

GOLDEN GROVE BRANCH SOCIETY.

This being the first year since the formation of our Branch Society, I take much pleasure in giving you a brief outline of the results within this short period. We considered the Parish Society too large and inconvenient, and to enable every person who might be inclined to avail himself of the opportunity of becoming a member, and also to bring the Society meetings and annual exhibitions so close to their doors that no reasonable excuse could be offered for declining to come forward, we continued the Golden Grove Branch as organised by your Commissioners in 1849; and it must therefore be gratifying to you to observe that these efforts have been so far crowned with success.

This being the first exhibition at which this Branch offered premiums for samples of Grain and Vegetables, and also for the best Cattle, the best assortment of Farming Implements, and the most economical mode of making Manure, we did not expect to see much interest excited; but the samples brought forward far exceeded our expectations; and it seems that the encouragement thus held out, although the premiums were very small, must have had the effect of stimulating and arousing our farmers to exertion. The increase of farming implements in this district—the visible improvement in making manure—the stumping and clearing of old land—all strengthen this idea, the beneficial results of which are obvious.

It will be found that a larger quantity of Grain of different kinds has been raised in this district this year than any year previous; samples of which were recently exhibited in the Grove at the Fair or Cattle Show, which certainly could not be considered inferior to grain of the same kinds raised in any country. Potatoes generally are a fair crop; although somewhat injured in the tops, the blight had not the effect on the roots that was anticipated in August last: farmers will have more than sufficient for their own use. Oats were a good crop, and generally well saved. There was a great breadth of land laid down with Buckwheat—the grey did not turn out as well as other years. Good Wheat has been raised by several farmers belonging to this Society, but not in large quantity. Beans and Peas were largely cultivated last season, and turned out well. Turnips do not appear to be as good as last year, which I attribute to the dry season. Carrots have been cultivated in this district largely, and are an excellent crop. Barley of all kinds was very productive, as well as Spring Rye. Hay turned out an abundant crop, although there is very little marsh or low land in this section of the County, and the farmers will have more than enough for their own consumption.

It is evident that there has been within the last two or three years an increasing desire manifested amongst the inhabitants generally to improve in agriculture. The premiums for the first, second and third best methods of making Manure, have created a stimulus in this very essential and important branch of industry: the improvement in it is very great. I regret that I am not in possession of a written description from those to whom premiums have been awarded for Manure, to accompany this Report, but would refer you to the one furnished you by myself some time since.

Our means being limited as yet, we have not been able to hold out encouragement for stumping or draining land, although the latter is so necessary, especially in this climate, to render lands earlier and more productive. In conclusion, I am pleased to be able to report that the farmers generally manifest an appearance of industry in husbandry that I never before witnessed in this district.

Oct. 10th, 1851.

ROBERT BOWES.

To the President of the St. John County Agricultural Society.