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## **Annual report of the State Agricultural Society, of the State of Wisconsin. For the year 1856. 1857 [covers 1856]**

Wisconsin State Agricultural Society

Madison, Wisconsin: Atwood and Rublee, State Printers, 1857  
[covers 1856]

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

**STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY,**

OF THE

**STATE OF WISCONSIN.**

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FOR THE YEAR 1856.

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**MADISON:**

**ATWOOD & RUBLEE, STATE PRINTERS.  
1857.**

ANNUAL REPORT

1880

STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

1880

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

FOR THE YEAR 1880

ALBANY: PUBLISHED BY THE STATE PRINTING OFFICE, 1880.

# ANNUAL REPORT

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## STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY,

OF THE

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FOR THE YEAR 1856.

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MADISON:

ATWOOD & RUBLEE, STATE PRINTERS.

1857.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

OF THE

STATE OF WISCONSIN

FOR THE YEAR 1888

MADISON:

ATWOOD & HAYES, STATE PRINTERS.

1889.

**REPORT.**

To His EXCELLENCY, COLES BASHFORD,

*Governor of the State of Wisconsin:*

SIR:—In compliance with the requirement of law, the Executive Committee of the State Agricultural Society, would respectfully

**REPORT:**

That during the past year the Society has been actively engaged in discharging the various duties devolving upon it.

As a whole, the year of 1856 cannot be pronounced an unprosperous one, agriculturally, for the State; although in some respects decidedly unfavorable. In many districts, the earlier part of the season was exceedingly dry, and, taken in connection with the common custom, among many of our farmers, of plowing very shallow, and often omitting even to plow at all, in putting in wheat, eventuated in materially diminishing that important crop. The breadth of land sowed to wheat in the State, was undoubtedly sufficient, if the tillage had been deep, and appropriate to a dry season, to have produced a crop of fifteen millions (15,000,000) of bushels, but under the unfavorable circumstances before mentioned, it probably did not exceed ten millions.

The other cereal, and also, the root and vegetable crops, were a good deal diminished, by the same combination of causes. The society will probably offer increased premiums hereafter, on farm and field crops, with the hope of inducing improvement in these important fundamental matters. We are of the opinion, that a proper awakening on this subject, would add millions annually to the value of our agricultural product.

The Society has obtained from the Patent Office, and other sources, during the year, considerable quantities of rare and valuable seeds, and the most ample pains have been taken to distribute them into the hands of good cultivators, throughout the State. Owing to the dryness of the season, as much success was not attained in their cultivation, as might otherwise have been; still numbers report very favorably, especially on some new varieties of turnip, and other vegetables. What has already been done in this direction, shows conclusively, that the distribution of seeds will become a prominent feature of usefulness with the Society.

In view of this fact, we have considerably enlarged our basis of action in this respect, the present year, by arranging to invest several hundred dollars, in various useful seeds, cuttings, &c., for a still more extensive distribution. We are the more prompted to this course from an increased consciousness of the great importance of such early and wide distribution, in a new State, of all those elemental germs of the right kinds, not only for field crops, but for the growth of forests upon our open, timberless lands, and grasses of more approved and valuable kinds upon our wide expanse of high and low lands.

It is confidently believed that the judicious distribution of a few hundred dollars annually in this way will speedily add as many thousands to the aggregate and individual wealth of the State. As an illustration, let us suppose our wheat crop improved ten per cent. in quantity and value by the introduction of better and more productive seed. The immediate result is the addition of millions to our productive wealth.

The Sixth Annual Fair of the Society was held on the Cold Spring Race Course, near the city of Milwaukee, on the 8th, 9th, and 10th days of October. Everything was done, on the part of the officers of the Society, that could well be, under the circumstances, to render the exhibition one of interest and usefulness to the great producing classes of the State; and, as was confidently expected, the entries of animals and articles was larger, as well as the attendance of the people much larger than ever before, from all parts of the State penetrated by railroads. Not probably less

than 20,000 people visited the grounds during the Fair ; and while, in all such cases of great popular gatherings of the masses, there was, as must inevitably be, more or less cause of dissatisfaction and complaint, still, the committee flatter themselves with the belief that as a whole it was a highly creditable display, both to the State and Society, and a school where those who attended with the right motives, profited more than it cost.

It has become obvious beyond dispute, that these agricultural and mechanical exhibitions are, and will continue to be, the great popular holidays of the people of our practical, progressive country ; hence, it becomes an important question as to the policy that their interests demand, and also what aids they may properly expect from legislators and railroad companies.

From the former, it is too obvious to need argument, that they may properly expect every aid and facility, that will prove profitable and useful to the great masses, whose interests they represent.

From the latter, to wit: Railroad companies, they have a right to expect every accommodation that can, in justice on the part of the companies, be granted them. First, because Railroad companies, in the first instance, want and constantly want, a multitude of favors of the people individually, and legislatively ; and secondly, because no one party, or interest in the State, is more benefited by accelerated advancement in agricultural wealth, and increased products, than Railroad companies, who must needs be the carriers of all these products to market. We say this much on the subject, as bearing upon the policy pursued by our Railroad companies last season, of charging half fare upon animals and articles transported to, and from the Fair ; a policy which has been found in Ohio, and other States, to be most disastrous to all such agricultural gatherings, and in the end to be equally so upon the companies themselves, until it has been almost uniformly abandoned. It being proved to a demonstration, that people, ordinarily, do not care enough about exhibiting their articles at fairs, merely as a curiosity, to warrant the payment of any considerable sum for freight. It has also been equally well proved, that companies adopting the liberal policy of carrying animals and articles



free, and people at half price, and carrying it out to the *letter*, not only in fact, but in an accommodating spirit, have invariably made the most money. That our late fair was greatly diminished in numbers in attendance and interest, on account of the above new regulation cannot be doubted. It is confidently hoped and expected however, by the progressive friends of agriculture, that a more liberal policy will be inaugurated for next season; one that will remove all just grounds of complaint, among all parties.

The committee would respectfully suggest, whether the time has not arrived when some of the preliminary steps might properly be taken for the establishing and endowing of an Agricultural School commensurate with the present and prospective wants of our nobly developing State. Is it meet that a State whose almost entire interest is, and ever must be, Agriculture, should endow with almost unlimited funds schools of polite literature, law and medicine, to the entire exclusion of any provision whatever for instruction in theoretic and practical Agriculture? Should not the soil, that supports everything, be in turn supported and saved from deterioration by an early and effectual implanting of sound, scientific information among its numerous occupants and cultivators?

It strikes us that the next five years ought to develop such an institution in full operation, with all needful appendages for teaching in the most thorough manner, not only theoretical, but practical Agriculture, upon scientific and abiding principles. Such an institution in our midst, well established and well managed, and turning out its 500 or 1,000 thoroughly educated young farmers annually, would tell beyond calculation upon the eventual destiny of our State and the West. Our sister States are leading us in these matters. Shall we not follow them?

Some adequate provision of law for collecting annual statistics of our products and progress, would probably be a source of but little expense, and would, beyond all doubt, be a source of great practical utility; offering as it would a constant index of our interests, and their true direction.

Some adequate provision of law for the protection of sheep from

dogs and wolves, seems especially necessary, inasmuch as wool-growing bids fair to become an important interest in the State. The fear of damage from these causes, undoubtedly deters many who otherwise would embark in the business, thereby proving a greater damage even than the actual destruction arising from their prowlings.

Owing mainly to the embarrassed condition of the State treasury, last year, no application was made, on the part of the Society, for legislative provisions to publish a volume of their transactions, notwithstanding they were already two years behind.

The Executive Committee now deem it important that it should be no longer deferred, and would respectfully request that proper provisions be made for the publication of a volume, embracing the year of 1854-5-6; and that an edition sufficiently large be ordered, to admit of the distribution of at least 1,000 copies, to County Societies. It is believed that such an expenditure judiciously made, will be both creditable and useful to the State.

In the opinion of the Executive Committee, it will be desirable to offer increased, rather than diminished premiums, for the production of animals of superior merit; especially as no other seem worthy of encouragement, or propagation in this northern latitude. If the matter of winter keeping with us was less of an item, the eventual value of an animal, might perhaps be a matter of mere indifference; but situated as we are, it becomes no secondary matter, whether a horse at maturity is worth one or two hundred dollars; a cow \$15 or \$50, or a sheep \$1 50 instead of \$5 00. The higher priced animals can be raised at a profit, almost anywhere, even in Vermont. The lower priced, nowhere, when extra winter keeping is required.

Let us strive, by a timely and judicious policy, to embark our thousands of young, rising farmers in a paying rather than a losing business in this department of agriculture.

Many of the animals exhibited at the late Fair were such as would do credit to any country or people.

The display of mechanical ingenuity was ample and creditable. Many of the articles exhibited, of Wisconsin manufacture, were

not in any respect behind the products of the best establishments of the East. These, by the way, are another class of interests worthy of all reasonable patronage and encouragement—to the end that they may soon be able to supply our great and growing wants here at our own door, and with greater economy than can ever be done from abroad.

The exhibition of the financial affairs of the Society hereunto attached, shows a gratifying increase in the receipts over any previous year, and demonstrated conclusively, that a well managed Society can be sustained among our citizens, without any doubts of its ability to pay its own incidental expenses, without legislative aid except for premiums. Whether the amount now appropriated, is as large a sum as it is judicious to distribute as premiums is a question that the executive committee are willing to leave to the wisdom of the legislature. But any diminution of it would in our opinion, be bad policy, and a retrograde step, in the aids to agricultural improvement and progress.

All which is respectfully submitted.

By order of the Executive Committee of the Wisconsin State Agricultural Society.

**STATEMENT OF THE FISCAL AFFAIRS OF THE WISCONSIN  
STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, FOR THE YEAR 1856.**

To Balance on hand, Dec. 31, 1855,	- - - - -	\$1,099 66
From Annual and Life Members,	- - - - -	791 00
State Appropriation,	- - - - -	3,000 00
Subscription of the City of Milwaukee, and use of Grounds,	- - - - -	571 00
Receipts at State Fair, independent of Membership Tickets,	- - - - -	2,851 47
Interest,	- - - - -	66 50
		<hr/>
		\$8,379 63

**EXPENDITURES.**

Paid in Premiums and Diplomas,	- - - - -	\$2,355 00
For the purchase of Seeds, &c.,	- - - - -	500 00
Salary of Secretary,	- - - - -	1,000 00
Office Rent and Expenses,	- - - - -	221 98
Express Charges, and Postage on Books, Seeds, &c., received and distributed,	- - - - -	51 85
To Cost of Office Safe,	- - - - -	227 50
To divers Miscellaneous Bills of purchase and expenditure at the State Fair, and during the year,	- - - - -	2,804 68
To Estimated Amount of outstanding unpaid Premiums and Accounts,	- - - - -	250 00
Cash to balance Accounts,	- - - - -	968 62
		<hr/>
		\$8,379 63

Bills and vouchers for all the above items are on file in this office, and subject to your order.

GEORGE O. TIFFANY, Sec'y.

STATE AGRICULTURAL ROOMS, }  
Madison, Jan. 15, 1857. }

