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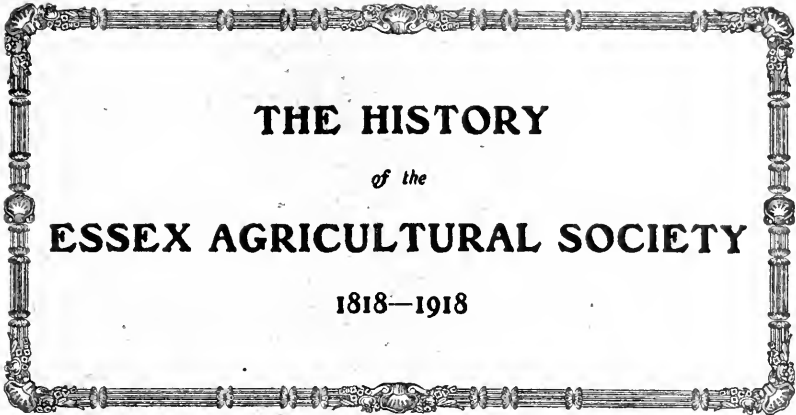
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THE HISTORY
of the
ESSEX AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
1818—1918

The History
of the
Essex Agricultural Society

of
Essex County, Massachusetts

1818—1918

by
THOMAS FRANKLIN WATERS



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1918

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The History of the Essex Agricultural Society

The earliest Societies for the Advancement of Agriculture in America were established in 1785 in South Carolina and in Pennsylvania. The Philadelphia Society was organized in March of that year, became inactive after a few vigorous years, but was revived and incorporated in 1809.

The Massachusetts Society for the Promotion of Agriculture was incorporated in 1792, the first of its kind in the Commonwealth and in America. Having raised a fund by annual assessments and by subscription amounting to \$4,000, it proceeded to import valuable animals to improve the domestic stock, to study the improvement of agricultural implements, and, in 1797, to establish the Agricultural Journal, which was continued more than thirty years. It promoted the establishment of County Societies, contributed to the founding of a Professorship of Natural History and the institution of the Botanical Garden at Harvard College, and erected a hall in Brighton for the exhibition of domestic manufactures and agricultural products. In the year 1818 it began a series of addresses by eminent men.

The first County Society to be organized was the Western Society of Middlesex Husbandmen. It was incorporated February 28, 1803. Its name was changed to the Society of Middlesex Husbandmen and Manufacturers January 24, 1830. The Berkshire Agricultural Society was incorporated February 19, 1818; the Worcester Agricultural Society, February 23, 1818.

The men of Essex were already moving. An advertisement appeared in the Salem Gazette on February 6, 1818:

The Farmers and others in the County of Essex, who are desirous of promoting the Agricultural interests, are

requested to meet at the Hotel in Topsfield on Monday, the 16th day of February current at eleven o'clock A. M. for the purpose of forming an AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY FOR THE COUNTY OF ESSEX, in aid of the Massachusetts Agricultural Society. As the object of this meeting is important, it is hoped there will be a general attendance.

Another notice appeared in the Gazette of February 13th:

Those gentlemen in Salem or its Vicinity who are disposed to organize the proposed ESSEX AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY are requested to meet at the Essex Coffee House TO-MORROW (*Saturday*) AFTERNOON at 3 o'clock to deliberate on the subject previous to the general meeting to be held at the Topsfield Hotel on Monday next.

Pursuant to this invitation, a company of practical farmers, about twenty in number, met at Cyrus Cummings's tavern in Topsfield. Mr. John W. Proctor of South Danvers, the Secretary of the Society for many years, in his address in 1844, recalled their names:

John Adams of Andover.
 Hobart Clark of Andover.
 Aaron Perley of Boxford.
 Amos Perley of Boxford.
 James Kimball of Bradford.
 Dr. Andrew Nichols of Danvers.
 Daniel Putnam of Danvers.
 Eleazar Putnam of Danvers.
 George Osgood of Danvers.
 Temple Cutler of Hamilton.
 Robert Dodge of Newbury.
 Paul Kent of Newbury.
 Orlando B. March of Newbury.
 Enoch Tappan of Newbury.
 Stephen Tappan of Newbury.
 Stephen Mighill of Rowley.

David Cummings of Salem.

Elisha Mack of Salem.

Ichabod Tucker of Salem.

John Peabody of Topsfield.

Jacob Towne Jr. of Topsfield.

Ichabod Tucker Esq. was chosen Moderator, and David Cummings Esq. Secretary of the meeting. Quoting from the Records:

A Committee of Five was appointed to take the subject of forming a Society for the County of Essex into consideration and make report to this meeting as soon as might be convenient. The following gentlemen were appointed said committee, viz.:

Ichabod Tucker Esq., Capt. Paul Kent, David Cummings Esq., John Adams Esq., and Elisha Mack Esq.

The meeting was then adjourned for an hour. The Committee after due deliberation upon the subject at said adjournment made their report.

Evidently the preliminary caucus at the Coffee House in Salem had made wise preparation, and the Committee was able to report at once that it was expedient to form such a Society, and to submit a proposed series of Rules and Regulations. Their report was adopted unanimously. Two articles of the Rules are of especial interest, as indicative of the scope of the new organization.

Article 8. The Trustees shall regulate all the concerns of the Society during the intervals of its meetings; propose such objects of improvement to the attention of the public, publish such communications and offer such premiums in such form and value as they shall think proper, provided the premiums offered do not exceed the funds of the Society. . . .

Article 16. A Committee shall be raised from time to time, severally to solicit and receive subscriptions for raising a fund for encouraging the noblest of pursuits, the agriculture of our country, the same to be sacredly appropriated to that purpose.

The following officers were chosen :

President,
Hon. Timothy Pickering.

Vice-Presidents,
William Bartlett, Esq.
Hon. Thomas Kittredge.
Hon. John Heard.
Ichabod Tucker, Esq.

Recording Secretary,
Benjamin R. Nichols, Esq.

Corresponding Secretary,
Hon. Leverett Saltonstall.

Treasurer,
Hon. Nehemiah Cleaveland.

Voted that the proceedings of this meeting be published in all the Newspapers printed in the County of Essex and in such Boston papers as the Secretary of this meeting may direct.

The Salem Gazette of February 20th made complimentary editorial comment :

It will give pleasure to the friends of the country to observe that a Society is formed in the County of Essex for the promotion and improvement of Agriculture, the real basis of individual and national wealth and prosperity, and that that scientific and practical farmer, the Hon. Timothy Pickering, (who assisted many years ago in the formation of the Agricultural Society of Philadelphia and of which he is still a member) has been elected its first President. It will be recollected that at Brighton the exhibitions of our Essex farmers have made no mean figure and in some instances borne away the prizes. The celebrated Oakes Cow of Danvers has been commemorated by the art of the engraver.

Meeting again on May 6th the Society chose Ichabod Tucker, Treasurer, in place of Dr. Cleaveland, resigned, and

Voted, That all the ordained ministers of the Gospel, who reside within the County of Essex be admitted Honorary Members of the Society.

A committee was chosen to petition for incorporation, and the charter was granted June 12, 1818.

On February 10, 1819, the Treasurer reported that 117 members were enrolled. David Cummings was chosen Recording and Corresponding Secretary, Hon. Daniel A. White, Treasurer. Frederick Howes Esq. succeeded Mr. Cummings in February, 1820, and he was succeeded in 1821 by John W. Proctor of Danvers, who held the office with distinguished ability for many years. Mr. White resigned and Benjamin R. Nichols was chosen Treasurer in 1823, Benjamin Merrill in 1824, and Dr. Andrew Nichols in 1828, who held the office until 1841.

It was a happy omen for the success of the Essex Agricultural Society that its President and its inspiring genius was the Hon. Timothy Pickering. A graduate of Harvard in the class of 1763, he chose the legal profession and was admitted to the bar. After distinguished military service in the Revolutionary War, he removed from Salem, his birthplace and early home, to his wild lands in Pennsylvania in the Wyoming Valley, where he secured the organization of Luzerne County. Called from his retirement in 1791, he became Postmaster General in Washington's cabinet, Secretary of War in 1795, and in December of the same year Secretary of State. At the completion of his term of office, in 1800, he returned to his lands in Pennsylvania, but soon removed to Essex County, through the kindness of friends, who purchased his land holdings.

In his old home fresh honors awaited him. He became Chief Justice of the County Court of Common Pleas in

1802, was elected a Senator of the United States in 1803, and re-elected in 1805, and served as a member of the House of Representatives from 1813 to 1817. His public political life was now ended, and having purchased a small farm in Wenham, he devoted himself to agriculture with the same intensity which had characterized his political career. He had been the Secretary of the Philadelphia Agricultural Society and had been an influential factor, it is said, in the organization of the Massachusetts Society of Agriculture.

The Vice-Presidents were exceptionally fit men to give prestige to the new Society. William Bartlett, a wealthy Newburyport merchant, owned a great farm in Methuen; John Heard, the Ipswich merchant, was an enterprising farmer as well; Dr. Kittredge of North Andover and Ichabod Tucker of Salem joined agriculture to their usual vocations.

Leverett Saltonstall, the Secretary, was a commanding figure in the legal and political world. Gorham Parsons Esq., the wealthy proprietor of the great Fatherland farm in Byfield, was an enthusiastic lover of the soil.

The year 1818 was a fitting time for the birth of the Essex Society. It was an era of bewilderment and discouragement. The Indian corn crop had suffered great damage from frost in the autumn of 1812, and almost total destruction in the fall of 1816. Confidence in the reliability of the great staple was shaken, and there was an idea more or less current that it was injurious to the soil.

The American consul at Lisbon, seeing the value of the Merino sheep had sent home to Vermont large flocks of this breed in 1809-1811. The Salem Gazette of Sept. 18, 1810, noted the arrival of imported sheep at Newburyport for the Northern States, 150 Merinos with a shepherd and his dog. A vessel had sailed from Marblehead for Spain to secure a cargo of sheep. A brig had arrived at New York from Cadiz with 180 sheep and a ship

broker of Newburyport had imported a flock of ninety. The Essex Merino Sheep Company was organized. It imported largely, rented farms in various parts of the County, and placed the flocks under the care of shepherds brought from Spain. Many farmers disposed of their native flocks and invested in the new breed. But the foot-rot and scab appeared and made sad ravages. The agents of the company proved incompetent and sometimes dishonest. The company became bankrupt, the flocks were scattered. Choice rams or ewes that had cost a thousand or fourteen hundred dollars had died or were sold for a trifle. Many farmers lost heavily and the Merino mania became a by-word for wild and ruinous speculation.

The common farmers were plodding along in the ways of their fathers. Their tools were clumsy and inefficient, largely home made or hammered out by the neighboring blacksmith. The sheet-iron shovel was patented in 1819 and the shovel of cast steel in 1828. The first American patent for improvement in hoes was registered in 1819, and the cast steel hoe appeared in 1827. The light and efficient steel spring pitchfork was invented by Charles Goodyear in 1831. Samples of the old tools that have been preserved are of burdensome weight and easily bent, as they were made of soft iron.

The old plough, with its wooden mould board covered with thin strips of iron, with an iron coulter, was still in vogue. It was often home made and so ill contrived that three or four yoke of oxen were required in breaking up heavy ground. The iron plough had been invented many years before, but found little favor. As late as 1835, it is said, Sir Robert Peel presented two iron ploughs of the best construction to a famous club in England. On his next visit the old wooden ploughs were still in use. "Sir," said a member, "we tried the iron and be all of one mind that they made the weeds grow." Charles Newbold of New Jersey took out a patent for

an iron plough in 1797, but after spending \$30,000 in his effort to bring it into common use, abandoned the attempt, as the farmers persisted in declaring that the iron plough poisoned the soil and prevented the growth of crops.¹

Benjamin P. Ware, born in 1824, in an address to the Society, drew a vivid picture of the farmer of his boyhood days. Incessant physical toil and great muscular strength were the chief essentials. The farmer who was determined to succeed had to mow the broadest swath, hoe the hardest row, work the longest hours, and always lead and spur his laggard men. The striped frock and heavy cowhide boots were his only livery.

There was crying need of a clearing house of agriculture, as it were, a common medium of information which should gather up the methods of the most alert and progressive farmers, the results of the latest experiments with crops and new tools and improved breeds, and bring them home to every farmer in every nook and corner of Essex County, and teach him how to make his head help his hand. This was the great task the Essex Society set for itself.

Its first method was publication. Abundant and inspiring material was not lacking. Col. Pickering's first paper, read at a meeting on May 5, 1818, was published at once in pamphlet form. In this practical document he reported his visit to Danvers to see the famous Oakes cow. Some years before, Caleb Oakes had bought a mongrel cow from a herd on its way from Maine to Brighton. She had developed extraordinary butter-making qualities and had taken the premium at the Cattle Show of 1816, held by the Massachusetts Society in Brighton. Root crops were beginning to receive attention. He had raised about half a ton of the new Mangel Wurtzel and was so well pleased with the result that he had brought

¹U. S. Census Report, 1860.

a package of seed for every member of the Society who desired it. He recommended the culture of Swedish turnips as well.

In his address to the Society in 1820 he called attention to the great crop of carrots raised by Erastus Ware in 1817 on the Pickman farm in Salem, 752 bushels, weighing $18\frac{3}{4}$ tons, on one acre; commented on the flat culture of corn as preferable to hilling; remarked upon the Arbuthnot iron plough, and quoted at length from the foremost English authorities on farming. The series of publications thus begun has been continued, with a few interruptions, to the present day, and constitutes probably the largest and most helpful contribution to the literature of agriculture made by any County Society in the Commonwealth, and perhaps in the country.

The second method adopted by the Society was the Cattle Show, already popular in other localities. Its first venture in this field was at Topsfield, the most central point in the County in the days of stage travel, on October 5th, 1820. Dr. Andrew Nichols of Danvers, physician and skilled farmer, made a noteworthy address, in which he made keen disclosures of the shortcomings of the average farmer, his error in attempting to cultivate too many acres, his deplorable neglect of the garden and orchard, and with prophetic foresight declared that the best interests of the County would be promoted by the establishment of an Agricultural Academy. It is an interesting coincidence, that when the day came, nearly a century later, and an Essex County Agricultural School was opened, it was near neighbor to Dr. Nichols's farm. His closing appeal to the Society, "to prevent our annual cattle show from becoming scenes of riots, drunkenness, gambling, cheating and dissipation," is a suggestive picture of the typical Cattle Show then in vogue.

In the published Transactions there were included, beside the Address, the Reports of Committees on Working Oxen and Neat Cattle, on Fat Oxen and Swine,

on Indian Corn and Potatoes, on Manures, and on the Dairy. Premiums were awarded to Tristram Little of Newbury, for raising 103½ bushels of corn on an acre, and to John Dwinell of Salem for 398½ bushels of potatoes on an acre. Interesting statements of experiments with corn and potatoes and manures were made. But the most notable feature was the ploughing match.

The Committee agreed to award the first premium to the Hon. Timothy Pickering on account of the superior performance and superior utility of his plough. They think also that great credit is due to Gorham Parsons Esq. for the performance by his plough from his Byfield Farm and award to him the second premium.

Years afterwards the venerable Dr. Nehemiah Cleveland of Topsfield, in his address in 1865, remarked, "I well remember the tall and venerable form of our first President as I saw him holding his own plough on that occasion."

For the Cattle Show in 1821 premiums were offered on The Management of a Farm, Crops for Cows, Cider, and on Sumac, "to any person who can prove on not less than half an acre that either species of sumac, extensively used in morocco leather, can be profitably cultivated." A prize was also offered for the best plantation of white oak trees, not less than an acre, nor fewer than a thousand trees per acre, to be raised from the acorn, which should be in the most thriving state by Sept. 1, 1823. Prizes were offered for similar plantations of locust, larch and hickory. This was in accordance with the Act of Legislature, Feb. 20, 1818, providing premiums "to increase and perpetuate an adequate supply of ship timber."

In these early years the dairy received deserved attention. The Oakes cow, already mentioned, was constantly in evidence. Her record was published in the Fourth Report of the Agriculture of Massachusetts in 1841, by

the Commissioner, Henry Colman. She produced in 1813, 180 lbs. of butter; in 1814, 300 lbs.; in 1815, over 400, and in 1816, 484½ lbs. During this time one quart of milk was reserved for family use and she suckled four calves for four weeks each in the course of these years. She produced in one week 19¼ lbs. of butter and an average of more than 16 lbs. The largest amount of milk given in one day was 44½ lbs. The preeminence of this remarkable cow was never seriously questioned for fifty years.

A circular was published by the Massachusetts Agricultural Society in 1824 advertising the bull, Admiral, of the best improved Short Horn breed, recently imported from England, the gift of Sir Isaac Coffin for the purpose of improving the breed of cattle in his native State. This famous bull had been placed on the farm of E. Hersey Derby Esq. of Salem for twelve months. Another circular, signed by T. Pickering, addressed to the farmers of Essex County, called their attention to this offer.

In 1826 the Nourse cow, owned originally by Nathaniel Nourse of Salem, then owned by Col. Pickering, took the first premium at the Cattle Show. From her milk in April, May and June, 154 lbs. of butter had been made.

Col. Jesse Putnam of Danvers reported the result of his scientific experiments with potatoes in 1829. Careful observations had been made with five kinds of seed, the Long Red or River La Plate variety, the Speckled Blues, a variety well approved by many farmers, the Richardson Whites, and a White potato raised from the seed of the green balls, after several successive plantings, a line of experiment much in vogue. Each kind was planted in several ways, with whole potatoes and cut potatoes, large and middle sized. The results were carefully noted.

There were interesting statements of the crops raised on some Essex County farms in these days of hand labor with the ox for draught. Jonathan Morse 2nd, tenant on

Wm. Bartlett's 200-acre farm in Methuen, reported his harvest in 1822:

- 70 tons English hay.
- 306 bushels of oats.
- 1200 bushels of potatoes.
- 300 bushels of corn.
- 1100 bushels of English turnips.
- 300 bushels of Ruta bagas.
- 40 bushels Winter apples.
- 20 bushels Winter pears.
- 6 bushels white beans.
- 500 lbs. of flax.
- 100 bbls. of cider.
- 400 lbs. of butter.
- 2400 lbs. of cheese.

The stock comprised 15 cows, 10 oxen, 3 heifers, 4 fat oxen, 12 calves, 19 swine, 34 sheep and lambs, and one horse. The labor, Mr. Morse stated, was performed by himself and wife, with two men and a boy and two young women or girls, but in most "hurrying times" as many hands as can be employed to cut and cure to advantage, "carried on entirely without the use of ardent spirits at any season of the year."

The farm of the Salem Alms House raised crops of large variety, including squashes, cucumbers, melons, radishes, broom corn, celery and pot herbs. It supported 10 oxen, 10 cows and 2 horses. On the great Pickman farm, Erastus Ware kept 50 cows, 6 oxen and 3 horses, and raised milk for the Salem market. His laborers were provided with family beer, molasses and water, milk and water, but no ardent spirits.

James Osgood of Andover employed a man and a boy by the year, and another man five or six weeks in haying time, yet in the year 1829 he mowed about 50 acres, and fenced in his farm with nearly a thousand rods of stone wall, mostly laid with his own hands, with rocks which were all brought from a distance of half a mile or more.

He kept 4 oxen, 2 horses, 12 cows and 12 sheep. Amos Gould bought his first hundred acres of the Turner Hill farm, now owned by Charles G. Rice, in 1810, gradually enlarged it and built 700 rods of stone wall. He kept 20 to 30 horned cattle, 1 horse and 20 sheep.

But Thomas Chase of West Newbury made the most extraordinary statement of hard work, its routine and its results, on his farm in 1833. His working force included himself, his son, and one hired man at \$11 a month for eight months, and 29 days at one dollar a day, and a young woman 24 weeks at a dollar a week. "Our custom," he says, "is to drive the cows to pasture and feed the swine before breakfast and to go to field in summer at six o'clock. Luncheon with tea or coffee between nine and ten. Dine at half-past twelve—our drink cider and coffee; tea at 5, if desired, milk after; beer, water and milk and water is all the drink required in the field."

The farmer himself had been confined to the bed with a fractured hip since October 5th and in December was able to do only light work. He kept 4 oxen, 9 cows, 1 horse, 5 swine; cut 44 tons English hay, 13 tons meadow hay, and 18 tons of salt hay on his 12-acre marsh, which was six miles distant. He planted 4 acres of Indian corn and potatoes and 4 acres of potatoes, which yielded 1,128 bushels, produced 674 lbs. of butter, 2,033 lbs. of cheese, 29 barrels of cider, and in addition to the regular round of farm work, took down and rebuilt a barn, made and new laid 50 rods of stone wall, dug 120 rods of ditch, of which 70 rods measured 3 feet by 2, set 200 apple trees and 400 grafts. No alcoholic liquor, he says, was served.

During this first decade of the active life of the Agricultural Society, Rev. Henry Colman, formerly a Salem clergyman, later an enthusiastic student of agriculture and experimental farmer, and eventually a State Secretary or Commissioner of Agriculture, contributed to the Transactions a series of papers of great value on many themes of current interest, the dairy and improved breeds

of cows, the comparative values of crops, etc., with detailed facts and figures. In his "Hints Addressed to the Farmers of Essex County," published in 1829 (though his name does not appear), he summarizes the maximum of crops in the County, which were well authenticated:

Wheat, 26 bushels to the acre.

Indian corn, $117\frac{1}{4}$ bushels to the acre.

Barley, 52 bushels to the acre.

Potatoes, $518\frac{1}{2}$ bushels to the acre.

Carrots, 900 bushels to the acre.

Mangel wurtzel, 1,340 bushels to the acre.

Ruta bagas, 688 bushels to the acre.

Beets, 783 bushels to the acre.

English turnips, 814 bushels to the acre.

Onions, 651 bushels to the acre.

We know of a lot of 6 acres from which thirty tons of hay actually weighed were gathered in one season, and another field of about forty acres, from which according to the statement of respectable and disinterested individuals, the yearly crops have averaged more than one hundred and twenty tons or three tons to an acre.

Querying as to the most profitable crop for an Essex County farmer, he remarked that hay was one of the first articles which would ordinarily yield a fair profit. "The Ipswich farmers have for years found a profit in transporting vast quantities to Boston market by land, in spite of the competition of the neighboring towns and the screwed hay from Maine." Yet, in his Andover address in 1831, Mr. Colman said the average yield of hay in Essex County was only $1\frac{1}{4}$ tons to the acre and that it sold for \$18 in Boston and Salem. In the same address, quoting manure at \$2 a cord, corn at 70 cents a bushel, and potatoes on the farm worth scarcely more than a shilling a bushel, with an average yield of 150 bushels per acre, he distrusted the value of the potato crop and

advised the culture of roots. One Essex County farm, he declared, was built on corn, carrots and ruta бага.

1830—1840.

The ox was still the farmer's chief reliance and he had a kingly place of honor at the Cattle Shows. At Andover, in 1831, the farmers made up a mighty team of about 150 yoke, a novelty in the Essex shows, though frequently seen in other centers. The ploughing matches with double and single yoke were the thrilling episodes of the annual fairs. But the horse was coming into his own. In 1829, Rufus Slocum of Haverhill appeared in the lists with a team of three horses and ploughed "with skill and dispatch, to wit in 45 minutes, and as well as the average of ox-teams." His time was noticeably shorter. In 1832 premiums for horses were given for the first time, and it was recognized with regret that insufficient attention was being given to breeding.

New inventions were calling for the horse each year. In 1831 the report was made that a revolving horse rake had been introduced lately in Pennsylvania and that a man and a single horse with this machine could do the work of six men with hand rakes. It was affirmed in 1835 that a boy with his horse rake could draw the hay into windrows as fast as eight men could put it into cocks. There were obscure allusions to a mowing machine in some sections of the country, drawn by a horse, which could mow ten acres in a day, and a threshing machine operated by a horse which equalled in one day the work of a man with his flail in ten.

By the year 1834 the wooden plough had yielded to the superior efficiency of the iron. As early as 1820, Mr. Howard had taken out his patents and made the first iron ploughs, as he affirmed, in the Commonwealth. Many other patents had been granted, but Howard was recognized, as the pioneer. The Committee on Agricultural

Instruments rose to heights of enthusiasm in their Report in 1834.

The plough, for which more than a hundred patents have been obtained since the promulgation of that glorious document, the Declaration of Independence, has by late improvements arrived to such perfection, that could our oxen like Balaam's ass be endowed with the power of speech, they would shout "Howard forever," or in the more quaint language of late political times, "Huzza for Howard, the man who has relieved our necks of half their burden and aided the Harrow in its duties."

Speaking at Danvers, in September, 1835, Daniel P. King of Danvers extolled the Agricultural Societies as potent factors in securing new prosperity for the farmer, greater hay crops, finer results in the dairy, the rich fruit of better methods. But a year afterward, the orator of the day, Nathan W. Hazen, sounded a note of despondency and alarm. Beef and pork, packed in Ohio, he asserted were being freighted in teams through the Notch of the White Mountains to the fertile intervalles in the Connecticut River. A few years before Worcester County was producing 2,000,000 pounds of pork a year, now it was buying the western product. Farms were never more difficult to sell. Both speakers may have taken extreme views, we may believe, but in one particular the Essex County men were suffering great disappointment in this decade, through the failure of their golden dreams of wealth from the new industry of silk culture.

SILK CULTURE.

In his Statement in the Transactions of the year 1838, Rev. Gardner B. Perry, of Bradford, an enthusiastic exponent of the new industry, stated that the pioneer in this experiment in Essex County was Enoch Boynton of Byfield, who planted some mulberry cuttings in 1822. His nursery was enlarged by trees raised from seed, graftings and cuttings, to more than 42,000 in 1832. He

fed many worms upon the leaves and produced considerable silk, for specimens of which he received several gratuities from the Essex County Agricultural Society.

A committee of the Massachusetts Legislature on the culture of Silk reported in January, 1829, recommending an extension of the grant to Agricultural Societies, made in 1819, to encourage the culture of silk, expressing great confidence in the simplicity of the process and the certainty of success. The committee of the Essex Society reported in September, 1830, that nurseries of the white mulberry had been established by Mr. Boynton, Rev. Gardner B. Perry, of Bradford, Stephen Currier, Jr., Samuel Eaton and J. M. Grosvenor, and Dr. J. M. Grosvenor in Methuen. Premiums were paid to each of these.

In the Transactions for 1831, Dr. Andrew Nichols, for the Committee on Silk Culture, presented an exhaustive report with minute directions for the cultivation of the leaves and the care of the silkworms, with a large engraved plate. "At present," the report says, "nothing seems to promise better than the production of silk. . . . Like gold, it possesses an intrinsic value and will never cease to be in demand. . . . Farmers of Essex, can you longer hesitate? White mulberry trees, seeds and eggs, together with the necessary directions for managing the whole business are now within your reach."

It proceeded to urge that women, boys and infirm people, every family, indeed, might rear a few thousand worms easily. Encouraged by this, many persons in different parts of the County set out plantations, in size from a few hundred to as many thousand trees. Worms were raised in a great many families, from a few dozens by way of experiment, to many thousands for profit. Many of these efforts yielded a good profit. "Every circumstance," Mr. Perry stated, "seemed to justify the expectation that the business, if followed with energy, would generally secure a competence and not unfrequently lead to wealth."

Then came the disastrous winter of 1834, which utterly destroyed many orchards of tender fruit trees and did great injury to the young mulberries. Rust and scab and other diseases completed the work of ruin. The industry was checked at once. Many cut down their nurseries or allowed them to run to waste, and there was a general belief that the climate rendered the culture impossible. But Mr. Perry and a few other enthusiasts still had faith.

Temple Cutler of Hamilton made a detailed statement of his success with the *Morus Multicaulis* or Perotted Mulberry, a hardier variety than the *Morus Alba* or White Mulberry. His confidence knew no bounds.

Should silk one day rival all our other staple commodities, it would not excite my surprise. . . . Is it to be credited that a people so renowned for enterprise and industry as those of New England would shrink back from even a trial of their skill to raise silk? . . . Should we make the trial and should we succeed in introducing an employment that would tend to keep our young men from wandering away, leaving the tombs of their fathers, often to find an early grave among the infected prairies of the West; and our young women from flying to the manufacturing towns to be immured in loathsome prisons, where all improvements in household concerns with them must cease, a great and philanthropic purpose will be accomplished.

The industry made a brief recovery with the introduction of the new variety of mulberry. Mr. Cutler, reporting for the committee in 1843, remarked with much severity upon the *multicaulis speculation*, which had dealt the industry a well nigh fatal blow. Unprincipled agents had hawked the trees around and caught the unwary with dreams of extravagant profit. The tree itself was brought into disrepute and odium cast on silk culture, so that it became a subject of ridicule. Many abandoned it for this reason alone. *Morus Multicaulis* became a by-word and a jest, and silk culture took its place be-

side the Merino sheep mania in the limbo of exploded fancies. A few silk purses and several pairs of silk stockings seem to have been the only visible fruits of the experiment.

The most remarkable story that has been preserved is the tale of the silk gown, which was exhibited in the Cattle Show of 1840. Mrs. Burbank of Bradford, then ninety-five years old, stated that she had made it twenty-three years before. She had obtained some eggs in 1815, which had been brought from India, and secured some mulberry leaves from trees planted on her land by a former tenant. In two years she raised the silk, carded it, spun it on a linen wheel, wove the fabric in a common loom and made the dress.

1840—1850.

The decade opened with a Prospectus of an Agricultural Seminary at Andover. Twenty years had elapsed since Dr. Andrew Nichols had voiced his hope that such an institution might be established. Some years later an attempt had been made to introduce an agricultural course at Dummer Academy, but it failed. Prof. Alonzo Gray, of the Teachers' Seminary in the South Parish of Andover, now presented a course of study contemplated in that school. It was planned to introduce Scientific Agriculture as a regular department. Botany, Physiology, Mineralogy, Geology and Chemistry were included, and the opportunity of witnessing practical farming under the direction of a teacher. No labor would be required, but if any chose to work a fair remuneration was promised. Nothing came of this scheme, though the Prospectus was accompanied by a strong essay on Scientific Agriculture by Dr. Nichols.

John W. Proctor, the Secretary, and later President, in his address in 1844 alluded to these frequent demands, and made an eloquent appeal for a course of instruction

in the common schools, to teach the elements of the science of agriculture, the constituents of soils and manures, the physiology of plants and the philosophy of vegetation. A notice had come to him that the State of New York had made a liberal appropriation for a State Agricultural School. He deplored that Massachusetts should be outdone in a work so essential to her best interests.

The Cattle Shows were very popular at this period, taking the place of the former training days of the militia as an autumnal holiday. Year by year new exhibits varied the familiar series. Fruits and flowers had appeared in 1835, bees and honey in 1844. Home industries in infinite variety made a fine display. As Mr. Gregory had begun the cultivation of the tomato in 1841 this novelty probably had a place of honor. The new breeds of cows were contending for supremacy. Col. Moses Newell of West Newbury, one of the finest farmers of his day, favored a cross of the Ayrshire and Alderney, and the North Devon for oxen. Daniel P. King of Danvers, farmer and statesman, and John W. Proctor claimed that the Ayrshire was best adapted to this climate.

But tree culture was perhaps the most engrossing theme. The apple orchard, it was claimed by some, was a neglected asset on most farms. But there were brilliant exceptions to this rule. William Thurlow of West Newbury was gathering a thousand barrels a year, worth \$1,200, as early as 1824, from his 2,500 trees, the largest and most productive orchard in the County. In 1843 George Thurlow received the first premium for his West Newbury nursery, with 20,000 apple trees on a single acre, and Joshua H. Ordway's nursery in the same town received a premium the year before.

The building of the railroad had facilitated competition, the price of butter was depressed, farm products did not find so ready a market. Allen W. Dodge of Hamilton, lawyer and farmer, discussing the outlook in 1843, saw great promise in the growing of the apple. "The apples

of Essex may yet be as widely celebrated as the oranges of Havana. Great credit is due to our Manning and Ives for their indefatigable zeal and judicious skill in stocking their gardens with such choice descriptions of cherries, plums, peaches and pears. Thanks, too, should be awarded them and other gentlemen in Salem and its vicinity for the excellent Horticultural Society, which they have so successfully established."

Robert Manning of Salem, "the great pomologist of America," had gathered into his own collection nearly 2,000 varieties of fruit. From that collection, 240 varieties of the pear were shown at an exhibition of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. The Essex County Natural History Society invited displays of fruit in its weekly exhibitions from Spring to Autumn. John M. Ives of Salem, one of the most skilled pomologists of his time, in his enlarged edition of Manning's *New England Fruit Book*, recommended the finest varieties of pears and apples in 1842. His essay on *The Apple*, in the *Transactions of 1847*, was a valuable contribution to the literature of the orchard. He was a constant exhibitor at the Cattle Shows.

Renewed attention to Forestry was also apparent. Allusion has been made to the State grant in 1819 to promote the raising of ship timber. Dr. Andrew Nichols had urged the cultivation of the locust in the bare and rocky pastures. But the offer of premiums had elicited no response. At the Lynn meeting in 1847, Richard S. Fay of Lynn made an offer of a hundred dollars for the best acre of white, black or yellow oak, planted from the acorn, that should be entered in 1852. In the same year, Rev. Gardner B. Perry of Bradford, one of the wisest and strongest members of the Society, contributed an essay on *The Cultivation of the Oak*. Mr. Fay, as chairman of the Committee on Forest Trees, made a report of great value, regarding the profit of tree culture, in 1848, and appealed to the farmers to plant.

Upon the death of Henry Colman, on August 14, 1849, by his bequest the Society came into possession of his valuable private library of agricultural works, European as well as American, 518 volumes and many pamphlets. Pickering Dodge, the Salem merchant, donated 53 volumes, and 37 volumes had been received in purchase. This library was kept at the City Hall in Salem for a time, then removed to the Court House, and some years since was deposited with the Essex Institute in Salem.

John W. Proctor's statement, in his Address in 1844, regarding the abolition of the drink habit on the farm, is of especial interest:

Twenty-five years since, and nine-tenths of our farmers were more or less in bondage to alcohol. I do not mean so many of them were intemperate, in the ordinary sense of the term, but that they were in the habit of using that which was not necessary to be used—to the great detriment of themselves and their estates. Where will the farmer now be found, who will unblushingly say, before he commences his haying, that he must lay in as many gallons, or even quarts of spirit, as he expects to cure tons of hay? Or that his men cannot commence mowing in the morning without their *bitters*;—proceed at eleven o'clock without their *grog*;—or load in the afternoon without their *bumper*;—not to mention the grosser indulgences of the evening. Time was when these customs, by whatever name they were called, were as familiar as household gods. — — — But manners have changed with times.

1850—1860.

During this decade the Transactions, which had been gradually increasing in size, reached a maximum of some 224 octavo pages annually at its close, with an occasional exception, the largest size ever attained. In addition to the Address, which was given usually in some church, with appropriate religious exercises, generous provision was made for the detailed reports of the various commit-

tees, the statements of the contestants for premiums for the management of farms, the reclaiming of waste or wet lands, experiments with manures, and the like, and for elaborate essays on special topics.

The Addresses of this period were of notable quality. Caleb Cushing, orator and statesman, delivered an eloquent oration in 1850. Gen. Henry K. Oliver, Salem schoolmaster and Lawrence mill agent, spoke in 1852. Richard S. Fay in 1854, Dr. James R. Nichols of Haverhill in 1855, Major Ben: Perley Poore, the famous war correspondent during the Civil War, in 1856; Dr. George B. Loring, the elegant and cultured farmer, politician, future Commissioner of Agriculture and diplomat, in 1858. Edward Everett was a speaker at the dinner in 1858, taking the same part that fell to him in 1836, when he was Governor of the Commonwealth.

The Reports of this period vied with each other in unique and grotesque peculiarities. Fitch Poole's report on "Poultry" was a broad burlesque, entitled "The Convention of the Domestic Poultry." Gen. Oliver followed with a humorous deliverance on "Bees and Honey," and as these literary novelties proved attractive, no doubt, he contributed a long poetical and classical essay on "Flowers," and in 1854, reporting on "Poultry," already celebrated in Fitch Poole's masterpiece, he produced a marvellous compound of poetry and prose, embellished with quotations from Virgil and Anacreon, Shakespeare and Milton, Dryden and Gray, the New England Primer and Mother Goose. Whereupon Fitch Poole launched into poetry in 1858, with the humorous "Ballad of 1692—The Second Dream of Giles Corey." This seems queer diet for the everyday farmer, and it is in no wise surprising that it was remarked in 1857 that not more than a third of the thousand members of the Essex Agricultural Society were exclusively tillers of the soil. But though it bore the earmarks of a literary club, or a coterie of fine gentlemen, the old Society was still true to its ideals.

There were essays of a more practical sort, Samuel P. Fowler's on "The Destruction of Insects Injurious to Vegetation," and David Choate's report of his elaborate experiments with the Chinese sugar cane. At the Cattle Shows there were evidences of notable advancements in farm methods. The Michigan sod plough, which turned two furrows at once, was exhibited in 1850. In 1852 a two-day session was adopted. In that year there was a particularly fine display of Suffolk swine, and Charles A. Stetson offered a premium for the encouragement of horse teams in plowing.

The address of the President, Richard S. Fay, in 1854, sounded a warning note. Wages had doubled in twenty years, and the return was only half. The farmer must either resort to machinery or give up the unequal contest. He has much to learn from the English and Scotch farmer. The mowing machine, he states, has been introduced into our fields during the past summer. So the year 1854 must be written down as the year of transition from the Old to the New Era, the Old Era of the scythe and the slow-moving ox and the heavy, unaided toil of man, to the New Era of machinery, revolutionizing the work of the farm and lightening its toil.

The mowing machine met with the same captious criticism that always obstructs the progress of a great invention. It was objected that the expense put it beyond the reach of the average farmer, that the fields were too small and rough, that it required a skillful hand to operate it. The Essex Society moved rapidly. The President offered a special premium for the best machine. A committee on mowing machines was appointed, which visited Dr. Loring's farm on July 16th, 1855, to see several machines in operation, and on the 17th went to Col. Moses Newell's farm in West Newbury. These exhibitions drew great crowds of spectators, as many had never seen a machine in operation. Many accidents hap-

pened and one machine was put out of the race, but the trial was instructive and helpful.

A few of the more progressive farmers made practical test of the value of the new invention on their own farms in the same summer. William F. Porter of Bradford cut 116 acres with a mowing machine; Horace Ware, 54½ acres with one of the same make. Dr. Loring cut 58 acres with a Ketchum machine, and made successful experiment with his machine drawn by oxen on his salt marsh. As a matter of fact, the committee favored the use of oxen rather than horses with the mower. A hay-tedder of English make, which had been imported by Mr. Fay, was exhibited by Dr. Loring in 1858.

The time-honored ploughing match, with the competing double yokes of mighty oxen, was still the most exciting event of the Cattle Show, and in 1858 it was held up for two hours, waiting the arrival of their expected guest, George Peabody, the London banker and philanthropist, then revisiting his old home in Essex County. But there were those who called for more modern accessories, which gave popularity to other County Fairs, though once and again their covert demand was silenced by the scornful query of the elder men: "What have military companies, and fire engines, horse races and female equestriennes to do with farming?"

The Society became heir to the Treadwell farm in Topsfield in 1856, under the will of Dr. John G. Treadwell of Salem. He devised the farm after the decease of his mother, to the Society, "for the promotion of the science of Agriculture by the instituting and performance of experiments and such other means as may tend to the advancement of science," with an eventual reversion to the Massachusetts General Hospital if the Society declined to accept the gift on these terms, or failed to observe the conditions of the gift. Two schemes for the use of the property were considered. One was the establishment of a school of practical agriculture, which might

be instituted in case some person be found competent to take the farm and teach young men the essentials of successful farming, receiving the rent for his remuneration. The other plan was to place it in the hands of an experienced and intelligent farmer on a long lease, subject in lieu of rent to various duties and experiments. The latter was adopted, the transfer of the farm was made, and it was leased at once.

1860—1870.

The Civil War period brought no interruption in the activities of the Society. The orators made eloquent reference to the new and larger duties of the time. Gail Hamilton contributed a stirring Original Ode for the exercises in 1861.

“Ho, freeman of Essex! Stout sons of the soil!
 What need to your labors, what rest to your toil,
 While the tread of the traitor pollutes the wronged earth
 And Liberty faints in the land of her birth!”

And when the war was done, John G. Whittier wrote “The Peace Anthem,” which was sung at the anniversary, Sept. 26, 1865.

“Thank God for rest, where none molest
 And none can make afraid;
 For peace that sits as Plenty’s guest
 Beneath the homestead shade.

Bring pike and gun, the sword’s red scourge,
 The negro’s broken chains,
 And beat them at the blacksmith’s forge
 To ploughshares for our plains.”

Dr. Jeremiah Spofford made a careful study of the Forestry problem, and encouraged the attempt by chapters from his own observation and experience, illustrating the growth of white pine seedlings. “I can now

cut a frame for a good-sized house from land from which the previous owner cut nearly all the wood he considered worth cutting in 1838." Dr. George B. Loring delivered the semi-centennial address in 1868, filled with interesting reminiscences of the past and with deserved tributes to the founders and supporters of the Society. Benjamin P. Ware, son of Erastus Ware, of the great Pickman farm, himself a farmer of exceptional breadth of mind and friendliness to new methods, made a valuable summary of the progress in farming in his address in 1869.

With Raymond's Hay Elevator, he [the farmer] may store away his hay in his barn with comparatively little labor and a great saving of time. . . . The potato crop can now be grown entirely without hand labor. True's Potato Planter cuts the potato, drops, furrows and covers in one operation. With Holbrook and Chandler's Horse Hoes, the labor of hoeing is wholly performed by horse power. . . . With Willis's Seed Sower, the Danvers Truckle Hoe, all of the root crops can be grown with about one-half the labor formerly required.

We need not leave Essex County to find that within a few years there has been introduced by skill and careful cultivation, the Hubbard Squash, the Stone Mason and Marblehead Mammoth Cabbages, Emery's Early Cabbage, a superior early Tomato and Lettuce, the Danvers Onion, all better in some respects than before existed; and to the list of fruits have been added Allen's two hybrid grapes, and those of Mr. Rogers, possessing qualities superior to those of any others.

Who ever heard, until within a few years, of seventy-four tons of mangel-wurzels being grown upon one acre of land; of thirty-six tons of carrots or nine hundred bushels of onions per acre? Such crops as these are facts that can be proved.

Illustrating the value of home grown, carefully selected seed, thorough-bred as he termed it, he instanced the experiment of a Salem farmer who planted his own thorough-bred seed, then seed grown by his neighbor, as good as the average, and supplemented this with seed

bought at a seed store. "On the part sown with thorough-bred seed there is scarcely an imperfect onion and the crop is the largest in the vicinity. On the part sown with good seed the onions are ten days later, of inferior quality and less quantity and valued at twenty-five per cent less than the first." The product of the third kind of seed was estimated as fifty per cent less in value than the first.

But one suggestion of this wise counselor would fail of approval to-day. "Besides protecting our native songsters that do so much to aid the orchardist, I must earnestly recommend the importation of English sparrows, whose principal occupation is to feed their numerous progeny with insects. . . . I know of no way by which a portion of the income of this Society can be so profitably expended as by the importation of several thousand of these birds, to be distributed in different parts of the country."

1870—1880.

Noticeable improvements in farm wagons were made in this decade. In 1870 a horse-cart with small wheels forward was exhibited, which soon supplanted the old two-wheeled tip-cart, and with the later addition of a pole and the use of two horses, greatly facilitated the transportation of heavy loads. Webster Smith, the Ipswich blacksmith, exhibited an ox-wagon for hay in 1871, regarding which the comment was made: "Probably in no other part of the country can such large, evenly laid, handsome loads of hay be seen as are hauled to Boston from Essex County upon these Ipswich hay wagons." In 1873 Frank H. Burnham exhibited his covered seat, and with this equipment the Ipswich hay teamers, in their great horse-drawn wagons, scoured the whole country side as far as Hampton and Greenland for hay for the Boston market. The manure spreader appeared in 1879.

The dairy exhibits in this period were of great importance. Francis H. Appleton of Peabody, William A. Russell of Lawrence, and J. D. W. French of North Andover, all gentlemen of wealth who delighted in their farms and choice breeds of cows, began a series of exhibits which were continued for many years. Mr. Appleton brought his choice Ayrshires, Maud, with her record of twenty-two and three quarts a day, and Lassie, whose best yield was a twenty-five pound daily average for two months.

The famous Holstein herd of Mr. Russell came in 1876 and following years, Lady Clifden with a year's record of 16,274 lbs., or 21 143-363 lbs. a day; Maid Marion, with an average of 31.38 lbs. for 421 days; and Lady Andover, with 36.11 lbs. average for 273 days.

Mr. French's North Andover herd of Ayrshires in 1877 included Betty Burke, whose average for 308 days was 26.42 lbs., and Rosanna, with a record of 33 lbs. a day for 123 days.

Mr. D. F. Appleton of Ipswich exhibited his fine Cotswold sheep and his herd of Kerry cows.

Coincident with these famous records was the introduction of a new food. While visiting in Hungary in 1873 Gen. Francis H. Appleton saw a method of curing fodder corn by heaping the stalks in pits and covering them with earth. He was so much impressed with the evident value of this process which was already a well established adjunct of the best Hungarian farms that he secured from his friend a statement of his method of "Sour Fodder Making," as it was called, which was published in the *American Agriculturist* in October, 1873. He was not confident of its popular introduction into this country. Remarking upon ensilage, its European name, in 1879, he observed: "I would say that it must be done with much care and expense, as well as on a large scale, to be successful, so that it probably cannot come within reach of the smaller sized farms of New England, unless some one person could prove it to be of true value and

enough desirable to make a business of supplying the farms."

The Essex County seedsmen were making great contributions in these years to the man on the farm and to the pages of the Transactions. In 1879 Mr. J. J. H. Gregory exhibited 80 varieties of 17 different kinds of vegetables, and 210 varieties of seed. His collection of tomatoes was the largest and his method of culture, reported in 1871, had been reprinted in the State Report of the same year. Crosby's Early Sweet Corn and Stowell's Evergreen, his favorite varieties, are still standards. John S. Ives of Salem displayed 198 varieties of seed. Aaron Low of Essex made fine exhibits. Experiments with seedling potatoes were producing excellent results, and the use of phosphates and other condensed fertilizers had become general.

1880—1890.

The Address of Dr. James R. Nichols of Haverhill, in 1881, on the theme, "What Science Has Accomplished for Farmers," was a gratifying complement to the learned papers of his forerunner in the early days, Dr. Andrew Nichols, whose papers on Scientific Agriculture were a plea for and foretaste of the new agriculture which had now become a fact.

Dr. Nichols remarked that in his address to the Society in 1855, he had predicted chemistry would come to the relief of the farmer. Since that time vast stores of phosphoric rocks had been found in Russia, Spain and the United States. The great phosphate beds near South Carolina, which had been discovered in 1867, had yielded in fertilizers shipped upwards of \$2,000,000 in 1870. On his own farm artificial fertilizers had largely supplanted domestic manures. Speaking of strawberries and raspberries, he said, "I do not remember to have seen cultivated varieties until long after reaching adult age. Now of strawberries there are more than 350 varieties."

Dr. Nichols had made contributions of great value to scientific agriculture by his work on his farm near Lake Kenoza, Haverhill, which he had purchased in 1863. Under his skillful treatment an unproductive land yielded abundant crops. He established the *Journal of Chemistry* in Boston in 1866. His books, "Fireside Science," "Chemistry of the Farm and Sea," had wide circulation. "Whence, What, Where," published in 1883, had great popularity. He died on Jan. 2, 1888.

Gen. Appleton, speaking at Haverhill in 1882, was able to say that the French method of sour fodder, adopted in the United States, was already becoming popular, and that silos had been built on a large number of farms.

Benjamin P. Ware, in his address in 1883, recounted the possessions and achievements of the Society: no grounds, no trotting park, no show buildings, only a tent, some portable cattle pens, 1,200 exhibition fruit dishes, but an experimental farm of 150 acres, which brought an income of \$300 to \$500 a year besides expenses, a library of 800 volumes, and funds which amounted to \$16,690.00. "It has never paid a dollar for speed since its organization, but has paid an average of \$3,000 annually for premiums for the past ten years, and a total sum since the beginning of \$44,271.54."

"The Society is supporting," he continued, "three scholarships at the Massachusetts Agricultural College for four years at \$50 each, and has offered a premium of \$100 for the best prepared student from Essex County who completes his course. Its present membership is 1,388. It publishes annually 1,600 copies of its *Transactions*, averaging from 120 to 220 pages."

The activities of the Society had now been manifest in a new field, the holding of Farmers' Institutes in various towns, at which valuable papers were read and practical farm affairs discussed. The most significant evidence of the quickening influence the Essex Agricultural

Society had exerted throughout the County was the record of local clubs and societies which had sprung into being in many localities, and were closely affiliated with the venerable Society in spirit and method. The Amesbury and Salisbury Agricultural Association had been organized in April, 1856; the West Newbury Farmers' Club in December, 1856; the Ipswich Fruit Growers' Association in September, 1866; the North Andover Farmers' and Mechanics' Club in March, 1878; the Andover Farmers' Club in November, 1879. There were also the Houghton Agricultural Society of Lynn, the Marblehead and Swampscott Farmers' Club, the Bradford Farmers' and Mechanics' Association, farmers' clubs in Rowley, Georgetown, Topsfield, West Peabody and Wenham. The farmers' instinct for clubs and societies being still unsatisfied, it was reported in 1886, that during that year Granges of Patrons of Husbandry had been organized in Amesbury, North Andover and Ipswich.

Gratifying interest in tree-culture and forestry was apparent. Major Ben: Perley Poore made the Report in 1883, reviewing the failures of the past, but urging to constant endeavor to replace the fast disappearing forests. His own planting at Indian Hill farm had been so successful that the Massachusetts Society for the Promotion of Agriculture awarded him a premium of a thousand dollars for his twenty acres of oak, chestnut, hickory, locust, fir and pine, on which every tree had been planted by his own hand. The Society had a Committee on Ornamental and Wayside Trees as well.

At the Cattle Shows a sulky plough was shown for the first time in 1881. In the following year a trial of two or three ploughs was made in a very rough and stony field, with very satisfactory result. After the trial was over the committee requested Mr. Richard S. Jaques, a veteran ploughman, who had taken more first premiums than any other member of the Society, to turn one furrow with his "Lion" plough and four-ox team in direct com-

petition with the sulky and one pair of horses. Though an old farmer is usually conservative regarding new inventions, his one rough and uneven furrow was enough to convince him, and he acknowledged on the spot, "The sulky is the plough of the future."

The horse was coming rapidly to the place of honor. In 1885 the Society offered its first premium for gentlemen's driving horses, and in the following year there was a notable display. Premiums were awarded for Stallions, first and second class, Brood Mares, Family Horses, Gentlemen's Driving Horses, Draft Horses, Pairs of Draft Horses, Pairs of Farm Horses, and for Colts for draft purposes in two classes, and for general purposes in two classes also.

At Peabody, in 1887, greater dignity than ever before attended the public exercises. A procession was formed of officers, members and friends of the Society, headed by the 8th Regiment Band, which marched to the Peabody Institute, where Dr. William Cogswell of Bradford delivered the annual address. In the following year a more pretentious procession was formed, with all the oxen and horses and various teams in line, which paraded through the streets.

A singularly happy episode marked the close of this decade. At a Farmers' Institute at Peabody, December, 1888, a very appreciative essay on Whittier, the farmer's poet, was read, and a message was sent to the poet congratulating him on the health of body and mental vigor with which he had reached and passed his eighty-first birthday, and assuring him "that in no places are your poems read with more interest and pleasure, or your works of tenderest love cherished with a purer admiration than in the homes of the farmers of your native County of Essex."

The poet replied, expressing deep gratification with the message, and recalling that he had worked faithfully on the old Haverhill homestead until at the age of thirty

years he was compelled to leave it, greatly to his regret. He continued:

No better proof of real gain can be found than the creation of pleasant homes for the comfort of age and the happiness of youth. When the great English critic, Matthew Arnold, was in the country, on returning from a visit in Essex County, he remarked that while the land looked to him rough and unproductive, the landlord's houses seemed neat and often elegant, with an air of prosperity about them. 'But where,' he asked, 'do the tenants, the working people live?' He seemed surprised when I told him that the tenants were the landlords and the workers the owners.

1890—1900.

Mention has been made more than once of the old-time Essex County cow, the Oakes cow of Danvers, nameless and without pedigree, whose record of 484½ lbs. of butter, besides suckling a calf four weeks and allowing a quart daily for family use, was unsurpassed in the county and far wider circles for a half century as a butter-maker. The record had been surpassed long since by the imported animals of choice breeds. But in 1890 the crown returned to Essex County. Mr. D. Fuller Appleton of Ipswich, merchant and farmer, who had exhibited his fine Cotswold sheep and his herd of Kerry cows in the seventies, had become greatly interested in the Jerseys, and had built up a choice herd. On April 22, 1889, he began a test with his Eurotisama, born and bred on his Ipswich farm. The test was ended April 21, 1890, and the famous cow had produced 945 lbs. 9 oz. of butter, the highest record yet attained by that breed, and Mr. Appleton became the owner of the "Challenge Cup."

It is interesting to note the successive stages by which the record was advanced to this great figure. Thomas Motley's imported Flora produced 511 lbs. 2 oz. in 1853. In 1866, in another quarter, the record was advanced to

574½ lbs.; in 1878 to 705 lbs.; then by steady advances to 851 867 and 936 lbs. Eurotisama advanced the record to 945 lbs. 9 oz., notwithstanding a slight sickness early in the year, which caused a marked shrinkage in her milk for a time. She retained the place of honor for only a brief period. In the same year a Tennessee Jersey made a record of 1,028 lbs. 5¾ oz., and in 1892, in another quarter, 1,047¾ lbs. was attained.

In September, 1891, the Society suffered a great loss in the death of Dr. George B. Loring. Besides his active endeavors to promote the finest methods of agriculture in the County, he had founded the New England Agricultural Society in 1864 and was its President for nearly a quarter of a century. He was the President of the Massachusetts Senate from 1873 to 1876, was a Representative in Congress, and was appointed United States Commissioner of Agriculture by President Garfield in 1881. President Harrison appointed him U. S. Minister to Portugal, but he resigned the office and returned home within a year.

During this decade the burning question was: Shall the Society continue its peripatetic course about the County or secure a permanent abiding place? It was warmly discussed at an Institute at Peabody in January, 1891. The advocates of a permanent location maintained that under modern conditions the people could be brought to the show more easily than the show could be carried to the people. It was claimed that as \$400,000 was invested in horse stock farms in Essex County, their owners were entitled to fair consideration. The conservatives opposed the scheme, scenting a horse trot as the underlying purpose.

The drift of opinion was so pronounced in a few years, that a Committee, chosen by the Trustees to consider plans for a permanent location, reported in September, 1894, recommending that the Society establish itself permanently in Danvers, where the citizens had pledged a contribu-

tion of a thousand dollars toward the purchase of land. A large Committee was chosen and authorized by a vote, 81 in the affirmative, 11 in the negative, to bond or purchase, grade and fence land and erect suitable buildings for the use of the Society, paying for the same out of the Society's funds.

Locations in various parts of the County were suggested and carefully studied, and in the end purchase was made of ten acres, centrally situated in the town of Peabody. Buildings were erected, a quarter-mile track laid out, and the annual Cattle Show was held there in September 1895.

The Transactions of that year included a full statement of the reasons which made the new departure a wise venture. The annual receipts had been falling off largely for a number of years. The free exhibit of live stock remained popular but there was a marked diminution in the attendance at the Hall Exhibit which involved the payment of a small admission fee. Consequently the expense of the Cattle Show exceeded the total revenue from admission fees, from the funds and the annual grant of \$600 by the State and the funds had been depleted largely. It was believed that as the location in Peabody was the geographical center of a large population, the financial situation would be greatly improved.

Some economies were urged, curtailing the size of the Transactions which seemed larger than the requirements of the Society warranted, and the number and liberality of the premiums, which far surpassed those of any other Society in the State. "The possibilities of an exceedingly good show next year, with attractions of an interesting and harmless character, can be introduced to advantage."

A vigorous and very successful effort was made in 1896 to inaugurate a new era. A hundred head of cattle in the exhibition pens were a reminder of the palmy days of the Society. Nine yoke came from the State Lunatic Hospital at Danvers, which made notable contributions each

year. An unusually good collection of fowls, more than five hundred, received much attention. The exhibits in every department were large and fine. On the second day of the Fair, the citizens of Peabody, Salem, and other towns joined in a street parade, which included the horses and cattle and extended over a mile in length. The weather was favorable and great popular interest was aroused. The delegate from the State Board remarked in his report: "Without a horse trot or other outside attractions aside from a bicycle race and firemen's muster, the attendance was very large, the entrance fees amounting to over \$4,000." It was estimated that ten thousand people were on the grounds.

Hon. George von L. Meyer in his Address in 1897, remarked upon two recent or recently improved inventions, which were destined to work great changes in farm life, as in society generally.

Fifty years after the arrival of the first passenger train, a thoroughly successful horseless carriage was run through Salem over our Essex roads, and I venture to predict that some of us who are here today will live to see the time when it will be as rare to see carriages drawn by horses as it is at present to see street cars drawn by horses. I noticed in Paris last Winter the automobile as it is there called is becoming quite a frequent sight. . . . Bicycles are now so cheap that they are within the reach of mechanics and farm laborers.

In 1898 the new order had commended itself so well that Gen. Francis H. Appleton declared, "We must have more land for a grand stand that shall have seating capacity to rest our visitors and patrons and from which they can view a half-mile track to find entertainment." The annual deficit had now been replaced by an annual profit.

But the exhibition of 1899 was visited with heavy rain and consequent shrinkage in attendance and in revenue. Rev. J. M. Pullman, D.D., of Lynn, delivered the Address

at the Peabody Institute, the last apparently of the long series which reached back to the very beginning of the Society. Not only was it the last, but it was not honored with a place in the greatly abridged Transactions of that year, the first omission of the kind since Col. Pickering's first address was printed in 1818.

1900—1910.

THE PEABODY EXPERIMENT.

On the turn of the century preparations had been made for the largest and most attractive exhibit the Society had ever held. The ancient and honored name, "Cattle Show," had given place to the less rural and more comprehensive "Fair," and it was a significant evidence that not only had the cattle disappeared, but the old-time gathering of farmers with the products of their farms had ceased. In the hope of making good the recent financial losses the Society had established itself permanently in one of the busiest manufacturing centers, with a large and compact population within easy reach. The plan was now adopted of drawing a large gathering by attractions manifold and various.

To further this end the retiring President, Hon. George von L. Meyer, had borne the expense of a grand stand. The members of the Myopia Hunt Club gave an exhibition of hurdle-jumping, and many fine horses competed for the various prizes. The various departments on the grounds and in the hall were full of interest. But heavy rain again interfered seriously with the attendance and the financial return. Similar disappointment befell the following year. Thursday, the great second day of the 1901 Fair, was the day of President McKinley's funeral, and the nation was shrouded in gloom. Heavy rain intensified the difficulties of the situation. It was no wonder that great discouragement was evident in the scant re-

ports of the Fair of 1902. The Society was in debt and facing annual deficits. Only twelve new members had been added during the year.

But great preparations were made for 1903, and beautiful weather favored the success of the Fair. On the opening day a coaching and automobile parade gave great eclat to the occasion. Led by mounted marshals, a line of open barouches, bearing the officials of the Society and the City, followed by a long train of four-in-hands, dog and pony carts and automobiles, all beautifully decorated, formed on Salem Common and moved to the Fair Grounds in Peabody. It was estimated that ten thousand people passed through the gates in the afternoon. Band concerts, hurdle-jumping, vaudeville shows, and bicycle races entertained the crowd. Gasoline engines in operation attracted much attention. The receipts were \$3,000, less by two hundred than those of the preceding year.

The records of the following years vary little. Rain on the evening before the parade caused a meager turnout in September, 1904. A balloon ascension and parachute descent had been added to the attractions, but repeated attempts met with exasperating failure. There were firemen's races and hurdle races and a mimic Midway. The great event, however, was the stirring address of Hon. Henry Cabot Lodge at the dinner.

New features characterized the exhibition of 1905. The public schools were closed and children were admitted free in the afternoon of the opening day. The Salem merchants organized a Trade Bazaar in a large tent. The show of live stock was the largest made on the new grounds, working oxen, fine herds of milch cows, swine and poultry.

At the dinner of the Society in September, 1906, Hon. Robert S. Rantoul delivered a just eulogy of Benjamin P. Ware, who had died on February 7, 1906, at the age of eighty-four. His long life had covered nearly the whole period of the existence of the Agricultural Society,

of which he became an active member in 1848. He soon came to a leading place in its councils, and filled with honor the office of President for sixteen years. For many years he held many important official positions in agricultural societies, wrote much on farm topics, and was a constant exponent of the best methods of practical farming.

In 1907, 1908, 1909, the exhibitions were very creditable. James C. Poor of Andover sent his herd of choice Holsteins; T. Jefferson Coolidge of Manchester his fine Guernseys. There were fat cattle from Charles J. Peabody's Topsfield farm, interesting displays of manufactures, and the Merchants' Bazaar. The Midway had now become a grotesque feature of the attractions, with its merry-go-rounds and Ferris wheel, ring-tossers, fortune tellers, African dodgers, novelty boards, fakes and fakirs of every sort. The horse show, hurdle races and firemen's contests had more dignified place on the track. The balloon, fireworks and vaudeville were constant features. But the financial situation grew more acute each year. There was a constant popular demand for the horse race as the thrilling thing which would draw the crowd and fill the treasury, and equally firm insistence by the officers of the Society that the track was not suitable, that it could not be introduced without large initial expense, that the Middlesex-Reading Fair, with its big grand stand and half-mile track, had proved a financial failure and had held no Fair for two years, and that every Agricultural Society making this venture faced bankruptcy.

The Fair of 1909 involved a deficit of \$314, and it was patent that a radical change of policy was necessary. A mortgage of \$6,000 had been placed upon the Fair Grounds. The amusement of the multitude was in danger of becoming the principal factor in the plans of the Society. Already there had been great departure from the primary design of promoting agriculture. There

were those who questioned if the ancient Essex Agricultural Society had not fulfilled its mission.

When the Society was organized in 1818, Essex County was an agricultural section, and farming was the principal industry. The total population by the Census of 1820 was 74,666. Salem was the principal town, with a population of 12,731, where there was some farming but the principal employments were commerce and manufactures. Gloucester had a population of 6,384, and the industries were equally farming and manufactures, Newburyport, with a population of 6,852, did little farming, and its activities were commerce and manufactures. Marblehead, population 5,630, was chiefly engaged in commerce. In Lynn, fifth in population, 4,515, about one-seventh of the population were engaged in agriculture, six-sevenths in manufactures. In Beverly, Danvers and Newbury there were large farming interests. Haverhill, with a population of 3,070, was largely a farming community, but with considerable manufacturing. In all the rest of the County farming was the predominant industry.

By the Census of 1860, Haverhill was credited with 208 farms, the largest number of any town in the County, and on these farms there were 597 cows and 196 oxen. Beverly, Newbury and Danvers were largely farming communities.

But in the next half century, by the Census of 1910, Lynn had attained a population of 89,336, and farming was practically eliminated. Lawrence was founded in 1845, and its territory included some thousands of acres of land in Methuen and Andover. On these acres the new city sprung into being, and in 1910 its dense manufacturing population numbered 85,892. Haverhill had advanced rapidly as a manufacturing center and reached a population of 44,115. The great South Parish of Danvers, famous for its fine farms in earlier years, had become Peabody, the largest manufacturing town in the State, with a yearly output of leather valued at \$16,000,-

000. Methuen had become a busy town of nearly 12,000 people. In some of the smaller communities as well manufactures had attained a predominant place, and all along the North Shore and in Wenham, Hamilton, Topsfield and Ipswich, many farms once tilled by working farmers had passed into the hands of wealthy summer residents, with whom agriculture was largely an amusement. So it was affirmed that Essex County had now little concern for farming, and that the Agricultural Society might now rest from its labors.

But wiser counsels prevailed, and it was decided that while the Peabody experiment had proved a failure, there was still the promise of usefulness in a return to the simpler ways of the fathers.

1910.

THE HOME-COMING TO TOPSFIELD.

A very practical reason led the Society back to Topsfield, where the first Cattle Show was held in 1820. As has been stated, Dr. John Goodhue Treadwell of Salem had bequeathed his Topsfield farm to the Essex Agricultural Society in 1858. The farm had served some practical purposes in the way of experiment, and in some years had netted a profit. At times it had been an asset of questionable value, but the Society still held title. It was now utilized as the location for the Cattle Show and Fair of September, 1910.

New inspiration would have attended the return if Cyrus Cummings's tavern were still standing. Unfortunately, as a matter of sentiment, it had been taken down in August, 1844, and removed to Clifton, where it was rebuilt as a shore hotel, but was totally destroyed by fire two years later. But the old farm house proved attractive to many visitors. The story goes that it was erected by Dr. Richard Dexter of Malden in 1741. The

tradition lingers that his wife was a daring rider, and that while the house was being built the workmen constructed a narrow ascent to the second story, up which she rode her spirited horse.

Be that as it may, it is an historic fact that the ancient Garrison House, into which the Topsfield folk hurried when the Indians attacked Haverhill and carried off Hannah Dustin, was built in the great field utilized for the tents, in the rear of the band stand. The great trees on the turnpike near by and on the edge of the field were set by Dr. Treadwell in 1835. Here a very successful Fair was held. There was a band, and baseball, and hurdle-racing, but main reliance was placed on the old-fashioned ploughing match and heavy draft by horses, and in the fine exhibition of animals, fruits and flowers, and home work in infinite variety.

In 1911 the number of cattle, horses and swine was nearly doubled. The ploughing, harrowing and drafting by horses attracted much attention, as usual, and there were unusually large exhibits of poultry, fruit and vegetables, stimulated by the silver medals, given by Mr. Thomas E. Proctor, for the best collection in each of these departments. The school exhibits proved an interesting novelty. In the Spring the school superintendents had given four potatoes and six ounces of sweet corn to every child who agreed to plant and care for them. Exhibits of the product came from nearly every town, as well as specimens of handiwork. In addition to the Holsteins, Guernseys and Jerseys, Kerry cows, the breed which had been exhibited forty years before by D. F. Appleton, re-appeared at this time, and eight yoke of oxen lent an old-time flavor.

In 1912, from the old Fatherland Farm, owned a century before by Gorham Parsons, one of the staunch supporters of the Society, now owned by Frank L. Burke and Son, came their herd of imported Ayrshires. South-down, Shropshire and Horned Dorset sheep and a few

goats suggested a renewal of sheep raising. At the 1913 Fair a flock of Angora goats was exhibited. In 1914 the Essex County Agricultural School made its first exhibit. In 1820, at the first Cattle Show in Topsfield, Dr. Andrew Nichols had made his earnest plea for such a school. His plea had been repeated at intervals by others, and schemes for such a school had been proposed. At last the Essex County Agricultural School had opened its doors on October 1st, 1913, to an opening class of 85 pupils at Hathorne.

This exhibit was singularly happy and effective. Display was made of the proper tools for modern farming, plans of farm buildings, tabulations of fertilizers and chemicals, and ten-minute lectures were given at intervals. The Essex County Poultry Association had been merged with the Agricultural Society, and the combined exhibit filled a large tent. The Essex County School made another effective exhibit in 1915. Demonstrations were made of grading, packing and canning fruit, killing and plucking of poultry, and making of hotbeds. Types of milking apparatus were displayed and the science of bee keeping explained. New buildings for the horses, cattle and swine, and two new large tents for the general exhibition in 1916, indicated returning prosperity.

Thus as the century is rounded out the venerable Society is rejoicing in a revived enthusiasm in the improvement of agriculture. The Midway has been eliminated. Children are encouraged to exhibit the products of their gardens, their school work and manual training, their poultry, their heifers and their pigs, the raising of which is being promoted by the Massachusetts Boys and Girls Pig Clubs. Boys are invited to compete in the old-time contests in ploughing with horses and oxen and in handling teams of oxen and horses. The homely arts of darning and patching home garments, the making of kitchen aprons, and many home industries are stimulated by premiums. The Myopia Hunt Club entertains

with exhibitions of skilled horsemanship and offers special prizes for the best draft teams and the best farm or utility colts. There are special premiums for the best ears of Indian corn.

The isolation of farm life has been offset largely by the telephone and the daily rural mail delivery. The automobile has made the farm near neighbor to the town, and made carriage of products easy. The transportation of children at public expense has facilitated education. The gasoline engine has relieved the hard work of wood sawing and ensilage cutting. The Grange has promoted the social relations. And now the Essex Agricultural Society, by its Fairs, its many premiums, and its good fellowship is making large contribution to the pleasure, the attractiveness to children and youth, and the profit of life on the farm, and the stimulation of agricultural pursuits. The Inspector of the State Board of Agriculture concluded his observations on the Topsfield Fair in 1916 with the complimentary remark: "It seems to me that with more fairs upon these same lines agriculture in New England is bound to return."



THE PUBLICATIONS OF THE ESSEX AGRICULTURAL
SOCIETY.

The Society issued its first publication in 1818, the first year of its existence, a thin pamphlet of 27 pages, entitled, "Address to the Essex Agricultural Society, May 5:1818, by the Hon. Timothy Pickering, President of the Society."

The second, a pamphlet of 27 pages, entitled, "A Discourse read before the Essex Agricultural Society in Massachusetts February 21, 1820, suggesting some improvements in the Agriculture of the County by Timothy Pickering, President of the Society," was issued in 1820.

"The Trustees' Account of the Cattle Show and Other Exhibitions at Topsfield, Oct. 5, 1820," with "An Address to the Essex Agricultural Society at their First Cattle Show at Topsfield, Oct. 5:1820, by Andrew Nichols Esq.," a 56 page pamphlet, was published in 1821.

The Address by Rev. Abiel Abbot of Andover and the Trustees' Account of the Agricultural Exhibition at Danvers, October 16 and 17, 1821, 55 pages, was published in 1822.

The Society published the address of Rev. Peter Eaton, D.D., of Boxford, at Topsfield on October 2:1822, with full reports, premiums, etc., 60 pages, in 1823, but in the following year, 1824, a thin pamphlet of 23 pages was issued, which contained the Address of Frederic Howes Esq. at Topsfield, October 6, 1823, with no reports, but with the list of premiums for the following year.

No publication was issued by the Society regarding the Cattle Show of 1824, at which there was no address apparently, but a full statement was made in the *New England Farmer*.

An Account of Premiums awarded in 1825 and a list of premiums offered for 1826, with "Remarks and Ex-

planations for the Information of the Farmers of the County," without mention of an address, 33 pages, was published in 1826.

In 1826, at South Danvers, there was no address, and the only report was that in the columns of the New England Farmer, and the report of the Fair at Newbury in 1827, at which there was no address, was published in the same paper.

Col. Pickering made his last Address at West Newbury in 1828, and the Society published it, with reports, premiums, list of members, a pamphlet of 77 pages, in April, 1829.

There was no address in 1829 at Haverhill, but a full report, with "Hints addressed to the Farmers of Essex County," an 88 page pamphlet, was issued in 1830. From this date the Publications were issued regularly for many years, always containing the Annual Address in full. The title, "Transactions of the Essex Agricultural Society," first appeared in 1840.

LIST OF PRESIDENTS OF THE ESSEX AGRICULTURAL
SOCIETY, WITH THE DATE OF ELECTION.

- 1818 Hon. Timothy Pickering of Salem.
1829 Hon. Frederick Howes of Salem.
1833 Hon. Ebenezer Moseley of Newburyport.
1836 Hon. James H. Duncan of Haverhill.
1839 Joseph Kittredge, M.D., of Andover, now North
Andover.
1841 Hon. Leverett Saltonstall of Salem.
1845 John W. Proctor Esq. of South Danvers, now
Peabody.
1852 Hon. Moses Newell of West Newbury.
1856 Richard S. Fay Esq. of Lynn.
1858 Daniel Adams Esq. of Newbury.
1860 Hon. Allen W. Dodge of Hamilton.
1863 Joseph How Esq. of Methuen.
1865 William Sutton Esq. of South Danvers, now
Peabody.
1874 Benjamin P. Ware Esq. of Marblehead.
1891 Francis H. Appleton Esq. of Peabody.
1896 Rev. Oliver S. Butler of Georgetown.
1898 Hon. George von L. Meyer of Hamilton.
1900 Francis H. Appleton Esq. of Peabody.
1904 Frederic A. Russell Esq. of Methuen.
1910 John M. Danforth Esq. of Lynnfield.
1912 Charles H. Preston Esq. of Danvers.
1915 Herbert W. Mason Esq. of Ipswich.

LIST OF SECRETARIES OF THE ESSEX AGRICULTURAL
SOCIETY, WITH THE YEAR OF THEIR ELECTION.

- 1818 David Cummings of Salem.
1819 Frederick Howes of Salem.
1820 John W. Proctor of South Danvers, now Peabody.
1842 Daniel P. King of South Danvers, now Peabody.
1844 Allen W. Dodge of Hamilton.
1860 Charles P. Preston of Danvers.
1885 David W. Low of Gloucester.
1890 John M. Danforth of Lynnfield.
1910 Fred. A. Smith of Ipswich.
1914 Walter H. Brown of West Peabody.

LIST OF TREASURERS OF THE ESSEX AGRICULTURAL
SOCIETY, WITH THE YEAR OF THEIR ELECTION.

- 1818 Ichabod Tucker of Salem.
1819 Daniel A. White of Salem.
1823 Benjamin R. Nichols of Salem.
1825 Benjamin Merrill of Salem.
1828 Andrew Nichols of Danvers.
1841 William Sutton of Salem.
1856 Edward H. Payson of Salem.
1881 Gilbert L. Streeter of Salem.
1902 William S. Nichols of Salem.

LIST OF ADDRESSES DELIVERED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE ESSEX AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

- 1818 Hon. Timothy Pickering of Salem.
1820 (Feb.) Hon. Timothy Pickering of Salem.
1820 (Oct.) Dr. Andrew Nichols of Danvers.
1821 Rev. Abiel Abbot of Andover.
1822 Rev. Peter Eaton, D.D., of Boxford.
1823 Frederick Howes Esq. of Salem.
1828 Hon. Timothy Pickering of Salem.
1830 Hon. James H. Duncan of Haverhill.
1831 Rev. Henry Colman of Salem.
1832 Rev. Gardner B. Perry of Bradford.
1833 Dr. Jeremiah Spofford of Bradford.
1834 Hon. Ebenezer Moseley of Newburyport.
1835 Hon. Daniel P. King of South Danvers, now Pea-
body.
1836 Hon. Nathan W. Hazen of Andover.
1837 Rev. Nathaniel Gage of Haverhill.
1838 Rev. Leonard Withington of Newbury.
1839 Rev. Allen Putnam of Danvers.
1840 Hon. Asahel Huntington of Salem.
1841 Alonzo Gray, A.M., of Andover.
1842 Hon. Allen W. Dodge of Hamilton.
1843 Hon. Leverett Saltonstall of Salem.
1844 Hon. John W. Proctor of South Danvers, now
Peabody.
1845 Rev. Edwin M. Stone of Beverly.
1846 Hon. Moses Newell of West Newbury.
1847 Thomas E. Payson Esq. of Rowley.
1848 Josiah Newhall Esq. of Lynnfield.
1849 Hon. Asa T. Newhall of Lynnfield.

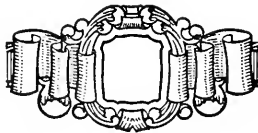
- 1850 Hon. Caleb Cushing of Newburyport.
1851 Rev. Milton P. Braman of Danvers.
1852 Hon. Henry K. Oliver of Lawrence.
1853 Hon. Joseph S. Cabot of Salem.
1854 Hon. Richard S. Fay of Lynn.
1855 Dr. James R. Nichols of Haverhill.
1856 Ben: Perley Poore Esq. of West Newbury.
1857 Dr. E. G. Kelley of Newburyport.
1858 Dr. George B. Loring of Salem.
1859 Hon. James J. J. H. Gregory of Marblehead.
1860 Rev. John L. Russell of Salem.
1861 Hon. Alfred A. Abbott of South Danvers, now Peabody.
1862 George J. L. Colby Esq. of Newburyport.
1863 Hon. Daniel Saunders Jr. of Lawrence.
1864 Hon. Darwin E. Ware of Marblehead.
1865 Dr. Nehemiah Cleaveland of Topsfield.
1866 Hon. Otis P. Lord of Salem.
1867 Rev. Raymond H. Seeley, D.D., of Haverhill.
1868 Dr. George B. Loring of Salem.
1869 Benjamin P. Ware Esq. of Marblehead.
1870 Hon. Benjamin F. Butler of Lowell.
1871 Hon. Joseph S. How of Methuen.
1872 Hon. William D. Northend of Salem.
1873 Rev. Charles B. Rice of Danvers.
1874 John L. Shorey Esq. of Lynn.
1875 Rev. Edwin C. Bolles, D.D., of Salem.
1876 Cyrus M. Tracy Esq. of Lynn.
1877 Rev. Oliver S. Butler of Georgetown.
1878 Thomas C. Thurlow Esq. of West Newbury.
1879 Dr. George B. Loring of Salem.
1880 David W. Low Esq. of Gloucester.

- 1881 Dr. James R. Nichols of Haverhill.
1882 Francis H. Appleton Esq. of Peabody.
1883 Hon. Charles P. Thompson of Gloucester.
1884 Hon. Asa T. Newhall of Lynn.
1885 Thomas Saunders Esq. of Haverhill.
1886 Rev. John D. Kingsbury of Bradford.
1887 Dr. William Cogswell of Bradford.
1888 Hon. Horatio Herrick of Lawrence.
1889 Charles J. Peabody Esq. of Topsfield.
1890 John W. Perkins, A.M., of Byfield.
1891 Hon. William H. Moody of Haverhill.
1892 Hon. Edwin P Dodge of Newburyport.
1893 Hon. Nathan M. Hawkes of Lynn.
1894 Hon. William S. Knox of Lawrence.
1895 Rev. Oscar T. Safford of Peabody.
1896 Robert S. Rantoul Esq. of Salem.
1897 Hon. George von L. Meyer of Hamilton.
1898 Francis H. Appleton Esq. of Peabody.
1899 Rev. J. M. Pullman, D.D., of Lynn.

PLACES WHERE THE ANNUAL EXHIBITIONS OR CATTLE
SHOWS HAVE BEEN HELD.

1820	Topsfield.	1848	Lynn.
1821	Danvers.	1849	Salem.
1822	Topsfield.	1850	Salem.
1823	No Cattle Show.	1851	Salem.
1824	Topsfield.	1852	Lawrence.
1825	Topsfield.	1853	Lawrence.
1826	South Danvers, now Peabody.	1854	Lawrence.
1827	Newbury.	1855	Haverhill.
1828	West Newbury.	1856	Newburyport.
1829	Haverhill.	1857	Newburyport.
1830	Andover, now North Andover.	1858	Danvers.
1831	Andover, now North Andover.	1859	Danvers.
1832	Newbury.	1860	South Danvers, now Peabody.
1833	Georgetown.	1861	South Danvers, now Peabody.
1834	Georgetown.	1862	Georgetown.
1835	South Danvers, now Peabody.	1863	Andover.
1836	South Danvers, now Peabody.	1864	Lawrence.
1837	Topsfield.	1865	Lawrence.
1838	Topsfield.	1866	Haverhill.
1839	Georgetown.	1867	Haverhill.
1840	Georgetown.	1868	Newburyport.
1841	Georgetown.	1869	Newburyport.
1842	Andover.	1870	Ipswich.
1843	Andover.	1871	Ipswich.
1844	Ipswich.	1872	Gloucester.
1845	Ipswich.	1873	Gloucester.
1846	Lynn.	1874	Danvers.
1847	Lynn.	1875	Danvers.
		1876	Danvers.
		1877	Lawrence.

1878	Lawrence.	1888	Peabody.
1879	Lynn.	1889	Beverly.
1880	Lynn.	1890	Beverly.
1881	Haverhill.	1891	Lawrence.
1882	Haverhill.	1892	Lawrence.
1883	Salem.	1893	Haverhill.
1884	Salem.	1894	Haverhill.
1885	Newburyport.	1895 to 1910	Peabody.
1886	Newburyport.	1910 to 1918	Topsfield.
1887	Peabody.		







Essex Agricultural Society
of Essex County

Massachusetts

THE REMARKABLE GROWTH
In the Years from 1918 to 1923



MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN
for 1924

Essex Agricultural Society
of Essex County

Massachusetts

THE REMARKABLE GROWTH
In the Years from 1918 to 1923



MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN
for 1924

PRINTED IN 1924

... BY ...

NEWCOMB & GAUSS
SALEM, MASS.

OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES FOR 1924

OF THE

ESSEX AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

FOUNDED IN 1818

President

I. H. Sawyer, Boxford

Vice-Presidents

Edward Wigglesworth	Topsfield	Andrew Longfellow	Groveland
F. R. Appleton	Ipswich	E. K. Burnham	Gloucester

Secretary

R. H. Gaskill, Danvers

Treasurer

W. Chester Long, Topsfield

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Herbert Carter	Andover	A. E. Little	Marblehead
Fred Dodge	Beverly	John K. Sargent	Merrimac
Chester Killam	Boxford	Lyman Wilkins	Middleton
J. W. Nichols	Danvers	Elbridge Noyes	Newbury
Caleb Cogswell	Essex	Paul Winkley	Newburyport
Charles Johnson	Georgetown	George R. Barker	No. Andover
Ephraim Andrews	Gloucester	George S. Curtis	Peabody
Andrew Longfellow	Groveland	Chester P. Dodge	Rockport
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J. B. Sawyer	Haverhill	Harlan Kelsey	Salem
J. W. Appleton	Ipswich	Edwin Bartlett	Salisbury
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H. H. Atherton	Lynn	Edwin Gerould	Swampscott
Thomas Cox, Jr.	Lynnfield	Charles J. Peabody	Topsfield
John Shirley	Methuen	C. A. Leach	Wenham
	L. G. Dodge,	West Newbury	

Trustees at Large

W. M. Wood	Lawrence	Nathaniel Stevens	No. Andover
H. W. Mason	Ipswich	John S. Lawrence	Topsfield

A GENEROUS OFFER

After three years of incessant work, the old Essex Agricultural Society has been very much revived, and now owns its Fair Grounds, race track, and improvements at Topsfield, Massachusetts, free from incumbrance. Last year we spent for buildings and other improvements on the grounds between \$23,000 and \$24,000, and our additional running expenses for the Fair were sufficient to make a total of \$47,000. Our receipts were enough to cover this amount, lacking \$10,000; which leads us to believe that by not making any more improvements than is necessary to run a successful four-day Fair this year, September 17, 18, 19, 20, with favorable weather, our receipts will be sufficient to put the Society practically out of debt. This is what we intend to do, while we need several new buildings and other improvements.

We wish to increase our membership, which is a very desirable source of revenue, as every increase in membership naturally means an increase of interest in the Society and Fair and larger attendance. Life Membership is only \$3.00 for men, women, and boys and girls over twelve years of age. To make it interesting to the different organizations in the county, we are offering a commission of \$1.00 for each membership secured. We feel that there is not an organization in any town that cannot add a nice sum to its treasury. Therefore, we are asking you to appoint a suitable committee of your organization to secure memberships for the Essex Agricultural Society at \$3.00 for life membership with no assessments, which means \$100 in your treasury for every one hundred members you secure. It is not necessary that these members live in your town or county; you can solicit them wherever you can get them. On another page are some of the good reasons why people should become members. We are also sending you some blanks on which to write the names and addresses of the new members, and additional blanks will be sent on request. Please return the lists to the Essex Agricultural Society at Topsfield, with remittances.

We hope you will take hold of this work earnestly and secure results to our mutual satisfaction. Your kind reply will oblige.

Yours respectfully,

ESSEX AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.
I. H. SAWYER, *President*.

A MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

An effort is to be made to increase our membership among the members of the following organizations of the County, and prizes will be offered for work in this direction:

American Legion	Masons
American Legion Auxiliary	Odd Fellows
Boy and Girl Scouts	Police Departments
Banks of County	Red Cross
Chambers of Commerce	Rotary Clubs
Churches	Sunday Schools
Fire Departments	Women's Clubs
Granges	Y. M. C. A.
Kiwanis Clubs	Y. W. C. A.
Knights of Columbus	
Any other organization interested.	

A commission of One Dollar will be awarded for each new member obtained, and an attractive Certificate of Membership will be presented to each new member.

MONEY PRIZES TO BE OFFERED

It is proposed to present three prizes to the organizations in the County that secure the largest number of members for the Essex Agricultural Society.

First Prize	\$15.00
Second Prize	10.00
Third Prize	5.00

WHY YOU SHOULD BE A MEMBER OF THE ESSEX AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

Because it is the oldest Agricultural Society in the State holding an Annual Fair. Founded in 1818.

Because every town in Essex County is included in its membership.

Because it owns the most beautiful one hundred acre farm and Fair Grounds in the State, at Topsfield, on the Newburyport Turnpike and Ipswich River, twenty miles from Boston, clear of incumbrance.

Because it encourages agriculture, horticulture and animal industry.

Because agriculture is the basis of all prosperity: for the laboring man, the mechanic, the manufacturer, the merchant, the banker, and the professional man.

Because if agriculture is not successful, farms will be abandoned, and Essex County will become nothing but a summer resort.

Because it holds one of the largest and most attractive annual Fairs in the State, fast growing in popularity.

Because it provides once a year, to both young and old, the most entertaining and instructive four-day attraction in the county.

Because its beautiful grounds and improvements are offered free of charge to the fraternal, industrial, financial and religious organizations of the county, for picnics and outings.

Because it provides a County Community Playground.

Because it very much increases the county attractions, for both residents and visitors, providing recreation and increased enjoyment for all.

Because it will provide more pleasure and recreation and encourage young men and young women to remain on the farms.

Because, during the summer, weekly dancing parties are given at the grounds for the enjoyment of the members.

Because we need your interest and co-operation to make this the best Fair in the State.

Because the membership fee is so small and the benefit to the whole county so large.

Because we need a fruit and vegetable building and a flower building to make our Fair grounds practically complete.

Because we should perpetuate all the good things that the fathers left us.

Because your membership and co-operation will help us bring about all the above results.

Life Membership only \$3.00 to Men and Women, Boys and Girls over twelve years of age; no assessments.

WONDERFUL GROWTH OF THE SOCIETY

The observance of the centenary of the Society, which is one of the oldest agricultural societies in Massachusetts, was to have been made the outstanding feature of its Fair, scheduled for October 3, 4, and 5, 1918. An attractive program had been arranged and interest in the occasion ran high throughout the county. "Man proposes, and God disposes." In consequence of the prevailing epidemic of influenza in the early Fall, the agricultural fairs in the state were cancelled, and no fitting commemoration of the anniversary was held. During the year, however, the Society published its history, written by Rev. T. Franklin Waters of Ipswich. The pamphlet contains a comprehensive record of the inception, growth and development of the Society during its first hundred years.

In 1919, the 98th annual fair was held on September 26 and 27. The evening previous to the opening day a terrific rain storm swept over the town, and the accompanying high wind blew down the main tent, and by reason of the confusion resulting, the exhibits of fruits and flowers were not displayed until about noon. The exhibitors were few in number and the specimens of fruits were of fair quality, but the attendance was most disappointing.

Again, in 1920, the attendance dropped to low level. The large tent was not erected for this fair, and everything was conducted on a small scale. The pessimists openly declared that the days of the Society were numbered. This gloomy view of affairs was evident at the annual meeting. At that time a committee, consisting

of Joseph B. Poor, John S. Lawrence and Thomas E. Proctor of Topsfield, and Isaac R. Thomas, Francis R. Appleton and Herbert W. Mason of Ipswich, were appointed to consider and report on the proposition of continuing the fair. These gentlemen worked out a program of development which not only rescued the Society from threatening dissolution, but marked the beginning of a return to its former successful operation of the fair.

But the fair of 1921! Never will the citizens of old Essex weary of the story of the 100th fair of the Society. "A miniature Brockton show!" exclaimed an enthusiastic member of the Society to his companion, who replied, "You have said something, and I have been attending fairs for over forty years." The suggestion was offered that a fund should be raised by public subscription to discharge the existing indebtedness. Thereupon, Isaac H. Sawyer, Josiah H. Gifford, Edward Wigglesworth, Herbert W. Mason and Ralph H. Gaskill volunteered to solicit and receive contributions, and a substantial sum was secured by them.

The permanent improvements during the year were: an exhibition hall (50 by 100 feet), one-half mile race track, stable (24 by 100 feet), grand stand, dance pavilion (30 by 60 feet), and baseball grounds, and water supply and electric lights were installed. A continuous program was given by demonstrators and entertainers. The race track was indeed an innovation for the staid old Essex society. The horses showed their class before an overflowing grand stand.

The most valuable service to the Society during the year was that rendered by the President, I. H. Sawyer, who negotiated with the Massachusetts General Hospital, whereby it conveyed to the Society its interests in and to the fair grounds and certain other lands devised conditionally in 1856 by the will of Dr. John G. Treadwell of Salem, and the Society released to the Hospital the remaining parcels which it had under the will. The Society now holds a good and clear record title to its valuable and extensive plant covering one hundred acres, which is delightfully located on the Newburyport Turnpike and within half a mile of the site of the famous Topsfield Hotel, where it was organized in 1818.

The fair held September 21, 22 and 23, 1922, brought out a record-breaking attendance, and was conceded to be the equal of any in the State. Here was found the traditional county fair with the addition of the best of the modern requirements.

Congratulations are due to the management for the unsurpassed exhibition of 1923. But attention is called to the fact that the Society has added to its plant during the past few months,—days, the contractor says,—new buildings as follows: Poultry building (50 by 150 feet), cattle barn (50 by 100 feet), horse barn (30 by 60 feet), racing stable (28 by 80 feet), piggery (14 by 80 feet), woman's building (30 by 60 feet) with rest and first-aid rooms and children's nursery (the latter structure was made possible by the generosity of the women of the county), pump house, and ticket office as the first unit of an administration building and exhibition hall. Substantial and attractive fences have been built around the race track and outside the grounds. The new roadway from Maple Street to the racing stables served to relieve much of the usual traffic congestion at the main entrance to the grounds. The progress of landscape architecture is noted in the grading and setting out of shrubs and trees. The track has been the training quarters of several well known stables during the summer, and is considered to be from three to seven seconds faster than the average race track in New England.

During the past three years women and boys and girls over twelve years of age have been admitted to membership, and a drive for an increase of membership has been highly successful. But with the forward steps already taken by the Society, it has only crossed the threshold in developing its plans for a service of wide scope and great value to the County and State.

INTERESTING STORY OF THE OLD BLOCK HOUSE FORMERLY ON THE FAIR GROUNDS

In connection with the foregoing history of the work of the Society, and as showing the wide interest it fosters and supports, we wish to record the action of the Society in the past year in voting to erect a monument near the center of the Fair Grounds to mark the site of the old Block House, erected in the early days of the town to furnish a shelter and defense against Indian attacks.

This building was constructed previous to the Indian attack on Haverhill, March 15th, 1697, when Hannah Dustin was carried off by Indians but escaped from them. At that time the alarm of an attack reached Topsfield, and some of the inhabitants took refuge in the Block

House referred to. According to tradition, considered authentic, the house was built of logs squared on one side and mortised and pinned together at the corners and covered with a heavy roof of logs and made tight with an outer covering of boards laid lap-edged and pinned to the logs. Loopholes were made in the side of the building, through which guns could be aimed at the approaching foe. About forty feet from the sides of the house a palisade of logs set close together in the ground and from ten to twelve feet high, surrounded it on all sides. Entrance was by a stout gate or wide door or framed timber, fastened on the inside with bar and chain. Provisions, consisting of two barrels of meal and one barrel of salt pork, were kept constantly on hand. The meal was changed often enough to keep it sweet and fit for food. A spring in the cellar of the house supplied water in case of an attack, without risk of going outside the walls.

It is an interesting fact that the first water supply secured by the Society was the very same spring which long ago furnished water in time of need to the settlers of the early days. The spot is now covered by the engine house that supplies water to all parts of the grounds. I attach to this description the narrative of old Mr. Esty, given to the Town Clerk of Topsfield in 1895, of the fact that his grandmother in a flight had to take the refuge I have described. "His grandmother used to keep tied at the door a horse for the purpose of using in fleeing to the fort if Indians came. The fort was on the south east part of Treadwell's Plain toward David Perkins. He has ploughed up old dishes and pieces of brick where he thinks the fort stood."

The story of the ride is also narrated by William Homan, who was a neighbor of mine in my younger days, and a relative and descendant of the Esty family. He had knowledge of particulars not contained in the other story. He said that Mrs. Esty left her house, situated on what is now the T. W. Pierce estate, in the night, carrying her baby in her arms, with another child on the horse behind her. A company of other people, to the number of twenty or more, also reached the protection of the Block House and remained for two days and nights, when the danger seemed to have passed and they returned to their homes.

Another incident of ancient days, the knowledge of which should be preserved by the Society, is the fact that

when the troop that marched with Arnold on the campaign against Ticonderoga and Quebec, returned from the expedition, the company of Danvers, Middleton and Topsfield men ate their last meal together under a great pine tree that stood, up to fifty years ago, directly in front of the house now owned by the Society, which house was built by Dr. Richard Dexter, the first regular physician of Topsfield, in 1741.

Thus does the history of the Essex Agricultural Society, itself covering one hundred years, reach back through the brave deeds and wise actions of other generations to that time when the foundations were laid on which the Peace, Prosperity and Happiness have been builded which are so abundantly shown on our beautiful Fair Grounds, with spacious acres, convenient buildings, and a united membership, eager to pass on the blessings we have received to future years and to new enterprises they will bring.

CHARLES J. PEABODY.

CATTLE SHOW *and* FAIR

ESSEX AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

TOPSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

SEPTEMBER 17, 18, 19 and 20

1924





