



History of the Iverk Show

Part One – 1825 to 1875

The aim of the “History of the Iverk Show” is to identify and record the history of the Iverk Show. As the 200th year - 2026 - since the start of the show approaches it is important to recall as much of the development as is possible and to remember the people who gave their time and energy establishing what is now, 2021, one of the leading agricultural shows in the country.

The history of the Iverk Show has been divided into four parts of 50 years each. Part one covers the first 50 years – 1825 to 1875.

Most of the information has been downloaded for the Irish Newspaper Archives. The annual show reports were recorded by the newspaper reporters. They have been retyped for this project as much original typing is difficult to read.

Every effort has been made to ensure that names and places have been transcribed accurately. However, much of the newspaper print is difficult to read and mistakes will have been made in this copy. Where words cannot be identified xxxx is used. Where more detail is available is used.

Unfortunately, it has not been possible to find some information on each year. No reports have been found for the following years: - 1833, 1843 and 1848.

The Iverk Farming Society was founded by John William Ponsonby, Viscount Duncannon in 1825. On the death of his father, the 3rd Earl, John William became the 4th Earl of Bessborough in 1844. On his death in 1847 his son John George Brabazon Ponsonby, became the 5th Earl of Bessborough until his death in 1880.

The family resided at Bessborough House in the village of Piltown in South Kilkenny. Bessborough House is now Kildalton Agricultural College, the property of Teagasc.

The intention of the starting of the Iverk Farming Society by Viscount Duncannon was for the betterment of all the people of the Barony. In 1825 he felt that farming in the area was not efficient and there was no incentive for the local farmers to improve their lot. The aims were achieved by giving prizes at an annual show / exhibition of produce and by giving premiums for improvements in farming and living standards.

The Iverk Farming Society organised the first show in 1826. The surrounding area was called the Barony of Iverk, from whence the show got its name.

The improvement in farming methods and efficiency that ensued from these challenges are said to have had a beneficial influence on the effects of the Irish Famine in the locality.

The Society was founded on the basis of being non-political and non-sectarian. The show has survived all hiccups and kept on improving all through the 1800s and up to the war, when the second world war and foot and mouth disease forced a stoppage for a few years.

After the show and the distribution of prizes / premiums members and friends of the Iverk Farming Society retired for dinner. After dinner there were toasts and speeches. A couple have been reprinted here as examples. Many more are available in the archives. Some of the information about the show was taken from speeches at the dinner rather than show reports.

Note Piltown was spelt with two 'll' – Pilltown – for some time.

The News Papers and their codes from the Irish Newspaper Archives are

FLJ – Freemans Journal; LCR - Limerick Chronicle; LEE – Leinster Express; TNT – The Nationalist; MEX – Munster Express; WNS – Waterford News; FMJ; NAT; KEX; TNT; Waterford Chronicle; Dublin Evening Mail; Tipperary Free Press; The Farmer's Magazine; Kilkenny Moderator; Irish Times; Nenagh Guardian; The Daily Express

Example MEX 1827-10-21-5 = Munster Express 1827 (year) – 10 (month) – 21 (day) – 5 (page)

Acknowledgements

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The Editor also acknowledges the support of the Iverk Show committee.

**Norman Storey, B.Agr.Sc., Editor
PRO Iverk Show
16th June 2021**

John William, 4th Earl of Bessborough b1781 – d1847



4th Earl John William Ponsonby, 4th Earl of Bessborough (1781–1847)

John William Ponsonby, 4th Earl of Bessborough PC (31 August 1781 – 16 May 1847), known as **Viscount Duncannon** from 1793 to 1844, was a British Whig politician. He was notably Home Secretary in 1834 and served as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland between 1846 and 1847, the first years of the Great Famine

His political career was hampered by a noted stammer, which made him a very reluctant public speaker: as Lord Duncannon he was unkindly nicknamed "Dumbcannon". In private on the other hand, he was a valued colleague, due largely to his ability to keep his head in a crisis. He was one of the so-called Committee of Four who drafted the Reform Act 1832

John Ponsonby married Lady Maria Fane, daughter of John Fane, 10th Earl of Westmorland, and Sarah Anne Child, on 16 November 1805 at Berkeley Square, London. They had eight sons and six daughters. Their daughter Lady Emily Charlotte Mary remained unmarried but she wrote a number of novels which were published without attribution. Through his daughter Lady Augusta Gore, Bessborough was the grandfather of sportsman Spencer Gore, who won the first Wimbledon singles title in 1877, and the Rt. Rev. Charles Gore, the Bishop of Oxford.

Children of the 4th Earl and Lady Bessborough:

- Lady Georgiana Sarah Ponsonby (15 August 1807 – 25 June 1861), married Rev. Sackville Bourke, nephew of the Earl of Mayo
- John George Brabazon Ponsonby, 5th Earl of Bessborough (14 October 1809 – 28 January 1880)
- William Wentworth Brabazon Ponsonby (29 December 1812 – 8 July 1831)
- Lady Augusta Lavinia Priscilla Ponsonby (11 May 1814 – 19 November 1904), married firstly William Petty-FitzMaurice, Earl of Kerry, 1834; secondly, the Hon. Charles Alexander Gore, 1845
- Frederick George Brabazon Ponsonby, 6th Earl of Bessborough (11 September 1815 – 11 March 1895)
- Lady Emily Charlotte Mary Ponsonby (17 February 1817 – 3 February 1877)
- Lady Maria Jane Elizabeth Ponsonby (14 March 1819 – 13 September 1897), married Hon. Charles Ponsonby, 2nd Baron de Mauley
- Hon. George Arthur Brabazon Ponsonby (17 May 1820 – 1841)
- Reverend Walter William Brabazon Ponsonby, 7th Earl of Bessborough (13 August 1821 – 24 February 1906)
- Rt. Hon. Sir Spencer Cecil Ponsonby-Fane (14 March 1824 – 1 December 1915)
- Lady Harriet Frederica Anne Ponsonby (17 June 1825 – 16 November 1900)
- Lady Kathleen Louisa Georgina Ponsonby (30 August 1826 – 9 July 1863)
- Son, died in infancy (28 May 1828 – 5 July 1828)
- Hon. Gerald Henry Brabazon Ponsonby (17 July 1829 – 30 November 1908)

The Countess of Bessborough died in March 1834, aged 46. Lord Bessborough survived her by thirteen years and died in May 1847, aged 65. He was succeeded in the earldom by his eldest son, John, and subsequently by his younger sons Frederick and Walter. Bessborough Gardens in London is named after Lord Bessborough.

1825

Show Formation

The **Iverk Farming Society** was formed on October 24th 1825 in Anthony's Inn in Piltown, with the first show held in 1826.

1826

The following report was recorded in the **Kilkenny People August 29, 1953, page 7.**

The first Iverk Show was held in the grounds of the Bessborough Estate,

The meetings in those days were held at the house of Mr Anthony, Piltown. Mr Michael Cox of Castletown occupied the chair at those initial meetings. A newspaper report of an 1826 meeting of the Show committee states that after the meeting members sat down to an excellent dinner, provided by Mr Anthony, for which Lord Duncannon returned him the thanks of the meeting as president. Mr Reade mentioned his intention of establishing a Farming Society in the neighbouring barony of Kells.

1827

FLJ 1827-09-3 Iverk Farming Society

This Society, now, alas, the only one of its kind in the County of Kilkenny, has flourished and become exceedingly useful under the fostering care of the patriotic Lord Viscount Duncannon. We earnestly recommend the following very interesting report of the proceedings at their late autumn meeting, held on the 19th inst., to the notice of the resident Gentry of the other Baronies of this County, in the hope that Iverk may no longer stand alone distinguished among them by the cultivation of social intercourse and the advancement of moral and physical instruction. The utility of such Associations is unquestionable, whether viewed as highly conducive to the improvement of the various branches of agriculture, as increasing the comforts of the husbandman, as propagating a friendly and confidential feeling between landlord and tenant, are as beneficial to the pecuniary interests of both, and of trade in general. The premiums were awarded by the Judges in the following order: -

- 1 First class – best acre of drill potatoes; to Michael Cox, Esq. a medal.
Second class – Mr Carrigan, 2/-.
- 2 Second class – Best acre of English Red Clover, to be cut and soiled; to Mr Wm. Dalton 2/-
- 3 For the best quarter of an acre of English Red Clover, on the same terms, for farmers not holding more than twenty acres Irish measure; no competitors
- 4 First Class – Best half acre of mangel wurzel; to the Rev Gustavus H McCausland, a medal
5. For the best twenty perches mangel wurzel, for farmers not holding more than twenty acres Irish measure; no competitors.
- 6 For the best quarter of an acre of flax grown in the Barony; no competitors
- 7 For the best twenty perches of flax grown in the Barony, for farmers not holding more than twenty Irish acres; no competitors
- 8 First Class – For the best Winchester bushel of wheat; to Rev H. McCausland, a medal
Second class – to Mr Carrigan, 1/-

- 9 First Class – For the best Winchester bushel of oats; to Rev H. McCausland, a medal
 Second class – to Mr Carrigan, 1/-
 10 For the best-appointed plough, harness, and horses, all the property of the competitor; to Mr Quinlan, 2/-
 11 To the mechanic resident in the Barony of Iverk, and having been resident for the three months previous, who shall show on the 20th of September, the best made iron plough of his own manufacture; no competitors
 12 For the best made wooden plough; to Mr David Hewston, 1/-
 13 For the best made tumbling cart; to Mr John Edmonston, 2/-
 14 For the best description of car; to Mr John Barre, 1/-
 15 For the best draft sire, the property of a farmer residing in the Barony; to Mr Robert Blackmore 2/-
 16 First Class – For the best bull, ditto, ditto; to Edward Elliott, Esq. a medal.
 Second Class – divided between Mr Coghlan and Mr Durney £5
 17 For the best boar; To Mr Robert Blackmore, 1/-
 18 1st Class; For the best description of milk cow; to Henry Brisco, Esq. a medal
 2nd Class to Mr James Feehan, 2/-
 19 For the 2nd best description of milk cow; to Mr James Aylward, 1/-

Judges – Thos. Martin, Esq. Cookstown; Edward Briscoe, Cloncunny; Dan Osborne, Silversprings.

For neat clean cottages, with well enclosed gardens, and not kept for the accommodation of lodgers –

No

1 To Widow Hatchell, Pilltown	£1	0	0
2 To John Barre, Cloncunny	0	15	0
3 To Mr Robert Stephenson, Pilltown	0	15	0
4 To Mrs Beacon, Pilltown	0	10	0
5 To Widow Lewis, Tinisloe	0	10	0
6 To Widow Cashin, Pilltown	0	10	0

Judges of cottages – Rev. Messrs Fras, Newport, Thos Maunsel, Sam Matthews.

Evening Proceedings at the Autumn dinner

Mr Brisco, of Tinvane, proposed to show a cow, to be milked on the 20th of next May, which will produce a greater quantity of milk than any other in the Barony, for a half a dozen of wine – accepted by Mr Elliot.

Mr Henry Harrison Briscoe proposed to show an acre of English Red Clover, against any member of the Iverk Farming Society, for a cast of wine – accepted by Mr McCausland

A sweepstake for the best half-acre of mangel wurzel, for 4s each, was accepted by Lord Duncannon, Mr Osborne, Silversprings; Mr John Walsh, Fanningstown; Mr Henry Edward Briscoe, Cloncunny; Mr Roberts; Mr McCausland – (to be left open for names till the spring meeting.)

Mr Briscoe of Cloncunmy, proposed to show an acre of drilled minion potatoes against any member of the Iverk Farming Society, for a cast of wine – accepted by Mr Roberts.

Mr William Briscoe proposed to produce the best formed horse-shoe and nails, and the best pared hoof, and to explain the principles on which they were done.

Mr Gibbons proposed to show, at the next autumn meeting, the produce of 20 stone of potatoes, reduced to a state to keep for four years.

Mr McCausland proposed to produce, on the week previous to the next autumn show, four crops of a four-course rotation cleaner and better than any in the Barony of Iverk, and not less than one acre of each, for a pound – (open to competitors until the Society's spring meeting)

Mr Feehan, of Tybroughney, proposed to produce two heavier stall-fed cows, on the 25th day of next April, having been three months in his or their possession, than any person in the Barony of Iverk, for one pound – (open for competitors till January 1, 1828).

LCR 1827–03-10-4

The Iverk farming Society voted a silver medal to Michael Cox, of Castletown, Esq.

1828

Waterford mail – Iverk Farming Society

The annual meeting of this Society was held in Piltown, on Monday October 6, 1828. Michael Cox, Esq., was in the chair, when the following new members were proposed, balloted for and admitted: - John H. Jones of Mullinabro; Joseph Hayden of Greenville; Tom Wogan of Carrick; F. Burnet of Cookstown; J Burnet, ditto, Esqs.

The premiums were then allocated after a very strict and patient examination by the Judges. Hereunder are a cross section of the premiums:

Green Crops

1. For the best acre of drilled potatoes:
1st Class to Lord Vis. Duncannon – the Medal £2.0s.0d.
2nd Class to Mr Coghlan of Jamestown £2.0s.0d
2. For the best acre of mangel wurzel:
1st Class to Mr Michael Rivers of Tibroghney – the Medal
No competition in 2nd Class

Grain

1. For the best and heaviest Winchester bushel of wheat
Divided between Mr John Fahy, Kilmanaghan and Mr John Reade of Jamestown
2. For the best and heaviest Winchester bushel of oats
To Mr Robert Blackmore of Kilmanagh

Implements

To the farmer in the barony who shall show on the first Monday in October the best-appointed plough, harness and horse, all his own property:

To Mr Patrick Carrigan of Kilmacow £1.0s.0d

Stock

1. For the best draft sire, the property of a farmer resident in the Barony:
To Mr Patrick Comerford of Mondigue £2.0s.0d
2. For the best bull to have served 20 cows, the property of a resident farmer
To Mr Edmund White of Mullinbeg £2.0s.0d

Additional Premiums

1. For the greatest portion of ground dug with a spade on a farm not exceeding five acres Irish, no horse to be kept by the said person:
To Mr Thomas Dillon of Bawngarrif £1.0s.0d

Cottages

1. For neat clean cottages with wall enclosed gardens not kept for the accommodation of lodgers, the inhabitant not holding above five acres Irish:
 1. To Willian Hatchells Piltown 15s.0d
 2. To Widow Oats, Avenue 15s.0d
 3. To Mary Carroll, Avenue 10s.0d
 4. To Luke Powel, Piltown 10s.0d
 5. To Hannah Wright, Piltown 5s.0d
 6. To James Lahy, Piltown 5s.0d

Total prize money allocated was £29 with only £20 paid out as some classes had no entries

1829

FMJ 1829-10-12 Iverk Farming Society

On Tuesday, the 6th instant, the annual show of cattle and distribution of the premiums of this society took place at Piltown, in the presence of a very large assemblage of persons, when the premiums were awarded by the judges appointed, and paid out by the President of the Society, that truly excellent and really patriotic individual, Lord Viscount Duncannon, who, in many instances, particularly to encourage neatness and cleanliness in the cottages, added a handsome donation from himself – *Leinster Journal*.

Waterford Mail – Iverk Farming Society

The Autumnal Meeting of this Society was held in Piltown on Tuesday, October 6th, 1830 – Michael Cox, Esq, in the chair. The following committee were then appointed for the coming year; - Lord Duncannon, President; Michael Cox, Esq., Vice President; Edward Briscoe, Esq., Treasurer; Rev Gustavus H McCausland, Secretary, ex officio; Henry Harrison Briscoe, W W Currey, Daniel Osbourne, George Briscoe, Michael Rivers, John Walsh, Edward Burnett, Edward Elliott, Esqs; and Dr Higginbottom.

The premiums were then allotted as follows, after a very strict and patient examination by the judges; -

1. For the best managed farm, from 20 to 40 acres, the state of the house and offices to be taken into consideration, £2 – William Dalton
2. For the best ditto, ditto, from 10 to 20 acres £1 – Richard Lynagh, Farraenroon
Green crops
3. For the best acre of drilled potatoes, £2 – Patrick Conway of Tibroclaucy
4. For the best acre of English red clover, to be cut and soiled, £2 – William Dalton
5. John Ryan, of Kilmanahan, £1
6. For the best half acre of mangel wurzel (first class) – a medal- Rev McCausland
7. For the best 20 perches of mangel wurzel, for farmers not holding more than ten acres, £1
8. For the best 10 perches of flax, for farmers not holding more than 10 irish acres, 10s – Patrick Ready
Grain
9. For the best and heaviest Winchester bushel of wheat. £1 – William Dalton
10. For the best and heaviest Winchester bushel of oats, £1 – John Dalton
Implements
11. To the farmer resident in the Barony, who shall show, on the first Tuesday in October, the best-appointed plough, harness and horses, all his own property, £1 – Mark McDaniel, Emil
12. To the mechanic resident in the Barony, and having been resident for three months previous, who shall show, on the first Tuesday in October, the best made iron plough, of his own manufacture, £1 10s – George Powell, Piltown
13. For the best made wooden plough on the same terms, £1 – Thomas Walsh
14. For the best made tumbling cart, ditto and ditto, £1 – John Fleming, Cloncunny
Cattle
15. No competition
16. For the best draft sire, the property of a farmer resident in the Barony, £2 – Pat Comerford
17. For the best bull, ditto and ditto, to have served 20 cows, the property of resident farmers, at 2s each, £2 – Anthony Carroll

18. For the boar (first class), John Jones, Esq. medal; Second class – John Deady, £1

19. For the best description of milk cow, not above 7 years old, £1 - Pat Dunn

20. For the best description of milk heifer, 3 years old, £1 – Thomas Egan

Spade culture and draining

21. For the greatest proportion of ground dug with a spade, on a farm not exceeding five acres Irish – no horse to be kept by said person, £1 – Kyran Comerford

22. For the second greatest portion, ditto, 15s – Laurence Daniel

23. For the third portion, 10s – Daniel Keelahan

24. For the greatest portion of land reclaimed from a state hitherto uncultivated, and not less than 3 acres, £2 – Pat Ready

Cottages

For neat, clean cottages, with well-enclosed gardens, not kept for the accommodation of lodgers – the inhabitants not holding above five acres.

Upper division of the barony

1. Widow Lewis, Kinaslre - £1

2. Thomas Dogherty, of Piltown – 15s

3. Michael Fogarty, ditto – 10s

4. Widow McDaniel – 10s

5. Anthony Dalton – 5s

6. Katty Tumace – 5s

Lower Division

1. John Parry - £1

2. William Fion – 15s

3. John Crawley – 10s

4. Martin Corcoran – 10s

Judges of Farms and Green crops – Messrs. Walsh and McCausland

Judges of Grain and Implements – Messrs. Reade and McCausland

Judges of Stock – Messrs. Rivers, George Briscoe and John Blackmore

Judges of Spade Culture and Reclaimed land – Messrs. Edward Briscoe and John Walsh

Judges of Cottages – upper division – Messrs. Edward Burnett and John Bourke

- Lower division – Messrs. Newport and McCausland

The dinner was attended by 55 members and farmers – Michael Cox, Esq., President; Edward Briscoe, Esq., Vice President; Edward Elliott and Dr Higginbottom, Stewards. The challenges for the year 1830 were then awarded.

Challenges

Mr Henry Harrison Briscoe proposed three neater and cleaner Thatched Cottages in the same townland, than any similarly circumstanced in the Barony for half a dozen of wine.

Accepted by Lord Duncannon - won by Mr Henry Harrison Briscoe

Mr Hayden of Greenvale, proposed to show two acres of drilled potatoes against any in the Barony, for half a dozen of Wine

Accepted by Lord Duncannon – won by Mr Hayden

Mr Jones, of Mullinabro, proposed to show a ram, at present in possession of the owner, against any in the Barony, for a cast of wine.

Accepted by Mr Falconer – won by Mr Jones.

Doctor Briscoe proposed to show a finer yearling foal, not thoroughbred, and in possession of the owner, than any in the Barong, for a cast of wine.

Accepted by Mr Patrick Walsh, Mr Richard Blackmore, and Mr Mathew Coghlan – won by Mr Patrick Walsh.

Mr Briscoe proposed to show an iron plough, made in the forge of Cloncunny by one smith, better than any made in the Barony, for a cast of wine.

Accepted by Mr Edward Elliott – won by Mr Edward Elliott.

A sweepstake for half an acre of Mangel Wurzel was accepted by Lord Duncannon, Mr McCausland and John Walsh.

Won by Mr McCausland

CHALLENGES FOR AUTUMNAL MEETING OF THE YEAR 1831

Mr Patrick Comerford proposes to show a better horse, to improve the breed for agricultural purposes, than any person in the Barony, for half a dozen of wine.

Mr Gregory proposes to show six heavier pears, the produce of one garden, against any person present, for twelve shillings. Accepted by Mr Gilatly.

Mr Edward Burnett proposes to show six heavier peaches, the produce of one garden, against any person present.

Mr Gregory undertakes to produce a handsomer four-year-old colt than any person present, the colt being now in possession of the owner for twelve shillings. Accepted by Mr John Blackmore.

Mr McCausland proposes to show a handsomer three-year-old heifer, reared by the owner, than any in the barony for 10s or £1

Mr Patrick Walsh proposes to show a year-old colt, thoroughbred, the colt and dam being now in possession of the owner, against any in the Barony, for a cast of wine.

Mr McCausland proposes a sweepstake of half-a crown each person, for the best acre of drilled potatoes, against those planted in beds.

The above challenges are all open for competition till the spring meeting

Gustavus H McCausland, Secretary

1831

1831 Waterford Chronicle – October 15th – Iverk Farming Society

On Tuesday the 4th inst., the annual meeting of the Iverk Farming Society, took place at Pilltown, and although the extreme wetness of the day prevented the attendance of many, yet there was a most numerous, and respectable assemblage. A good show of stock, of a very fine description, was exhibited both by gentlemen and farmers, and the greatest emulation appeared to prevail amongst all the numerous competitors for the different premiums, of which it may not be unimportant to observe, that there has been a most decided increase this year, particularly amongst the mechanics of the barony, who exhibited iron and wooden ploughs, tumbling carts, &c., of the most beautiful workmanship and best construction. For the first two years the advantages of this society were available but to a few individuals. It having been found difficult at that period to induce even a sufficient number of persons to compete for the premiums which were offered. But such has been the stimulus given to agricultural pursuits, through the barony of Iverk, from the exertions of this Society, that it has now become a laborious undertaking for the judges in the different classes to complete their inspection, and one of no ordinary difficulty to award the prizes. In the single department of cottages there were this year more than forty competitors, the prizes for which, about £15, together with all the other premiums offered by the Society, about £35 more, were distributed by Lord Duncannon, its noble founder, whose indomitable exertions towards the furtherance of every object which may tend to promote the comfort and cleanliness of the cottager, to encourage the industry, and direct the labours of the farmer to proper channel, and inspire him with a confidence in the justice and impartiality which is his right to receive, the comfortable, well-regulated, and contented appearances of the neighbourhood, particularly in his more immediate neighbourhood, bears ample testimony.

After the proceedings of the day, about sixty gentlemen and farmers sat down to a most excellent dinner, served up in Anthony's best style, in the large Sessions Room, in Piltown, at which there was a conversation most interesting to the practical farmer, and challenges were given for excellence in almost all the principal branches of agricultural, to be decided at the next years' meeting. Before Lord Duncannon, who presided for the evening, took leave of this happy party, he offered, in addition to the premiums of the Society, one of £10 for the best managed farm houses and offices, &c., included, of ten acres and upwards at the next October show. Such a system of encouragement cannot fail to produce the most salutary

effects, and under such circumstances we cannot help sincerely wishing “Prosperity to the Iverk Farming Society”.

1832

1832 Waterford mail – October 17th Iverk Farming Society

The Autumnal Meeting of this Society was held at Pilltown on Tuesday, oct. 2, 1832. The following Committee were then appointed for the coming year: -

Lord Duncannon, President; Michael Cox, Esq., Vice President; Edward Briscoe, Esq., Treasurer; Rev Gustavus H McCausland, Secretary, ex officio; W W Currey, W W Currey, Daniel Osbourne, Michael Rivers, John Walsh, Edward Burnett, Edward Elliott, Dr Higginbottom, John Blackmore and William Dalton.

The Premiums were then allotted as follows, after a very strict and patient examination by the judges; -

Farms

1. For the best managed farm, from 20 acres to 40, the state of the house and offices to be taken into consideration, £2 – William Dalton, Jamestown
2. For the best ditto, ditto, from 10 acres to 20 £1 – Richard Lynagh

Green crops

3. For the best acre of drilled potatoes, £2 – Felix Brennan, Ashgrove
4. For the best acre of English red clover, to be cut and soiled, £2 – James Fewer, Turkstown.
5. For the best quarter of an acre of English red clover, on the same terms, for farmers not holding more than 10 acres, £1- John Morrissey, Jamestown.
6. For the best half acre of mangel wurzel, £2. First class – Rev Mr Macausland, medal. Second class – William Dalton, Jamestown
7. For the best twenty perches of mangel wurzel, for farmers not holding more than ten acres, £1 – No premium
8. For the best half acre of Swedish turnips, medal – Rev Mr Macausland

Implements

9. To the farmer, resident in the barony who shall show, on the first Tuesday in October, the best-appointed plough, harness, and horses, all his own property, £1 – William Norwood, Gorthrush
10. To the mechanic, resident in the barony, and having been resident for 3 months previous, who shall show, on the first Tuesday in October, the best made iron plough, of his own manufacture, £1 10s – George Powell, Pilltown
11. For the best made wooden plough, on the same terms, £1 – John Walsh, Killonerry
12. For the best made tumbling cart, ditto and ditto, £1 – no premium
13. For the best description and best made car, ditto and ditto, £1 – no premium.

Cattle

14. For the best draft sire, the property of a farmer resident in the barony, £2 – Pat Comerford, Moondega
15. For the best bull, ditto and ditto, to have served 20 cows, the property of resident farmers, at 2s each. First class – John Hawtrey Jones, Esq, the silver cup; Second class – Pat Delhunty, Currahmartin, £1.
16. For the best boar, £1 – Pat Conway, Tibbrochney
17. For the best description of a milk cow, not above 7 years old, medal – Rev Mr Macausland
18. For the best description of a milk heifer, 3 years old, medal – Marquis of Waterford

Spade – culture and drainage

19. For the greatest portion of ground dug with a spade, on a farm not exceeding five acres Irish, no horse to be kept by said person, £1 – Pat Mcgrath, Oldcourt
20. For the 2nd greatest portion, ditto and ditto, 15s – Denis Doolan, Fanningstown
21. For the third portion, 10s – Larry Daniel, Tubbernabrone
22. For the greatest portion of land reclaimed for a state hitherto uncultivated, and not less than three acres, £2 – James Wallis, Listrolin
23. For the best drained portion of land, not less than one acre, £1 – John Waling, Portnahully

Cottages

For neat, clean cottages, with well-enclosed gardens, not kept for the accommodation of lodgers, the inhabitants not holding above 5 acres –

Upper division of the Barony

1. Edmond Scully, Avenue, £1
2. Widow Oates, Avenue, 15s
3. Widow Allen, Piltown, 10s
4. Kitty Furniss, Piltown, 10s
5. Lewis Powel, Piltown, 5s
6. Widow Lahy, Piltown, 5s

Lower division

1. John Barry, Cloncunny, £1
2. William Fewer, Cloncunny, 15s
3. John Crawley, Cloncunny, 10s
4. Keyron Gleeson, Cloncunny, 10s
5. Richard Fewer, Cloncunny, 5s
6. Anty Walsh, Cloncunny, 5s

N.B. – Upper half of the Barony includes the parishes of Fiddown and Whitechurch. Lower half all the rest of the Barony.

The dinner was attended by 55 members and farmers – Lord Duncannon, President; M Cox, Esq., Vice President; H H Brisco, Edward Elliott, jun., and J Walsh, Esqrs, Stewards. The challenges of the year 1832 were then awarded as follow:

Challenges

Mr Henry Harrisson Brisco proposed a sweepstake for the best acre of red clover, for twelve shillings. To be judged on the first day of June by Rev G H Macausland, Daniel Osborne, and George Brisco, Esqrs. Accepted by H Briscoe, John Walsh, Michael S Rivers, R Falconer and William Dalton – won by Mr Walsh

Mr Macausland proposed to show a better bred and handsomer cow, at present in his possession, than any member of the Iverk Society, for ten shillings. Accepted by J H Jones and H W Brisco, Tinvane, Esq – won by Mr Macausland.

Lord Duncannon proposed a sweepstake for half an acre of Swedish turnips, for twelve shillings. Accepted by Rev G H Macausland – won by Mr Macausland.

Mr J H Jones proposed to show a finer three-year-old colt than any member of the Iverk farming Society, for a cast of wine. Accepted by John Blackmore. Also, a finer yearling colt at the same time. Accepted by John Blackmore – both won by Mr Jones.

Captain Fleming proposed to show a sow, now in his possession, against any member of the Society, for 12 shillings. Accepted by Mr J Walsh, Patrick Conway, and J H Jones – won by Mr J Walsh.

Lord Duncannon proposed to show an acre of drilled potatoes against the barony for twelve shillings. Accepted by G H Macausland and James Feehan – won by Lord Duncannon.

Dr Purcel proposed to show a larger and finer cauliflower than any member of the Society for a cast of wine. Accepted by Edward Elliott – both paid forfeit.

Mr Ponsonby proposed to show a handsomer pair of beagles, or dwarf foxhounds, now in possession, than any member of the Society, for half a dozen of wine. Accepted by Henry W Briscoe, Tinvane – won by Mr Briscoe.

John Durney proposed to show a yearling colt against any farmer in the barony, for twelve shillings. Accepted by Pat Walsh – won by Mr Pat Walsh.

Dr Higginbotham proposed to show a better weanling foal than any person present, for twelve shillings. Accepted by John Blackmore – won by Dr Higginbotham.

Mr Falconer proposed to show a better brood mare, with a foal at her foot, adapted to draft, than any in the barony, for twelve shillings. Accepted by Richard Walsh – won by Mr Falconer.

Gustavus H. Macausland, Secretary.

Bessborough House - Front





Bessborough House – Rear

1834

FMJ 1834-10-14-4 Iverk Farming Society

The general meeting of this society was held in Piltown, on Tuesday the 7th inst. It was remarkably attended, and the show of cattle and farming implements, was even better than that of the preceding year. In the course of the day the premiums offered by the society, thirty-four in number, and also the annual Bessborough premiums of 10/- for the best managed farm, were delivered to the successful candidates by the president, Lord Duncannon.

About seventy of the members, and others connected with the Barony, among whom we noticed a great many working farmers, sat down in the evening to an excellent dinner, provided by Mr Anthony, at the Market-house, which was tastefully and appropriately decorated for the occasion. The stewards were most efficient, and the wines were excellent. Lord Duncannon officiated as president, with his accustomed ability. After the usual loyal toasts, he proposed “Prosperity to the Iverk Farming Society”.

Mr Elliott, as secretary, rose and gave a most gratifying account of the progress of the society since the last meeting. He remarked upon the flourishing state of its finances, notwithstanding the increased number and amount of the premiums, and on the occasion of five new members, two of whom were the Earl of Kerry and the Right Rev. Dr Kinshela. He congratulated the society upon the increased competition for the farming and cottage premiums, twenty -six of the former, and sixty-six of the later, having entered their names as candidates. He shortly noticed the benefits which had arisen from the premiums for the clover and other green crops, in the almost universal cultivation of the former.

The vice president then proposed the health of “The President, Lord Duncannon.

His Lordship, in returning thanks, dwelt at some length upon the advantages which had accrued to the Barony from the institution of the society. Among many other topics, he dwelt upon the taste, skill, and industry displayed by many of the working farmers in the erection or alternation of their houses and offices, and the cultivation of their farms. His lordship concluded by expressing his conviction that the kindly feeling subsisting between landlord and tenant, as evinced by the presence of so many of the working farmers, would long continue a distinguishing character of the barony. He then proposed the health of “The Judges of the Premiums”.

Mr Walsh, in returning thanks, took the opportunity of throwing out several excellent hints upon different agricultural subjects.

“The resident landlords”. Mr Pratt du Montmorenei returned thanks.

“The new members”. Lord Kerry returned thanks.

“Prosperity to the town and commerce of Carrick”. Mr Edmund Power returned thanks and proposed the health of “The Hon John Ponsonby”

Mr Ponsonby returned thanks. “The working Farmers of the Barony”. Mr Mathew Coghlan returned thanks in a very humorous speech.

Lord Duncannon retired about ten o’clock, but the mirthful scene was prolonged to a late hour.

Among the anecdotes of the liberality and excellence of Lord Duncannon’s family, was one mentioned by Surgeon Piele, who stated that Miss Ponsonby, his Lordship’s daughter, had given orders to the steward to repair the houses of the tenantry at her own expense, and

provide slates for the roofs of houses in all places where the thatch had fallen into decay. Sixty small farmers emulated for the premium for cleanliness about their concerns on this occasion, while not more than eight were found who would do so. [*Previously – Tipperary Free Press*]

1834 – Waterford Mail- October 11 – Iverk Farming Society

The annual meeting of the Iverk Farming Society was held at Piltown, on Tuesday last. From an early hour the village presented an animated scene from the influx of persons, either generally interested in agricultural pursuits, or candidates for the premiums to be awarded by the society. The prize cattle were most conveniently placed in a yard, where the judges could at once bring their respective merits under view; an equally convenient space was allocated for the agricultural implements. At one o'clock, the chair was taken by the noble president and founder, Lord Duncannon, who, after disposing of the usual annual business, proceeded to the gratifying task of delivering the premiums as awarded by the judges. At six o'clock, the member and friends of the society, among whom were many of the working farmers of the barony, sat down to a most excellent dinner, in the Market-house, provided by Mr Redmond Anthony. Lord Duncannon presided. Upon removal of the cloth, his lordship, after the usual loyal and patriotic toasts, having proposed the prosperity of the Society, the Secretary detailed the success of their labours for the past year, and the gratifying state of finances. The accession of the Earl of Kerry, and the Right Rev. Dr Kinsella, among the new members, was hailed with enthusiasm. The Secretary's report, which, among many subjects of interest, embraced several new and useful suggestions on farming, was received with unmixed satisfaction. But, perhaps, the most interesting occurrence of the evening was, the sensible and manly speech of Mr Matthew Coghlan, a respectable farmer of the barony, who, in returning thanks for the "Working Farmers", expatiated upon the benefits which they had derived from the formations of the society, not merely in agricultural knowledge, but from the kindly feeling which is kept up between landlord and tenant. After the departure of the noble chairman, the conviviality was prolonged to a late hour.

1835

1835 – Waterford Chronicle- October 10th Piltown Agricultural Dinner

Editor – I have selected parts of the speeches that have relevance to the Iverk Farming Society

At the Agricultural Dinner at Piltown upon Tuesday last, about eighty gentlemen sat down to an excellent dinner, prepared by Mr Redmond Anthony. Lord Duncannon in the chair. Richard Cox, Esq of Castletown, acting as Vice President.

..... Lord Duncannon rose and said, in proposing the health the Iverk Farming Society, I again meet you upon the anniversary of our establishment, and I have again to congratulate you on the improvements that have taken place in every part of the surrounding district. It is not now as it was in the first year that this society was established, the changes that have occurred are remarkable and every change has been an improvement.....

..... there still remains much to attend to and I would particularly beg to direct you attention to the draining of land – all the exertions, all the labours of the farmer are lost, unless a proper attention be paid to draining, and it is then only that land becomes profitable, or that he receives a fair remuneration for his labour.....

.....Mr Elliott, in returning thanks, regretted that he was the less able to do justice to the toast as he had only received upon that day the report of the Committee.....And in noticing the losses which the Society has sustained during the year, he could not forbear dwelling upon the lamented death of the Rev Mr McCausland As a member of this society, he must say that he was one who, upon all occasions contributed to its advancement, and to whom it was mainly indebted for its foundation. With respect to farming and the cultivation of new wheat there was none to claim any decided preference, and the premium given for the cultivation of clover, in which there were six competitors last year and nine this year. The committee also report that one farmer, Daniel Lynagh, upon half an acre of clover fed one horse and four cows. There were eight competitors for drill potatoes and we have succeeded in showing how erroneous the prejudice is that they are injurious to the wheaten crop. We found on the farm of Michael Quinlan, nine acres in the most flourishing condition.....

1836

Waterford Chronicle 1836-Oct 15th - Iverk Farming Society (from the Kilkenny Journal of Saturday)

Tuesday last, this useful and interesting institution held its anniversary meeting at Pilltown, when about eighty gentlemen, members of the society, and inhabitants of the neighbouring town of Carrick-on-Suir, and the surrounding districts, sat down to an excellent dinner, prepared by Mr R Anthony, in the market-house of the above village. The Right Honourable Viscount Duncannon presided.

.....His Lordship said he felt great pleasure in again beholding the return of the anniversary of the Iverk Farming Society, and while he expressed the happiness he enjoyed in presiding over their festivities, he could not but congratulate them on the progressive improvement which had taken place in the objects for which the society had been formed. The society was, indeed, prosperous, and the good it had effected great, and he therefore trusted that those whom he saw around him would not relax in their exertions; that nothing would be wanting on their parts in the co-operation necessary to carry out the intensions of the society into practice.....

LEE 1836-10-15

Lord Duncannon was chairman of the Iverk Farming Society dinner last week at Piltown, Kilkenny

1837

Waterford Chronicle-1837-October 14 County Kilkenny – Iverk Farming Society

The annual meeting of this society was held at Piltown on Tuesday, the 26th ult. The attendance of gentry was not so great as in other years, but the cattle show infinitely surpassed any former exhibition. With the exception of one remarkable fine grey sire, the property of Robin Kennedy, of Castletown, the show of horses was indifferent, but the horned stock, about fifty in number, were really superb. The competitors for the Silver Cup were the Marquis of Waterford, Mr Briscoe, of Tinvane, Mr Power, of Mount Richard, Mr Reade of Three Bridges, and Mr Hewetson, of Fiddown, whilst several farmers contended for the pecuniary cattle premiums. The silver cup was awarded to Lord Waterford, and Messrs. Briscoe and Hewetson obtained silver medals. The implements were remarkably good, the iron plough, in particular, the work of Thomas Kavanagh, of Tubrid, excited universal admiration. There were several tumbling carts of different construction, a winnowing machine upon a new and ingenious principle, and a subsoil plough similar to those used in Aberdeenshire. The premiums, seventy in number, were distributed by Lord Duncannon, the President.

About sixty of the members and friends of the Society subsequently sat down to a substantial dinner, laid out in the Market House, which was tastefully and appropriately decorated.....

Mr Elliott, the secretary, then detailed the progress of the Society since its last anniversary. After a brief review of its efforts during the eleven years of existence, he proceeded to notice the improvements discernible in the different branches of Agriculture for the encouragement of which the Society had awarded premiums. He observed that the number of Candidates for the Farm premiums had decreased since the preceding year, but that the Judges had reported that the rotation system was coming into practice, and that a decided improvement was discernible in the structure of the Farm Houses and Offices recently built, and the choice and condition of implements. With reference to the Green Crops the report was extremely satisfactory. It stated that a vast extension had taken place in the cultivation of Clover among the smaller Farmers of the barony, no less than five hundred and fifty acres having been appropriated to its growth during the last year, and that it appeared to have done more real good, and to have tended more to increase the comforts of the poorer class than any other mode of Farming theretofore introduced, as it enabled the cottager to keep a cow on his little holding of perhaps a few perches.... The report showed an increase in of twenty-one in number of Cottage Premiums, which amounted this year to eighty, and stated the rivalry for these Premiums to have become so general that the Society had determined from all future competitors' additional improvements in the management of their garden, &c.

Editor – Mr Elliott’s report continued to describe improvements in farming practices in the area quoting examples

1838

Tipperary Free Press, 1838-October 10th Iverk farming Society (From the Waterford Mirror)

The Annual Show of this Society was held at Pilltown on Tuesday, Sept., 25, when the Hon John Ponsonby, son of Lord Duncannon, President of the Society, distributed the premiums (seventy in number) for farms, green crops, implements, stock, drainage and reclaiming, cottages, poultry, &c., among the successful candidates.

The attendance of the gentry and farmers was numerous and the day remarkably fine.

The dinner, which was served up in the spacious room of the Session House, was supplied from the Bessborough Arms Hotel, in Mr Anthony’s usual excellent and abundant style, and was attended by upwards of seventy persons, including a great number of farmers. After dinner, the adjudications of the challenges entered into at the previous meeting, was read by the chairman (the Hon. John Ponsonby) and in the course of the evening, challenges in every department of agriculture were freely opened and accepted, to be decided at the next annual meeting.

The Chairman, in proposing the charter toast “The Iverk Farming Society”, prefaced it at some length and with much effect

In consequence of the unavoidable absence of the secretary, Mr Elliott, Mr H H Briscoe, the Treasurer, was called upon to speak to the toast. In the course of a very excellent speck, he stated that the society had produced such decided effects in the barony, that many premiums which had been offered in the outset of its career had been discontinued in consequence of the farmers having adopted, and thereby became convinced of the value of the management recommended; one of these was for Clover and Rye Grass, crops with very few exceptions now forming part of the rotation universally adopted; the other for iron ploughs, of which he considered there was not a barony in Ireland that could number so many, all, too, of the best description, and made by resident mechanics. He observed that regular rotation systems were gradually gaining ground – that a steady improvement was discernible in the mode of draining and reclaiming land – that the quantity so brought into cultivation was annually increasing, and that the competition for Cottage Premiums was so great that the judges, who had inspected nearly 100, had found the greatest difficulty in selecting the most worthy among so many candidates of nearly equal merit. He next adverted to the improvement in ploughing, and to the superior description of stock which the exertions of the society had latterly succeeded in introducing, a subject that still occupied much of their attention, as would appear by a reference to the Premium sheet for the coming year.....The meeting broke up at eleven o’clock.

1839

The show was held on Tuesday the 24th September.

FMJ 1839-9-27-4 Cattle Show at Piltown

The annual cattle show of the barony of Iverk took place at Piltown on Tuesday last. Lord Duncannon (the founder and president of the society) and family, the Rev. S Burke, his lordship's son-in-law; the Rev Messrs Gregory and Renny; the Messrs Cox of Castletown; Wall of Coolnamuck; James of Mullinabro; Walsh of Finninstown; Major Curry; Doctors Purcell, Martin and Higgibotham; Mr Elliott, the secretary and several other respectable gentlemen of the neighbourhood, were in attendance. Nearly 100 gentlemen and farmers sat down to a splendid dinner in the evening, at Anthony's Hotel.

Waterford Chronicle- 1839- Sept-28 Iverk Farming Society

The annual meeting of this excellent society was held on Tuesday in the beautiful village of Piltown, and notwithstanding as unpropitious morning and unpromising day, it presented an exhibition cheering in every respect to the friend of the farmer. The show of stock on this occasion was unprecedented in number and in kind, and convincingly demonstrated the spirit of active emulation among the agriculturalists of the Barony, to which the society has given birth, and the anxiety of all classes who come within the range of its influence, to carry out the views of its noble founder Lord Viscount Duncannon – who betrays an ardent zeal for the comfort and prosperity of a large and flourishing tenantry. The exhibition of agricultural implements was so large, and of the very best description, including some novel inventions for sub-soil ploughing, which were the admiration of the cognoscenti – the poultry too could not be surpassed even in the far-famed Barony of Burgv, whilst the products of the garden, particularly those of Belline, and which consisted of turnips, parsnips, mangel wurzel, carrots, potatoes, &c., were all of the finest in their way, and displayed the power of art in a high degree. Nor had the wet morning and the gloomy day any effect in preventing a highly respectable and numerous meeting, which was considerably increased by the attendance of gentlemen from Carrick-on-Suir, who have at all times taken a deep interest in the welfare of the Society, and to whose encouraging co-operation no small share of that success which has attended it since its establishment, (now upwards of thirteen years) is owing. The noble proprietor of the soil walked in from Bessboro' about three o'clock, and accompanied by the Judges, went through that portion of the village where the exhibition was made and appeared highly pleased with the show....At five o'clock Lord Duncannon, with whom were his amiable and accomplished daughters and his sons, Mr Elliott, the efficient secretary, &c., appeared on the steps of Mr Anthony's hotel, and read to an immense crowd which surrounded him the lists of premiums which had been awarded to the cottagers, flax spinners, &c., and distributed with his own hand to each successful competitor the reward of his or her deserts. Amongst the poorest of his lordships tenantry, this kindly attention on his lordship's part, has wrought wonders....

The dinner. At half past six o'clock one hundred and thirty gentlemen and farmers sat down to a dinner given by Mr Anthony's best style in the large room in the Market-house.....the dinner consisted of every delicacy, and the wines were excellent. Lord Duncannon contributed a fine buck to the feast, which was moreover enhanced by prize turkeys, fowls, ducks, and an enormous leg of mutton, for which the worthy host, Mr Anthony, obtained a prize. Adjoining the room was an admirable quintette band, which came from Carrick-on-Suir and which performed many spirit-stirring airs during the evening.....

1840

FMJ 1840-10-06-4 Iverk Show and Dinner

On Tuesday the 29th September, the annual show and dinner of the Iverk Agricultural Society took place at Piltown, under very favourable conditions. The day was beautiful throughout, and the attendance accordingly was highly respectable. The principal gentry of the neighbourhood were present, with Lord Duncannon at their head. The number of agricultural implements, the handicraft of resident mechanics was large and of the best description. In the quantity of competitions, whether for cottages, turnips, drilled potatoes, lea oats, farms, reclaiming land, &c., there is a vast increase over previous years, such as to prove beyond a doubt the progressive interest and importance of the society and the desire which the farmers cherish to practice the system of agriculture best adapted to develop the peculiar properties of the soil and to leave them a remunerative return for their labour and capital. The practice of reclaiming may be said to have set in with uncommon strength and to proceed most successfully. Last year there were ten competitors in that respect and on this occasion, there were sixteen.

The list of premiums was read by Lord Duncannon from the steps of Anthony's Bessboro' Arms Hotel, where the lordship stood, surrounded by nearly all the members of his amiable family (male and female) at present at Bessborough, several of the gentry and clergy of the neighbourhood, and Sir Henry Verney, M.P. for Buckingham, who is on a visit with the noble lord.

The Dinner

About six o'clock the large room over the Market house was thrown open to about ninety gentlemen, who sat down to a sumptuous dinner.

The usual loyal toasts were given and responded to with the loudest manifestation of loyalty.

The noble Chairman having congratulated the company on the prospects of the Iverk Agricultural Society conclude by observing, that with all the disadvantages under which Ireland laboured, he must admit that he witnessed with astonishment the great improvement that had taken place in the district within the last ten or eleven years – an improvement which has given him the greatest satisfaction – the result of exertion, which, if carried on with the same persevering industry, would at no distant period be crowned with success (cheers).

Mr H. H. Brisco proposed the health of “Lord Duncannon” (nine times nine).

The noble lord returned thanks. It was he observed that with the exception of these matters which bore distinctly on their society, all others were exclude; but there was one subject which forced itself upon him since his recent visit, and that was the extraordinary result that had been produced on the minds and habits of the people by their attentions to the exertions of the Rev Mr Mathew (loud cheers). When he said that this was not a subject connected with their meeting, perhaps he said so without consideration, for it was a subject which commanded the attention of every class; and for his own part, as a landlord, gentleman, and a resident magistrate, he could not refrain from expressing his acknowledgement to the Rev Mr Mathew for what he achieved, through the instrumentality of his laudable exhortations to the people, and to the people for the attention they bestowed upon those exhortations (loud cheers). It was the bounden duty of all to assist the good work which had been auspiciously begun and he hoped that all would do so (continued cheering). The noble lord concluded by returning thanks for the kindness bestowed upon him, and resumed his seat amid loud cheers.

Several appropriate toasts having been pledged, and some excelled speeches delivered, the noble lord and all the guests retired at a quarter past ten o'clock, after spending a most delightful and happy evening.

1841

FMJ 1841-10-01-1 Iverk Farming Society

The annual meeting of this society took place on Tuesday last at Piltown, and was numerously attended by the gentry and working farmers of the barony and adjacent neighbourhood. The president, officers, and members of the neighbouring agricultural society of Portlaw lent the aid of their presence and support to an institution which now, for fifteen years, has quietly and steadily worked its way, under the auspices of its founder and president, Lord Duncannon. They dined together in the evening. A considerable portion of the evening was spent in agricultural discussion. Several working farmers came forward with subscriptions for the future support of the society, and the party broke up about eleven o'clock, highly pleased with the proceedings of the day – *Waterford Chronicle*.

1842

LEE 1842-02-19-2 Iverk Farming Society

The Ploughing match of this Society took place upon Friday February 11, in a field given by Joseph Rivers, of Tybroughney Castle, Esq. The day was beautiful – the greatest anxiety was displayed by the several competitors, and the most perfect order and good feeling prevailed among all classes during the competition, the ground being admirable kept by the stewards.

A challenge given by the Portlaw Society, to plough against the Iverk, was ably contested on the part of Portlaw, by the Messrs. Nowlan and by the ploughman of Sir Richard Cox, Bart.; Dr Briscoe and Mr Falkoner on the part of Iverk.

The challenge was won by Iverk.

In the Society's Premiums, first class, Dr Briscoe won the society's medal, and his ploughman (Donovan) £1. The second premium in this class by Mr. Falkoner, of Clonmore, by his ploughman (Burris).

In the farmer's class the first premium by Richard Brien, of Garnareign; the second by Conway, of Tybroughney.

The interest taken by the farmers upon this and the like occasions ought to be an inducement to landed proprietors to countenance by their presence, and forward by their purses, all societies, having for their object the promotion of an improved system of ploughing, for it is a maxim in farming that good ploughing is only second to good draining.

After the match was over, the members retired to Tybroughney Castle, to partake of the hospitality of Mr Rivers, who provided for his friends in a most bountiful and excellent manner. – *Waterford Mail*.

1844

The Farmer's Magazine November 1844, No 5 – Vol x [second series] Page 497

Iverk Farming Society, Co Kilkenny – The reports of the judges were extremely satisfactory. Those on green crops expressed themselves highly gratified at the improvements manifested in the culture of turnips and mangel wurzel. It may be satisfactory to the society to learn that Mr Peter Falconer, to whom their medal was awarded, had sixty-one tons of Swedish turnips and sixty-nines tons of mangel wurzel, to the acre. They also report that the drill tillage is gaining ground, against which a prejudice existed among the small farmers, who think, that although it increases the potato crop, it deteriorates the succeeding wheat crop. The show of cattle was good, but they were almost entirely the property of gentlemen and strong farmers, as the old Irish cow still retains her popularity in the district. The attention of our society has been uniformly directed to the all-important work of draining, and with the happiest results; for I find, that during the eleven years that I have held the office of secretary, there have been no less than 176 competitors in that class, (all holding very small farms,) who have drained or reclaimed 240 acres 2 roods. The number of candidates has progressively increased from seven, in 1833, to thirty in the present year.

LEE 1844-12-28-4 Royal Agricultural Improvement Society of Ireland. Council meeting, Thursday, December 1844.

The secretary laid on the table returns from the following local societies, to which the premiums of the central society have been awarded since the last meeting of the council, viz:
- Iverk Farming Society £10 and 3 medals (*included with 30 other shows*)

1845

NAT 1845-11-01-8 Royal Agricultural Improvement Society of Ireland

The following are extracts from the reports of the secretaries of the different local farming societies of Ireland, to whom the first circular letters were addressed by the council for information respecting the potato crop and which have been laid before the government: -

County Waterford (Iverk Society, Edward Elliott, 23rd October) – “I have reason to believe that the disease exists to an alarming extent in this district: as yet, however, the farmers are not alarmed, for the potato digging has not as yet fully commenced. I have much fear that the extent of the danger will not be discovered until the pits shall have been opened and the damage irremediable.”

1846

Waterford Chronicle and Munster Advertiser 1846-October- 24th Piltown Agricultural Society (From our Special Reporter)

Show and Dinner

The annual exhibition of this society took place in Piltown, on Thursday, when a very fine show of superior cattle, vegetables, and farming utensils was displayed. Premiums were awarded to a great many for well-kept and regulated cottages, &cs. The attendance was extremely limited owing to the very unsettled state of the weather.

The Dinner

In the evening a numerous company sat down to a most excellent Dinner, provided by Mr Anthony, of the Hotel, which afforded every satisfaction. The Dinner was laid out in the Court House, which was most tastefully festooned and decorated with evergreens.

At six o'clock the Chair was taken by Viscount Duncannon.....Gentlemen I have now to give you a toast which we always call the toast of the night – it is “Success to the Iverk Farming Society”. I regret very much that I am, unworthily placed in the position of your chairman, I am also extremely sorry that the president of this society is unavoidably detained in Dublin on important business. I can assure you that nothing but the most important business could have caused his absence from this day's exhibition.....

1847

The following was printed in the Kilkenny People, on the 15th of September 1956.

Ireland's Oldest – Piltown fixture on Thursday, September 27.

A document entitled, “Iverk Farming Society – premium Sheet for 1847” is before us as we recall memories of the long history of the “Barony Meeting”. When the crowds assemble on Thursday week, September 27, 1956, for the 118th Annual Show, many of the old-timers will recall them, too for much has happened since the grim year – Black ’47 – to set the imagination tracing the events down the years. Gone is the bracketed acknowledgement of permission “from the Earl of Bessborough”, and gone, too, is the name and all the trappings, and perhaps the glamour of the “Big House” in the background.

The year 1847 does not appear to have been all that bad in Piltown – it had, by the way, two “Il’s” then. Down in Cork and Kerry people were dying like flies and the workhouses were full. But in Piltown, show secretary, Edward Elliott, was compiling the Premium Sheet for the Iverk Farming Society. He was concerned with turnips, mangle wurzel, and the garden produce principally, and the three districts of Clonmore, Owing (Ooning then) and Piltown proper, there were separate classes. The judging process was long. “The crops”, says the sheet will award their premiums to the best TILLAGE, not to the greatest produce.

Thus, the poor mountain soil will be able to compete with the best and most favoured spots in the lowlands; in fact, the premiums will be awarded to the good preparation of the soil, thinning, hoeing, weeding, etc. – industry, wherever shown, must meet a reward.

There was a liking for turnips, obviously, for the highest awards went to them. Thirty shillings in those days was money, and Piltown district was giving that. The mangel worzal came into favour, too, as did winter barley. There was no mention of wheat or oats.

The “challenge” system gets good space. It would appear that candidates for the premiums were “challenged” when they entered. Thus, we find Mr James Aylward being challenged by Mr John Reade “to show the best rotation of cropping”. A Mr Jones having entered a duck and drake was challenged by a Mr Power; while Mr Reade’s challenge “to show the largest quantity of manure on August 15th” was accepted by a Mr H Carroll.

The Royal Agricultural Improvement Society of Ireland offered premiums for improvement of land. There was drainage, cultivation of crops, the best bull, and one pound was offered for the best-kept cottage. “Gentlemen’s Lodges” were excluded.

Emphases was on “the production of the greatest amount of food for man and beast” and much of what was written at the time would apply today. Great work was in hand and it isn’t surprising to find that in the Piltown district the hunger pain did not gnaw so heavily.

KEX 1847-11-05-3

The great annual cattle show of the Iverk farming Society was held on Tuesday week, in Piltown, County Kilkenny. The stock were of the most excellent description, and the show of vegetables was very good. After the distribution of prizes, the society was entertained at a sumptuous dinner at Mr Anthony’s hotel, at which the most noble the Earl of Bessborough presided.

KK Moderator 1849-Nov-10th The Iverk Farming Society's Anniversary Cattle Show and Dinner

On Tuesday last the anniversary meeting of the Iverk Farming Society was held in Piltown, and formed, of course, an occasion of much interest and importance in the locality, where the benefit of such an association most anxiously fostered encouraged by the Earl of Bessborough, the proprietor of a great portion of the district, is generally felt and appreciated. The exertions of the noble Earl are, we are happy to find, warmly accorded and supported by the gentry of his neighbourhood; though it must be regretted that some landed proprietors in the lower part of the barony do not subscribe towards its fund or lend it the benefit of their countenance....

The Digging Match. On Tuesday the picturesque village of Piltown was from an early hour the centre of attraction to all the surrounding district, and crowds poured in to witness or take part in this much welcomed re-union. The day was quite fine. And though very cold, was as such particularly favourable to the operators in a newly introduced feature of the Society's annual meetings. The Digging Match, which took place in Mr Richardson's field in Piltown, excited intense interest from its novelty. The Earl and Countess of Bessborough with the ladies Ponsonby, graced the scene of contest with their presence, and a large number of gentlemen of the Society with a numerous concourse of the country people, were in attendance to witness the efforts of twenty-one competitors. A very lively spectacle was presented, and the progress of the stalworth candidates for rural honours seemed to create the strongest interest almost amounting to wild excitement amongst their several friends the spectators generally; the relative merits of the various descriptions of spade used on the occasion being keenly debated and anxiously watched on every hand. The results gave a decided triumph to the advocate of the English spade, the tree winners having all patronised that implement, and each having shown the greatest proficiency in its use.

The Show. The exhibition of stock was decidedly good, and indeed it seemed far to exceed the expectations of even those best acquainted with the barony. It was gratifying, too, to observe that the gentlemen farmers had not the matter all to themselves, as frequently occurs at similar Cattle Shows; several gentlemen, even, who had been quite confident of success, found themselves far surpassed in merit by the farmers from the mountain district, and the prize triumphantly snatched from them. It was observable that the greatest amount of improvement was manifested in the young cattle, especially yearlings – a fact very significant in coming to an estimate as to the progress making in the present times of agricultural depression. There were some very excellent implements exhibited; but the specimens of root crops were particularly worthy of observation. A sample of carrots grown by Mr M Hewitson, of Fiddown, and of turnips by Mr Quinn of Barabrhy were really extraordinary vegetables – particularly if we are to believe the statement put forward that they were fair specimens of the entire crop. The judges had an arduous task in deciding between so many worthy competitors, but their labours were concluded at 3 o'clock, when the appearance of

Lord Bessborough, with the Countess and ladies Ponsonby at the door of Anthony's Hotel for the purpose of distributing the premiums, was the signal for a general rush tither ward, and the anxious crowd collected in a dense mass round the steps, where for so many years interesting event of declaring the successful competitors on this gala occasion, and awarding accompanying premiums, has taken place. [We regret that we do not have space for the list of prizes awarded]

The dinner. At four o'clock a numerous company assembled to partake of an excellent dinner, prepared in most creditable style, in a large store recently occupied by Mr Biosesal (*spelling unclear*) but which was for this festive occasion metamorphized into a rustic banqueting hall, and very tastefully fitted out and judiciously arranged. The chair was taken by W Villiers Stuart, Esq. D.L., and the vice chair by D Osborne, Esq. J.P., those gentlemen being the Vice Presidents of the Society. It was the subject of deep and universal regret that the noble President, Lord Bessborough, was unable to preside according to his wont, on the present occasion, in consequence of his recent accident; his Lordship however visited the company in the course of the evening, and remained for a short time with them..... Dr Brisco spoke on behalf of the secretary, Mr Elliott The Society was now celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary ... He mentioned that the number of competitors on the occasion of their exhibition this year was 225, whilst in any previous year their list had not exceeded 163.....thirty five farmers had been entered as competitors for carrots and parsnips, besides six for cabbage grown in the open field. These might be said to be new crops in in that country, and it was thus proved that the farmers were finding other resources for feeding pigs, and discontinuing to lean for support on that broken reed the potato.

1850

Waterford Chronicle-1850-October 9 Iverk farming Society (from our own reporter)

The Annual Cattle Show and exhibition of poultry, pigs, and manufactures was held in Piltown on yesterday. The attendance of gentlemen and farmers was large and respectable, and the peasantry also mustered in large numbers. The cattle were exhibited in an enclosed or railed space at the eastern end of the Sessions House, and the manufactures at the hotel of Mr Anthony, where some very good frieze and blankets were placed for inspection. The Judges all agreed that the stock on this occasion presented a marked contrast to that shown last year. And the greater was it, they said, taking into consideration the ordeal through which the country had passed. The Earl and Countess of Bessborough inspected almost everything that was offered for prizes or otherwise. They mingled with the people in a spirited emulation – they shared in their excitement, and participated in their success. In fact, for the time this 're-union' lasted, a kind of generous equality was manifested; everyone seemed disposed to pay attention to what the other said, and the most perfect harmony, good will, and even cordial friendship prevailed in every part of this gathering during the day.....About a quarter to three o'clock Lord Bessborough came forward on the steps of Anthony's hotel and read out the list of prizes. The Countess also was present with him, and distributed several premiums.....

The dinner. Was held in the Sessions House. The upper room of this building was set apart for the banquet, and it was most tastefully decorated with flowers and ever-greens.....the dinner was of the most substantial kind, consisting of roast beef, mutton, pigs, &c. The noble earl contributed a fat ox to the Society, which was slaughtered, and prepared for the dinner on this occasion.....

Dublin Evening Mail-1850-October-14 The Iverk Farming Society

The twenty-fifth anniversary of this society was held at Piltown on Tuesday last, and the usual cattle show, digging match, and dinner came off with unusual éclat. The day was particularly fine, and seemed quite a holiday in the quiet and picturesque little village. The stock in the show yard was universally admitted to make a display alike as regards quantity or quality, such as far surpassed that of any preceding year; and it was most satisfactory to find that the animals exhibited by the tenant farmers were, in general, very superior. The vegetables were extremely large, and excited much attention; but the greatest curiosity of the day was the fine show of poultry. This part of the exhibition was caused by the competition for a very beautiful medal offered by the Countess of Bessborough, and presented by her in person to the winner. This collection of poultry was really very fine, and all were of the purest breed – Malays, Spanish, Columbian, Dorking, spangled Hamburgh, Polish, every day layers, Aylesbury ducks, &c. These fowls were placed in pens, and were shown by Mr John S Blacket, Mr J Richardson, and Doctor Purcell. J H Jones, Esq, Mullinabro, obtained the first prize of the society, and also the Royal Agricultural Improvement Society medal for the best bull within the district, under five years of age; and Mr Mark McDaniel, Clonmore, the first premium for the best bull in the farmer's class. The Earl of Bessborough took the first prize for the best breeding cow above three years old (as also for several other very superior animals) whilst the same prize in the farmers' class was awarded to Mr John Richardson, Bellyne. Mr Blacket was the successful competitor for the best ewe sheep, and Mr Samuel H Jones, Clonmore, carried away the Royal Agricultural Society's medal for the best boar. Mr D Hewitson, Piltown, obtained the premium for the best two-year-old heifer in the farmers' class. A number of premiums were also given for green crops, and for the best managed farms; the Countess of Bessborough gave several prizes, independent of those of the Society, for the best kept farms, and cottages on the Bessborough estate.

The digging match also excited considerable interest. The ground had been previously measured off, and a dozen hardy labourers competed for the prizes in the presence of a dense crowd of spectators. The work was done in capital style, and in an exceedingly short space of time.

About three o'clock, the judges having completed their reports, the successful competitors at the show were announced by the Earl of Bessborough in front of Mr Anthony's hotel, to an unusually large assemblage. The Countess of Bessborough (who throughout appeared to take the liveliest interest in the business of the day), the Ladies Ponsonby, and several other ladies graced the proceedings by their presence.

Shortly after four o'clock dinner was announced in the Sessions House.....

1851

WNS 1851-10-24-2

Portlaw Agricultural Society (report). The annual general meeting of this society was held on Tuesday.

Included in the report was the following

The chairman then gave the 'Iverk Farming Society'. Doctor Brisco having been called on rose and said, that although he was the youngest member of the Iverk Society present, he found he was called on to return thanks. He and his friends were only sorry that they did not see more of the gentlemen belonging to this society (Portlaw) in the neighbourhood on the occasion of their last meeting. He believed that the Iverk society was the parent one; but he supposed that the offspring was so far grown now that it was quite steady and could go from the dom. He fully concurred with the President that land had very much fallen out of condition; and once in that state it was quite useless for agricultural production. Unless land got its due, they might look in vain for a profitable return from it; they looked to a prosperous farmer – one who was making money – they would find he put abundance of manure into it.

1852

WNS 1852-10-01-2 Iverk farming Society

The annual cattle show and exhibition of this society was held on the magnificent lawn of Bessborough – convenient to Mr. Anthony's tastefully laid out garden – at Piltown, on Wednesday last. The attendance of persons was large and respectable, and the show of cattle, sheep, green crops, onions, fowl, &c., &c., very creditable indeed. We were particularly struck with the marked improvement in the quality of sheep and cattle, on which the farmer must now so much depend. The green crops, too, were very fine, and clearly showed the great attention which had been bestowed upon them; for, as an auxiliary, green crops are of vast importance to the farmer. A few mangolds were exhibited (two of which Mr P. K. Reid brough home with him as specimens), and were so enormously large as to weigh 14lb. each! The exposition having concluded about three o'clock, The Earl of Bessborough and other gentlemen proceeded to Mr Anthony's hotel, where and when they arranged the premiums awarded to the different competitors, all of which were read to a large audience from the steps of the hotel.

The dinner was held in the large room of the Court House which was admirably decorated with wreaths of flowers and evergreens. Over the chair was a representation of the crown very handsomely wrought in evergreens; at the opposite end of the room were the national words – "Erin go Bragh" – composed of the same material, &c. About four o'clock nearly 200 gentlemen sat down to a sumptuous and excellent dinner, served up in the very best style by the noble Earl's own attendants.

The Earl of Bessborough addressed the meeting. He entered into the history of the origin and progress of the Iverk Farming Society, from the time that its first meeting was held in Mr Anthony's parlour down to the present hour. He urged on the farmers the necessity of keeping their fields clear of weeds, and showed them the importance of sowing mangolds and other green crops, so make up for the deficiency which had occurred by the potato blight. He also encouraged the growing of flax, which would employ farmers' wives and daughters. He said that the improvement in stock which they had witnessed that day, was most gratifying. Sheep too were beginning to creep in – they were a most important stock for the farmer, because they will feed where others would starve. He hoped, however, that on future years he would see a larger show of sheep on the green. And when other farming societies were going to decline, he was happy to say that theirs was going on prosperously (loud cheers)

WNS 1852-10-15-2 Important to Farmers

At a meeting of the Iverk Farming Society held at Piltown on the twelfth instant, the following were appointed a committee to collect information with respect to fairs, markets, &c., in order to assist as far as possible, the investigations of the Government Commissioners, viz. – J. H. Jones, Esq., Mullinabro; W. H. Brisco, Esq., Tinvane; T. Lawlor, Esq., Cregg House; Thomas Elliott, Esq., Rathcurby; W. O. Brisco, Esq., Garnanea; and Samuel Jones, Esq., Glenmore. All persons having information to afford will do well to communicate with these gentlemen.

The following report was printed in the Waterford News and Star October 15th, 1954.

100 years ago, from "Waterford News" of 13th October, 1852. The annual show of Iverk Farming Society took place on Wednesday. At the dinner at Anthony's Hotel 200 sat down. The chairman, Lord Bessborough, proposing a toast, said: "I am in very bad voice". To which a Carrick man replied: "take a drink".

1853

WNS 1853-09-23-1 Public markets, Weigh-houses, &c.

At a meeting of the Iverk Farming Society, held at Piltown, County Kilkenny, on 15th September, the Earl of Bessborough in the Chair, it was resolved unanimously to solicit the interference of Government in carrying out, by legislative enactment, the recommendations contained in the Report of the Commissioners appointed to enquire into the condition of Fairs and Markets in Ireland; especially with the view of establishing Public markets under the control of sworn Officers and of rendering the purchase and sale of all Agricultural produce thereat compulsory.

WNS 1853-10-07-2 The Iverk Farming Society

The “Iverk Farming Society” held their annual exhibition of cattle, poultry, &c. at Piltown, in the demesne of the earl of Bessborough, on Tuesday last. The attendance of gentlemen from the neighbouring districts was numerous. The Countess of Bessborough distributed various prizes to the farmers and cottagers on the estate. In the gentlemen’s class the silver medal being the first prize, was awarded to George Randall Penrose, Esq., of Belvidere, Waterford, for the best lot of Cochín China fowl. The Countess of Bessborough and ladies and gentlemen present expressed their high approbation of the unrivalled lot of fowl; their superior qualities being hitherto unknown in this part of the country. The silver medal, which is a handsome design and very beautifully executed, can be seen, as well as the fowl, we learn, at the residence of Mr Penrose. In the evening the Society sat down to dinner, the chair being occupied by the Earl of Bessborough.

1854

WNS 1854-10-13-3 Iverk (Kilkenny) Farming Society

The annual meeting and show of this society took place at Piltown on Wednesday. The show of cattle, &c., was held in that portion of the park of Bessborough convenient to the village. The day was peculiarly propitious and the attendance large and respectable. For the accommodation of the ladies there was a very handsome London-made marquee placed on the show ground. The number of stock exhibited was not very large; but they were select and in good condition. Of green crops there was but little; and of farming implements even less. The show of sheep was very good. Lord Bessborough exhibited a very fine sow and litter. There were five or six bulls exhibited in good condition. The show of fowl was select but small. The show concluded about four o’clock, when all parties repaired to Mr. Anthony’s Hotel, from the steps of which the Earl and Countess distributed to the successful competitors the different prizes which had been just awarded them on the field. At this time and place there was a very large number of elegantly dressed ladies and gentlemen, farmers and other persons in attendance.....

The dinner was given in the large room of the court-house, which was brilliantly lighted and tastefully decorated with evergreens, roses, &c. The dinner which was a most substantial and plentiful one, was dressed at Bessborough House, and was served up in good style. Nearly all the gentlemen above mentioned, with a large body of farmers (nearly 200) sat down to dinner.

Medal for the best ‘Sow and Litter’ presented to John Malone

The following appeared in the Waterford News and Star October 15 page 1 and referred to the Show in 1854. The annual show of the Iverk Farming Society took place on Wednesday.

At the dinner in Anthony's Hotel 200 sat down. The chairman, Lord Bessborough, proposing a toast said, I'm in a very bad voice". To which a Carrick man replied "Take a drink!" (loud laughter).

1855

Waterford News (September 23, 1955). *100 years ago. From the Waterford News of September 21, 1855. Iverk Farming Society held their annual Show on Tuesday. The exhibits were not as numerous as last year, especially of sheep. The weather was most propitious. About 200 attending the dinner.*

1856

Farmer's Gazette- October-11 Iverk Farming Society

This show comprised some fine specimens of every kind of stock. There were two beautiful bulls shown by Major Quentin and Thomas Lalor, D.L., Gregg, to decide between which the judges had very great difficulty; they, however, eventually gave the prize to Major Quentin. In the gentlemen's class of milch cows there were some very fine animals shown, and great competition evinced; and in the farmer's class, under the same head, there were also a large number shown, and some of them prime animals. In the heifer class a great beauty among them was exhibited by John H Jones, Esq; there was nothing to compete with her, in her class, in the yard, and also two very fine two-year-olds. In pigs there were several fine litters shown by Major Quentin. There was a very fine show of horses.

The following is the list of prizes and successful candidates: -

Stock – Gentlemen's Class – For the best bull, medal, Major Quentin. For the best cow, in calf or milk, W H Brisco. For the best descriptions of two years old heifers, John H Jones. Commended, John H Jones. For the best description of weanling heifer calf, medal, Thomas Lalor.

Sheep – For the best ram, medal, Lord Bessborough. For the best five breeding ewes, medal, Lord Bessborough.

Swine – Best boar, not less than nine months, nor more than twenty-four months old, medal, Lord Bessborough. The best sow and litter of not less than two months old, medal, Major Quentin.

Open to farmers in the Lowland District – Best cow in calf or milk, Thomas Prendergast. Commended, Mrs White. Best two-year-old heifer, Michael Power. Second, John Prendergast. Third, N Coghlan. Best yearling, R Kenedy. Second, John Dalton. Best weanling heifer calf, Joseph McGrath. Second, N Coghlan.

Open to farmers in the Mountain District – Best cow in calf or milk, Thomas Shea. Best two-year-old heifer, P Brophy. Second, P Brophy. Third, Thomas Shea. Best yearling, P Brophy. Second, Widow O'Neill. Best weanling heifer calf, P Brophy. Second, D Whelan.

Sheep – Mountain District – Best breeding ewe, Thomas Brennan. Next, Thomas Brennan. Ditto, Widow White. Ditto, P Brophy. Best ewe lamb, P Brophy. Next, Thomas Brennan. Ditto, Walter Walsh.

Swine – Farmer’s Class – For the best boar, not less than nine months and not more than twenty-four months old, Thomas Brennan. The best sow and litter of not less than six pigs, not over two months old, Mrs Kinsella. Second, William Lancelly.

Sundries – best cool, or tub of butter, not less than 20lbs., prepared for the English market, Mrs Prendergast.

To the labourer, for the neatest and best kept cottage, with a plot of ground attached not more than half an acre, James Downes.

For the best crop of red clover, not less than one statute acre, John Lane.

For the best kept house and farm-yard, Michael Power.

Green crops – Lowland District – No. one – turnips, first, Thomas Bolger. Second, B Morris. Third, John Malone. Mangel wurzel, first John Carroll. Second, H Carroll. Third, M Morris. Carrots, B Morris.

Ditto – Lowland – No. two – Turnips, first, John Carroll. Second, Patrick McDonnell. Third, Thomas Whelan. Mangel wurzel, first, John Carroll. Second, Thomas Whelan. Third, John Prendergast.

Green Crops – Mountain District – Turnips, first, Thomas Brennan. Second, John Connors. Third, R Murphy. Mangels wurzel, first, Widow O’Neill. Second, D Walsh. Third, P Daniel. Turnips cultivated in field, Wm Costello, Patrick Walshe.

Lord Bessborough’s Prizes

Farms – First Class – Best managed farm, not less than twenty, not more than fifty acres, B Morris. Next, Michael Power.

Second Class – best farm, not less than five, or not more than fifty acres, R Corbit. Second, S Tobin.

Third Class – First, not less than twenty-five, or more than fifty acres in mountain district, James Quinn. Second, not less than ten, or more than twenty-five acres, T Dalton. Third, T Murphy.

Cottages – Lowland District – Best cultivated garden containing greatest variety of green crops, George Sloane. Next, John Conway. Next, Mary Allen. Next, James Lawless. Next Michael Treacy. Next, Anty Dalton. Next Catherine Langan.

Ditto – Mountain District – For ditto in this district the prizes were obtained by John Walshe, Patrick Toole, P Reddy, James Scully, James Walshe, Widow Cleary – Shanahan – Broders, Thomas Whelan, R Power, and Michael Flinn.

The Countess of Bessborough's Prizes.

Mountain Districts – Best new dairy, &c., James Quinn. Best kept ditto, George Morris. Best new ditto (lowland district), B Morris. Best new ditto, Mary Bryan. Best linen yarn, &c., Mary Bryan. Second best, Mrs Walshe. Best piece of linen, &c., John Flynn. Second, Oliver Barry. Best ditto of frieze, Richard Murphy. Second, E Wall. Third, Patrick Knox. Best piece of flannel, Mrs Shea. Second, Mrs T Dalton. Third, Oliver Barry. To the boy at Owing National School who shall grow the best crop of mangels and turnips, Thomas Carroll. Second best, J Cummins. To ditto at Piltown, Cooney. Second, Kennedy. To the boy who shall show at Piltown on show day the best six mangels and six turnips, F Hatchell. The best managed School Farm, Mr Cunningham. Second best, Mr Flannery.

Royal Agricultural Society's Premiums

First Class – Open for competition only to members of both Societies, subscribing One Pound and upwards annually to each.

For the best bull, under five years of age, thorough bred, medal, Major Quentin. For the best ram, thorough bred, medal, Lord Bessborough. For the best pen of five breeding ewes, medal, Lord Bessborough. For the best boar, not exceeding twenty-four months old, thorough bred, medal, Lord Bessborough. For the best sow and litter of not less than six pigs, medal, Major Quentin.

Second Class – Open to farmers whose holdings are valued by the Ordnance Valuation at from £50 to £100 per annum.

The prizes in this class were obtained for the best cow in calf or milk by Mr John Richardson. Best pair of weanling calves, Mr Richardson. Best sow and litter, not less than six pigs, Thomas McDaniel. Medals (2nd Class) were awarded in this class.

.....At the dinner the noble Chairman – Lord Bessborough gave the toast of the evening – “Prosperity to the Iverk Farming Society, long may it flourish” - That was now the 30th anniversary of the of the Iverk farming Society.....

1857

Farmers Gazette-1857-October-10th Iverk Farming Society

The annual show of this society took place yesterday in the part of the demesne of Bessborough near Piltown. It was very largely attended, and the number and excellence of animals were most creditable to the district. There was great competition as to the best bull in the yard, and for some time it appeared doubtful whether this would be won by “Napoleon”, a yearling bull, bred by Mr Welstead, and bought by the Earl of Bessborough at the Royal Agricultural Show at Waterford, or “Hospodar”, a bull shown by Major Quentin, which took the cup at the local society’s meeting in Waterford last week. The prize was eventually awarded to “Napoleon”.

Among the company who were in the yard, we noticed the Right Hon. The Earl of Bessborough and Lady Bessborough, the Earl of Shannon, Major Villiers Stuart, Sir Robert Paul, Bart., Sir H Meredith, Bart., Major Quentin, Edward Roberts, W H Briscoe, Daniel

Osbourne, Samuel Jones, Thomas Elliott, Mr Hutchison, Captain Croker, the Dean of Loughlin, Rev Mr Gregory, John Walshe, John H Jones, George Briscoe, Joseph Fisher, James Anderson, Henry Sargent, Edward Elliott, Rev Mr Hart, William Joyce, H Humphreys, Mr Lalor, John E Feehan, W Blackett, Dr Briscoe, Thomas O'Neill; &c., &c.

The prizes were as follows: -

Gentlemen's Class – Stock

Best bull from 2 to 5 years of age – Sir Robert Paul. Best yearling bull – the earl of Bessborough. Best bull in the yard – the Earl of Bessborough. Best cow in calf or in milk – Sir R Paul. Best 2-year-old heifer – Sir R Paul, Best yearling – Sir R Paul. Best weanling heifer calf – John Blackett, Esq.

Sheep - Best Ram – John H Jones, Esq. Best five breeding ewes – D Hewitson.

Swine - Best boar, not less than 9 months, nor more than twenty-four months old – William Joyce. Best sow and litter of not less than six pigs, not more than two months old – Major Quentin

Open to farmers in the Lowland District – Stock

Best cow in calf or in milk – Thomas Prendergast. Best two-year-old heifer – Michael Power; second Nicholas Coghlan. Best yearling – Joseph Magrath; second Nicholas Coghlan.

Open to farmers in the Mountain District.

Best cow in calf or in milk – Thos Shee. Best two-year-old heifer – Widow White; second Pat Brophy; third, Pat Brophy. Best yearling heifer – Pat Brophy; second, do. Best weanling heifer calf – Pat Brophy; second, do.

Farmers' Class – Lowland District – Sheep. Best ewe lamb – Joseph Magrath; second Joseph Magrath

Farmers' Class – Mountain District – Sheep. Best breeding ewe – Pat Brophy; second, Thos Brennan. Best ewe lamb – Mrs White

Farmers' Class – Swine. Best boar, not less than 9 months old – John Kinsella. Best sow and litter of not less than six pigs, not more than 2 months old – John Kinsella; second, Nicholas Coghlan.

Best cool or tub of butter, not less than 20lbs weight, prepared for the English market – John Prendergast

Labourers – for the neatest and best kept cottage, with a plot of ground attached, not more than half a statute acre – Widow Broadhurst.

Best crop of red clover, or other artificial herbage used for soiling – John Morrissey

Best kept house and farmyard – Michael Coleman.

Premiums Offered by the Royal Agricultural Improvement Society, for the Year 1857

First Class – Best bull within the district, under five-years of age - Earl of Bessborough. Best Ram – John H Jones. Best pen of five breeding ewes – Daniel Osbourne. Best boar, not exceeding 24 months old – Major Quentin. Best sow and litter of not less than six pigs – Major Quentin.

Second Class – Best cow in calf or milk – John Richardson, Esq. Best heifer in calf or milk, not exceeding three years of age – John Richardson, Esq. Best pen of five breeding ewes – Michael Comerford. Best sow and litter of six pigs – Robert Blacham.

Open to Working Farmers – Third Class. Best cow in calf or milk – Widow O'Neill. Best weanling heifer – Widow O'Neill. Best sow and litter of not less than six pigs – John Kinsella. Best cool or tub of butter, not less than 20lbs weight, prepared for the English market – Thomas Prendergast.

Fourth Class. Neatest and best kept labourer's cottage – Thomas Moran.

The Messrs Lawson, of Edinburgh's medal, in addition to the Iverk Society's Premiums. To the teacher of the boy who will receive the premium for root crops, on show day – Mr Flannery

At the dinner the Chairman, the Earl of Bessborough, gave "Success to the Iverk Farming Society. It was, he said, very gratifying to him to look round the district and to see each year that it was improving, and to hear from those who, after a lapse of four or five years, came to the neighbourhood, that they could see the same changes for the better

1858

Waterford News-1858-October- 1st Iverk farming Society (From our own Reporter)

The annual meeting of this venerable society, which was established so far back as the memorable year of '26, was held on Tuesday, in Bessborough Park. The attendance of gentry and people was large and respectable. There were six more entries than last year. The show of cattle, sheep, pigs, butter and fowl was very creditable to the district. The cattle and sheep for instance, were not so large (or perhaps we should say overgrown) as they were at the Royal Agricultural show at Waterford, but they were nevertheless more useful to the farmer. We particularly remarked the show of linen, woollens, and friezes, which are rarely seen at rural shows, but which are, perhaps, more necessary in a domestic point of view than anything else.

Amongst those present on the show ground, most of whom attended the dinner, were the following – The Earl and Countess of Bessborough, and the Ladies Ponsonby, Major Wm V Stuart, Castletown

After the show had concluded, the entire company retired to Mr Anthony's hotel, from the steps of which the Earl of Bessborough read out the list of prizes to a regular monster

meeting before him. The Countess of Bessborough, an amiable and most popular lady, stood by his side, and handed out a card for each of the prizes as they were read. The following is the list of prizes: -

Stock – Gentlemen's class – For the best bull, from two to five years of age – medal, Mr John H Jones. For the best yearling bull – medal, the Earl of Bessborough. For the best bull in the yard – medal, Mr John H Jones. For the best description of two-year-old heifer – medal, Mr John Power, Mount Richard. For the best description of yearling – medal, Mr John H Jones. For the best description of weanling heifer calf – medal, the Earl of Bessborough.

Sheep – Gentlemen's Class – for the best ram – medal, Earl of Bessborough. For the best five breeding ewes – medal, Earl of Bessborough.

Swine – Gentlemen's Class – For the best boar, not less than nine months old, not more than 24 months old – medal, Mr S H Jones. For the best sow and litter of not less than six pigs, not more than two months old – medal, Mr Joyce, Abbeyfarm.

Stock – Lowland District – for the best cow in calf or in milk – 10s, James Duggan, Ballyne. For the best two-year-old heifer – 15s, Mrs White, Breman. For the second best do – 10s, Nicholas Coghlan, Jamestown. For the third best two-year-old heifer, the Earl of Bessborough will give to his tenants 10s, John Malone, Rogerstown. For the best yearling – 15s, Joseph Magrath, Ooning. For the second best do – 10s, Michael Power, Breman. For the best weanling heifer calf -10s, Joseph Magrath, Ooning. For the second-best weanling heifer calf -7s 6d, Michael Power, Breman

Mountain District – For the best cow in calf or in milk – 10s, James Power, Corbally. For the best two-year-old heifer – 15s, Widow White, Mullinbeg. For the second best do – 10s, Patrick Brophy, Old Court. For the third best two-year-old heifer, the Earl of Bessborough will give to his tenants 10s, Patrick Cody, Garrygauge. For the best yearling – 15s, Patrick Brophy, Old Court. For the second best do – 10s, Patrick Brophy, Old Court. For the best weanling heifer calf – 10s, Patrick Brophy, Old Court. For the second best do – 7s 6d, Patrick Brophy, Old Court.

Sheep – Lowland District – for the best breeding ewe – 10s, Joseph Magrath, Ooning. For next best do the Earl of Bessborough will give his tenants 8s, Joseph Magrath, Ooning. For the best ewe lamb – 10s, John Maher, Killoreny. For the next do, the Earl of Bessborough will give his tenants 7s, John Feely, Killoneny.

Mountain District – For the best breeding ewe – 10s, Richard Murphy, Garrygauge. For the next do, the Earl of Bessborough will give to his tenants 9s, Mrs White, Mullinbeg. For the next do, do 7s, Michael Commerford, Tubbrid. For the nest do, do 6s, Mrs White, Mullinbeg. For the best ewe lamb – 10s, Mrs White, Mullinbeg. For the next do, the Earl of Bessborough to his tenants 8s, Mrs White, Mullinbeg. For the next do, do 6s, Richard Murphy, Garrygauge. For the best lamb to farmers holding under 20 acres (Irish) 5s, no competitor. For the second-best lamb, do, do – 4 s, no competitor.

Swine – Farmer’s Class – For the best boar, not less than 9 months old -10s, Thomas Daniel, Blackbog. For the best sow and litter of not less than six pigs, not more than two months old – 10s, John Kinsella, Kilanaspeck. For the second best do, do - 7s 6d, Nicholas Coghlan, Jamestown.

For the cool or tub of butter, not less than 20lbs weight, prepared for the English market – 10s, Walter Foley, Fiddown.

To the labourer, for the neatest and best kept cottage – 10s, Richard Byrne, Fiddown. For the best crop of red clover or other artificial herbage used for soiling – 10s, Ben Morris, Corlohan. For the best kept house and farmyard – 10s, John Comerford, Tubbrid.

Green Crops – Lowland District (No 1) – Turnips, 1st premium – 15s, Ben Morris, Corlohan. Turnips, 2nd do – 10s, Robert Blackmore, Kilmanahin. Turnips, 3rd do – 7s 6d, Hugh Carroll, Sandpits. Mangold wurzel, 1st premium – 15s, Michael Power, Brenar. Mangold wurzel, 2nd do – 10s, John Carroll, Brenar. Mangold wurzel, 3rd do – 7s 6d, Edmond Walsh, Springfield. Parsnips cultivated in the field – 10s, John Carroll, Brenar. Carrots do, do – 10s, Nicholas Coughlan, Jamestown. Cabbage do, do – 10s, Nicholas Coghlan, Jamestown. Rape, transplanted or sown – 7s 6d, Michael Power, Brenar. Cabbage 2nd premium – 5s, John Carroll, Brenar. *Lowland District (No 2)* – Turnips, 1st premium – 15s, John Prendergast, Nicholastown. Turnips, 2nd do – 10s, Robin Morahan, Clonmore. Turnips, 3rd do – 7s 6d, Edmond Delahunty, Grange. Mangold wurzel, 1st premium – 15s, Edmond Delahunty, Grange. Mangold wurzel, 2nd do – 10s, Pat Mullins, Rathcurby. Mangold wurzel 3rd do – 7s 6d, John Prendergast, Nicholastown. Parsnips, cultivated in the field – 10s, no competitor. Carrots, do, do – 10s, do. Cabbage do, do – 10s, do. Rape transplanted or sown – 7s 6d, do. Beans do, do – 5s, do.

Mountain District - Turnips, 1st premium – 15s, Mrs White, Mullinbeg. Turnips, 2nd do – 10s, John Comerford, Tubbrid. Turnips, 3rd do – 7s 6d, John Kinsella, Killinaspeck. Moangold wurzel, 1st premium – 15s, Thomas Brennan, Old Court. Mangold wurzel, 2nd do – 10s, Thomas Connors, Killinaspeck. Mangold wurzel 3rd do - 7s 6d, Adam Tobin, Barabehy. Parsnips, cultivated in the field – 10s, no competitor. Carrots do – 10s, Patrick Walsh, Tubenahone. Cabbage do – 10s, Patrick Conway, Blackbog. Rape, transplanted or sown – 7s 6d, no competitor. For the best six turnips – 2s 6d, Mr Hill Bessboro’. For the best six mangolds – 2s 6d, Mr McMahon, Cregg. For the best six carrots – 2s 6d, Robert Blackmore, Kilmanahin; Mr Hill, highly commended. For the best six parsnips – 2s 6d, Frank Hitchell, Whitechurch. For the best three heads of cabbage – 2s 6d, James Lahy, Mullinbeg.

Fowl – For the best lot of fowls of a superior breed – medal, Mr Melville. For the best two couple of turkeys – 5s, Mrs Brophy. For the second best do – 2s 6d, Mrs White. For the best gander and two geese – 5s, Mrs Power, Brenar. For the best do, do – 2s 6d, Edward Neill, Gortrush. For the best cock and two hens – 5s, Mrs Power, Brenar. For the second best do – 2s 6d, Mrs Morris, Corlohan. For the best drake and two ducks – 5s, Mrs Power Brenar. For the second best do, do – 2s 6d, Mrs Ben Morris. To the labourer who lived the longest time with his master, and produced the best character – 15s, Patrick Browne, Ballyne. For the

second best do, do – 10s, John Going, Castletown. For the third best do – 5s, Thomas Butler, Ballyne. A mowing match for cutting wheat with a scythe, 1st premium – 15s. Second do, do -10s, no merit. Third do, do 7s 6d, no merit.

Farms – First class (L D) – for the best managed farm of not less than 10 acres, with house and offices suited thereto - £5, Ben Morris, Colrohan. For the next best, do, do - £110s, John Feely, Kilonery. *Second class (M D)* – for the best managed farm of not less than 10 acres, with house and offices suited thereto - £5, Widow Walsh, Tubbrid. For the next do, do - £1, James Quinn, Garrygauge.

Cottages – Lowland District – 1st and 2nd premium to James Downes, Rogerstown - £1 15s. 3rd do, do, Pat Morahan, Piltown – 12s. 4th do to Mary Allen, Piltown – 10s. 5th do to Pat Hanlon, Clonmore – 7s. 6th do to Anastatia Dalton, Piltown – 6s. 7th do to Michael Treacy, Fiddown – 5s. *Mountain District* – 1st premium to Pat Toole, Cashel - £1. 2nd prem. to John Byrne, Ooning – 15s. 3rd prem. to James Butler, Ballynamotagh – 11s. 4th do, to Robin Lewis, Dowling – 10s. 5th to Widow Browders, Tobernabone – 7s. 6th do, to James Scully, Tobunahone – 6s. 7th do, to James Lahy, Mullinbeg – 6s. 8th do, to James Walsh, Tobrnahone – 5s. For the neatest and cleanest cottage and garden occupied by a tradesman - £1, Thomas Whelan, Banaher. For the best implement made by a mechanic – 31, no merit. For the second best do, do – 12s, do.

The Countess of Bessborough will distribute the following premiums to farmers and cottagers on the Bessborough Estate – For the best new dairy, mountain district, 15s, David Walsh, Kilmanahin. For the best kept dairy, do, 10s, John Comerford, Tubbrid. For the best new dairy, lowland district, 15s, John Feely, Killonery. For the best kept dairy, do 10s, Ben Morris, Corlohan. For the best linen yarn, grown, &c, in the district, 7s, Mary Brien, Piltown. For the second best do, do, 5s, Mrs John Flinn, Ballygown. For the best piece of linen manufactured in the district, 10s, John Walsh, Boolyglass. For the second best do, 7s, Mrs John Flinn, Ballygown. For the best piece of frieze cloth, do 10s, Edmond Grace, Ballyancronny. For the second best do, 8s, Oliver Barry, Boolyglass. To the boy attending the national School of Boolyglass, who shall grow in the school garden the best crop of mangolds, turnips, parsnips, carrots, onions and cabbage, 5s, no competitor. Second best do, 2s, no competitor. To the boy attending the national School at Piltown, 5s, David Flynn, Garrynaree. Second best do, 3s, Bryan McDonald. To the boy attending the national School, Clonmore, 5s, no competitor. Second best 3s, no competitor. For the boy attending the national School, Whitechurch, 5s, Michael Loughlan. Second best, do, 3s, Francis Hatchell, Whitechurch. To the boy of any of the above who will produce on show day, at Piltown, the best six mangolds, six turnips, six parsnips, six carrots, twelve onions, and two heads of cabbage, 5s, Francis Hatchell, Whitechurch. Best managed school farm, £1 10s, Mr Cunningham, Piltown. Second best do 10s, Richard Grey, Clonmore.

Royal Agricultural Society's Premiums – 1st class. Best bull within the district, under five years of age, first class medal; John H Jones. Best ram, that shall be in the opinion of the judges a thorough bred animal, first class medal; Earl of Bessborough. Best pen of five

breeding ewes, first class medal; do. best boar, not exceeding two years old, first class medal; do. best sow and litter of not less than six pigs, first class medal, Mr Joyce, Abbey farm. 2nd Class- best cow in calf or in milk, second class medal; there were only two animals in this class, not worthy of merit. Best heifer in calf or milk, second class medal, Michael Power, Brenar. Best pair of weanling heifer calves, do, Patrick Brophy, Old Court. Best pen of five breeding ewes, do, Michael Comerford, Tubbrid. Best sow and litter of pigs, Robert Blackmore, Kilmanahin. 3rd Class – Best cow in calf or in milk, £1, Cornelius O'Neill. Best weanling heifer calf, £1, Nicholas Coghlin, Jamestown. Best crop of red clover or other artificial herbage used for soiling, £1, Rhody Corbit, Bawngarriff. Best kept house and farmyard, £1, Rhody Corbit, Bawngarriff. Best sow and litter of not less than six pigs, £1, Ben Morris, Corlohan. Best cool or tub of butter, £1, Michael Power, Brenar. To the labourer, for the neatest and best kept cottage, £1, Thomas Morahan, Rogerstown. The Messrs Lawson of Edinburgh, will give to the farmer who raises the finest specimens of new Tweeddale yellow turnip, a medal, no competitor. To the teacher of the boy who will receive the premium for root crops, on show day, a medal, Mr Coulan, Whitechurch. Mr J H Jones's premiums – best firkin of butter, £1 15s, Thomas Prendergast, Killonery. Second best, £1 5s, Thomas Shea, Ardclone.

Challenges Decided – Mr James Feehan, to show four acres of wheat, 2s 6d; accepted by the Earl of Bessborough, won by Mr Feehan. Mr John H Jones, to show a pair of labourers' cottages, taking into account economy and compactness, against Lord Bessborough, for 5s; accepted by Earl of Bessborough, won by Earl of Bessborough. Mr H T Humphries, to show an acre of mangolds, for 2s 6d, accepted by Mr Stuart, Mr S H Jones, Mr Lawlor and Mr Thomas Elliott; won by Mr Humphries. Mr Robert Blackmore, jun, to show against any farmer (holding for 15 to 40 acres) the cleanest grassland, for a bottle of wine; accepted by Wm Richardson; won by Wm Richardson. Mr Lalor, to show a yearling bull, for 2s 6d; accepted by the Earl of Bessborough; won by the Earl of Bessborough. Mr H T Humphries, to show a broodmare and foal for 2s 6d; accepted by the Earl of Bessborough; won by the Earl of Bessborough. Mr McLoughlin, to show a white Cades China cock and two hens, for 5s; accepted by Mr Stuart; won by Mr Stuart. Wm Richardson to show three quarters of an acre of mangolds and three quarters of an acre of Swedish Turnips, against Mr R Blackmore, jun, for a bottle of wine; accepted by Mr R Blackmore; won by Wm Richardson. Mr Osborne, to show five South Down hogget ewes; accepted by the Earl of Bessborough, won by Mr Osborne. Mr Thomas Elliott, to show six ewe lambs for 5s; accepted by Mr John Hewetson; both to pay. Mr H T Humphries, to show a sow and litter – the litter to be under three months – for 2s 6d; accepted by Rev R B Neville, Earl of Bessborough, Mr Sergeant, and Mr Stuart; won by Mr Stuart. Mr Lalor, to show a heifer calf for 2s 6d; accepted by Mr Jones; won by Mr Lalor. Mr Michael Power, proposed to show a three-year-old heifer for 2s; accepted by Mr Patrick Brophy; won by Mr Michael Power. The Earl of Bessborough to show a short horned bull for 2s 6d; accepted by Mr J H Jones; won by Mr J H Jones. The Earl of Bessborough, to show five acres of Swedish turnips, for 2s 6d; accepted by Mr Stuart; won by Mr Stuart. A sweepstake of 5s, for the best corn mowing; Earl of Bessborough, Mr

Osborne, Mr S H Jones, Mr Thomas Elliott, Dr Briscoe, Mr Stuart; won by the Earl of Bessborough.

The dinner took place in a large and spacious room in the court house, which was tastefully decorated for the occasion.... About 120 respectably dressed persons, chiefly farmers, sat down to a most plentiful and substantial dinner..... Lord Bessborough occupied the chair and Major Stuart the vice-chair....

1859

LEE 1859-10-15-7

The annual Cattle Show and dinner of Iverk (Kilkenny) farming society was held on Tuesday, at Piltown. This is the oldest Agricultural Society in our country, and its successful progress must be a source of gratification to everyone truly interested in the prosperity of our country – *Kilkenny Moderator*.

Kilkenny Moderator-1859-October 15th Iverk Farming Society

The annual show of this society took place on Tuesday last in the Bessborough demesne, Piltown. In every respect the show was a most creditable one, affording the strongest assurances that the Society is in the most prosperous condition, and in its operations of immense benefit to the district. The day was tolerable fine, and a very large assemblage was on the ground about 11 o'clock, not only from the immediate neighbourhood, but for various distant localities. Among those present we observedThe show of stock was of a very superior description comprising a large variety of short horn breed. There was also a large number of bulls shown by Mr J Anderson, Sir R Paul, Mr J H Jones, Lord Bessborough, &c. Mr Anderson's bull was a splendid animal, and took no less than three prizes, among which was the medal for being the best bull on the show ground. Some very fine sheep and pigs were also exhibited, as also some poultry, specimens of those reared in the Bessborough yard. There was a great variety of agricultural implements among which was a plough made by a smith named Flynn, working on the Bessborough farm, and which was remarkable for its finished workmanship. Mr Condon, of Waterford, exhibited a turnip cutter, a furze cutter, and gates which were greatly admired. A winnowing machine by Mr John Edmondson, Mooncoin, also elicited admiration. The specimens of green crops were very numerous, comprising very fine mangolds, turnips, carrots, parsnips, &c., showing that however, those valuable roots have failed elsewhere, the farmers of the Iverk district have them good and in abundance. Frieze, linen and flannel, made by the farmers' wives and daughters, in which useful work they are much encouraged by the Countess of Bessborough. The judges of stock, green crops, and farm implements were Lord Huntingdon, Messrs E Roberts, G Briscoe, S Jones, Hutchibson, Knox and Anderson, and of flannels, friezes and linens, Messrs Horan and Teehan, of Carrick-on-Suir.

The Prize list – At 3 o'clock the Earl and Countess of Bessborough took their position on the steps of Mr Anthony's hotel, accompanied by Lady Kathleen Tighe, Lady Harriet Ponsonby, and several of the gentry above named. A large number of farmers and their wives and daughters were in front of the hotel, evincing a most anxious interest as his lordship read out the list of prizes. Mr H Briscoe, at the request of Lord Bessborough, exerted himself to keep open spaces in front of the hotel, assisted by Mr Richardson, one of his lordship's agents.

Lord Bessborough then read the prize list as follows: -

Stock – Gentlemen's Class

For the best Bull, from 2 to 5 years of age, Sir R Paul; for the best yearling Bull, James Anderson; for the best bull in the yard, James Anderson; for the best Cow in calf or in milk, J H Jones; for the best description of 2-year-old Heifer, Sir R Paul; for the best description of yearling, Sir R Paul; for the best description of weanling Heifer Calf, J H Jones.

Sheep – Gentlemen's Class. For the best Ram, J H Jones; for the best 5 breeding Ewes, Lord Bessborough.

Swine – Gentlemen's Class. For the best Boar, not less than 9 months, nor more than 24 months old, Sir R Paul; for the best Sow and litter of not less than 6 Pigs, not more than two months old, Lord Stuart de Desies.

Open to Farmers in the Lowland District. For the best Cow in calf or in milk, Thomas Prendergast; for the best two-year-old Heifer, John Prendergast; for the second best, ditto, W Magrath; for the third best two-year-old Heifer, the Earl of Bessborough will give his tenants, T Prendergast; for the best Yearling, T Prendergast; for the second best, ditto, Mrs Coghlan; for the best weanling Heifer Calf, Widow White; highly commended. For the second-best ditto, P Brophy.

Open to farmers in the Mountain District. For the best Cow in calf or in milk, T Brennan; for the best two-year-old Heifer, Martin Maher; for the second-best ditto, D Whelan; for the third best two-year-old Heifer the Earl of Bessborough will give to his tenants, Hugh Carroll; for the best Yearling, Widow Walsh; for the second-best ditto, Tom Brennan; for the best weanling Heifer Calf, Richard Walsh; for the second-best ditto, Patrick Brophy.

Sheep- Farmers' Class – Lowland District. For the best breeding Ewe, James Magrath; for the next ditto, the Earl of Bessborough will give to his tenants, John Maher; for the best Ewe lamb, John Maher; for the next ditto the Earl of Bessborough will give to his tenants, John Maher

Sheep – Farmers' Class – Mountain District. For the best breeding Ewe, Mrs White; for the next ditto the Earl of Bessborough will give to his tenants, Patrick Brophy; ditto, ditto, John Reed; ditto, ditto, Patrick Brophy; for the best ewe Lamb, Michael Comerford; for the next

ditto the Earl of Bessborough will give to his tenants, Patrick Brophy; ditto, ditto, Patrick Brophy.

Swine – Farmers' Class. For the best Boar not less than nine months old, Michael Duggan; for the best Sow and litter of not less than six pigs, not more than two months old, Wm Lundale; for the second-best ditto, ditto, Henry Briscoe; for the best crop of Red Clover, or other Artificial Herbage used for soiling, Nicholas Byrne; for the best kept House and Farm Yard, Michael Comerford.

Green Crops – Lowland District No.1 for upper part of the barony. Turnips not less than half an acre, Ben Morris, 15s, first premium; do, do, Richard Lendon, second premium; do, do, Michael Power, third premium; Mangold Wurzel not less than qr. Acre, B Morris, first premium; do, do, W Landry, second premium; do, do, James Maguire, third premium; parsnips, cultivated in the field, B Morris; carrots, do, B Morris; cabbage, do, N Coghlan; Rape, transplanted or sown, Mr Landry; Beans, no competitor;

Green Crops – Lowland District No. 2, for lower part of the barony. Turnips not less than half an acre, Thomas McDaniel, Clonmore, first premium; do, do John Prendergast, second premium; do, do, Patrick Kelly, Cashel, third premium; Mangold Wurzel not less than qr. Acre, Patrick Kelly, Cashel, first premium.

Green Crops – Mountain District. Turnips not less than half an acre, Thomas Shea, first premium; do, do, Widow Comerford, second premium; do, do, John Comerford, third premium; mangold wurzel not less than qr. Acre, David Walsh, first premium; do, do, W White, second premium; do, do, P Daniel, third premium; parsnips cultivated in the field, M Barry, carrots do, D Walsh; cabbage, P Connors, rape, transplanted or sown, James Daniel.

Open to all Classes on the Show Day. For the best six turnips, Richard White; for the best six mangolds – Hill; for the best six carrots, B Morris; for the best six parsnips, H Carrol; for the best three heads of cabbage, - Hill.

Fowl. For the best lot of fowls of a superior breed – Gentlemen's class, the medal. W V Stuart, for the best two couple of turkeys, not more than ten months old – farmers' class; Mrs Walshe, do, do; Mrs Walshe, for the best gander and two geese do; Mrs Neill, do, do; Mrs Lendon, do, do., B Morris, for the best cock and six hens do; Mrs Power, for the best drake and two ducks do; B Morris, do.

To the labourer who lived the longest time with his master and produced the best character, John Shanahan; do, Andrew Broderick; do, John Drohan.

Farms – First Class. For the best managed farm of not less than 10 acres with houses and offices attached thereto on the lowland district, John Feely

Cottages – Lowland District. Prizes for gardens attached to neat and orderly cottages, with holdings not amounting to one acre; for the best cultivated garden containing the greatest variety of green crops, Patrick Morahan; for the next ditto, John Byrne; for the next ditto,

Mary Allen; for the next ditto, Arthur Walsh; for the cleanest cottage, without a garden, Richard Mackay, Clonmore; Pat Handlon, Anty Dalton.

Cottages – Mountain District. Prizes for gardens attached to neat and orderly cottages, with holdings not amounting to two acres; For the best cultivated garden containing the greatest variety of green crops ditto, Pat Toole; for the next ditto, James Butler; for the next ditto, James Scully; for the next ditto, James Walsh; for the next ditto, Patrick Roddy; for the next ditto, John Conway; for the cleanest cottage without a garden, William Brawders; ditto, ditto, William Lewis; for the neatest and cleanest cottage and garden occupied by a tradesman, Thom Whelan.

The value of the above money prizes for cottages to be given in furniture.

For the best implement made by a mechanic, Tom Clooney; for the second-best ditto, William Flinn, Bessborough; John Edmudson, Mooncoin

The Countess of Bessborough. Distributed the following premiums to farmers and cottagers on the Bessborough estate. For the best new dairy – mountain district – with thorough ventilation and a good floor, Pat Durney, Garryduff; for the best kept dairy, do, David Walsh; for the best new dairy – lowland district, do Michael Coleman; for the best kept dairy, do, John Feely; for the best linen yarn, grown and manufactured in the district – not less than three dozen, Mrs P Lewis, Piltown; for the second best, no competitor; for the best piece of frieze cloth, Mrs Coghlan; for the second best do, Mrs Comerford; for the third best do, Mrs Baldwin; for the best piece of flannel, Mrs Knox; for the second best do, Olivia Barry; To the boy attending the National School at Boolyglass, who shall grow in the school garden the best crop of mangolds, turnips, parsnips, carrots, onions and cabbage, (not less than six competitors) – 1st prize, P Knox; for the second best do, do, T Grady; to the boy attending the National School at Piltown do do, W Wright; for the second best do, T Hettrington; to the boy attending the national School of Clonmore, J Coghlan, second best do, T Hettrington.

Premiums offered by the Royal Agricultural Improvement Society for the year 1859.

First Class – Open for competition only to members of both Societies, subscribing one pound and upwards annually to each. For the best Bull within the district, under five-years of age and that shall be in the opinion of the judges a thoroughbred animal, first class medal, John Taylor. For the best Ram that shall be, in the opinion of the judges a thoroughbred animal, first class medal, Thomas O'Donnell. For the best pen of five breeding ewes, first class medal, Walter Foley

Second Class – open to farmers whose holdings are valued by the tenement valuation over £100 per annum. For the best heifer in calf or milk, not exceeding three years of age, second class medal, Patrick Brophy.

For the best tub of butter, John Prendergast £1.

At 4 o'clock, the Earl of Bessborough, accompanied by a large party of gentlemen, proceeded to the Assembly room in the market-house, where an excellent dinner was laid out

1860

WNS-1860-10-12-3 Iverk Cattle Show

.....linen yarn, grown and manufactured in the district, not less than three dozen, Mrs Flynn, 7s; second, do., Mrs Lewis, 5s; Best piece of linen manufactured in the district, Mrs O'Brien, 10s; second do., Oliver Barry, 8s; third do, Mrs Brien, 5s; best piece of flannel, Mrs Flynn, 10s; second do, Mrs Brien, 8s; third do, Oliver Barry, 5s; to the boy attending the national school of Boolyglass, who shall grow in the school garden the best crop of mangolds, turnips, parsnips, carrots, onions and cabbage (not less than six competitors), 1st prize, Pat Downes, 5s; to the boy attending the National School of Whitechurch, Pat Donovan, 5s; to the boy attending the schools who will produce on the show day at Piltown, the six best mangolds, 6 turnips, 6 parsnips, 6 carrots, 12 onions and 2 heads of cabbage, Pat Donovan, 5s; * thus marked cannot obtain the premium a second time.

Premiums offered by the Royal Agricultural Improvement Society for the year 1860; - First Class – open for competition only to members of both societies subscribing £1 and upwards annually to each; - for the best ram, that shall be in the opinion of the judges a thoroughbred animal, Mr Jones, medal; best boar, not less than 6 and not more than 24 months old, that shall in the opinion of the judges a thorough-bred animal, Mr W Joyce, a medal. Second class – open to farmers whose holdings are valued by the tenement valuation over £100 per annum – for the best cow in- calf or milk, Mr Joyce, second class medal; best pen of five breed ewes, Thomas O'Donnell, do. Third class – Open to working farmers, living principally by husbandry, whose holdings are valued by the government valuation under £100 per annum; - For the best cow in-calf or milk, Nicholas Coghlan, £1; best crop of red clover, or other artificial herbage used for soiling, not less than one statute acre, Michael Whelan, £1; for the farm of mixed husbandry, which with the dwelling house, offices, fences, &c., shall be in the best order, Ben Morris, £1; best sow and litter of not less than six pigs, Nicholas Coghlan, £1; best cool or tub of butter, not less than 20lbs weight, prepared for the English market, John Prendergast, £1. Fourth Class – to the labourer, for the neatest and best kept cottage, with a ploy of ground attached, not more than half a statute acre, gentlemen's lodges and tradesmen's houses excluded, James Downes, £1

Challenges

Mr Lawlor to show the best yearling bull. Accepted by the earl of Bessborough, won by Mr Lawlor

Mr Osborne to show five Southdown ewe lambs. Accepted by the earl of Bessborough, won by Mr Osborne.

Mr Walsh, to show three acres of stubble land prepared for a spring green crop; won by Mr S Jones.

Mr W H Briscoe, to show a weanling heifer calf; won by Mr John H Jones

Mr Thomas Prendergast, to show the best description of a milch com; won by Thomas Prendergast.

Mr Lalor, to show a weanling heifer calf. Accepted by Mr S H Jones. Won by Mr Jones.

Mr John Prendergast, to show the best firkin of butter: won by John Prendergast.

Mr Osborne, to show at the June fair at Fiddown five fat heifers; accepted by the Earl of Bessborough; won by Mr Osborne.

Mr Thomas Elliott, to show at the June fair at Fiddown 10 fat sheep; won by Lord Bessborough.

Mr Thomas Prendergast, to show a three-year-old heifer in calf. Accepted by Mr Thomas O'Donnell. Won by Mr Thomas O'Donnell.

Mr John Feely, to show the best managed farm-house and offices. Accepted by Mr Thomas Power. Won by Mr Feely.

Dr Brisco, to show a crop of rape transplanted or sown; won by Dr Briscoe.

Mr J H Jones, to show two cottages combining economy and convenience. Accepted by the Earl of Bessborough. Won by Lord Bessborough.

The dinner. That duty over upwards of 150 of those who had attended the show sat down to an excellent dinner in the sessions house in the village, the Earl of Bessborough presiding. The room was tastefully decorated for the occasion. Festoons of evergreens adorned the walls in many places, while between them were such mottoes as the following: - "Speed the plough; better farm twenty acres well, than fifty by halves; he that tilleth his land, shall have plenty of bread; one year's saving is seven year's weeding; he who would reap well, must sow well; choose the best seed; straight fences, clean crops; thorough draining and plenty of manure; it is never too late to learn; good fences, good neighbours; sloth is the mother of poverty; one animal well fed, is worth two poorly kept". It is needless to say that full justice was done the edibles provided, the appetite being sharpened by the keen north wind which blew during the day, and for a time those charitable individuals who officiated as carvers were kept hard at work. At length the cravings of the inner man having been appeased....

1861

MEX 1861-10-05-5 Iverk Farming Society

The annual show of the Iverk farming Society was held on Wednesday, at Bessborough Park, Piltown. The day was very fine, and the attendance very large. The charge for admission to the yard was only two pence each, and the attendance must have been very large, when the sum of eight pounds was received at the gate. The show was held in Bessborough Park, where the magnificent trees and the soft verdure added very greatly to the attraction of

the scene. The very great and well deserved popularity of the Lord and Lady Bessborough, induces all the gentry of the district to rally round them, and on such occasions as the present to assist by their presence in forwarding the objects which are so dear to Lord and Lady Bessborough, and which are, the social and material advancement of people – it is to raise man, to educate man, to improve man, that is the aim and object of this noble pair – the improvement of the dwellings of the farmers and farm laborers, and the improvement in the productiveness of the land, are meant to act upon the minds of the people, while the care which is taken of the bodies of the poor, and aged affords a further instance of that kindliness towards the outer shell, which encloses the human mind, which is so much to be admired; one of the tenants in speaking at the dinner of Lady Bessborough, said feelingly – “she was a mother to the widow and the orphan”. Amongst the new features which were this year added to the prizes, was Lady Bessborough’s offering prizes for the cultivation of flowers in the gardens of cottagers, thus inducing them to cultivate these beauties.

The cattle which were exhibited were very good, and comprised some of the first-class animals which carried off prizes at the Waterford show yard. Mr Jones of Mullinabro exhibited “Master Harbinger”, which obtained the first prize for two-year-old bulls, the prize for the best bull in the yard, and the medal of the Royal Agricultural Society. Mr. Anderson showed two very nice bulls – “Bachelor” took the first prize for the yearling bull; the other “Garibaldi”, which won in Waterford, is a very nice animal. Mr Samuel Jones showed a very nice young bull; and Mr Lalor’s bull possessed some merit. The Earl of Bessborough had three bulls in the field. The first prize for cows was awarded to a very nice animal belonging to Mr Jones. Sir Robert Paul’s two-year-old heifer “Evening” got the first prize in its class and the medal, as the best animal in the yard. His yearling and weanling calf also got the first prizes in their several classes.

The farmers cattle were exceptionally creditable, and proves that the pains which have been taken to improve the breed, have not been thrown away, as the stock of the lowlands well as the mountain district, was very good.

The show of sheep was not large, nor was there any great merit in the animals shown.

Pigs were also rather scanty in in quantity, but the quality of some of those shown was good. Mr W. Villiers Stuart showed a boar of such merit, and Mr Samuel Jones’s sow and litter well deserved the medal, which was awarded to them.

The roots were very good, and as the best of them were produced at the national Schools, they show that agricultural education is not overlooked in these institutions. Amongst the attractions of the show was a booth or shop for the sale of the work done at Lady Bessborough’s school – it attracted much attention.

The judges for gentlemen’s stock were – John Hutchinson, F. G. Bloomfield and Maurice Knox, Esqs. For farmers stock - Lord Lismore, William Fennell, and James Anderson, Esq.

About one o'clock the band from Portlaw Factory arrived. It was a very nice turn out, the bandsmen wore blue jackets, duck trousers and caps with gold lace. They performed in a very creditable manner and attracted a good deal of attention, and the park for a couple of hours presented a very gay and festive appearance. About three o'clock the meeting adjourned from the show yard to the front of the hotel, where Lord and Lady Bessborough distributed the prizes, his Lordship reading the prize list aloud, and handing the winners orders for the amount which they won. One of them, Paddy Brophy carried off a sheaf of these orders. Lady Bessborough gave her own prizes to the respective winners. The awards were as follows: -

Stock – Gentlemen's Class. For the best bull from 2 to 5 years of age, John H Jones; For the best yearling bull, James Anderson. For the best bull in the yard, John H Jones. For the best description of 2-year-old heifer, Sir Robert Paul, Bart. For the best description of yearling, Sir Robert Paul, Bart. For the best description of weanling heifer calf, Sir Robert Paul, Bart. For the best animal in the yard, Sir Robert Paul, Bart.

Sheep – Gentlemen's Class. For the best ram, John H Jones. For the best 5 breeding ewes, David Heweston

Swine – Gentlemen's Class. For the best boar, not less than 2 months nor more than 24 months old, W. V. Stuart. For the best sow and litter of not less than 6 pigs not more than 2 months old, Samuel H Jones.

Open to Farmers in the Lowland District. For the best cow in calf or in milk, Walter Foley. For the best two-year-old heifer, Thomas Prendergast. For the second-best ditto, Rody Corbett. For the third best two-year-old heifer, Thomas Prendergast. For the best yearling, Michael Coleman. For the second-best ditto, James Duggan. For the best weanling heifer calf, Patt Malone. For the second-best ditto, Thomas Prendergast.

Open to Farmers in the Mountain District. For the best cow in calf or in milk, Thomas Brennan. For the best two-year-old heifer, Patt Brophy. For the second-best ditto, Patt Brophy. For the third best two-year-old heifer the Earl of Bessborough will give to his tenants, Patt Brophy. For the best yearling Patt Brophy. For the second-best ditto, Patt Brophy, For the best weanling heifer calf, Patt Brophy. For the second-best ditto, Patt Brophy.

Farmer's Class. For the best cow in the yard, Walter Foley. For the best two-year-old heifer ditto, Patt Brophy. For the best yearling ditto, Michael Coleman. For the best xxxx Patt Brophy

Sheep – Farmer's Class – Lowland District. For the best ewe lamb, Patt Malone. For the second-best ditto, Michael Coghlan.

Sheep – Farmer's Class – Mountain District. For the best breeding ewe, Thomas Brenna. For the next ditto, Thomas Brennan. For the next ditto, John Flynn. For the next ditto, John Flynn. For the best ewe lamb, John Flynn. For the next best ditto, Edward Brennan. For the next best ditto, John Smith

For the best agricultural mare, John Comerford. For the second-best ditto, Thomas Power

Swine – Farmer's Class. For the best sow and litter of not less than six pigs, not more than two months old, Pat Brophy. For the second-best ditto, Patt Comerford.

For the best cool or tub of butter prepared for the English Market, John Comerford. For the best cool or tub of butter, not less than 90lbs. weight, prepared for the English Market, Patt Haahesy.

For the Labourer for the neatest and best kept cottage, with a plot of ground attached, not more than half a statute acre, Gentlemen's Lodges and Tradesmen's houses excluded, Thomas Monahan.

For the best crop of Red Clover, or other artificial Herbage used for soiling, not less than one statute acre, Michael Phelan.

For the best farm of mixed Husbandry, which with the dwelling-house, offices, fences &c., shall be in the best order, Hugh Carroll.

Green Crops – Lowland district for upper part of the Barony. Turnips not less than half an acre, first premium, William Walsh. Ditto, second premium, Thomas Fogarty. Ditto, third premium, Richard Lynden. Mangold Wurzel not less than qr. Acre, first premium, Hugh Carroll. Ditto, second premium, Ben Morris. Ditto, third premium, William Lausely. Parsnips cultivated in the field, John Foley. Carrots, ditto, Richard Lynden. Cabbage ditto, Ben Morris. Rape transplanted or sown, Rody Corbett.

Green Crops – Lowland district No 2, for lower part of the Barony. Turnips not less than half an acre, first premium, Robert Monahan. Ditto, second premium, Edward Delahunty. Ditto third premium, John Daniel. Mangold Wurzel not less the qr. Acre, first premium James Malone. Ditto second premium, David Walsh. Ditto third premium, Thomas Brennan. Parsnips cultivated in the field, Michael Barry. Carrots, ditto, Widow Walshe. Cabbage ditto, Patrick Conway.

Open to all classes on the show day, except cottagers. For the best 6 turnips, for the best 6 mangolds, for the best 6 parsnips, for the best 3 heads of cabbage, Piltown School farm, Thomas Lalor, Esq.

Fowl. For the best lot of a superior breed – gentlemen's class, Lord Bessborough. For the best couple of turkeys, not more than two months old – farmer's class, Mrs Egan. For the next ditto, Michael Power. For the best gander and 2 geese, Edward Neil. For the next do., Joseph Doherty. For the best cock and two hens, Mrs Egan. For the next do. Widow White. For the best drake and two ducks, Michael Power. For the next do. Robert Bowers.

To the labourer who lived the longest time with his master and produced the best character, James Broderick. For the next do. John Shanahan. For the next do. John Connery.

Farms – First Class. For the best managed farm of not less than 10 acres, with houses and offices attached thereto, on the lowland district, John Feely. For the next do., Rhody Corbert

Second class. For the best managed farm of not less than 10 acres, with houses and offices as already described (mountain district), Thomas Power. For the next do. David Walsh. The £5 premium will not be given to those who received them last year, unless there is sufficient improvement since the previous year.

Cottages – Lowland District. Prizes for gardens attached to neat and orderly Cottages, with holdings not amounting to one acre: - for the best cultivated garden containing the greatest variety of Green Crops, James Downes. For the next do, Thomas Morahan. For the next do, Patrick Morahan. For the next do, John Egan. For the cleanest cottage without a garden, Arthur Walsh. For the next do, Richard Byrne.

Cottages – Mountain District. Prizes for gardens attached to neat and orderly Cottages, with holdings not amounting to two acres: - for the best cultivated garden containing the greatest variety of Green Crops, John Byrne. For the next do, Patt Ready. For the next do, John Lahy. For the next do, Patt O'Toole. For the next do, James Scully. For the cleanest cottage without a garden, Widow Walsh.

The value of the above money prizes for cottages to be given in furniture

For the best implement made by a mechanic, John Gollan.

Cottagers – Flower Gardens. 1st – Thomas Morahan; 2nd, James Downes; 3rd Patrick Ready. For the best fat pig exhibited by a cottager, James Downes. For the greatest number of bee hives kept by a cottager, Widow Walsh.

The Countess of Bessborough distributed the following premiums to farmers and cottagers on the Bessborough Estate; -

For the best new dairy – mountain district – with thorough ventilation and a good floor, John Fitzpatrick; for the best kept dairy do, John Comerford; for the best kept dairy do, John Foley; for the best kept linen yarn, grown and manufactured in the district – not less than three dozen, Mrs Lewis; for the second best, Mrs Brian; for the best piece of linen manufactured in the district, Mrs Conway; for the second best do, Edmond Shea; for the best piece of frieze cloth, Mrs Brien; for the second best do, Mrs Knox; for the third best do Mrs Brien; for the best piece of flannel, Mrs Brien; for the second best do, Ellen Flynn; for the third best do, Mrs Knox. To the boy attending the national school at Piltown, who shall grow in the school garden the best crops of mangolds, turnips, parsnips, carrots, onions and cabbage, William Wright; for the second best do, Patt Downes; for the boy attending the National School at Whitechurch, Patt Donovan; for the second best do, John Ronayne; to the boy of any of the above schools who will produce on the show day, at Piltown, the best 6 mangolds, 6 turnips, 6 carrots, 12 onions and 2 heads of cabbage, W Wright; for the best managed school farm, Michael Cunningham; for the best 3 heads of cabbaged produced on show day, John Cooney; second best do, W Bolton; third best do, James Downes; for the best

6 turnips do, James Downes; second best do, Sandy Wright; third best do, Patt Morehan; for the best 6 carrots do, Mrs Connery; second best do, Patt Hanlon; third best do, Thomas Quin; for the best hank of 24 onions, James Duggan; second best do, Sandy Wright; third best do, Thomas Morehan

Premiums offered by the Royal Agricultural Improvement Society for the year 1861.

First class open for Competition, only to members of both societies, subscribing one pound and upwards annually to each. For the best bull within the district, under five years of age, that shall do, in the opinion of the judges, a thoro'-bred animal, John H Jones. For the best ram, that shall in the opinion of the judges, a thoro'-bred animal, John H Jones. For the best pen of 5 breeding ewes, Lord Bessborough. For the best sow, not less than 6, and under 24 months old, that shall do in the opinion of the judges a thoro'-bred animal, Samuel Jones

Second class – open to farmers whose holdings are valued by the tenement valuation over £100 per annum. For the best cow in calf or milk, David Hewetson. For the best heifer in calf or milk, not exceeding 3 years of age, Daniel Osborne. For the best pen of 6 breeding ewes, David Heweston. For the best sow and litter of not less than 6 pigs, John Carroll.

Third class – open to working farmers, living principally by husbandry, whose holdings are valued by the government valuation under £100 per annum. For the best cow in calf or milk, Nicholas Coghlan. For the best weanling heifer calf, Patrick Brophy. For the best crop of Red Clover, or other artificial herbage used for soiling, not less than one statute acre, Richard Coleman. For the farm of mixed husbandry, which with the dwelling house, offices, fences, 7c, shall be in the best order, Richard Lyndon. For the best sow and litter of not less than 6 pigs, John Kinsella. For the best cool or tub of butter, not less than 20lbs weight, prepared for the English Market, Michael Power

The following challenges, given at the last general meeting, were decided at the October meeting, 1861; -

Challenger, the Earl of Bessborough; challenge, to sow 3 acres of land for green crops, to be judged in march; accepted by Mr S. H. Jones, Mr Osborne, Mr Lalor, and Mr. John H Jones. Won by Samuel Jones

Challenger, Dr Purcell; the challenge, to show 5 acres of grass seeds, to be judged next June as a meadow; accepted by Mr Richardson and Mr W. Malcomson. Won by W. Malcomson

Challenger, Mr Samuel T. Grubb; challenge, to show 2 shear Leicester lambs; accepted by Mr J. H. Jones. Won by J. H. Jones

Challenger, Mr William Walsh; challenge, to sow 1 acre of turnips; accepted by Mr B. Morris, and Mr P. Mullins. Won by William Walsh

Challenger, Mr William Malcomson; challenge, to sow 3 acres of turnips; accepted by the Earl of Bessborough; won by W. Malcomson.

Challenger, Mr Edward Brennan; challenge, to sow 1 acre of turnips and mangolds, a three-year-old heifer and a weanling calf; accepted by Mr Michael Power; won by E Brennan

Challenger, Mr B. Morris; the challenge, to show the best managed farm; accepted by Mr Mr John Freely. Won by John Freely.

Challenger, Mr Sargent; challenge, to show one acre of turnips and one acre of mangolds; accepted by Mr B. Morris and Mr George Reade. Won by George Reade.

Challenger, Mr Samuel T Grubb; challenge, to show 5 South Devon lambs; accepted by Mr Osborne. Won by Mr Osborne

Challenger, Mr Backes; challenge, to show a sow in young, a sow and litter, and a boar under eighteen months; accepted by Mr S. H. Jones. Won by S. H. Jones.

Challenger, Mr Lalor; challenge, to show a heifer calf; accepted by Mr S. H. Jones. Won by S. H. Jones.

Challenger, Mr Lalor; challenge, to show a yearling bull; accepted by Mr Bloomfield. Both to pay.

Challenger, Mr Richard White; challenge, to show a breeding cow; accepted by Mr Thomas Prendergast and Mr Walter Foley; Won by Walter Foley.

Challenger, Mr Backes; challenge, to show 8 acres mangolds; accepted by The Earl of Bessborough and Mr W. Malcomson. Won by W. Malcomson.

After the reading of the prizes the company adjourned to the dining room to refresh themselves after the toils of the day. The dinner was laid out in the Court-house, which was appropriately decorated and adorned with mottoes such as “Good Fences and Good neighbours”

Irish Times October 7

Iverk Farming Society

The thirty-sixth anniversary of this most ancient as well as successful and well-worked of the Agricultural Associations of this district was celebrated with the usual cattle show and dinner. The show was held in the portion of the Bessborough demesne adjoining Piltown amongst the fine old timber for which the Park is celebrated, and, the day having proved beautifully fine, the attendance of all classes was very large. Amongst those present at the show were the Earl and Countess of Bessborough, the Marquis and Marchioness of Waterford, Lord Lismore, Lord and Lady Templemore, Lieutenant Colonel Tighe, Kilkenny Fusiliers and Lady Kathleen Tighe; Sir R Paul, Rev Mr Gregory, Fiddown; Rev C B Stevensen, Weatcourt; the Rev F Peel, Vicar of Killeak; the Rev C Hart, Whitechurch; the Rev P Renny, Rev J F Medlicote, the Rev B Neville, Rev W Dobbyn, Captain and Mrs Williams, Mr Cecil Bourke;

Captain Bloomfield, Mr Malcomson, Portlaw; Mr Osbourne, Silversprings; Mr Walsh, Fanningstown; Mr Milward, Tullogher; Mr W Fennell, Secretary of the Clogheen Farming Society; Captain Knox, Mr J Anderson, Mr J Power, Dr Purcell, Carrick; Dr Heynett, Portlaw; Mr Hutchinson, Kiltorcan; Mr Elliott, Rathcurby; Mr X H Butler, Mr C Gregory, Mr S H Jones, Mr J T Medlicote, Mr Congrave Rodgers, Mr E Power, Dr Martin Secretary to the Portlaw Farming Society; Captain Neville, Kilkenny Fusillers; Major Elliott, Mr Jones, Mullinabro; Mr Blackett, Belline; Mr E Roberts, Mr J Richardson, Mr W Richardson, Mr E Taylor jun; Mr J Fisher &c.

Of the show it may be remarked that, whilst not so large as those of some former occasions, it was most satisfactory, as showing in every way a marked improvement in the breeding of stock, and particularly so as regarded the farmers' cattle, which one of the judges, Mr Fennell, broadly proclaiming to have "whipped the gentlemen's stock all to nothing". The entries in the various classes were fairly filled, and the competition was very close, but all the arrangements were so admirably made the evening before by Mr John Richardson, the acting secretary of the society that everything was in the completest order, so that the judges had comparatively little trouble in carrying out their duties. During the day there was a fine amateur band in attendance in the show-yard, and when the judges commenced their work, the scene was most animated and gratifying. The day of the cattle show is regarded as a great holiday in the district, the people flocking in great numbers from many miles distance, enjoying the pleasure of witnessing the exhibition, and, doubtless, profiting not a little by the example there set to them; the particularly favourable state of the weather had, on this occasion, the effect of bringing an enlarged attendance from all directions.

The judges were, of gentlemen's and farmers' stock, Lord Lismore, Captain Bloomfield, Capt, Knox, Mr Hutchinson and Mr W Fennell; of sheep Mr Edward Roberts; of swine, Mr Walsh (Fanningstown); of horses, Mr X H Butler and Captain Neville; of vegetables, Rev C Hart and Mr E Taylor, jun. The medals of the best bull aged 2 to 5 years and best bull in the yard, were awarded to Mr J H Jones; for best yearling bull, to Mr Anderson; best cow, to Mr J H Jones; best two-year heifer and best yearling, Sir R Paul; also same, for best weanling heifer calf and best animal in the yard; best ram, Mr J H Jones; best five ewes, Mr D Hewitson; best boar, Mr W Villiers Stuart; best sow and litter, Mr Samuel Jones. In the class open to competition between the farmers and gentlemen, the prizes were awarded for the best cow to Mr W Foley, Fiddown; best heifer, Mr J Prendergast, Killonery; second best do., Mr R Corgeitt; Bawngarriffe; best yearling, Mr W Coleman, Bawngarriie; second best, Mr J Duggan, Belline; best weanling calf, Mr P Malone, Rogerstown; second best, Mr Thomas Prendergast, Killonerry. The prizes given by the Earl of Bessborough to his tenants excited large competition in the various classes. In the poultry the Earl of Bessborough took the prize for the best general lot of superior breeding; the best turkeys were those of Miss Egan, Ballygowan; best geese, Mr E Neil, Gortrush; best cock and hens, Miss Egan; best ducks, Mr Michael Power, Brenor and Mr R Bowers, Fiddown.

The adjudications of the judges was announced and the certificates for prizes given out from the steps of Mr Anthony's hotel door in Piltown; and it was a curious sight to witness the sea

of upturned heads which surrounded the steps, all in anxiety to ascertain who were the successful competitors, the farmers, the humble cottagers, and school boys, each cringing equal interest in the awards, for the prizes offered by the excellent and amiable Countess of Bessborough are calculated to excite a most beneficial spirit of emulation in every class, and the persons of all ages in every class on the Bessborough property, as her ladyship's prize list includes not merely best and cleanest dairies, linen yarn, manufactured linen and flannel, but even a number of premiums for boys attending the National Schools at Boolyglass, Piltown, Clonmore and Whitechurch; for best crop of carrots, mangolds, turnips, onions, cabbage, &c., grown by them respectively in their allotted plots in the school gardens – an arrangement which tends to give the children habits of industry, and make them practical agriculturists from their earliest days. The result of the prizes offered by the society since its establishment, so long since 1826, for the best gardens and cottage management and appearance, is that the neighbourhood of Piltown is a model district for the cleanliness and thrift evinced by its working population in the comfort of their dwellings. The prize of the society for the best managed farm in lowland district was given to Mr John Feely, Killonerry; and the second best to W R Corbett, Bawngarriffe; for best managed farm in their mountain district, to Mr Thomas Power, Garrygrange, and the second best to Mr D Walsh, Kilmainham. The principal of the Royal Agricultural Society's premiums were given as follows: - Best bull and best ram, Mr J H Jones; best breeding ewes, Lord Bessborough; best breeding sow, Mr Villiers Stuart; best sow and litter, Mr S H Jones; best cow, Mr D Hewitson; best heifer, Mr D Osborne; best breeding ewes in farmers' class, Mr D Hewitson.

The proceedings of the day terminated with the dinner at which about 120 sat down, presided over by the Earl of Bessborough with Daniel Osborne, Esq., as vice-chairman. The room was tastefully fitted up for the occasion, ornamented with festoons of evergreens and flowers, interspersed amongst which were the following appropriate mottoes: - "Never too late to learn;" "Good fences, good neighbours;" "One year's seedling is seven year's feeding;" "He that tilleth his land shall have plenty of bread;" "Sloth is the mother of poverty;" "One animal well fed is worth two poorly kept;" "Better farm twenty acres well than fifty by halves;" "Choose the best seed," &c.

After the cloth had been removed, the usual loyal toasts, amongst which "The Lord Lieutenant and Prosperity to Ireland" was not forgotten in its place after "The Royal Family", were drunk with every possible manifestation of loyal feeling.

Further appropriate toasts were given, and practical observations made, and the proceedings closed with the usual "Speed the Plough" and "Our Next Merry Meeting", sentiments which were warmly received, and the assembly separated highly gratified with the re-union in which they had been privileged to take part. – *Kilkenny Moderator*.

1862

MEX 1862-10-11-5 The Iverk Farming Society

We gave last post a pretty full report of the show and dinner of the Iverk Farming Society, but were unable to make room for the list of prizes, which we append to this, and we were necessarily obliged to curtail the report in consequence of the other matter for which we required space. We should have liked to have given at length the practical speeches of Mr Rody Corbett and Mr John Carroll, but had not room. We devoted nearly five columns to this report, and had to hold over the report of the New Ross Commissioners, our Clonmel correspondence, Mr Richardson's letter, and to keep back the entire telegraphic intelligence. In fact, our local reports have, during the prevalence of the cattle shows, been so long as to shut out a good deal of other interesting matter, and to lead us to consider the necessity of publishing every day, instead of three days a week.

We may now say (that which want of space prevented our saying before), a few words on the Iverk meeting, which was one of those occasions which excite feelings of great satisfaction in viewing the relations between landlord and tenant, one striving to discharge honestly and kindly the relations and duties of his high position, and the other showing gratitude and love for the manner in which he is treated.

The continuous and persevering efforts of Lord and Lady Bessborough to elevate the moral and social position of those who are either tenants or labourers on his estate, cannot be too highly praised. The estate is justly considered a model, and it shows the increasing care which is bestowed upon it. The gradual extension of the allotment system, the erection of improved dwellings for the labourers, the instruction which is given, not only in the culture of his plot of land, but the management of the improved culinary utensils, and the cleanliness and tidiness of the cottage and yards, all betoken an amount of sympathy and kindness in the noble Earl and his amiable and estimable Lady, which is deserving of the highest praise, and contrasts strongly with the inattention which is, we are sorry to say, but too prevalent on many estates. We are glad to say that on the Bessborough estate every detail receives attention, and that attention which, in many instances only a female can extend, and thus everything is done to improve not alone the dwellings, but even the habits of the peasantry, and these efforts are in the main successful, for the Bessborough property contrasts with those around it in point of superiority of the dwelling of the poor and the superior cleanliness of their habits.

The condition of the farmers also betoken the care extended to them, and we notice that the noble Earl has endeavoured to stimulate further competition in the race of improvement in the offer of a prize of £20 for the best managed farm – not the best farm, but the best managed – and the judges who will visit the competing farms at different times will take into consideration the original circumstances of the farms, in order to give the farmer on naturally poor soil the advantage which arises from his superior skill and attention. Were the example of Lord Bessborough taken up and followed by other Irish proprietors we should have more comfort and less crime in Ireland. He has not removed the small farmers merely to throw the land into large holdings. He has on the other hand, stimulated those residing on his property to improve, and we are glad to say that they have improved. He has set his force against

wholesale emigration, and most nobly endeavoured to improve Ireland by improving the people of Ireland, and not transporting them. The prize list is as follows –

Stock – Gentlemen's class

For the best bull, from 2 to 5 years of age, the medal, John H Jones

For the best yearling bull, the medal, Earl of Bessborough.

For the best bull in the yard, the medal, John H Jones

For the best cow in calf or milk, the medal, F. G. Bloomfield.

For the best description of a two-year-old heifer, the medal, Earl of Bessborough.

For the best description of yearling, the medal, P Anderson.

For the best description of weanling heifer calf, the medal, J H Jones.

For the best animal in the yard, a silver medal. Mr Anderson.

Sheep – Gentlemen's class

For the best ram, the medal. Frederick B Malcomson.

For the best six breeding ewes, the medal, the Earl of Bessborough.

Medal for the 'Best Sow and Litter, First Class' presented to David Malcomson

1863

MEX 1863-10-10-7 Iverk Farming Society

The annual Cattle Show for the Iverk Farming district, was held in a very commodious and appropriate park in the beautiful little town of Piltown and with all the show arrangements particularly attended to, this show must rank amongst the most successful which have been held in the vicinity. The number of entries was pretty large, comparatively speaking; and from what we have heard from the officers of the show, it has this year considerably improved both in point of numbers and quality. Some very fine animals of all classes were exhibited, and on the whole the show was a very successful one. We could not but notice the excellent arrangements made by the efficient secretary, Mr John Richardson, particularly with regard to the prize list. There was no difficulty in entering the names of the successful competitors. Mr Richardson had a very convenient tent erected in the show field, where a temporary office was created, and to which the different judges after making the decisions repaired, and entered their judgements. The weather, though a little sharp, was propitious to the proceedings, and the whole business of the show was transacted before there was any change in this respect. About the hour fixed for dinner, there were very strong indications of a wet evening, which indications turned out to be not unfounded, as between the hours of four and five o'clock the rain came down in torrents, and continued so with unabated fury, whilst

the dinner was going on, and up to a late hour in the night. We noticed the following gentlemen on the ground; - Lord Bessborough, Lord Lismore, Sir R Paul, Mr J S [Richardson, Waterford; Mr D Osborne, Silversprings; Mr H Ridgeway, Waterford; Mr Murray, Coolattin; Mr Butler, Mr Hutchinson, Killorgan; Mr Kennedy, Mr Nolan, Mr D Montmorenzy, Mr Pringle, Farmers' Gazette; Mr Bloomfield, Mr Simpson, D Hewetson, Mr J Anderson, Gracedieu; Mr Briscoe, Tinvane; Rev W Carleton, Curate of Piltown; Mr Richardson, Secretary to the Society; Hon Ponsonby Parker, S H Jones, Clonmore; Dr Purcell, &c.

The Banquet. A good substantial dinner was laid out in first rate style in the Court House of Piltown, to which the members and friends of the Society sat down. Lord Bessborough in the chair.

The Secretary read the prize list earlier in the day.

Stock – Gentlemen's Class. For the best bull from 2 to 5 years-of-age, a medal – J H Jones, Esq. For the best yearling bull, a medal – Mr D Hewetson. For the best bull in the yard, a medal – J H Jones, Esq. For the best cow in calf or in milk, first prize a medal – J H Jones, Esq. For the best description of two-year-old heifer, a medal – do, do. for the best description of yearling, a medal – do, do. For the best description of weanling heifer calf, first prize, a medal – J Anderson. For the best animal in the yard, a silver medal – J H Jones.

Sheep – Gentlemen's Class. For the best ram, a medal – David Hewetson. For the best 5 breeding ewes, a medal – David Hewetson.

Swine – Gentlemen's Class. For the best boar, not less than two months and not more than 24 months old, a medal - David Malcomson. For the best sow and litter of not less than 6 pigs, not more than two months old, no competition.

Open to farmers in the lowland district. For the best cow in calf or in milk, £1 – Thomas Foley. For the second-best cow, do., 15s – Patrick Dunn. For the best two-year-old heifer, £1 – E Walsh. For the second best, do, 15s – J Brennan. For the best two-year-old heifer, 10s – Thomas Prendergast. For the best yearling, £1 – N Coughlan. For the second best do, 15s – James Duggan. For the best weanling heifer calf, 12s – P Malone. For the second best do, 10s – P Dunn.

Open to farmers in the mountain district. For the best cow in calf or in milk, Thomas Brennan £1. For the second-best, do., Patrick Murphy 15s. For the best two-year-old heifer, E Walsh £1; for the second best, do, P Brophy 15s. For the third best, do. P Brophy, 10s. For the second-best yearling J Brennan, 15s. for the best weanling heifer calf p Brophy, 12s.

Farmers' Class. For the best cow in the yard, P Malone, £1. For the best two-year-old heifer, N Walsh, £1. For the best yearling, N Coughlan, £1. For the best calf, M Coleman, £1.

Sheep – Farmers Class – Lowland District. For the best breeding ewe, Thomas Kennedy, 10s. For the next breeding ewe, James McGrath, 8s. For the best ewe lamb, Patrick Malone, 10s. for the next ewe lamb, James McGrath, 7s.

Sheep – Farmers’ Class – Mountain District. For the best breeding ewe, Simon Hearn, 10s. For the next breeding ewe, Simon Hearn, 9s. For the next breeding ewe, Wm White, 6s. For the best ewe *only partially copied*

1864

WNS 1864-10-07-3 Iverk Farming Society

On Tuesday last, the thirty-eight show of the Iverk Farming Society was held at Piltown under the most favourable auspices. The weather was fine, though a bracing wind was blowing, and under the invigorating presence of the noble patron, everything connected with the proceedings was most encouraging. The show of stock in every class, particularly that of the farming class, was very excellent and justly admired. The cattle sent in by the Earl of Bessborough, Mr J. Jones, Mr S. Jones and others, were of the usual superior kind shown by these gentlemen, while Mr D. Malcomson was, as ever, most successful in the exhibition of swine. The show of roots from the Bessborough estate was also of the superior standard, and of the same class were the show of flax by Mr James Budd, Tramore, Mr S. T. Grubb, and Mr J. Hill. Mr. J. Richardson, Belline, exhibited some splendid potatoes, comprising Delmahoyes, Scotch Downs, Skerry Blues, Kemps, &c. There were very excellent samples of ornamental and building bricks shown by the manager of the brick manufactory at Gardenmorris, Mr Hampton, the seat of Mr P. O’Shea, Esq., D.L., which were very much and deservedly admired. Mr. Gollen, of Piltown, showed some very neat farming implements, in which he obtained prizes. The beautiful prizes given by Mr. J. S. Richardson for the breeding of pigs, both silver teapots, were generally admired, and for them much competition was the result. Mr D. Malcomson, steward Mr. John Noonan, with his prize boar, Inkerman, won one of Mr. Richardson’s prizes, as well as those of the local and Royal Agricultural Society’s shows, and also a prize with his celebrated sow, Princess.

The judges were: - 1st Cattle – Sir R. J. Paul and Mr Pringle; 2nd ditto – Mr. Bloomfield, Mr Hutchinson, and Mr. Fennell. Swine – Captain Williams, Mr J. S. Richardson and Mr D. Hewetson. Sheep – Mr Thos Fennell, and Rev R. Kennedy. Mares – Major Quentin. Butter – Mr Richardson, Mr Maguire. Fowl – Mr S.T Grubb and Dr Purcell. Linen – Mr Tehan. Green crops – Mr John H. Jones and Mr Snow. Cottages – Rev Wm Carleton and Mr S. Hanna. Crops – Mr Samuel Jones, Mr Thomas Elliott, Col W. V. Stuart, Mr Walsh, Fanningstown; Rev. C Hart, and Dr Briscoe.

It is pleasurable to see such a society as Iverk – one for years doing so much good in a district – progressing with rapid strides in the improvement of the people, for whose benefit it was established, a proof of which was given by the accession of new members, among whom were the following who joined the society at this meeting; - Messrs. R. W. Morris, G. P. Malcomson, Rev W. P. Mackeay, M. Bowers, L. Bucknell, Brighton; W. H. Parker, and P. Kelly, Three Bridges. As usual the Messrs. Blackett and Richardson, agents on the noble earl’s estate, were most courteous to the press, and to its representatives afforded every information.

At three o'clock, the Earl of Bessborough, from the steps of Anthony's Hotel, read as follows the prize list.

The dinner was served up in its customary excellent style in the Sessions House, Piltown.

Irish Times October 7 - Iverk Farming Society [By Special Despatch]

The following is a full report of the proceedings at the dinner given in connection with the above Society.

The dinner was held in the Sessions House, which was beautifully decorated for the occasion with appropriate mottoes and banners; which we understand were contributed by Miss -----, and did great credit to that lady's good taste and skill in the art of decoration.

The Earl of Bessborough presided, supported on the right by Lord Grosvenor, and on the left by F J Bloomfield, Esq., J P Colonel Stuart occupied the vice-chair, The dinner was served up in excellent style by his Lordship's steward, Mr Hill. After ample justice had been done to the good things provided, by the large company assembled.

The Chairman said that the first toast he had to propose was one which was always received with enthusiasm in every part of her Majesty's dominions. He would give them the toast of "Her Majesty the Queen". Drunk with all the honours.

The Chairman next gave the "Prince and Princess of Wales and the rest of the Royal family". In doing so, he expressed a wish that they would soon again see his Royal Highness in this part of his future Dominions. Drunk with great enthusiasm.

The Chairman next proposed "the Lord Lieutenant and prosperity to Ireland". In doing so, his lordship alluded to the well-known amiable character of the earl of Carlisle, and his many good qualities, as well as the deep interest he took in the agricultural affairs of this country. He also said that they should sincerely regret the case of his departure from this country, and hope that he would soon be restored to the enjoyment of good health. His lordship also hoped that his successor would show as deep an interest in the agriculture affairs of the country as Lord Carlisle had done (Applause). Drunk with all the honours.

The Chairman next gave the "Army and Navy". He had no doubt that if either of those arms of the service were called upon, they would again repeat those prodigies of valour which had made Britain respected among the nations (Hear, hear). Drunk with enthusiasm. Captain Grey briefly responded.

The Chairman said, "Gentlemen, I have now to give you the "Iverk Farming Society, xxxxxx to it". I am sure it requires nothing from me to induce you to drink this toast with enthusiasm. Any person who had attended at our show to-day with the knowledge that it was "a xxxxxx one" and those who had witnessed other xxxx could not fail to perceive the advantages which all classes derive from them. With respect to the description and quality of stock exhibits, as

there are so many gentlemen here who acted as judges, and are so much better able to to give you a description of them than I am, I will not detain you by any allusion to it, but leave the more minute details to those gentlemen. There is one class to which I would direct your attention, that is the sheep class. I am sorry that one of the judges – Mr Fennell – is unavoidably absent but he xxxx me to state that the entire class was most creditable. It is very gratifying to me to find such an improvement in this class of animals, because they are not generally thought much of – they are though troublesome. I recommend to farmers to give attention to the production of this and other stock. In the show today there was an improvement to be seen in the various descriptions of stock, in young stock particularly. If this district continues to progress as it has done, it will very shortly be able to compete with any part of the country. There is no one who attends the fairs and markets who does not see the advantage which the large farmers derive from the breeding of bulls of superior description by the farmers. I would next allude to the prizes which Mr Richardson of Waterford, has so kindly given to this society. All I will say is, that we should endeavour to carry them off, and if we do not succeed, we will not grudge them to those who do. But at the same time, while advising you to improve your stock, by every means in your power, I would not advise you to neglect the tillage of the soil. On the whole the past year has been a very favourable one. I do not think that your crops are sufficiently cultivated; a crop of turnips, for instance, give a very good return, and if you keep cattle something of this kind is essential. I cannot approve of the system to extensively practiced, of giving two white crops in succession; nothing is more injurious to the small farmer especially, and I will set my face against it. It is said to be the wish of some landlords to get rid of the small farmers on their estate. I have been 17 years in possession of this estate, an if I had wished it so, many opportunities of making such a riddance occurred; but the fact is, that at the present moment there are only three people who were not, or their fathers, tenants on my estate seventeen years ago. Some farms might be said to be too small, but it is not so where there is an industrious tenant; and I may instance the case of a man who had only four acres of land who had carried off several prizes to-day. I will say to the largest as well as the smallest farmer to look to your crops, not put your hands idly in your pockets, but let you put your shoulders to the wheel, be active, and above all things, abstain from the whiskey shop. The next subject I would speak on is flax, and I regret very much that we have not been able to compete with other provinces; but there are arrangements being made for the in of scotching mills and other appliances into the district, and I trust this will give an impetus to the movement. Whether it will turn out to fulfil the expectations of its warm supporters remains yet to be seen; but I would at least advise you to grow it in small quantities. If it is grown in small quantities, it can do no harm, but if too much is sown it is the worst crop can be put in the ground for the farmer. After some further observations his lordship concludes amidst loud and protracted cheering.

The toast was drunk with all the honours.

Counsellor Elliott responded. He congratulated the society on its success. Many of the classes had been highly commended by the judges. It was not his lordship's society, it was the Iverk

Farming Society, and it was intended to benefit the farmers of the district. It was not creditable to the society, at the end of forty years, to see the scanty amount of their subscriptions. The farmers should come forward and swell their list. There are also landlords in the county representing £14,000 a year, who do not contribute one penny a year to the society. This is not as it should be. I trust it will not be so again, but that they will come forward and contribute liberally. He was glad to see such a number of his lordship's tenants competing for his lordship's prizes. The present situation of the society is most encouraging to the farmers. He did not say that it required three or four adverse seasons to show them the advantage of such a society, although, as the poet says "Sweet are the uses of adversity". He was sorry to see the green crops so neglected; if they neglected these crops there would be no feeding in the country for cattle. He had no doubt of the success of the society, if they would only adopt the poet's motto, and learn "to labour and to wait". He would say to the farmers, "If you farm at all, farm well"; and "you must learn to labour and to wait". You must labour, and do your best, and trust to Providence to bless your labours. (Loud and continued cheering).

Colonel Stuart said that he had a toast to propose which would require no eloquence from him. He then referred in complimentary terms to the great interest which his lordship always exhibited in the improvements of his tenants. He then proposed "the Health of their noble President". The toast was drunk with enthusiastic applause. His Lordship returned thanks.

His Lordship next proposed "the Vice Presidents of the Society". There were, he believed, only two of them present, and one of them was only recently returned home. He would couple with the toast the name of M Stuart, and he was sure they would all heartily welcome him home. Drunk with all the honours.

Mr Stuart returned thanks for the high honour which had been done him. He has been away from home for some time, but he must only endeavour to make amends now, and prove himself more manful than heretofore. (Applause). Mr Jones also briefly returned thanks.

Mr Stuart next proposed the "Health of Lady Bessborough" in complimentary terms. It was not indeed, the toast of the evening, but he was certain it would be a popular one.

The toast was drunk with the utmost enthusiasm. Lord Bessborough returned thanks.

The Chairman next gave "The Judges", which was received with applause.

Mr Bloomfield responded. He said the duty of a judge was an onerous one, and very often one for which they got little thanks. The show was got up for the benefit of farmers, and they should support it. There had been some very fine stock shown by the farmers that day, and he would particularise the two- and three-year-olds in that class, which were very fine. But he would say to the farmers that these societies cannot help them if they did not help themselves. You must work for your own good. They must not imagine that they would progress by any special intervention of Providence – they must put their shoulder to the wheel. Mr Bloomfield

then referred, in complimentary terms, to the gentlemen who had acted as judges, and concluded amid loud applause.

Mr Hutchinson proposed “The Successful Competitors”. He referred to the farmers classes especially. There had been a good show of male animals in the gentlemen’s classes. The toast was drunk with all the honours.

Mr Jones returned thanks, and Mr D Corbett.

Mr Walsh proposed “The Working Farmers of the Barony”.

Mr Carroll briefly responded, giving some good practical advice to the farmers present.

The Chairman next gave the “Royal Agricultural Society of Ireland”. They were indebted to this society for many valuable premiums. Drunk with all the honours. Captain Williams briefly responded.

The next toast was “The Waterford and Portlaw Farming Societies”

Dr Martin responded on behalf of the Portlaw of the Waterford Society. Alluding to flax, he thought that it should only be grown in small quantities. He then commended the exhibition of pigs in the farmers’ classes and resumed his seat amid applause.

The Chairman, in complimentary terms, proposed Mr Richardson’s health, thanking him for the cup he had presented to the society. Mr Richardson returned thanks.

The Irish Peasantry Society of London”, the 2Press”, the “Officers of the Society”, and “Our Next Merry Meeting”, having been duly honoured, the assembly separated.

Medal for the ‘Best Sow and Litter, First Class’ presented to David Malcomson

1865

MEX 1865-10-07-2 Iverk Farming Society

The annual show of livestock, green crops and implements, in connections with the above society was held yesterday (Tuesday), near Piltown, County Kilkenny. The ground selected for the show was part of the noble demesne of the Right Hon. The Earl of Bessborough, an undulating plain, dotted over by noble and venerable timber. The beautiful specimens of kine, arranged in picturesque groups at the foot of centenarian trees, of the spirited horse, plunging and chafing under the restraint of the reins, visible at intervals through the wood, the gay and attractive dresses of the farmers daughters and their humbler companions, the peasant servant girls – all these suddenly and pleasingly produced before the late arrival a fabliau of unequalled sylvan grandeur and sylvan romance. The demesne is not quite a quarter of a mile from Piltown, one certainly of the prettiest, cleanest and most neatly arranged and best kept towns or hamlets in Ireland. At every available corner near the cottages, which compose the greater part of the village, flowers and shrubs are planted in profusion, filling the air with

most pleasing perfume, and adding to the favourable opinions which the first glance suffices to impress the visitor with. The show was very largely attended and the amiable and respected

Medal for the 'Best Sow and Litter, First Class' presented to David Malcomson

Medal for the 'Best Cow, second class' presented to Patrick Malone

WNS 1865-10-06-3 Iverk farming Society

The annual meeting of this society took place in the beautiful park of the Earl of Bessborough, and it was, comparatively speaking, a most successful one. Though the number of entries was not so numerous as on former occasions, yet in quality the animals could hardly be exceeded. The gloriously fine, and the Park presented a most beautiful appearance – its sloping land presenting a graceful contrast as the rays of the sun were here and there intercepted by the luxuriant foliage of the trees which reared their heads in many places through the demesne. Its rural tranquillity was disturbed by a large and fashionable attendance of ladies and gentlemen. We must also allude to the tenant farmers and their wives and daughters, who added not a little to the general appearance. All were dressed neatly and respectively, and the air of comfort that pervaded their general demeanour, was proof positive that the Lord Bessborough was an exception to the general run of landlords in this country. We have heard from the judges that a better display of green crops could hardly be witnessed, and the butter was of the finest quality, reflecting great credit on the exhibitors. Vases of very good workmanship, and ornamental bricks of various descriptions from the manufacturing works of N. P. O'Shea, Esq, Gardenmorris, were exhibited and much admired, reflecting credit on the manager of the works, Mr Hampton

The prize list was prepared by Mr J Richardson, who devoted the whole day to its arrangements and his arduous task was not at all an enviable one. Mr T. Elliott, of Rathcurby, was honorary secretary, in which he was ably sustained by Mr J Richardson. At the hour of three o'clock his Lordship, Earl Bessborough, read the prize list from the steps of Mr Anthony's Hotel. Immediately after the members and friends proceeded to the Court House opposite for dinner.

The following appeared in the Kilkenny People on October 15, 1965 for AGM report of 1865.

Iverke Farming Society. The annual meeting of the Iverk Farming Society was held at the home of the Earl of Bessborough and a banquet was held afterwards. Among those present, were: The Earl and Countess of Bessborough and party, Mr John A Blake, MP; Sir R Paul, Bart; J S Richardson, Dr Purcell, Mr F Malcolmson; Colonel W V Stuart; D Osbourne, Silversprings; H W Briscoe; Major Elliot; Rev M Medlycott, Portlaw; Dr Martin, do; J Lalor, Cregg; Rev Mr Gregory; S Jones, C Purcell, F Sheill, Carrick-on-Suir; R Feehan; W O'Donnell; John Carroll, Earlsrath; J Richardson, Dr Martin, R O'Donnell

1866

WNS 1866-10-05-3 Iverk Farming Society

On Tuesday last, the fortieth anniversary of this society was held in that portion of the Bessborough demesne, near Piltown, usually allocated for the users of the annual exhibition by the noble owner. There were about 300 entries, which is a large number, considering the extent of the district. The day held out beautifully fine, and the show ground presented a gay aspect from eleven o'clock in the morning to three in the afternoon, which was the hour fixed for the annual dinner.

The different departments were very well supplied. The gentlemen's bulls, four in number, were noble beasts, and their cows, including yearlings and two-year-olds, were choice specimens of high blood and careful rearing. In this class the principal competitors were the Right Honourable the Earl of Bessborough, Col W V Stuart, S h Jones, J.P., Thomas Lalor, J H Jones and David Malcomson, Esqrs. Farmer's cattle were indeed very creditably 'brought out', and a large number, to whose owners, prizes were not awarded, were highly commended by the judges. The greatest competition seemed to lie between the Earl's own tenantry, and truly they were the principal competitors in the farmer's class. In sheep the number of entries in the gentlemen's class were few, while the farmers' entries numbered thirty-five. There was lively competition in butter, and it required no common judgement to make a selection between the firkins exhibited by the Earl of Bessborough, Col Stuart, S H Jones and Thos Lalor, Esqrs, in the gentlemen's class. In the farmers' class three prizes were awarded for best butter and the entries numbered eighteen. The Irish Peasantry Society of London allocated £20 of their funds to be distributed by the Earl, in addition to the Iverk Farming Society's premiums, to cottagers and working farmers, living principally by husbandry. The awarding of these prizes had a decidedly beneficial tendency, and the competitors were numerous and fully eligible, for the principle of cleanliness and neatness of husbandry is forcibly inculcated by the Earl and Countess of Bessborough amongst the tenantry on the estate. Not the least important feature in the show was the exhibition and competition for the Countess of Bessborough's prizes, afforded to farmers and cottagers on the estate principally for home manufacture. In this department prizes were also offered to boys attending the national schools of the district who had grown in the different school gardens the best green crops. The manufacture comprised the growth and preparation, in the district, of linen yarn, flannel and frieze. The display of green crops was very rich, and the best three heads of cabbage we have ever seen were exhibited by Mr J Conway, of Dowling, for which he was awarded first prize. At the last show of the society, six challenges were offered and accepted, resulting as detailed below.

The Iverk farming Society, since its establishment in 1826, has risen to the level of our other country societies, notwithstanding that the entries may not be so numerous, nor the subscriptions so large. There is no doubt that the show excels in the way of a re-union or social gathering. This may be attributed to the interest which the noble Earl takes in the workings of the society, as well as the well-being of the district, and to his willing, fostering hand. As president of the society, he feels amongst his own, his own know him well, and he seems happy in the knowledge. There are other gentlemen, too, who have identified themselves with this society, and who deserve no small mead of praise for their endeavours to

promote its welfare. Apart from the earl, in this respect, we might mention William Malcomson, J S Richardson, Waterford; Thomas Elliott, sec; T C Spencer, Waterford; D Osborne, Esqrs, 7c. It might also be remarked that Mr E Courtenay, of this city, offered 5£ premium for the best firkin of butter in the yard. The funds of the society are, we are informed, barley sufficient to keep it afloat, but its further development is looked to as easy of accomplishment.

Judges – (*Gentlemen's class*) – Dawson A Milward and J D Montmorency. Linen, yarn, &c. – N Kenney and P Teehan. Fowl – Dr Briscoe and J D Montmorency. Stock (second class – J H Jones and W Fennell. Swine – Lord Lismore and J S Richardson. Sheep – Philip Maguire and John Walsh. Butter – J S Richardson and Edward Courtenay. Green crops – Hon W Ponsonby and Thomas Elliott.

Mr J Richardson, Ballyne, was actively engaged in discharging the duties of acting secretary during the day.

The Award of Prizes. The judges commenced inspection about eleven o'clock, and at three that part of the business was brought to a close. The following is the award of the judges in the different departments; -

Stock – Gentlemen's Classes – For the best bull within the district, under five years of age, that shall be in the opinion of the judges a thoroughbred animal, Mr Thomas Lalor, RAS first class medal; best bull from 2 to 5 years of age, do IFS medal, no competitor; best bull in the yard; Mr Thomas Lalor, do, medal; best cow in calf or milk, Mr J H Jones, do medal; best description of two year old heifer, no merit, do medal; best description of yearling, Colonel Stuart, do medal; best description of weanling heifer calf, Earl of Bessborough, do medal; best animal in the yard, Mr J H Jones, do medal

Farmer's Class – For the best bull the Earl of Bessborough will give his tenants £3; best bull, Joseph Mcgrath, Owing, IFS, £1; best cow in calf or in milk, Wm Walsh, Turkstown, lowland district, £1; second best do, Pat Malone, Rogerstown, lowland district, 15s; best cow in calf or in milk, M Dalton, Tubral, mountain district, £1; second best, do, T Brennan, Oldcourt, mountain district, 15s; best cow in calf or in milk, T Power, Corbally, RAS second class medal; best, do, do, T Cleary, Ballyhuncorney, RAS third class, £1; best cow in the yard, William Walsh, Turkstown, IFS, £1; best heifer in calf or in milk, not exceeding 3 years of age, M Coleman, Bawngarriff, RAS, second class medal; best tow-year-old heifer, T Foley, Fiddown (L D) £1; second best do, M Coleman, Bawngarriff, (L D), 15s; third best do, the Earl of Bessborough will give to his tenants (LD), 10s – M Coughlan, Jamestown; best tow-year-old heifer, R Whelan, Raheen, (MD), £1; second best do, James Holden, Garryguage, do 10s; the third best do, the Earl of Bessborough will give to his tenants, do 10s – R Whelan, Raheen; best two-year-old heifer in the yard, IFS £1- none; best yearling, M Coleman, Bawngarriff (LD), £1; second best, Widow White, Brenor, do, 15s; best yearling, James Holden, Garryguage, (MD), £1; second best J Power, Corbally, do, 15s; best yearling in the yard, m Coleman, Bawngarriff, IFS, £1; best pair of weanling heifer calves, RAS 2nd class, second class medal – no competition; best weanling heifer calf, T Cleary, Ballyheneberry, do,

3rd class, £1, best do, E Walsh, Belline, (LD), 12s; second best, J Shea, Fiddown, do, 10s; best do, J Power, Corbally, (MD), 12s; second best, P Brophy, Oldcourt, do, 10s; best calf in the yard, T Cleary, Ballyheneberry, IFS, £1. Premiums given by Mr Osborne to his tenants – best cow of any age, Edward Delahunty, £1; second best, do, Thomas Walsh, 10s; best two-year-old heifer, Michael Fripps, £1; second best, do, James Keeffe, 10s; best one-year-old heifer, Walter Grant, £1; second best, do, Thomas Walsh, 10s; best reared calf, Edward Delahunty, £1; second best, do, James Keeffe, 10s.

Sheep – Gentlemen's Class – best ram, in the opinion of the judges a thoroughbred animal – the earl of Bessborough, RAS, first class medal; best ram, P Kenny, IFS medal; best pen of 5 one shear ewes, bred by exhibitor, RAS, Earl of Bessborough, first class medal; best 5 breeding ewes, do, IFS medal. Farmers class – best pen of 5 one shear ewes, bred by the exhibitor, Thomas Prendergast, Killonery, RAS, second class medal; best 2 breeding ewes, do, lowland district, 10s; best 2 do, the Earl of Bessborough to his tenants, Robert Blackmore, Kilmanahan, do, 8s; best 2 breeding ewes, Wm White, Mullinbeg, mountain district, 10s; nest 2 do, the Earl of Bessborough to his tenants, Samuel Morris, Jamestown, do 7s; best 2 ewe lambs, Wm White, Mullinbeg, mountain district, 10s; next 2 do, the Earl of Bessborough to his tenants, Henry Daniel, 8s; next 2 do, Pat Hahessy, Newchurch, 8s; next 2 do to farmers, holding under 20 acres Irish, Rody Corbet, Bawngarriff, 5s; next 2 do, no competition, 1s.

Swine – Gentlemen's Class – For the best boar, not less than six and under 24 months old, in the opinion of the judges a thoroughbred animal, Mr D Malcomson, RAS first class medal; best boar not less than 6 months nor more than 24 months old, do, IFS medal; best sow and litter of not less than 6 pigs, do, RAS first class medal; best sow and litter not less than 6 pigs, not more than 2 months old, do, IFS medal. Farmer's class – for the best thoroughbred boar, not less than nine months old, no merit, IFS £1; best sow and litter of not less than 6 pigs, RAS second class medal; best do, Michael Power, Brenar, RAS third class, £1; best sow and litter of not less than 6 pigs, not more than two months old, do, IFS 12s 6d; second best do, no competitor, do 73 6d. Mr William Malcomson's prize of £5 to the best detailed return of the cost of feeding pigs and its results, the profit to be taken into calculation in the adjudging the prize, no competitors.

Premiums given by Mr J S Richardson, Waterford – Gentlemen's Class – for best boar of Berkshire breed, which the owner will let to sows at a charge of not more than 2s 6d each during the year subsequent to the show, or for such shorter period as will satisfy the committee – no limit as to age if the judges are satisfied of the usefulness of the animal – Mr David Malcomson, teapot of the value of £5 or upwards. Farmer's class – for the best breeding sow of Berkshire breed, not under six months old, to have a litter of not less than six pigs, or be in young, the bona fide property of a tenant farmer whose valuation does not exceed £100, the judges to be satisfied as to the usefulness of the animal, M Power, Brenar, a teapot, value £5 or upward.

Butter – Gentlemen's class – for the best cool or tub of butter, S H Jones, medal. Farmer's class – for best cool or tub of butter not less than 20 lbs weight, prepared for the English

market, M Dalton, Tubrid, RAS, third class £1, second best, P Dunne, Ballyhenberry, IFS, 15s, third best, J Fitzpatrick, Gorthrush, do, 10s.

Husbandry – the Earl of Bessborough, will distribute £20 given by the Irish Peasantry Society of London to working farmers living principally by husbandry, and to cottagers, in addition to the Iverk Farming Society's premium. First Class Farms – for the best managed farms of not less than 10 acres, with houses and offices attached thereto, on the lowland district, Rody Corbett, Bawngarriff, £5; for the next best, do, Mr Power, Brenor, £1 10s. Second do – for the best managed farm of not less than 10 acres, with houses and offices as above (mountain district), John Walsh, Raheen, £5; for the next best do, Thomas Power, Garrygauge, £1. To the labourer for the neatest and best kept cottage, with a plot of ground, not more than half a statute acre, gentlemen's lodges and tradesmen's houses excluded – James Downes, Rogerstown, £1; for the next best, do Thos Meara, Springfield, 10s; for the best crop of flax, not less than half a statute acre, Robert Blackmore, Kilmanihan, 3rd class, £1; for the nest best, do, Michael Power, Brenor, 10s; for the best farm of mixed husbandry, which, with the dwelling house, offices, fences, &c, shall be in the best order, Ben Morris, Corlohan, 3rd class, £1; for the next best do, David Walsh, Kilmanahan, 10s; Cottages – lowland district – for the neatest and best kept cottage , with a garden attached, containing the greatest variety of green crops, Thomas Moynihan, Rogerstown, £1; for the next best do, Martin Fitzgerald, Jamestown, 15s; for the next best do, Patt Levins, Piltown, 12s; for the next best do, P Hanlon, Clanmore, 7s; for the next best do, Thos Cuddihy, Turkstown, 6s; for the next best do, Widow Lonergan, Fiddown, 5s. Cottages – Mountain District – for the neatest and best kept cottage, with a garden attached, containing the greatest variety of green crops, James Fahy, Mullinabeg, £1; for the next best do, James Walsh, Owing, 15s; for the next best do, James Dwyer, Ballinacrony, 12s; for the next best do, Thomas Cahill, do, 7s; for the next best do, Arthur Walsh, Clonmore, 6s; for the next best do, Widow Mackey, do, 5s; for the greatest number of bee hives kept by a cottager, James Downes, Rogerstown, 10s. To the cottagers who will have the neatest kept flower garden, 3s, 2s, 1s – Thos Moynahan, first, John Lewis second, and James Downes third.

Green Crops – Lowland District No 1, for the upper part of the barony – Turnips, not less than half an acre, Wm Walsh, first premium, Turkstown, 31; do James Duggan, do Corlohan, second premium, 15s; do Michael Power, do Brenor, third premium, 12s; do Con Sexton, do Ballynacronny, fourth do, 8s. Mangold Wurtzel, not less than ¼ acre, first premium, James Duggan, Corlohan, £1; do William Walsh, do Turkstown, second do , 15s; Michael Power, do Brenor, third do, 10s. Cabbage, cultivated in the field, not less than 20 perches, no merit, 10s. Rape, transplanted or sown, Robert Blackmore, Kilmanahan, 7s 6d. Beans – no competitors, 5s. For the best heap of manure made on the farm by house-feeding, and in proportion to its size, on the 1st Sept., Jas McGrath, Owing, £1. For the best green crop in the district according to the opinion of the judges, William Walsh, Turkstown, 10s. For the cleanest and best kept farmers house and yard, £1, no competition. Lowland District No 2, for the lower part of the barony – Turnips, not less than half an acre, E Murphy, Clonea, first premium, £1; do, Edward Delahunty, Grange, second premium, 15s; do, P Mullins, Rathcurby, third

premium, 10s. mangold Wurzel, not less than $\frac{1}{2}$ an acre, Edward Delahunty, Grange, first premium, £1; do Patrick Mullins, Rathcurby, second premium, 15s; do. Thomas Bowe, Clonmore, third premium, 10s. cabbage cultivated in the field, not less than 20 perches, no competition, 10s. Rape, transplanted or sown, do, 7s 0d. Beans, do, 5s. For the best heap of manure made on the farm by house-feeding, and in proportion to its size on the 1st September, do, £1 For the best green crop in the district according to the opinion of the judges, Edward Delahunty, Grange, 10s. For the cleanest and best kept farmer's house and yard, no competition, £1. Mountain District – Turnips, not less than $\frac{1}{2}$ an acre, Thomas Brennan, Oldcourt, first premium, £1; do, P D Dowling, second premium, 16s; do, Patrick Brophy, Oldcourt, third premium, 14s; do, J Walsh, Raheen, fourth premium, 12s; do, Mrs Comerford, Tubrid, fifth premium, 10s; do, P Shea, Garryduff, sixth premium, 8s. Cabbage cultivated in the field, not less than 20 perches, P Conway, Blackbog, 10s; do, P Daniel, Dowling, 7s 6d. Rape transplanted or sown, no competition, 7s 6d. For the best heap of manure made on the farm by house-feeding, and in proportion to its size, on the 1st September, Thomas Brennan, Oldcourt, £1. For the best green crop in the district according to the opinion of the judges, David Walsh, Kilmanahan, 10s. For the cleanest and best kept farmer's house and yard, Mrs Comerford, Tubrid, £1.

Gentlemen's Class on Show Day – For the best six turnips, Lord Bessborough, a certificate; six mangolds, Mr John Walsh, Fanningstown, do; six carrots, do, do; six parsnips, Mr T Lawlor, Cregg, do; three heads of cabbage, Mr John Walsh, Fanningstown do. Farmers' Class Do – for the best six turnips, Michael Power, Brenor, splashing hook; six mangolds, Patt Dunne, Ballyhenberry, a hay fork; six carrots, Michael Brennan, splashing hook; six parsnips, do, a hay fork; three heads of cabbage, Patt Dunne, Ballyhenberry, splashing hook.

Fowl – For the best lot of fowls of a superior breed – Gentlemen's class – the medal, Earl of Bessborough; for the best couple of turkeys, not less than ten months old – farmer's class – Mr Power, Brenor, 5s; for the next best, do, do, James White, Brenar, 2s 6d; for the best gander and two geese, do, Mr Power, Brenor, 5s; for the best cock and two hens, do, Widow White Brenar, 5s; for the next best, do, do, same, 2s 6d; for the best drake and two ducks, do, same, 5s; for the next best, do, do, Michael Power, 2s 6d.

The Countess of Bessborough's Prizes – to be distributed to farmers and cottagers on the Bessborough Estate – for the best new dairy (mountain district) with thorough ventilation and a good floor, John Walsh, Raheen, 15s; for the best kept dairy, Mrs Comerford, Tubrid, 10s; for the best new dairy (lowland district), no competition, 15s; for the best new dairy, do, 10s. For best linen yarn, grown and manufactured in the district by the exhibitor – not less than three dozen, Mrs Carroll, Brenar, 7s; for the second best, no competitor, 5s; for the best piece of linen manufactured in the district, Miss Johanna Walsh, Kilmacow, 10s; for the second best, Mrs Ryan, Oldcourt. 7s. For the best piece of frieze cloth, Denis Barry, Tubbrabone, 10s; for second best Mrs Oliver Barry, Boolyglass, 8s; for the third best, no competitor, 5s. For the best piece of flannel, Mrs Oliver Barry, 10s; for the second best, Mrs Conway, Newchurch, 8s; for the third best, Widow Conway, Ballygownponsonby, 8s. To the boy attending the national school at Piltown, growing in the school garden the best crop of

mangolds, turnips, parsnips, carrots, onions and cabbage not less than six competitors, no competition. To the boy attending the national school at Clonmore, Thomas Mackey, Clonmore, 5s; for the second best, James Bergin, Turkstown, 3s. To the boy attending the national school at Whitechurch, James Notherington, 5s; for the second best, Patt Daniel, Kilonery, 3s. To the boy of any of the above schools who will produce on the show day, at Piltown, the best six mangolds, six turnips, six parsnips, six carrots, twelve onions and three heads of cabbage, Whitechurch school, 5s. For the best managed school farm, Robert Cunningham, Piltown, £1, to be given in implements. For the best three heads of cabbage, produced on show day, J Conway, Dowling, 5s; second best, R Borris, Fiddown, 3s; third best, Thomas Moran, Rogerstown, 2s.

For the best six turnips produced on show day, Widow Mackey, Clonmore 5s; second best, Arthur Walsh, Clonmore, 3s, third best, John Conway, Dowling, 2s. For the best six parsnips produced on show day, J Doran, Rogerstown, 5s; second best, Thos Morgan, Rogerstown, 5s; third best, Andy Wright, Piltown, 2s. For best carrots produced on show day, John Doran, Rogerstown, 5s; second best Thomas Moran, Rogerstown, 3s; third best, R Borris, Fiddown, 2s. For best bank of 21 onions produced on show day, Thomas Moran, Rogerstown, 5s; second best, J Doran, Rogerstown, 3s; third best, R Borris, Fiddown, 2s.

Challenges made at last meeting.

Mr R Blackmore, to show two breeding ewes, two ewe lambs and one ram. Accepted by Mr S Morris and Mr W Richardson. Won by Mr Blackmore, in all

Mr H W Briscoe, to show a well-bred weight carrying hunter; accepted and won by Earl of Bessborough.

Mr S H Jones, to show a heifer calf; accepted and won by Earl of Bessborough.

Mr T Elliott, to show five ewe lambs on the farms of the exhibitors. Accepted by Earl of Bessborough and Mr J H Jones; won by Mr Jones

Mr W Malcomson, to show a yearling heifer. Accepted by Mr S H Jones; won by Mr Jones, Mr Malcomson not appearing.

Mr B Morris, to show two acres of turnips. Accepted by Mr William Walsh and Mr R Blackmore; Mr Blackmore won.

Mr W V Stuart, to show two acres of mangolds wurlzel; accepted by Earl of Bessborough and Mr S H Jones; Mr Jones won.

The Dinner. About four o'clock the members and friends sat down to dinner in the large room of the district Court-house. The room was very tastefully decorated with laurels and evergreens woven into choice designs. Over the chair we noticed "V.R." with the crest of the Bessborough family and the inscription "Pro Rege, Lege et grege," and to the other walls of the room were affixed the following mottoes: - "Sloth is the mother of poverty," "It's never

too late to learn,” “He that tilleth his land, shall have plenty of bread,” “Straight fences, clean crops, thorough drainage, and plenty of manure,” “Good fences, good neighbours,” “Better farm twenty acres then fifty by halves,” “The animal well fed is worth two poorly kept,” “Choose the best seed,” “He who would reap well must sow well,” “One year’s seeding is seven years breeding,” “On the door into the dining room was the word “welcome” in bold letters, and over the vice chair was “Erin go Bragh.”

1867

WNS 1867-07-19-4 The Iverk Farming Society

This Society, established so far back as 1826, will hold its annual show in the picturesque and thriving little village of Piltown, on Tuesday, 1st October, 1867. An early announcement has been made, in order that the farmers of the barony willing to compete might have proper notice as to the time of meeting, and of the prizes offered in the various classes. The Society, founded by the late Earl of Bessborough, is still, after forty-one years of patient labour, steadily maintaining its position. It does not aim at any very imposing results, but simple desires that the tenantry, and especially the farming and other industrial classes, shall at least, continue to hold the same useful and creditable position which has long distinguished the labouring population of the district. It leads the way to improvement in agricultural operations, in dairy, and in home manufacture; and to this society which draws its chief support from the kindly and benevolent cooperation of the present Earl and Countess of Bessborough, we must attribute much of that prosperity and happiness which reign in this very favourably circumstanced locality. The list of premiums before us is the same almost as that which was issued when first the society set about its labours. The stock-holder and flock-master are encouraged to purity of breed; the farmer to improvement in cultivation; the cottager and labourer to cleanliness and industry. No class is forgotten, and here a field of competition is provided for all, where rewards, though trifling in amount, still useful and honourable in their class, are to be won. The example of the Earl and Countess of Bessborough has set an unfailing determination to fulfil the responsibilities of their exalted position is beyond all praise and is worthy of imitation. Without their assistance the Iverk farming Society would long since have ceased to exist, but acknowledging the duty which they owe to those amongst whom they have so long and so happily resided – undiscouraged by adverse circumstances – they lend themselves to the ennobling task of doing a large amount of good to their own dependents, in the first instance, and next, to those who surround the sphere of their own immediate influence. Hence the happiness and domestic comfort which are to be found in that district. We only wish that absentee noblemen and gentlemen would manifest an equal anxiety to serve the very people from whom they derive their wealth. If they could only understand how much of real and permanent good is to be derived from this generous consideration for the wants and feelings of the peasant classes of Ireland, and would set in the same friendly and liberal spirit, we would have more of peace and prosperity in the country. The emissaries of Feninnism and of social disorganisation have found no resting place in the barony of Iverk, and it is a well-known fact that wherever the

duties as well as the rights of property are recognised, there contentment and improvement are found to exist. – *Clonmel Chronicle*.

Nenagh Guardian - Iverk Farming Society

The annual show of the Iverk Farming Society was held yesterday 1st October, in the Bessborough demesne, and like all its predecessors was of a very successful character. The class of stock shows in the farmers' classes was quite equal, if not superior to those entered for competitions by the gentry at other societies shows. The number of entries were 270, being an increase of forty over last year, the additional competition being principally in the farmers' classes. Colonel, the Earl of Bessborough, and Mr Lalor, also exhibited some very fine animals. There was a splendid show of horses, though the competition was entirely contained to the farmers' classes. Some very fine pigs were also exhibited. The entries in butter were much larger than last year, being thirty-one in number. Judging from these, the farmers in the locality seem to have taken the hint which has so often been thrown out by improving their manner of packing. The judges, we understand had the greatest difficulty in awarding the prizes, so good was the class of butter shown. There was a large competition for the prizes for green crops in the field and they were very good and clean. An increase number of roots were shown in the yard. There were special prizes given. Including one of £10 and two of £5 each, by Lord Bessborough, to the best deserving tenants on his lordship's property, taking into account the nature of the soil to be tilled and other advantages and disadvantages.

The Daily Express, Wednesday, October 2nd 1867 – Iverk Farming Society, Piltown Tuesday

The annual cattle show in connection with the Iverk Farming Society was held today, in a field at the low end of the handsome demesne belonging to the noble proprietor of the district, the Earl of Bessborough. The day was beautifully fine, and the attendance, both on the part of the gentry and the farmers of the locality, was very large. The show as compared with that of last year, was superior, both in the point of entries and class of stock exhibited. There were forty-nine entries, and they were principally in the farmer classes. The superiority of the stock of all classes was so evident as to strike the most casual observer. This, to a certain extent, is owing to the line of conduct adopted by the noble earl in procuring male animals of the best breeds, and letting them out to his tenantry on terms which bring advantages within the reach of all. In the gentlemen's class some splendid animals were shown, fit to compete at any show. The prize list contains many advantages over those of other districts. Prizes were given, for instance, both by the Earl and the Countess of Bessborough, to the farmers and cottagers on the estate, for the best kept cottages, neatest gardens, best produce, &c., which induces large entries and tend in no small degree in making a name for Piltown, which it so justly enjoys, of being the prettiest and best kept

village in Ireland. This year Mr. William Malcomson gave a prize of £5 for the best return of pig feeding and its results, which were awarded to a tenant named Michael Power. In sheep the entries in the gentlemen's class were very small but in the farmer's class they were far in advance of last year. The animals shown were of the finest breeds. The green crops were very large, and the judges in that class enjoyed no xxxx. Some of the bull exhibited were of enormous size, and elicited general admiration. In swine the exhibition was very good. Mr Richardson's cup, value £5, was carried off for the second time by Michael Power, of Brenor, one of the tenants of the estate. In horses the show was fair, about twenty-one entries in all. The butter was larger than at almost any show held up to this; the class was very superior, and the competition close.

The following gentlemen officiated as judges: - Cattle, first class; Mr Hutchinson, Mr Thompson and Mr. D Hewtson; second class Messrs. H. W. Brisco and J. H. Jones. Sheep: Mr Milward. Swine: Mr Walsh and Mr S. H. Jones. Butter: Mr Courtenay. Linen: Mr Seehan. Green crops: Mr Nowlan and Mr R. Murray. Fowl: Mr Lane. Implements: Dr Briscoe.

MEX 1867 -10-05-2 Iverk Farming Society

A full report of the annual show held in Bessborough Park is recorded but is very difficult to read – editor

1868

WNS 1868-10-09-3 Iverk Farming Society's Show

The annual show of this society – one of the oldest and, certainly, one of the best managed associations of the kind in the country or Great Britain – took place on Tuesday last on its usual site, the Bessboro' demesne, adjoining the prettily situated and well cared village of Piltown, forming one of many of such villages upon the admirably arranged property of that truly popular nobleman, the earl of Bessborough. The previous night's very heavy rain raised the fear that the subsequent day would be unpropitious for the exhibition, but at early morn the atmosphere changed, and throughout the day the weather was all that would be desired. The spacious field in which the exhibition was held was, as usual, thronged with the gentry of the district, the farmers of the barony of named Iverk, and warm friends from Waterford, all eagerly desirous to witness the practical results of the year's working of the society, and to enjoy a desirable sojourn in one of the pleasantest parts of Ireland. As early as seven o'clock, a.m. Mr John Richardson, the efficient and zealous working secretary of the society, under agent to the earl of Bessborough and D.V.C. of the Carrick-on-Suir board of guardians, was at his accustomed post, preparing, managing, and writing, and in other ways giving a main spring to the operation of a society whose welfare is to him, as ever, a labour of love. Mr Richardson's zeal in the interests of the society can only be equalled, certainly not surpassed, by his courtesy to those brought in contact with him on these occasions by professional business, and to none others is this truly Irish characteristic made more apparent by him than to the representatives of the press, whose duty calls them to Iverk in every recurring October. To them Mr Richardson is always accessible, ever ready to reply, and always full of

information. The bright, the brilliant picture on these ever-pleasurable events is the presence amongst their numerous happy dependents, and enthusiastically esteeming friends, of the Earl and Countess of Bessborough, whose genial condescension and encouraging demeaner are, as they have been for years, the theme of general praise, and the urgent incentive to do well and merit reward. On Tuesday, as on former show days, the noble earl was all through the show amongst his tenants, and that too accompanied by his deeply beloved wife in her chariot, with the Misses Bourke, with a kindly smile and an encouraging word for all, and in the essence of the verist truth it was, in Ireland, a brilliant example, as it has ever been, to the proprietary of this country to witness the cordiality of the meeting, upon their proper soil, between the Right Hon. Frederick Ponsonby, the Earl of Bessborough, and his numerous, well-clad, comfortable, happy tenantry of Iverk. The show itself, was in almost all respects that successful exhibition of agricultural industry and application which one always meets with at Iverk, and although, on the present occasion, there were some drawbacks, the number of exhibitors and the animals shown not being so large, in some classes, as compared with the show of last year, still any deficiency in these respects was made up, to a certain extent, by the very superior quality of the animals shown, and the very brisk competition between all for success. The farmers showed in the cattle department that they had not neglected their duty, either to themselves or to their country, and notwithstanding a few shortcomings upon their part in certain particulars, as will be seen by the speeches at the dinner, they still showed they are well entitled to hold their own as producers and exhibitors of some of the grandest stock to be found in the country. In pigs the show was good also, but particularly so on the part of Mr Michael Power of Brennar, who succeeded this year in carrying off, and securing to himself the splendid prize silver tea-pot value £5, presented three years ago to the society by Alderman Richardson, of Waterford, who, on this occasion renewed his encouraging munificence by giving additional prizes for competition in the same class at next year's show. The show of roots was extremely fine, the mangels, turnips, carrots, cabbages, and onions being truly unsurpassable, and forming, in the whole, a convincing proof that however a very and most unusually dry season, such as we have passed through this year, may affect the growth of other countries, it runs a fair chance of being defeated when brought into contact with the unfailingly fertile soil of the Green Erin. The number of agricultural implements shown were likewise extremely creditable, and next, but equally important in themselves with any of the foregoing, were the specimens of needle-work from the Piltown school. Not being versed with the nomenclature of the various specimens we had the privilege of inspecting in this department, we do not venture to go into detail thereupon, and can only say they were, in general, as they struck our uninstructed eye, admirable, such as to reflect the fullest credit upon the fair girls of Iverk. As a proof of the great interest felt in this working we were assured, on the best authority, that no less than between £300 and £100 a year is expended on the school in Piltown, where the most useful branch of female education is taught. In concluding our preparatory observations, we have but to say, as we stated at the outset, that the show was a decided success, and a strong proof of the viability of this old and well-working society.

The Prize List. At half-past two o'clock Lord Bessborough, in pursuance of his invariable custom, standing upon the steps of Anthony's Hotel, with Lady Bessborough and friends read the prize list to the assembled tenantry crowding the open space in front. It was as follows: -

Cattle – Gentlemen's class – best bull in the district under 6 years, that shall be thoroughbred, RAS medal: won by T Lalor, Cregg. The best ditto from 2 to 5, medal; T Lalor, Cregg. Best yearling ditto, the medal, by Mr J Jones's Chief Baron. Best bull in the yard, the medal; Mr T Lalor. The best cow in calf or milk, the medal; Mr J H Jones's red and white cow, Lunette, calved on March 1st, 1861, out of Master Harbinzer, dam Luna; Lord Bessborough's white cow, Princess Alice, highly commended, and Colonel Stuart's cow Miss Patrick, commended. Best two-year-old heifer, the medal, Colonel Stuart's roan heifer, Lizzie, calved April 4th, 1866, got by Cluxxxx, dam Young Lady. Best yearling, the medal, Mr J H Jones's, Red Linda, by Master Harbinger, dam, Lutra.

There are a lot more cattle results given but are difficult to read – editor.

Pigs: - For the best boar from 6 to 24 months old, RAS first-class medal; Lord Bessborough. In the farmer's class, Michael Power, Brennar, won the £1 for the best boar of not less than 9 months old.

There are a lot more cattle results given but are difficult to read – editor.

Horses: - The best mare for general purposes, Edmund Delahunty 1st, £1; the Widow Comerford, Tubrid, 2nd, 10s. For the best-bred mare and foal, Widow Comerford, £3, given by Mr Spencer, Waterford.

Butter – best tub of butter, the medal, Lord Bessborough. Ditto, farmers – Ben Morris, Corlohan, 1st £3; John Newman, Rogerstown, 2nd, £1 10s; Widow Conway, Ballygowan-Ponsonby, 3rd, £1 and Widow Comerford, 4th, 15s.

Fowl – Best lot of fowl, Lord Bessborough, the medal. Farmers – best 2 turkeys, two months old, James Duggan, 5s; James White, 2nd, 2s 6d. Best gander and two geese, Ben Morris, 4s; second Joseph Doherty, Gortrush, 2s 6d. Best cock and two hens, B Morris, 6s; Thomas Cleary, 2nd, 2s 6d. Best drake and two ducks, B Morris 5s; T Cleary 2nd, 2s 6d.

Green crops – lowland district No 1, for upper part of the Barony – Turnips, not less than half an acre, E Walsh, Belline, £1; William Walsh, Turestown, 15s; Thomas Cleary, Ballyhenebry, 12s.

Lowland district No 2 – for lower part of Barony- Turnips, not less than half an acre, Edmond Delahunty, Grange, £1; Pat Mullins, Rathkerby, 15s; John Henneberry, Clonmany, 10s.

Mountain district – turnips, not less than half an acre, Thomas Brennan, Old Court, £1; H Daniel, Rahanarrin, 16s; P Brophy, Old Court, 14s; John Reade, Glenbower, 12s; John Power, Garrygauge, 10s; P Daniel, Dowling, 8s. Cabbage cultivated in the field, not less than 20 perches, H Daniel, Rathanarrin, 10s; P Conway, Blackbog, 7s 6d. For the best heap of

manure made on the farm by house feeding, and in proportion to its size, on the 1st September, P Brophy, £1. For the best green crop in the district, according to the judges, D Walsh, Kilmanahan, 10s. For the cleanest and best kept farmer's house and yard, T Power, Garrygague, £1

Farms – First Class – For the best managed farm of not less than 10 acres, with houses and offices attached thereto, on the lowland district, R Morris, £5; for the next best, R Corbett, Bawngariff, £1 10s. Second class – Best managed farm as above (mountain district), Widow Comerford, Tubrid, £5; next best, J Walsh, Raheens, £1.

Cottages – Lowland district – For the neatest and best kept cottage, with garde attached, containing the greatest variety of green crops, T Mara, Springfoeld, £1; P hanlon, Clonmore, 15s; A Walsh, do, 12s; Widow Byrne, Fiddown, 7s; William Daniel, do, 6s; Widow Walsh, Turrstown, 5s. Ditto, Mountain District – the neatest and best kept cottage as above, James Ballynacranny, £1; James Walsh, Owing, 15s; Michael den, Ballynacranny, 12s; James Butler, Ballynametagh, 7s; Thomas Cahill, Ballynacranny, 6s; Widow Lonergan, Fiddown, 5s; For the best cultivated cottage allotment at Piltown, containing the greatest variety of green crops (exclusive of potatoes) Peter Jordan, Piltown, 7s; second best, Michael Dwyer, do, 3s. Best at Fiddown, James Power, do, 7s; second best, Michael Browne, Fiddown, 3s; best at Turestown, James Walsh, 7s; second best, Wm Walsh, 3s; best at Owing, William Dehry, 7s; second best, William Connolly, 3s. For the greatest number of bee-hives kept by a cottager, Thomas Cahill, Ballycranny, 5s.

Countess of Bessborough' Prizes.

For the best new dairy, mountain district, with thorough ventilation and good floor, M Murphy, Likawn, 15s. For the best kept dairy, Widow Comerford, 10s. For the best kept dairy, lowland district, Ben Morris 10s. For the best linen yarn, grown and manufactured in the district by exhibitor, not less than three dozen, Mrs Barry, Kilnispack, 7s. For the second best, Mrs Whelan, Ballygorm, 5s. For the best piece of linen manufactured in the district, Mrs Hennebety, Cloncunny, 10s. For the second best, Mrs Conway, Ballygowan-Ponsonby, 7s. For the best piece of frieze cloth, Mrs Whelan, 10s. For the second best, Mrs Conway, 8s. For the third best, do, 5s. For the best piece of flannel, Mrs Coughlan, Jamestown, 10s. For the second best, Mrs P Knox, 8s. For the third best, Mrs Conway, 5s. To the boy attending the national school at Piltown, for the best crop grown in the school garden of mangolds, parsnips, &c, John Foley, 5s. For the second best, ditto, James Roche, 3s. To the boy attending the national school at Clonmore, James Mackey, 5s. For the second best, ditto, James Bergin, 3s. To the boy attending the national school at Whitechurch, J Hetherington. 6s. For the second best, John Mullally, 3s. For the best managed school farm, T Sullivan, Clonmore, £1. To the labourer for the neatest and best kept cottage, with a plot of ground, not more than half a statute acre (gentlemen's lodges and tradesmen's houses excluded), Thomas Cuddihy, Turestown, RAS, £1; for the next best ditto, Widow Marley, Clonmore, I.F.S., 10s. For the best farm of mixed husbandry which with the dwelling house, office, fences, &c,

shall be in the best order, Michael Power, Brennar, 3rd class, R.A.S., £1; for the next best ditto, D Walsh, Kilmanahan, I.F.S., 10s.

The judges were as follows; - Cattle – Messrs. Milward, W H Briscoe, J H Jones, and J Walsh, J.P. Swine- Messrs J S Richardson and W Hewetson, Bishop's Hall. Sheep – Messrs. Elliott, Jones and Walsh. Butter – Messrs. Richardson, E. Courtney, and J Clampett. Linen – Messrs Teehan, and J H Jones. Fowl – Messrs. George Lane and T. Bowers.

The dinner took place as usual in the Court House at Piltown. A larger attendance of gentry and farmers, greater, perhaps, than on several former occasions, sat down to most excellent cheer at a quarter to four o'clock.

1869

MEX 1869-01-23-4 The Iverk Farming Society Ploughing Match

We gave last week a report of the ploughing match of this society, which has been upwards of thirty years existence, and it is rather discouraging to notice that only two working farmers sent in their ploughs, or competed for prizes; there were eight gentlemen's ploughs but only two farmers. The largest portion of the district comprised by this society is the property of the earl of Bessborough, who resides on his estate, and takes a very deep interest in the welfare of his tenants, and therefore, it is not out of place to ask why it is that only two working farmers competed at this rural exhibition? If this society were a juvenile one, it might be said the paucity of members arose from the modesty of the ploughmen; but any such maiden bashfulness ought to have disappeared when the society attained its majority. There is an explanation which deserves consideration. It is well known that the tenants upon the Bessborough estate are principally tenants-at-will. Their owner, doubtless, from the best intentions watches carefully over them; they comply with his wishes, which under the, become mandates. There is a want of independence about them; they are too much spoon-fed, and we see the results – only two farmers' ploughs at a ploughing match. We like to see good farming and improved dwellings; but we should prefer seeing them springing up from the tenants themselves, as a proof of their improved condition, the produce of a secure system of tenure, rather than instances of an excessive, even though benevolent exercise of landlords. On some of these well managed estates the tenants are almost deprived of liberty of action; they become a sort of bailiffs. They ought to be independent occupiers, secure in the possession of their lands, and competing at ploughing matches because they felt they were independent men and not serfs.

Nenagh Guardian 21st July

The annual show of the Iverk Farming Society is fixed for Thursday, the 6th October next. The premium list includes the Countess of Bessborough's prizes for dairies, spinning of yarn, flannel and friezes, embroidery and plain sewing, growing of crops by the pupils of the schools in the district, &c.

WNS 1869 -10-15-4The Iverk Farming Society Show

This excellent society held its forty-third anniversary show and dinner on Tuesday, 5th inst., under its customary encouraging and most gratifying auspices, the weather fine, the cattle excellent, the attendance large, and influential, and the warmest interest evinced by all in the proceedings. The show took place upon the Bessborough demesne, adjacent to the pretty village of Piltown, and comprised, in its various details, one of the most successful agricultural exhibitions we ever had the pleasure of attending. The horned cattle were really superb, and notable so were those sent in from Castletown by Mr George Lane, the very efficient steward of Colonel Stuart, D.L., as also those by the Earl of Bessborough. His lordship was very successful in pigs, taking the prize cup given by Ald. Richardson, of Waterford, for the best Berkshire boar, and also taking the medal in butter. The tenantry of both the mountain and lowland districts of the property also competed creditably, the cattle of some being very fine, indeed. In pigs, Michael Power, of Brenar, was again a prize taker, both for boar and sow, and was likewise successful in the two-year-old heifers. An exceedingly fine collection of roots was upon the ground, pronounced by many competent judges to be the finest they ever inspected. It was extremely encouraging to see so much attention being paid to the growth of flax in the district, and no better proof can be given of the fact than the following report, sent in by the judges of that delicate but most important crop; -

“We have examined the flaxes belonging to the different competitors connected with the Iverk Farming Society for Mr Wm Malcomson’s prizes, and we found the flax belonging to each competitor so exceedingly well grown, and the crops so equal, after very mature consideration take the liberty to suggest that the prizes should be equally divided amongst them in the following manner, viz.; - The prizes offered for the best acre to be equally divided between Samuel Morris, Robert Blackmore, R. Durney, George Lane, and T. O’Donnell; and the prize for the best half acre to Michael Power. Where all was so well grown, we cannot consistently select on or two, for in every case the flax was a first-class crop, showing the great care and skill bestowed upon it by each competitor, as well as the adaptability of the soil and climate for the growth of flax. – Joseph Bogie and W. D. Haslam”.

That fact, perhaps unprecedented in the annals of agricultural societies, speaks strongly in favour of the energy of the farmers of Iverk, and must prove encouraging to those who take an interest, warm and lasting, in promoting the cultivation of what must really be useful and beneficial, first to the farmers and eventually to the community at large. This result is very much owing to the teaching of Mr McFarlane, flax instructor of this district, who devoted much of his time to the duty. As is usual at every show, the Earl of Bessborough and his amiable and truly popular Countess were amongst the tenantry the entire day, making all happy and pleasant, and showing in a thousand ways the deep and active care they have for the welfare of those under them, and receiving in return that to which they are so well

entitled, the manifestations of the love and respect of their thriving tenantry. On the latter point it can be truly said that a finer body of tenantry, strong, active men, and handsome women, could not be met with anywhere than were assembled at Bessborough on Tuesday – a conclusive proof of what can be done in this country by a good landlord, who believes that a tenant has rights as well as the proprietor and acts accordingly. In the frieze, yarn, flannels and other matters of that kind, the females of Iverk did themselves every credit, not alone by the number of specimens they exhibited, but from the superior quality of each article as well. In this department Lady Bessborough displayed, as she always does, great interest, minutely inspecting each article, with a kind word for the exhibitor, including the baby linen department, an improvised shop, presided over by a handsome, youthful matron, and abundantly supplied with all the requisite equipment for young Ireland.

A great feature in the proceedings of the day was the visit to the show of their Excellencies, the Earl and Countess Spencer, who were accompanied by Lord and Lady Bessborough, the Marchioness of Waterford, and attended by the Hon. Captain Villiers, A.D.C., Mr H. W. Brisco, Mr T. Lalor and other gentlemen. Their Excellencies proceeded through every part of the show ground, examining everything in the most careful manner, and frequently expressing their pleasure at all they saw. When they came to the butter stand, Ald. Power, J.P., Waterford, one of the judges, and who also formed one of the viceregal party, had the honour of boring one of the firkins at the request of the Lady Lieutenant, and showing and explaining the quality of the butter. Their Excellencies left at two o'clock for Bessborough House, and thence departed soon afterwards for Gowran, on a visit to Lady Cliften, at Cliften Castle.

As at all shows of the Society, Mr John Richardson was most indefatigable in doing the working of the secretary, taking the awards of the judges, filling in the prizes, and preparing the certificates for the successful competitors. His courtesy to the press is always most marked, and to him the thanks of our representatives are due for the attention paid to him on Tuesday.

The business of the show concluded at half-past two, and a general movement was made to the hotel at Piltown, to hear the Prize List read out by Lord Bessborough. At three 'clock, the tenantry and others, to the number of several hundreds, congregated in front of the hotel, on the steps of which stood Lord and Lady Bessborough and a party of friends. The following are the awards;

The judges in the several classes were: - Cattle – 1st class – Messrs. T. C. Spencer and D. A. Milward. 2nd class – Messrs. R. O. Pringle (Farmers' Gazette), and J. Walsh (Fanningstown). Sheep – Messrs. T. Elliott and Hughes. Swine – Messrs. D. Hewetson and Murray. Fowl – Messrs. T. Bowers, R. Corbett and W. Rae. Green Crops – Messrs. E. Bowers and T. Shea. Linen, &c. – Messrs P. Teehan and W. Clarke (Clonmel Chronicle). Butter – Ald. Power and Mr E. Courtney, Waterford. Horses – Capt. Slacke, R.M., Carrick-on-Suir.

The dinner took place in the Sessions House, Piltown which was tastefully fitted for the occasion. The entertainment was of the usual substantial character, and partaken of under the

presidency of Lord Bessborough. Upwards of 200 on the gentry and farmers of the district attended

1870

MEX 1870-10-08-9 Iverk Farming Society, Piltown, Tuesday

The fifty fourth annual show of horned stock, sheep, pigs, poultry and farm and dairy produce, in connection with the Iverk Farming Society, was held here today. Formerly the entire exhibition was held in the demesne of earl of Bessborough, but today the horned cattle were separated from the rest and placed in a field near. This was owing to the prevalence for some time past of the lung disease in the district, which at one time carried off numerous heads of stock; fortunately, however, the disease was not widespread, and has totally disappeared from Bessborough, yet there are a few cases still hovering about the district and the proprietors have adopted stringent measures to prevent a spread of the disease. (*Cattle distemper* ??? – editor) Colonel Stuart and Lord Bessborough “closed the gates” to prevent the cattle of others coming into contact with theirs. Probably in years to come this will act detrimentally in the animal exhibitions, as the best bulls in the barony have been inaccessible to the farmers for breeding purposes. There was no competition in the gentlemen’s class in stock, and this also has to be placed to the account of the lung disease. The farmers, however, went in largely, and some capital beasts were exhibited by them. The sheep class was small enough, and not what might be termed superior. In pigs there were some prize animals, as good as could be found anywhere. The superiority in this class is mainly due to the valuable challenge cups presented by the late Alderman Richardson, of Waterford, and for which there is much competition. There were no horses entered, and the reason was no prizes were offered. A want of sufficient funds tied up the hands of the managing committee in this respect. Perhaps the excellence of the show lay in the green crops. Nothing could exceed the splendid roots exhibited. At no local show in the district could anything like them be found. There was a very pretty table got up on the grounds by Mr. Davis, the head gardener at Bessborough, on which he exhibited flowers and garden produce; the latter exciting particular admiration. The butter section was well filled, and the butter itself good. Ald. Power, J.P., and Mr Edward Courtenay, of Waterford, were the judges, and highly praised the produce. It was all of the mild cure, and a great improvement was noticeable since last year. On the whole the show was something smaller than last year. The weather held up beautifully all day, and the grounds were crowded with large and gaily dressed crowds of men and women.

The judges were – cattle – Sir Robert Paul, Bart and Mr D. A. Milward, Tullagher; sheep, Messrs Milward and Charles Gregory; swine, Mr Jones and Dr Briscoe. Butter, Alderman Power, J.P. and Mr Edward Courteney; Green crops (lowland) – Messrs Elliott and E Bowers; mountain – Dr Briscoe and T. T. Bowers. Cottages – Captain Slack and Mr. X. H. Butler.

The dinner took place in the National School House at four o’clock in the evening.

Results available hereafter - editor

MEX 1871-06-24-7 The Iverk Farming Society

The committee are making their preparations for the cattle show, which is fixed to be held in the usual portion of Bessborough demesne near Piltown, on the 3rd October next. The premium sheet has been issued, and it provides for the usual competition in every department. The Earl of Bessborough distributes as formerly, the premiums of the Irish Peasantry Society; and the Countess of Bessborough has a long list of prizes for farmers and cottagers on the Bessborough estate. The stimulus thus given by her ladyship to improvement on the property amongst the families of the tenantry has produced important results, and cannot fail of continuing to do so. This is the oldest farming society in this or any of the surrounding counties, it having been established by the grandfather of the present lord of the soil in 1826, and on this occasion, it will celebrate its forty-fourth anniversary.

Irish Times October 4 page 2

At the dinner of the Iverk Farming Society yesterday, Lord Bessborough noticed the prevalence of weeds on the Irish farms and stated that “he had lately travelled in Belgium, and that the comparison between the two countries in the matter of weeds, was most discreditable to Ireland”. We believe that one-tenth of the value of a crop is lost by the neglect exhibited by Irish farmers in clearing their lands of weeds. We would like some experienced agriculturist to teach the farmers the importance of tilling their headlands. The truth is, that the difference between the Irish and the statue acre is nearly lost between the injury affected by tolerated weeds and the waste of the headlands. Mr Bernal Osborne thinks “that the real Homoliule Ireland requires is the residence of the native proprietary, we should sympathize with their tenantry.” We should be glad to know how we are to secure the residence of the native proprietary. Is it by enacting a tax upon absentees? Or by compelling those who persist in residing out of the country to sell their estates to those who live in it? At present we see no way of attracting those native proprietors to reside in Ireland, save a domestic Legislature.

Irish Times October 4

For the best thoroughbred boar, not less than nine months old, £1, Michael Power, Braner. For the best sow and litter of not less than six pigs, not more than two months old, 12s-6d, Michael Power. For the second best do, 7s-6d, Michael Power

Premiums given by Mr Richardson, Waterford: - Gentlemen's Class

For the best boar of the Berkshire breed, a teapot of the value of \$5 or upward – The Earl of Bessborough

Farmers' Class

For the best breeding sow of the Berkshire breed, not under six months old, and have a litter of not less than six pigs, a teapot of the value of £5 or upwards – Michael Power, Braner.

Butter – Gentlemen's Class.

For the best cool or tub of butter, the medal, Earl of Bessborough.

Farmers' Class

Firkin of butter, first prize, £2 – 10s, Thomas Brennan, Oldcourt; second, Mr Morris, Corlohan; third, James Duggan, Ballisle; fourth, Mrs Comerford, Tubride; fifth, Richard Brown, Ardcolan.

Sheep – Farmers' Class

For the best breeding ewes, the Earl of Bessborough will give to his tenants, 8s, Patrick Dunne, Ballyhanalen. For the best two breeding ewes, 10s, Patrick Hahissy, Newchurch. For the best two do., the Earl of Bessborough will give to his tenants, 9s, P Walsh, Ballisle, For the next two do., 7s, John Walsh, Rahin. For the best two ewe lambs, 10s, John Walsh, Rahin. For the next two do., the Earl of Bessborough will give his tenants 7s, Pat Hahissy, Newchurch. For the best two ewe lambs, 10s, Robert Blackmore, Kilmanahan. For the next two do., the Earl of Bessborough will give to his tenants 8s, Robert Blackmore, Kilmanahan.

Swine – Gentlemen's Class

For the best sow and litter of not less than six pigs, the medal, Earl of Bessborough.

Swine Farmers' Class

Green Crops – Lowland District

Turnips, not less than half an acre – First prize £1, Benjamin Morris, Corlohan; second 15s, Michael Power, Bremar; third 12s, Thomas McDonald, Clonmore; fourth 8s, Richard Lyndon, Corlohan; fifth 6s, Joseph Healy, Cloneaney.

Mangold Wurzel, not less than a quarter acre – First prize £1, Philip Walsh, Belline; second 15s, Edmond Murphy, Clonmore; third 10s, Thomas McDonald, Clonmore; fourth 7s, Patrick Mullins, Rathcurly.

Cabbage cultivated in the field, not less than 20 perches – Prize 10s, Philip Walsh, Belline

Rape – No competition

Beans – No competition

For the best acre of furze meadowing – No Competition

Green Crops – Mountain District

Turnips, not less than half an acre – First prize £1, Widow Walsh, Tubride; second 16s, Widow Comerford, Barrabehey; third 14s, David Walsh, Kilmanahan; fourth 12s, Thomas Brennan, Oldcourt; fifth 10s, Widow Comerford, Kilanispec; sixth 8s, Joseph Reade, Glenbower.

Cabbage cultivated in the field, not less than 20 perches – Prize 10s, Widow Comerford, Barrabehey.

For the best acre of furze meadowing – Prize £1, Widow Barry, Boolyglass.

Gentlemen's Class on the Show Day

For the best six turnips, a certificate, Mr Bowers, Bellina. For the best six mangolds, do, do. For the best six carrots, do, do. For the best six Parsnips, do, Earl of Bessborough. For the best three heads of cabbage, do, Mr Walsh.

Farmers' Class on the Show Day

For the best six turnips, splashing hook, Philip Walsh, Belline. For the best six mangolds, a hayfork, do. For the best six carrots, splashing hook, do. For the best six parsnips, a hayfork, Richard Lyndon, Corlohan. For the best three heads of cabbage, splashing hook, Philip Walsh, Belline

Farms – First Class

For the best managed farm of not less than 10 acres, with houses and offices attached thereto, on the lowland district, £5, Richard Lyndon, Corlohan. For the next best ditto, £1 – 10s, Michael Power, Brenar.

Second Class

For the best managed farm of not less than 10 acres, with houses and offices as above (mountain district) £5, Widow Comerford, Tubride. For the next best do, £1, John Walsh Raheen.

Cottages – Lowland District

For the neatest and best kept cottage, with a garden attached, containing the greatest variety of green crops £1, Martin Fitzgerald, Jamestown. For the next best do, 15s, Patrick Hanlon, Clonmore. For the next best do, 12s, Patrick Lewis, Piltown. For the next best do, 7s, Widow Mackey, Clonmore. For the next best do, 6s, A Walsh, Clonmore.

Cottages – Mountain District.

For the neatest and best kept cottage, with a garden attached, containing the greatest variety of green crops £1, James Walsh, Ooning. For next best do, 15s, James Brennan, Ballynacrenan. For the next best do, 12s, Michael Dunn, do. For the next best 7s, J Dwyer. Best do 5s, decided between Widow Lannagan and Widow Breen. For the best cultivated

cottage allotment at Piltown containing the greatest variety of green crops (except potatoes) 7s, John Neill. For the second best do, 3s – 6d. Patrick Clearey. For the best do, at Fiddown, 7s, Michael Brown. For the second best do, 3s – 6d, David Heron. For the best do, at Turkstown, 7s, Thomas Cuddy. For the second best do, 3s – 6d. William Walsh. For the second best do, at Ooning, 7s, William Diney. For the second best do, 3s – 6d. William Connolly.

The Countess of Bessborough distributed the following premiums for the farms and cottages on the Bessborough estate: -

For the best kept dairy – mountain district – with the rough ventilation and a good floor, prize 15s, Martin Murphy, Liekawn; Widow Comerford, Tubride, highly commended.

For the best kept dairy – lowland district – Benjamin Morris, Corlohan.

To the boy attending the National School at Boolyglass who shall grow in the school garden the best crop of mangolds, turnips, parsnips, carrots, onions, and cabbage (not less than six competitors). First prize, 5s, G Roche; second, Thomas Roche.

To the boy attending the National School at Clonmore, ditto, First prize, 5s, Austin Walsh; second Nicholas Walsh.

To the boy attending the National School at Whitechurch, ditto. First prize, 5s, Charles Maher; second, Martin Merry.

The Dinner
[By Telegraph]
(From Our Special Reporter)

Piltown, Tuesday Night – There were present at the dinner this evening – Lord Bessborough, Viscount Lismore, Bernard Osborne, M.P; Clement Sadlier; John Walsh, Esq; Dr Martin; Dr Hollywood; H W Brisco, MFH; Thomas Lalor, D L Cregg; William Malcomson, T P A Power, T McLoughlin, SI, &c. After the usual loyal toasts to the Queen, the Prince of Wales. The Lord Lieutenant and prosperity to Ireland, &c, the Chairman, in proposing the Iverk Farming Society expressed his regret at the prevalence of Foot and Mouth disease, which rendered it necessary for the committee to exclude horned stock from their show yard. The results of large numbers of cattle being brought together might be mischievous to the farmers, and might propagate the disease in the district. He regretted this, as nothing could be more conducive to the best interests of the farmers as attention to good breeding and rearing of cattle. He was not one of those who thought Ireland should be turned into a great pasturage country, but neither was he one of those who thought the country should be all one of tillage. He considered a judicious admixture of both would be beneficial to their best interests. Though they might not produce wheat like other countries, they could produce cattle, in the excellent market they had at the other side of the water would bring money to buy the requisite food. He trusted, notwithstanding the comparative discouragement there was this year to breed stock, that the farmers would persevere in trying to get a good quality of cattle. The foot and mouth disease was merely temporary and he was sure would soon altogether

disappear. The Horse Show was very satisfactory, considering there was but short notice that prizes would be given. The sheep, at all events the greater portion of them, were perfectly excellent. With regard to the pigs, an eminent Waterford buyer said he had but one fault to find with them, that they were too short in the flitch, and perhaps a little too weighty. His lordship concluded by exhorting the farmers in their difficulties, to ask advice of the landlords, who were always anxious for their welfare. (Applause).

Mr Bernard Osborne, M.P. in a humorous speech, responded on behalf of the judges. He said that was an occasion for political disquisitions, but he would declare that the real Home Rule Ireland required was the residence of the native proprietary, who should sympathize with their tenantry, and meet them on occasions like the present. If they had more of these meetings, they would have less discontent in the country for they would learn to apply themselves to their business alone, and eschew all clap-trap agitation.

Mr William Malcomson, in responding to the working farmers, spoke of the blessings of education. The improved machinery introduced into the country was useless without educated hands to work it. The farmers would feel the want of labourers in the country and, in his opinion, the proper way of keeping up that supply was for the landlords to build cottages for their habitation. Several other toasts were proposed, and after "the next merry meeting", the company separated.

1872

FMJ-1872-10-02-6 Iverk Farming Society

The annual show of stock, sheep, swine, horses and poultry in connection with this old established society came off today in the pretty little village of Piltown. As is usual the tenants of the Bessborough estate, with a large portion of inhabitants of Carrick-on-Suir, Feddon, Portlaw and even Waterford attended. The morning was lowering, but towards twelve o'clock it cleared up, and the result was that the show presented a very animated appearance during the day. The exhibition of stock in all departments was very large, while it was observable that a marked improvement had taken place in the quality of cattle exhibited. Indeed, one of the great features of these annual gatherings, at least in the south of Ireland – and I have attended the greater number held – has been the very great taste that the farming classes are exhibiting in the rearing of cattle. Nor are the tenants of the Bessborough estate behindhand in this respect. The great majority of stock exhibited today was of a very superior quality. Indeed the Rev. Mr. John Jones, Mullinabro, who acted next Lord Bessborough as judge in the farmers class, declared that he was astonished at the splendid breed of cattle that was exhibited. In very many instances the animals exhibited, he remarked, were fit to be presented at a Royal Society. William V. Stuart, Esq. carried off the first-class medal for the best bull in the district, under five years of age, which is a very beautiful animal; and the same gentleman also took the medal for the best bull in the yard next a yearling; and also, for the best two-year-old heifer in the yard. All the above animals were the subject of admiration. For the best animal in the yard of either sex, the Earl of Bessborough got the medal for the splendid for a two-year-old he exhibited. The exhibition of sheep was not considered as large

as those of former years, and the same remark, may apply to pigs; but the superior quality of those exhibited in the gentlemen's and farmer's classes were very encouraging. The horse exhibition, although small, was also very select. Indeed, the exhibition on the whole was very creditable. The poultry selections were very choice, while the competition for the green crops, which is always a department about which there is very great care bestowed, was very keen. Nothing could exceed the courtesy of Mr Richardson, secretary. The arrangements connected with the show yard were admirable. The following is the list of prizes: -

Gentlemen's class. For the best bull within the district, under five years of age, first class medal, Prize, Wm V Stuart, Esq.

For the best yearling bull, the medal. Prize, Wm Villiers Stuart.

For the best bull in the yard, the medal. Prize, W. V. Stuart

For the best cow in calf or milk, the medal. Prize, Wm V Stuart, Esq.

For the best description of two-year-old heifer, the medal. Prize, the Earl of Bessborough.

For the best description of yearling, the medal. Prize, Wm V Stuart, Esq.

For the best description of weanling heifer calf, the medal. Prize, the Earl of Bessborough.

For the best animal in the yard, the medal. Prize, the Earl of Bessborough.

Farmers' class. For the best bull the Earl of Bessborough will give his tenants £3. First prize, John Hearne, Ooning; second Philip Walsh, Belline.

For the best cow in calf or milk (lowland district) £1. First place Philip Walsh, Belline; second, Pat Dunne, Ballyhenebry; third, Richard Browne, Ardclone.

For the best cow in calf or milk (mountain district) £1. First place, Richard Whelan, Raheen; second Andrew Doyle, Miltown; third, Thomas Kenealy, Corbally.

For the best cow in the yard, £1. Prize, Philip Walsh, Bellevue.

For the best two-year-old heifer, £1; for the second best 15s; for the third best, the Earl of Bessborough will give his tenants 10s. First prize, Mrs Prendergast, Killonerry; second, Pat Dunne, Ballyhenebry; third Widow White, Brenar.

For the best two-year-old heifer (mountain district) £1. Prize, Mrs Prendergast.

For the third best the Earl of Bessborough will give to his tenants 10s. 1st prize, Patrick Brophy, Oldcourt; 2nd Thomas Brennan, Oldcourt; 3rd, R. Whelan, Raheen.

For the best two-year-old heifer in the yard, £1, Prize Mrs Prendergast, Killonerry.

For the best two yearling heifers, £1. First prize, Philip Walsh, Belline; 2nd, do; 3rd, Pat Dunne, Ballyhenebry.

For the best yearling (lowland district). 1st prize, Michael Coleman, Bawngarriff; 2nd M Power, Brenar; 3rd, John Walsh, Fiddown; highly commended, Richard Brown, Ardclone; commended, Wm Walsh, Turkstown.

For the best yearling (mountain district. £1. For the second best, do, 15s. 2st prize, Thos Brennan, Oldcourt; 2nd, Widow Comerford, Kilinaspec; highly commended, John Reade, Garrygaug; commended, Patk. Cody, Garryganr.

For the best yearling in yard, £1. 1st prize, Pat Dunne, Ballyhenebry; 2nd Thomas Brennan, Oldcourt; highly commended, James Duggan, Belline; commended, Pat Dunne, Ballyhenebry.

For the best weanling heifer calf (lowland district), 12s; for the second best, do, 10s. 1st prize, Philip Walsh; 2nd prize, John Walsh, Fiddown.

For the best weanling heifer calf (mountain district), 12s, for the second best, do, 10s. 1st prize, M Maher, Garrydang; 2nd Richard Walsh, Raheen.

For the best calf in the yard, £1. 1st prize, Philip Walsh; 2nd prize, John Walsh, Fiddown.

Gentlemen's class. For the best ram, the medal. First prize, Wm V Stuart, Esq; second, the Earl of Bessborough.

For the best pen of five one shear ewes, the medal. First prize, Wm V Stuart, Esq; second, the Earl of Bessborough.

Farmers' class. For the best three breeding ewes, lowland district, 10s. First prize, Robert Blackmore, Kilmanahan; Second, Pat Dunne, Ballyhenebry.

For the best two breeding ewes, the Earl of Bessborough will give to his tenants, lowland district, 8s. First prize, Robert Blackmore, Kilmanahan; second Philip Walsh, Belline.

For the best two breeding ewes, mountain district, 10s. For the best two do. ewes, the Earl of Bessborough will give to his tenants 8s; for the next two, do, do., 7s. First prize, John Walsh, Raheen; second Pat Hahessy, Newchurch; third, Widow Landy, Corbally.

For the best two ewe lambs, lowland district, 10s. For the second best do., the Earl of Bessborough will give to his tenants, 7s. First prize, Philip Walsh, Raheen; second Robert Blackmore, Kilmanahan; third, Pat Dunne, Ballyhenebry.

For the best two ewe lambs, mountain district, 10s. For the second best, do., the Earl of Bessborough will give to his tenants, 8s. First prize, John Walsh, Raheen; second Pat Hahessy, Newchurch;

Gentlemen's class. For the best sow and litter, the medal. First prize, the Earl of Bessborough

Farmers' class. For the best thoroughbred boar, £1. First prize, James Daniel, Raheenarrin.

For the best sow and litter, 12s 6d. For the second best, do., 7s 6d. First prize Michael Power Brenor; second, same, same.

The Earl of Bessborough premium, a tea pot of the value of £5, as a challenge cup for the best sow and litter. Prize, Michael Power.

Gentlemens' class. For the best cool or tub of butter, the medal. First prize, Thomas Lalor, Esq.; second, the Earl of Bessborough

Farmers' class. For the best Firkin of butter – Mr Courtney's prize, £2 10s; do, £1 10s; Royal Agricultural Society's prize £1 7s; Mr Courtney's prize £1; Royal Agricultural Society's prize, 18s. First prize, Widow Conway, Ballygowan, Ponsonby; 2nd Ben Morris, Corlohan; Royal Agricultural Society's prize, Thomas Bowe, Clonmore; highly commended, James Dalton, Jamestown.

Gentlemens' class. For the best lot of fowl – First prize, the Earl of Bessborough.

Farmers' class. For the best couple of turkeys, 5s; for the second best, do., 2s. First prize, Mrs Byrne, Jamestown; second, James White, Brenor; third, Mrs Soxtec, Brenor.

Farmers' class. For the best gander and two geese, 5s; for the second best, do., 2s 6d – first prize, Ben Morris, Corlohan.

For the best cock and two hens, 5s; for the second best, 2s 6d – first prize, Philip Walsh, Belline; second Widow Walsh, Brenor.

For the best drake and two ducks, 5s; for the second best do., 2s 6d – first prize Widow White; second, Ben Morris, Corlohan.

Horses. For the best three-year-old colt or filly, £2; for the second best, do., £1 – first prize, Thomas Power, Gallygang; second Nicholas Coughlan, Jamestown; highly commended, Pat Hahessy, Newchurch.

Farmers' 1st Class. For the best managed farm of not less than 10 acres, with house and offices in lowland district. Prize £5. Ben Morris, Corlohan.

Second class do. Mountain district – first prize, £5 – Thomas Pime, Garrygrange; second prize, £1 – John Walsh, Raheen.

Cottages – Lowland district. For the best and neatest kept cottage with garden attached containing the greatest variety of green crops. First prize, £1 – Patrick Hanlon, Clonmore; Second prize, 12s – Patrick Brien, Piltown; Third prize, 7s. – Arthur Walsh, Clonmore.

Mountain district. For the neatest and best kept cottage with garden attached containing the greatest variety of green crops. First prize, £1 – James Brennan, Ballymacreany. Second prize – James Lahy, Mullinbeg.

For the best cultivated allotments at Piltown. First prize, 1s – Patrick Cleary, Piltown; Second prize – Michael Dwyer, Piltown.

For the best cultivated allotment at Fiddown. First prize, 3s – Redmond Brown, Fiddown.

For the best do., at Jenkstown. First prize 2s – Widow Mary Walsh, Jenkstown; second prize, Denis Divan, Jenkstown.

For the best at Dowling. First prize 5s – W Dehy; second prize, 3s – Condlay.

For the neatest kept flowers in the garden. Martin Fitzgerald, Jamestown.

The Countess of Bessborough distributed the following premiums to farmers and cottagers on the Bessborough Estate; - Best new dairy, first prize, £1- J Walsh, Boolyglass. For the best kept dairy – prize, Mr Ben Morris

For the boy attending the National School at Piltown who shall grow in the garden the best crop of mangolds, turnips, parsnips, onions, cabbage – first prize, 5s John Roche; second, 3s, W Kearney. For the boy attending the National School at Clonmore – First prize 5s, A Walsh, Clonmore; second, 3s, S Walsh. For the boy attending Whitechurch School – first prize 10s, J Hetherington.

Green crops – Mountain District. Turnips – first prize, £1, Thos Brennan Oldcourt; second prize, 16s, P Daniel, Dowling; third 14s, John Walsh, Raheen; fourth, 12s, W Walsh, Tibherd; fifth, 10s, D Walsh, Kilmanahan; sixth, 8s, W Conway, Ballygortin-Ponsby. Cabbage cultivated in the field. First prize, 10s, J Walsh, Raheen; second, J Reade, Glenbower

For the best acre of furze meadowing. First prize, 7s 6d, W Barry, Boolyglass.

Green crops – Lowland District. Turnips, not less than half an acre – first prize, £1, W Walsh, Turkstown; second, 15s, M Power, Brenar; third 10s, Ben Morris, Corlohan; fourth, Richard Lynd, Corlohan; John Hazelessy, Clonmore.

Mangold wurzel – first prize, 31, S Walsh, Bellevue; second 11s, M Power, Brennar; third 10s, Thos Bowe, Clonmore; fourth, 7s, W Murphy, Clonmore.

Cabbage in the field – first prize, 10s, S Walsh, Bellevue.

Rape transplanted or sown – No competition.

The dinner. The members of the society, with their friends, in all about 200, sat down to dine in the courthouse immediately after the show was held. The room was beautifully decorated. The earl of Bessborough occupied the chair; to his right sat William Malcomson, J.P.; to his left Thomas Scanlon, D.L., W.J. Jones, J.P., Mullinahone, occupied the vice-chair. After dinner had been served up, and the cloth was removed.

MEX 1872-10-05-2 The Iverk Farming Society

We devote a good deal of space, but not more than it deserves, to the report of the proceedings of the annual gathering of the Iverk farming Society. There is much practical wisdom and sound sense, in the speech of the Earl of Bessborough, and in calling attention to the proper culture of the potato, and the undue place which grass farming is taking in the system of this country. It is with great pleasure we see that the prosperity of this district goes on unabated, and that the tenantry fully appreciate the practical and kindly feeling of their landlord.

WNS 1872-10-04-3 The Iverk Farming Society

The annual show of this old and flourishing society, fostered in the hands of one of Ireland's model noblemen, the Earl of Bessborough – of whom, alas! we have so few, took place on Tuesday last in the usual place, the back demesne of Bessborough House, and in every feature presented ample proof of the continual vigour of its operations, and the vast amount of benefit it confers. In both classes of stock, gentlemen and farmers, the cattle was excellent, in many respects superior to previous shows, and the same may be said of sheep and pigs, Michael Power, Breman, shinning conspicuous in the latter class, and carrying away the silver teapot, value £5, given by the earl of Bessborough, and open to both sections of Exhibitors. There was a very large show of butter, and all of excellent quality, firm and sweet, which drew forth the warm encomiums of the judges. There were no less than six premiums awarded, five in the farmers class, and one in that of the gentry. As is usually the case, there was more spirited competition for the various prizes given by the Countess of Bessborough, and in every branch the specimens shown of green crops, linens, flannels, flowers, &c., were most excellent. In the baby linen department, every variety of requisite in that very necessary line was shown, and drew marked attention and observation during the day, many of the hirsute lords of the creation being amongst the interested observers, no doubt, much to their benefit in the future. In the floral and bulb department, Mr James Davis, gardener, Bessborough, exhibited, not for competition, beautiful specimens of orange gourds, the Boston Marasquash, the Surge green ditto, the Custard variety, and some charming shrubs, with many ingenious devices, foremost amongst them being “Success to the Iverk Farming Society”, charmingly done in flowers. Mr. Davis's tent formed an attractive parterre, and was much frequented throughout the day. One thing contributed very much to the success of the exhibition, and that was, there was an utter absence of rain, a rather exceptional feature this season, and although the wind was rather high, and somewhat cold, the atmospheric privilege was made the most of, and the result was, the ground was crowded all day, a pretty strong proof of the deep interest taken in the proceedings by both gentry and farmers. It could not be otherwise. In the hearts of both the noble Earl and his amiable Countess, there is the warmest desire to promote the condition and prosperity of their numerous tenantry, and that grand mission they do not carry out in a theoretical way, merely; they give it a practical impetus by their presence, their precept and example, and the inevitable consequence is, that

the Bessborough property is amongst favoured in the country, in a condition to challenge competition with any other in the three kingdoms, and the Iverk farming Society continues to stand in the van of all such associations in this kingdom. As usual, Mr John Richardson, one of the respected agents of the estate, was present, as the active and respected secretary of the society, Mr. Blackett, J.P., the other agent, being the treasurer, and was the same courteous, pains-taking official we have known upon this ground for many, many years. From him the press got every information, and from him also, as well as from Dr Briscoe, one of the judges, they received much bodily comfort during the day.

The judges were; - gentlemen's stock – Messrs P. Roche, Grangefort, and E. Corbett, steward, Whitfield. Farmer's stock – Messrs H. W. Briscoe J.P., and J. H. Jones, D.L., Mullinabro; Sheep – Dr Briscoe and Mr E. Bowers. Butter – Mr E. Courteney, T.C., Waterford, and Mr E Corbett. Fowl – Messrs Bowers, Graiguevine, Mr Corbett and Mr Courteney. Swine – Dr Briscoe and Mr E Bowers, and Linen, &c., Mr Tehan, Carrick, and Mr G Lane, Castletown. From the very opening of the show to the close, the Earl and Countess of Bessborough were everywhere taking the liveliest interest in the proceedings, his lordship among the stock, her ladyship amongst the flowers, the linen, and the frieze, both discharging their duties in that earnest, courteous manner for which they are so distinguished, and showing that bright example to their order which it would be well for their country and for themselves that order would imitate.

Today a change took place in the existing programme for years, and that was to reserve the reading of the prize list to the dinner, except to announce the awards in the smaller items for the information of the poorer classes, whose circumstances would not permit them being at the repast. The dinner took place in the Sessions House, and was admirably served up under the active superintendence of Mrs Blackett.....

1873

WNS 1873-10-10-3 Iverk Farming Society

The annual show of this old and vigorous society was held on Tuesday last, and, as usual, on the rose lawn of the Bessborough demesne. I never remember seeing the proceedings, always agreeable on these occasions, go off to more advantage. The day was beautifully fine, and the charming little village of Piltown was gay with flags and bunting of the brightest colours, prettily arranged by the ladies of the place, under the direction of Mrs Hackett. The cattle, sheep, pigs, roots, etc., formed one of the most successful shows at which I have been present for some time, affording the very highest gratification to the noble and highly popular Lord Bessborough, who, as is so well know, takes the deepest interest in all such matters. Under the various heads of stock, his xxxxxxxx as an exhibitor, ensuring xxxxxxx for himself and his very competent steward, Mr John Hill. With his splendid four0-year-old bull, "Vasseur", his lordship took the cup for the best bull in the district; doing the same for the best yearling bull, and the best bull in the yard. In sheep and pigs the noble Earl was also rewarded. Colonel Stuart, of Castletown, was equally successful, a result for which his respected and experienced steward, Mr George Lane, deserve special mention. In the bull class he was

highly commended, the prizes falling to him for the best two years' old, best yearling, the best ram, best butter, and in fowl, Colonel Stuart, also took the farmer's challenge cup, given to gentlemen for the best bull calf. In the farmers' class the same eager competition was observable, if not warmer, certainly as vigorous as at any former exhibition. Almost every class had its competitors, and in butter it was extremely brisk, no less than 25 firkins of that excellent article taking the prizes. In this class, John Walsh, of Fiddown, took the cup with a firkin of butter pronounced by the judges to be of the very best quality. The roots were something astonishing in size, and were excellent in condition; the onions, cabbages, mangolds, grown most of them from seed supplied by Messrs J. Grubb & Son, Carrick, being the subject of well-deserved praise during the day. The judges were - Stock – D A Milward, J H Jones, and W H Briscoe; Horses – Lord Lismore and Mr Briscoe; Butter – Ald. Power, J.P., Waterford, Mr E Courtenay, do, and Mr J Gregory; Green crops – Messrs. E and T Bowers. There was the usual creditable display of friezes, lentos, linen yarn, flannels, and here the interest which Lady Bessborough takes in this branch of the exhibition, makes it her particular department. All were of the very best constituents and gave some trouble to the experienced judge, Mr T Tehan, of Carrick, in deciding. Not the least interesting portion of this department was the baby linen house, a prettily arranged concern, which received many visitors, particularly of the gentler sex, throughout the day. Again, I have to notice with pleasure the xxxxxx exertions of J Richardson, Esq., Belline, the acting secretary of the society, in the promotion of the proceedings and to return him my best thanks for the courtesy he extended to me as a member of the press. Lord and Lady Bessborough were, as ever, seen taking the deepest interest in the proceedings, showing how near their hearts lies the welfare of those committed to their charge, and their unflagging determination to promote that well-being to the utmost of their power. Well would it be for Ireland if she had more of those, who like the Earl and Countess of Bessborough, knowing the rights, are equally alive to its duties.

The remainder of the report listing the prizes is very difficult to read – editor.

The dinner took place in the upper apartment of the Sessions' House, Piltown, which was as usual handsomely and appropriately decorated for the occasion, under the immediate supervision of Mrs Blackett. The mottoes on the walls were those which give encouragement to young and old engaged in the pursuit of the farmer, and were neatly executed indeed. The dinner was of that substantial character always found at Iverk, and was dressed and served up in the most excellent style under Mrs Blackett. Lady Bessborough, herself, placing and removing plates, and making every one as comfortable as possible. Nearly all those attending the show were present at the dinner, to which the most ample justice was done.

1874

MEX 1874-01-17-8 Iverk Farming Society

The second annual meeting of the Iverk farmers was held in the Court-house, Piltown on Saturday last.

There was a large attendance. The zeal and ardour evinced by all present in the desire for the promotion plainly showed that according to present prospects and arrangements the Iverk Farming Society will rank A 1 in Ireland. Hitherto it seems, the noble president, his amiable lady, and the surrounding gentry, were the only patrons of the competitive system of encouragement to the baronial farmers, and so far, the society held a fair grade amongst the many agricultural exhibitions of Ireland. Not twelve months since several local farmers, respected for position and experience, started a fund for the purchase of several cups, in order to stimulate the apathetic to compete and render the show yard worthy of the rich and verdant valley it lay embosomed in. Since the first of February, 1873, a sum, upward of £50, has been handed into the treasurer, a feat which speaks volumes for the spirited and industrious Iverkians. It must be very gratifying to the Earl of Bessborough to find such a noble spirit growing amidst his tenantry.

On the motion of Mr T. Bowers, seconded by Mr W. Richardson, Mr William Walsh was moved to the chair amidst applause. The chairman then delivered a short address and concluded by congratulating the subscribers on the high success of their meeting.

As there were some persons present who wished to be admitted as members of the Society, Mr John Power moved the first resolution.

MEX 1874-08-22-8 Iverk Farming Society's Show

The Iverk Farming Society's 48th annual show will take place on Tuesday, October 13th next in the beautiful demesne of Bessborough, by kind permission of the Right Hon. The Earl of Bessborough, President of the Society. The arrangements for the occasion differ in many respects from those of preceding years, the alterations being due in great measure to a desire, on a part of the Committee, to increase the number of prizes, and extend, as far as possible, the competitions amongst all classes of exhibitors. A most important change in the programme is the addition of three new prizes, value for about £3 each, and a special prize of £20, open to all classes wishing to compete. This important grant was received from the surplus fund of the Royal Agricultural Society's late show, held in Waterford, it having been obtained principally through the exertions of Mr John Richardson, the zealous and efficient secretary to the above useful local Society. This year's meeting holds forth every probability of being markedly successful.

MEX 1874-10-10-8 Iverk Farming Society

The annual show of the above old established and valuable Society was held on Tuesday last on the grounds of the earl of Bessborough, and was on the whole well attended, notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather. Such exhibitions are calculated to produce much good in the country, especially where, as in the case of Iverk Farming Society, agricultural produce is so much attended to. There the farmers meet together and interchange

valuable ideas, besides having an opportunity of witnessing specimens of the newest agricultural improvements. The Earl of Bessborough and his amiable Countess take the deepest interest in the Society, and their precept and example encourage their happy tenantry, who, by praiseworthy emulation, seek to carry off the valuable prizes offered as the reward of successful industry and perseverance. The number of entries was as large as usual, and the animals and farm produce exhibited could not be excelled in any other part of Ireland. The success of this valuable Society is, next to the Earl and Countess of Bessborough, mainly due to the exertions of the indefatigable and talented honorary secretary, Mr. Richardson, who leaves nothing undone to forward its interests. Nor must we omit the names of Mr. Briscoe, Mr Jones senr., Mr Jones, jun., and other gentlemen who are most active in seeking to develop the agricultural resources in the country. The consequence is, that the farmers of Iverk are amongst the most prosperous, contented and happy of those of their own and the surrounding counties. The best yearling bull, a splendid animal, the property of Mrs Villiers Stuart, obtained the prize. The same lady obtained the medal for the best description of yearlings, and the earl of Bessborough took the prize for the best cow. M. Lalo, Cregg, obtained the prize for the best bull in the yard. The following is the prize list

Thomas Keneally won the first prize for the best kept dairy in a mountain district, and Mr M. Power for the best kept dairy in a lowland district.

The dinner was, as usual, a substantial and good, and the caterer left nothing to be desired. About one hundred sat down to dinner, and the chair was taken by the earl of Bessborough, and on the dais we noticed – Messrs Jones, Lalor, Briscoe and Richardson.....

MEX 1874-10-17-5 Iverk Farming Show – to the editor

Sir – I beg you will correct the mistakes in your last issue of your paper with regard to the Iverk Farming Society, viz – You represent Mrs Villiers Stuart as second in the weanling heifer class section, whereas it should stand thus – J. H. Jones, first; F. G. Kent, highly commended; Earl of Bessborough, commended. Mrs Villiers Stuart won no prize in this section. Also, in the Farmers’ Challenge Cup, section to be competed for by general subscribers, for the best weanling bull calf. Mrs Villiers Stuart, first; F. G. Kent, highly commended; J.H. Jones, commended. In either of these classes there was no second prize

I remain yours &c., F. G. Kent, Island View, 10, 12, 1874.

MEX 1874-12-12-6 Iverk Farming Society

A meeting of that large section of farmers of the Iverk barony known as “The subscribers to the Cup Fund” was summoned by the honorary secretary, Mr William Richardson, and was held in the Court-house, Piltown, on Saturday 21st ult. Owing to the incessant down-pour of rain during the day only eleven members attended. This was certainly a small number out of

the two hundred and fifteen, but it must be observed that eight of them were representative men in every sense of the term

1875

MEX 1875-09-11-1 The Iverk Farming Society

The annual show of the Iverk Farming Society will be held on the 5th October. In consequence of the prevalence of foot and mouth disease no cattle will be admitted into the show-yard, but prizes will be given for horses, sheep, pigs, poultry and butter.

MEX 1875-10-09-5 Iverk Farming Society

The forty-ninth annual exhibition of the above valuable Society was held at Bessborough on Tuesday last, but was not as well attended as on former occasions. This, no doubt, was mainly due to the absence of cattle, which hitherto had formed a main feature in the show. It was deemed prudent, however, not to bring the stock together from different parts owing to the appearance of foot and mouth disease in some districts. Notwithstanding the paucity of visitors, the show presented an animated and respectable appearance owing to the indefatigable and respectable appearance of the noble president, Thomas Lalor, Esq., Hon Secretary, John Richardson, Esq., and other gentlemen, who left nothing undone to render the exhibition successful. There was a general falling off in gentlemen's classes, but we were glad to perceive that this deficiency was counter balanced by the number of entries made by farmers, especially in green crops, some splendid specimens of which were exhibited. In this department Ben Morris of Corlohan, took first prize in the lowland district, and Thomas Brennan, of Old Court, in the mountain district. In the sheep department gentlemen's classes, Mrs V Stuart took first prize for the best pen of five one-shear ewes, and Lord Bessborough for the best pen of five breeding ewes. There was a fair number of entries in the farmers' class, but they were chiefly tenants of the Earl of Bessborough. Messrs P Raher, J. Walsh, and P. Hahessy were the successful competitors in this department. There were no entries for swine in the farmers' class and very few for cottages, which as Lord Bessborough said at the dinner, was due to the meagre prizes offered. Some other entries did not fill. The following is the

Judges; fowl- E Courtenay, and T Bowers, jun. Horses – J H Jones and Henry W Briscoe. Roots – Mr R Blackmore and T M Hunter, Dublin. Butter – Edward Courtenay and Maurice Reid.

The Countess of Bessborough will distribute the following premiums to farmers and cottagers on the Bessborough Estate.

For the best new dairy – Mountain District – with thorough ventilation and a ground floor. No competition. For the best kept dairy – Widow Comerford.

To the boy attending the National School at Boollyglass, who shall grow in the school garden the best crop of mangolds, turnips, parsnips, carrots, onions and cabbage (not less than six competitors) No entry. To the boy attending the National School at Piltown, Edward Manning; for the second best, ditto, J Kearney. To the boy attending the National School at Clonmore, Pat Conley; for the second-best ditto, Pat Fennessy. To the boy attending the national School at Whitechurch, Pat Flynn; for the second-best ditto, Thos Merry. For the best managed School Farm – Whitechurch school farm.

For the best pocket handkerchief – Ellen Griffin, Piltown; for the second-best ditto, Mary Tobin, Piltown. For the best embroidery on thick muslin – Mary Conway, Piltown; for the second-best ditto. Mrs O’Keeffe, Kilmahon. For the best plain work, Widow Stephens, Piltown; for the second-best ditto, Eleanor Harness, Piltown.

The dinner. A cold dinner was served at three o’clock in the Sessions House, which was very handsomely decorated. The Right Hon the Earl of Bessborough presided. At the principal table were H W Briscoe, Thomas Lalor, D.L.; Peter Walshe, R H Slacke, R.M; Clement Sadlier, Rev Lyons. John H Jones occupied the vice chair. The general company was not as large as on some former occasions. There were many vacancies at the tables.