

Haszard's



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ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

February 7th, 1855.

PRESENT:

Jeremiah Simpson, Esq., Vice President.
Hon. Judge Peters, T. Pethick, Esq.,
James Walkinshaw, Esq., Hon. J. Warburton,
Hon. W. W. Lord, G. Wright, Esq.,
Mr. George Smith, O. Haszard, Esq.

A Report from Mr. John M. Stark, School Visitor, on the subject of Lectures delivered by him in various parts of the Island during the past year, in relation to Agricultural Chemistry, was read, and ordered that the same be published with the minutes of this meeting.

To the Committee of the Royal Agricultural Society,

Gentlemen:

The first year of my services under the Government of this Colony having lately terminated, I have now the honor of laying before you a statement of my exertions in that department of my labors whose interests are fostered by your Society.

The difficulties, which to a stranger attend travelling in this country, and my ignorance of the various localities and the consequent impossibility of forming plans beforehand, prevented me from lecturing in the Country Districts during my first circuit of School Inspection. It was also my wish, that my first Lectures should be delivered in Charlottetown, which desire was carried out in the month of April. I then delivered a course of three Lectures on Agricultural Chemistry, the principal points of which were as follows: Lecture First, Agriculture, its importance; connection with the other natural Sciences, especially Chemistry; Chemical Action, what it is, and how manifested in the structure of vegetables; the points in which Agriculture exhibits itself as a Science, and the aspects under which it is regarded as an Art; the necessity of strenuous exertions to further Scientific Agriculture. Lecture Second, The conditions on which vegetable life depends, the soil, its mechanical uses, its chemical, clayey, sandy, and siliceous, fertility, their distinctive properties; deep and surface ploughing and draining with the peculiar advantages of the first; admixture of soils; difference between organic and inorganic substances; the organic and inorganic ingredients of the soil; the formation of soil, chemical and mechanical; comparative scientific knowledge in its relation to intellectual development and moral sentiments. Lecture Third, The plant and the soil in their mutual relations; the structure and food of plants; how that food is obtained, and the organs which absorb and assimilate it to the structure of the plant; exhaustion of the soil by continual cropping; history of colonial agriculture; personal observations on this Island; modes by which the fertility of land can be maintained or restored when lost, viz: rotation of crops and manuring, uses and advantages of several kinds of manure, recognition of the whole, concluding with the intimate connection between the animal, vegetable, and mineral creations.

I have lectured at the following places.

New Glasgow, Casumpe, Lot 11, Boleque, Tryon, Head of St. Peter's Bay, East Point, Souris, Bay Fortune, Leaning, Georgetown, Murray Harbour, White Sands, Vernon River, Mount Mellick (40.) Park Corner, Princetown, Cayentia.

The above central localities represented upwards of seventy School Districts. In several other localities, such as St. Eleanor's, Tignish, and Belfast, I announced my intention of lecturing, but the intimation not being made public enough, or from some other cause, sufficient audiences did not turn out.

The reception which I have every where met with, is alike gratifying and satisfactory to me, as it indicates on the part of the people an earnest desire to become acquainted with the principles on which alone Scientific Agriculture has its basis, a science intimately connected with every department of life in this fertile colony. But though I have found attentive listeners, and many minds eager for information and improvement, I have met with few of the industrious practical farmers, who possess the knowledge necessary to fit them for fully appreciating what is purely scientific, even when simplified and brought home to the concerns of their every day life. The chief benefit to be derived at present from such Lectures, is the awakening of a spirit of interest and inquiry, which will stimulate the farmers by reading and study, to fit themselves for receiving the full advantage of the hints and suggestions which are thrown out for their assistance.

I have distributed upwards of two hundred copies of Professor Johnston's admirable Catechism of Agricultural Chemistry and Geology, with a larger number of Judge Peters' useful "Hints," which have been supplied to me by your Secretary. The Catechism, I have for the most part

put into the hands of the Teachers, as the disseminators of knowledge in their respective Districts, with the earnest recommendation to study its contents, preparatory to its introduction as a class book for the advanced pupils. When any intellectual reform or improvement is projected, it is always the best policy to direct the most strenuous efforts to the young, and I trust that ere long in every School that enjoys the advantage of having an intelligent Teacher, the School Inspector will be able to examine a class of elder boys on the elements of Agricultural Chemistry. When that time does arrive, we may indulge the hope that the youthful farmers will enter on their labors with such an amount of scientific knowledge as will prove highly valuable to them. Before Agricultural Chemistry can be made a branch of instruction in the Schools, it will be necessary that some provision should be made for supplying the Schools with Johnston's Catechism at a cheap rate; nor could we expect that such a branch could be taught with success, till it is rendered imperative that the Teachers should be capable of undergoing an examination on the subject, before entering on their duties.

I have the honor to be,

Gentlemen, your obedient servant,

JOHN M. STARK,
Inspector of Schools.

Ordered, That the Secretary do write to Messrs. Blackwood and Son, the publishers of Professor Johnston's Agricultural works, requesting them to forward by the first opportunity, 500 Copies of the "Agricultural Catechism," and 50 Copies of the "Elements of Agricultural Chemistry and Geology."

Ordered, That a few Bushels of Black Oats be imported from England for Seed. Also, that the Durham Bull ordered from England by last Mail, be insured against all accidents of whatever nature or description on his passage out.

Ordered, That O. Haszard Esq., be paid for the keep of the Durham Bull, (Island bred) for the space of 2 1/2 months, at the rate of \$25. per month.

The following memorial to the Legislature praying for a Grant in aid of the importation of Horses, was read and ordered to be engrossed and presented on the meeting of the Legislature. [See House of Assembly Report.]

A communication from his Honour Judge Peters, on the introduction of an improved system in the cultivation of certain lands on this Island was laid before the Board, read and ordered to be printed with the minutes of this meeting.

Sidmouth, 5th February, 1855.

Charles Stewart, Esq., Secretary R. A. Society.

Sir,—In a shooting excursion last September at the East Point, I passed over many hundreds of acres of Cape lands on the North side, the system of cultivating which, might, I think be much improved. The course generally pursued on them at present appears to be, to take one or two crops of Oats or Barley, and then leave them without seed to recover themselves by rest and pasture, (if the scanty herbage thrown up for some years deserves the name).

The saline manures brought on to these lands by the spray from the sea, undoubtedly tends greatly to keep up their fertility, and it is certainly astonishing to see the grain crops which, notwithstanding a long continued exhausting system, they still yield, but if a mode of culture practicable to every farmer can be suggested which will probably increase their productiveness, I think all will admit it, at least, worth a trial, the system of green manuring applied to these lands, would, I think, have this effect. That system is briefly this: The land is sown with Buckwheat from the 15th June to 1st July, about the end of August or the first of September, when the crop is in blossom and just before the seed is formed, it is ploughed in; before ploughing, a roller should be passed over it to lay the crop flat, taking care that the roller goes up one side of the intended ridge and down the other, so that, at the crown of the ridge the crop lies both ways, by this means the plough always runs at the Barwheat line and the whole is perfectly covered by the furrow. The land is then ready for a grain crop in the spring, and the land on the Capes being already abundantly supplied by the spray with saline manure, and thus refreshed with vegetable matter (in which, through a long continued system of exhaustion) it is now deficient, would possess the two ingredients usually considered essential in rendering soils productive. An American agriculturist, speaking on this subject, says: "The system of green manuring has, within a few years, been extensively adopted in some of the older settled portions of the United States. Its results have been entirely successful when steadily pursued, and with a due consideration of the object sought and

the means by which they are to be accomplished, lands in many parts of our Eastern States which have been worn out by improvident cultivation, and unproductive at ten dollars per acre, have by this means, while steadily remunerating their proprietors by the returning crops for the outlay of labour and expense, been brought up in value to fifty dollars per acre."

I have seen this system extensively practised in New Brunswick with immense advantage, and I have tried it in this Island with equally satisfactory results, but beside an increase in crop, I think the cultivators of these Cape lands would find another advantage from this system. I have generally observed that oats sown on land on which a green crop has been ploughed in, like oats on potato or turnip land, ripen earlier than when sown on ley—a circumstance of great importance in exposed situations such as the Capes on the North side, where grain is so apt to be blighted by the gales usually occurring about the first of September.

I may be wrong in supposing this system of green manuring to be peculiarly adapted to these Cape lands, but I feel great confidence in its results and am very anxious to see it fairly tried. I therefore enclose two pounds to be offered as a premium to the person who shall, in the summer of 1855, manure in the way pointed out, the largest quantity of land, not less than one bushel of buckwheat to be sown per acre, to be competed for by persons residing on the North side of Townships No. 42, 43, 44, 45, and 46, not less than one acre to entitle a person to compete, and the prize not to be awarded unless there shall be three competitors; competitors to make an affidavit stating the quantity of land ploughed, the quantity of seed sown, the time of sowing, and the time of ploughing in the green crop, such affidavit to be transmitted to the Secretary of the Royal Agricultural Society, on or before the first day of November next when the person appearing to have ploughed in the largest quantity of green crop will be declared entitled to the Prize.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
JAMES H. PERREAU.

Public Meeting of the Orwell North School District in aid of the Patriotic Fund.

This Meeting was held in the School House on Wednesday evening the 10th inst. John McDougall Esq., in the Chair.

1st. On motion, it was resolved, that a Committee be formed to co-operate with the Central Committee in Charlottetown, in furtherance of the objects of the Meeting.

2d. On motion, it was resolved, that the Committee be composed of the following persons, viz:

Committee—John McDougall, Esq., Orwell, Chairman; Messrs. Angus McQueen, Orwell, Robert S. Findley, do. Alexander McLeod, do. Alexander McDougall, do. Alexander Curry, do. Thomas Furness, Vernon River, James Sherran, do. Henry Hanley, do., Archibald McDonald, do., John Brooks, Teacher, Secretary and Treasurer.

3d. On motion, it was resolved, that the District be divided into four divisions, and that Messrs. William Finlay, Allan McDougall, John Furness, and John McLeod, be appointed to solicit subscriptions therein.

At the close of the Public Meeting the following subscription list was opened.

We, the undersigned, do hereby agree to pay the sums annexed to our respective names, in aid of the Patriotic Fund, to be appropriated to the relief of such widows, and orphans, who, by the loss of their husbands, and parents in battle, or by active services in the present war, are unable to maintain or support themselves.

Robert S. Finlay,	£1 10 0	John Furness, comr.	0 10 0
John McDougall,	0 5 0	Thomas Furness,	0 5 0
William Finlay,	0 10 0	John Furness, jun.	0 2 6
John McQueen,	0 3 0	John Brooks,	0 5 0
Allan McDougall,	0 10 0	James Sherran, sen.	0 2 0
Angus McQueen,	0 4 0	James Sherran, jun.	0 3 0
Donnan McDougan,	0 2 0	Donald Murdoch,	0 3 0
Malcolm Gillis,	0 6 0	William Carr,	0 3 0
Donald McDougall,	0 1 6	William Cloney,	0 1 6
Peter Nicholson,	0 6 3	James Kightly,	0 1 6
Alex. McLeod,	0 3 0	John McLeod,	0 2 6
Allan McDougall,	0 5 0	James Currie,	0 2 6
Alex. Curry,	0 1 6	Amount Juvenile List,	0 5 10
Alex. McDougall,	0 2 0	Alexander Nicholson,	0 1 6
Donald Curry,	0 2 0		
Henry Hanley,	0 6 0		7 10 4

The undersigned begs to acknowledge the receipt of the above sums from Mr. John Brooks, Teacher, Orwell, North District, Treasurer of Local Patriotic Committee.

THOMAS DUNBAR, Treasurer of Patriotic Fund.