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SECOND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE RESTIGOUCHE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

January 4, 1842.

ROBERT FERGUSON, Esq. in the Chair.

In presenting their second Annual Report, the Committee of *The Restigouche Agricultural Society* beg leave to take a review of the proceedings of the past year, being the first of experiment agreeably to a Resolution of the Society, of 14th of April 1840. Premiums were to be awarded on the second Tuesday in April last on the best samples of Grain and Hay Seed, at which time a Show took place, that exceeded the most sanguine expectations of your Committee, and would do credit to any Country.—The Premiums were awarded as follows:

- For the best sample of Spring Wheat to John Currie, £1.
- For the second best ditto, to Jacob Caldwell, 10s.
- For the third best ditto, to William Doyle, 10s.
- For the best two rowed Barley, to John Currie, £1.
- For the best four rowed ditto, to Daniel McNish, £1.
- For the best Black Oats, to John McNish, £1.
- For the second best ditto, to John Douglas, 10s.
- For the best White ditto, to William Fleming, £1.
- For the best sample of Hay Seed, No. 2, to John Currie, 10s.
- For ditto ditto, to Walter Blair, 10s.

The interest manifested by the Farmers generally in the exhibition held that day, encouraged the Society to renew and increase their exertions to further the advancement of Agriculture in the County; with this view it was then resolved that the like Premiums, which were offered last year, should be given for the competition of Grain and Hay Seeds, the production of the present year, under the same rules and regulations; the Show to be held in the Court House, on the second Tuesday in April next: and also that Cattle Show and Ploughing Match be held in Dalhousie, in October next. In conformity also with the recommendation of your Committee of last year, a portion of the Funds of your Society were appropriated to the importation of such Grass and Grain seeds as were not to be had in the Country—and a few Sheep of the Leicester breed.

On the 5th of October the Cattle Show took place, when your Committee were gratified at the very respectable and numerous attendance and also the appearance of the Cattle, at which time the following Premiums were awarded:—

- For the best 2 year old Heifer, to Walter Blair, £1.
- For the best 2 year old Bull, to Donald Fraser, £1 10s.
- For the best 1 year old ditto, to James Duncan, £1.
- For the best 1 year old Heifer, to Donald Fraser, 15s.
- For the best Calf, to Peter Rigby, 10s.
- For the best 3 year old Ram, to David Alexander, £1.
- For the best 1 year old ditto, to Walter Blair, 10s.
- For the best Lamb ditto, to William Craig, 10s.
- For the best 3 year old Ewe, to Walter Blair, £1.
- For the best 2 year old ditto, to the same, 15s.
- For the best 1 year old ditto, to John Ferguson, 10s.
- For the best Lamb ditto, to Walter Blair, 10s.
- For the best Hogs, Boar and Sow, to Andrew Barberie, Esq., £2.
- For the second best ditto, ditto, to the same, 15s.

Immediately after this Exhibition, a sale at Public Auction took place, agreeably to previous advertisement, of the Sheep and Fowls imported, and such quantity of the Grain and Grass Seeds as remained of the last spring's importation; and although they did not realise their first cost, were very generally distributed through the Country. In consequence of the unusual dryness of the season, the Ploughing Match was postponed until the following Tuesday, (the 12th,) when although the number of competitors was not so great as might have been wished, yet from the numerous attendance and interest evinced by the young men, who were spectators much more benefit may reasonably be expected to result. The Premiums were awarded as follows:—

- 1st Prize to James Breckenridge, £2 10s. 2nd Prize to John Douglas, £2. 3d Prize to Patrick Doyle, £1 10s.

After which a Public Dinner was given at the Dalhousie Hotel, to the Ploughmen, Judges, and such of the Office Bearers of the Society as honored the Exhibition with their presence.

Your Committee are happy in having it in their power to congratulate the Members on the benefit resulting from the influence of the Society, inasmuch as they can state that Agriculturists have been induced to attempt an extended growth of Wheat, Barley, and Black Oats; and although having had to struggle with the difficulty of an unusually dry season, still remunerating crops have rewarded their endeavours, except in those places where the many fires have extended their destroying effects.

Your Committee, in compliance with the 13th Rule of the Constitution of this Society, have taken a view of and examined the state of the Stock of Seeds, (no Implements being yet purchased), in the Society's depository, and find them correspond with the invoices and account sales; independent of which, there are 14 bags, each 196 lbs. of Black oats, ordered from Ireland, but being required to be of the growth of the year, did not reach Port Glasgow in time to be shipped this season, but may be expected by the first vessel in the spring. The Secretary has also in hand, a quantity of Black Oats and Barley, the growth of the County.

Your Committee have audited the Accounts of the Secretary and Treasurer, and approve of them, showing a balance of £143 13s 5d, which they recommend to be expended in a further importation of Seeds for the ensuing year, particularly a small quantity of Spring Wheat from the continent of Europe, in order that it may be tested in comparison with the growth of this continent and Great Britain; and a few more sheep of the Leicester and South-down breeds; and also for the introduction of some West Highland Cattle—your Committee being assured that the superiority of the purest Ayrshire dairy Stock can be traced to the crossing of the West Highland with the Dutch breed at an early period.

Your Committee are happy to find that the Government had anticipated their suggestions of laying off the waste Crown Lands in a manner suited for Settlers and Emigrants, and that no sooner were 2000 acres surveyed, in lots of 100 acres each, and advertised, than immediate applicants for the same were found; thus evincing the necessity of opening a communication to the interior, and demonstrating the correctness of your Committee's views therein. In fact the demand for Land is far from being supplied; but until roads are opened to the interior, that vast portion of valuable Land must continue in a wilderness state, and the difficulty of access thereto, for the present deter Emigrants from settling thereon. If Legislative means were furnished for laying off and making roads, in the manner formerly pointed out, nothing then would be wanting to constitute the County of Restigouche inferior to no part of the Province of New Brunswick, as an agricultural district.

This being the first year of Agricultural trial, it cannot be expected that any material alteration in the imports could have been effected, your Committee therefore deem it unnecessary to present (as in last year's Report) a statement of the imports into the County for the past year.

Your Committee would again call the attention of the Society to the samples of Marl and Gypsum found in the County; the former upon test, appears to be of superior quality, and abundant in quantity. Although no Premiums have been as yet offered, they are of opinion, inducement should be held out for the purpose of bringing them and composts into use as fertilizers of the soil.

In conclusion, your Committee feel a pleasure in acknowledging the very prompt and valuable services of your Correspondent in Britain, Mr ALEXANDER McCaw, Ardlochan, Ayrshire, in whose Communications much practical information is conveyed, with an interest that proves a sincere desire to be useful: with best wishes for your success—that you may go on and prosper; and that when the ploughs of the British North American Colonies are fairly set in motion, they may be able to supply the Parent State with every thing required in the shape of agricultural produce, and supersede the necessity of applying to her continental neighbours, who do not wear her broad cloths in return.