

PROCEEDINGS

PROPERTY OF  
AT THE RALPH H. WETMORE

ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

ST. JOHN AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY,

WITH THE

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

FOR THE YEAR

1851.

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SAINT JOHN :

PRINTED BY HENRY CHUBB & COMPANY,  
PRINCE WILLIAM STREET.

1851.

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# REPORT

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## PROCEEDINGS, &c.

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The Annual Meeting of the St. John County Agricultural Society was held on the 30th of October, 1851. The Treasurer's account having been handed in, the President submitted the Report of the Directors; whereupon it was resolved that the Report be adopted, and printed for distribution.

The Society then proceeded to the election of Office-bearers for the ensuing year, when the following gentlemen were chosen :—

ROBERT JARDINE, *President* ;  
ROBERT F. HAZEN, } *Vice-Presidents* ;  
ROBERT BOWES, }  
JOHN DUNCAN, *Treasurer* ;  
M. H. PERLEY, *Corresponding Secretary* ;  
D. B. STEVENS, *Recording Secretary*.

### DIRECTORS :

PETER DEWAR,	CHARLES DRURY,
JAMES DUNN,	HENRY CHUBB,
THOMAS TRAFTON,	HENRY BLAKSLEE,
THOMAS DAVIDSON,	OTTY CROOKSHANK,
W. J. RITCHIE,	JAMES BROWN,
WILLIAM HAWKES,	ALEX. MARTIN,
GEORGE P. PETERS, M. D.,	A. A. DABROW.
Hon. JOHN H. GRAY,	

*Extract from the Minutes.*

DOUGLAS B. STEVENS,  
RECORDING SECRETARY.

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

FOR

1851.

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THE Directors of the Saint John County Agricultural Society have now to make a Report to the Society of their doings for the past year.

By the Treasurer's account, now submitted, it will be seen that the receipts for the year have been—from subscriptions, £59 3s.; and allowance from Government, £177. The expenditures have been—£15 for premiums at the Exhibition; £44 to the Golden Grove Society; £104 7s. to the Loch Lomond Society; £21 for premiums on field crops; £39 5s. 7d. for prize books at last year's Fair; £40 7s. 9d. for printing Norton's *Elements of Agriculture* and the Society's Reports and handbills for the last three years; and £17 for premiums at the Ploughing Match.

The Directors of the Mechanics' Institute having requested the co-operation of this Society in getting up an Industrial Exhibition, the Directors, in conjunction with the Provincial Society in Fredericton, offered premiums for agricultural implements and produce, to the extent of thirty pounds, and the Directors have to report that the Exhibition was most successful in its results, far surpassing anything of the kind that has ever before been attempted in the Province, and giving evidence that our mechanics and farmers are quite able to supply all our wants, both as to quantity and quality. Implements were exhibited in great variety, and in quality and price superior to anything imported, and showing that if the home market is not supplied with home manufactures, it must proceed from other causes than want of ability.

It is proposed that another such an Exhibition should be held in Fredericton in October of next year, and all the County Societies have been invited to assist and compete. It is intended that this Provincial Exhibition should also embrace a Cattle Show; and it will be for the consideration of the Society whether the usual County Fair and Show might not for next year be dispensed with, and competitors requested to exhibit at Fredericton.

Fairs and Cattle Shows were held at Loch Lomond and Golden Grove, reports of which have been published. Premiums were also awarded both by the County Society and those branch Societies for field crops.

It will be necessary that some arrangement should be made to obviate a difficulty which has arisen with regard to premiums offered by these different Societies.

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It frequently happens that the same persons are members of all these Societies, and compete for the premiums offered by each, thus causing three different sets of Judges to be at the very arduous labour of inspecting the same crops.

The Directors would suggest as a remedy that the Golden Grove Society be open only to members residing within a certain defined district, and the Loch Lomond Society to take in the remainder of the Parish. A Society is already established in St. Martin's, and it is expected that before another year there will be a Parish Society in Lancaster. Those Parish Societies might each have a Show and Fair, confined to its own members residing within its own district, and to the County Society might be left the distribution of premiums for general field crops, open to all members of Parish Societies.

The Exhibition at the Mechanics' Institute having come in place of the usual Show, the Directors offered premiums for a Ploughing Match, which was held in the Parish of Lancaster on Friday last. Eleven competitors came forward, and it is creditable to the County to have to say that there was not an inferior ploughman amongst them.

The award of premiums, although the Judges were known to be thoroughly competent, gave the usual satisfaction; that is, those who were first, thought that full justice had been done, while the rejected were persuaded that there could not have been fair play.

As it is highly necessary that not only the Judges but the ploughmen should be familiar with the rules by which good ploughing is distinguished from bad, the Directors here insert a definition of what constitutes good ploughing, from Stephens' *Book of the Farm* :—

“Want of attention is the great bar to young men becoming good ploughmen; and if they do not acquire the art when comparatively young, they will never do so at an advanced period of life. It is a want of attention at first that makes some ploughmen bunglers all their days, and the great majority exhibit but mediocre attainments. It is well known that the horses of a good ploughman suffer less from the work than those entrusted to an awkward and unskilful hand, and that a material difference will be found in the crops of those ridges tilled by a bad ploughman, when compared to any part of the field where the operation has been judiciously performed.

“The proper form and position of the furrow slice are essential requisites in good ploughing. The furrow slice should always be of such dimensions, and laid in such position, that the two exposed faces in a series of slices should be of equal breadth, and any departure from this is a positive fault. Laid up agreeably to this rule, furrow slices will not only present the maximum of surface to the atmosphere, but also contain the maximum of cubic contents.

“*Correct ploughing* possesses these characteristics :—The furrow slices should be quite straight, for a ploughman that cannot hold a straight furrow is unworthy of his charge. The furrow slices should be quite parallel in length, and this property shows that they have been turned over of an uniform thickness, for thick and thin slices lying together present irregular horizontal lines. The fur-

row slices should present to the eye a similar form of crest and equal surface, because when one furrow slice exhibits a narrower surface than it should have, it has been covered with a broader slice than it should be; and when it displays a broader surface than it should have, it is so exposed by a narrower slice than should be upon it. The furrow slices should have their back and face parallel. The ground, on being ploughed, should feel equally firm under the foot at all places, for slices in a more upright position than they should be not only feel hard and unsteady, but will allow the seed to fall down between them and be buried. Furrow slices in too flat a state, always yield to the pressure of the foot, and they cover each other too much, affording insufficient mould for the seed. They should lie over at the same angle, 45 degrees, thus presenting crests in the best possible position for the action of the harrow. Crowns of ridges formed by the meeting of opposite furrow slices should neither be elevated nor depressed in regard to the rest of the ridge. The last furrow slice should be uniform with those of the rest of the ridge. When the last furrows are ill made, the open furrow cannot be proportionately cleaned out, because if the space between the last furrows is too wide, the open furrow must be made too deep to fill up all the space; and if too narrow, there is not sufficient mould to make the open furrow of the proper size. If the last furrow slices are laid too flat, the open furrow will throw too much mould upon the edges, and thus make them too high."

The crops in the County have this season been generally above an average. Hay was everywhere, especially on uplands, an excellent crop. Wheat was good, weighing, in all cases heard from, over 60 lbs. per bushel, and subjected to neither rust nor weevil. Oats were well filled and early ripened; and improved varieties being now in common use, the average weight raised in the County is probably considerably over 40 lbs. per bushel. At the Shows, samples were exhibited weighing 47, 48, 49, 50 and 51 lbs. per bushel—a weight almost unprecedented.

Potatoes, although early struck with the rust in the tops, ripened well; and when dug, the roots were found to be very little affected; and in this County the crop is much better and more abundant than it has been within the last seven years. Turnips and carrots, owing to the cold, wet season, will not generally yield over half a crop.

It is worthy of notice, however, that in one or two instances, where the land was drained, subsoiled, and manured with equal proportions of well-rotted manure, guano, and bone-dust—say twenty single loads of manure, two cwt. of guano, and fifteen bushels of bone-dust—and the weeding and stirring up of the soil properly attended to, the produce of turnips and carrots was as good as in the most propitious of seasons. The principal cause of the failure of these crops is the improper application of the manure. Stable manure should never be used in the green state for turnips and carrots, but should be removed to the field early in spring, and turned at least twice before being put into the drill. Carrots especially will be a much surer crop, if grown on land which had been heavily manured the previous year for potatoes or turnips.

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On such a field, after a deep ploughing in the fall, a cross ploughing in spring, followed by a deep grubbing with the subsoil plough, or grubber, a heavy crop of carrots may be expected, with the aid only of about three cwt. of guano.

A Bone-mill has been erected in the Penitentiary, where arrangements have been made either to grind bones on hire, or to supply bonedust. The value of bone-dust as a manure is little known, and therefore little appreciated, in this country; but when it is known that the average crop of wheat of the State of New-York at this time does not exceed  $12\frac{1}{2}$  bushels per acre, and that of Ohio, not more than 15 bushels; and that thirty years since, the former averaged 30 bushels, and the latter 35 bushels per acre, and that *the parting with* phosphate of lime from the soil without renewal, is the chief cause of their inability to produce their former ratio, which is proved by the old quantities having been raised when phosphate of lime has been used,—when this is considered, together with the experience of the last thirty years in England of the effect of bonedust in restoring worn-out lands, it is to be hoped that farmers generally will avail themselves of this opportunity of adding fertility to their fields.

A Tile Machine was also imported by this Society, under the direction of Government, and is stationed at the Penitentiary, where tiles will be made to order.

So much has been written of late years on improvements in agriculture, that the subject may be considered pretty nearly exhausted. All that can well be said on it is already before the public in Professor Johnston's report, and in the very useful publications of the Provincial Society of New-Brunswick, of which Professor Robb is the efficient Secretary.

The Directors would at this time desire to draw the consideration of farmers but to one point, which they consider of vital importance, and that is, to the alarming increase of white weed and yellow weed, or the ox-eye daisy, dandelion, and buttercup, in the hay-fields of the country.

Such is the prevalence of this pest, that in the season of the flowering of plants, instead of a healthy green, the whole country is becoming chequered with white and yellow, and Timothy and clover are rapidly giving place to masses of weeds, which, while they exhaust the soil, afford but little nutriment to stock.

While it is admitted that the seeding of those weeds causes them to spread over all descriptions of soils, and to infest alike the fields of the good and the bad farmer, yet there cannot be a doubt but that this evil is mainly the consequence of the general system which prevails of cutting grass for hay too long in succession; the common practice, as is well known, being to cut grass from five to ten years without breaking up the ground, and often without top-dressing.

It is now becoming evident that on this system farming cannot be conducted profitably, and it is the duty of all who desire prosperity to endeavour to find a remedy.

Science and practice alike concur in pointing to a ROTATION OF CROPS as the foundation of good husbandry, and the rotation found to be most suitable to the general circumstances of the country is as follows :—

First year, broken up from fallow—Oats.

Second year, with manure—Roots.

Third year—Wheat or Barley, with Grass Seeds.

Fourth year—Hay.

Fifth year—Pasture or Hay.

Sixth year—Pasture.

As by this system, with the arable portion of the farm in six divisions, a farmer will have each year two fields in grain, one in roots, such as potatoes, turnips, and carrots, one or two in hay, and one or two in pasture, it has been found that beside a progressive improvement in the quality and capability of the soil, the crops will be in exact accordance with the requirements of the farmer's family and his stock, and the manure with the fields; it is hoped that a general attempt will be made to break from the gin-horse track of a bad system, and adopt that which experience has proved to be profitable both for the present and future.

All which is respectfully submitted.

By order of the Board.

D. B. STEVENS, *Secretary.*

R. JARDINE, *President.*

*Saint John, October 30th, 1851.*

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## APPENDIX.

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### MODE OF SAVING AND MAKING MANURE.

In compliance with the terms on which the Saint John County Agricultural Society have offered a premium for the most economical mode of saving and making Manure, I hereby transmit to you my mode. My barn stands on a side hill, under which is my vault for saving and making manure. The cattle stand immediately over the vault. The floor of the barn is perfectly tight, with a little inclination to one end, to conduct the urine into a puncheon placed for its reception. In the first place, I deposit a quantity of muck in the bottom of the vault, then spread a layer of stable manure, mixing the horse and cow manure well together; I then spread another layer of muck, and saturate the whole heap with the urine and house slops, which are also collected in puncheons for that purpose. I then put on another layer of manure and of muck, and so on until I fill the vault, when I turn the whole heap over, and use it for top-dressing and for my crop. My manure heap is never exposed to either the rain or frost.

*Gardner's Creek, 26th July, 1851.*

JAMES BROWN.

To the St. John County Agricultural Society.

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*Parish of Simonds, Sept. 2d, 1851.*

I think there is no part of husbandry in this Province that requires the farmer's attention more than saving and making Manure; yet there is no part of husbandry so much neglected, which is much to be regretted, for, with manure the farmer can do every thing—without it, he can do nothing. The Flemish farmers, who, it is acknowledged by a great many, are the most industrious people in the world, call manure the God of Husbandry. But, Sir, if you have travelled over as much of this County as I have, you have seen that very little other manure is made than that made in the barnyard, although it abounds with all sorts of material for making compost, and every facility for increasing the manure heaps.

Six years ago, when I joined your Society, I was as deficient in these arts as any man, but I soon found that I must increase my manure heap, or that I could not go on farming on the rotation system. The first increase I made to my manure heap was with bog earth, and I follow the practice up to the present time, as I find it the best article for all purposes of making manure that I can discover, without paying out money. I sent you a statement of my mode of making compost of bog earth three years ago, which you published in the *St. John Cosurier*, and I will now acquaint you with the method I follow at present.

I have the bog earth raised one year before being mixed with any thing, as muck is so long excluded from the atmosphere and sun that it requires a year's frost and sun and air to absorb the sour water properly out of it, to make room for the rich liquids it is to receive in tanks and elsewhere. I keep my cows in the barn at night, and place dry muck behind them to absorb the liquid manure. The cow stable is cleaned out every morning, and the manure is mixed once a week with one load of rich earth to three of manure. Clay loam is the best, if it can be got, to mix as compost, as there is a retainer in clay that other earths are not possessed of. In addition to this, I have in rear of my dwelling house a tank sunk that holds thirty common cart loads of dry muck; this tank is fourteen feet long, seven feet wide, and six feet deep; it is made of three-inch plank, with hackmatack posts, and is properly caulked and payed to hold water. When this tank is filled with the dry muck, there are conductors that convey all the slops from the kitchen into it, as well as all the chamber lye and the soap suds from an outside kitchen; the hearth ashes are likewise put into it in a dry state. In about a month, when the tank gets pretty well filled up with the liquid, it gets into an acid state, and in a few days will ripen and be ready for removal, which is easily known by a disagreeable odour and an increase of yellow flies. In the spring and fall of the year it requires five or six weeks to ripen, as the weather is not so hot. To prevent surface water getting in, the tank has a covering, which is easily removed when required. I can make at least one hundred cart loads of good powerful manure by this tank in a year. I have the manure removed to a large shed at the end of my cow stable, the bottom of which is in the shape of an amphitheatre, from which no liquid can escape. I add one load of earth to three loads of tank manure, which, in the fall of the year, will cover the floor of the shed about four feet deep. The manure from the cow stable is thrown on the top of this through the winter, and spread evenly over it. The roof of the manure shed is constructed so as to admit the rain freely, which washes down the liquid into the compost; but the sun and wind are excluded.

I have a piece of ground, about a quarter of an acre, which was so poor that it would give nothing but weeds. In May last I ploughed and harrowed it, and then put on six

loads of tank manure, unmixed, to try its strength. I sowed it with barley, harrowed it well, and rolled it. I never saw ranker barley, and I am happy that you saw it, so that you could judge for yourself.

Therefore, tank manure is clear gain—its fertilizing ingredients always went to waste heretofore. To make this manure it requires neither horses, cows, pigs nor sheep, nor any other animal, but the mere slops of the house.

Yours, &c.

ROBERT BOWES.

To the President of the St. John County Agricultural Society.

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### PARISH OF SIMONDS BRANCH AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

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Our third annual Agricultural Exhibition or Cattle Show having recently taken place, it devolves upon me to represent to the Parent or Saint John County Society, not in the shape of a report, for your very able and valuable yearly report upon agriculture generally, leaves nothing for us to say more than merely to show, that our Branch is still in existence, and I feel much pleasure to add, in a very flourishing condition.

The day on which the Exhibition took place was very fine, and, judging from the number of Agriculturists and numerous spectators present, it excited more than usual interest.

Wheat was of a very superior quality, weighing from 64 to 65 lbs. per bushel. Oats surpassed any that I have known in the Province, weighing 50 and 51 lbs. per bushel. Barley, 54 and 65 lbs. per bushel. Buckwheat, 56 to 58½ lbs.; Rye, 56½ to 58½ lbs. Peas and Beans were equally good. In fact, they have not been surpassed even in the States. There were some as good Timothy, Parsnip, Carrot and Swedish Turnip Seeds exhibited as could be imported. Roots were also of a very excellent quality. An American gentleman, who was present, purchased some of the first class Potatoes, for the purpose of showing them in the States. There is also evidently a great improvement in Cattle. The names of the successful competitors for the best animals having been already published in the list of Premiums, it is unnecessary to report them again. With regard to crops generally—Hay and Grain in this Parish are more than an average. Potatoes fell short of what might have formerly been considered an average, but the blight having affected them so slightly as not to occasion any rot amongst them, consequently this crop may be considered better than usual. Turnips do not appear to have been cultivated to any great extent by individual farmers, but begin to be more generally raised, and were of a fair average crop; so also with regard to Carrots. On the whole, this Parish has enough, if not more than sufficient, for its own consumption, which, when it is considered that the greatest portion of what is now raised was within a short period purchased by lumbering, is the best proof that can be adduced as to the recent improvements in Agriculture in this quarter.

JOHN JORDAN,

*President of the Parish of Simonds Branch Society.*

Loch Lomond, Nov. 3, 1851.

To the President of the St. John County Agricultural Society.

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## GOLDEN GROVE BRANCH SOCIETY.

This being the first year since the formation of our Branch Society, I take much pleasure in giving you a brief outline of the results within this short period. We considered the Parish Society too large and inconvenient, and to enable every person who might be inclined to avail himself of the opportunity of becoming a member, and also to bring the Society meetings and annual exhibitions so close to their doors that no reasonable excuse could be offered for declining to come forward, we continued the Golden Grove Branch as organised by your Commissioners in 1849; and it must therefore be gratifying to you to observe that these efforts have been so far crowned with success.

This being the first exhibition at which this Branch offered premiums for samples of Grain and Vegetables, and also for the best Cattle, the best assortment of Farming Implements, and the most economical mode of making Manure, we did not expect to see much interest excited; but the samples brought forward far exceeded our expectations; and it seems that the encouragement thus held out, although the premiums were very small, must have had the effect of stimulating and arousing our farmers to exertion. The increase of farming implements in this district—the visible improvement in making manure—the stumping and clearing of old land—all strengthen this idea, the beneficial results of which are obvious.

It will be found that a larger quantity of Grain of different kinds has been raised in this district this year than any year previous; samples of which were recently exhibited in the Grove at the Fair or Cattle Show, which certainly could not be considered inferior to grain of the same kinds raised in any country. Potatoes generally are a fair crop; although somewhat injured in the tops, the blight had not the effect on the roots that was anticipated in August last: farmers will have more than sufficient for their own use. Oats were a good crop, and generally well saved. There was a great breadth of land laid down with Buckwheat—the grey did not turn out as well as other years. Good Wheat has been raised by several farmers belonging to this Society, but not in large quantity. Beans and Peas were largely cultivated last season, and turned out well. Turnips do not appear to be as good as last year, which I attribute to the dry season. Carrots have been cultivated in this district largely, and are an excellent crop. Barley of all kinds was very productive, as well as Spring Rye. Hay turned out an abundant crop, although there is very little marsh or low land in this section of the County, and the farmers will have more than enough for their own consumption.

It is evident that there has been within the last two or three years an increasing desire manifested amongst the inhabitants generally to improve in agriculture. The premiums for the first, second and third best methods of making Manure, have created a stimulus in this very essential and important branch of industry: the improvement in it is very great. I regret that I am not in possession of a written description from those to whom premiums have been awarded for Manure, to accompany this Report, but would refer you to the one furnished you by myself some time since.

Our means being limited as yet, we have not been able to hold out encouragement for stumping or draining land, although the latter is so necessary, especially in this climate, to render lands earlier and more productive. In conclusion, I am pleased to be able to report that the farmers generally manifest an appearance of industry in husbandry that I never before witnessed in this district.

Oct. 10th, 1851.

ROBERT BOWES.

To the President of the St. John County Agricultural Society.