## ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

*Committee Meeting, February* 12, 1856.

PRESENT.—Judge Peters, Hon. J. Warburton, Hon. Capt. Rice, Wm. M' Gill, Esq., Henry Longworth, Esq., Chas. Haszard, Esq., Geo. Wright, Esq.

Read minutes of last meeting.

Judge Peters presented the Report from the Committee appointed to ascertain the advantages likely to accrue to the country by renting a Farm for the Breeding of Stock, &c., which was agreed to and ordered to be printed.—

Moved and seconded

That the same Committee who drew up the Report—viz. Judge Peters, Messrs. Henry Longworth and W. W. Irving, be appointed a Committee to draw up a Petition, to the Legislature now in Session, on the subject.

By Order
W. W. IRVING,
Committee Room See' y Royal Agricultural Society.

### REPORT.

The following Resolution having been passed by the Committe of the Royal Agricultural Society, viz.

Resolved—That Judge Peters, Mr. Henry Longworth and Mr. W.W. Irving be appointed a Committee to make enquiries and report on the practicability of purchasing or renting a farm to be conducted by the society, for the Breeding of Improved Stock, growing seeds, &c., to be distributed throughout the Country, and also as to the probable cost of such an establishment, and the probable saving it would effect, with relation to the system of importing stock now pursued."

Your Committee beg to report that they have given the said Resolution their fullest consideration, and have come to the conclusion, that notwithstanding the great benefits which have already been conferred on the farming community of the Island, by the exertions of the society, the time has now arrived when an entire change in the management of the society's business, would be advisable, to enable the Country to keep pace with the demand for improved stock.

In consequence of the unremitting attention which the different Committees of the Royal Agricultural Society have always displayed in their endeavours to procure the best description of stock by Importation and the intelligence of many of the Breeders, the Island has acquired a character as an Agricultural Colony of considerable moment, which it is the interest of the farmers to maintain, and the neighbouring Provinces now look to us for a supply of improved stock. This character can only be kept up by the fostering care of the Society, aided by the Legislature, which has, at all times by the liberality of its grants, shewn the great estimation in which it holds everything connected with Agriculture.

Your Committee regret, that owing to unfortunate circumstances, over which it was impossible the Society could have any control, such as losses at sea, &c.&c., the different amounts granted by the Legislature for the importation of stock, have not been productive of so much good as was anticipated. To prevent disappointment and obviate these serious losses in future, your Committee would recommend the establishment of a farm under the direction of the Society, for the purpose of Breeding stock, growing seeds, &c., for distribution through the Island, *and for affording practical information in matters connected with an improved system of Agriculture.*

Your Committee are of opinion, that many of the animals imported, are from superiority of climate and natural delicacy of constitution, caused by excessive care and high feeding, not so well suited to withstand the rigour of our climate, as would animals of the same description bred and raised in the Island.

For the above reasons, and in order that the society may have it in their power to give a larger supply of animals to the Country at a much less cost, it would be necessary and highly desirable to rent a farm of from 100 to 200 acres of land in the neighbourhood of Town, to be devoted entirely to the breeding and rearing of improved stock and growing seeds for the services of the Colony, and your Committee beg to submit the following calculations as to the expense of stocking and working the same, with the probable annual income.

On looking over these calculations, it may be observed, that there is no charge for management; this is true, but they are made under the supposition, that the Secretary will reside upon the farm, and that apart from his present duties, he will be able to devote a few hours in the morning and evening to its superintendence. It will be seen also, that a liberal allowance is made to the head ploughman, who will be competent to sow the different seeds, and take daily orders from the Secretary, who will again be guided by a committee of management. The following is a list of Stock required to commence the Farm.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| HORSES: | | | | |
| 1 Entire Clydesdale, | £172 | 10 | 0 | |
| 2 Mares do. | 225 | 0 | 0 | |
| 1 Blood Mare, | 140 | 0 | 0 | |
| 1 Island bred Mare, | 30 | 0 | 0 | |
| | | | | £567 10 0 |
| CATTLE: | | | | |
| 8 Cows, Island bred, at £20, | £160 | 0 | 0 | |
| 2 do. imported, at £50, | 100 | 0 | 0 | |
| | | | | £260 0 0 |
| SHEEP: | | | | |
| 20 Ewes, Island bred, at £5, | £100 | 0 | 0 | |
| 20 do. imported, at £10, | 200 | 0 | 0 | |
| 1 Ram do. | 25 | 0 | 0 | |
| | | | | £325 0 0 |
| PIGS: | | | | |
| 2 Sows, imported, at £10 | £20 | 0 | 0 | |
| 1 Boar, do. | 12 | 0 | 0 | |
| | | | | £32 0 0 |
| IMPLEMENTS: | | | | |
| 2 Carts, | £20 | 0 | 0 | |
| 2 pair Harrows, | 4 | 0 | 0 | |
| 2 Iron Ploughs, | 15 | 0 | 0 | |
| 1 Turnip Cutter, | 3 | 15 | 0 | |
| 1 Boiler, | 5 | 0 | 0 | |
| 1 Threshing Machine, (complete,) | 57 | 16 | 4 | |
| 1 Horse Hay-Rake, | 2 | 0 | 0 | |
| 1 Hand do | 3 | 15 | 0 | |
| 2 Box Sleighs. | 4 | 0 | 0 | |
| 1 Wood Sleigh, | 1 | 10 | 0 | |
| 1 Roller, | 2 | 0 | 0 | |
| 1 Turnip Drill, | 2 | 0 | 0 | |
| 1 Moulding Plough, | 1 | 10 | 0 | |
| Sundry Implements, | 3 | 0 | 0 | |
| | | | | £115 6 4 |
| HARNESS, &c: | | | | |
| 2 complete Sets of Cart Harness, | £6 | 0 | 0 | |
| 2 pairs Backbands and Chains, | 2 | 5 | 0 | |
| 2 Collars, Bridles and Hames, | 2 | 10 | 0 | |
| Cattle Ties, &c., &c. | 1 | 0 | 0 | |
| | | | | £11 15 0 |
| | | | | £1311 11 4 |
| ANNUAL COST OF WORKING THE FARM: | | | | |
| Rent, | | | | £100 0 0 |
| Taxes, | | | | 5 0 0 |
| Labour, | | | | 195 0 0 |
| Fencing, | £10 | 0 | 0 | |
| Interest on £50 at 6 per cent. | 3 | 0 | 0 | |
| | | | | 13 0 0 |
| Blacksmith, Carpenter, and Saddler, Implements, Harness, &c., £127 1 4, | | | | 13 0 0 |
| Interest on above implements | 7 | 12 | 6 | |
| Loss on implements in ten years, £84 14s. 4d. (3d of cost.) Annual loss, | 8 | 9 | 5 | |
| | | | | 16 1 11 |
| [This is on the supposition, that the implements ordered would be worth one-third of the first cost at the end of 10 years.] | | | | |
| To interest on £894 10s., being price of imported Stock, at 6 per cent. | £53 | 13 | 5 | |
| To do. on £290 on Island bred, | 17 | 8 | 0 | |
| | | | | 71 1 5 |
| Annual Expenditure | | | | £413 3 4 |
| Annual Income arising from Farm. | | | | |
| HORSES; | | | | |
| Services of one Entire, say | £80 | 0 | 0 | |
| 1 Colt, at one year old, | 60 | 0 | 0 | |
| 1 Filly do | 30 | 0 | 0 | |
| | | | | 170 0 0 |
| CATTLE: | | | | |
| Services of 2 Bulls, | 20 | 0 | 0 | |
| 5 Bulls, at 1 year old, at £7 10s. | 37 | 10 | 0 | |
| 3 Yearling Heifers, at £7 10s. | 22 | 10 | 0 | |
| | | | | 80 0 0 |
| SHEEP: | | | | |
| 20 Rams at 1 year old, at £3, | 60 | 0 | 0 | |
| 20 Ewes at do. as under, | 45 | 0 | 0 | |
| 10 sold yearly at 40s. } 10 (old) killed, at 50s., } | | | | |
| Wool sold annually, | 48 | 0 | 0 | |
| | | | | 153 0 0 |
| PIGS: | | | | |
| 40 Pigs sold annually at 10s. | | | | 20 0 0 |
| Annual Income | | | | £423 0 0 |

With respect to the foregoing statement your Committee would remark that they have been careful in making their estimate to underrate the probable income arising from the farm; they have in fact confined the sources of revenue entirely *to stock* and Wool, and the services of the stallions and bulls, assuming that the produce will be consumed on the farm, they have done this partly from uncertainty as to the quantity of grain which will be required for the breeding stock and as well as from a desire not to exaggerate the advantages of the undertaking, although they feel confident that a large amount will be annually realized from the sale of milk, grain, &c. which they have not taken into account.

Your Committee would here briefly recapitulate the principal advantages which must result to agriculturists from the proposed establishment.

One great object of the society has been not only to introduce new varieties of seed, but also, by importations of seeds, such as Oats, Wheat, Barley, &c. to furnish the farmer with frequent changes of seed, which a law of vegetable economy seems to render necessary. The cost of seeds so obtained is such as to forbid their importation on a large scale; the Society is continually importing small quantities, but having no farm under its control on which to sow them, is necessarily dependent on private individuals to do it for them. The risk of keeping small quantities separate, is such, that the produce of seed so imported is rarely obtained back quite pure. Thus after the expense incurred, the endeavors of the Society to distribute varieties or changes of seed is in a great measure frustrated; the proposed farm would entirely obviate this difficulty. All the Oats, Wheat, Barley and Potatoes raised on it should be from seed recently imported, or from the most approved varieties, would each year be sent to the Society's store such portions as are required for consumption on the farm being replaced by grain purchased in the country, thus instead of imported seed becoming mixed, the society would be enabled every year to distribute many hundreds of bushels of different kinds of seed-grain and potatoes, each pure of its kind, through the Island.

Another advantage would be that by careful observation, the society would be enabled to ascertain varieties of seed best adapted to our climate, and thus be enabled to afford valuable information to the farmer.

Another great benefit will be, that the establishment will enable the Society at a much smaller expense than is now incurred, to distribute a greater number and superior description of Stock than can be done under the present system, as will appear from the following statement of the Stock transactions for the last three years.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| For 1853,—The loss on Horses imported, caused by death of some at sea, and loss or re-sale of those that arrived, was | | | | £1000 0 0 |
| Loss on Rams imported, caused by death at sea, and loss on re-sale of those that arrived | | | | 146 0 0 |
| For 1855,—Loss on Horses imported from U. S., | | | | 216 17 8 |
| Loss on Rams imported, caused by death at sea, and loss on re-sale of those that arrived. | | | | 90 15 6 |
| Loss on Stock produced in the Island and distributed through the country during the last 3 years, including cost of keep and incidental expenses, and including £27 paid William Swabey for keep of Ram Lambs, | | | | 146 0 0 |
| | | | | £1599 13 2 |

At this loss viz: of £1599 13s. 2d., the amount of Stock sent through the country, during those 3 years is as follows:

7 Entire Horses, 46 Bull Calves,
22 Rams, 8 Pigs, and 3 Bulls and 1 Ram,

yet owned by the Society, and now stationed as follows, viz,—1 Bull in Town, 1 at Lot 5, and 1 at Lot 11; and 1 Ram at Mr. Chas. Haszard's. By the statements before made, it will appear, that the estimated annual expenditure of the Farm will be £413 3s. 4d, which in three years would amount to £1239 10s. 0d. By reference to the statement of the estimated annual income of the farm, it will be perceived that in 3 years the society would receive from it for distribution as follows, viz: 3 entire horses, 3 fillies, 15 Bulls, 9 heifers, 60 rams 30 ewes, 120 pigs which would realize on sale, at the lowest estimate as follows:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3 Horses | £180 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 Fillies | 90 | 0 | 0 |
| 15 Bulls | 112 | 10 | 0 |
| 9 Heifers | 67 | 10 | 0 |
| 60 Rams | 180 | 0 | 0 |
| 30 Ewes | 60 | 0 | 0 |
| 120 Pigs | 60 | 0 | 0 |
| | £750 | 0 | 0 |

Thus this stock would at the low rates estimated produce £750. If this be deducted from the estimated cost of management for 3 years, as above shewn, it would stand as follows:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cost of farm for three years | £1239 | 10 | 0 |
| Amount realized from stock, sent to the Country for sale | 750 | | |
| | £489 | 10 | 0 |

Thus by the proposed plan the larger amount of stock would be furnished at a loss of £489. 10s. 0d instead of £1599. 13s. 2d.

In this last statement, your Committee assume the farm to to be a seperate establishment kept up merely for supplying the society with stock for distribution, instead of having it supplied as at present by importations and purchases from private individuals, and for that purpose, the society paid to the farm £489. 10s. 0d. annually and received nothing back but the stock above mentioned, and is merely intended to give a comparative veiw of the advantage of the proposed plan, over that now in operation, even on that assumption. But by reference to the estimated annual proceeds of the farm, it is evident, that even this comparative small loss will not be actually incurred; as according to that statement, the amount which in 3 years the society would receive over and above the £750—for stock, for the services of Entire animals, meat, and the sale of wool would be £519 which if carried to the credit of the Farm would shew that the stock transaction would be really conducted without any loss at all.

To enable the society to commence operation in a satisfactory manner, your Committee are of opinion that a grant from the Legislature of £1300 would be necessary, and as for the first 3 years, the farm cannot be expected to pay as it afterwards will, your Committee are of opinion that during that period the rent of the farm should also be provided for by a special grant from the Legislature. It may be objected that such a farm should pay better. Your Committee have already expressed their belief that they much underrated the profits. It must be also understood that two thirds of the stock raised will be sent to the different Counties for sale, when experience has proved that an animal which in Charlottetown would realize £5 or £6 is frequently knocked down for 20s or 30s, in such transactions the farm account must lose, since unlike ordinary farms its produce is sold in the worst, instead of the best market, but the distant parts of the country are benefited, and the great object is attained.

In conclusion, your Committee would observe, that although they have considered the proposed undertaking, not as a model farm, but simply as a farm to be conducted for raising improved stock and seeds, for distribution through every section of the country, in short as a substitute for the plan now in operation by which the object of the society will at much less expense be more effectually attained. They indulge the hope that it will with the increasing prosperity of the country expand not only into a model farm, but into something of much greater importance, viz., an institution where a sound education on practical and scientific agriculture can be obtained. Knowledge is chiefly valuable to its possessor, in proportion as it bears on the avocations he pursue, the importance of such an institution in an agricultural country, is, your committee believe, beyond calculation. A college, presided over by a professor skilled both in scientific and practical agriculture, where pupils could be taken at low rates, would afford vast advantages, not only to those educated there, but would also exert a most beneficial influence in the country at large, by constantly sending forth well trained and scientific farmers, who, locating themselves in the various sections of the Island, would by their example, become instructors to all around them, and your committee feel confident, that the increasing prosperity of the Colony must soon place its public finances in such a position as will enable the legislature liberally to endow such an institution without detriment to other objects of public necessity. The academies and colleges of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick attract many of our youth there, to be educated for learned professions, why should not P. E. Island have an Agricultural College to attract their youth here, for agricultural instruction, and thus maintain the honorable position she now holds among her sister colonies, as the leader in agricultural improvement.

With such convictions as to the immediate advantages which would result to the country from the proposed farm, and with such hopes as to what it will, (if now established,) ultimately become, your committee beg to offer their Report.

(Signed) JAMES H. PETERS,
HENRY LONGWORTH.
WILLIAM W. IRVING.