

reason for considering the Agriculture of these United Counties in a very prosperous and rapidly advancing condition, and that they will not suffer by comparison in this department with any other County of this Province under similar circumstances.

Your Board would now turn to their own immediate department, and report upon the state of your Society, and its operations during the past year.

Your Board are glad to find by comparison, that the average number of successful competitors at the shows are increasing. Thus at the fall show of 1845, the number of premiums given was 45, the number of individuals who took these, 17—being at the rate of over 2½ prizes to each person. In the fall show of 1846 the number of premiums given was 50, number of individuals obtaining these 21—at the rate of a little over 2½ prizes to each; at the Fall show of 1849, 49 premiums were awarded to 22 individuals, being at the rate of a little more than 2 prizes to each. At the Fall Show of 1850, 53 premiums were given to 31 individuals, being at the rate of about 1½ prizes to each. In the fall of 1852, 59 premiums were given to 35 persons—being at the rate of a fraction less than 1½ to each.

The more general distribution of prizes, as seen from the above, is another evidence of the improvement of these Counties, because it shows that superior stock and articles of produce are not confined to the few, but scattered over the country. Your Board feel confident that the efforts of your Society have more or less contributed to this by offering premiums, and thus stimulating to emulation and laudable competition.

Your Board are happy to find the increased cultivation of root crops and clover becoming so general throughout the County, as it is an acknowledged fact that in those countries which stand highest in their agricultural position, particular attention is paid to the growth of root crops and clover; because by this means a greater quantity of stock is kept, and in much better condition, from the same amount of land, and thus a greater quantity of manure is obtained, as well as superior in quality, by which the fertility of the soil is increased. Your Board beg attention to the marked improvement in plowing, so very evident at our last ploughing match. The workmanship was so uniformly good that the judges had great difficulty in awarding the prizes. This, together with the great interest in the competition manifested by spectators, indicate an increased and general attention to this most important department in the operation of the farmer. Your Society here claims a mede of praise, for to its exertions this improvement may be more or less attributed.

Without strict attention to good plowing we cannot calculate upon productive lands.

Your Society purchased last spring 10 bushels of the Early Warwick Pea, which were given to two individuals, with the condition that the produce was to be returned to the Society, at 3s. per bushel, reserving 5 bushels for themselves. The parties report favourably of this seed. They have returned upwards of 65 bushels, which is at the disposal of your Society.

Your Board also purchased clover seed and plaster, and sold at cost. A loss has been sustained by this transaction, as seen in the Treasurer's account.

Small lots of long clover seed, carrot seed, and mangold wurtzel seed were purchased, of which there is still a considerable proportion on hand. Your Board have during the past fall purchased 384 bbls. Plaster, which is now ready for delivery at Port Hope.

Your Board, in order to disseminate useful information, have given the Canadian Agriculturist to each member of your Society.

The number of members in your Society is 153. £58 9s. 6d. have been expended in premiums.

In accordance with the Agricultural Act, the Otonabee, Emily, and Dummer Township Societies have sent in their reports for the past year. The Report of the Otonabee Society was then read by the Secretary, on which the Board made the following remarks:

From this Report it would appear that a portion of the funds of the Otonabee Society have been expended in premiums for plowing. It is to be hoped that the benefits so sure to result from this course will soon remove the opposition which has hitherto existed, and that it will meet with a cordial support. Your Board regret that the laudable attempt to introduce subsoil plowing has not been so successful as could be wished, but hope a future trial will confirm the opinion so universally entertained of this valuable implement. The Report also mentions the establishment of a Farmers' Club for the discussion of agricultural subject, &c. An example is here given worthy of being followed, where practicable, by every agricultural community. Much good has resulted from these institutions, and we wish the Otonabee Farmers' Club every success and long continued support. On the other reports, simply consisting of the names of members, the Treasurer's account, and the Office-bearers for the present year, no remarks could be made.

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the Report of the County of Peterboro' Agricultural Society for the year 1852.

JOHN W. GILMOUR,  
Secretary of C. P. Ag. Sy.

Peterboro', March 3d, 1853.