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EDWARD WHELAN

This is true Liberty, when Free-born Men, having to advise the Public, may speak free.—EURIPIDES.

[EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.]

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No. 42.

REPORT

OF THE

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY,

For the year ending 7th March, 1856.

(Concluded.)

Your Committee, in a former portion of this report, adverted to the difficulties and very serious losses attending the importation of stock; and deeming it their duty to be in a position, at the next annual meeting, to suggest some better method in lieu of the one now in operation—they passed the following resolution appointing a sub-Committee to draw up a report on the subject, which, along with the copy of a petition to the Legislature, they beg to submit:—

TO THE HONBLE. THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.
The Memorial of the Royal Agricultural Society of Prince Edward Island.

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH:—

That the increasing demand made upon the Society by the Agriculturists of this Island for Improved breeds of stock, together with the very serious losses repeatedly sustained in the Importations of stock, has caused your Society to direct its attention to the practicability of adopting some plan which will enable it to keep pace with the enlarged requirements of the country, and at the same time avoid a continuation of the severe losses and disappointments to which experience has shown it must be subject from a continued importation of stock from Great Britain. That with this view the subject was referred to a special Committee of its Directors, who, after carefully considering the matter made their Report, recommending the establishment of a Farm, under the direction of the Society, for Breeding Improved Stock, and raising Seeds, which is hereto annexed, and to which, for full particulars of the estimated cost of stocking and working the proposed farm, your memorialists respectfully beg leave to refer your Honorable House.

Your memorialists will not trouble your Honorable House by recapitulating the reasons urged in the Report in favour of the proposed establishment, but would call your attention to the fact that it appears that the sum of £1,300 is necessary to stock and put the said farm in operation.

Your memorialists are aware that some may object to the sum as large; your memorialists answer, that the agricultural interests, which the proposed farm is peculiarly intended to promote, are also large, and claim an importance second to none which can be advanced; in addition to which, your memorialists would call attention to the fact that of the grant of £1,000 made last session for the importation of Horses, only £500 has been as yet drawn from the Treasury, so that in case of so large an appropriation being deemed under the circumstances inexpedient for that purpose, the £500 yet unexpended might be allowed to form part of the £1,300 now required. Yet as such an arrangement would, for the present, deprive Prince and King's County of the Clydesdale Horses intended to be imported with it,—it is much to be desired that the whole £1,300 should be granted, leaving the £500 yet undrawn, to be applied as originally intended.

Your Honorable House will perceive by the Report, that, for the first three years, the Society will require that the rent of the Farm should be provided for by Legislative grant. Your memorialists deem this necessary, inasmuch as those who take a leading part in directing the Society's affairs would be unwilling to enter into engagements which the Society might possibly be unable to fulfil. The Governor and Council might, however, be empowered to withhold the Grant, if from the accounts of the farm it was found not to be really required.

The readiness with which applications of the Agricultural Society have always been responded to by your Honorable House, convinces your memorialists that it is unnecessary on the present occasion to dwell at large on those arguments, which to a body less alive to the importance of agricultural improvement might be necessary to secure for this application the serious consideration which its importance demands. Your memorialists may, however, be permitted to observe, that the system pursued by the Legislature of this and all other Colonies in appropriating, from time to time, considerable sums of money for importation of stock, while it proves the necessity of such expenditure, also shows that it must and will be continued to be incurred; but when the risk attending these importations and the diseases so frequently contracted by animals during a long sea voyage is taken into account, it becomes necessary to consider whether some mode at once more economical and more efficacious may not be adopted; your memorialists believe, that by the farm which they ask funds to commence, both those desirable objects will be attained.

The Special Report sets forth the importation for the last three years, and the losses sustained; but to bring the matter more forcibly forward, your memorialists would briefly call attention to the mode now pursued with respect to stock purchased in the Island. Well bred bull calves, after being examined by some of its members, are (if approved of) entered at the Society's office and sold to Farmers requiring them, the Society paying a part, usually half the price. Ram Lambs are bought up, and wintered at the expense of the Society, and the next autumn distributed through the country for sale; but although a Committee from the Society visit the different flocks early in the season, they were last year only able to obtain 18 Lambs, and this year 13, and many of these not quite pure bred.

It is now universally acknowledged that to breed successfully, one of the parents must be of pure breed, hence in endeavoring to improve the breed of any description of stock generally throughout the country, it is of the first importance to supply the farmers with pure bred male animals.

By reference to the Special Report it will be perceived, that (particularly with respect to Sheep) the Society would be enabled, from its farm, to send out a much larger number of Rams than it can now, and these all pure bred. In addition to which, it would still continue to buy up the best pure bred Lambs from breeders, and thus a large number would every year be distributed through the country; indeed your memorialists are convinced, that with the facilities the farm would afford for breeding superior Rams, added to the plan now in operation, they would in six years double the average yield of wool, and add a quarter to the average weight of sheep through the Island; when it is recollected, that our soil and climate are peculiarly adapted to that description of stock, this matter alone is one of no small importance to our agriculturists.

Your memorialists have heard it remarked, and may anticipate its being repeated, that such an establishment would be a very good thing, if well managed, but fearing the contrary, some, with extreme caution, would refuse it a trial. To such objections your memorialists answer, that similar

establishments are successfully conducted in other places; and they cannot admit the people of this Island less capable than those of other Colonies; and they think the agricultural interests sufficiently important to warrant something being risked to carry out any measure by which they are likely to be materially advanced; and they might also remark, that the same kind of prophetic objections, if listened to, would have prevented the organization of the Society itself—not that your memorialists would deny such prophecies to have been in part fulfilled. Mismanagement and error are inseparable from every human undertaking, and those who conduct the Society's affairs acknowledge a full share of those failings associated with its transactions; but with all this mismanagement, error and short-comings, they can point to vast benefits conferred on the farmer and great improvements introduced, not in one locality, but through the length and breadth of the land, and with no small gratification do they perceive its usefulness is appreciated; and that its operations have, on a recent occasion, been publicly approved of, both by the head of the Executive and your honorable House.

Should your memorialists be enabled to set the proposed establishment in operation, they are not so sanguine as to suppose, but that on reviewing each year's transactions, they will find some things mismanaged, some errors committed, and many things, which, if to be done over again, might be done better, and that they, or whoever may conduct it, will receive a liberal allowance of blame for things that really deserve to be commended; but they believe that, like the Society itself, it will be found a useful and important public institution; which each year's experience will mould into better order, and which will, in the end, effect a large saving of public money.

Some may think that a smaller sum than is asked for would be sufficient to stock and put the farm in operation, but the calculations have been carefully made, and your memorialists are of opinion, that a less sum would not be sufficient, and that in the same way as an individual who should commence to build a ship or any other undertaking without the means of finishing it, would be sure to lose, the attempt to commence such an establishment with insufficient or stinted means, would only lead to failure and disappointment.

Your memorialists will trouble your Honorable House, with but one further remark. Previous liberality is sometimes arrayed against renewed applications. To this they answer, that it is the nature of such institutions as the Agricultural Society, when rightly conducted, to be progressive, never stationary, but continually extending the sphere of their usefulness, so as not only to keep pace with, but to be continually in advance of the requirements of the day; hence the necessity for renewed pecuniary aid to such institutions to enable them to expand their operations, so as to meet the exigencies which their own success has created.

The infant efforts of this Society, chiefly directed to arouse the dormant energies of the Farmers, to awaken a spirit of enquiry and a desire to improve, have been largely successful; but that very means has brought new claims upon it. Hundreds, by its exertions shows, and representations, convinced of the importance of improving their stock, now desire to be supplied; thus its success has rendered the demand on it much larger than it can meet. To enable it to adopt means to meet this increased demand in the most economical manner, is the object of the present application, which your memorialists now respectfully submit to the consideration of your Honorable House.

Your memorialists therefore humbly pray, that the sum of £1,300 be granted to the Society to enable it to put the proposed Farm in operation; and that the further annual sum sufficient to pay the rent of the said farm for the first three years, be also appropriated for that purpose.

HENRY LONGWORTH, Vice President,
DANIEL HODGSON,
THOMAS PETLICK,
STEPHEN RICE,
WILLIAM SWABEY,
JAMES H. PETERS,
CHARLES HASZARD,
JOHN JOHNSON.

W. W. IRVING, Secretary.

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Committee Meeting, February, 12, 1856.

PRESENT.—Judge Peters, Hon. J. Warburton, Hon. Capt. Rice, Wm. McGill, 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,
Secy Royal Agricultural Society.

Committee Room.

REPORT.

The following Resolution having been passed by the Committee 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 the Breeder, 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 superintendance. 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
12 Hand do	3 15 0
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
	£125 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

	£1321 11 4
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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
	£313 0 0

Blacksmith, Carpenter, and Saddler,	13 0 0
Implements, Harness, &c., £127 1 4,	
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

40 Pigs sold annually at 10s.,	20 0 0
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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 understate 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 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 endeavours 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 the 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 on re-sale of those that arrived, was	£1000 0 0
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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
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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 New London; 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
2 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 0 0
	£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 be a separate 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 view 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,

(Concluded on last page.)