

The Week Farmer.

J. H. CROCKET, PROPRIETOR.

FREDERICTON, N. B., DECEMBER 24, 1884.

VOL. IV, NO. 52

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

The Annual Meeting of the Farmers' Parliament.

A Very Interesting Address from President McLellan.

The annual session of the Board of Agriculture began Wednesday in the Court Room, in the House of Assembly. There was a full attendance, but to give the committees an opportunity to examine into the accounts no business was transacted at the session and the Board adjourned until this morning.

The Board met at 10 a.m. to-day, all the members being present, viz.—Hon. D. McLellan, President, F. W. Brown, J. J. Anderson, J. E. Fairweather, John Campbell, G. L. Colwell, D. T. Johnston, J. L. Innes, Secretary, Mr. Thomas, and the Provincial Stock Farm, also present.

The actual business of the session began by the Address of the President, which was as follows:—

Gentlemen, Members of the Board of Agriculture:

It affords me great pleasure to meet you at this annual meeting of the Board of Agriculture. Since we last met there have been some changes in the membership of the Board. I have no doubt but that the Board as now composed will put forth its best energies in the interests of Agriculture, an industry which in the near future must take the place of the lumber trade of this Province. It is well-known throughout the Province that those farmers who have given their whole attention to the improvement of their land, and have studied the best methods of tilling the soil, have reaped a rich reward. In the past, as many of you are aware, the farmers of this country, as well as those of other Provinces in the Dominion and also those of the State of Maine, were in the habit of presenting a lumbering business combined with agriculture, and the result showed most clearly, in nine cases out of ten, that the two industries could not be carried on to a successful issue by the same individual; in many instances the farm had to be mortgaged to pay the losses entailed in the lumbering operation.

For some years back there has been a change in the manner of conducting the lumber interests, the trade having gradually passed into the hands of those who have devoted their attention to the best means of making the industry a paying one, leaving the agricultural interests to the farmers, who by force of circumstances have been compelled to give their farms the necessary application of labor, as well as to study the best means of enriching the soil, and to make no doubt about the results; the energy and perseverance of very many who had their property encumbered by mortgages (created while dabbling in lumber), have enabled them to wipe out the encumbrance, and to try to start an independent career. It is not to be wondered at that they could have obtained by only giving a portion of their time to their farms, the other portion being devoted to a useless attempt to combine two altogether dissimilar pursuits.

While there has been admitted a very real advancement in general farming in this Province within the last twenty-five years it is still possible to largely increase the benefits flowing from improved methods. The result may be slow but it is certainly sure. I have referred to the farmers as standing in an independent position; I might say that farmers are the most independent of any class of people in this community. If we look about us in the large cities and towns, do we not hear the cry of hard times everywhere? Do we not find financial depression among the merchants and insufficient wages for the laborer and the poor? Do we not find poverty among the farmers? And none know that the farmers have enough and to spare, do we need any further proof that they are, in point of fact, the only prosperous class among our people.

An American writer is authority for the statement that in the period of a quarter of a century not more than two per cent of the business men of New York acquired a position of independence sufficient to warrant them in retiring from business.

Another writer mentions the fact that two directors of banks in Boston had a consultation and after a careful investigation ascertained that out of 1000 merchants who had opened accounts during 40 years only 61 had become bankrupt or died poor. At the relative position of the farmer? Surely no one will attempt to say that you will find one-tenth part of the farmers in the same position as the business men of New York. Among the farmers that we all know exist among the laborers, mechanics, and mercantile men of the towns and cities, nor deny that by far the large majority of those who attend diligently to agriculture achieve success. I claim that in the worst of times the farmer is better off than the mechanic and laborer are in the best. It may be that for years the farmer does not lay by any money, but one thing must be remembered: he is improving and adding to his property which in the years to come will furnish him with comforts and enjoyments of life such as many people in the cities never reach.

I do not touch upon this question because I hold or wish to convey the idea that the farmers of this Province are discontented with their lot in life; I do so more with a view of showing to the masses in this Province that there need not be the cry of hard times, which is so universally made over the whole country, if there were a more general disposition shown by the toilers in cities to engage in a pursuit which is sure to give to those who are industrious, economical and patient, a home where every reasonable wish could be supplied.

The question may be asked: "Where and how can land be obtained outside of farming?" In reply I might say that there are several counties in this Province where large tracts of Government land are still available for sale. I have obtained information from Mr. Geo. Grant, A. C. Grant, and others, that there is a large tract of land in the County of Kings, which is well adapted for farming. I think it will be well to bear in mind that the Government is anxious to dispose of its land.

Again you will hear it said that in many instances where new settlements have been opened the outlook became so poor that the settlers were discouraged and were forced through absolute necessity to leave and go back to the cities. I think if we could get at the true inwardness of the trouble in these cases we would find that the cause was due to the selection of poor land or a want of energy and patience on the part of the settlers, or perhaps sometimes to both causes.

It appears to me that in the past there has been too much of a disposition on the part of some of our farmers to dispose of a large portion of the produce of the farm, such as hay, oats, roots, &c., and in doing so they have allowed their farms to deteriorate. I think you will agree with me that the conclusion arrived at by most practical agriculturists is that the greatest amount of profit obtainable from the farm is secured by feeding early all the produce on the farm. At the Farmers' Institute, held at Newport, the proceedings of which are published in the Maine Agricultural Report of 1883, Mr. Colwell of Brunswick claimed that a ton of hay sold off the farm carried with it \$25 worth of fertilizing material, or that which would cost \$8 if the farmer had to go into the market for it; and he adds that selling the hay means selling the farm by piecemeal. A similar statement was made by Mr. J. E. Shaw at the same meeting, and he added that if it were intended to keep up the fertility of our farms, we must depend upon stock-husbandry in some form, and consume the hay on the farm.

Mr. Parkinson, in his statement made before the Ontario Agricultural Commission, said that if a farmer wants to keep up the quality of his stock, he must feed his crops, grass, &c., upon it. He mentions the fact that in his neighborhood all those who have raised turkeys and who have fed their coarse grains and hay have done well.

This naturally leads me to speak of the character of stock, and I must say that those farmers who have given their whole attention to the improvement of their land, and have studied the best methods of tilling the soil, have reaped a rich reward. In the past, as many of you are aware, the farmers of this country, as well as those of other Provinces in the Dominion and also those of the State of Maine, were in the habit of presenting a lumbering business combined with agriculture, and the result showed most clearly, in nine cases out of ten, that the two industries could not be carried on to a successful issue by the same individual; in many instances the farm had to be mortgaged to pay the losses entailed in the lumbering operation.

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The principle laid down by competent authorities is, in the first place, find out what you wish to raise, and for what purpose, and then select the best place for both, and in the second place, ascertain which of the different breeds will do best in the climate of the locality where you reside, keeping in view the kind of pasturage and your farm contents.

Professor Brown, already quoted, says in his opinion the common cows of the country crossed with a thoroughbred short horn bull will produce the best cows for general purposes, and many other breeders in Canada agree with him. Mr. Stone, a very large breeder of Guernsey, Ontario, who in 1881 had a herd of 120 Guernseys, and at the same time had a greater number of Shorthorns, gives it as his opinion that the Herefords are fully equal to the Shorthorns and are more likely to improve on ordinary pasture. Mr. Hood, also an authority, says if you put Shorthorns or Dairies on pasture with a Hereford, the Hereford will be far ahead of the Shorthorn in the fall as a general rule.

Mr. Rawlings, of Ontario, says in his opinion the Herefords are better than the Shorthorns, but he adds that he would like to see Shorthorns and Herefords both equally encouraged as a means of improving the common stock of the country.

In speaking of the Polled Angus cattle, Professor Brown says that for early maturing they are equal to the Shorthorns, but so far as his experience goes there is not the equal of the Shorthorns in improving other breeds. Mr. Hall, a British buyer of fat cattle, gives it as his opinion the Polled Angus ranks first on the list and the Shorthorns second.

From the opinions expressed by the gentlemen I have named, as well as others who gave testimony before the Board of Commissioners, it will be seen that there is a diversity of opinion regarding the relative merits of the different breeds of cattle, but there is one thing they all agree in, that it is in the interest of the farmer to improve the breed of his cattle by breeding to a thoroughbred bull of some kind, and to keep on until he finds out what breed is most suitable for his locality and for the purpose he has in view.

This observation applies to Holsteins, Polled Norfolk and Ayrshires as well as to the milk cows of the Province. Angus, as I have said, gives it as his opinion, in the selection of a breed, govern his course according to the teaching of his own experience.

At the annual meeting in December last I called the attention of the Board to the fact that the results of the present Stock Farm did not warrant so large an outlay, and asked to have the matter inquired into with a view to ascertain whether the fault lay in the Farm or in the management. A meeting of the Board was held at the Farm in January, and the matter was referred to a committee. The committee reported that the fault lay in the management, and that the Farm was unsuited for the purpose of a Stock Farm and at the same meeting you recommended the Government to secure a more suitable farm at an early date.

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The Secretary then read the minutes of last meeting, which were adopted. The Secretary explained why he was absent from last meeting, which was held in St. John.

He said there was not a semblance of truth in the reasons given by Mr. Reid for his non-attendance. He was ill, and the President said it was not necessary for him to be present.

The President corroborated the Secretary's statement.

The President's address was adopted, and was ordered to be published in the Agricultural Report.

Mr. Campbell was, on motion of Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Brown, elected unanimously Vice-President of the Board for the ensuing year.

Mr. Brown intimated his intention to bring before the Board a resolution with regard to the Stock Farm.

The report of Stock Farm Committee, which the Secretary was to be presented, was read.

Moved by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Anderson, that the whole Board be an Audit Committee.

Mr. Johnston moved, as an amendment, that a committee of three be appointed to examine the accounts of the different Agricultural Societies, beg leave to report.

The President appointed Mr. Johnston, Mr. Brown, Mr. Colwell.

The Board then adjourned until 2:30 p.m.

The Audit Committee submitted the following report:—

Mr. President.—We the Audit Committee appointed to audit the accounts of the different Agricultural Societies, beg leave to report.

Some accounts we find correct, and would recommend their approval by this Board, others being irregular and not in accordance with the law, we submit your consideration.

We find several of the Societies whose accounts are correct, carrying large balances. We would recommend this Board to instruct the Secretary to inform the Secretaries of these Societies, that it is contrary to the spirit of the law relating to Agriculture to allow so much money to remain in the hands of the Treasurer, without being put to something of a useful and beneficial nature.

Respectfully Submitted,
D. T. Johnston,
F. W. Brown,
G. L. Colwell.

The Board then proceeded to the consideration of the reports of the various Societies, and those which had been approved of by the Committee, were passed, and those not approved of were discussed in detail.

Waldfield and Jacksonville Society.
The Secretary stated that the account is correct, but not satisfactory. The society had no business but purchase a large quantity of grass and clover seed, much of which is still on hand and likely to depreciate. They had a balance of \$60, and the committee thought it not desirable to carry so large a balance. The society held a small show. They bought \$177 worth of clover and grass seed, but he knew it was a good active society in the past. He thought the account ought to be passed.

The President asked in what way they had done this year. They have already passed a resolution against carrying large balances of money.

Mr. Anderson said that the society seemed to have sold a large quantity of seed, and he thought the committee would meet their case.

He moved that the grant issue. Seconded by Mr. Fairweather, and carried.

Victoria Central.
The Treasurer declines to acknowledge all the balance on hand, because he had not received the whole amount from the late Treasurer. It is stated that the late Treasurer made an error in his account. The balance is \$145 more than the present Treasurer received.

Mr. Colwell moved that the account be passed and the grant issue.

Mr. Brown said that the grant ought to be passed, but he knew it was a good active society in the past. He thought the account ought to be passed.

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Saturday's Proceedings.
The Board was called to order at 10:30 by the President.

The Board informally dealt with the Stanley Society. The President was of the opinion that the Board could not interfere with the expenditure of the grant for the Show Buildings as long as the Societies were doing good work. The Board concurred with the remarks of the President.

The Vice-President in the chair. Blackville and Deer Societies having over expended \$40.70 were fined.

Mr. Johnston wished the Secretary to call on the Society to refund the over expenditure before 1st March or the grant will be taken away. He censured the Secretary and Treasurer of the Society for not informing the members of the Society of its condition.

Mr. Anderson moved, seconded by Mr. Fairweather, that the Society receive its grant less amount over expended. Carried. Several other societies were dealt with and orders in reference to them.

Carrying Balances.
Moved by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Brown:—
Whereas it is the opinion of this Board that such balances should be paid up in furthering the agricultural interests of the country, they be kept on hand a large amount. Carried.

The Secretary, then read Mr. T. P. Barker's report on the management of the Stock Farm.

The Superintendent's Report.
Following is a summary of the Report of the Stock Farm Superintendent:—
On his arrival at the farm in the fall of 1883, he was greatly disappointed at the state of the farm, and the unsuitability of the premises for the purpose designed. The pasturage was too short, and the existence of large quantities of lambs proved very injurious to the sheep. The stock was in a poor state of health, and the sheep were in a poor state of health. The sheep were in a poor state of health, and the sheep were in a poor state of health.

The stock now on the farm consists of 1 Short Horn bull and 6 cows, 1 Polled Angus bull and 3 cows, 1 Ayrshire bull and 3 cows, 3 Red Norfolk cows, 1 Border Leicester ram and 14 ewes, 1 Cotswold ram and 7 ewes, 10 Shropshire ewes, and 3 horses.

The expenditure of the farm for the year was \$3432.96, including rent \$200, Superintendents salary \$600, wages \$567.25, board for help \$211.41, hay \$109.40, feed \$235.45, expenses of committee \$127.65.

The receipts were \$2954.50 including sales of stock \$1993.00.

The deficit therefore \$1480.31, but the actual amount chargeable against the present year's operations was \$1230.

The committee recommended that the quantity of stock be doubled and that Holsteins and Herefords be added.

The report signed by D. McLellan, J. E. Fairweather and J. L. Anderson.

The Stanley Society.
Mr. Spears, having asked leave to make a statement relative to the Stanley Society, beg leave to report.

Mr. Spears addressed the Board in reference to the new building which the Stanley Society propose to erect. It would be a two-story building 55x75 feet. The sanction of the Board was asked, but the minority asked through him that it be not sanctioned. The Society already has a building. In reply to the President, Mr. Spears said he presumed they intended to use all the grant for the purpose, as the building would cost 700 or 800 dollars. Personally, he was opposed to the building.

The President said it was a question if the grant ought to go year after year for a building. He thought an effort should be made to induce Societies to purchase stock. The President said the Board had only Mr. Spears's statement.

The President suggested that the minutes of the meeting should be left with the Board and that the matter be considered again.

French Society.
This Society repudiates the old balance and wishes recognition. The secretary thought they should get their grant on acknowledgment of the balance and paying their subscriptions. The balance is \$28.88 and some \$30 worth of seeds.

Mr. Johnston thought that the fault lay with the Society's officers who did not appear to the meeting, and that they should be a good Society in the future, and this Society should not suffer for the inefficiency of its officers. He was willing to undertake to put the Society in working order, if the grant would be paid them this year.

Objection Mr. Johnston was empowered to act in the premises, the grant to issue on the affairs of the Society being arranged to the satisfaction of the President and Secretary of the Board, before March 1st.

St. Louis Society.
In the account of this Society \$125 is charged as a payment on stock, but it had been paid to the Secretary. The Secretary explained that the committee on the addition of Holstein and Hereford cattle to the Farm. The motion was carried and Messrs. Fairweather, Johnston and Campbell were appointed the Committee.

Evening Session.
Mr. Fairweather read the following memorial to the Executive Council of N. B.

To His Honor the Lieutenant Governor.
With the view of the Board of Agriculture respectfully represent that the committee believe the continuance of the Stock Farm will be largely beneficial to the farming interests of the Province, and that its usefulness can be much augmented by the introduction of a greater variety in the breeds of cattle, as well as by increasing the present number of animals in each herd.

With this view the committee respectfully beg to bring under the notice of your Honorability the desirability of placing the farm in a position to contribute to the fullest extent, consistent with the economy, to the advancement of stock-raising in the Province, and, therefore, recommend the purchase of a number of Herefords and Holsteins, these, in the opinion of the committee, possessing qualities which will render them a valuable acquisition to the stock of the country.

J. E. Fairweather,
D. T. Johnston,
G. L. Colwell,
J. F. Anderson.

The report was adopted, and ordered to be forwarded to the Governor in Council.

Mr. Anderson, Mr. Fairweather and the President, Hon. D. McLellan, were, on motion, re-appointed a committee to assist in the management of the Stock Farm.

Mr. Fairweather wished to bring before the Board the unsatisfactory condition of the Herd Book.

The Secretary stated that there were objections made against our Herd Book because the pedigrees of the animals entered were not sufficiently extended. This causes considerable loss to stock raisers.

Messrs. Fairweather, Brown, & Johnston were appointed a committee to inquire into what alterations, if any, are required in the N. B. Herd Book and report at the next meeting.

Mr. Reid Frees his Mind.
Mr. John H. Reid, President of the York Agricultural Society then addressed the Board replying to statements made by the Secretary, and also explained the position of the York Agricultural Society. Mr. Reid read extracts from THE GLEANER, and explained the position of the York Agricultural Society. Mr. Reid reported in the Telegraph. He said he had lost his seat at the Board because he was 25 years in advance of public opinion; he was down but was of opinion that he would be up again. He thought the Board had always dealt very harshly with the York Society. They built two Exhibition Palaces and two Show Grounds at their own expense. The buildings were burned. Several members of the Board were in favor of the York Society, but the Secretary was always opposed to it, and he believed that York was ignored through his opposition.

After Mr. Reid's address in the course of which he said that York society would build a new palace and hold an exhibition in 1885, at the request of Mr. Brown, the Vice-President took the chair.

Mr. Brown then moved a vote of thanks to the President for the kind, courteous and able manner in which he has presided at the Board this season, and in connection with the members of the Board spoke to the resolution.

Mr. McLellan responded, thanking the Board for their hearty expressions of feeling. The President then declared the meeting adjourned sine die.

The Sunbury Election.
The trial of the Sunbury election petition was set down for Monday, but the Attorney for the petition, having telegraphed the Speaker at St. George, inquiring if Mr. Glasier had resigned, and receiving an answer in the affirmative, informed Judge Fraser of the fact, and he concluded not to go down to open the Court. As a consequence there was merely a gathering of officers of court, a host of witnesses and an expectant public. Mr. Glasier was on hand and prepared the occasion by talking with the electors and preparing for a re-election. The writ of a new election will issue at once. The opposition are talking of a convention to choose a candidate, but it is not amount to that. This case was dismissed.

Police Cases.
Ephraim Minkoff was given in charge by Martin Brier for stealing a pair of pants. From the evidence given, it appeared that the property was loaned but not returned at the stated time, and therefore the case did not amount to theft. The electors and preparing for a re-election. The writ of a new election will issue at once. The opposition are talking of a convention to choose a candidate, but it is not amount to that. This case was dismissed.

Mr. McLellan, I. S. Corp. was looked up for being intoxicated and firing a revolver on public street. He was tried for having firearms in his possession, fined \$20 or 14 days jail. He went to jail. The revolver was forfeited to the Dept. of Justice.

THE ALMS HOUSE.

A Letter from the Keeper and some interesting Statistics.

To the Editor of THE GLEANER.—
Sir,—During the investigation held before the Alms House Committee, on the 11th inst., Mr. Commissioner Clark stated:—"If the keeper had assured him in any special case that it was necessary for him to have help, I would consider it my duty to supply it."

I asked him in August last to send a woman that would be a good help, and frequently since I have talked with him about the difficulty of getting the work done. What more could I do? The case ever since July has been a "special" one. The Commissioner further states that "he suggested to the keeper the propriety of getting some one to look after Miss Green." I immediately replied that "I did not hear it, but would have jumped at the suggestion." If he did suggest it, he must have known I did not hear it, as I made no reply. Further, if he suggested help, why did he not send it? As for asking help from the committee, I had no encouragement for so doing. Had they in response to my suggestion concerning nurses for the sick, said that they would send them, they and they shall be furnished; proceed then yourself and we will pay the bills; or notified in any way I would have been encouraged to make special application. I have not yet had the opportunity of seeing the strong hand of the institution. When a certain inmate, on becoming troublesome beyond all endurance, was expelled, and on being sent back the fourth time, I appealed to His Worship, and the institution was finally rid of her, thus helping to enforce discipline, and the inmates were benefited. However, they all know that I need and desire help. Possibly the Commissioner would not have found it necessary to conduct for vegetables this year, if he had paid for the ploughing of the field as he had always done. Ever since being keeper, up to the end of October, I have furnished an unlimited supply of vegetables without remuneration, and have not the strength or strength to write more.

Yours, &c.,
R. H. Phillips.

Dec. 15th, 1884.
The following table will show the smallness of the cost of the Alms House for the last eighteen years:—

lived because four societies are already in existence in the county.

Moved by Mr. Johnston and seconded by Mr. Anderson, the Secretary's report be received and laid on the table. Carried.

Mr. Anderson moved and seconded by Mr. Johnston that whereas there was a resolution passed by this Board at its last annual session, to the effect that the annual grants of all societies whose returns should not be in the hands of the Secretary by the 1st of December, and whereas the societies have been unusually prompt in forwarding their accounts for the present year,

Resolved, That the order above referred to be not enforced the present year, until carried.

The Board then considered Mr. Barker's report on the Stock Farm.

Moved by Mr. Johnston and seconded by Mr. Campbell that the Board receive and adopt and publish the Secretary's report and the report of the Stock Farm manager as submitted.

Mr. Johnston did not like the word