



PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

UNITED STATES AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The United States Agricultural Society held its Twenty-eighth Annual Meeting at the office of its Secretary, 1319 F street, Washington, D. C., on the 14th of January, 1880.

BEN: PERLEY POORE, Secretary of the Society, called the meeting to order at 9 o'clock, a. m., and in the absence of the President, invited Vice President RANDOLPH, of Texas, the senior Vice President present, to take the chair.

The minutes of the Twenty-seventh Annual Meeting were read and approved.

On motion of Mr. LANE, of Indiana, seconded by Mr. HOPKINS, of West Virginia, the Society proceeded to the annual election of its officers, and the Chair appointed Messrs. Lane, Hopkins, and French of New Hampshire, a committee to receive, sort and count the votes.

Mr. POORE, of Massachusetts, stated that the Hon. Fred. Smyth, who had adhered to the Society in its adversity and its prosperity, declined a re-election as President.

The committee appointed to receive, sort and count the votes for officers of the Society for 1880–'81, reported that the following list had been elected:

PRESIDENT,

JOHN_MERRYMAN, of Maryland.

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

VICE-LUESTDEN 15.		
Alabama T. E	. Tichner.	
CaliforniaJon		
ColoradoRog		
ConnecticutE. 1	HYDE.	
DacotaJoh		
DelawareIIEN		
District of ColumbiaW.		
FloridaGeo		
GeorgiaT.	W AVERY.	
Illinois). GILLETT.	
Indiana		
IowaJoн		
KansasT. (
KentuckyC. I		
LouisianaJ. F	LOYD KING.	
MaineJ. F		
MarylandEzr		
MussachusettsWw	I. SUTTEN.	
MichiganII. (
MinnesotaC. V	V. THOMPSON.	
MississippiJAM	tes L. Alcorn.	
Missouri G. C.		
NebraskaD. I		
NevadaJoh		
New HampshireMos		
New Jersey GEO	RGE H. COOK.	
New Mexico	F. M. ARNY.	
North Carolina L. I		
OhioJ. C	. Stevens.	
<i>Oregon</i>		
PennsylvaniaDAT		
Rhode Island ELIS	sha Dyer.	
South Carolina D. V	WYATT AIKEN.	
TennesseeJ. I	3. Killebrew.	
TexasAsı	iabel Smith.	
-UtahGec	orge Q. Cannon.	
VermontJ. G		
VirginiaGul		
Washington The		
Wisconsin Chi	ESTER HAZEN.	

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

FRED. SMYTH, of New Hampshire, Chairman.

A. S. TOWNSHEND, of Ohio;
 ROBERT BEVERLY, of Virginia;
 WILLIAM S. KANG, of Minnesota;
 N. M. CURTIS, of New York;
 A. L. KENNEDY, of Pennsylvania;
 A. M. FULFORD, of Maryland.

E.c Officio Members.

JOHN MERBYMAN; of Maryland ; BEN: PERLEY POORE, of Mass.

SECRETARY,

BEN: PERLEY POORE, of Massachusetts. (Office: 1319 F Street, Washington.)

TREASURER,

WILLIAM M. FRENCH, of New Hampshire. (Office: 1319 F Street, Washington.)

On motion of Mr. HOPKINS, of Pennsylvania, seconded by Mr. POWERS, of Ohio, it was—

Resolved, That the President, Secretary, and Executive Committee take such measures as they may deem expedient to revive the operations of the United States Agricultural Society, which were interrupted by the civil war in 1861, and especially to invite the co-operation of State, county, and local organizations for the advancement of agriculture.

On motion of Mr. POORE, of Massachusetts, seconded by Mr. HIL-DRETH, of Tennessee, it was—

Resolved. unanimously, That the congratulations of the United States Agricultural Society be tendered to its honored founder, Marshall P. Wilder, of Massachusetts, with the expression of the gratification of those of its members assembled at its twenty-eighth annual meeting, that his valuable life has been spared, while so many of the older members have been removed from the field of their labors by the grim reaper. Death.

After some informal conversation as to the best way for resuscitating the active operations of the Society,

On motion of Mr. HAYES, of California, the meeting was adjourned sine die.

THE CHARTER

OF THE

UNITED STATES AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY,

Granted by Act of Congress in 1860.

Be it enacted by the Schate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That William W. Corcoran, Benjamin B. French, Benjamin Ogle Tayloe, Ben. Perley Poore, and John A. Smith, their associates and successors, be, and they hereby are, made, declared, and constituted a corporation and body politic within and for the District of Columbia, in law and in fact, to have continuance forever, by the name and style of "The United States Agricultural Society;" and by such corporate name, style, and title shall be hereafter forever able and capable, in law and equity, to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, answer and be answered unto, defend and be defended, in any court or courts, or other places, and before any judge or judges, justice or justices, or other persons whatsoever, within the District of Columbia, in all and every manner of suits, actions, complaints, pleas, causes, matters, and demands of whatever kind or nature they may be, in as full and effectual a manner as any other person or persons, bodies politic or corporate, may or can do.

SEC. 2. And be it further enacted, That all and singular the goods, chattels, and other effects of what kind or nature soever, heretofore given, granted, or devised to the said society, or to any person or persons for the use thereof, or that may have been purchased for or on account of the same, be, and the said goods, chattels, and other effects are hereby vested in and confirmed to said corporation; and the said corporation may take and receive any sum or sums of money, or any goods, chattels, or other effects of what kind and nature soever, which shall or may hereafter be given, granted, or bequeathed unto them by any person or persons, bodies corporate of politic, capable of making such gift, grant, or bequest: *Provided*. That the goods, chattels, and other effects are thereafter to receive, shall not in the whole exceed the value of one hundred thousand dollars.

SEC. 3. And be it further enacted. That the annual meeting of the United States Agricultural Society shall be held in the city of Washington, on the second Wednesday of January in each and every year, at which meeting there shall be elected, in such manner as the constitution or by laws of the society may provide, a president; such a number of vice-presidents as may be fixed upon by the constitution or by-laws; an executive committee, to consist of seven members, in addition to whom the president and secretary shall be ex officio members, and of which the president shall be chairman; a treasurer and secretary-all of whom shall hold their offices for one year, and until their successors are elected. The duty of the president shall be to preside over the deliberations of the society, and to have a general supervision of its affairs. The duty of the treasurer shall be to receive and keep safely all the moneys of the society, and to disburse the same under the direction and supervision of the executive committee; he shall give bonds for the faithful performance of his duties, in such penalty as may be fixed, and such surety as may be approved by the president. The duty of the secretary shall be to keep all records of the doings of the society; to conduct the correspoudence especially appertaining to his office; to keep the seal and make certificates under the same; to issue medals, certificates, and diplomas; and to superintend all publications emanating from the society. All these officers, and the executive committee, shall perform such duties and additional duties as may be prescribed by the constitution or by-laws of the society, not inconsistent with the provisions of this act. And if said election shall not be made at the time prescribed herein, it may be held at some subsequent time within the year.

SEC. 4. And be it further enacted, That the said society shall have full power and authority to make, have, and use a common seal, and the same to break, alter, and renew at pleasure; to make, ordain, establish, and execute such constitution and by-laws as they may think proper, and the same to alter, amend, or abrogate at pleasure; to fix the salaries or pay of their officers, and to fix the sum that shall be paid for life or annual membership.

SEC. 5. And be it further endeted, That any person may become a life or annual member of said society by paying into the hands of the treasurer such sum as may be prescribed in the constitution or by-laws as the fee for life or annual membership. Honorary members may be elected at the will of the society. It shall require the presence of at least fifteen members of the society to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but a less number may adjourn from time to time.

SEC. 6. And be it further enacted, That the secretary of said corporation shall keep his business office in the city of Washington, and he shall make up a complete record of all the doings of the society annually.

SEC. 7. And be it further enacted. That the constitution, by-laws, and regulations of said society as they stand at the time of the passage of this act, shall be and remain in force until altered or abrogated at a regular annual meeting of the corporation; and the officers who were elected at the annual meeting of the society in January preceding the passage of this act, shall remain in their several offices, and exercise their several duties, until the annual meeting in the January succeeding the passage of this act, and until their successors are elected.

SEC. 8. And be it further enacted, That Congress may at any time alter, amend, or annul this act.

Approved, April 19, 1860.

HONORARY MEMBERS

OF THE

UNITED STATES AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

[Those marked with an asterisk are deceased.]

*SAMUEL ÁPPLETON	Boston, Massachusetts,
WILLIAM W. CORCORAN.	Washington, Dist. of Col
*Millard Fillmore	Buttalo, New York.
*Abraham Lincoln	
*Thomas H. Perkins	
*JONATHAN PHILLIPS.	Boston, Massachusetts.
*FRANKLIN PIERCE	
Josian Quincy	Boston, Massachusetts.
*EDMUND RUFFIN	
*Robert G. Shaw.	
MARSHALL P. WILDER	Boston, Massachusetts.

LIFE MEMBERS

OF THE

UNITED STATES AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

[Some of the following list are dead, and in the next edition their names, so far as ascertained, will be marked with an asterisk.]

Abbe, R. M., Thompsonville, Conn.
 Adams, Daniel, Newburyport, Mass.
 Adams, Jonathan S., Bordenstown, N. J.
 Adams, William, Boston, Mass.
 Affleck, Thomas, Brenham, Texas.
 Alston, Benjamin, Georgetown, S. C.
 Army, W. F. M., Hyatt, Kansas,
 Averigg, Thomas, Bechon, Mass.
 Bailey, Dudley H., Boston, Mass.
 Bailey, Eben Cartter, West Newbury, Mass.
 Bailey, Eben Cartter, West Newbury, Mass.
 Baiker, S. C., Blair Co., Peam
 Baker, Abijah R., West Newbury, Mass.
 Bailey, Lewis, Fairfax Co., Va.
 Baker, Abijah R., West Needham, Mass.
 Baker, Adijah R., West Needham, Mass.
 Baker, Maturin M., Boöton, Mass.
 Baulene, Charles, Peorin, Ill.
 Ballon, Maturin M., Boöton, Mass.
 Baneroft, James, Charleston, S. C.
 Barrows, Henry D., Los Angelos, Cal.
 Beeker, Barney S., Syraeuse, N. Y.
 Benson, Samuel P., Winthrop, Maine.
 Berekman, Endle C., Plainfield, N. J.
 Billings, Hammet, Boston, Mass.
 Billings, Hammet, Boston, Mass.
 Billings, Hammet, Boston, Mass.
 Billings, Hammet, Boston, Mass.
 Billings, Joseph H., West Roxbury, Mass.
 Billings, Joseph H., West Roxbury, Mass.
 Billings, A. J., Westebester, Penn.
 Rowie, W. W. Governor's Bridge, Md.
 Bradford, S. S., Culpepper C. H., Va.
 Bradford, S. S., Culpepper C. H., Va.
 Bradford, S. C. Cheven, Mass.
 Brown, Diane, Pringeheld, Mass.
 Brown, D. Jay, Washington, D. C.
 Brown, Sinon, Concord, Mass.
 Brown, Binges, Lamesburg, N. J.
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Chamberlain, Daniel, Boston, Mass. Champion, Thomas, Washington, D. C. Chapman, Alfred. Staunton, Va. Chase, Albion, Athens, Ga. Clap, Henry W., Greenfield, Mass. Clement, Aaron, Philadelphia, Penn. Colvin, B., F., Syracuse, N. Y. Comins, Linns E., Boston, Mass. Comger, A. B., Rockland Co., N. Y. Connolly, Thomas C., Washington, D. C. Converse, James C., Boston, Mass. Cook, A. P., Brookline, Mich. Cook, George Lewis, Warren, R. I. Cook, George Lewis, Warren, R. I. Cook, George Lewis, Warren, R. I. Cook, John L., Syraense, N. Y. Conklin, E. K., Philadelphia, Penn. Cook, George Lewis, Warren, R. I. Cook, John L., Syraense, N. Y. Conke, Joseph L., Providence, R. I. Cooke, Joseph L., Providence, R. I. Coopeland, R. Morris, Boston, Mass. Copenhagen, Arnold W. Dorchester, Mass. Corecran, W. W., Washington, D. C. Cornell, E., Huiea, N. Y. Cornell, Isaac R., Weston, N. J. Cowing, Henry, Corpus Christi, Texas, Coxe, Richard S., Washington, D. C. Crippen, J. B., Cold Water, Mich. Creackett, Selden, Boston, Mass. Curtis, Thomas B., Boston, Mass. Curtis, Thomas B., Boston, Mass. Curtis, Jose, Machson, Wis, Cushmau, Henry W., Bernardstown, Mass. Curtis, Jose, Machson, Wis, Cushmau, Henry W., Bernardstown, Mass. Curtis, J. S., Machson, Wis, Cushmau, Henry W., Bernardstown, Mass. Davi, Jaames, Roston, Mass. David, Isaac, Worcester, Mass. David, Isaac, Worcester, Mass. David, Isaac, Worcester, Mass. David, Isaac, Worcester, Mass. David, Jaames, Roston, Mass. David, Isaac, Worcester, Mass. David, Jaames, Roston, Mass. Deduct, Man, New York City. Denny, Reuben S., Leicester, Mass. Dodge, Harvey, Sutton, Mass. Dodge, Harvey, Sutton, Mass. Dodge, Harvey, Sutton, Mass. Dodge, J. H., Boston, Mass. Dodge, J. H., Boston, Mass. Dodge, Larvey, Sutton, Mass. Dodge, J. H., Boston, Mass. Dodge, Harvey, Sutton, Mass. Dodge, Har Emerson, Ratph, Jr., Rocktord, Ill. Evans, David.
Faile, Edward G., W. Farms, Woodside, N. Y.
Fletcher, Gardner, Chelmstord, Mass.
Flint, Charles L., Boston, Mass.
Foot, Solomon, Rutland, Vt.
Forbes, R. B., Boston, Mass.
Fowler, W. C., Amherst, Mass.
Francis, John Brown, Providence, R. I.
Frazee, J. H., New Brunswick, N. J.
Frasbee, Russell, Maryland, D. C. 7

French, R. B., Washington, D. C.
French, Benjamin Y., Brainfree, Mass.
French, Henry T., Exeter, N. H.
French, Jonathan, Roxbury, Mass.
French, William M., Washington, D. C.
Fuller, A. G., Sloux City, Dikotah.
Gaze, Aldison, West Cambridge, Mass.
Gaze, Alaxon, West Cambridge, Mass.
Gaze, Alaxon B., Columbia, Penn.
Garredon, A., Boston, Mass.
Garrison, Ira, Systemse, N. Y.
Gibson, John, Kinsessing, Penn.
Gibson, Hourbes, Ohlo.
Gilmand, Hou, Charles J., Brunswick, Maine.
Gilmore, Robert A., Chicago, Ill.
Glover, Townsend, Washington, D. C.
Gonid, J., Stanton, Hudson, N. Y.
Gradew Howawa New York, Mass
Gradew Howawa New York M. Y. Gilman, Hon, Charles J., Brumswick, Maine, Gilman, Hon, Charles J., Brumswick, Maine, Glover, Robert A., Chicago, H.,
Goudd, J. Stanton, Hudson, N. Y.
Goudd, J. Stanton, Hudson, N. Y.
Goudd, J. Stanton, Washington, Mass
Greenway, Goorge, Syracuse, N. Y.
Greenway, John, Syracuse, N. Y.
Grondyke, A. T., Washington, Ind.
Halis, John W., Breghton, Mass.
Hammond, Ron J. H., Beach Island, S. C.
Handenstle, E. L. F., Easton, Md.
Harris, W. H., Nashville, Tenn.
Harrison, N. H., Macon, Miss.
Harmond, Ron J. H., Beach Island, S. C.
Hancher, P. T. Natick, Mass.
Hartinon, N. H., Macon, Miss.
Hartshore, George, Rahway, N. J.
Haskins, J. P., Syracuse, N. Y.
Hastings, G. D., Tolhand, Conn.
Hate, J. Y. Syracuse, N. M.
Hatel, W. H., Solvania, Ohio.
Henly, Waldo, Dudley, Mass.
Herling, B. S., Oshkosh, Wis.
Hickok, W. O.
Higgines, James, Baitimore, Md.
Hobbs, Ebenezer, Waltham, Mass.
Hobbas, J. So., Hastings Centre, N. Y.
Honges, Samael W. Stoughton, Mass.
Hobbas, J. So., Hastings Centre, N. Y.
Honges, Samael W. Stoughton, Mass.
Hobbard, William B., Columbus, Ohio.
Hunghes, Hoegy, Syracuse, N. Y.
Hoykins, Joseph, Wheeling, W. Xa.
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4 Lawton, William, New Roch die, N. Y. Leavilt, David, Great Earrington, Mass, Leavilt, Sheldon, Great Earrington, Mass, Leavilt, Sheldon, Great Earrington, Mass, Lee, J. Sheldon, Great Earrington, Mass, Lee, Artennes, Templeton, Mass, Lee, Artennes, Templeton, Mass, Lee, Artennes, Templeton, Mass, Lee, N. S., Franningham, Mass, Lewis, J. S., Franningham, Mass, Lewis, J. S., Franningham, Mass, Livingston, Anson, New York, N. Y. Lloyd, Edward, Jr., Easton, Md. Lyon, Henry, Charlestown, Mass, Mackall, Louis, Georgetown, D. C. Mathoy, Robert, Louisvile, Ky. Manne, DeForest, Brushville, N. Y. Manning, Lames, Syracuse, N. Y. Manning, James, Syracuse, N. Y. Medowan, George, Philadelohia, Penn, McCarthy, D., Syracuse, N. Y. McDougall, ----, Syracuse, N. Y. McHowan, George, J. Phil delphia, Penn, McGowan, John, Phila, Co., Bridesburg, Penn, McHenry, J. Howard, Pitesville, Maryland, Mellenry, J. Howard, Pitasville, Ner, Methy, R., Shimey, Bultimore, Md Melleury, Ronsey, Bultimore, Md Melleur, Ronsey, Bultimore, Md Mellyain, Hugi, Philadelphia, Penn, McKaden, J. C. Washington, D. C. Merrick, George, Northumberland, Penn, Merken, George, Northumberland, Penn, Merken, George, Northumberland, Penn, Merken, George, Northumberland, Penn, Merryman, John, Cockeywille, Md, Milles, James, Gipard, Penn. McKelden, J. C., Wastington, D. C.
Merrynan, John, Cockeysville, Md.
Milton, W. S., Louisville, J. Cockeysville, Md.
Milton, W. S., Louisville, K.
Milton, W. S., Louisville, K.
Mitton, W. S., Louisville, K.
Mitton, W. S., Louisville, K.
Mitton, W. S., Louisville, K.
Moore, D. D. T., Stratons, N. Y.
Morrill, J. E., Strafford, Vermont,
Morris, Lewis G., Mt, Fordham, N. Y.
Moseley, David, Westfield, Mass.
Motly, Thomas, J., West Roxbury, Mass.
Mowry, Sylvester, Tueson, Arizona,
Mumroe, Allen, Syraeuse, N. Y.
Neweld, Moses, West Newbury, Mass.
Newhall, Josiah, Lynnfield, Mass.
Newhall, Josiah, Lynnfield, Mass.
Newhall, Josiah, Lynnfield, Mass.
Newhall, Josiah, Lynnfield, Mass.
Nottingham, G., Syraeuse, N. Y.
Nichtingale, P. M., Albany, Georgia.
Nottingham, G., Syraeuse, N. Y.
Olmstead, Henry, East Hartford, Conn.
Oleott, Henry S., New York, N. Y.
Patton, M., M., Hendersonville, N. C.
Peabody, George H., New York, N. Y.
Perfield, George H., New York, N. Y.
Perfield, George H., New York, N. Y.
Perfield, George H., New York, N. Y. Parlon, M. Stephen, London, England,
Penkind, George H., New York, N. Y.
Perkinn, Jonathan, Boston, Mass.
Pierce, Joshna, Washington, D. C.
Poore, Ben: Perley, Newberryport, Mass.
Poore, Walter S., San Francisco, California.
Prince, Wm. R., Flushington, N. Y.
Preston, William T., Frederlek, Md.
Quincy, Josiah, Boston, Mass.
Randall, L., Syracuse, N. Y.
Randolph, J. H., Galveston, Mass.
Reese, John L., Baltimore, Md.
Revolds, John J., Wickford, R. I.
Rhodes, B. M., Baltimore, Md.
Rice, Lewis, Boston, Mass.
Ridgeley, Charles, Hampden, Md.
Ridgeley, Charles, Hampden, Md.
Ridgeley, John A., Norwich, Conn.
Rodgers, Henry, Ferrisburg, Vermont.
Rogers, Richard S., Salem, Mass.
Ross, Marcellus, Pittshield, Ill.
Sahdards, J. S., Cordaiville, Mass.
Sanderson, David, Somerville, N. J.
Sanderson, David, Somerville, N. J.
Sanderson, David, Somerville, Mass.
Sawyer, N. P., Pittsburg, Penn.
Sedgewick, E. B., Syracuse, N. Y.

Sergeant, Nathan, Washington, D. C. Sherman, Duncan, Snerman, Duncan, Sich, John H., Alviso, California, Silsby, D. H., Boston, Mass, Simes, Joseph, Boston, Mass, Smith, A. L., Syraeuse, N. Y. Smith, George C., Boston, Mass, Smith, G. P., Nashville, Tenn. Smith, George Č., Boston, Mass.
Smith, G. P., Nashville, Tenn.
Smith, Samuel P., Camberland, Md.
Supence, William A., Montross, Virginia.
Sponer, William H., Boston, Mass.
Stearns, Charles, Springfield, Mass.
Stephens, Paren, Boston, Mass.
Stephens, Ror, Boston, Mass.
Stephens, Hon, Isaac J., Olympia, W. T.
Stewart, William D., Syracuse, N. Y.
Stockwell, S. N., Boston, Mass.
Stome, F. W., Guelph, Canada West.
Stewart, William D., Syracuse, N. Y.
Stidwell, S. N., Boston, Mass.
Strone, F. W., Guelph, Canada West.
Stewart, William D., Syracuse, N. Y.
Stilwell, Miller C., Springfield, Mass.
Sutton, William, Salem, Mass.
Tayloe, B. O., Washington, D. C.
Tayloe, B. O., Washington, D. C.
Tayloe, H. A., Jr., Warsaw, Ya.
Tayloe, H. M., Syracuse, N. Y.
Thompson, James, Nantucket, Mass.
Thompson, Jannes, W., Wilmington, Del.
Tilghman, Tench, Oxford, Md.
Todd, William B., Washington, D. C.
Traedwell, Alfred M.
Twitchell, Genery, Boston, Mass. Treadwell, Alfred M. Twitchell, Genery, Boston, Mass. Tyler, Philos B., Springfield, Mass.

Underhill, R. T., Croton Pt. Vineyard, N. Y. Underwood, Warner L., Bowling Green, Ky. Vinson, Cornelius M., Jamaica Plains, Mass. Wagner, Henry, Rome, N. Y Wainwright, Peter, Boston, Mass Wainwright, Peter, Boston, Mass. Walbey, Sammel H., Roxbury, Mass. Walsh, John Carroll, Hartford Co., Md. Ware, Josiah W., Berryville, Va. Waring, Geo, E., Jr., New York, N. Y. Walton, Hon, E. P., Montpelier, Vt. Watters, Richard P., Salem, Mass. Wattdes, John O., Moneka, Kansas. Watton, Winslow M., Washington, D. C. Watts, Arthur, Chillicothe, Ohio. Waltser, Joshna Waldan Mass. Webster, Joshua, Malden, Mass. Welch, A. J., Syracuse, N. Y. Weld, Arnold D., Roxbury, Mass. Weid, A. J., Syracuse, N. I.
Weid, A. Mold D., Roxbury, Mass.
Welder, William F., Gratton, Mass.
Wheeloek, J. R., Mendon, Mass.
Wheeloek, J. R., Mendon, Mass.
White, Hamilton, Syracose, N. Y.
White, J. W., Madison, Wisconsin,
Whitin, David V., Santa Fe, New Mexico,
Whitman, E., Baltimore, Md.
Whitmore, Charles O., Boston, Mass.
Whitmin, Thomas G., West Roxbury, Mass.
Williams, Aaron D., Roxbury, Mass.
Williams, Willoughly, Nashville, Tenn.
Wilson, W. Duane, Des Moines, Iowa,
Winthrop, Robert C., Boston, Mass.
Wood, Walter A., Hoosie Falls, N. Y.
Woodruff, Jason, Syracuse, N. Y.

ADDRESS

TO THE LIFE MEMBERS OF THE

UNITED STATES AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

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The United States Agricultural Society was organized in 1852, by a National Agricultural Convention, which had met on the 14th of June, 1851, at the Smithsonian Institution, in Washington City, under a call issued by the Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture; Pennsylvania State Agricultural Society; Maryland State Agricultural Society; New York State Agricultural Society; Southern Central Agricultural Society; Ohio State Board of Agriculture; American Institute, New York; Massachusetts Society for the promotion of Agriculture; Indiana State Board of Agriculture; New Hampshire Agricultural Society; Vermont Agricultural Society; and the Rhode Island Society for the encouragement of American Industry.

The convention was composed of 153 delegates, representing 23 States and Territories. Among those who were present during its sessions, were the Hon. Millard Fillmore, President of the United States, and the Hon. Daniel Webster, Secretary of State.

The following gentlemen composed the committee who drafted the constitution of the United States Agricultural Society: Messrs. Holcomb, of Delaware; Douglas, of Illinois; J. A. King, of New York; Steele, of New Hampshire; Thurston, of Rhode Island; Hubbard, of Connecticut; Stevens, of Vermont; Elwyn, of Pennsylvania; Calvert, of Maryland; Campbell, of Ohio; Hancock, of New Jersey; Callan of the District of Columbia; G. W. P. Custis, of Virginia; Burgwyn, of North Carolina; Taylor, of Alabama; De Bow, of Louisiana; Spencer, of Indiana; Mallory, of Kentucky; Bell, of Tennessee; Weston, of Wisconsin; McLane, of California; Pickhard, of Maine; Dawson, of Georgia; French, of Massachusetts; and Seaman of, Michigan.

ANNUAL MEETINGS.

The Society having been organized, held its first annual meeting at Washington, in February, 1853, since when they have been regularly continued. Up to 1862, when the war between the States forced the Society to suspend active operations, these annual meetings constituted, in reality, the central "Board of Agriculture," recommended by the Farmer of Mount Vernon. Gentlemen from almost every State in the Union, (many of them delegates from Agricultural Associations,) annually assembled to discuss such topics as were presented, calculated to advance the cause of agricultural improvement; interesting and valuable lectures were delivered by practical and scientific farmers; reports were submitted by committees specially appointed to examine new inventions and theories, and by delegates who were accredited to the agriculturists of other lands; and there was a general interchange of opinion.

NATIONAL EXHIBITIONS

The Society held its first annual exhibition at Springfield, Massachusetts, on the 17th of October, 1853, and its subsequent exhibitions at Springfield, Ohio; Boston, Mass.; Philadelphia, Pa,; Louisville, Ky.; Richmond, Va.; Chicago, Ill.; and Cincinnati, Ohio; besides a National Trial of Reapers and Mowers at Syracuse, New York. Generally self-sustaining; the receipts on these occasions enabled the Society to disburse upwards of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars for premiums and expenses; and they not only increased the efficiency of State and Local Associations, but called together larger assemblages of people than have ever been convened upon other occasions; embracing not only our most intelligent yeomanry, but gentlemen of every art and profession from every portion of the wide-spread Union, evincing that the national pulse beat in unison with our own, and that the public voice was responsive to the call.

PUBLICATIONS AND OFFICE.

When the operations of the Society were suspended it published a Quarterly Journal of Agriculture, and it had at Washington a Secretary's office and readingroom, where the members of the Society and others interested in agricultural improvement could meet as brothers at a common home, and find a collection of objects in which they have a common interest. Many State and County societies contributed their published transactions, premium-lists, the names of their officers, and other information, which were registered, and they received the publications of the Society in return. A majority of the agricultural and numerous other publishers contributed their periodicals and newspapers, and thus aided in forming a Free Agricultural Library at the National Metropolis.

FINANCIAL CONDITION.

The preparations made by the Society for an exhibition at Washington in 1861, which could not beheld, exhausted the small balance in the Society's treasury at that time. The Society has not, however, a dollar of indebtedness. Upwards of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars was received and disbursed by it between 1852 and 1862, and of this the highest sum ever received by any one of its officers in a year was six hundred dollars, which barely defrayed his personal expenses while attending to the business of the Society.

PROPOSITIONS TO BE CONSIDERED.

With this brief review of what the United States Agricultural Society has accomplished, its officers respectfully ask its life members to consider the following propositions, and to attend the next annual meeting prepared to vote upon them, or any similar questions that may be submitted :

I. Shall the active operations of the United States Agricultural Society be resumed; and shall steps be taken to make it, with the co-operation of State and Local organizations, worthy of the great interest upon which the prosperity and happiness of our country is dependent?

II. Shall the officers of the United States Agricultural Society confer with the officers of the recently founded American Agricultural Association, with a view to the consolidation of the two organizations?

III. Shall the officers of the United States Agricultural Society surrender its charter to the Congress of the United States, which granted it in 1860—deposit its archives in the Library of Congress—and declare the Society dissolved?

Trusting that you will give these propositions an earnest consideration, and bring them to the attention of all interested parties, so that at the annual meeting, in January next, there may be an unmistakable declaration of opinion,

We remain yours, very faithfully,

JOHN MERRYMAN, President,

Fred. Smyth, A. S. Townshend, Robert Beverly, William S. King, N. M. Curtis, A. L. Kennedy, A. M. Fulford,

Executive Committee.

BEN: PERLEY POORE, Necretary.





