

No 8

PROSPECTUS,
LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS,
AND
RULES AND REGULATIONS,
OF THE
AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
OF
NEW SOUTH WALES,
INSTITUTED
ON THE 5th OF JULY, 1822.




*"Nihil est agriculturá melius, nihil uberius, nihil dulcius,
nihil homine, nihil liberè dignius."* CICERO.

SYDNEY:

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1822.



PROSPECTUS.

AGRICULTURE and Grazing, in a soil and climate so peculiar as those of New South Wales, present so many features of novelty and difficulty, that it must appear surprising that a Colony of Englishmen have been settled five and thirty years in the country, without associating themselves for the purposes of communicating their mutual experience, and benefiting by their reciprocal advice; still more, for the purpose of effecting, by means of a subscription fund, improvements in the breed of animals, and experiments in the growth of produce, which are beyond the reach of an individual purse. Some of the causes of the delay of this great and important association in New South Wales, lie perhaps in local politics, the cinders of which it will be better not now to disturb; and some are doubtless to be found in the slowness and scantiness with which free emigration has flowed into a Colony like this. Happily, this last cause is now in a sure and steady course of removal; and we cannot but congratulate ourselves upon the numbers and respectability of the settlers, who are daily arriving among us, under the administration and auspices of our present worthy GOVERNOR and Patron. At any rate, we know that the

procrastination of this association is not to be attributed to any selfish or monopolous views of the few free settlers, of whom this Colony has always boasted ; for many of us can remember their constant agitation and desideration of the measure for at least the last five years ; and nothing could manifest this desire better than the rapidity with which this Society was formed. Upon the first notice of its intention, a large body of the principal Landholders and Merchants met, and immediately enrolled as its Members almost the whole of the great Landholders, Stock-holders, and Merchants of the Colony. The time, indeed, seems now in every way ripe, and fit for its being brought to bear. The greater part of the land on this side of the Nepean has been, the arable cropped out by bad husbandry, and the pasture consumed by surcharge of cattle ; so that scientific farming and artificial grasses have become absolutely necessary for the continued supply of the victualling markets of our towns, to which unhappily nature has deprived us of navigable rivers from the interior. Added to this, the breeds of our sheep and our horses have begun to acquire an exportable value and reputation, which can only be sustained by constant renewal, and skilful selection and attention ; and it cannot be supposed that His Majesty's Government will always continue to incur such an immense outlay for the support of convicts (at least in this part of the Territory), whom

the revulsion of England from war to peace, and the late paper system of British currency, have, for the last seven years, transported in such numbers to our shores. Already have we seen a diminution in those numbers; and the measures of the present local Government will doubtless in time diminish their expence to the Crown; and thus throw us Colonists more and more upon our own resources. It becomes us therefore to provide for ourselves; to make the most of the land we have cleared; to improve our fleeces, our horses, and our milch cattle; to look out for new exports; to improve the present; to distil our own grain, and to grow our own tobacco; to listen to the official report of the Navy Board upon the superiority of New Zealand flax, and upon the worth of some of our native timber; to try whether we cannot grow indigo or collect tannin. These, and many more which the congregated information of an Agricultural Society best can suggest, are all important objects in a Colony like this; and it is with these views that the present Institution is proposed. It is nothing to the prosperity of a Colony, that one or two individuals possess highly improved cattle or sheep, or can shew a well-tilled field, or a meadow of English grasses; the plantation can only be said to flourish when the means of obtaining these advantages are placed within the reach of all, and when a public spirit of agricultural improvement shall be im-

planted in the breast of all. Competition and reward (call it emulation or pride if you will) are necessary (human nature teaches us) to excite this spirit; and, when once roused, personal interest and profit will easily keep it alive. Who, that knows the benefits bestowed by agriculture, does not warm at the thought of the good this Society will produce, when, in its course (after blessing this Colony), it extends its influence over this new continent, this new world? Connected with this Society are all the improvements in social life, from the lowest labour of the hind, to the most exquisite skill in the fine arts; for these are but the remoter effects of the prosperity of nations. To us is given by Providence, with the nation to which we belong, the high honour to civilize this new world, and to give our Religion, our Laws, our Language, and all the civil blessings we enjoy, to this rude, uncultivated wilderness.

Having said thus much of the importance of our Society to this Colony, let us now point out what appear to be the principal objects to be kept in view.—There is no Eden in nature; all is from the industry of man. We must do what all nations have done before us—collect from every quarter what is adapted to our soil and climate. We must new clothe our adopted country; we must hew down the useless gum trees, and plant the more useful fruit trees of Europe; and, in lieu of the present thin herbage, give to our meadows the rich pasture of

Britain.—Whilst making our improvements, we must attend to the prudential advice given so many centuries ago, well to consider “quid quæque ferat regio, et quid quæque recuset.” And, when we listen to this advice, we have abundant reason for grateful exultation; as we are just in the latitude of the finest parts of Europe, where the vine, the olive, the fig, and the mulberry (which is the food of the silkworm) grow; a climate for tobacco, that friend of the poor; and a climate for the fine fruits of Asia Minor. And, as the markets may demand, and the price of labour may permit, hemp and flax, and every other produce not requiring a tropical climate, may be cultivated.

When we contemplate our Colony, as adapted to breeding of cattle, we have great reason to be satisfied; for, with very small efforts, we have attained to considerable merit in our horned stock; and, though our Colony has been formed only five and thirty years, we have already begun to supply the wealthy in the old established Colonies of India and Batavia with stately horses for their carriages. The importation of still finer breeds, in which attempt no doubt Government will assist us, will raise our cattle to excellence, and make them eagerly sought for in the markets of those wealthy settlements.

In regard to sheep, no country, in so short a time, and with such puny means, has improved its flocks so rapidly; for, with the introduc-

tion of only a very few Merino sheep, there are now entire flocks with fleeces little short of the Merino wool in excellence, and thousands and tens of thousands rapidly attaining to nearly equal merit. With a small present of Merino sheep from His Majesty's flocks, and the free use of the waste lands of the Colony, our wealth in sheep will be great indeed, and our exports of fine wool to the Mother Country a substantial benefit to her manufactures; for, in the Colony of Van Diemen's Land, where the waste lands were freely opened to all, the sheep had increased in 1821 to 170,391, whilst the sheep in our Colony the same year were only 119,777.

No doubt that as this our staple article increases in estimation, in the English market, every hindrance to the increase of our flocks will be removed; and, as the lands of Great Britain and Ireland can be more profitably employed in growing the larger carcass and the longer wools, our improvements will not be envied us by our brother graziers at home — In the improvement of stock, too little attention has, in general, been paid to the introduction of females. The following calculations have therefore been made to shew the advantage of introducing a larger portion of females.

The following paper having been laid before the Society of Agriculture by one of its ablest Members, to shew the advantage of introducing females, when improving live stock, the Com-

müttee has ordered it to be printed in the Sydney Gazette, for general information; as the doctrine, though exemplified in sheep, is applicable to other stock:—

Remarks for the consideration of the Committee on the subject of importing Merino sheep; showing the difficulty or impossibility of obtaining pure blood without the introduction of Merino ewes; 100 ewes being put to one Merino ram, or to several.

ONE HUNDRED EWES WILL PRODUCE THE

1st year, and 1st cross, 50 ewe lambs, which will produce the 3d year, and 2d cross, 25 ewe lambs, which will produce the 5th year, and 3d cross, 12 ewe lambs, which will produce the 7th year, and 4th cross, 6 ewe lambs, which will produce the 9th year, and 5th cross, 3 ewe lambs, which will produce the 11th year, and 6th cross, 1 ewe lamb.

Then, from the first importation, pure blood could not be obtained, the rams being useless before the 5th cross; and, at the expiration of 11 years, the pure produce would be only one ewe and one ram, if even the rams should be healthy, or be succeeded by a fresh arrival. Much improvement no doubt would be made, but no pure Merino blood; and if, at the 5th or 6th cross, any accident should happen to the females, and probably it might to so small a number as two or three, the grand object, pure Merino blood, is lost; but if, with a few rams, a score or two of ewes are imported, the Merino blood is safe; say only 20 ewes:—these will produce

10 rams for sale, and 10 ewe lambs,	}	suppose	
6 years		6 years	they
60 rams,		60 ewes,	only breed six years.

You have then, in only six years, 60 pure ewes and 60 pure rams; and the first 10 ewe lambs having bred, say four times, will give 20 rams and 20 ewes; and the second 10 ewe lambs, having bred three times, will give 15 rams and 15 ewes; and the third 10 ewe lambs, having bred twice, will give 10 rams and 10 ewes; and the fourth, having bred once, will give 5 rams and 5 ewes. Thus, without

carrying the calculation further, you have, in the short space of six years, 110 pure Merino rams, and 110 pure Merino ewes. But, as more of the young ewes, as the offspring of the first ewe lambs, have now begun to breed, the produce is greater. Thus, in the space of only six years, by importing a score of ewes, we have at once a flock of pure Merinos, with rams, nearly sufficient to supply the Colony. On the contrary, by importing only rams, many years must elapse before we can obtain pure Merino blood; and that in so small a quantity, that the smallest casualty may ruin all our hopes.

It is with peculiar pleasure that we advert to the introduction of the bee by Captain Wallis; and, as we have had no opportunity of voting him our thanks, it will not be improper here to make honorable mention of him, as a benefactor to the Colony. Nor can we quit this subject without saying, that this Society ought to take every opportunity of introducing such subjects as can employ the cottager and his family, and repay them for their industry and care.

Though separated from the rest of the civilized world, and from the nation to which we belong, by an immense ocean of many thousand miles, yet our nation must see, with great satisfaction, the exertions which their friends, their countrymen, and fellow-subjects are making in this most distant of the British colonies; whilst the Government, conscious of the advantage of possessing prosperous settlements, will, when informed of our wants, liberally assist us. We ought, therefore, on every occasion, and by every means, to shew our loyalty,

even when suffering under any regulations, by which our prosperity may be retarded, and whilst suing for their removal.


After connecting ourselves, by every mark of loyalty, with our Government, the next connection we should form should be with the Board of Agriculture, and the principal Agricultural Societies, not only in our Mother Country, but also those of foreign countries. To the Patrons of Agriculture, amongst the Nobility and great Land-holders at home, we should make known our Institution; for we have no doubt that, for so good a purpose, these Patrons of Agriculture will take a pleasure in sending from their own private stock what may be requisite to improve our own. To the British Consuls in climates similar to our own, we ought also to present our address; for, if not universally, here and there a friend will be found, who will send us what may be congenial to our climate.

No body of men can more effectually assist us than the Merchants and their Captains, by bringing us from foreign countries what is adapted to our climate. Vessels, touching in the winter months at the Madeira, or the Cape, and other countries noted for their wine, their figs, or their olives, might bring what, in a few years hence, may constitute the grand sources of the wealth of this Colony. The foundation of a fine vineyard, for instance, may be brought in cuttings of the vine from the Madeiras, the

Canaries, or the Cape, in a rejected empty water cask.

To give the Merino fleece to three hundred thousand sheep, to improve four thousand horses, and breed them for exportation, and to give the Hereford or Devon carcass, or the Suffolk udder, to a hundred thousand head of horned cattle, are no mean objects of pursuit, but are highly honorable to a Colony of only thirty-five years standing.

That the same unanimity which has prevailed in our Society, may always continue is our warmest wish ; and we trust that, by the benevolence of our views, and the utility of our labours, we shall be respected and cherished by our brother farmers wherever we are known, and be thought worthy of the patronage of the Government here, and at home.



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RULES AND REGULATIONS.

- I. THAT this Society be denominated the **AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES.**
- II. That the following Gentlemen, jointly with the President and Vice-Presidents, Treasurers, and Secretaries, be appointed the General Committee for conducting the Affairs of this Society, seven of whom shall form a Quorum; and that such General Committees shall meet always at Parramatta, as being more central for all, and convenient for the Country Committees.
[See pages 11 and 12.]
- III. That an Annual Subscription of Five Pounds Sterling be paid by each Member into the hands of the Treasurers, for the general purposes of this Association, on or before the General Annual Meeting in July.
- IV. That a separate Subscription Fund be formed, in shares of £25 each, for the purpose of introducing from the Mother Country, and elsewhere, a more improved breed of cattle, horses, sheep, &c.
- V. That the General Meeting of the Society shall be held Quarterly.
- VI. That the said Quarterly Meeting shall as-

semble at Parramatta on the first Thursday in October next, when the Day and Place of the following Meeting shall be agreed on.

- VII. That the Annual Meeting shall be held in July, when the Reports of the Secretaries and Treasurers shall be submitted by the President and an Election take Place, by Ballot, for the Officers and Committee for the Year ensuing, and the general Business of the Society transacted.
- VIII. That any Person, desirous of becoming a Member of this Society, after this Day, shall be proposed by five Members, in a Letter addressed to the Secretary, to be laid before a General Quarterly Meeting, and be balloted at the next ensuing General Quarterly Meeting.
- IX. That the like Rule shall apply to any Proposal for the Expulsion of any Member.
- X. That not less than twenty Members, assembled at any General Quarterly Meeting, shall be a Quorum for the Election or Expulsion of any Member.
- XI. That three-fourths of the Members present, at such General Meeting, must concur in such Election or Expulsion; and that votes by proxy be not admitted on any occasion from male Subscribers.
- XII. That every newly-elected Member shall pay into the Hands of the Treasurers the

like Sum of Five Pounds on his Admission, and shall not be considered a Member until the same is paid.

XIII. That any Member may introduce a Friend at the Meetings of the Society, with the Approbation of the President, or other presiding Member; such Friend being a non-resident in New South Wales, or an Officer bearing His Majesty's Commission.

XIV. That an Annual Shew of Stock, and Exhibition of Samples of Wool, Seeds, Implements, or any other Articles tending to the Improvement of Agriculture, shall be held at Parramatta, on the first Wednesday in October, to be open to the Public, for Premiums to be given as a Reward for Improvement or Superiority, in such manner as the Society may, from time to time, offer and direct.

XV. That the President shall call a Meeting of the Committee, at such Times as he may find expedient, for the Transaction of such Business as may arise from time to time, and be considered to embrace the general Interests of the Society.

XVI. That Thomas Fowell Buxton, Esq. M. P. be requested to accept the Office of Protector of the Parliamentary Interests of the Society.

XVII. That Messrs. Paxton, Cockerell, Trail, and Co. of Austin-friars, London, be re-

requested to accept the Office of Mercantile Agents of the Society; and that £1000 be remitted to them, per Shipley, on account of the Stock, and £100 on account of the General Fund.

XVIII. That the Board of Agriculture be requested (upon the strength of par. 10 of Sir John Sinclair's Address of 1806), to "improve this foreign Settlement," by appointing a small Committee of their Body to superintend the Outlay of our Cattle and Sheep Fund, in the purchase of such Stock as the Stock Committee may judge most beneficial to the Colony; and that such small Committee (and, if the Board of Agriculture should decline the Office, that Mr. Buxton) be authorised to draw upon Messrs. Paxton and Co. for the sum of £1000, for such purposes as the Stock Committee shall appoint.

XIX. That the General Committee be empowered to purchase such Agricultural Books as they shall think proper; and that any Subscriber be at liberty to suggest any work to the Committee's approbation.

F I N I S.
