



RECORDS

OF THE

GLAMORGANSHIRE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

From the date of its Establishment in 1772 to the year 1869.

John Garsed, Cardiff 1890

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Cowb & March 1790
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ON Wednesday, 28th October, 1772, a memorable day for Glamorgan-shire Agriculturists, a meeting was held at the Bear Inn, in the ancient town of Cowbridge, and it was then and there unanimously resolved "That a society called the Glamorganshire Agriculture Society, for the encouragement of agriculture, &c., be formed, and that Presidents, Treasurer, and Secretary be appointed and premiums be allotted at the next meeting held at Cowbridge on the 9th December next, and that the same be advertised in the 'London Evening Post'; the 'St. James' Chronicle'; the 'Gloucester,' and 'Hereford' Journals. Signed, Thomas Mansel Talbot, Chairman; Jno. Morris; Michl. Richards; Gervase Powell; John Franklen; Thomas Edwards; John Mathew; John Lucas; C. R. Jones; Thomas Bruce." Such was the commencement of this noble old institution, begun when newspapers existed not in this county, All honour to the gentlemen who initiated it. At the adjourned meeting at Cowbridge on 9th December, 1772, "Mr. John Franklen was appointed Treasurer for 1773, with liberty to appoint a Secretary under him, to be paid by the Society twenty pounds per annum." I may here say that Mr. Franklen occupied that office for forty-nine years uninterruptedly (and would appear to have been the great motive power in the Society). To his clear, far-sighted views, agriculture was deeply indebted. // "It was further resolved that two general meetings be held at Cowbridge," one "the 2nd day of the Spring Great Sessions, for allotting premiums," the other "on the Wednesday next after full moon in November, for adjudging them." Not only is the moon supposed to affect tides and weather, but it thus fixed the date of agricultural shows! It was further resolved that four quarterly sub-division meetings be held in addition, two at Cardiff, and two at Swansea, in January, February, June, and July, with power to adjourn; their deliberations to be remitted to,

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and approved by, the general meetings. The Honourable George Venables Vernon, and Robert Jones, Esq., were elected President and Vice-President of the Spring General Meeting; and Thomas Mansel Talbot and Gervase Powell, Esqrs., respectively President and Vice-President of the Autumn General Meeting; Michael Richards and Thomas Edwards, Esqrs., were elected Vice-Presidents of the Sub-division Meeting at Cardiff; and John Morris and Calvert Rd. Jones, Esqrs., Vice-Presidents at Swansea. The list of premiums then decided upon for 1773 was—1st: for farmers renting £100 per annum, or upwards, who shall raise ten statute acres of turnips well hoed and cultivated; first prize, fifteen guineas; second prize, ten guineas. 2nd: for farmers from £50 to £100 rental, who shall raise five statute acres; first prize, seven guineas; second prize, five guineas. 3rd: for farmers from £10 to £30 rental, who shall raise three statute acres of turnips; first prize, five guineas; second prize, three guineas. Resolved, that no person having an estate worth fifty pounds per annum receive a pecuniary premium from the Society, and that ten pounds be laid out in Norfolk turnip seed, one half to be given in the Cardiff sub-division, and the other in Swansea to farmers at the discretion of the Committee. Premiums of 1st, ten; 2nd, five; and 3rd, three guineas were offered for sainfoin to farmers as above, the crops to be viewed in June. A resolution to print the names of subscribers, and list of premiums, brought the meeting to a close. The following gentlemen signed the minutes: Thos. Mansel Talbot (chairman), George Venables Vernon, John Morris, Robert Jones, Gervase Powell, John Edmondes, John Lucas, Ilyd Thomas, Michael Richards, Thos. Edwards, Calvert Rd. Jones, George Williams, Joseph Price, David Thomas, John Curre, John Price, John Franklen, William Bennett, and Thomas Bruce (clerk). The Society thus started wisely by sub-dividing the county, which would have proved unwieldy as a whole, exercising a controlling power at the general meetings at Cowbridge. The selection of premiums and classification of farms show great judgment, as turnip husbandry is the fountain-head of all good cultivation; and the encouragement of a forage crop so valuable as sainfoin indicates that the originators of the Society were alive to the new features of husbandry, and well up with the spirit of the times, when "Coke" was a household word in Norfolk. The rentals of the farms appear low; but bearing in mind that rents at that period were very much lower for land than at present, such rentals would represent occupiers of a considerable area.

At the Spring General Meeting on April 12th, 1773, the Swansea sub-division appears to have sent up a good deal of matter for the Society to digest, and it was decided that a committee of the members should purchase such implements of husbandry as in their opinion were best suited to the county, at a cost of not exceeding fifty pounds, to be deposited in a warehouse at Cowbridge, and open for the inspection of members. An order was given for a "Northampton plow" worked with two horses, that had been seen at work in Herefordshire; so that 1773 commenced the era of the introduction of new and improved farm implements, and to

introduce and encourage the four-course system, viz., 1st, turnips; 2nd, barley; 3rd, clover; 4th, wheat. "On farms of ten acres and upwards a premium of twenty shillings per acre will be given, but the total amount so given shall not exceed one hundred pounds. Should claims be put in over this acreage, then the money will be divided proportionally according to the area cultivated by each candidate." "In order to promote drainage, a premium of ten shillings per acre was offered to the person who would effectually drain and clean the greatest quantity of black, peaty, or boggy land not less than three or more than ten acres." We thus see the Society recognized the cropping, cultivation and improvement of the soil as their primary duty. And then follows a recognition of stock in "a premium of ten guineas each for the two best coach or cart horses, within age, one horse to travel the Cardiff division, and one horse the Swansea division, the river Ogmore being the boundary between the two, at a half-guinea each mare, and a majority of the subscribers assembled at the Bear Inn, at Cowbridge, and the Stair, Swansea, on the 1st of May, to decide which horses receive the premium." Here we have a solution of the much vexed question of judges, as the will of the majority decides the question. "A premium of five guineas for the best crop of potatoes exceeding three acres" was offered; and a medal was ordered for the reward of fortunate owners of land of £50 annual value, who were debarred from taking money premiums. Also "for the person who would reclaim and make profitable any rough land, covered with heath, gorse, fern, &c., not less than ten acres, a premium of five pounds." Each of the sub-divisions were authorized to send for one turnip hoer to instruct the farmers in hoeing, at an expense not exceeding four guineas in each division; so that it is clear we may fix the date of the introduction of turnip cultivation as a part of farm practice into this county at 1773.

At a general meeting held at Cowbridge on 16th August, 1773, it was decided to procure and deposit at the Society's warehouse in Cowbridge "a machine for dressing clover; a machine for slicing turnips; two of the most approved horse hoes; two of the most approved straw cutters; two of the most approved turnip hoes;" Mr. Moore's Eradicator; and that the books published by Mr. Bayley (containing plates and descriptions of machines for which premiums have been awarded by the Society of Arts) he purchased for the use of the Society. This shows very energetic action on the part of the Committee, who evidently did not "let the grass grow under their feet." At the general meeting held at Cowbridge on 1st December, "The thanks of the Society were accorded Mr. Garbutt for his present of a Rotheram or Northampton plow," and his account of successful wheat growing on lay ground. Calvert Rd. Jones, Esq., received a gold medal for his "coach or cart-horse," stationed in the Swansea district, and Mr. Thos. Key the premium of ten guineas for his "coach-horse," stationed in the Cardiff district. Therefore these two gentlemen have the honour of being the first winners of the Society's premiums; the minute gives no information as to whether there was competition. The premium for turnips for 1774 was altered "from £10 to £30, to £10

under £50 per annum." A fresh sub-division district for Cowbridge and neighbourhood appears to be formed, and a sum of £15 was to be expended in turnip seed, one third to each division, to be distributed free of charge at their discretion; premiums for sainfoin, draining, clearing rough land, and potatoe growing were sanctioned; and further it was resolved that "a premium of twenty guineas be given to the two best strong hunters, equal to eighteen stone in the field, within age, to cover at one guinea each mare, one to travel the Cardiff and the other the Swansea division, the majority of the subscribers to adjudicate on their merits." What think ye, owners of hunters from 12 to 15 stone, of 18 stone qualification! It was *stoutness* and speed then! Now it is *speed* and stoutness!

At a general meeting on the 6th April, 1774, the first prize of fifteen guineas was awarded Mr. Thomas Key, for ten acres of turnips; second of ten guineas to Mr. Robert Smith; Mr. Key therefore won a "double first," but no record exists of his residence. The two inspectors of crops received five guineas each for their trouble and expenses. A drill plow, manufactured by Mr. Peter Clare, was ordered. Each of the three sub-divisions were authorized to send for a turnip hoer to instruct the labourers. A model of a clover dressing mill was shown and approved, and "two premiums of five guineas for eastern and western districts offered for machines to be erected similar to the model." Thanks were accorded to Thos. Butterworth Bailey, Esq., for several communications relative to agriculture, and for a box of potatoe apple and seed. An important note appears at this meeting, viz.: "That the consideration of the coal duty be postponed."

This shows that the Society adopted a wide and liberal view, not only of agriculture, but of other productions in the county, for though no further mention is again made of the subject, yet the matter must have formed a subject of discussion at some time or other. A premium of five pounds was awarded to Mr. Thos. Llewlin, Lanvihangel-y-vedw, for reclaiming and making profitable twenty acres of rough land in 1773; "a premium of ten guineas was offered to the farmer who in 1774 should grow not less than one acre of Scotch cabbage, rows three feet apart, plants not less than two feet apart; second prize of five guineas for the same." This is followed by a recommendation to sow in seed bed in the autumn, and transplant the cabbages in March or April. Premiums of two guineas in each of the three divisions (Cardiff, Cowbridge, and Swansea) for the best yearling bull, and one guinea in each division for the best yearling ram, were offered. Here, then, we find the commencement of cattle and sheep prizes. No attempt at classification of breed was made for many years; in fact, agricultural produce and horseflesh held the premier position. The first has fallen from its high estate at the present day, but I think more attention should be paid to it by means of experimental plots in each county, carried out in a practical every-day form, leaving the more scientific experiments to Sir J. B. Lawes, Rothamstead; R. A. Society, at Woburn; and similar institutions. On the 11th August, 1774, twenty guineas was awarded Mr. John Stallard, for his "nutmeg-brown horse Goliath," the best stallion in the Swansea division; Dr.

Rd. Price and Mr. Graisbrook Cramp competed in the class for rams, when the prize of one guinea was awarded the latter. A die was ordered for the Society's medals—"medal the size of a crown, and thereon figure representing Ceres, with cornucopia under one arm, and with the other presenting a medal pendant, with a plough, harrow, and other farming implements round her, and reapers with corn standing in stooks and sheaves in the back-ground, with the sun above, and round it 'Glamorgan Society for the Encouragement of Agriculture, &c., instituted 1772;' and the reverse a blank whereon to engrave the name of the person to whom, and for what, it is given." Ten silver medals were ordered to be struck. The Hon. Mr. Vernon and Mr. T. Mansel Talbot gave their first subscriptions as donations to establish a fund for the Society, and promised an annual subscription of ten guineas each. At a general meeting on 23rd day of November, 1774, Mr. Thos. Key was awarded first prize of fifteen guineas for ten acres of turnips, and Mr. Robt. Smith second of ten guineas; Jno. Edmondes, Esq., received a silver medal for best crop in the county, twelve-and-half acres. Jno. Morris, Esq., the silver medal for first introducing the culture of cabbages at Clasemont, having two-and-half acres transplanted. Resolved that no person should receive the Society's premiums more than once for a similar object of improvement in agriculture. The success of Messrs. Key and Smith in successive years appears to have caused this resolution, as when the Society was young and agriculture in its infancy, it would be prejudicial to its interests if the prizes continued to be carried off by the same parties year after year. A sum of one guinea was awarded Mr. Thos. Howell, near Penarth, whose rental was £8 per annum, for having reclaimed and cultivated six and one quarter acres of woodland.

The following implements, viz. turnip slicer, drill plow, Rotheram plow, horse hoe, and straw cutter, to be removed to Swansea, and deposited in the warehouse of Jno. Morris, Esq., for inspection of farmers and others, till Lady-day, when they are to be returned to Cowbridge. All the Society's business to be conducted at 11 a.m., and none after dinner. Members were requested to send the account of any experiments made, or in progress, that they deemed would be beneficial to the advancement of agriculture. At the general meeting held April 18th, 1775, premiums of three guineas and two guineas each, first and second, for yearling bulls to be shewn at Cardiff, Cowbridge, and Swansea, were offered, and two and one guineas each, first and second, for yearling rams at same time. A silver medal was awarded for growing and cultivating thirty-nine acres of turnips, in 1773, to Robt. Jones, Esq., Fonmon Castle, who took a most active part in the working of the Society, and whose name and that of his tenants appear as frequent prize takers hereafter; and one also to Wm. Hurst, Esq., St. Andrews, for grubbing, cultivating and sowing with wheat twenty acres of rough land; a premium of five guineas to Mr. Wm. Llewlin, for grubbing, cultivating, and making profitable nineteen acres of rough land, in the parishes of Landern and Lanishen; Mr. Wm. Williams was awarded two guineas for his industry and ingenuity

The medal

Cabbages at Clasemont

Penarth

in making a model of a clover machine; the said model to be sent to Swansea for three months for exhibition.

It was resolved "That the establishment of a Fishery at Swansea, on the plans produced, was worthy of the Society's encouragement, and that a bounty of ten guineas per annum for three years be given to the Swansea Fishery Society." Thus the Society, as we have previously recorded, did not confine itself to its own immediate interests, but took under its fostering care other industries that required support. At the general meeting on August 23rd, 1775, first prizes of five guineas and second of three guineas, for the best and largest quantity of red clover seed not less than one ton, dressed and cleaned in this county in the year 1776, were offered. Mr. Robt. Smith, Kettle-hill, recommended the erection of sheep cotts on the hills for shelter. The communication was remitted to him for plan and estimate of same. An important decision was arrived at, viz., that for the future all premiums should be double, and the county divided by the River Ogmore into eastern and western districts. At the autumn meeting, on November 8th, 1775, Messrs. George Howells, Lanmaes, and Thos. Thomas, Court Lanfa, took first and second prizes for yearling bulls, and Messrs. Thomas Jenkins, Pwll-y-Darren, and Jno. Jones, Egllys-brewis, first and second prizes for yearling rams; Mr. Dd. Evans, Tila Windsor, Llantrissant, prize of five pounds for reclaiming and making profitable forty-five acres of rough land; Jno. Popkin, Esq., silver medal for cleaning draining, and making profitable seven-and-half acres of black, peaty, land in the parish of Bettws; Jno. Franklen, Esq., Lanmihangel, silver medal for fourteen acres of turnips; Messrs. Morgan Howell, Skirr, and Rees-ap-John, Cantleston, first and second prizes of fifteen guineas and ten guineas for best crops of turnips grown by farmers; a prize of five guineas to Mr. Robt. Smith for best crop of potatoes, on three acres, twenty perches; letters of thanks to Messrs. Dd. Evans (Birchgrove) and Lucas for their communications on potatoe culture were ordered, and a wish expressed that the correspondence might be continued; Mr. Robt. Smith received a prize of two guineas for best yearling ram exhibited at Swansea. Draining appears at a discount, for it was resolved that the premium for the same be raised from ten to twenty shillings per acre. Thanks were accorded Mr. R. Smith for his plans and estimate for sheep cotts, which were highly approved. Premiums of first two guineas per acre, second one guinea per acre up to ten acres and not less than one acre, were offered for Scotch kale or cabbage, and the same prizes as hitherto^{for} offered for rye-grass and clover.

Mr. W. Williams having erected a clover machine at his mill at Brynmoyle, the balance of the premium of five guineas was handed to him, so that 1775 saw the introduction of the clover dressing machine in a practical form. Prizes of five guineas were offered to the person who should grow and consume with stock the greatest quantity of potatoes, not less than five tons; and three guineas to the person growing and consuming not less than three tons. The population was then small, and potatoes looked at more from a stock-consuming view;

hence the stimulus. Now comes an important fact, which upwards of a century afterwards we are calling attention to as a new feature, viz, weighing cattle alive!—Resolved, "That the machine made by Mr. Jas. Sharp, Leadenhall Street, London, for weighing cattle alive, be procured." Jno. Franklen, Esq., was commended for cultivating one-and-half acres of cabbage, one of which weighed eighteen and three-quarters lbs. Jno. Edmondes, Esq., produced the best yearling bull; but no other competitor appearing, he declined the medal. At a general meeting on April 10th, 1776, "a plow with the novelty of a iron wheel attached to the heel, to lessen the friction, instead of a sole plate," was presented by Jno. Popkin, Esq. At the general meeting on August 14th, 1776, Messrs. John Edwards, Flymston, and Humphrey Dembry, Llantwit Major, took first and second prizes respectively for the best bulls; and Messrs. T. Thomas, Court Lanfa, and John Jones, Lisworney, respectively took first and second prizes for rams; the boars shewn were not worthy of a premium.

At the autumn meeting held 27th Nov., 1776, Messrs. Anthony Williams, Laleston, and David Davies, Lansamlet, respectively took first and second prizes for yearling bulls. C. R. Jones, Esq., awarded a medal for the best yearling ram, and Mr. Morgan Howell, Skirr, second premium. John Morris, Esq., medal for best yearling boar. All these were exhibited at Swansea. Mr. Evan John, Tyn-y-cae, Clydach, was awarded £5 for cleaning and profitably cultivating 10¾ acres of rough land. The premium of fifteen guineas was awarded Ed. Nicholl, Esq., of Ham, for best crop of turnips in eastern division; Mr. Evan John, Boverton, 2nd, reduced to seven guineas, as he grew them after barley instead of wheat, and they were improperly hoed. Mr. Danl. Rees, Lanmihangle, Pyle, had the best crop in the western division, but the premium was reduced to five guineas on similar grounds to the foregoing one. Mr. Jenkin Rees, St. Brides Major, received premium for 2nd class of farmers, reduced to five guineas for improper hoeing. Twelve bushels of turnip seed were ordered, six for Cowbridge, three bushels each for Cardiff and Swansea, for distribution amongst farmers, and a resolution passed that unless land was fallowed, plowed at least four times, and the crop hoed twice, no premium would be awarded for turnips. This conforms pretty closely to the best modern practice of the present day, except the plowing.

Premiums were offered for bar and twig (what we term wattle) hurdles, to be sold at 14d. per hurdle for the former, and 9d. per hurdle for the latter variety. The premiums for turnips were reduced in amount owing to the increased demands on the Society's funds. A premium of 5s. per 1,000 for the best 20,000 white thorn quicks, two years growth, that would be sold at 7s. 6d. per 1,000, was offered; if the number entered exceeded 20,000, the £5 prize to be divided equally between the claimants in each division. Two good turnip hoers were to be procured from England, one for each division. Mr. John Jones, Eglys-brewis, received the premium for rye-grass seed, and Mr. Morgan Howell, Skirr, five guineas for best crop of potatoes on 3 acres, viz. 960 bushels of nine galls, each. At the general

Isaiah Powell, Coychurch, prize 5 guineas for growing and consuming seven tons of potatoes with pigs, by which he made a profit of fifteen pounds. On 1st May, 1785, the stallions exhibited did not fully come within the advertisement and intention of the Society, but "for ye encouragement of future exhibitors to produce stronger and better bay horses, of the hunter class," they adjudge 3 guineas to Mr. Wm. Gregory, for his bay horse; 2 guineas to Mr. Johns Howell, Rhenvelen, for his bay stallion; 2 guineas to Mr. Wm. Llewillin, Kevenmably, for bay stallion; 2 guineas to Mr. Thos. Edmond, Llannedu, for bay stallion; 1 guinea to Mr. Thos. Evans, Lantrythid, for light or bay stallion. On 1st August, 1785, only portions of the premiums for stock were awarded in most of the classes, their merit not entitling them to the whole. At the general meeting on 17th April, 1786, a Society's medal was awarded David Scott, Esq., for raising thirty-five tons of potatoes on three acres at Corntown, and consuming six tons sixteen cwt. with pigs; ten shillings was awarded Mr. Griff. Hopkin for draining half-acre of land at Margam; Messrs. Howell Lewis, of Castelle Vach; Jno. Rowland, Lanlid; and Jno. Mathews, Michaelstone-le-pit, were awarded two guineas each for merit in grubbing and cleaning land. A foot-note informs us that the latter declined the award. Five guineas was awarded Mr. Wm. Westmacott for raising eighty-nine tons of potatoes on three acres near Cardiff; the crop seems excessive, but is thus recorded. On the 1st May, 1786, the strong bay stallion, six years old, exhibited by Mr. Ellerton Suntor, of Wells, was awarded the prize of ten guineas. At a general meeting on 16th April, 1787, several premiums were awarded for clearing land, growing turnip crops, and draining. Six guineas was awarded Mr. Joseph Ault for best crop of cabbages on three acres at Pentrebane. Two medals were awarded Mr. Jno. Jones, Boverton, for cultivating, &c., 11 acres of land, and for raising 23 cwt. of rye-grass; also three guineas to Mr. Dd. Hopkin for raising 20 cwt. of rye-grass at Roos, Penmark. On October 31st, 1787, gratuities of two guineas each were awarded Messrs. Jno. Jones, Boverton, and Philip James, of Pen-cicily, for their stallions exhibited, although they were not of sufficient merit to receive the Society's prizes. Mr. Jas. Marmont, Pyle, received prize of three guineas for 1½ acres of Scotch cabbage, and the Society's medal was awarded T. Edwards, Esq., Landaff, for draining and improving a great quantity of land near there. The stallion prize was risen to twenty guineas instead of ten ("master of eighteen stone in the field"). On the 1st May, 1788, three strong bay stallions were shown at Cowbridge, and the premium of twenty guineas awarded to "Fearnought," the property of Mr. Ellerton Suntor, Wells, and that he attend Cowbridge, Cardiff, and Bridgend during the months of May and June at two guineas per mare. Mr. Lewis Llewllyn, Margam, was awarded the prize of £3 for draining and cleaning above 3 acres of peaty rough land at an expense of upwards of £30.

On the 8th October, 1788, premiums were awarded to Messrs Marmont, for sainfoin, and Thos. James, Coity, for 4 acres potatoes; also silver medals to Messrs. Dd. Scott for crop of sainfoin,

and Wm. Franklen, for draining, &c., 12 acres of peaty, boggy land. A perceptible increase in the numbers of the stock exhibited, as six stone colts, seven yearling bulls, three yearling rams, and two yearling boars were shewn. On 1st May, 1789, eight stallions were shewn by local exhibitors, but none came up to the standard fixed by the Society, therefore the prize was withheld, and gratuities of from two to three guineas awarded to the exhibitors for their trouble, and a silver medal to Mr. Franklin for his colt. The 28th September, 1789, Mr. W. Alexander was awarded five guineas for raising two tons of rye-grass at Penmark; and it was resolved that a sum not exceeding one hundred guineas be given to purchase a strong active bay stallion, under seven years old, to stand at Cowbridge and serve mares at two guineas each. Mr. Francis Bevan, Oxwich, was awarded a prize of five guineas for raising 63 tons of potatoes on three acres.

On the 3rd May, 1790, the Society's honorary medals were awarded to Sir Herbert Mackworth, and Peter Birt, Esq., for their great improvements in reclaiming rough land, and drainage. The brown stallion "Patriot" bought by the Society in London, came down so late that the fee was lowered to half-a-guinea for subscribers to the Society, and one guinea to non-subscribers, one shilling the groom. "It was resolved to send for a spinning Jenny, with a person to work it, and place the same near the middle of this county, to instruct those engaged in flannel and hose manufacture, in the hope that it may tend to the introduction of manufactories, and thus prevent the exportation of raw wool from the county; and that two good turnip hoers be obtained to instruct the workmen in this county.

At a general meeting held at Bridgend on 13th April, 1791, medals were awarded to Hy. Knight, Esq., for raising above five acres of cabbages; John Popkin, Esq., for cultivating the greatest quantity of land with alternate crops in the last five years; and to Robert Rous, Esq., for draining, grubbing, &c., land at Michaelstone-le-pit. Mr. Stanistreet was requested to set the spinning Jenny at work, and sufficient wool was supplied to enable him to continue spinning till the 29th, to which date the meeting adjourned; no record appears of the adjournment. On the 27th September, 1791, "Patriot" was ordered to be sold for the best price that could be got, as farmers did not care to send their mares to him. A person to repair the spinning and carding machines, and work them, was to be obtained from Manchester.

On the 28th September, 1792, in consequence of the great growth of turnips, a larger supply was to be ordered of Norfolk seed, placed at Cardiff, Cowbridge, and Swansea, and sold at 6d. per lb., the Society to bear any loss caused thereby. Mr. Ed. Williams, Picot, awarded ten guineas for raising thirty acres of turnips; Mr. John Bradley, Cardiff, raising six acres of cabbages many weighing 26lbs., prize of six guineas.

At the general meeting, held at Bridgend, 3rd October, 1794, that 5 guineas be awarded to Mr. Robt. Burnell, Newton, for raising 52 acres of turnips, and the honorary medal to Earl of Bute for reclaiming, &c., over 20 acres of land in Cogan; medals were awarded Samuel

Richardson, Esq., for draining and grubbing 10 acres; John Popkin, Esq., for raising 2 acres cabbages; Messrs. Harford and Co. for raising 18 acres turnips; R. Arnold Esq., for best crop of sainfoin, at Cantleston; Mr. Hopkin Llewlyn, Junr., for draining, reclaiming, &c., the greatest quantity of land in Margam; and John Franklen, Esq., for plowing above 50 acres with oxen in collars, prize of 5 guineas to Mr. Humphry, Dembry, for consuming 8 tons of potatoes with pigs in 1793. "Resolved that farmers in the hills shall be entitled to premiums for good turnips, raised after Devon lining on new reclaimed land the first year."

On 15th Sept., 1795, at Cowbridge, that 6 guineas be given Mr. Thos. Bennett for making and selling 300 hurdles for folding sheep. £5 was awarded Mr. John Bradley for raising 20,000 hawthorns, and offering them for sale at 7/- per thousand. At Cowbridge, on 21st June, 1796, Mr. James Marment was awarded the premium of 20/- per acre for draining, &c., 9 acres of peaty land; 10 guineas was awarded to Mr. Mathew Dunn, St. Donatts, for raising, &c., and hurdling off on the land 10 acres of turnips. On 27th Sept., 1796, resolved that 5 guineas be given the farmer who shall plant, or dibble, and hoe the greatest quantity, not less than 5 acres, of wheat in the county. On March, 1797, Mr. Griffith Thomas, wheelwright, Newcastle, was employed to go to Bath and make a model of the thrashing machine, belonging to the Bath and West of England Society, he being allowed 5 guineas for expenses, and if the model is well done one guinea more; Mr. Leyshon Lougher was awarded 5 guineas for growing 20 tons of potatoes on 4 acres. At Cowbridge, on 4th May, 1797, Mr. Griff. Thomas, produced model of thrashing machine from Bath, also a model of a hand thrashing machine, invented by Mr. Hancock, and Mr. Franklen produced a correspondence from Mr. Harper, Bank Hall, Liverpool, explaining his machine, and offering every assistance if they would wish to inspect. It appeared Mr. Harper's machine was superior to the others, and the Society decided to send Mr. Griff. Thomas up to inspect the same. In a foot note dated Sept. 27th, 1797, Mr. Franklen adds "that Mr. G. Thomas brought a thrashing machine to Lanmihangle in a wagon. It was immediately put to work, and did well with four men, but wants a horse to work it."

On the 28th September, 1797, the show of stock was, as a whole, inferior in quality, only portions of the premiums being awarded. On the 25th September, 1798, the stock show was small, and only part of the premiums awarded on that ground. On 2nd April, 1799, £5 was awarded to Mr. John Evan, Gwern Ivor, Lanwonno, for reclaiming, enclosing, and planting with oats 14 acres on Mynith-bach. On September 24th, 1799, Mrs. Gwinnett was awarded a medal for the best bull. On 23rd September, 1800, a brown bull shewn by Mr. Francis Morris, of St. Hilary (there being no competition), was awarded a gratuity of one guinea. This is the first instance of colour being mentioned, and it would probably be other than the old Glamorgan breed. On April 15th, 1801, five guineas awarded to Mr. Thomas Williams, Lancarvan, for growing upwards of three tons of marketable

Hill
Margam

M. Harford
B. 22

been

Thrashing
machine

ds.

calls
colour
bull

rye-grass seed; five guineas to Mr. Evan John, Pynyrheol, for best five acres of sainfoin; an honorary silver medal was presented to Thomas Markham, Esq., Nash, for the best crop of 10 acres of turnips fed off with hurdles in the best manner; and five guineas to Mr. Evan Henry, Newton, for the best crop of three acres of potatoes. On 27th April, 1802, five guineas was awarded to Mr. David John, Newcastle, for raising 19 tons of potatoes per acre on five acres, and feeding cattle and horses on a great portion thereof. On 28th September, 1802, the brown bull shown by Mr. William Lands, first prize of three guineas; the black bull shown by Mr. John Llewlin, second prize, two guineas; Mrs. Mary Jones, Margam, £5 for reclaiming, enclosing and sowing with wheat the greatest quantity of rough land. On 28th June, 1803, the rule which prevented farmers who had once won a premium for crops from again competing rescinded, and after a lapse of 10 years they can compete again for same crops. Five guineas was awarded Mr. Christ. Bradley for best crop of 10 acres of potatoes, near Cowbridge. On 27th Sept. 1803, premiums awarded for stock, and a medal to Thos. Franklen, Esq., for a fine boar of the Berkshire breed. Here then is the first recorded introduction of Berkshire into the county.

On 22nd May, 1804, Richard Griffiths, Esq., Cardiff, medal for raising in drills 5 acres of good turnips and horse hoeing the same. This would seem to mark the introduction of the drill system and horse hoe; a foot note alludes to the thin attendance at meeting, which it says was caused by the marching of the Volunteers to Swansea that day. On 13th Nov., 1804, Mr. Ml. Spencer, St. Athan, raising 2 tons, 7 cwt. of red clover seed, 5 guineas; Mr. Dd. Rees, Lancadle, raising 1 ton of red clover seed, 3 guineas. On 1st October, 1805, Robert Jenner, Esq., Wenvoe Castle, honorary medal for best chesnut colt; Mr. Ml. Glover, 2 guineas for best boar, "Suffolk red and white, cock-eared sort;" Mr. Jas. Marment, 1 guinea for second best boar, "black and white lop-eared sort." 23rd September, 1806, apparently a good show, two premiums each being awarded for horses, rams, and boars. The black and white bull shewn by Mr. Evan Morgan was awarded half a guinea, there being no competition. 18th June, 1807, Mr. Dd. Hopkins, Roos, 10 guineas for raising best crop of 13 acres of sainfoin. 22nd September, 1807, premiums awarded to two colts, two brown bulls, two rams, and one boar. On 8th December, 1807, medal awarded to Richard Griffiths, Esq., Roath, for 6 acres of Swedish turnips. This is the first intimation of sweeds grown. Mr. W. Howell, Newton, 5 guineas for growing $3\frac{3}{4}$ acres of potatoes, at the average of 25 ton, 14 cwt. per acre. On 21st June, 1808, the following premiums were offered: "To the person who should invent and erect in the county a thrashing machine, the price not to exceed 50 guineas, which shall perform its work to the satisfaction of the Committee, five guineas." "To the person who shall raise the best crop of Swedish turnips, not less than three acres, five guineas." "To the person who shall invent or improve any plow, to render it, in the opinion of the committee, superior to any known, three guineas." "To the person who shall invent or improve any chaff cutter that can be worked with

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Hopkin, Margam, for hoeing fifty acres of turnips; second of one guinea to John Spencer and William Watkin, St. Athan, for hoeing sixteen acres of turnips; and two guineas to Mary Morgan, Peterstone, for hoeing two and a half acres of turnips. All the above-mentioned are described as Welsh hoers. On 5th August, 1818, at the Ship and Castle Inn, Neath, in the accounts up to this date, the secretary's salary was for three years to date £63. This would make Mr. Bradley's appointment date from 5th August, 1815. The subscriptions had increased to £250 8s. 6d., with arrears £143 6s. 6d. The premiums for stock, &c. were awarded, cattle being classified as "true Glamorgan breed" and "any other breed." Some few prizes, notably that for husbandry stallion being open, the rest confined to the county. At this meeting appears a name well-known to the past and present generation of showyard attendants, "Eglysnynd;" Mr. Jenkin Powell, for best bull; and Misses Margaret and Joan Howells, Llwynhely, for best husbandry stallion. On 3rd August, 1819, at Cowbridge, premiums were awarded for labourers, stock, &c. The judges of the show congratulated the Misses Bassett, of Llanelay, upon their introduction of Cheviot sheep into the hilly districts, which, under the judicious management of William Vaughan, Esq., had led to a considerable improvement of the mountain sheep. Here then is a given data as the Cheviot sheep must have been introduced two or three years previous to have effected any perceptible improvement. 2nd November, 1819: prizes were first offered for shepherds who reared the greatest number of lambs, and also prizes for ploughmen, with two horses abreast, without a driver, who do the most and neatest ploughing in two hours; the same for two oxen abreast. At the general meeting on 2nd August, 1820, at Ship and Castle Inn, Neath, two judges officiated, and a prize of three guineas was awarded Henry Hay, shepherd to Misses Bassett, of Llanelay, for rearing 217 lambs, from 220 ewes, the breeding stock of Garthmailing. At the Ship and Castle Inn, Neath, on 1st November, 1820, a premium of two guineas was awarded David Morgan, ploughman to Misses Bassett, Llanelay; second of one guinea to John Austin, ploughman to Griffith Llewellyn, Esq., Baglan Hall, and commendations to the unsuccessful competitors; no oxen appear to have been entered. The judges strongly recommend agriculturists to adopt the very superior plough used by David Morgan, and think great merit is due to the Miss Bassetts, for introducing it into the county. A premium of five guineas was offered for the largest quantity and cleanest vetch seed, the crop of not less than five acres; and the prizes increased in amount for the true Glamorgan breed of cattle. Prizes are also for the first time offered for a hilly ram, and ten hilly ewes (specially excluding the Southdown). The Board of Agriculture premium of £50, for the best cultivated farm in the county was awarded to Mr. Edward Edmunds, of Pen-y-Rhos. On 7th August, 1821, annual meeting at Cowbridge. Accounts shewed: annual subscriptions £235 14s. 6d., with arrears due, £200 11s. Messrs. Ed. and Christopher Bradley, five guineas for cleanest and greatest quantity of vetches on five acres; Mr. Evan David, Fairwater, second, three guineas for same on five acres. Misses

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Bassett, Lanelay, win both premiums for hilly sheep. Mr. Griffiths, a well-known name hereafter in connection with stallions, wins a prize of ten guineas for husbandry stallions, and Mr. Richard Davies, Wenvoe, takes a strong lead as a breeder of cattle and sheep. His Majesty's Government having withdrawn their grant to the Board of Agriculture, resolved that the Society give an annual subscription of twenty guineas to the Board of Agriculture. John Franklen, Esq., resigned the treasurership. "Resolved: that the thanks of this meeting be given him for the unwearied attention he has uniformly paid to the interests of this Society since the original formation of it, for the lengthened period of forty-nine years. (Signed) William Booth Grey, President." Mr. Edward Bradley was elected treasurer. The funds of the Society being in a flourishing state, the balance in treasurer's hands was invested in public funds, in the names of the president, vice-president, and treasurer. No higher compliment could have been paid Mr. Franklen for his half-century of disinterested labour than the latter fact.

On 16th November, 1820, a premium of ten guineas was awarded Mr. Leyson Lougher, Monkash, for ten acres of Norfolk turnips, sown broadcast on an old ley, breast ploughed and burnt, twice hoed, turnips large, and produce per acre remarkably heavy. The premium of two guineas for ploughing with two oxen abreast without a driver, was awarded to the Misses Bassett's ploughman, name not given. New premiums were offered for three, two, and one acre of mangel wurzel, also "for best three and one year old mare or gelding (not thoroughbred) for hunting or carriage purposes," and twenty guineas "for the best stallion for hunting and carriage purposes, to serve subscribers' mares at one guinea each."

On 7th August, 1822, annual meeting at Ship and Castle Inn, Neath, the accounts for 1821 show annual subscriptions, £231 10s. 6d.; arrears, £263 7s. od. Mr. Walter Evans, of Fonmon, was awarded the prize of ten guineas, for the best three year old gelding, for hunting and carriage purposes; Mr. Edmund Lewis, Caria, five guineas for best yearling colt for same purposes; and also the premium of twenty guineas for hunting or coaching stallion. The extra stock shewn was highly commended by the judges, particularly a heifer bred by John Edwards, Esq., Rheola, "which for perfection of symmetry and fattening points has rarely been excelled;" the breed not stated. On 13th November, 1822, Right Honourable Sir John Nicholl, Merthyr-mawr, five guineas for three acres of mangel wurzel, half drilled, half broadcast, grown on a sand-bank, with twenty loads of dung per acre; bulbs measuring from fourteen to twenty-four inches in circumference, and many weighing upwards of twenty lbs. each; Misses Bassett, Lanelay, for five acres of mangel wurzel, second prize three guineas; Richd. Griffiths, Esq., Cardiff, prize of two guineas for one acre of mangel wurzel; bulbs very large, many weighing from twenty-seven to thirty lbs. each, grown with yard and stable manure; Evan Philips, ploughing with two oxen abreast, two guineas.

At the annual meeting at Cowbridge, on 3rd August, 1823, after awarding premiums, it was resolved by *twenty* votes, to *four* against,

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September, 1856, the Society expressed itself favourably to the holding of the Bath and West of England Show in Cardiff in 1857, but regretted that the state of its finances would not permit of giving any pecuniary assistance; C. C. Williams, Esq.'s, prize of five pounds given for best implements, was won by Mr. Hugh Bird, Cardiff. On 28th September, 1858, the names of Captain Entwisle, and Rev. W. H. Beevor appear as frequent winners, and Mr. Robert Leyshon was awarded J. Bruce Pryce, Esq.'s, prize of five pounds for tenant over £50 rental, who shall have his gates and hedges in the best state of repair. Daniel Mills, Pentrebane; Daniel Powell, Llantwit Major; and Jno. David, St. Hilary, are awarded the prizes for shepherds, and their names frequently appear in the Society's prize lists hereafter. On 9th November, 1858, resolved that the Committee appoint judges, paying their reasonable expenses, and that two stewards of the yard be appointed to assist the Secretary at the annual show, and that the subscribers be admitted free of charge on presenting member's ticket for 1857. The annual subscriptions were £161 3s. 6d.; subscriptions unpaid £19; expenditure £174 1s. 8d.; receipts £222 2s. 4d., leaving a balance of £48 os. 8d. in treasurer's hands; £4 6s. od. is credited for admission of stock and the public into the show-yard. In 1858, a prize of ten pounds was given by the Corporation of Cowbridge for best bull, cow, and offspring. On 8th November, 1859, C. C. Williams, Esq., and G. M. Traherne, Esq., were elected vice-presidents in lieu of T. Booker Blakemore, Esq., and Honourable R. W. Clive (both deceased).

On 13th November, 1860, G. M. Traherne, Esq., having resigned the office of vice-president, Captain Boteler, R.E., was elected vice-president, and H. Hussey Vivian, Esq., M.P., elected vice-president in lieu of C. C. Williams, Esq. (deceased). Messrs. G. M. Traherne and John Garsed were appointed auditors. A catalogue of the stock, &c., exhibited was ordered to be printed for the future. On 3rd September, 1861, tenders were advertised for, for fitting up the showyard; and the reporters of the three county newspapers received tickets for show and dinner. The town of Cowbridge supplemented the prizes given by Mr. Dalton for poultry, which from this date became a recognized part of the show. On 23rd September, 1862, R. C. N. Carne, Esq.'s prize of five guineas for best sample of wheat, barley, and oats, not less than one bush. of each, was awarded to Mr. Thos. Thomas, St. Hilary. On 11th November, 1862, Col. Rous, Court-y-rala, was elected vice-president in lieu of Admiral Sir Geo. Tyler (deceased). Rev. C. R. Knight (who has rendered yeoman service to the Society) was elected a member of the committee; and G. M. Traherne, Esq., having withdrawn from the Society, Jno. Samuel, Esq., Newton House, was elected auditor in his place. On 22nd September, 1863, a judge of poultry was appointed, and the dairy produce recognized, first and second prizes being given for cheese, these won by Mrs. Lewis, Colwinstone, and Mrs. J. David, Stembridge, respectively. The names of Capt. J. S. Ballard, Messrs. Logan, Dd. Jenkins, Lln. and Hy. Thomas, and Smiths, Boverton, appear in the prize lists. On 27th September, 1864, R. C. N. Carne, Esq., awarded prize of two guineas, given by Rev. Ilyd Nicholl, for not less than ten

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Reports*

Cattle plague

lbs. of fresh butter. On 26th September, 1865, a veterinary surgeon was appointed to examine the stock generally, and hunters recognized, a prize being given by T. M. Talbot, Esq., for a three year old, and one by "Friends of Foxhunting" for a four year old; a piece of plate was also given by J. Logan, Esq., for best beast in the yard, which was awarded to J. Bruce-Pryce, Esq. On 25th September, 1866, the show, in consequence of the cattle plague, was limited to horses, sheep, pigs, &c. (no cattle being exhibited), and confined to animals within the county. Prizes for horse shoeing were also given; the names of Messrs. R. N. Hooper, Williams, Parknewydd, Williams, &c., appear in prize lists. On 24th September, 1867, no cattle were exhibited, and show held under same conditions as previous year. On 12th November, 1867, T. M. Talbot, Esq., was elected a vice-president in lieu of the late Col. Boteler. Alterations of rules carried, by which the show was to be held triennially in Cowbridge, and the following gentlemen appointed to draw out new rules, &c., viz.: The president, and vice-president, ex-officio, Rev. C. R. Knight, Messrs. D. H. Davies, Eyan David, Thos. Goddard, Thos. Dalton, Jno. Garsed, Dr. Lewis, Messrs. W. Huntley, Thos. Thomas, J. Bachelor, J. W. N. Carne, Jas. Gordon, Robt. Leyshon, C. H. Williams, Gwilym Williams, Dillwyn Llewelyn, and Wm. Llewelyn. The rules, &c., were adopted by the Society, and the first migratory movement made to Canton Market, where the show was held in 1868. The success of the migratory move was not assured for some years, and required great and unceasing exertions on the part of the committee, amongst whom the late T. M. Talbot, Esq., Col. T. Picton Turbervill, Revd. C. R. Knight, and the late Thos. Goddard, Esq., took a prominent part to bring it to a successful issue. The gate money for admission to the show at Cowbridge in 1867 was £6 7s. 6d; and at Canton in 1868, £136 os. 3d.; culminating in 1889, at Treorky (including grand stands), in £850 19s. 10d.

Mr. Bradley, the secretary, tendered his resignation after fifty three years tenure thereof, which the committee accepted, as at his age it could not be expected he could undertake the arduous duties connected with a migratory show, and voted a sum of money sufficient to purchase an annuity equal to his salary of twenty-one pounds, per annum, thanking him for his useful services, and expressing a hope that he might long live to enjoy his retirement.

The president, Lord Tredegar, after the Canton show, to the great regret of the committee and members, withdrew from the Society. His lordship had held the office of president thirty-one years, during which period he had, in common with other gentlemen, been a liberal donor of prizes, and also given his time, at great personal inconvenience, in fostering and aiding the Society, which owes a deep debt of gratitude to his memory.

A certain amount of unpleasant feeling was of course engendered by the adoption of the migratory policy, but this has long disappeared, as the prosperous result achieved proves that it was right; and the increased revenue enables the society to extend its usefulness, and become of greater benefit to the community, for it is demonstrated, that

Agricultural Society. On the 18th January, 1774, another letter on the same subject was written to Penoir Watkins, Esq, Brecon, complaining that no answer had been vouchsafed by the secretary, and asking for extracts from the books of the Brecon Society, for which payment would be made. On 23rd March, 1774, a letter was written to the same gentleman, inviting him to attend the meeting on the 6th of April, at the Bear Inn, Cowbridge, to give the Committee the benefit of his experience, and to bring the premium lists and rules of the Brecon Society. It is, therefore, clear from this that the Brecon Agricultural Society existed some years previous to the formation of the Glamorgan Agricultural Society.

The work is necessarily imperfect, as the Minute Books of the Society are very brief, and many notes which may have been attached thereto are either destroyed or lost ; but I trust my fellow-agriculturists and others interested in the oldest profession in the world, will look with a lenient eye upon this attempt to hand down to posterity the records of the labours of our ancestors. My thanks are due to the present Secretary, Mr. W. V. Huntley, for his ready courtesy in facilitating my inspection of the Minute Books of the Society.

