

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

DURING ITS SESSION

A. D. 1856.

PART FIRST.

Augusta:

FULLER & FULLER, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.

1856.

PRELIMINARY REPORT

OF THE

SECRETARY

OF THE

Maine State Agricultural Society.

1855.

AUGUSTA:

STEVENS & BLAINE, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.

1855.



PRELIMINARY REPORT.

To the Legislature of the State of Maine :

In making to you this first report as the statute requires, "giving a statistical account of all the Agricultural and Horticultural Societies in this State, together with a condensed statement of all reports of committees, and statements of competitors, as may be deemed useful," I have thought it might be useful to make some preliminary observations in regard to the statistics of the State in an agricultural point of view, when compared with some of the other States of the Union.

This seems proper and even necessary, in order to enable us to mark the future progress of the State in agricultural improvement, and to ascertain more clearly hereafter what measure of benefit the bounty of the Legislature may be, which has been given for the encouragement of agricultural zeal and industrial skill among us.

For this purpose the statistical returns of 1850, corrected and published by the authority of Congress, have been carefully examined, and, from the data there found, calculations and comparative estimates drawn as they would warrant. The results thus obtained, though perhaps not strictly correct in every particular, will perhaps serve as a sort of landmark, by which we may in future learn whether our course is onward or retrograde.

It is admitted that investigations of this kind must be generalizations, because of the rather loose way in which statistics relating to these subjects have been gathered. The tables recently put forth by the Census Bureau are the only authentic sources from which we can glean facts to guide us, and, as was just observed, have been taken as a basis of the statements which follow. The New England States, only, are taken as standards of comparison for most of the items.

First—As to numbers.

In point of numbers the farmers of Maine eclipse either of the New England States. Our number is 77,016, while New Hamp-

shire has but 47,408; Vermont, 48,312; Massachusetts, 55,082; Rhode Island, 8398; Connecticut, 31,756.

The effective force of the agricultural army of Maine, must therefore be set down in round numbers as seventy-seven thousand men. This number, probably, includes minors and transient operatives employed in agricultural operations.

Second—As to property.

How is this army equipped and supplied? Here we are very much in the dark, because the statistical tables giving schedules of different species of property, give the whole, of course, and not what any class or profession own! Hence, we find that we have in the State 2,039,596 acres of improved land in farms, and 2,515,797 acres of unimproved land in farms. These, added together, will make 4,555,393 acres in all the farms.

If we mistake not, the average of improved acres to each farmer in Maine amounts to a fraction over twenty-six, which is a less number than can be found to a farmer in any other New England State. We also find that the whole value of these farms amounts to fifty-five millions of dollars, or a little more than twelve dollars per acre—that in 1850 there were bred in Maine 41,721 horses, 55 mules, 133,556 milch cows, 83,933 working oxen, 125,890 other cattle, 451,577 sheep, 54,598 swine, the whole value of which stock is nearly ten millions of dollars.

In regard to crops, there was raised in that year (1850) 296,259 bushels of wheat, a little more than a quarter what was raised before the weevil attacked the crop; 101,916 bushels of rye, 1,750,056 bushels of Indian corn, 2,181,037 bushels of oats, 1,364,034 pounds of wool, 205,541 bushels of peas and beans, 3,436,000 bushels of potatoes, 151,731 bushels of barley, 104,523 bushels of buckwheat.

From the same source we also learn that our orchards produced \$342,865 worth; our market gardens, \$122,387—that there was made 9,243,811 pounds of butter, and 2,434,454 pounds of cheese.

That there was cut 755,889 tons of hay, and there was raised 9,000 bushels of clover seed, and 9,000 bushels of other grass seeds.

That there was also raised 40,000 pounds of hops, 17,000 pounds of flax, 580 bushels of flaxseed, 252 pounds of silk cocoons.

That there was made 94,000 pounds of maple sugar and 3,000 gallons of molasses, 19,000 pounds of honey and beeswax collected—that our home-made manufactures are worth over half a million of dollars, and that the value of animals slaughtered is more than a million and a half of dollars.

This, then, is our property standing. Considering the amount of population in the whole, it is certainly very creditable, especially when all the conditions are taken into consideration, especially in the new frontier sections of the State. That we may the more readily compare ourselves with the other New England States, and take, as it were, a bird's eye view of our relative situation in the property and producing scale, we have compiled a table, by which it will be readily ascertained.

	Maine.	N. Hampshire.	Vermont.	Massachusetts.	Rhode Island.	Connecticut.	Maine is No.
Whole population,	531,313	317,456	313,402	985,450	143,375	363,099	1
Number of farms,	77, 16	47,408	48,312	55,032	8,393	31,756	4
Acres of improved land,	2,039,596	2,251,488	2,601,490	2,133,436	356,437	1,763,178	4
Number of acres to a farmer,	26	47	54	47	42	55	6
Value of farms, including unimproved land,	\$ 54,861,748	55,245,997	63,000,000	104,000,000	17,000,000	72,000,000	5
Value of implements,							
Horses,	41,721	34,233	61,057	42,216	6,163	26,370	3
Mules,	55	19	213	34	1	49	2
Milch cows,	133,556	94,277	146,123	130,099	23,698	85,461	2
Working oxen,	83,393	59,027	48,577	46,611	8,180	46,988	1
Other cattle,	125,899	114,608	154,143	83,234	9,375	80,223	2
Sheep,	451,577	384,756	1,014,122	188,651	44,296	174,181	2
Swine,	54,593	63,487	66,206	81,119	19,509	76,472	5
Value of live stock,	\$ 9,705,726	8,871,901	12,643,228	9,647,710	1,532,637	7,467,490	2
Bushels of wheat,	296,259	185,058	535,955	31,211	49	41,762	2
Bushels of rye,	102,916	183, 17	176,233	481,421	26,409	600,893	5
Bushels of Indian corn,	1,751,656	1,573,674	2,032,396	2,345,490	539,201	1,935,043	3
Bushels of oats,	2,181,037	973,381	2,307,734	1,165,146	215,232	1,253,738	2
Pounds of tobacco,		56		138,246		1,267,624	3
Pounds of wool,	1,364,034	1,103,476	3,400,717	855,136	129,692	497,454	2
Pushels of peas and beans,	205,541	70,856	104,649	43,709	6,846	19,090	1
Bushels of Potatoes,	3,426,041	4,304,919	4,951,114	2,586,384	651,029	2,689,724	5
Bushels of Barley,	151,731	70,256	42,150	112,335	18,875	19,099	1
Bushels of buckwheat,	1 4,573	65,265	209,819	105,895	1,245	229,297	4
Value of orchards,	\$ 342,865	248,563	315,255	463,995	63,994	175,118	2
Gallons of wine,	724	344	659	4,688	1,013	4,269	4
Market garden produce,	122,367	56,810	18,853	600,020	93,298	196,874	3
Pounds of butter,	9,243,811	6,977,056	12,137,950	8,07, 370	995,670	6,493,119	2
Pounds of cheese,	2,434,454	3,196,563	8,724,834	7,038,142	316,508	5,363,277	5
Tons of Hay,	755,889	593,854	866,153	651,807	74,318	616,131	2
Bushels of clover seed,	9,097	829	76	1,002	1,323	13,841	2
Bushels of other grass seed,	9,214	8,091	74,936	5,035	3,708	16,603	3
Pounds of hops,	40,120	257,174	238,023	121,595	277	654	4
Pounds of flax,	17,081	7,652	20,352	1,162	85	17,923	3
Bushels of flax seed,	590	189	93	72		703	3
Silk cocoons,	252	191	268	7		323	3
Pounds of maple sugar,	93,542	1,294,863	6,349,351	795,525	28	50,796	4
Molasses,	3,167	9,811	5,997	4,633	4	665	4
Beeswax and honey,	189,618	117,140	249,422	59,503	6,347	93,304	2
Value of home manufactures, \$	513,399	393,456	267,710	205,333	26,495	192, 00	1
Value of animals slaughtered, \$	1,646,773	1,522,373	1,861,330	2,500,924	697,436	2,202, 14	4

That we may still more correctly understand our relative position with other farmers in some of our sister States, let us take a comparative view of the amounts and results of some particular branches of farm operations, and

First—Of the dairy.

There were in Maine, in 1850, 133,556 milch cows. This is about twenty-two hundredths of a cow, or a little more than one-fifth of a cow to an individual. If these cows should average five quarts of milk per day, they would afford to each individual, if equally distributed, one quart. This would be a pretty fair supply. But as this distribution cannot be, or is not made, a large portion is manufactured into butter and cheese.

Butter seems to be as indispensable to the wants of the community as milk, perhaps more so. Let us see what amount of it we produce. According to the returns as above given, the amount in 1850 was 9,243,811 pounds, or about sixty-nine pounds to a cow. This, if we mistake not, will allow fifteen and one-half pounds to a person, or about two-thirds of an ounce each day to an individual. This is doing pretty well, but there are seven States in the Union that do better. These seven States are Michigan, seventy pounds to a cow; New Hampshire, seventy-three pounds per cow; Connecticut, seventy-five pounds; Pennsylvania, seventy-five pounds; New Jersey, seventy-nine pounds; Vermont, eighty-three pounds; New York, eighty-five pounds. Now, why do the cows in these States yield more butter than the cows of Maine on the average? Is there anything in the soil or climate of Maine which prevents our cows yielding as much butter as those of Vermont, or New Hampshire, or New York? Certainly not. The reason must be that our cows, taken collectively, are either not so good or are not so well kept as theirs are.

The true way, therefore, for us to improve in this department will be, first, obtain better cows; and, second, to keep them better. It would seem to be no very difficult thing to feed the cows which we now have in such a manner that each one of them would produce sixteen pounds per annum more than it now does. This would require but a little more than a quarter of a pound increase per week through the year, (supposing the cow continued in milk through that period). Cause our cows to increase this sixteen

pounds per annum, and we bring them up equal to the cows of New York, viz., eighty-three pounds per head.

A wag at our elbow suggests the following doggerel for our dairy watchword:

Better cows and better feed,
And Maine, in butter, takes the lead.

Cheese.—How is it in regard to cheese? The amount of cheese, according to returns in 1850, was 2,434,454 pounds. That is about eighteen pounds to a cow, and allows about four pounds to an individual inhabitant. Seven States, also, take the lead of us in the amount of cheese yielded per cow, viz.: New Jersey, which gives thirty pounds; New Hampshire, thirty-one pounds; Ohio, thirty-six pounds; New York, fifty-three pounds; Massachusetts, fifty-four pounds; Vermont, fifty-nine pounds; Connecticut, sixty-two pounds. Thus we see that, although we do not do badly in the cheese business, there is nevertheless great room for improvement.

To improve in this department, the same steps must be taken as are suggested to improve in the production of butter.

“Better cows and better feed.”

Permit the question to be asked, if these improvements are not easily accomplished and well worth an effort?

Remember that we now make but fifteen and one-half pounds of butter for each individual, when we ought to make more than enough for all—that we make but an average of sixty-nine pounds to a cow, when we ought to make one hundred pounds—that we make but about four pounds of cheese to an individual, when we ought to make more than enough to supply the citizens of the State. To give every individual in the State only one ounce of cheese per day for the year, would require 13,687,500 pounds; or 9,253,044 more than we produce now.

Wool.—In regard to the article of wool, we raise 1,364,034 pounds. This gives a fraction over two pounds to every individual in the state. It has been estimated, by those who have had experience in clothing people, that every individual requires, on the average, seven pounds per annum to make him comfortable. We have, according to this, a deficiency of 2,835,966 pounds, which must be obtained from other sources.

In order to supply this amount ourselves, we should need to keep

945,322 more sheep than we now do, allowing them to yield three pounds of wool each.

To winter these sheep would require 171,000 tons of hay, and allowing 77,000 farmers in Maine, each farmer to bring this about would have to raise a fraction over two tons more of hay than is now produced.

But what is our comparative rank with other States in this branch? Nine states raise more wool than we do, viz.: Vermont, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri. It will be seen that but one of these are New England States, (Vermont) and that the others are very large States.

Vermont, with 268,000 less people than we have, or with only 48,312 farmers, has a half million more acres of land under improvement than we have; keeps over a half million of sheep more than we do; clips over two millions of pounds of wool more than we do.

The fluctuations in the price of wool for several years past, have caused our farmers to diminish their flocks for the purpose of keeping stock not liable to such changes, and yet, after all, sheep are profitable stock.

Working Oxen.—In the number of working oxen we lead each of the other New England States, and only four States in the Union go beyond us in this respect. These are the large States of New York, Virginia, Tennessee, and Missouri; but in the size, symmetry, strength and docility of your oxen, you may safely challenge the whole Union.

This comparative view of our relative agricultural condition, affords facts of an encouraging character; and it will be very natural, out of the complacency of feeling which the prospect excites for us to ask, What more do we need? We answer, "More light." Our present respectable position, as it regards property and influential position, is the result of knowledge—of the education of the mind—by which our business is directed and our plans accomplished. Is it not fair to infer that a greater insight into the sciences connected with agriculture, and a more extensive unfolding of the laws of nature, as applied to this all-important, all-sustaining pursuit, would be followed with a corresponding prosperity?

How shall this be brought about? By study, by research, by careful and systematic investigation, and patient labor; by establishing schools or some institution in which shall be taught these sciences, and in which these laws shall be examined and elucidated to all who desire to profit by the instruction, whether young or old. Indeed, something of the kind is imperatively required, for, notwithstanding the favorable position in which we now are, we are beginning to retrograde—to go backward. Take one more look at the census tables, and we shall see that the ratio of increase of population, for the ten years between 1840 and 1850, is very small indeed. We shall see that soon after the Revolution—say from 1790 to 1800—our ratio was fifty-seven per cent.; while from 1840 to 1850, it was only sixteen per cent. This is even ten per cent. less than the increase of the ten years previous, viz.: from 1830 to 1840, while all of the other New England States had increased their ratio from that period.

How happens this? It is not because the natural laws of increase are checked among us, but because of the emigration of our young men. They emigrate, not for the want of room, but because that room is not pleasant to them—because they conceive there are greater advantages to be enjoyed in other States. This restlessness, this dissatisfied state of mind, can be obviated in no other way than by establishing and demonstrating to them that there are now equal or better advantages at home. This brings us again to the point from which we started, viz.: that the mind must receive higher instruction, and that the physical and property condition will rise in proportion, and our numbers increase accordingly.

Does it need any argument to prove this? Let us turn our eyes to any part of the world and see for ourselves whether it is exuberance of soil, or mildness and sweetness of climate, that exhibits the most flourishing and most profitable instances of agriculture; or whether it is not where these natural advantages are scarcely found, but where the mind of the operators is highly instructed, and “happily, honorably, and industriously employed.” It is “where the great purposes of heaven are fully carried out—the great duty of man thoroughly performed—the laws of our nature obeyed—the earth welcomes most cordially man’s effort, and pays most bountifully his toil.”

No calling—no pursuit in life, brings about more effectually this state of things than agriculture. No science—no art, when rightly understood and applied, expands the mind more largely, or brings us more closely in contact with natural causes, than practical agriculture.

The only institutions among us, expressly and directly designed to encourage, enlighten and bring into social union and co-operation the farmers of the state, are our agricultural societies. These, though they act rather as exponents of what has been done, and as giving occasion and opportunity to demonstrate what results and objects have been attained, than as schools of daily instruction, are, nevertheless, when prudently and judiciously conducted, institutions of great value to the people.

Of these, we have at present a State Society which has been incorporated, organized and put into successful operation during the past year; also twenty-four incorporated County Agricultural Societies.

Twenty-two of the latter have held their annual shows and fairs during the last year, and appear to be in a flourishing condition and doing a good work. Valuable, however, as are the results of the action of these societies, they might be greatly increased by more systematic and efficient action.

One great cause why the full measure of good which they are capable of doing is not derived from them, and which the public have a right to expect, is this: they depend too much upon the gratuitous labor of a few public-spirited and devoted individuals. Such persons in each society are made to do the labor necessary to put them into action as a labor of love, sacrificing their time and strength, and suffering much perplexity and anxiety of mind, in order to bring about a successful exhibition and fair, while the mass of the farmers and mechanics in their midst take no trouble upon themselves, further than to rise up when the time comes and to enjoy the festivities of the occasion and reap the benefits that these self-sacrificing individuals have furnished to their hands.

Hence, it not unfrequently happens that even some who are ardently attached to the cause of industrial improvements become weary and disaffected, and cease laboring for the public good, when they find so many who are equally interested in the success of the

cause, and should be equally willing to bear their share of the toil and responsibility, shirk all labor and trouble. The operations of the society are thus checked, and they ought and should be greatly diminished. The only method to obviate this is to have each society in some way so endowed, or so conducted, as to be able to pay such compensation for services rendered as to make it an object for competent men to spend their time and labor in the necessary management of its business affairs in all its departments.

Besides the benefits which every observing person can derive from an actual examination of animals and articles presented at the annual exhibitions, another very great and lasting one is derived from the publication of addresses delivered, and also of well written reports, and full, reliable statements of the several competitors. In the latter, however, there is much failure. Too many of the reports and statements are carelessly prepared and not sufficiently full and explicit.

The law requires that every competitor shall give a fair and full statement in relation to whatever he enters for premium, to the judges who are called to examine his claims, so that they (the judges) may be fully informed in regard to them. It also provides that said statements, together with the reports, or a condensed portion of them, shall be published and scattered, at the expense of the state, broadcast among the people, so that they may read and receive the instruction thus imparted. In this view of the case, it will be evident to every one that this duty should not be regarded lightly, nor carelessly performed. The greater the number of facts elicited by the action of these societies, the more will practical and productive agriculture be promoted; and the more extensively these facts are promulgated, the more useful will the associations be to mankind. For this very purpose the state has given them a corporate existence, and bestowed upon them a certain amount of funds to aid their efforts. The more faithfully and efficiently these advantages are applied to the work, the more fully will the obligations thus laid upon them be repaid.

A statement of the financial condition of the several County Agricultural Societies, as far as returned, is herewith submitted.

The "condensed statement of the reports of committees and statements of competitors" will be published in a more extended forthcoming report of the transactions of the several societies, prepared in accordance with the requirements of the statute.

E. HOLMES, *Secretary*
of the Maine State Agricultural Society.

AUGUSTA, January 1, 1856.

CONSTITUTION
OF THE
MAINE STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

NAME AND OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY.

SECTION 1. This Society shall be called the MAINE STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY. Its objects shall be to improve the condition of Agriculture, Horticulture, Mechanics, Domestic Arts and Manufactures in the State.

Who may be Members.

SECT. 2. Any citizen of the State may become a member on subscribing his name to the constitution and paying one dollar, and the same sum annually thereafter so long as he shall continue a member thereof.

The payment of ten dollars shall constitute a person a member for life, and shall exempt such person from annual assessments.

Any member may withdraw from the Society by paying up his assessments and signifying his wish to the Secretary.

Officers and their Duties.

SECT. 3. The officers of this Society shall be a President, as many Vice Presidents as there may be County Agricultural and Horticultural Societies—each President of which, if he be a member of this Society, shall be ex-officio a Vice President—a Secretary, Treasurer, and an Executive Committee consisting of a delegate from each incorporated County Agricultural or Horticultural Society—and such other officers as the Society may from time to time find necessary. These officers shall be chosen at the annual meeting on the third Wednesday of January.

SECT. 4. The Secretary shall keep the records of the Society, shall conduct the correspondence with other Societies and individuals, and transact all the business required of him in the act incorporating this Society.

SECT. 5. The Treasurer shall keep the funds of the Society and disburse them according to the directions of the Executive Committee on the order of the President, or, in his absence, of one of the Vice Presidents, countersigned by the Secretary.

He shall transact all other business required of him by the act incorporating this Society, and shall make a report of the receipts, expenditures and funds of the Society, at their annual meeting. He shall give a bond in such sum as the Executive Committee may direct, for the faithful keeping of the property of the Society and discharge of his duties.

SECT. 6. The Executive Committee shall have a general supervision of the affairs of the Society, and shall do all the business required of them by the act incorporating this Society. They shall establish an annual Show and Fair of the Society, and hereafter appoint the time and place of holding the same, at their annual meeting in January, shall make out a list of premiums to be paid to successful competitors, at said Show and Fair, appoint committees, and make such rules and regulations to be observed at the Shows, and for the due government of the Society, and for the promotion of its objects, as they may deem proper. Each member of the Executive Committee, and each Vice President, shall be charged with the interests of the State Society in the district of the Society which they represent.

Times of Meetings.

SECT. 7. There shall be a semi-annual meeting of this Society, at such time and place during the holding of the annual Show and Fair as the Executive Committee may direct. Extra meetings of the Society may be called whenever the Executive Committee may think proper.

How to be amended.

SECT. 8. This Constitution may be amended by a vote of two-thirds of the members attending the annual meeting.

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY.

PRESIDENT,
HON. SAMUEL BUTMAN, PLYMOUTH.

SECRETARY,
EZEKIEL HOLMES, WINTHROP.

TREASURER,
WILLIAM CALDWELL, AUGUSTA.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

SOCIETY.	NAMES.	P. O. ADDRESS.
York,	S. L. Goodale,	Saco.
West Oxford,	Thomas Mabry,	Hiram.
Oxford,	Darius Forbes,	South Paris.
Cumberland,	E. G. Buxton,	Yarmouth.
Lincoln,	B. F. Buxton,	Warren.
Androscoggin,	Elijah Barrell,	Greene Corner.
Sagadahoc,	Samuel F. Dike,	Bath.
Kennebec,	Ezekiel Holmes,	Winthrop.
North Kennebec,	Ephraim Maxham,	Waterville.
South Kennebec,	Nathan Foster,	Gardiner.
Franklin,	Oliver Gould,	New Sharon.
North Franklin,	B. F. Eastman,	Strong.
West Somerset,	James G. Waugh,	Starks.
Somerset Central,	S. W. Coburn,	Bloomfield.
East Somerset,	William Folsom,	Hartland.
Piscataquis,	William G. Clark,	Sangerville.
Waldo,	Horace McKenney,	Monroe.
Penobscot,	Lowell Marston,	Bangor.
North Penobscot,	William R. Hersey,	Lincoln.
Aroostook,		
North Aroostook,	John Allen,	Presque Isle.
Washington,	William D. Dana,	Perry, Wash. Co., Me.
Bangor Horticultural,	J. Wingate Carr,	Bangor.
Maine Pomological and Horticultural,	D. A. Fairbanks,	Augusta.

The several Presidents of the County Societies are, ex officio, Vice Presidents of the State Society.



FINANCIAL CONDITION
 OF THE SEVERAL
 COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

YORK COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

INCORPORATED IN 1847.

This Society was first incorporated under the name of Ossipee, but in 1847 had its name changed to that of York County. It was the first to adopt the system of asking an admission fee to its fair, which is now becoming adopted by others.

Its receipts in 1855, from various sources, were	\$492 52
Its expenditures,	632 66

CUMBERLAND COUNTY SOCIETY.

INCORPORATED IN 1832.

Receipts from various sources in 1855,	\$348 91
Expenditures,	502 46

OXFORD COUNTY SOCIETY.

INCORPORATED IN 1841.

Receipts for 1855,	\$232 39
This includes \$150 from the State due 1854.	
Expenditures,	223 96

WEST OXFORD SOCIETY.

INCORPORATED IN 1851.

Receipts in 1855,	\$325 00
Expended "	150 00

ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY SOCIETY.

Incorporated by the name of West Lincoln, and the name changed to Androscoggin in 1852.

Receipts not yet returned in full.

Expended in premiums, &c., 1855,	\$400 00
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SAGADAHOC COUNTY SOCIETY.

INCORPORATED IN 1854.

Receipts in 1855,	\$509 71
Expenditures, in premiums, in 1855,	362 00
" in incidentals,	73 69

SOUTH KENNEBEC SOCIETY.

INCORPORATED IN 1853.

Returns in full not yet received.

Expended in premiums in 1855,	\$400 00
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This Society have leased and fenced in ample grounds for their shows, have two spacious buildings to accommodate the exhibition, suites of pens, a graded trotting course, aqueducts, and other convenient fixtures.

The Society, by stipulation in their charter, receives no money from the State, but depends on assessments and sale of admission tickets at the gate for their resources.

KENNEBEC COUNTY SOCIETY.

INCORPORATED IN 1832.

It was in action many years previous to this, under the name of the Winthrop Agricultural Society.

Receipts, from assessments, &c., for 1855, . . .	\$432 44
Expended in premiums, &c.,	477 93

The Society, at their last show, adopted the plan of fencing in the show-grounds, and selling tickets at the gate, with manifest advantage to their funds.

FRANKLIN COUNTY SOCIETY.

INCORPORATED IN 1840.

Received from members and other sources in 1855, . . .	\$400 00
Expended in premiums and incidentals,	363 93

This does not include premiums on crops.

NORTH FRANKLIN SOCIETY.

INCORPORATED IN 1852.

Receipts not yet received in full.

Expended in premiums in 1855,	\$219 00
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NORTH KENNEBEC SOCIETY.

INCORPORATED IN 1847.

Received in 1855, by assessments, admission fees, &c.,	\$550 00
By subscription for fitting grounds,	427 00
By loan,	1,000 00
	—————\$1,977 00

Expended for fencing, water cistern, grading course, &c.,	\$1,909 97
Premiums,	319 00
Due from Society for labor,	100 00
	—————\$2,328 97

Due to Society from State, for 1854,	\$ 50 00 .
for 1855,	200 00
Due on subscription,	173 00

The Society has on hand a library containing 150 volumes.

SOMERSET CENTRAL SOCIETY.

INCORPORATED IN 1838.

Returns not yet received.

WEST SOMERSET SOCIETY.

INCORPORATED IN 1848.

Receipts from members and other sources in 1855,	\$155 85
Expenditures,	120 00

LINCOLN COUNTY SOCIETY.

INCORPORATED IN 1852.

Receipts from various sources in 1855,	\$424 46
Expended for premiums and incidentals,	466 46

EAST SOMERSET SOCIETY.

INCORPORATED IN 1832.

Received from members and other sources in 1855,	.	.	\$152	22
Expended in premiums and incidentals,	.	.	201	07

PISCATAQUIS CENTRAL SOCIETY.

INCORPORATED IN 1853.

Received from members, &c., in 1855,	.	.	\$113	00
Expended in premiums and other expenses,	.	.	202	97

WALDO COUNTY SOCIETY.

INCORPORATED IN 1847.

Returns not yet received.

PENOBSBOT COUNTY SOCIETY.

INCORPORATED IN 1833.

Returns not yet received.

WEST PENOBSBOT SOCIETY.

INCORPORATED IN 1855.

Returns not yet received.

NORTH PENOBSBOT SOCIETY.

INCORPORATED IN 1852.

Returns not yet received.

PENOBSCOT AND AROOSTOOK UNION SOCIETY.

INCORPORATED IN 1853.

Received from members and other sources in 1855,	.	\$	94	75
Expended in premiums, &c.,	.	.	.	106 37

AROOSTOOK COUNTY SOCIETY.

INCORPORATED IN 1846.

Has had no show since 1850.

NORTH AROOSTOOK SOCIETY.

INCORPORATED IN 1850.

Returns not yet received in full.

Expended in 1855 for premiums,	\$	150	00
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WASHINGTON CO. AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

INCORPORATED IN 1832.

Returns not yet received in full.

ERRATA.

PAGE 8.—In the sixth line from the bottom, read “*influence*,” for “influential position.”

PAGE 11.—The third and fourth lines should read as follows: “The operations of the society are thus checked. These evils ought and should be greatly diminished. The only method to obviate them, is to have each society in some way so endowed,” &c.