

Wellington Farmers' Club
Wellington Independent 17 Jun 1857

Report of a Public Meeting held at the Mechanics' Institute, River Hutt, on Thursday, the 4th Inst,

A Public Meeting was held at the Mechanics' Institute, River Hutt, on Thursday, the 4th inst., at 7 o'clock p. m. for the purpose of obtaining Members to the Wellington Farmers' Club. It was moved and seconded that A. Ludlam, Esq., V. P., should take the Chair, which he accordingly did. The gathering of Settlers was considerable and they appeared to be determined that nothing should be wanting on their part to encourage the promoters to persevere and carry on the Club with vigour.

Mr. Ludlam rose and said that the Meeting would remember about a month previous, viz. after the Market was over, a meeting was held by the originators of the Wellington Farmers Club to bring before the Hutt Settlers the objects of that Club, and to endeavour to persuade them to co-operate in carrying those objects into effect by becoming members and assisting in every way within their power, but that having heard the objects explained and passed resolutions approving them, they then requested the promoters to hold a Meeting a month from that date to give time to consider the matter more fully and to allow a greater number of the settlers to be present.

The present Meeting was accordingly convened, and the originators, Dr. Curl and Mr. De Castro, would presently explain what was indeed to be accomplished by the Club and when they had heard their intentions as he believed them most desirable, he should think it would become the settlers to lend their assistance in carrying them out. He (Mr. L.) thought that though at the present time there might be some difficulty in getting fat and choice live Stock down to a central cattle show, yet that difficulty should not induce them to overlook the other decided advantages that the Club held out to all settlers in this Province.

There was one thing the Club when got into work could do that would be of benefit to all the Members it could send home to Merchants and others asking them to send out consignments of new and choice seeds, roots, &c, adapted to this Colony such a consignment, he thought, would certainly be made, and the seeds and roots sent could be sold among the members of the Club at such prices as would pay all expenses and yet be cheap to the persons purchasing, while if private individuals wanted to obtain them, it would be very difficult and expensive for them to do so the same advantage applied to many other things, which would be perfectly easy to an association of Individuals, but to single individuals would be almost impossible.

As he thought that the meeting would see how much good the Club could do if carried out it would not be wise of the Settlers to neglect their own interests and to let the matter fall to the ground; nor should the dwellers in the Hutt Valley stand passively by waiting to see how far it would go on without their assistance. Settlers in other parts of the Province had already become members, hoping it might, succeed—the settlers in the Hutt should do the same.

The subscription was certainly something to think of, but it was very likely in the twelvemonth a guinea might be spent much worse, and many would spend much more than that in a manner not so beneficial to their families. But this they must remember—the Club cannot do all in a year, but it is hoped that each year will add to its usefulness. After some other observations, Mr. Ludlam said that he would now leave the matter in the hands of those gentlemen, who would presently explain to them the intended operations of the W. F. Club and they would then hear the inducements held out to their becoming members.

Dr. Curl. then said: Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, before I explain the objects of the Wellington Farmers' Club, allow me to inform you why you find me in this place to-night advocating its formation: I, who can claim little more than the position of a theorist in grazing and farming instead of finding here one that you would recognise as a practical man engaged in these pursuits. If such an one had been engaged as I am now in endeavouring to lay before you the objects of and trying to establish a Society, which proposes to improve the methods of cultivating land and the breeds of stock within this Province, I should have been satisfied and should have agreed that he was far better qualified than I to effect this very desirable end; but, no one of the sort appearing, it only remains for me to do the best I can, and I hope you will lend me your cordial assistance and will set me in the right way when my theory carries me astray.

But, while admitting my own position as a theorist in this matter, I cannot for a moment allow you to suppose that all connected with this club are such: I have the happiness to inform you that there are gentlemen with me, who are known to you all as strictly practical men, who are engaged in the daily and hourly study and practice of the occupations this club intends to promote. If you wanted a guarantee that this club had a desirable and practical end in view, the fact of our worthy Chairman, Mr. Barton, and others that have taken an interest in it would be such, as they are known, to you all as practical men if any are such in this colony. But while talking of theorists, I would ask to be informed how far the so-called theorists of this country differ from the practical farmers and graziers when we consider that all here are little better than theorists, as it is only seventeen or eighteen years ago since the first settlers landed on these shores, and when landed they found everything different from what they had known at home: even the seasons were reversed instead of fields they found hills, gullies or swamps—virgin forests and extensive plains without the least hedge or fence to divide them.

In which of these, we would ask, were they to give their corn and roots, graze their livestock and make their homes. No one of the practical men knew, so the theorists advised then they began doubtingly to try experiments, which doubts and experiments have not yet ended as even at the present day a person just arrived when asking one of the practical settlers what he had better do where he had better do it and how it had better be done? will receive at least as many different answers as he asks persons. One will tell him to take forest land and chip it up after he has cut down the trees; others will advise to go upon the districts on the West Coast and some strongly recommend the Ahuriri and East Coast. Some boast of their remoteness from neighbours, others of their proximity to town one holds out the advantages of the squatting districts and occupations, another of the benefit of purchasing freeholds. These and many other such kinds of advice, while they bewilder the person asking for information, show that nothing very definite is known of the matter, by those from whom the information is asked. No doubt each and all of the several places and pursuits I advised hold out special advantages that are not possessed by all alike, but which do not prevent every one of them being adapted to the inclinations and energies of particular persons.

It is only such an Association as this Club that can collect such facts and figures as would be really useful and that could at the same time be relied on as being free from any bias that might be given to them by individuals, who could not know the several advantages possessed by places and pursuits in which they were not engaged. But leaving both theorists and practicalists, this is certain that in this country much remains yet to be discovered.

We want to know how to grow such corn and roots as we have, in the best and cheapest manner—how to improve and invent machines, having a tendency to supersede or economise hand labour; to improve our breeds of livestock, to produce cheap and good articles of export and to introduce new plants and animals likely to be advantageous either as being useful for food or yielding articles for export and in many other ways developing the resources of this colony. This can hardly be done by any other agency than by such a club as this, whose aim would be to do everything, tending to increase the prosperity of the country' I would here say that although this club can, and I hope, will eventually be able to do all these things, yet we know it cannot do them all at once—it must proceed slowly at first and gaining impetus as it goes gradually advancing in usefulness as it increases in strength.

As the only funds it will have at its disposal will be the subscriptions of members, the more members the more guineas and the more work as a consequence: you must not sit quietly down after you have joined the club and paid your annual guinea, but you must give us all the assistance in your power in the shape of information, figures, and facts, which being arranged, compared, classified, and the results worked out from all such information will, when properly used, form a fruitful source from which valuable knowledge may be obtained and suggestions derived.

As the Club's intention is to enter into communication with other parts of the world, both with similar societies and individuals, we may gradually hope to obtain from that enterprising people, the Americans, some of their valuable, labour economising machines, mode of culture, manner of clearing forest land, some seeds, roots, and perhaps animals. I would instance one kind in passing, I should think might be introduced here with advantage, as yielding a valuable article of export, viz: the Alpaca, for its hair or wool. From Europe information as to improvements made in methods of cultivation and grazing; supplies of seed, &c.; the books, papers and proceedings of the existing agricultural Societies and from neighbouring Colonies all the information and whatever else they have to send us that is worth having.

By classes and lectures upon the theory and practice of agriculture, horticulture and gracing, chemistry and physiology as applied to these pursuits; by discussions among the members and prize essays printed and distributed among them upon such subjects as the laying down, of artificial pasture with the best grasses, clearing land both forest and swamp, bringing them into a state of tillage by shows of produce and as soon as possible of livestock, which even now, with our improving means of transport, can be brought down from the most distant parts of the Province any central position with much greater facility than it could a few years ago, and as those means of transport are becoming every month more easy, we may soon hope to see quite large gatherings of farmers and graziers; by these and other means the club hopes to do good, and even if some of the first members of the club see not all done that is to be done, still we can think with the American poet that:

*Loud behind us grow the murmurs, Of the race to come;
Clang of smiths and tread of farmers, Bearing harvest home."*

Let me persuade you to come forward and give your energies to the work, without being deterred by any from becoming members of this Society—do not let any mislead you in engaging in so desirable an enterprise—you will find plenty to discourage you—there are always some and often too many to throw discouragement upon every Association, simply because it is new they will find all kinds of imaginary reasons why it cannot succeed and if you listen to them and do not join this Club it will not succeed, for it cannot go on without members, and it cannot do much good with a few members only — the determination of persons composing this meeting should be that this Club shall proceed—that they will make it proceed—by all contributing towards so desirable an object. Let no coldness nor apathy come near it, but let each and all in their several ways, and to the best of their ability, join cordially with those who are already connected with it and those others who shall hereafter become so, and there can be no doubt that that the expectations of all reasonable and reasoning men will be fulfilled.

A preliminary prospectus is already published, which contains a brief abstract of the objects and intentions of the originators of the Club, but that prospectus does not go into detail; when the next Prospectus is issued it will contain more information. The objects of the Club simply are to advance the methods of culture of lands, and to improve the breeds of stock within this Province. Having read the preliminary prospectus (a copy of which is hereto annexed) Dr. Curl said, that although the Club could only at the first hope to benefit its own members, yet indirectly or afterwards the Settlers who were not members of the Club would participate in some of the advantages, and thus the whole community would be benefited by the operations of the Club.

There was one thing he wished to notice before sitting down that was urged against the Society succeeding, vis., "that an Agricultural Society was once tried here and did not prosper," that objection does not apply to this Club; the time when that was established was not suitable—circumstances however are now different to what they then were. If all settlers cordially unite in supporting this Club, it will certainly succeed. The first Resolution was then moved by Richard Barton, Esq, to the effect "That this Meeting, having been informed of the objects proposed to be accomplished by the W. F. Club, considers that if those objects were carried out in their integrity the interests of the Settlers in the Province would be promoted thereby." The remarks of Mr. Barton were expressive of his sympathy in the welfare and prosperity of the Club. This resolution was seconded by Mr. Craighead and carried unanimously. Mr. Buckeridge then rose and said that he had been requested to move a resolution, but before so doing if it did not interfere too much with the promoters plans he thought that the guinea subscription of members should be paid half-yearly, as by that means more members would join, who could better spare a half a guinea at a time than a guinea. He concluded his Remarks by moving "that this meeting being acquainted with the objects proposed to be accomplished by the W. F. Club, pledges itself to promote those objects by every means in its power."

The Chairman, having consulted with the promoters, said he believed there would be no difficulty, under certain arrangements, to prevent (sic) those who could not afford to pay the whole guinea at once paying it half at a time, but that it must be understood that, as well as all subscriptions, those half guineas should lie in advance.

Mr. G. Hart said he had much pleasure in rising to second the resolution just read to the meeting and he could not but add that if the intentions of the promoters of this Club were carried into effect he thought all must agree that good would follow. In this country until the present time very few labor-economising machines had been introduced into practice among the settlers, whereas we knew that the Americans always were so ingenious as to try and supersede hand labour by machines which did the work better and quicker; a thing to be much desired in a new country where the population was scanty and labour not easily to be obtained.

As the only means of producing for the market cheaply was to use machinery, he hoped that some attention would be paid by this society to the introduction of machinery, suited to the wants of the settlers, he had lately seen two machines in Wellington that perhaps might show what the American people were doing; one was a machine for digging post holes, the other one for morticing the holes in the posts themselves, both calculated to facilitate the putting up fencing and both he believed of American invention; and as it was also known that the same people had digging machines, and many others, if this Club were in communication with that country we should very likely learn how to economise our labour and there was no fear that working men would be caused to suffer want in this country, whatever machines were introduced, as there would always, or for many years to come, be plenty of employment for all persons that wanted it.

He strongly advised the Hutt Settlers to join the Club at once and not wait to hear all kinds of imaginary reasons against its succeeding. As to the guinea per annum subscription, they must leave off having one of the "nobblers" per week they now took, and that would pay the subscription. The resolution was then put and carried unanimously.

Mr. Copeland then rose and moved the 3rd Resolution - "that the persons composing this meeting to prove their interest in the Club do support the promoters thereof in carrying their intentions into effect by subscribing towards it." This Resolution was seconded by Sir Thomas Williamson, and was also Carried unanimously. The Chairman having intimated that a subscription list was now opened and awaited the signatures of those present, the majority became members of the Club.

The list was left with Mr. George Hart in order to give other Hutt Settlers the opportunity of joining the Club. The Chairman notified to the meeting that the first general meeting of Members would be held at the offices of the Society on Monday, June 15th, at 2 o'clock P. M. for the purpose of passing rules and appointing officers. Dr. Curl then moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman for his kind and efficient conduct in the chair and for the interest he had evinced in assisting in the promotion of the Club. This having been seconded by Mr. De Castro was carried with acclamation.

Wellington Independent 13 Jun 1857 Wellington Farmers' Club

A Meeting of the Subscribers will be held at the Offices of the Club, Lambton Quay, on Monday next, the 15th inst., at 2 o'clock p.m. to pass the rules and appoint Officers. Charles D. DeCastro, S. M. Curl. Wellington, June 9th, 1857.

Wellington Independent 17 Jun 1857 Wellington Farmers' Club

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here one that you would recognise as a practical man engaged in these pursuits. If such an one had been engaged as I am now in endeavouring to lay before you the objects of and trying to establish a Society, which proposes to improve the methods of cultivating land and the breeds of stock within this Province, I should have been satisfied and should have agreed that he was far better qualified than I to effect this very desirable end; but, no one of the sort appearing, it only remains for me to do the best I can, and I hope you will lend me your cordial assistance and will set me in the right way when my theory carries me astray. But, while admitting my own position as a theorist in this matter, I cannot for a moment allow you to suppose that all connected with this club are such; I have the happiness to inform you that there are gentlemen with me, who are known to you all as strictly practical men, who are engaged in the daily and hourly study and practice of the occupations this club intends to promote. If you wanted a guarantee that this club had a desirable and practical end in view, the fact of our worthy Chairman, Mr Barton, and others that have taken an interest in it would be such, as they are known to you all as practical men if any are such in this colony. But while talking of theorists, I would ask to be informed how far the so-called theorists of this country differ from the practical farmers and graziers when we consider that all here are little better than theorists, as it is only seventeen or eighteen years ago since the first settlers landed on these shores, and when landed they found everything different from what they had known at home: even the seasons were reversed instead of fields they found hills, gullies or swamps – virgin forests and extensive plains without the least hedge or fence to divide them. In which of these, we would ask, were they to give their corn and roots, graze their live stock and make their homes. No one of the practical men knew, so the theorists advised: then they began doubtingly to try experiments, which doubts and experiments have not yet ended; as even at the present day a person just arrived when asking one of the practical settlers what he had better do? Where he had better do it? And how it had better be done? Will receive at least as many different answers as he asks persons. One will tell him to take forest land and chip it up after he has cut down the trees; others will advise to go upon the districts on the West Coast and some strongly recommend the Ahuriri and East Coast. Some boast of their remoteness from neighbours, others of their proximity to town; one holds out the advantages of the squatting districts and occupations, another of the benefit of purchasing freeholds. These and many other such kinds of advice, while they bewilder the person asking for information, show that nothing very definite is known of the matter, by those from whom the information is asked. No doubt each and all of the several places and pursuits advised hold out special advantages that are not possessed by all alike, but which do not prevent every one of them being adapted to the inclinations and energies of particular persons. It is only such an Association as this Club that can collect such facts and figures as would be really useful and that could at the same time be relied on as being free from any bias that might be given to them by individuals, who could not know the several advantages possessed by places and pursuits in which they were not engaged. But leaving both theorists and practicalists, this is certain that in this country much remains yet to be discovered. We want to know how to grow such corn and roots as we have, in the best and cheapest manner – how to improve and invent machines, having a tendency to supersede or economise hand labour; to improve our breeds of live stock, to produce cheap and good articles of export and to introduce new plants and animals likely to be advantageous either as being useful for food or yielding articles for export and in many other ways developing the resources of this colony.

This can hardly be done by any other agency than by such a club as this, whose aim would be to do everything tending to increase the prosperity of the country. I would here say that although this club can, and I hope, will eventually be able to do all these things, yet we know it cannot do them all at once – it must proceed slowly at first and gaining impetus as it goes gradually advancing in usefulness as it increases in strength. As the only funds it will have at its disposal will be the subscriptions of members, the more members the more guineas and the more work as a consequence; you must not sit quietly down after you have joined the club and paid your annual guinea, but you must give us all the assistance in your power in the shape of

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The first resolution was then moved by Richard Barton, Esq., V. to the effect "That this Meeting, having been informed of the objects proposed to be accomplished by the W. F. Club, considers that if those objects were carried out in their integrity the interests of the Settlers in the Province would be promoted thereby." The remarks of Mr Barton were expressive of his sympathy in the welfare and prosperity of the Club. This resolution was seconded by Mr Craighead and carried unanimously.

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Mr Copeland then rose and moved the 3rd Resolution – “that the persons composing this meeting – to prove their interest in the Club do support the promoters thereof in carrying their intentions into effect by subscribing towards it.” This resolution was seconded by Mr Thomas Williamson, and was also carried unanimously.

The Chairman having intimated that a subscription list was now opened, and awaited the signatures of those present, the majority became members of the Club. The list was left with Mr George Hart in order to give other Hutt Settlers the opportunity of joining the Club. The Chairman notified to the meeting that the first general meeting of Members would be held at the offices of the Society on Monday, June 15th, at 2 o'clock p.m. for the purpose of passing rules and appointing officers. Dr Curl then moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman for his kind and efficient conduct in the chair and for the interest he had evinced in assisting in the promotion of the Club. This having been seconded by Mr D. De Castro was carried with acclamation.

Wellington Independent 06 Feb 1858 Wellington Farmers' Club

There being in the hands of the (Acting) Treasurer a sum of about £50, and the accounts of the said Club now remaining unsettled, we do hereby convene a Meeting of the Members at the Office, Lambton Quay, North, to take place on Monday, the 15th inst., at 12 o'clock, to decide to what use the said funds shall be appropriated, and to empower officers to disburse the same. All accounts remaining unsettled are to be forwarded to the office between the hours of 10 and 12 o'clock on the above mentioned day, after which no claim for the payment of past accounts will be admitted. The attendance of members feeling interest in the progress of the Club, is requested; as this meeting will be considered final for the purposes for which it is called. Signed Samuel M. Curl, Charles D. DeCastro, Acting Secretaries. Feb 5, 1858.

Wellington Independent 20 Feb 1858

(continued from Third Page of the Paper). The business of the Meeting was commenced by appointing Richard Barton, Esq., chairman, after which the notices calling the meeting and the accounts to be audited were presented by Charles D. DeCastro, Esq. It was then moved by H. St. Hill, Esq., seconded by G. Hart, Esq., “that this meeting resolves to appoint Samuel M. Curl, and Charles D. DeCastro, secretaries of the Wellington Farmers' Club.” Moved by Brigade Major Coote, and seconded W. L. Buller, Esq., “that this meeting hereby resolve to appoint Adam MacDonald, Esq., Manager of the Union Bank of Australia at Wellington, Treasurer of the Wellington Farmers' Club.” Moved by W. Warring Taylor, Esq., and seconded by R. Park, Esq. “that this meeting having but one amount of £2 5s 0d now presented resolves to empower the Treasurer to pay that amount and the sum of £4, from the funds now in his possession, towards the incidental expenses.” Moved by H. St. Hill, Esq., seconded by Major Coote “that one half the amount of the funds of the Club in the hands of the Treasurer on the 1st day March next, be devoted towards procuring the best description of Potatoe seed from Van Dieman's Land for distribution at two-thirds of cost price amongst the members who shall have paid up their subscriptions to the 1st day of March next.” Moved by W. L. Buller, Esq., and seconded by G. Hart, Esq., “that the Secretaries be requested to publish a report of this meeting for the information of members and of the public generally.” Moved by A. Ludlam, Esq., seconded by W. W. Taylor, Esq., “that the Secretaries be requested to communicate with the under-mentioned members of the Club, with a view to arrange a List of Prizes to be competed for in the month of October next.” Richard Barton, Esq., Henry St. Hill, Esq., Brigade Major Coote, Charles Clifford, Esq., William Fitzherbert, Esq., H. S. Harrison, Esq., George Hart, Esq., A. Ludlam, Esq. A vote of thanks having been accorded to the chairman, the meeting then broke up.

Wellington Independent 10 Mar 1858 Wellington Farmers' Club

Preliminary Notice. A Show of Agricultural and Horticultural Produce, under the Superintendence of the Committee of this Society, will be held in Wellington, on Thursday, the 8th day of April next. Further particulars will be given in next week's papers. Samuel Curl, Charles D. DeCastro, Secretaries. March 9th, 1858.

Nelson Examiner and New Zealand Chronicle 03 Apr 1858

A public exhibition of agricultural and horticultural produce was advertised by the Wellington Farmers' Club to be held in the Lyceum Theatre on the 6th of May next. Prizes for grains, seeds, wool, dairy produce, vegetables, fruit, and flowers were advertised.

Wellington Independent 14 Apr 1858 Wellington Farmers' Club

In accordance with a Resolution passed in Committee on Wednesday, the 8th Instant, Notice is hereby given that a Public Exhibition of Agricultural and Horticultural Produce will be held in Wellington at the Lyceum Theatre on Thursday the 6th day of May next, to commence at 11 o'clock a.m., and close at 4.30 p.m., after which it is proposed to celebrate this first annual gathering by a Public Dinner, at Barrett's Hotel, at 7 o'clock p.m. Conditions: Any Member of the Club being desirous of exhibiting samples of Farm or Garden Produce, may do so without payment of any Entrance Fee; but any person not being a member of the Club, will be required to pay an entrance fee of five shillings, and will then be eligible to compete for any Prize or Prizes as though he were a Member. N.B. All Produce exhibited must be the *bona fide* property of the exhibitor. Three gentlemen, chosen by the Committee, will act as judges between the several competitors, and will award the Prizes. N.B. As the funds at the disposal of the Committee are but small, the Prizes necessarily are of little pecuniary value. The Committee nevertheless venture to hope that Members and the Public will feel so much interest in the prosperity of the Club that the prizes will be eagerly competed for. The Committee do further give notice that unless the samples exhibited shall be pronounced by the judges as of sufficiently good quality to merit the award of the Prizes offered, no Prizes will be given for such articles. Members of the Club visiting the Exhibition will be admitted free of all charge, together with the ladies of their families; but visitors, not being members, will charged one shilling each person. The Tickets to the Dinner, to Members or non-Members, will be Seven Shillings and Sixpence each, to be obtained of Mr Laing or at Barrett's Hotel.

List of Prizes for the best Samples.

Class A

Grain: Wheat, Barley, Oats, Maize - £1 1s each; Beans, Peas – 10s 6d each

Seeds: Varieties of Meadow Grasses in distinct samples - £1 1s

Wool: £1 1s N.B. Each sample of Wool must contain at least 2lbs.

Dairy Produce: Butter, Cheese, Ham, Bacon – 10s 6d for each sample

Class B

Vegetables – Potatoes £1 1s; Turnips, Carrots, Parsnips, Beet, Mangold Wurzel, Cabbages, Beans, Peas, Onions – 10s 6d each sample
 Fruit – Apples, Pears, Plums, Peaches, Grapes, Vegetable Marrow, Cucumbers, Pumpkins, Melons – 10s 6d each sample
 Flowers – Plants in pots 10s 6d; Cut flowers 10s 6d.

N.B. All information relative to the proposed Exhibition can be obtained from the Secretaries at their residences, or in Wellington, at their office, on Thursday, the 29th day of April next. Charles D. De Castro, Samuel Curl, Secretaries

Wellington Independent 08 May 1858 The Farmers' Club

Tomorrow there will be a public exhibition of Agricultural and Horticultural produce at the Lyceum Theatre, under the auspices of the Wellington Farmers' Club. The exhibition will commence at 11 o'clock and terminate at ½ past 4. There will be dinner at 7 o'clock in the evening at Barrett's Hotel, for particulars of which and of the exhibition see advertisement elsewhere. The revival of these shows demands more than a passing remark, and we trust the public will endeavour to foster them by largely attending to-morrow. In the present early stage of the operations of the club, the prizes are of course little more than nominal, but however small the competition now, we look forward to its being considerably increased as the value of such exhibitions become more appreciated.

Wellington Independent 19 May 1858 Wellington Farmers' Club

The First Annual Dinner of the Wellington Farmers' Club was held in the New Assembly Rooms, Barrett's Hotel, on Thursday evening, the 6th inst., when between 30 and 40 of the Members and their friends were present, his Honor I. E. Featherston, Esq., President of the Society occupying the Chair, and the Secretaries, C. De Castro, Esq., and Dr Curl, officiating as Vice Chairmen. The spacious room was most tastefully adorned for the occasion with evergreens and other floral decorations arranged along the walls in the most artistic and fanciful manner, while numerous bouquets of flowers, the greater part of which were, we believe, from the garden of Brigade Major Coote, contributed in no small degree to the elegant appearance of the Dinner Table. But while giving praise to Mr A. Brown, the proprietor of the Hotel, for the artistic decorations of the room, we cannot forget that an equal degree of credit is due to him for the excellent quality of the viands, as well as for the choice character of the wines he supplied on the occasion. After ample justice had been done to the dinner, which consisted of almost everything that the most fastidious colonial epicure could desire, the usual loyal and patriotic toasts, together with such others as were appropriate to the occasion, were given and most cordially received, Mr J. H. Marriott, acting as toastmaster, and discharging his duties in a most efficient manner. In rising to propose the health of her Majesty, the Chairman said he felt assured that any remarks from him would be needless in order to ensure the most cordial reception of such a toast, for that in whatever part of the world Englishmen were to be found, the health of her most Gracious Majesty the Queen of England would always be received with that enthusiastic loyalty and those marked feelings of dutiful affection, which were due to illustrious wealth, as well as to the possession and exercise of the most exalted public and domestic virtues. (Long and continued cheers.) The toast was then given and most loyally received. SONG – "God Save the Queen."

In proposing the next toast "The Prince Consort and the rest of the Royal Family," the Chairman said he had no doubt the toast would meet with a cordial reception, not merely on account of the high position in which his Royal Highness stood with regard to her Majesty, but also for his exalted virtues, and the warm and zealous manner in which he had always promoted institutions similar to the one the establishment of which they had that day met to celebrate. There was, however, another illustrious member of the Royal Family, whose name ought also, perhaps, to have been mentioned with the toast, and whose health, he thought, they were also bound by every tie of loyalty to drink. The illustrious personage he alluded to was doubtless long before then the Princess Royal of Prussia. (Great cheering, which lasted for several minutes.) The cheering having subsided, the Chairman said that to the toast usually given he would add "The health and happiness of Her Highness the Princess Royal." The toast was then given and drank with the utmost enthusiasm. SONG – "The better Land."

In giving "The Health of the Army and Navy," the Chairman said that in order to ensure a most enthusiastic reception to the toast, he felt it unnecessary to say more than to allude to the many recent acts of gallantry and valour performed by her Majesty's forces during the late Crimean war, and the suppression of the present mutiny in India. With the toast, he would with their permission, couple the name of their honoured guest Brigade Major Coote. (Loud cheers.) SONG – "The slave Chase."

Brigade Major Coote, in returning thanks, said, that he felt much pleasure in acknowledging the compliment which had just been paid to him, and however disposed he might personally feel to view it as emanating from a kindly fellow feeling towards himself, still he could not consider it either as an empty, or as an unmerited one, when offered to that portion of her Majesty's forces to which he had the honour to belong. After briefly alluding to the various acts of gallantry and valour displayed during the Crimean campaign, the gallant Major proceeding to refer to the scenes of war and bloodshed now so frightful in India, and said, that he trusted every allowance would be made by the British Public for any excesses that the army engaged there might commit. Maddened by a knowledge of the many virtuous and innocent lives that had been so wantonly and so cruelly sacrificed – excited by a recollection of the blood of so many helpless women and children having been so barbarously and so mercilessly shed – and goaded on to desperation with the hope of saving those who might not as yet have fallen victims to the treachery of ruthless rebels, the Army would, perhaps, be guilty of many excesses that in open and honourable warfare they would shudder at. Why should the Army shew mercy to those who had not shown it to others, and whose hands were dyed, and whose swords were still reeking with the blood of so many helpless and innocent victims? The duty which the British soldier had now to perform in India was a painful and at the same time a most exciting one. He had no option whatever left to him, but to clear his way before him, and it was therefore natural to believe that he would not show any quarter where he did not expect to find any. The gallant Major then expressed his high admiration of the military qualities of Sir Charles Napier, and his belief that had that able and meritorious general been continued in command of the army in India, such was his reputation and vigilance there, that the mutiny would not have broken out. After expressing an earnest hope that the Army would effectually punish the oppressors of that sex to whom they had always been accustomed to look up to with feelings of the most chivalrous devotion, the gallant Major concluded by observing that the approbation of his fellow creatures would always act as a most powerful stimulant to the British soldier, and then resumed his seat amidst loud and continued cheering. Captain White acknowledged the compliment on behalf of the Navy, and expressed his belief that in whatever sea, or in what ever part of the world the Union Jack waved, there would the British Tar maintain the character, the credit and the supremacy of the English Navy. SONG – "Jeanette and Jeanotte."

The Chairman then gave, in an appropriate speech "The Health of His Excellency, Governor Thomas Gore Browne," which was duly honoured. SONG – "Steam Arm."

The next Toast was "The Health of His Honor I. E. Featherston, Esq., Superintendent of the Province, and President of the Society," which was proposed in very complimentary terms by the Vice Chairman. Dr Featherston in returning thanks, alluded to the establishment of an Horticultural Society some seventeen years ago in Wellington, of which he had the honor of being elected the first President; and when, on the formation of the Wellington Farmers' Club last year, a similar honor was offered to him, he felt no hesitation in at once accepting it, believing nothing was more calculated to promote the true interests and prosperity of a young colony than the establishment of societies for the encouragement of horticulture and agriculture. As President of the Club he had its interest at heart, and would therefore do everything to advance its prosperity, and he trusted that the objects of the Society would not merely be confined to exhibitions of produce and cattle, but would also be extended to the introduction of all recent agricultural improvements, and the importation of improved breeds of cattle &c. He also hoped that the Society would not lose sight of the importance of Lectures on the different subjects connected with agriculture, as they were at all times, not only instructive but very beneficial. In addition to the more immediate benefits likely to arise from the establishment of such Societies, they were also indirectly, be productive of good in other ways, for by bringing persons together and uniting them in the pursuit of one common object, they often tended to promote feelings of good fellowship, and to allay irritation which are too often produced from some cause or other in the public mind. Dr Featherston concluded by given "Prosperity to the Wellington Farmers' Club" and resumed his seat amidst much cheering. Recitation.

Dr Curl, in returning thanks, as one of the Secretaries, remarked upon the obstacles which had attended the establishment of the Club, and upon the attempts that were made by different parties to throw cold water upon the undertaking. Those obstacles had however, he was glad to say, in a great measure been overcome, and a commencement had been made, which if not quite so satisfactory as might have been wished, was nevertheless a commencement, and one which he hoped would ultimately have good results. The first exhibition of produce had that day been held, and if the show was not equal to public anticipation, and could not altogether be considered as successful, he nevertheless thought that some allowances ought to be made and that it might be admitted that it was as good as might reasonably have been expected at that advanced season of the year. The almost nominal value of the prizes might also have operated in some measure against the shew, but as a commencement, however poor and humble, had been made, he hoped that they would now progress and that every succeeding year the financial position of the Club would be such as to afford an annual increase in the value of the prizes offered for competition. Every Society had of course its infancy, and its subsequent progress to maturity and prosperity depended chiefly upon the treatment and care it received in its first and earliest days.

Mr T. Stephenson said that a Toast had been entrusted to his charge, which he felt was in itself of sufficient importance to ensure a cordial reception without any remarks from himself. The Toast which he had to give was, "Prosperity to the Commercial Interests of the Province" coupling with the toast the name of Mr Barton, who in a neat and appropriate speech, acknowledged the compliment. Mr Fox, in a somewhat humorous speech, proposed "Prosperity to the Agricultural Interests of the Province," adding to the toast the name of Mr Joseph Bowler, of Porirua. The Chairman, having called upon Mr Telford for a Scotch song that gentleman obligingly complied, by singing with great taste and pathos one of Burns' beautiful melodies.

Mr Joseph Bowler, in returning thanks for compliment paid him in the last toast, declared his entire approval of, and his hearty concurrence in, the objects of the Wellington Farmers' Club, and indeed in all similar societies, wherever established, and expressed his determination to promote the prosperity of the Club to the utmost of his power. He had been at the trouble and expense of bringing out with him from England valuable breeds of cattle, pigs, &c., with the view of benefitting the colony as well as himself, by the introduction of a superior class of animals, but he had not hitherto met with that encouragement which he had anticipated, and which he certainly thought he in some measure deserved. The settlers generally appeared to him, not to trouble about the quality of the cattle or animal they purchased, nor did they seem to care what kind of cow, horse, pig, or sheep it was, so long as it looked like one and had some legs. It was, however, somewhat satisfactory to observe that this indifference was beginning to wear off, and the value of quality and breed to be appreciated; and he now thought that although he had hitherto been a considerable loser, there was some prospect at last of his being a gainer in the long run. The Club would always have his warmest support, in fact as long as he had a shilling he would support it, for he considered that it would prove a very great benefit, and he also considered that anyone who would refuse to support such a society, more especially if he had the means and the power to do so, was rather an enemy than a friend to the Province. SONG – "Hot Codlins."

Brigade Major Coote, in a very neat and gallant speech, and in the most complimentary terms, proposed, "The Healths of Mrs Gore Browne, Mrs Featherston, and the ladies of the Province." SONG – "Ladies Eyes." Captain Rhodes proposed the health of Mr J. C. Crawford, who briefly replied. Scotch song. SONG – "The Rover's Bride." Captain White. Mr C. D. De Castro proposed "The Health of the Judges of the Show and the successful Competitors," which was acknowledged by Mr Mansell, who had succeeded in carrying off some of the prizes. SONG – "The Cork Leg."

Mr Walter Buller proposed "The Health of the Secretaries, Dr Curl, and C. D. DeCastro, Esq.," the latter gentleman acknowledging the compliment in a neat and appropriate speech, and expressing the determination of himself and co-Secretary not to abandon the Club, whatever attempts might be made to impede its progress, as long as they could find only one person who would stick to them. Mr Joseph Bowler here exclaimed in true English and John Bull style "I will stick to you like a brick and no mistake, if no one else does." The blunt but yet sincere and truly hearty manner in which this exclamation was made drew forth roars of laughter. SONG – "Willie brew'd a peck o' malt."

The hour of midnight having now arrived Dr Featherston vacated the Chair, the principal portion of the company retiring with him. Some few fond of the social and festive board however remained, and Mr Barton having taken the Chair, the joyous song and the jovial glass went round and were kept up with great spirit till nearly the hour of dawn. Thus concluded as excellent a dinner and as pleasant and agreeable an evening as any one might ever wish either to sit down to or to enjoy. The different gentlemen who contributed to the harmony of the evening acquitted themselves most efficiently each receiving the reward of applause justly due to him. The Comic Songs, which were sung somewhat in character, created roars of laughter. A list of the successful competitors will be given in our next issue, together with some details in connection with the Club, want of space obliging us to omit them today.

Wellington Independent 26 May 1858 First Annual Report of the Wellington Farmer's Club

In presenting the First Report of their proceedings, the Committee of the Wellington Farmers' Club desire to acquaint their friends and supporters, that the interests of the Club have advanced as far as their most sanguine expectations led them to anticipate, considering the difficulties with which they have been obliged to contend. The objects of the Club are to advance the methods of culture of lands, and to improve the breed of stock within the Province of Wellington. In this way it is one of those agencies whose special object is to meet the wants of the age. The rapid advance of our population, leads us to hope that many more will unite with and assist us in carrying out objects so laudable and so indicative of provincial progress. The increasing expenditure of money in pursuance of the objects contemplated by the Club, at present almost entirely conducted by individual enterprise, would we believe be productive of far more good to the landed or stock proprietor and to the Province generally, if the Club were made the medium through which such business were transacted. Consultations between members, and advice following thereon must be productive of good, and while the young colonist would gain much privilege by such communication with men experienced in colonial life, the old settler would derive much information from the younger, more recently arrived from home, who may be supposed to be more practically acquainted with the improvements, &c., adopted in the older country. Such facilities to progress, this Club is established to promote and calculated to afford.

The Committee, owing to a scarcity of funds, has hitherto been able to accomplish but little, compared with their proposed plans; the only thing worthy of particular notice in this Report being the Exhibition of Agricultural and Horticultural Produce, held in the Lyceum Theatre, (kindly lent by Mr Horner on the occasion), on the 6th of May, which, considering the lateness of the season, proved very interesting to the numerous visitors assembled. The Committee, on the recommendation of the Judges, had much pleasure on that occasion in awarding prizes as follows:-

Name of Exhibitor	Article Exhibited	Amount of Prizes
Barrett, Ohariu	Oats, Peas, Beans	£1 1s 0d and 10s 6d each
Barton, Upper Hutt	Grass Seeds	£1 1s
Clifford, Wellington	Swedes, Apples, Artichokes	10s 6d each
Key, Ohariu	Green peas, <i>a very superior sample</i>	10s 6d
Laing, Hutt	Apples, Pears, Onions	10s 6d each
Lunn, Trelissic	Wurtzel, Butter	10s 6d each
Luxford, Wellington	Celery	10s 6d
Mansill, Wellington	Cucumbers, Turnips	10s 6d each
St. Hill, Wellington	Cauliflowers, Cabbages, Carrots	10s 6d each

Sum Total awarded as Prize Money - £12 1s 6d.

The Prize for wool was most deservedly awarded to R. Barton, Esq. Honourable mention was justly made of some very prettily grown Turnips (Scotch Yellows) produced by Mr Bartlett, of the Porirua Road, also of some very fine Early Horn Carrots exhibited by Serjeant Porter. The sample of wool exhibited by Mr Barton, deserves something more than a passing notice, it was of a beautiful quality, and was cleaned in first-rate style by Messrs Hirst & Cresswell, of Kai-warra. Mr Barton also exhibited a portion of a fleece, measuring 13½ inches in length, natural growth. At the conclusion of

the Exhibition a Public Dinner was held at Barrett's Hotel, which passed off to the gratification of all present. His Honor Isaac Earl Featherston, President of the Club, took the Chair, the vice-chairs being filled by the Secretaries of the Club. The Club consists at present of 50 members, many more have however promised to join.

Wairarapa Daily Times 04 Feb 1903

The Wellington Farmers' Club has £27 7s 6d lying to its credit as an unclaimed bank balance since 1858.

Free Lance 07 Feb 1903

Last week the Lance gleaned some interesting items from the register of money unclaimed, gazetted under the Act, by the Bank of New South Wales. Last week's issue of the "Gazette" contained a similar list, published under protest, by the Union Bank of Australia, the moneys set for "not now being unclaimed moneys unclaimed in an account." This little list, which covers eleven pages of the "Gazette", also contained some items of interest to Wellingtonians. The Wellington Agricultural Association, of which C. Clifford was secretary, left a balance in the bank of £6 1s, from November 1844; W. Bollard's balance was £25 18s 11d on 1st March 1848; since when it remained untouched; Burns, White and Co. left a balance of £15 from December 1851. Also the Rev W. Cotton left a sum of £22 in the bank at Wellington from December 1846 the Wellington Steam Flourmill Company did not draw a balance of £9 14s, the last claim having been made on May 8th 1854, the **Wellington Farmers' Club**, of which Mr A. C. McDonald was treasurer, ceased to draw on its account from August 1858, and there remained a balance of £27 7s 6d; Lieutenant Alex. Hay, of the 58th Regiment, which was stationed in and about Wellington during the Maori War troubles, left a balance of £10 16s, his last withdrawal having been made in June 1847 Mr G. McClymont, a stock importer from Sydney, left the handsome balance of £156 13s 5d from July 1856, the trustees of the Waikanae school might have had another £1 4s which was left in the bank in 1847.