



# *Agriculture*



## **Wiltshire Agricultural Association**

### **ANNUAL SHOW AT DEVIZES**

As we go to press, the two days annual exhibition in connection with the County Agricultural Association is being held in Devizes, and has proved to be, on the whole, the largest and most important yet held under its auspices. Indeed, the extent to which the exhibition has grown during the comparatively short time since it was inaugurated bears eloquent testimony to the foresight and sound judgment of those who established it, as well as to the tact and discretion which have characterized its management. Formed at an influential meeting of agriculturalists, held at Trowbridge on January 7<sup>th</sup>, 1885, the County Agricultural Society practically grew out of the old Marlborough and Pewsey Vale Association, which, having done good work in the course of its existence, had practically outgrown the resources of the district which gave it birth. But though young in years the county show has been from the first fortunate in securing the sympathy and practical help of agriculturalists who had had many years of experience in the management of local shows, and its record, from the inaugural show at Trowbridge in the year 1885 to the present time, has been one of useful work and steady progress. The first exhibition at Trowbridge assumed such dimensions as to at once place beyond doubt the success and popularity of the Association, and of only a sufficient amount of pecuniary support can be secured, the association seems destined to enjoy a long period of useful activity which cannot fail to exert a beneficial influence upon the agriculture of the county generally. In the second year of its existence the city of Salisbury gave the society a very cordial welcome, and the show reached its maximum in the matter of attendance. The exhibition at Swindon last year was in some respects the best which had up to that time been held, but the counter attractions of the then impending jubilee celebrations were not without an injurious effect upon the exhibition from a financial point of view; as, indeed they similarly affected every other gathering of a similar character. When it was intimated that the Society was prepared to honor Devizes with a visit, the project was cordially taken up by the Mayor (Mr T. Chandler) and the inhabitants generally. Our genial and public-spirited neighbor, Mr Edward Colston (who was chosen President of the Society for the year), and the present Mayor of the borough (Mr J. F. Humby) supported the movement with characteristic energy; a local committee of practical men – in the persons of the Mayor and Messrs F. Reynolds, B. Crees, J.A. Randell, W. H. Burt, G. Simpson jun., E. Coward, and G.S.A. Waylen – was appointed, with Mr F. Sloper, the well-known auctioneer, as hon. secretary, to assist the general committee in carrying out the arrangements; and so well did the inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood respond to the appeal made to them for subscriptions towards the expenses of the meeting, that the Society were enabled to offer a prize-list in every way creditable to the county, and sufficient to attract one of the largest shows that has yet been held under its auspices. In all, about £315 was raised as the local fund. Indeed, the liberality shewn by the people of the town and district in a time of great agricultural and trade depression speaks volumes for the interest taken in the

Society in this immediate neighbourhood, and proves that all interested in the trade of Devizes fully recognize the close relationship which the prosperity of agriculture bears to the success of business enterprise. It is interesting at this point to recall the fact that it was the great success which attended the show of the old Marlborough and Pewsey Vale Association held in Devizes in the year 1879 which first brought into prominence the fact, that if the exhibition in its enlarged dimensions was to be successfully carried into the future, it would be necessary at no very distant date to merge it into a county show; and it is with no small amount of satisfaction that we are able to look back and point to the show which led up to the formation of the County Association having been held in Devizes, and at a later period to what, taken as a whole, is the most important show which has been held under the auspices of the county society. We trust that the result of this show will be to give a much-needed stimulus alike to agricultural pursuits, and to the trade of the town in which the gathering is held.

..... (*Categories for prizes – Horses, Cattle, Sheep, Pigs, Butt & cheese.*)

The Council of the Association now consists of the following gentlemen:- Mr J. G. Attwater, Britford; Mr W. H. Bell, Seend; Mr W. J. Brown, Hazlebury; Mr H. Burbidge, South Wraxhall; Mr C. Burbidge, Chitterne; Mr W. D. Butler, Rowde; Mr J. Carpenter, Burcombe; Mr G. Chapman, Radley; Mr I. Clark, Heddington; Mr E. Colston, Roundway Park; Mr W. H. Dunn, Templeton, Mr G. Ferris, Milton; Mr E. H. Green, West, Lavington; Mr John Glass, Overton; Mr T. K. Harding, Codford, Mr H. Harris, Bowden Hill; Mr B. Hayward, Manton; Mr Mark Jeans, Marlborough; Mr H. Kemble, Overton; Mr E. P. Kelsey, West Lavington; Mr H. Kinneir, Swindon; Mr W. H. Long, M.P., Rood Ashton; Mr F. J. Melsome, Amesbury; Mr J. A. Miles, Highworth; Mr Frank R. Moore, Littlecott; Mr J. Pike, Hilperton; Mr T. N. Redman, Upton Lovell; Mr D. Reeve, Malmesbury; Mr G. O. Ricardo, Donnington Castle House, Newbury; Mr W. J. Rowden, Upavon; Mr T. Sisum, Ogbourne St. George; Mr Joseph Stratton, Manningford Bruce; Mr S. W. Tayler, Allcannings; Mr W. Teagle, Little Somerford; Professor Wrightson, College of Agriculture, Downton; Mr H. Woolcott, Leigh Hill, Marlborough.

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(*Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette – Thursday 14 June, 1888*)

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## **THE ANNUAL SHOW**

The sixth annual show in connection with the Wiltshire Agricultural Association was held on Tuesday and Wednesday, at Marlborough, and proved to be in nearly every respect one of the most successful the Association has ever held. Started originally in 1885 with the old Marlborough and Pewsey Vale Society as a nucleus, the Wiltshire Agricultural Association was designed to embrace the whole of the county of Wilts. Its promoters, and those who have since joined its Council, have worked hard to achieve the object with which it was started, and while they have not attained the goal of their ambition, they have accomplished much that is creditable to them, and which fully justifies their existence and their claim to public support. It would be difficult, almost impossible, to gauge with any accuracy the amount of good which has been done by the Association's efforts to improve the breed of farm animals, and to promote and encourage a more scientific system of farming and a broader and clearer view of agricultural economy that has hitherto prevailed. There are a few occupations which require greater fore-thought and care than farming, more especially in these days of world-wide competition, and yet it would hardly be an exaggeration to say that in years past there was scarcely any calling in which men were more guided by rule of thumb and mere chance and haphazard than that of husbandry. The vast improvement that has taken place within the last decade or so is in great measure owing to the efforts of such associations as that which held its annual competition at Marlborough this week. Careful breeding and scientific cultivation are now essentials to success in farming pursuits. The high perfection to which cattle and Hampshire Down sheep have been brought are evidences of skillful breeding and care in the selection of parents, and the same skill and care is

fostered and furthered all over the county by such societies as the Wiltshire Agricultural Association. All, therefore, who have at heart the welfare of that industry which is the industry of all races and of all times, should support the efforts of such societies.

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The site chosen for the show was the Common, on the north-west of the town. No better place could have been selected, and there are few towns which could have afforded such an admirably suitable ground. As is well known it overlooks the town and the surrounding country, and affords charming views of Savernake Forest and its pretty rural environs. ....

With regard to the show itself it is pleasant to be able to record that it has been one of the best ever held by the Society. The weather on Monday was particularly fine and enabled those in charge of the arrangements to proceed with them very rapidly. Heavy showers fell early on Tuesday morning, but from six o'clock the weather was fine and remained so until late afternoon, when rain again fell heavily .....

*(Categories judged – Horses – cart, harness, hunting; sheep, cattle, pigs, butter and cheese, yeomanry competitions, the implement stands)*

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The judges of stock were : - Cart Horses: Mr W. N. Saberton, Challeris, Cambs;.....Cattle: Mr J. G. Attwater, Britford, Salisbury; Mr T. K. Harding, Ashton Gifford House, Codford, Wilts..... The stewards were :- Cart Horses: Mr R. Butler, Stitchcombe, Marlborough;.....Sheep: Mr T. M. Redman, Upton Lovell; .....

All things considered, the 1890 Exhibition of the Wiltshire Agricultural Association must be regarded as a thorough success. We hope future exhibitions will be equally gratifying.....

*(Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette – Thursday 19 June, 1890)*

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