

REPORT
OF THE
AGRICULTURAL
AND
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
OF
NEW SOUTH WALES,
FOR
1828.



Sydney:

PRINTED BY R. HOWE, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

1828.

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ABSTRACT OF THE BYE-LAWS

FOR THE

GOVERNMENT OF THE SOCIETY.

1st. *THAT* the Society do consist of a Patron, Vice-Patron, Honorary Members, President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurers, Secretaries, Members, Corresponding Members, and Associates.

2d. That Twenty-one Members, including President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurers, and Secretaries, shall constitute the General Committee for conducting the Affairs of the Society, and shall appoint Sub-Committees out of their numbers, to manage and report upon such matters as the General Committee shall entrust to them.

3d. That an Annual Subscription of Two Pounds Sterling be paid by each Member into the hands of the Treasurers, on the first Thursday in April, being the day of the Anniversary Meeting, when the Reports of the Treasurers and Secretaries shall be submitted by the President, and an Election take place of the Officers and Committee for the Year ensuing, and the general Business of the Society be transacted.

4th. That any Person, desirous of becoming a Member of the Society, shall be proposed by five Members, in a Letter addressed to the Secretaries, to be laid before the next General Meeting, and be ballotted for at the following General Meeting.

5th. That the like Rule shall apply for the expulsion of any Member.

6th. That not less than twelve Members, assembled at any General Meeting of the Society, shall be a Quorum for

the Election, and twenty for the expulsion of any Member, and that three-fourths of the Members present at each General Meeting, must concur in such Election or Expulsion.

7th. That every newly elected Member shall pay into the hands of the Treasurers the Sum of Five Pounds Sterling on his admission, and shall not be considered a Member until the same be paid; But that no Member, elected before the Anniversary Meeting in April, shall be liable to pay the Annual Subscription until that Period.

8th. That any Gentleman may become a permanent Member of the Society by paying into the hands of the Treasurers Twenty Pounds Sterling, in addition to the Sum payable on his admission, thereby exempting himself from all future Subscription.

9th. That any Member may introduce a friend at the Anniversary Dinner, or 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 in His Majesty's Service, or the Service of the Hon. East India Company.

10th. That a half-yearly Show of Stock, Samples of Wool, Implements of Husbandry, Agricultural and Horticultural Produce, &c. shall take place at the Spring and Autumn Fairs to be holden at Parramatta, on the first Thursday in April, and the first Thursday in October, respectively, when the Premiums for superiority, previously advertised by the Society, as well as those for length of faithful and meritorious conduct of Servants under one Master, shall be awarded.

11th. That the President shall call a Meeting of the Committee at such time as he may find expedient; and also have authority to call General Special Meetings of the Society, for the transaction of such Business as may arise from time to time, and be considered to embrace the general Interests of the Society.

ADDRESS

OF

THE PRESIDENT.

GENTLEMEN,

AS it has pleased the allwise Dispenser of the fruitfulness of the earth to visit this Colony with a drought of very unusual duration, my Report must be uncheering and less interesting than more productive seasons would have afforded. Having been accustomed to seasonable, regular, and fertilizing rains for thirteen years past, and not to an excess even to overflow the banks of our great rivers during the last ten years, we are less prepared than the inhabitants of more capricious climates would be to bear the disappointment when Nature wanders out of its usual course of productiveness. For eighteen months past, I may say, that our agricultural districts, situate without the range of occasional showers, which fell on the coast within the limits of the sea-breeze, have been without rain, except a few light thunder-showers at distant intervals, barely sufficient to moisten the grass and herbage, but not enough to penetrate and loosen the parched and hardened state of the earth. Under such a dispensation of Providence, our wheat, barley, rye, and oat crops have not realised more, on a general average, than half of a productive harvest; and yielding even this quantity, under such a deprivation of moisture, says much for the fecundity of our soil and climate.

Any observations, which might tend to diminish the misery consequent upon the occasional

failure of our grain crops, may not be out of place here. We have at present splendid distilleries, erected by individual enterprise, and for some time past in active employment; if the growers of grain and the community at large would prove their patriotism in giving the preference to the produce of Colonial distillation over foreign or imported spirits, the increasing consumption of grain, by the distilleries, would materially encourage its more extensive cultivation. Besides, we have a number of breweries annually increasing in their consumption of grain, as well as the improving quality of the Colonial-made beer; and as we have also a number of corn-grinding steam-engines, wind, water, and draught mills, throughout the Colony, if extensive cultivators and proprietors of mills and stores, who could afford it, would purchase grain in seasons of plenty and cheapness, and reduce it to the safe-keeping state of flour, they might bring it into the market, when its more encouraging price would reward the foresight of the owner, and its presence would check the effects of scarcity. Moreover, the Government has at present, in different parts of the Colony, a number of substantial and capacious Commissariat stores, capable of receiving and securing extensive reserves of flour and grain; and therefore, I trust, that the penetration of HIS EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR, our Patron, will see the stimulus which might be given to agricultural industry, by the Government coming into the market as a purchaser, in seasons when grain is plentiful, and selling at prices discouraging to the cultivators. By this, and similar acts on the part of wealthy proprietors, added to the consumption of our distilleries and breweries, grain would be kept, in seasons of superabundant crops, at prices

which would not discourage its cultivation; and, if even six months provisions were regularly kept in reserve by the Government, for the support of the Crown servants, it would counteract most materially the alarming effects of a season of diminished crops, should we ever experience such another visitation as the present; and it would in the end prove a saving to Government, by having procured the reserved supplies at perhaps half the price such supplies could be obtained when required from a foreign market; besides the great advantage of keeping the money in circulation in the Colony, in preference to sending it to, and being dependent on, foreign markets for such necessaries of life. I am aware that reasonable objections may be raised against this, in consequence of our flour not preserving its sound and good quality for years;* and of the grain suffering great loss by heating, and the ravages of insects. I will here take leave to explain my view of the cause, and suggest a remedy. I believe that in all countries where flour is stored up, or exported, the grain is kiln-dried before it is ground; by this process it is divested of so much of its vegetative sap as prevents heating, or so soon turning sour, or otherwise suffering in quality, when in sacks, bins, or casks, for years. The heat of this climate hardens the grain sufficiently for grinding, but it does not deprive it of its vegetative moisture; and although its meal answers for present use, all who have had sufficient experience must allow, that, after it has

* Mr. JONES, of the firm of JONES and WALKER, positively assured the President, on this part being read, that the ships from his house were in the habit of taking out Colonial flour, returning with it, and even carrying the same flour away on a second, if not third voyage, during the whole of which (for eighteen months and two years) it has kept in a state of preservation equal to any American flour, and that its preservation altogether depends upon proper cooorage.

been kept for a few months, its quality undergoes material changes for the worse ; and at too early a period becomes unfit for use. To remedy this, I would recommend all grain, not reserved for seed, to be kiln-dried as soon as it is thrashed ; the influence of the heat, which the process subjects it to, will effectually kill all insects then in the grain, and destroy their propagation. The saving alone, from the destructive waste by insects, would more than repay the expense of kiln-drying grain to large cultivators, in one year. The requisite kilns can be erected at a trifling expense ; and the art of drying the grain upon them is both simple and easily acquired. I cannot help thinking, that early attention to the adoption of kiln-drying, would procure for our grain and flour, sent occasionally into foreign markets, an improved character, and would certainly protect it against the extent of loss and deterioration which a long sea voyage and vicissitude of climate would otherwise occasion.

MAIZE.

The maize crop followed the wheat, and, as might be expected, the continued drought, and increased temperature of the summer-heat, stunted its growth, and generally destroyed that usually productive and valuable crop. It is true that some maize planted on spots of ground more retentive of moisture than others, and in certain situations on the coast, within the partial range of the sea-breeze showers, produced from a half to a two-thirds crop ; such limited produce is so trifling, compared with the extent of our cultivation, and so unequal to our wants, that the too general failure of the maize must be severely felt. The spring and summer crops of peas, beans, tur-

nips, and garden vegetables were scanty, and of a quality inferior to what we have been accustomed when the earth had the benefit of fertilizing rain. The succession of potatoe crops has been very unproductive, and the potatoe itself of unusually diminutive size, and inferior quality. The few thunder showers we have had only forced renewed growth of the stalks, but did not loosen the earth for the expansion of the roots. The spring cultivated grasses generally failed from want of moisture to promote their growth ; hence, not only the loss of the hay, but the crop of seed for cultivation, and reasonable apprehensions are entertained that much of our improved cultivated grasses have perished from the hardened and parched state of the earth.

TOBACCO.

The Colonists have an anxious disposition for increasing the cultivation of tobacco, but the drought made it difficult to rear plants, and caused many to perish after being transplanted, so that the quantity is diminished, and the quality not so good as formerly.

COTTON.

HIS EXCELLENCY, our Patron, was pleased to cause a sample of cotton, of superior promise, the produce of Port Macquarie, to be submitted to the Society. That fertile settlement, though it is several degrees distant from the tropic, bears the sugar-cane (in the opinion of two highly respectable and experinced West Indian planters) in a degree of luxuriance and saccharine productiveness, equal to the most favoured of the West India Islands Plantations. This interesting

fact ought not to be lost sight of, when we recollect the drain of our wealth which goes now nearly monthly, by ships and vessels in ballast, to the Mauritius, for return cargoes of sugar, to supply our consumption. It may not be uninteresting to give an extract here from a letter which I lately received from a friend at the Mauritius, to whose laudable exertions, the prosperity of that Island is much indebted for the successful cultivation of the sugar cane. He says, "When I became a Proprietor, there was not any instrument of agriculture more complicated than the hoe, and the sugar for the use of the population was imported from Batavia. Seventeen years persevering efforts have changed the scene; the origin and impulse given to improvement by European machinery to supersede manual labour, has covered these Islands with sugar cane, and enabled us to manipulate the crops with eighty steam-engines, which furnish this year not less than fifty-five millions of sugar, of which I make above two millions on my estates."

Such has been the rapid march of prosperity of that favored Island, which we are for our own interest called upon to imitate. Port Macquarie, Moreton Bay, and situations still more to the northward, will enable us so to do; but, until we have a Legislature, with unshackled power, to charter and embody Companies, and to relieve subscribers from co-partnership responsibility exceeding their shares, I fear such profitable undertakings as the above, with the cultivation of cotton, and our fisheries, will be confined to the slow course of individual enterprize.

My Mauritius correspondent, in reply to queries, proceeds to state, "With regard to imports from your Colony, I may say, that wheat is in general sure of a ready and advantageous sale.

Shingles, of fourteen inches long, four broad, and half an inch thick; fire-bricks, coals, hams not above twenty pounds weight, cheese of the best kind, corned beef of the first quality, rounds, briskets, and tongues. Your butter is too dear, I believe, to enable you to compete with the Cape. Good milch cows and goats, and good sheep for the table, would suit; we can raise none of those here."

As we have, and can furnish, the above articles of export, it is important for us to send them on trial, and to continue so to do, in lieu of cash, so long as the prices given will remunerate such exports.

THE ORCHARD.

The past year was more productive than could have been expected during such a scorching drought. The cherries, gooseberries, and plums, have rather failed, as also the almonds in most situations. The walnuts and chesnuts are numerous but small. The filberts and hazel nuts have failed. The mulberries were plentiful, but small, and of good flavour. The apricots were numerous, but smaller than in former years. The nectarines were diminished in number and in size; the early and late peaches abundant, and of good flavour. The pears, apples, figs, and quinces, were plentiful, and of excellent quality. The olive is thriving in great luxuriance in the Botanic and private garden, and has commenced bearing at an unusually early age. The Society's garden has been retarded in improvement, by the severity of the drought. Several of our Members last year, however, received cuttings and buds from the surviving European fruit trees, and the parent stocks are now in a state of vigorous growth.

The vineyard appears to have suffered but little from the length of drought, either in its productiveness, or in the quality of the grapes. Our climate and soil seem peculiarly calculated for the luxuriant growth of the vine, and when we consider that proper attention to this profitable branch of domestic economy might by this time have supplied us with as much, and perhaps better wine, than we commonly import from the Cape of Good Hope, our neglect, in the cultivation of the vine, is seriously to be regretted as a public loss.

Mr. Gregory Blaxland has the merit of being the first who cultivated the vine, to the extent of making a few casks of wine annually, and since his absence, his son, Mr. George Blaxland has bestowed great attention to the vineyard, and I understand has made an increased quantity of wine the last vintage. This year has been my first attempt to make any experimental use of the superabundance of my grapes, and I have succeeded in making a pipe of white wine, under the management of a native of Madeira, who seems very sanguine in favour of its quality after it gets a little age. The individual alluded to, declares that he never saw, either in Madeira or Portugal, vines more abundantly loaded with grapes, but adds, that their general quality, being of the white water grape, is not calculated to make such a full bodied wine as the Madeira grape, but rather similar to some of the lighter French wines. At the same time he considers our rich alluvial soil, on the banks of the rivers, well calculated for the luxuriant production of the Madeira vine, which I am glad to find we have in forward growth in the Colony. He urges the indispensable necessity of deep trenching the grounds before the vine is planted, in order that

the root may freely descend into cool and moist earth. He also states that early produce may be obtained by budding or grafting a superior quality of vine upon old stocks; and explains the advantages resulting from the knowledge of the varieties of vines suited to soils and situations peculiar to the richness and flavour of their produce. Under these promising auspices of future prosperity, our exertions should be directed to obtain the assistance of individuals skilled in the cultivation of the vine, and making of wine.

In the late Dr. Townson, the Colony has lost an experienced, scientific, and zealous improver of the vineyard and orchard.

HORSES.

It is truly gratifying to witness the superiority of our numerous colts and fillies, the produce of the several high bred horses, imported from England within the last few years, compared with our former breed. The annual show of horses encouraged by our Society, and the rewards given for superiority, coupled with the display at the Turf Club Races, have given a desirable ambition to the proprietors of horses to excel each other in the care and crosses necessary for improving the size and quality of those noble animals, and bids fair to bring them to a degree of perfection that must soon make them valuable articles of export to the East Indies, where they will give character to their native country for its breed, for the turf, the charger, or the carriage.

Mr. Riley, of Raby, and Mr. Hook, of Bayiy Park, have recently imported two additional English blood horses of high character and breeding.

As we have reason to be grateful for such a

valuable acquisition to the Colonial stud, so we have still greater reason to regret any importations of animals calculated to deteriorate the breed, or in any way to undervalue or discourage the spirit for improving the quality of our Colonial horses.

Two or three enterprising merchants, in Sydney, have lately imported a number of ponies from Timor, and mares from Valparaiso; the former are only suited for children, yet they require food and attendance, nearly as expensive as a serviceable horse; and their unavoidable crosses with our Colonial breed, must bring about a diminutive race, in no point of view desirable. As to the Valparaiso mares, they may be tough and hardy, but I cannot help thinking that the importers must have been as much deceived in their quality as the subscribers were disappointed at viewing their diminutive size, and unsightly points, on their first landing in Sydney. Under this feeling I trust the owners of these mares will prove their *patriotism* in not allowing them to increase and multiply, or, at least, only in breeding mules from the jack-ass, Don Pedro, which accompanies them, until time shall have extinguished their race in the Colony.

It is lamentable to know the number of valuable horses, cattle, and sheep, which have died during the voyage from England to this Colony, some from want of water and forage, but mostly from the want of necessary fresh air to support life. Ships or vessels, chartered to bring out live stock such a distant voyage, ought to be ventilated from the deck on which they are placed, with wooden air tubes fixed to the sides, similar to naval hospital ships, about six inches square, and ten feet apart, on each side of the ship, reaching to the gunwale. The motion of

the ship forces the heated and impure air which the animals breathe up these tubes, and in its absence the use of windsails down the hatches will introduce a requisite supply of fresh air; humanity, as well the interest of all concerned, requires attention to this suggestion.

Cattle increases rapidly in numbers, and the crosses of the best male and female stock occasionally imported from England, Scotland, and Ireland, continue progressively to improve their value, both for the dairy and slaughter.

The scanty and unnutritive state of the pasture, and the want of water, have materially diminished the quantity and quality of dairy produce during the past season; and the last two months have proved fatal to several cattle kept on inferior, overstocked, and badly watered estates in this country. But notwithstanding the suffering state of our cattle here, most of the herds in the interior, where they have extensive runs in the native wilds, and a sufficiency of water, preserve a fat condition, quite equal to all the supply of animal food required for consumption in the Colony.

SWINE.

The small landholders' and poor man's stock, has both increased and improved in quality of late years; but the failure of the maize and potato crops, I fear, will not only prove destructive to the swine, but be seriously felt by the bulk of the lower order of our rural population, whose chief support consists of pork, maize-meal, and potatoes.

SHEEP.

Although the length of drought we have suffered, has prevented the luxuriant growth of our

native grasses, yet the fertility of our climate has forced a pasturage, which, though generally short and scorched, is still apparently well calculated for the support of our flocks of sheep; so much so, that it may be asserted beyond reasonable contradiction, that they are in higher health and condition at present, than at any former period; and I may add, that owing to the very general mixture, with our flocks, of the Saxon and Merino male stock, imported of late from Europe, the Colonial fleece claims at present a character of increased and increasing superiority, and ensures to us, under a due perseverance of the best selected Saxon and Merino rams, the certainty that we shall shortly be able to furnish the British markets with a quality of wool superior to any yet known. This opinion is well supported in an extract of a letter I have recently received from a most respectable commercial house in London, which I shall here quote for your information. It runs thus: "The fleeces, recently received of the Saxon flocks of Mr. Jones and Mr. Riley, we have infinite satisfaction in stating that the experiment has so far succeeded in meeting the most sanguine expectation of the effect of your climate, not merely in retaining, but in improving the staple of this valuable commodity.— These fleeces have been subjected to the closest scrutiny of the most competent judges here, and have been pronounced by them (but some interests are likely to be affected by the *fact* most reluctantly) to possess qualities of a kind peculiar to them."

This communication satisfactorily verifies the very intelligent opinion of Mr. Dutton, the late sorter of the Australian Agricultural Company's wool, which I appended to my last year's Report. Lest Mr. Dutton's opinion should have escaped

the memory of any of you, I think it sufficiently important as corroborative of the above statement, to quote a part of it, viz.—"From a minute examination of Mr. Riley's Saxon wool during sorting, I am led to believe it has gained in elasticity, thereby acquiring additional length of pile, without losing that closeness and shortness of staple which the manufacturers call 'close crowded,' and which is only to be met with in Saxon wool. If this quality increases in the descendants of the fine Saxon blood, which with a well judged selection of the breeding animals it must do, it will not only give a weightier fleece to the produce, but I am also of opinion that it will give rise to a new character of wool, infinitely superior to the present Electoral wool, which must naturally tend to create a new branch of manufacture, the raw material of which must be exclusively derived from this Colony."

It is worthy of remark also, that many of the flocks in the Bathurst country, which contracted disease in the wet summer of 1825, have (through the long drought and consequently drier food, assisted perhaps by the increased saline quality of the water, from the evaporation of its quantity), been restored to perfect soundness and health. Hence the drought which has been so generally hurtful, proved salutary to those flocks, among which wet weather and rich succulent grasses, would have, in all probability, renewed the ravages of disease. Notwithstanding the anxious attention we bestow upon our sheep, I have long been of opinion, that we have not given sufficient consideration to the most judicious lambing season; for instance, the experience of our ancestors and brethren in Europe, down to the present day, adopts the early part of the spring for lambing, but here, we generally adopt the autumn; I cau-

not account for why, unless it originated in the desire to lamb in the same months as in Europe, forgetful that we are situated on the opposite side of the globe, where the seasons are reversed. Our flocks here generally lamb in the latter part of our autumn, consequently the lambs are subject to the frequently destructive effects of heavy falls of rain during that season, and winter's chill soon follows, checking vegetation, and nipping the herbage, when the ewes most require its nutritive quality to promote a flow of milk to support the increasing growth of the lambs.

The consequences are, that the lambs are frequently stunted in size, and the ewes are reduced to a state of debility, which makes them slow in receiving the tups, and uncertain in standing to them; and there follows, after a bad winter, a scanty crop of lambs. Under these and many other disadvantages, it may be inferred, that nothing but the mildness of our climate could prevent serious loss of increase, and deterioration in the constitutions of our sheep, by the length of time such a lambing season has been followed up. I will now take a view of September and October as the most profitable lambing months. The lambs then brought forth meet a genial warmth of climate, which seems to agree with them as the temperature increases, and they are seldom injured by rain. The spring grasses improve the condition of the ewes, give them an increasing flow of milk, and invite the lambs to early food, which of course spares the ewes, until the lambs are weaned on the autumn grasses, when the well-supported state of the ewes prepares them to receive the tups early, and makes the lambing season quick and regular. A few intelligent and observing proprietors of large flocks, have of late years adopted the spring lambing season, and I

have heard some acknowledge a fact I have more than once witnessed, of the six months old spring lamb nearly outgrowing and being superior to the twelve months old autumn lamb! I am aware that long established custom grounds strong prejudice in its favour, and I have listened to a number of objections, such as, that when ewes lamb in September, it is dangerous to wash them for shearing, with a flow of milk in November. To this I will reply, that in England (where the weather and the water must be colder) where ewes lamb in April, they are washed for shearing in June. Some say, the summer heat is too powerful for lambs, and that those reared in winter are hardier, and others think that lambing on this side of the mountains ought to be in the spring, whilst on the other side of the mountains the autumn is the best season, and even add, that we have two springs, forgetful that winter follows the autumnal spring; all such and many other objections are equally futile. I will therefore anxiously recommend to the proprietors of sheep, (without subjecting themselves to the loss of a crop of lambs) progressively, to bring their young ewes, with those which fail in lamb, to the spring lambing season, when their increasing success, and improved quality of their sheep, will justify more than all I have ventured to say on the subject. Before I conclude my observations on sheep, and the present improved quality of our fleece, I feel it necessary to express my regret at the very inadequate and discouraging prices of late given for wool in the British market; in short, proprietors who run their flocks on distant tracks in the interior, where the expense of washing, shearing, sorting, packs, packing, and carting wool to Sydney, becomes so very serious, with the addition of freight, brokerage, agency, and other contingent

costs in England, must find that the prices given, will not, in many instances, cover the expense incurred in sending it to the market. It appears, indeed, that a very encouraging price has been obtained for Mr. Jones' Australian Saxon wool, 5s. per lb., but that sale was effected in a private manner, under the management of his experienced agents; and although the fact of its newly acquired superiority, in our climate, appears satisfactorily established, still I doubt much if it would have brought so high a price, had it been sold by public auction. I have now before me the sales of 87 bales of Australian wool, which took place at Garraway's Coffee-house, in London, on the 25th of October last; the highest price was 1s. 2½d. per lb., and the lowest 1s., with the exception of one bale. The highest price of 237 bales of German wool then sold was 2s. 2d., and the lowest 1s.—93 bales of Spanish wool for 2s. 1d. to 8½d.

This is very bad, though we must not be discouraged by it, but persevere in our improvement, with the certain prospect of increasing the value of our staple and the hope of an improving market. At the same time we cannot afford to give the British manufacturers our wool for less than the expense of sending it home.

It is now understood that many Yorkshire cloth manufacturers are doing but little; it is to be regretted that they should not be aware of the field of profitable enterprize this Colony would open for their emigration.

In England, where the population is overgrown, patent machinery, which diminishes human labour, is naturally obnoxious to the labouring class, but in this country we have a scanty population, and consequently the introduction of machinery, calculated to diminish manual labour,

becomes both desirable and advantageous. If a few manufacturers of requisite capital emigrated to this Colony, with necessary machinery and workmen to conduct it, and settled in Sydney, Argyleshire, Bathurst, and on Hunter's River, where they would find convict labour cheap, what a source of convenience it would offer the settler, either to sell his wool near to where his flocks run, or to get it manufactured into cloth? The day cannot be far distant when this must take place, and when this Colony will send her manufactured cloths, in lieu of Treasury Bills, to the Mauritius, the Cape of Good Hope, South America, and India. I hope this may not be misunderstood, as a desire to withhold any export from our parent State, the sale of which would enable us to live.

But we have expended so much of our disposable capital in increasing our flocks, and improving their fleeces, that the prices given in England must prove ruinous to us, by continuing an export, at present so discouraging. It is therefore a duty we owe to ourselves, and to the prosperity of our adopted country, as well as to the parent State, to make the most of our industry, so as to become as little burdensome to its liberal and generous support as possible.

At present, the whole of our wool forms such a small quantity in the British market, and gets so mixed up with the produce of so many countries, that its value is not sufficiently known. Here we are aware that our refuse fleeces which are manufactured in the Colony, from the peculiar quality of our wool, wear with a durability unequalled by a similar quality of cloth of any other country; therefore, until our fleece commands a better price in the British Market, we must either turn our attention to manufacture it here, or send

it to England to be manufactured, and returned to us in cloth ; and when its durability and other valuable qualities become known in foreign markets, it will obtain the preference due to its superior worth. It must be allowed to reflect want of attention on our part, not to have manufactured in the Colony before this time, at least a sufficiency of common cloths and blankets for our own use, such a measure would consume all our coarse wool, and consequently increase the value of our finest for exportation.

Notwithstanding my having said so much about the improving superiority of our wool, still I confess my conviction that our neglect of the cultivation of the vine, cotton, and tobacco, has deprived us of certain profitable returns for industry ; and whenever the Government can throw open the fertile settlement of Port Macquarie and Moreton Bay to be located for cultivation, their capability for the growth of sugarcane, cotton, and tobacco, promises sources of wealth more profitable than any we have yet attempted.

His Excellency the Governor, the Patron of our Society, some weeks ago instructed the Honourable Mr. M'Leay, our Vice-Patron, to take the opinion of the Society upon the expediency of increasing the markets, and establishing cattle fairs in different parts of the Colony. At the last Special Meeting, the Society readily took the above objects of public interest under consideration, and recommended two weekly markets to be holden in Sydney, on Tuesdays and Fridays, and weekly markets to be established at Liverpool and Windsor, similar to those at Parramatta. It was also recommended, that half-yearly cattle fairs be established at Campbelltown, Richmond, Bathurst, and Wallis' Plains.

In answer, HIS EXCELLENCY has expressed his "readiness to attend to the suggestions of the Society, and requests the subject to be again submitted to the consideration of the Society, for the purpose of obtaining the sentiments of the Society as to the particular time of the year, at which it may be desirable that the fairs should be held in the places proposed respectively, and as to the regulations it may be proper to establish for them."

I am aware that the Society will give prompt attention to the object of His EXCELLENCY'S communication, as it must be allowed by all, that cattle fairs being established at the different townships recommended, must prove a very general convenience, and a public good ; inasmuch as short distance of driving to the fair is desirable, and such shows of cattle must excite in proprietors an ambition to excel each other in the valuable and more saleable qualities of their stock, and will create a class of dealers much wanted between the butcher and the grazier.

I have received communications, signed by the President and Secretaries of the Agricultural and Horticultural Society of the Cape of Good Hope, expressive of a desire to receive copies of our reports, and mutual interchanges of information, as promising to be reciprocally beneficial, from the analogy the situation, soil, and climate bear to each other. I am convinced this Society will be equally ready with our associated brother Colonists, at the Cape of Good Hope, to communicate and receive agricultural and horticultural information, which promises to be mutually beneficial.

I have received letters from Mr. Barnard, the Colonial Agent, expressive of a desire, by every exertion in his power, to promote the views of the Society.

The medals, by some fatality or other, have not yet (contrary to my expectations) been got in readiness; I concluded, and indeed thought, that instructions had been sent to London for their being designed there, and annually sent out; lest that should not yet have taken effect, I hope a design will this day be fixed upon, and a die for casting them either be sent for to London, or cut in the Colony. Our first Patron, Sir THOMAS BRISBANE, has sent out two of the medals he had designed in London, to be presented, by the Society, as an annual reward from him for agricultural merit in this Colony.

Mr. Cunningham, His Majesty's Collecting Botanist, obligingly undertook, and now sends by the ship *Eliza*, under the care of Doctor Rutherford, an additional cabin of indigenous plants, as a present from our Society to the Horticultural Society of London, in return for the generous bestowment of that Society to us of so many European improved fruit-trees.

In conclusion to the remarks I have felt myself called upon to address to you, I must beg leave to impress upon you and (through you) upon the absent Members of the Society, the very great importance of a regular attendance of all the Members upon the days set apart for our half-yearly meetings. I cannot easily imagine any excuse upon the ground of another engagement, which should be sufficient to satisfy the Society, or justify the absent Member to himself. Every meeting adds new Members to our highly respectable Institution, and as our professed objects are, by deeds and examples, to promote the agricultural prosperity of the Colony—as members of the same community, it is a paramount duty we owe each other, to give up some portion of our time to fulfil the important public duties which we undertake to perform as members of the

Society. This Society might, perhaps, have done more for the public good than it has actually done; but it ought to be acknowledged, in truth, that it has done a great deal; for instance, its importation of improved breeds of cattle, sheep, and swine, from England, gave rise to individual speculations, to which we are so much indebted for the numerous valuable additions made to our herds and flocks. Since that time, the rewards given for the importation of Saxon and Merino sheep, for the annual improvement in our breeding stock, for the destruction of native dogs, for the growth and manufacture of a variety of agricultural produce, for literary superiority in agriculture and horticulture applicable to the Colony; for meritorious conduct in servants of the crown; and though last, not least, for the advantage resulting from the interchange of agricultural knowledge, and the social intercourse which takes place at our Meetings, the Colony at large is indebted to this Society. I therefore again anxiously urge the necessity of Members giving more regular attendance at the General and Special Meetings of the Society, and by their presence and experience, adding all the weight and support in their power to the attainment of those objects and advantages which the Public has a right to expect from such a capable and important Body.

I will now close my remarks, with offering to you my sincere congratulations upon the very auspicious falls of rain which took place last week, though not enough to fill the water holes or materially increase the rivers, still sufficient to penetrate and soften the earth for the reception of our corn, and various autumnal field and kitchen garden crops, and to insure abundant rich pasturage for our stock throughout the

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earnestly recommend the extensive cultivation of turnip crops, which come forward so quickly for use, and ensure profitable sale in our markets. From the heat which the earth has acquired, and the mild growing appearance of the weather, we may hope for the early part of the winter being sufficiently open to bring to perfection our late planted autumnal potato crops; and we ought to give immediate attention to the sowing and cultivation of our improved European grasses, as well as the oat and barley crops, for winter food for our stock, when the season and ground are so favourable for their rapid growth; and though the late rain has brought joy and gladness amongst us, still I trust our next Anniversary Report will be descriptive of more profitable returns for the industry of the husbandman.

J. JAMISON, PRESIDENT.

N. B.—Our Society at present consists of 195 Members, besides ten candidates proposed. The Treasurer has at present cash in hand £121 8 0; and the outstanding debts amount to about £290.