

PRESENTATION TO COLONEL
PLATT, C.B.

AN INTERESTING FUNCTION.

EDUCATION IN AGRICULTURE

COLONEL PLATT FOUNDS A SCHOLAR-
SHIP.

On Thursday afternoon there was a good attendance at the Town Hall, Bangor, to witness the presentation of a handsome testimonial to Colonel Platt, C.B., of Goringdon, Llanfairfechan. Early in the year a large and enthusiastic meeting of Anglesey agriculturists was held at Bangor to discuss the propriety of recognising in a substantial manner the great and conspicuous services rendered by Colonel Platt in the improvement of Welsh cattle and draught horses, and to the cause of agriculture generally in the county. The meeting was unanimous in its opinion that Colonel Platt deserved a handsome recognition of his invaluable services in the direction indicated in particular, and as an ardent and successful agriculturist in general. A committee was appointed to receive subscriptions and to carry out the details of the scheme, with Mr J. Rice Roberts as chairman, Mr Humphrey Owen treasurer, and Mr William Prytherch discharging the secretarial duties. At the outset it was decided that the subscriptions should be confined to the county of Anglesey, and that the maximum limit should be one guinea. The appeal for subscriptions met with a ready response, and although a limit was set upon the amount contributed, yet the total collected was sufficient to purchase a beautiful silver cup to the value of about £84, and to cover all incidental expenses.

Thursday's meeting was presided over by Mr J. Rice Roberts, and the attendance was thoroughly representative of the agricultural community throughout the county.

The hon. sec., Mr Prytherch, announced at the outset that letters regretting inability to be present had been received from several gentlemen.

The Chairman, in his opening remarks, said it afforded him the greatest pleasure to preside on that occasion, and he presumed that that compliment had been paid to him because he was chairman of the committee which was formed when this movement was inaugurated. As they were aware in these days nothing had interested and agitated those who dealt with farming stock more than the endeavour to get animals of the best blood, and the best quality possible. They also knew that during the years of depression which had affected agriculturists throughout the country during the last twenty years that that branch of farming had more than any other received special attention. In all directions when people were competent to give information and advice upon the subject they called the attention of farmers to what they considered to be the best paying branch, and they almost invariably dwelt upon the aspect of the question alluded to. He thought the last person they heard referring to the matter was Mr Long, the Minister of Agriculture, when speaking at the opening of the Bangor University College farm at Lledwigen. He (the chairman) was sure that all who were present on that occasion regretted that Colonel Platt was not able to attend. It was an important occasion for the county of Anglesey, and taking everything into account, it was in every way a success. He had no doubt that they were all aware of the good work that had been done by Colonel Platt during the last twenty-five years in the improvement of their draught horses, light horses, and Welsh cattle (cheers). Everyone in Anglesey, Carnarvonshire, and this part of the Principality generally would admit that all agriculturists were under a deep obligation to Colonel Platt for his most invaluable services—(cheers)—and he (the chairman) thought that everyone who had considered the subject would also admit that those of the public who had benefited by those services had been very tardy in making any recognition to the man who had benefited them. The occasion for their making a recognition had arrived at last. They were very pleased to see so many agriculturists, and he felt sure that

list of Colonel Platt's breeding stud was one of which any agriculturist in the kingdom would be proud (cheers). Colonel Platt was a gentleman who had carried on this good work for upwards of twenty years, and he trusted he would continue it for many years to come (cheers). He had also led the way in the breeding of cattle as well as horses, and in fact in every department of farming he had been a wonderful example and a wonderful success (cheers). His success with mountain sheep, which he took up a few years ago, had also been remarkable. The proof of Colonel Platt's success and of the appreciation of his efforts by the agricultural community was to be found in the pleasing memorials which were before them (cheers). He felt sure that in years to come Colonel Platt and his achievements in the directions indicated would be the subject of gratifying recollections (hear, hear). In conclusion, he said he had great pleasure, on behalf of the committee and the subscribers, in asking Colonel Platt's acceptance of the cup and the address, and hoped that Providence would grant him many more years to live amongst them (applause).

Colonel Platt, who was received with enthusiastic cheers, in acknowledging the presentation, said it would be very ungracious on his part if he did not fully appreciate the compliment that they had paid him that day, a compliment, he should say, unique in the annals of agriculture. The compliment they had paid him was not one that would end in that way, but the magnificent cup which they had given him would be a proof in years to come to his descendants of the esteem which the farmers of Anglesey had been good enough to bear towards him, and also of the gratitude which he (Colonel Platt) felt towards them all (cheers). He need scarcely say that when he thought years ago that he could distinguish in the old Welsh race of cattle—a race that reigned about this country in centuries gone by, long before the Welsh nation was, by the irony of fate and the strength of its enemies, driven into the fastnesses of its own country—when he thought that the Welsh cattle had a future before them if given a chance he little imagined that the views he then entertained would so soon prove themselves correct. Not only had the Welsh cattle classes at the various shows in England improved tremendously in the quality of the exhibits sent in, but the object of his heart and the desire of his life were about to be accomplished, namely, that the farmer

cacious and would bring out the intellects they had amongst their agricultural population. In conclusion, he said he wished to express to them and to all who had subscribed to this valuable gift his heartiest thanks for their very great kindness to him (applause).

Principal Reichel, of the North Wales University College, stated that although Colonel Platt mentioned that he had consulted him with regard to his proposal to establish the scholarship, they should clearly understand that the idea was entirely that of Colonel Platt himself (cheers). Col. Platt came to him (Principal Reichel) and said he was desirous of doing something for the farmers of Anglesey and Carnarvonshire, with whom he was connected, and who were showing their appreciation of his connection with agriculture in this country in such a very handsome way; and that he believed he could best do it in connection with the college scheme of agricultural education. The idea had not in any way been suggested to Colonel Platt, but on the contrary, it was his own (cheers). At the same time he (Principal Reichel) must say that he most heartily believed that Col. Platt had performed a great work for agricultural industry in North Wales. He knew from history that no nation had kept its greatness unless it had a strong population in the land. The real grit of any country, physically, morally, and intellectually, was to be found in the population that lived and worked upon the land, and that when that population decayed or died away the greatness of that country was within measurable distance of declining. He thought that one of the first duties of an institution, such as the one he was connected with, was to promote the interests of the agricultural population. If he was asked how such an institution could do anything of the kind he was met at once by the fact that all over the world—not in our country alone, for our country had been very backward in this matter—it had been more and more recognised that education of a special kind was absolutely essential to every industry whether it was farming, engineering, or ordinary commercial work. Every kind of trade and profession required an education which was suitable for its promotion, and unless such education was given they discouraged that particular trade or profession, whatever it might be. He instance the progress which Denmark had made during the last ten years in agriculture owing to their educational system. He thought that anything which would tend to keep the real friends of the country in the country and prevent them drifting off to the big towns was of the first value to the agricultural and farming community. Therefore, he thought that Colonel Platt was, by founding this scholarship, doing a great and valuable work for this industry (cheers). He was founding it in connection with the agricultural department of the University College, and it was a tribute to the efficiency of that department which he (Principal Reichel) personally valued most deeply because they knew that there was no greater authority on agricultural matters in North Wales than Colonel Platt (cheers). It made him also feel that Colonel Platt's offer came almost as a crown to the appeal which they had been making for the establishment of the college farm (hear, hear). The efforts to establish the college farm had been crowned with success which he must say was entirely beyond his expectations. When it was seen that they should have to raise a fund of £4000 he must say his heart sank within him, but he was now happy in being able to say that this sum had been actually promised or subscribed (cheers). It was led off at first by a donation of £1000 by one of the City of London companies, who made it a condition that the college authorities should raise the other £3000. Then came Mr Henry Tate, that great benefactor to education in Wales, and he gave a donation of £500, which he afterwards increased by another £500. The rest had been raised almost entirely amongst landowners and agriculturists in Wales. The support which this movement had gained had been widespread. The gift which Colonel Platt announced that day practically placed his donation on the level with the great donations of the Drakop's Company and of Mr Henry Tate (cheers).

