

7. The Society here has doubtless been of benefit to the cause of agri culture. In order to the better management of Societies, each county should be divided into three, four, or five or more sections according to its size. To each section £25 should be allowed by the Legislature each year upon condition that it formed a Society, and raised by subscription at least £10 yearly. The subscription should be 5s., the Society should in all cases pay £5 to the Secretary each year for his services in keeping the accounts, preparing and recording the yearly accounts and reports, for correspondence and other necessary writing. The subscription where not paid should be stopped out of bounties or premiums to which members in debt may become entitled.

One person should be paid a salary to devote his time to superintend these Societies, receive their reports, certify their accounts, inspect farms and make a yearly report to the Legislature.

The importation of cattle, sheep, horses and swine with public funds should be prohibited, and improving the breeds from the best animals of our own herds encouraged. When there was any special occasion to import an animal sums from private sources could be made up or special grants obtained.

8. No one thing, but a multitude of things combined are required to give an impulse to the agriculture of this country. Some of these are more manure, cheap labor, good markets, draining, setting out skillfully more orchards, improved machinery and implements, factories, railroads, good roads, the distribution of agricultural papers, agricultural societies properly organized and correctly managed, a minister of agriculture, breeding from our own stock. Fairs as in the old country, Nurseries and seed stores, carrot, turnips, and beet husbandry. A factory for making beet sugar in each county.

JOHN S. SMITH,

Secy. Parrishoro Agricultural Society.

The Rev. Dr. FORRESTER, Normal School, Truro.

#### EAST RAWDON AGRICULTURE SOCIETY.

RAWDON 29th JULY 1859.

Question 1st in the Circular. Answer. The state of the Agriculture in this Society is not such as we could wish. In the first place our Society has much improved their horned cattle on stock by the purchase of two excellent Bulls of a superior breed, and a fine young Stock are growing from them - We have also selected the best breed of Sheep within our reach, from those imported. Some Rams of the mixed South down breed and some Ewes by other breeds which were sold by Public Auction, and purchased by persons living in different Sections of the Society, have made a good improvement in our Sheep. We have also made considerable improvement in our Hogs, by selecting the mixed breed Berkshire and other Breeds.—We have found much labor saved in purchasing Horse rakes for saving the hay. We purchased a superior threshing Machine for our grain, at a cost of £59. All those Machines have the effect of saving much manual labor. Upon the whole our Society is in a progressive state.

2 There are several who have followed the rotation of Crops, and others have done so partially.

3 It is a general practice in our Society for each member to prepare and make large Compost heaps during the Summer for top dressing from which they derive much benefit.—and many now cultivate the Swedish Turnip, which has become a substitute for the loss of the Potatoe crop.

4. The average amount of arable land to each member is from fifty to one hundred Acres.

5. Every member or nearly so possesses a copy of Dawson's Work.

6. No regular Periodical taken last year.

7. We think the Agricultural Societies have been of much benefit to the cause of Agriculture, by uniting the energies of a combined party, and gives an impulse to all their proceedings, which would not be otherwise carried out. By the united action of the Society, with their general funds, and the aid of Government, they have been enabled to purchase and procure Stock and Machinery, which they would not otherwise have done. Upon the whole we are rather moving forward.

8. We feel assured that the aid given by Government has imparted an important impulse to all the Societies; as it has been the means of calling the Inhabitants together, and of raising funds in addition to what they receive gratis, and this has enabled them to make improvements which they would not otherwise have done. This Society raised altogether £13 the past year.

This Committee are fully persuaded, that there is no way the Legislature could appropriate the same sum to an object of so much use to the Province at large.

This Society will hold another meeting on the 19th day of August coming, when you shall hear from them about their share of the division of the Government aid which they will look for.

We beg leave to suggest that it would be a great improvement, if it could be recommended to the Societies, that a premium be offered of about three-pence per pound to any person or persons in each Society to raise good native Clover seed, as much of that imported is worthless, and none so good as our own raising.

And further it is our opinion that the attention of the Societies should be called to the raising of barley which is almost always a sure crop and makes excellent bread when properly manufactured; and a premium on this after a certain number of bushels to each member for every bushel he raises over the number of cattle he numbers on his farm 1s. 3d. per Bushel would give the poor and rich an equal chance.

All which is humbly submitted

JACOB WITHROW.

MICHAEL WALLACE

WM. C. CAREY.

Select Committee.

The Rev. Dr. FORRESTER

NORTH SYDNEY, July 19th, 1859.

DEAR SIR,

I shall now proceed to answer your eight Queries at the close of your Circular to the best of my judgment. 1st, as to the state of Agriculture in this District. It is certainly progressing, although not to the same extent, that it might or could be wished. I can, nevertheless, see much improvement in many parts of this Township of late years, and the main causes, which, in my opinion, have operated to produce such improvements, are these.—We have some half a dozen practical farmers from the Lowlands of Scotland, settled in this Township, who carry on farming on scientific principles, and are not only making a comfortable, decent living, but in most cases actually saving money, and their example is happily telling on the farmers around them; and I often think that if a few hundred such farmers were only settled, one here and there, throughout the Island, it is impossible to calculate the amount of improvement they would be the means of effecting in a few years hence. Our own Society has also contributed in some measure to the progress of agriculture in this Township. 2d, As to the Rotation of Crops—Our Lowland Farmers seem fully to understand and carry out this principle, and a few others are following their example, but not one in ten of our farmers understand or follow the Rotation of Crops. 3rd, As to the manufacture of Compost beds—this I consider to be one of the most important branches of the farmer's operation, and yet none certainly so much neglected. Throughout this Island, and even in my district, there is some attention, certainly paid to compost preparation for the last few years, but nothing to what it might and should be. There are no other artificial fertilizers used, save lime very sparingly. 4th, As to the quantity of arable land, cultivated in my District it is impossible for me to say. A few of our farmers will have from 40 to 50 acres under a thorough cultivation while many of them have not 15 acres. I would say that on an average, not over 20 to 25 acres are in perfect state of cultivation by the farmers in this Township. 5th, Not one in twenty of our farmers have a copy of Dawson's Work on Agriculture, an excellent work, which should be in the hands of every one. 6th, Our Society gets 10 monthly numbers of the New England Farmer which is distributed amongst the members. 7th, I do believe and verily believe, that Agricultural Societies, even as at present managed, have been productive of benefit to the Cause of Agriculture, though not to the same extent as they have been in other countries, where more skill, knowledge, and means were brought to bear upon their proceedings. Your 8th and last Query is indeed an important one—and one that I am not competent to answer. Still I will hazard an opinion—but one which I am well aware the Government will not act upon—even if advocated by you; that if the Government would encourage a body of Farmers to come from the Lowlands of Scotland, by giving them free grants to settle in various parts of the country. If this course be practicable I know of no greater benefit that the Government could confer on Agriculture. If a Model Farm even on a small scale, was conducted by a scientific farmer, in each of our counties, it could not fail of being a benefit. As to the one at Truro there can be no doubt but it will exercise some influence on the agriculture of some parts of the province. But that influence cannot be supposed to reach or to benefit this Island and some other distant parts—but in a very small degree. Still I think that it was a judicious provision, and that the money expended upon it is not thrown away.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

L. ROBERTSON.

REV. ALEX. FORRESTER, D. D., Truro.