

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 Baker, of the Provincial Stock Farm, was 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 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, 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 give 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 and successful farming career. It is gratifying to know that some could have attained 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 servant? Do we not find poverty among the laborers and the servant? 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 a 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 can call to mind, the 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 is 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. Some of these are in the best of the country, and are well adapted for the raising of stock, and the raising of stock is a pursuit which is sure to give to those who are industrious, economical and patient, a home where every reasonable wish could be supplied.

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 soil, 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, a farmer ought to keep early all the produce on the farm, and to keep it in the hands of the past generation and some of those of the present, with a virgin soil to depend on, have done well with very common stock; but the time has come when farming to be successful must be carried on upon the methods and under the conditions. To insure success it is imperative that good stock be kept.

I have met farmers in this Province who say that it does not pay to raise stock, as in many instances they have been deceived by the results of the 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 give 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 and successful farming career. It is gratifying to know that some could have attained 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.

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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 cattle, 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 Guernseys are fully equal to the Shorthorns and are more likely to improve on ordinary pasture.

Mr. Hoot, also an ordinary farmer, says that he has no objection to either Shorthorns or Guernseys, but he would like to see Shorthorns and Guernseys 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 they are not the equal of the Shorthorns in improving other breeds. Mr. Hall, a British buyer of fat cattle, gives it as his opinion that 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, gave it as his opinion that the Polled Angus ranks first on the list and the Shorthorns second. 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 a large 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 results of the present Stock Farm did not warrant a large 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 results of the present Stock Farm did not warrant a large 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. The committee also reported that the results of the present Stock Farm did not warrant a large 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.

The results of the annual sale in October last were looked forward to with much interest by me as being likely to afford the best evidence available as to the value of the different breeds of cattle. The results of the sale were as follows:—The sale was held on the 10th of October, and was attended by a large number of buyers. The results of the sale were as follows:—The sale was held on the 10th of October, and was attended by a large number of buyers. The results of the sale were as follows:—The sale was held on the 10th of October, and was attended by a large number of buyers.

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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 present, was read by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Anderson, and the whole Board was an Audit Committee.

Mr. Johnston moved, as an amendment, that a committee of three be appointed to inquire into the matter. The amendment was carried.

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

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

The Audit Committee reported the following report:—

Mr. President.—We the Audit Committee appointed to audit the accounts of the different Agricultural Societies, beg leave to report that we have audited the accounts of the following Societies:—

We find several of the Societies whose accounts are correct, carrying large balances. We would recommend the 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 Societies without being put to something of a useful and beneficial use.

Respectfully Submitted, D. L. Johnston, F. A. 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.

Walden and Jacksonville Societies. The Secretary stated that the account in respect to the Walden Society was correct, but that the account of the Jacksonville Society was not correct, and that the results of the present Stock Farm did not warrant a large 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.

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The stock now on the farm consists of 1 Short Horn bull and 6 cows, 1 Polled Angus bull and 4 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 expenses of the farm for the year were \$343.96, including rent \$800, 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 \$295.50 including sales of stock \$193.00.

The deficit therefore \$148.31, 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 assigned by D. McLellan, J. E. Fairweather and J. L. Anderson.

Mr. Spens, having asked leave to make a statement relative to the Stanley Society, was permitted to do so.

Mr. Spens addressed the Board in reference to the new building which the Stanley Society propose to erect. It would be a two-story building 55x55 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. Spens 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.

Mr. Johnston moved, as an amendment, that a committee of three be appointed to inquire into the matter. The amendment was carried.

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cattle on the farm, the latter being in good condition. The Superintendent considers the Polled Red Norfolk to be the best to cross with common breeds. The Superintendent also gave a full detail of his operations on the farm, generally of a character to show that the farm was not adapted for the purposes intended.

It was ordered that the report be received and published in the Secretary's annual report.

Moved by Mr. Johnston and seconded by Mr. Fairweather that the report of the Superintendent be received and lie on the table for future consideration. Adjourned 2:30.

Afternoon Session. The President in the chair. The Secretary presented the accounts of the York Agricultural Society. He read the law concerning such societies, showing that there can only be four societies in each county. York society he said, has not been recognized for several years. Last year a committee was appointed to consider the matter, and it was decided to recognize York, but to recognize St. Mary's society. Mr. Johnston read the report of the committee.

The Board directed the Secretary to return accounts of York society to the Treasurer, and that the Secretary should not be received because four societies are already in existence in the county.

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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 themselves and we will pay the bills; or, if noticed in any way I would have been encouraged to make special application. I have not yet heard from the committee, but I am personally, when I look upon 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 in the field as he had admitted. 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:—

Year.	No. weeks.	Average number of inmates.	Total cost per annum.	Cost per inmate per annum.	Cost per inmate per week.
1867.	52.	114.	\$184.22.	\$1.62.	30.25.
1868.	52.	114.	\$184.22.	\$1.62.	30.25.
1869.	52.	114.	\$184.22.	\$1.62.	30.25.
1870.	52.	114.	\$184.22.	\$1.62.	30.25.
1871.	52.	114.	\$184.22.	\$1.62.	30.25.
1872.	52.	114.	\$184.22.	\$1.62.	30.25.
1873.	52.	114.	\$184.22.	\$1.62.	30.25.
1874.	52.	114.	\$184.22.	\$1.62.	30.25.
1875.	52.	114.	\$184.22.	\$1.62.	30.25.
1876.	52.	114.	\$184.22.	\$1.62.	30.25.
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1878.	52.	114.	\$184.22.	\$1.62.	30.25.
1879.	52.	114.	\$184.22.	\$1.62.	30.25.
1880.	52.	114.	\$184.22.	\$1.62.	30.25.
1881.	52.	114.	\$184.22.	\$1.62.	30.25.
1882.	52.	114.	\$184.22.	\$1.62.	30.25.
1883.	52.	114.	\$184.22.	\$1.62.	30.25.
1884.	52.	114.	\$184.22.	\$1.62.	30.25.

The cost per inmate includes food, fuel, light, heating, medicine, medical attendance and funeral expenses; but it does not include the salaries of the Commissioner and Keeper. In 1882 the cost includes lumber and carpenter work, &c.

DEMONSTRATION OF INMATES OF A. H.

1881-2.

1882-3.

1883-4.

1884-5.

1885-6.

1886-7.

1887-8.

1888-9.

1889-90.

1890-1.

1891-2.

