerful effort to raise this art to its deserved eminence. This most desirable object has at length been happily accomplished, and the Members of the Central Board seem to have entered upon their gratuitous and honorable labours with the greatest spirit, and with a determination to spare no exertions, on their part, to give to the farming body the full benefits contemplated by the Legislature.

With respect to our proceedings for the past year, we have to report that during the winter months our Society had several extra meetings, for the discussion of various Agricultural subjects, and such useful information was thus elicited. This mode of spending few winter evenings is becoming very general in all Counties where Agriculture is advancing, and possesses such obvious advantages that the Committee earnestly hope that it will be resumed and continued during the approaching winter. The free interchange of opinions, by experienced Farmers, cannot but throw much light on all matters which may come under consideration, and will, doubtless, lead to interesting and useful inquiry.

In order to supply our Members with a knowledge of the state of Agriculture, and the doings of Farmers in other Countries, and to send us, our Society takes a few Agricultural Newspapers,—among which, are the Colonial Farmer and the Pictou Mechanic and Farmer, the only two published in this Province. Of the first of these we have subscribed for six copies, for the purpose of contributing to its support, having understood that it was at one time on the point of being abandoned, for want of sufficient encouragement. Your Committee cannot but express a warm interest in the enterprising Publishers of these Papers, and an anxious wish for their success; being almost exclusively devoted to Agriculture they would, it might naturally be expected, receive the spontaneous patronage of the farming community; but it is to be deeply regretted that the fact is otherwise, and that the Farmers themselves are apparently the least disposed to support them; they will readily pay Fifteen or Twenty Shillings for a Newspaper, not containing any line upon the business by which they earn their living, and at the same time refuse to give Five Shillings for the Colonial Farmer, with the experienced and practical Mr. Smith as its Editor,—or Fifteen Shillings for the Mechanic and Farmer, which, under its present management bids fair to be a highly useful and excellent periodical; while the Members of other professions—the Divine, the Lawyer, the Physician, the Merchant, and even the Mechanic—regularly apply to the valuable source of information now periodically within their reach, and thus acquire knowledge incalculably useful to them in their respective pursuits; it will not, we may

hope, long remain a subject of reproach to the friends of Agriculture, that they are indifferent to that which will contribute so essentially to their own prosperity.

Your Committee advert with much satisfaction to the resolution of the three Societies established in Cornwallis and Horton, to hold a General Meeting at Kentville on the first Tuesday of July next, to consider of all matters which may effect the Agricultural interests of the County. This will be another means of extending the benefits of these Societies, and of creating a more united feeling among our Farmers; and we cannot forbear from expressing a hope that the Aylesford Society (which was not then in existence) will also join with the other Societies on that occasion. This Meeting will secure to the County all the advantages to be derived from a Central Society, and will tend to excite a spirit of emulation, and give a force and weight to our united proceedings, which must be productive of good. The principal Farmers of the County will be thus brought acquainted with each other,—prejudices and prejudices, if any exist, will be removed, and all will be led to honor the profession which they follow, and feel pride in its advancement. The proposal thus to meet was warmly responded to by the three Societies, and we may now look forward to the early establishment of a Fair, for the exhibition of Animals, Implements of Husbandry, Domestic Manufactures, &c.—an exhibition which, by showing our Farmers of what the County is capable, will rouse them to exertion, and give increased influence to these Societies.

Your Committee perceived to notice another circumstance which will serve to shew the benefit of these Associations. During the last summer, the Hon. William Crane, of Sackville, N. B., presented our Society with a yearling Bull, which had been imported by him from England. The animal is small, but his points uncommonly good, and will undoubtedly contribute largely to the improvement of our Stock. The thanks of the Society were immediately sent to W. Crane, whose handsome present will long remain in testimony of the interest which he feels in the prosperity of his native Township. Warmly, however, as individuals generally regard the place of their nativity, it is only through the convenience afforded by Societies or Associated Bodies, that their munificence is likely to be called into action; and, therefore, but for the existence of our Society it is not at all probable that the Township would now possess this fine animal.

The thanks of our Society were also due, and have been given, to Mr. John Simpson, for a present of a Bushel of superior Scotch Potatoes.

The Bull, "Invincible," purchased in England by one of our own Members, Mr. William Taylor, from Mr. John Collins, * * * cost the Society £68 6 6, and is a noble animal; he was selected with great care and judgment, and is of the celebrated Stock of Mr. Richard Stockburn, and descended, on the Dam's side, from Mr. Coates' "Old Patriot," which was sold for £500 Sterling. The Animals and the Ram now belonging to the Society are in good hands, and will receive every requisite attention.

The Ploughing Match took place on the Grand Prairie, on the 12th November last, when seven competitors entered the lists. Three Prizes, of Forty Shillings, Thirty Shillings, and Twenty Shillings, were respectively borne off by Messrs. William Borden, Robert Harvey, and George Cumming. As good ploughing is,