CEFNDIR SEFYDLU'R GYMDEITHAS A'R SIOE
ESTABLISHING THE SHOW AND SOCIETY

Nid damwain a hap oedd sefydlu'r Sioe yn Nhal-y-bont ganrif yn 61, ond yn hytrach rhan o gynllun oedd ar droed ers blynyddoedd i gael Sioe Amaethyddol yng ngogledd Ceredigion.

Thomas Johnes, Hafod Uchdryd, Cwm Ystwyth yw'r gwr a glodforir am sefydlu'r Gymdeithas Amaethyddol gyntaf yn y Sir hon yn 1784. Daeth Thomas Johnes i'r Hafod yn 1783 ac o'r adeg honno hyd at ei farwolaeth yn 1816 gwariodd ffortiwn yn gwella'r ystad. Adeiladodd blasty godidog ac aeth ati i geisio chwyldroi'r hen drefn o amaethu oedd wedi goroesi ers canrifoedd yn yr ardal. Dechreuodd wella'r cnydau cyn troi at wella'r stoc. Ceisiodd hefyd gael ei denantiaid i wneud yr un peth, gan eu cymell i fabwysiadu'r dulliau newydd o amaethu. Rhoddai bwyslais mawr ar dyfu erfin neu faip, ac ar wrteithio'n helaeth er mwyn gwella safon yr anifeiliaid. Yn 1784 sefydlodd ef a Thomas Lloyd, Llangoedmor *'Y Gymdeithas er Cefnogi Hwsmoniaeth a Diwydrwydd yn Sir Aberteifi.* Ef oedd ei Llywydd cyntaf a bu'n fawr ei ofal drosti. Sefydlodd wasg argraffu yn yr Hafod ac ar y wasg honno yr argraffwyd adroddiadau'r Gymdeithas yn Gymraeg a Saesneg. Amcan y Gymdeithas oedd cynnig gwobrwyon am wahanol fathau o gnydau, yn ogystal â chwteru, cau a phlannu cloddiau a phlannu coed. Bwriad Johnes oedd chwyldroi amaethu yn y Sir ac yn 1800 cyhoeddodd lyfryn a gyfieithwyd gan William Owen-Pughe dan y teitl *'Cynghorion Priodor o*

Thomas Johnes, Hafod Uchdryd

The decision to establish Tal-y-bont Show one hundred years ago was no accident, but rather the culmination of a long-standing desire for an agricultural show in North Ceredigion.

Thomas Johnes, Hafod Uchdryd, Cwm Ystwyth, is credited with establishing the first agricultural society in the county way back in 1784. Johnes came to the Hafod in 1783 and from that time until his death in 1816 he spent a fortune improving his estate. He built a magnificent mansion and revolutionised old farming methods that had survived unchanged for several centuries. His early efforts went into improving crops before he turned his attention to the stock. Johnes attempted to influence his tenants to follow his lead in adopting these new methods. He placed considerable emphasis on growing turnips, as well as extensive fertilisation as ways of improving the stock. In 1784 together with Thomas Lloyd, Llangoedmor, he established *'The Society for the Encouragement of Agriculture and Industry in the County of Cardigan'* and became the Society's first President taking great care of its development. It was on the printing press that he brought to Hafod that the Society's reports were printed in English and Welsh. The Society's aim was to offer premiums for various types of crops, building drainage systems and planting hedgerows or trees. To promote his aim of revolutionising agriculture in the

Garedigion i ddeiliaid ei dyddynod'. Treuliodd weddill ei oes yn ceisio diwygio'i stad a gwella byd ei denantiaid. Cyflogai feddyg a fferyllydd llawn amser i wasanaethu ei denantiaid, a sefydlodd ei wraig ysgol rad i ferched a gwragedd yr ardal er mwyn eu dysgu i ddarllen, gwnïo a gwyddor tŷ.

Clywir llawer o sôn y dyddiau hyn am 'wasanaethau cymdeithasol'. Anodd cael gwell enghraifft o'r gwasanaethau hyn ar brawf na gwaith Johnes. Cydoesai a'r Diwygwyr Methodistaidd, a thra oedd cynulleidfaoedd niferus Llangeitho yn gwrando ar bregethau tanllyd, yn canu a gweddïo mewn ymgais i achub eneidiau, roedd Johnes yn ceisio gofalu am anghenion corfforol a bydol ei denantiaid a'i gymdogion.

Digyfewid fu hanes amaethu yn ardaloedd gwledig Cymru am ganrifoedd lawer. Yn wahanol i Loegr nid sustem y tri chae oedd yn bodoli yma. Tir agored oedd y mwyafrif llethol ohono. Bu cyfnod pan nad oedd na chlawdd na pherth rhwng Aberystwyth a Thal-y-bont, ond daeth y Chwyldro Amaethyddol i newid pethau. Gan mai mynyddig oedd ei thirwedd, ychydig o sylw a roddid i dir ar. Roedd bryniau gogledd a chanolbarth y wlad yn frith o ddefaid a gwartheg. Ychydig iawn o wenith a dyfid, gan nad oedd y pridd yn ddigon cryf nac yn ddigon sych iddo. Y prif gnydau oedd ceirch, haidd a thatws, a'r unig wrtaith oedd dail a chalch. Prif bwrpas cadw defaid oedd er mwyn eu gwlân i wneud dillad. Diwydiant cartref oedd hwnnw cyn sefydlu'r melinau ar ddechrau'r ganrif ddiwethaf, ac erbyn dechrau'r ganrif bresennol yr oedd pum ffatri wlân yn Nhal-y-bont. Prif bwrpas cadw gwartheg ar hyd y canrifoedd hefyd oedd i'w gwerthu am eu cig, ac unig bwrpas godro ambell fuwch oedd i gael llaeth i wneud menyn a chaws i fwydo'r teulu, ac i werthu'r gweddill yn y farchnad neu'r ffair leol am ychydig geiniogau.

Dechreuodd yr arfer o yrru gyrroedd enfawr o wartheg a defaid o Gymru i Loegr yn y bymthegfed ganrif, a daeth i ben ar ddiwedd y ganrif ddiwethaf. Hwn oedd y dull arferol o symud anifeiliaid i farchnadoedd pell, a'r porthmyn oedd yn gyfrifol am y gwaith hwnnw. Anifeiliaid stôr a ddygid fel arfer, sef gwartheg a defaid heb eu pesgi, a byddai ffermwyr porfeydd breision

county he published a book in 1800 ***A Cardiganshire Landlords Advice to his tenants'*** which was translated into Welsh by William Owen-Pughe as ***'Cynghorion Priodor o Garedigion i ddeiliaid ei dyddynod'.*** The remaining years of his life were spent improving his estate and the living conditions of his tenants. He employed a full-time doctor and pharmacist for the service of the tenants, and his wife provided a free school for the girls and women of the district so that they could be taught reading, sewing and domestic science.

Today there is much talk about community care. It would be difficult to find a better example than that provided by Johnes. His contemporaries included pioneer Methodist reformers. At the same time that large congregations at Llangeitho listened to fiery sermons, and sang and prayed for the salvation of their souls Johnes was caring for the physical and worldly needs of his tenants and neighbours.

There had been little change in history of agriculture in rural Wales for several centuries. Unlike England, which had adopted the three field system, most of the land in this part of Wales remained open. At one time there were no walls or hedgerows between Aberystwyth and Tal-y-bont but this was to change with the coming of the Agricultural Revolution. As much of the land was hilly arable farming was generally neglected and most of the hills and mountains of north and mid Wales were chiefly populated with sheep and cattle. Little wheat was grown because the soil was unsuitable. The main crops were oats, barley and potatoes with only leaves and lime used as fertilisers. The main purpose of raising sheep was to exploit their wool for clothing. This was very much a home industry until the woollen mills were established at the beginning of the last century. By the beginning of this century there were five such mills in Tal-y-bont. Over the centuries the main reason for raising cattle was to sell their meat. The few milking cows were for producing butter and cheese to feed the family with any surpluses sold for a few pence at the local market or fair.

The practice of driving large droves of cattle and sheep from Wales to England began in the fifteenth century and ended at the close of the nineteenth century. This was the

gwastadeddau Lloegr yn talu prisiau da amdanynt. Banc ar gyfer porthmyn defaid oedd ***Banc y Ddafad Ddu, Aberystwyth a Thregaron*** a fu mewn bodolaeth rhwng 1810a 1814. Yr enwocaf o fanciau'r porthmyn oedd ***Banc yr Eidion Du,*** a sefydlwyd gan y porthmon David Jones yn Llanymddyfri yn 1799. Agorwyd nifer o ganghennau, a bu'r banc yn weithredol hyd at 1900 pan y meddianwyd ef gan Fanc Lloyds. Gyda dyfodiad y rheilffyrdd yn hanner ola'r ganrif ddiwethaf daeth teithiau'r porthmyn i ben. Ond awgryma'r hen enw ***Banc yr Eidion Du*** fod cyfoeth gorllewin Cymru gynt yn ei gwartheg duon. Hwy welid yn pori ar lechweddau a dolydd Ceredigion, Penfro a Chaerfyrddin, ac amdanynt hwy yr holai'r porthmyn ar ben ffair.

Gorllewin Cymru oedd cynefin brid enwog Castell Martin hefyd. Y gwartheg celyd hynny a fedrai herio'r elfennau a hel eu tamaid ar bob tywydd rhwng brwyn y gors a rhedyn y mynydd.

Nodwedd amlwg anifeiliaid y cyfnod oedd yr amrywiaeth cynhenid yn eu maint a'u lliw, yn arbennig y gwartheg. Ceid rhai duon, cochion, gleision, gwynion, brithion, llwydion a phenwynion, a rhai gyda llinell wen i lawr eu cefnau. Er hynny y lliw du oedd fwyaf cyffredin, a dyna'r rheswm pam y'i mabwysiadwyd ar gyfer y brid Gwartheg Duon yn ddiweddarach. Ar ddiwedd y ganrif ddiwethaf y datblygwyd y fuches ddu bedigri, sy'n ddiweddar iawn o'i chymharu a llawer o fridiau eraill. Nid oedd diben gwella'r brid hyd oni ddaeth yr amodau i ganiatáu hynny. Hwb mawr i'r cyfeiriad hwnnw oedd dyfodiad y rheilffordd yn y 1860au a'i gwnaeth yn bosibl i gludo gwartheg tewion yn syth i'r farchnad. Buan wedyn y gwellodd y brid ac y dechreuodd llawer o'r hen amrywiaethau cynhenid brinhau.

Gwyddys fod **ffair** yn cael ei chynnal yn Nhal-y-bont yn ystod y ddeunawfed ganrif a hynny ar Hydref 19, ond erbyn 1823 newidwyd y dyddiad i Hydref 17 ac o'r cyfnod hwnnw hyd at y 1950au pan ddaeth y ffair i ben cynhaliwyd hi ar yr 17eg. Bu ffair Tal-y-bont yn boblogaidd iawn a phorthmyn yn dod iddi o bell ac agos. Y pris uchaf oedd hi bob tro, mewn cyfnod pan oedd prisiau mor ansefydlog, a cheir hanes yn y ***Welshman*** yn Rhagfyr 1842 am ŵr yn gorfod gwerthu dau anifail yn

normal way of moving cattle to distant markets and the drovers were responsible for this work. Usually they were store animals, i.e. cattle and sheep which had not been fattened, that were driven in this way. Farmers working the rich lowland pastures of England were prepared to offer good prices for them. The ***Aberystwyth and Tregaron Bank*** *{Banc y Ddafad Ddu)* which existed from 1810 and 1814 was established for the benefit of the drovers. The most famous drovers' bank was ***The Black Ox Bank*** *{Banc yr Eidion Du),* established by the drover David Jones of Llandovery in 1799. Later a number of branches were opened and the bank was active until 1900 when it was merged with Lloyds Bank. With the coming of the railways during the second half of the nineteenth century the journeys of the drovers ended. However, the name The ***Black Ox Bank*** implied that at the time the wealth of West Wales was based on Welsh Blacks. These were the cattle found grazing the slopes and meadows of the counties of Cardigan, Pembroke and Carmarthen, and it was these that the drovers favoured at local fairs.

West Wales was also the habitat of the famed Castle Martin breed. These hardened cattle were able to survive the harshest elements whether grazing amongst the rushes of the wetlands or the ferns of the uplands regardless of the prevailing weather conditions.

A notable feature of animals in this period was their variety of colours and this was particularly true of cattle. There were black, red, whey, white, speckled, grey and white heads and some with a white stripe on their back. Nevertheless, the most common were black cattle, which is why they were later adopted for the Welsh Blacks breed. It was towards the end of the last century that the pedigree black herds were developed - somewhat later than many other breeds. There was little point in improving the breed until conditions were favourable. A huge boost for this development was the coming of the railways in the 1860s as this made it possible to transport fattened cattle direct to the markets. Soon the breed improved and the old native varieties declined.

It is known that a **fair** was held in Tal-y-bont during the eighteenth century, on October 19th, but by 1823 the date had changed to October 17th, and from then until the

ffair Machynlleth am £16 ar 61 gwrthod £19 amdanynt yn Nhal-y-bont ychydig ynghynt. Roedd colli teirpunt yr adeg honno yn golled go fawr.

Y gwr olaf i gerdded anifeiliaid o Dal-y-bont i Loegr oedd Thomas Jones, Blaen-nant, Cwm Ceulan (tad-yng-nghyfraith William James, y sadler gynt). A'r porthmon olaf i gerdded defaid o Dal-y-bont i Sir F6n oedd Abram James, Bow Street. Cerddid cannoedd o ddefaid i'r gogledd. Cael y lotiau at ei gilydd yn Nhal-y-bont yna cychwyn y daith drwy Fachynlleth i fyny i Faentwrog, lle dosberthid y defaid. Rhai i Ddyffryn Clwyd ac eraill i gyfeiriad y Gogledd megis M6n drwy Lanfrothen a Beddgelert hyd at y Fenai. I lawer o'r hen borthmyn roedd dyfodiad y rheilffordd a'r loriau yn fendith gan mai creulondeb mawr i ddyn ac anifail oedd gorfod cerdded cymaint, er bod llawer mwy o swyn a rhamant yn yr hen ddull o fargeinio nag yn null ystrydebol y martiau a ddaeth i'w disodli.

Yn ystod hanner cyntaf y ganrif ddiwethaf bu'n argyfwng mawr ar amaethyddiaeth, yn bennaf oherwydd y gorboblogi yng nghefn gwlad, ac ar 61 1815 bu bron yn amhosibl cynhyrchu digon o fwyd i boblogaeth oedd yn cynyddu mor gyflym. Fe gwympodd prisiau cnydau wrth i fewnforion o wledydd eraill ail ddechrau. Ond er pob ymgais ni lwyddwyd i godi'r prisiau. Roedd hwn yn gyfnod argyfyngus i'r tirfeddianwyr hefyd. Wedi benthyca'n drwm o'r banciau i wella tir ni allent dalu'n 61 a bu'n rhaid cyflogi llai o weithwyr a pheidiwyd a chodi cloddiau na rhoi'r calch drud ar y tir. Er bod hyn yn golled ariannol i'r tirfeddianwyr, roedd yn llawer mwy o golled i'r rhydd-ddeiliaid a'r tenantiaid. Canlyniad hyn oll oedd fod pobl cefn gwlad yn gorfod wynebu prinder tir a rhenti uchel, heb obaith dianc i'r ardaloedd diwydiannol oedd yn dioddef yr un dirwasgiad. Yr ymdeimlad hwn o gaethiwed, heb obaith dianc, a arweiniodd i Derfysg Beca ar ddechrau'r 1840au. Golygai'r rhenti uchel a'r ansicrwydd o gadw fferm bod ofn ar bobl i arbrofi. Arweiniodd hyn i dyndra rhwng tenant a meistr tir. Cafwyd cynaeafau dychrynllyd o wael yn ystod y cyfnod hwn yn ogystal a'r pla ar y tatws yn y 1840au. Yr oedd popeth fel pe baent yn milwrio yn erbyn amaethyddiaeth ar y pryd.

1950s when the fair ended it was held on the 17th. The Tal-y-bont fair was very popular, with drovers from near and far in attendance. This was a time of unpreditcable prices and so it was important to go for the best possible offer. In the December 1842 issue of the ***'Welshman'*** there is a report of a man who had no option but to sell two animals at a fair in Machynlleth for £16 after refusing £19 a little earlier at Tal-y-bont fair. The loss of £3 was no small loss at that time.

The last drover to drive animals from Tal-y-bont to England was Thomas Jones, Blaen-nant, Cwm Ceulan (William James, the saddler's father-in-law), whereas the last drover to drive sheep from Tal-y-bont to Anglesey was Abram James, Bow Street. Hundreds of sheep were driven to north Wales. After gathering the lots together at Tal-y-bont the journey began through Machynlleth and on to Maentwrog where the sheep were classified - some heading on to the Vale of Clwyd and the others to Anglesey through Llanfrothen and Beddgelert and on to the Menai Straits. To many of the old drovers the coming of the railways and lorries was a blessing as these long treks were difficult for man and beast. However, the romantic charm of the old ways of settling a bargain have now been replaced by the more formal procedures of modern day markets.

Agriculture experienced a serious crisis during the first half of the nineteenth century chiefly because of a dramatic increase in the rural population, and after 1815 it became increasingly difficult to produce sufficient food to feed a rapidly expanding home population. Crop prices collapsed following the re-introduction of cheaper imports from overseas. Several efforts to increase prices were unsuccessful. This was a very difficult time for landowners, having borrowed heavily from the banks to improve their land they could not afford to repay their loans. Consequently they had no alternative but to employ fewer labourers and halt work on wall building and spreading expensive lime on the land. Although this brought financial losses to the landowners the hardship for freeholders and tenants ran much deeper. As a result rural people were faced with a shortage of land and high rents, and little hope of escaping to the industrial areas

Er hynny fe wellodd pethau o 1850 ymlaen hyd at 1873. Hon oedd oes aur amaethyddiaeth y ganrif ddiwethaf. Eto yr oedd yr anghydfod rhwng y tirfeddianwyr a'r tenantiaid yn parhau. Y rheswm am hyn oedd bod mwyafrif helaeth y boblogaeth bellach yn Anghydffurfwyr tra oedd y meistri tir yn perthyn i Eglwys Loegr. Cafodd nifer o denantiaid eu troi allan o'u ffermydd am bleidleisio yn erbyn y sgweiar, ac ymfudodd nifer fawr i'r Unol Daleithiau a gwledydd eraill yn hytrach na byw o dan y fath amgylchiadau. Roedd prisiau anifeiliaid a chynnyrch y tir yn isel o'u cymharu a'r rhenti, ac ni fedrodd y tyddynwyr a'r ffermwyr cyffredin wneud mwy na phrin dalu'r ffordd drwy gydol y cyfnod hwnnw.

Nid cyfnod i sefydlu cymdeithasau amaethyddol na chynnal sioeau oedd hanner cynta'r ganrif ddiwethaf, ond ar waethaf popeth fe geisiodd ***Cymdeithas Amaethyddol Sir Aberteifi*** a sefydlwyd gan Thomas Johnes ddal ei thir drwy'r cyfan i gyd ac erbyn y pumdegau yr oedd dwy sioe wedi eu sefydlu yn Aberystwyth i gynrychioli rhanbarth ogleddol y Sir. Yn Hydref 1858 bu cynnig gan ***Gymdeithas Amaethyddol Sir Aberteifi*** i sefydlu ***Cymdeithas Amaethyddol Frenhinol*** yng Nghymru megis yr un yn Lloegr ond ni ddaeth dim o hynny hyd oni sefydlwyd y ***Sioe Genedlaethol*** yn 1904 yn Aberystwyth.

Cynhelid dwy sioe amaethyddol flynyddol yn Aberystwyth, un ym mis Hydref a'r Hall yn Rhagfyr ar faes y Sioe ym mhen isaf Stryd Portland (lle saif Neuadd y Dref heddiw). Yr oedd pawb a danysgrifiai i'r Gymdeithas yn cael arddangos yn y sioe, yn feistri tir, yn rhydd-ddeiliaid a thenantiaid. Y meistri tir oedd y tanysgrifwyr mwyaf bob amser, a hwy hefyd oedd yn ennill y rhan fwyaf o'r gwobrwyon, gan greu cryn anniddigrwydd ac anobaith ymysg y tenantiaid tlotaf. Roedd hon yn broblem gyffredinol drwy'r wlad i gyd, ac yn un o'r rhesymau pennaf pam fod sioeau a chymdeithasau yn dirwyn i ben o ddiffyg cefnogaeth. Ond fe ddychwelodd y bonedd eu gwobrwyon yn 1858 yn Aberystwyth gan roi cyfle i'r tenantiaid gystadlu yn y dyfodol. Y flwyddyn ganlynol cafwyd Sioe well na'r un a fu o'i blaen, ac am y tro cyntaf dangoswyd amryw o gelfi amaethyddol gan gynnwys peiriant torri gwellt a wnaed gan Gwmni Ellis, yr haearnwerthwr lleol.

which were also experiencing a similar depression. It was this feeling of helplessness which lead to the Rebecca Riots of the early 1840s. High rents and uncertainty meant that people were unwilling to experiment, leading to tensions between the tenants and the landowners. This coincided with several atrocious harvests and the potato plague. At the time it seemed that everything was loaded against agriculture.

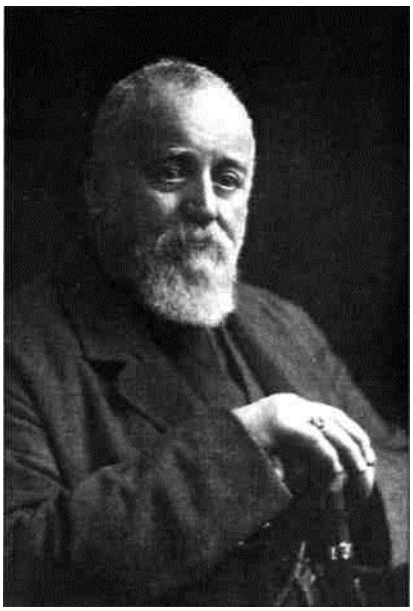
Fortunately conditions improved from 1850 until 1873. This period is now considered to be the 'golden age' of agriculture during the nineteenth century. Nevertheless the tension between landowner and tenant continued. The factor behind this was that the vast majority of the people were now Nonconformists whereas the landowners belonged to the Established Church. Many tenants were driven off their farms for voting against the local squire in Parliamentary elections, and large numbers emigrated to the United States and elsewhere rather than tolerate such conditions. The price of animals and agricultural products was low compared to the exorbitant rents, and so it is hardly surprising that the crofters and average farmers found it very difficult to pay their way.

The first half of the nineteenth century would not appear at first to be the most appropriate time to establish an agricultural society or to maintain an agricultural show, but despite the odds the ***Cardiganshire Agriculture Society,*** founded by Thomas Johnes, survived all the difficulties and by the 1850s two shows had been established in Aberystwyth to serve the north of the county. In October 1858 the ***Cardiganshire Agricultural Society*** proposed the establishment of a ***Royal Agricultural Society*** in Wales similar to the one in England, but nothing came of this until the ***National Show*** was established in Aberystwyth in 1904.

Each year there were two shows in Aberystwyth, one in October and the other in December. These were held on the Show Field at the bottom end of Portland Street (the present site of the Town Hall). All those who subscribed to the Society - landowners, freeholders and tenants -were permitted to exhibit at the show. The landowners were the largest subscribers, and it was they who also

Enillydd cyson yn y sioeau hyn yn ystod yr 1850au am hwrdd a defaid mynydd Cymreig oedd Jenkin Jenkins, Henhafod, Tre'r Ddol a'r beirniaid ar y gystadleuaeth gwneud menyn oedd Mrs Davies, Erglodd, Taliesin; Mrs Edwards, Argoed, Llandre a Mrs James, Penycwm, Penrhyn-coch. Eithr y flwyddyn ganlynol yn 1860 roedd nifer y cystadleuwyr yn is nag a fu erioed, a dim gwragedd yno o gwbl. Hon oedd y sioe olaf i'w chynnal am gryn amser yn Aberystwyth.

Gyda'r Sioe yn Aberystwyth wedi dirwyn i ben penderfynodd Syr Pryse Pryse lenwi'r bwlch trwy sefydlu sioe i'w denantiaid ar dir Plas Gogerddan a chynhaliwyd yr un gyntaf yn Hydref 1861. Sioe wartheg, defaid, ceffylau a moch oedd hi, ynghyd a gwobrwyon am gnydau gleision a'r fferm orau. Cynhaliwyd y sioe hon yn ddi-fwlch rhwng 1861 a 1894. Yn 1867 penderfynwyd ei gwneud yn sioe ar y cyd a thenantiaid Stad y Trawsgoed a rhwng 1867 a 1873 fe'i cynhaliwyd ar yn ail flwyddyn yn Gogerddan a'r Trawsgoed. Yr oedd hi'n arferiad i gyflwyno'r gwobrwyon i'r enillwyr yn y cinio ar 61 i'r sioe orffen a mynnai Syr Pryse annerch yn Gymraeg yn y ciniawau hyn. Yn y cinio ar 61 Sioe 1873 mynegodd Syr Pryse ei siom mai dim ond chwech oedd wedi cystadlu o blith tenantiaid y Trawsgoed, ac o hynny ymlaen fe gynhaliwyd y sioe unwaith yn rhagor yng Ngogerddan i denantiaid y stad honno'n unig.



Syr Pryse Pryse, Gogerddan, y Llywydd Cynlaf
Sir Pryse Pryse, Gogerddan, First President

Bu Sir Aberteifi yn enwog am ei cheffylau ond erbyn 1870 yr oedd pryder gwirioneddol ynglŷn a safon y ceffylau a fegid ar gyfer gwaith amaethyddol, gyda dim ond rhyw ugain o geffylau da ar 61 yn y Sir. Yr argyfwng hwn a barodd i nifer o wŷr blaenllaw drefnu cyfres o gyfarfodydd i drafod y broblem. H.C. Fryer, cyfreithiwr o Aberystwyth ac asiant Gogerddan, oedd prif symbylydd y mudiad newydd a phenderfynwyd sefydlu cymdeithas i gynnal ***Sioe Stalwynni*** *(Entire Horse Show)* yn y dref yn won most of the prizes. This created a degree of animosity amongst the poorer tenant farmers. This was a fairly common complaint at the time throughout Wales and one of the major reasons why many agricultural societies and shows came to an end through lack of support. At Aberystwyth in 1858, however, the gentry returned their prize money to enable the tenants to have a chance to compete in the future. The following year the show was the most successful to date, and a number of agricultural implements were exhibited for the first time, including a chaff-cutter manufactured by Ellis Co. a local ironfounder.

A regular winner for exhibiting rams and Welsh mountain sheep at these shows during the 1850s, was Jenkin Jenkins, Henhafod, Tre'r ddol, and the judges for the butter making competition in 1859 were Mrs Davies, Erglodd, Taliesin; Mrs Edwards, Argoed, Llandre, and Mrs James, Penycwm, Penrhyn-coch. However, in the following year the number of competitors was lower than ever with no women amongst them. This proved to be the last show at Aberystwyth for some time.

With its demise Sir Pryse Pryse decided to introduce a show for his tenants in the grounds of Plas Gogerddan. The first of these was held in October 1861. Cattle, sheep, horses and pigs were featured together with prizes for green crops and the best farm. This show was held annually without fail between 1861 and 1894. In 1867 it was decided that it would be held jointly with the tenants of the Trawsgoed Estate, and between 1867 and 1873 it alternated between Gogerddan and Trawsgoed. The prize giving took place at the post-show dinner and Sir Pryse always insisted on addressing the audience in Welsh at these functions. In the 1873 show dinner Sir Pryse made known his concern that only six of the Trawsgoed tenants had competed and from that year on the Show was once

1872. Bu'r ymateb yn galonogol dros ben a chafwyd sioe lwyddiannus iawn. Y bwriad oedd i gael dewis stalwynni o safon i'w defnyddio yn y sir er mwyn adfer enwogrwydd Sir Aberteifi fel sir oedd yn magu ceffylau o'r radd uchaf.

Cynhaliwyd y sioe ar Ebrill 1, 1872 ar gae'r Ficerdy yn Ffordd Llanbadarn, a'r enillwyr yn y gwahanol ddosbarthiadau i fynd â'u ceffylau o amgylch y sir yn ystod y tymor oedd i ddilyn.

Cymaint oedd llwyddiant y ***Sioe Stalwynni*** fel bod nifer o amaethwyr amlwg yn awyddus i wella amodau amaethu yn y sir gyda'r bwriad o sefydlu ail sioe a fyddai'n gwasanaethu amaethyddiaeth yn ei gyfanrwydd. Roedd sioe tenantiaid Gogerddan a'r Trawsgoed wedi profi'n llwyddiant, ond yr oedd galw am sioe a fyddai'n agored i bawb a oedd yn barod i danysgrifio iddi. Sefydlwyd ***Cymdeithas Amaethyddol Gogledd Sir Aberteifi*** yn **1**874 a chynhaliwyd y Sioe gyntaf yn Aberystwyth ar Fedi'r 16eg. Roedd sefydlu'r ***Sioe Amaethyddol*** yn symbyliad hefyd i sefydlu ***Sioe Fythynwyr (Cottagers Improvement Society).*** Sioe ar gyfer y rhai oedd yn cadw gerddi ac yn gwerthu eu cynnyrch ym marchnadoedd y dref yn ystod misoedd yr haf oedd hon i fod, a Ledi Pryse, Gogerddan fu'n gyfrifol am ei sefydlu. Dilyn y patrwm a sefydlwyd eisoes ym Mheniarth, Tywyn oedd bwriad Ledi Pryse, a phenderfynwyd ei chynnal ar yr un diwrnod a'r sioe amaethyddol fawr, gyda'r sioe gyntaf yn 1875 yn Neuadd Farchnad John James yn y dref gyda llawer yn cystadlu o Ddyffryn Aeron.

Y cyfnod rhwng 1873 a 1896 oedd cyfnod y dirwasgiad mawr ym myd amaethyddol y ganrif ddiwethaf a bu'n rhaid gohirio fwy nag un o'r sioeau yn Aberystwyth yn ystod y cyfnod hwn oherwydd Clwy'r Traed a'r Genau a barodd golledion mawr i ffermwyr drwy Gymru gyfan ar y pryd. Erbyn 1879 yr oedd cryn bryder ynglŷn â dyfodol ***Sioe Amaethyddol Aberystwyth*** am fod y gefnogaeth iddi wedi pylu gymaint. Yr un fu tynged y ***Sioe Fythynwyr*** hefyd ac yn 1881 penderfynodd Ledi Pryse ei chynnal yng Ngogerddan ar ei liwt ei hun.

Un o'r rhesymau pennaf dros ddirywiad sioeau'r cyfnod oedd y ffaith fod y meistri tir a danysgrifient i'r cymdeithasau amaethyddol yn ennill y prif wobrwyon. Fe

again held annually at Gogerddan and for its tenants only.

Traditionally Cardiganshire had a good reputation for horses but by 1870 there was serious concern as to the quality of those bred for agricultural work, with as few as twenty felt to be of high quality. This led to a number of leading figures in the community organising a meeting to address the issue. H.C. Fryer, an Aberystwyth solicitor and Gogerddan agent, was the chief instigator and during the meeting it was decided to form a society to establish an ***Entire Horse Show*** in the town in 1872. The response was encouraging and the show was a great success. The aim was to select fine stallions to be used to re-establish the county's reputation for horse breeding.

The show was held on April 1st 1872 at the Vicarage Fields, Llanbadarn Road, and the winners in the various classes were then expected to take their horses around the county during the following season.

The ***Entire Horse Show*** was a huge success and a number of leading farmers who wished to improve conditions for agriculture in the county saw the need to establish a second show which would serve a wide range of agricultural activities. The Gogerddan and Trawsgoed tenant shows had proved successful but there was a demand for one which was open to all those willing to subscribe to it. The ***North Cardiganshire Agricultural Society*** was established in 1874 and the first show was held at Aberystwyth on September 16th. This ***Show*** was the inspiration to establish a ***Cottagers Improvement Society.*** This show was aimed at those who sold their garden produce in the town market during the summer months. Lady Pryse, who was responsible for starting this show, was anxious that it be modelled on the one established at Peniarth, Tywyn. It was also agreed that it be held on the same day as the main show. The first show was held in 1875 at the John James Market Hall in 1875 with many competitors from the Vale of Aeron.

Between 1873 and 1896 agriculture suffered its worst depression of the century and more than one show at Aberystwyth had to be cancelled for fear of spreading Foot and Mouth disease which had led to substantial losses for farmers throughout Wales. By 1879 the future of the ***Aberystwyth Agricultural Show*** was threatened

gododd y broblem hon ei phen unwaith yn rhagor gyda Sioe Aberystwyth. Cyn 1810 y tirfeddianwyr oedd prif gynheiliaid y cymdeithasau amaethyddol ond wedi hynny fe gafodd y tenantiaid mwyaf yr hawl i danysgrifio. Er nad oedd y meistri tir bellach yn brif gynheiliaid y cymdeithasau parhaent i'w cefnogi'n frwd. Heb y gefnogaeth hon nid oedd ddyfodol iddynt. Gan mai'r meistri tir oedd yn tanysgrifio fwyaf i'r cymdeithasau, hwy hefyd oedd yn ennill y gwobrwyon. Penderfynwyd dilyn y drefn a fabwysiadwyd eisoes yn sioeau'r 1850au yn Aberystwyth a chan ***Gymdeithas Amaethyddol Sir Feirionnydd*** yn 1881 o rannu'r sioe yn ddwy gydag anifeiliaid y tirfeddianwyr ar wahân i rai'r tenantiaid. Ond o gynnig yr anrhydedd yn unig i'r meistri tir llwyddiannus a'r gwobrwyon ariannol i'r tenantiaid fe barodd hyn i'r tirfeddianwyr wrthod cynnig eu cefnogaeth i'r sioeau. Mabwysiadodd Sioe Aberystwyth y drefn hon o anrhydeddu'r tirfeddianwyr yn unig yn 1882, a chynnig y gwobrwyon ariannol i'r tenantiaid. Bu hyn yn ddigon i beri'r diffyg cefnogaeth a arweiniodd at ei diwedd yn 1884.

Yn dilyn y sioe olaf yn 1884 bu cryn drafod yn y papurau lleol ynglŷn a phwy oedd yn gyfrifol am y diffyg cefnogaeth. Rhai'n beio'r tirfeddianwyr, eraill yn beio'r ffermwyr. Bu trafod hefyd ynglŷn a chynnwys Machynlleth yn ardal y sioe, ac am gynnal sioe ym Machynlleth ac Aberystwyth bob yn ail. Cynigiwyd mynd a hi i Dregaron a Llambed, ond nid oedd neb yno eisiau dim i'w wneud ar sioe yn Aberystwyth. O ganlyniad bu'n rhaid dirwyn y Gymdeithas i ben gyda £75 mewn llaw. Pan ddeallodd Syr Pryse Pryse nad oedd ddyfodol i ***Sioe Aberystwyth*** fe gynigiodd wobrwyon ychwanegol yn ei ***Sioe Denantiaid*** yng Ngogerddan am y fferm orau a'r cnydau gleision gorau, a chynigiodd ei wraig wobrwyon am yr ardd orau.

Roedd rasys ceffylau a throtian yn gyffredin iawn yn y sir ers blynyddoedd, a'r enwocaf o bosib oedd y rheini a gynhelid yn Nhalsarn a Thanybwlch. Ar yr 28 o Fawrth 1888, cynhaliwyd y ras drotian gynta i'w chynnal yn yr ardal i'r gogledd o Aberystwyth. Y man cychwyn oedd Penlon, Tal-y-bont gyda deg ras geffylau, un ras fulod, un ras mewn sach ac un ras dros glwydi. Daeth tyrfa fawr o

because of a fall in support. ***The Cottagers' Show*** also suffered the same fate and in 1881 Lady Pryse decided to hold this event herself at Gogerddan.

One of the main explanations for the decline of shows during this period is that the landed gentry who subscribed to the agricultural societies took all the major prizes. This issue surfaced once again at the Aberystwyth Agricultural Show. Before 1810 the landed gentry were the agricultural society's main supporters but later larger tenants also had a right to subscribe. Although the landed gentry were no longer the main sponsors they continued to support them enthusiastically, and without their support they could not have survived. As it was, the landed gentry who subscribed most to the societies also took away with them most of the prize money. It was decided to adopt the scheme already employed at the Aberystwyth shows of the 1850s and in 1881 by ***The Meirioneth Agricultural Society*** of dividing the show into two so that the landowners and tenants did not compete against each other. The landed gentry withdrew their support for these Shows when it was suggested that the winners in the landowners sections should be offered the honour, whilst the cash prizes were presented to tenant winners. The Aberystwyth Show adopted this proposal in 1882 but the drop in support which followed led to its demise in 1884.

After the final show in 1884 there was heated discussion in the local press as to who was to blame. Some blamed the landowners, others the farmers. There was also a suggestion to include Machynlleth in the catchment area and of holding the show at Aberystwyth and Machynlleth in alternative years. There was another proposal that it should also go to Tregaron and Lampeter, but no one in those towns wished to have anything to do with the ***Aberystwyth Show.*** As a result the Society folded with a sum of £75 in the bank. When Sir Pryse heard the news he offered additional prizes at his ***Tenants' Show*** at Gogerddan for the best farm and the best green crops, and his wife offered prizes for the best garden.

Horse racing and trotting matches had been a regular feature in the county for many years and possibly the best known were those held at Talsarn and Tanybwlch.

Aberystwyth, Goginan a'r pentrefi cyfagos i Dal-y-bont y diwrnod hwnnw. Roedd Richard Jenkins, Henhafod, Thomas Thomas, Neuadd yr Ynys a Thomas Jenkins, Cwmslaid yn flaenllaw iawn yn y rasys, a gynhaliwyd rhwng Penlon a Thaliesin.

Yn 1894 ail-sefydlwyd y ***Sioe Fythynwyr*** a gynhelid gynt yn Aberystwyth a'i galw'n ***Gymdeithas Arddwriaethol Gogledd Sir Aberteifi,*** a chynhaliwyd sioe yn Awst gydag Arglwydd Lisburne, y Trawsgoed yn Llywydd arni. Tymhestlog fu hynt a helynt y sioe honno o'r dechrau hyd at 1904 pan ddaeth hithau i ben, gyda cholledion ariannol bob blwyddyn bron.

Yr oedd gan Syr Pryse Gogerddan gynlluniau eraill. Ei freuddwyd fawr oedd sefydlu sioe amaethyddol i ogledd y sir a fyddai cystal os nad yn well na'r sioeau a sefydlwyd eisoes yng Nghaerfyrddin, Castellnewydd Emlyn (1839), Llambed (1877), Llanybydder (1872) a Machynlleth (1888). Yr oedd wedi cynnal ei ***Sioe Denantiaid*** ei hun yng Ngogerddan yn ddi-fwlch oddi ar 1861, ac er mor llwyddiannus fu'r sioeau hyn, ei ddymuniad oedd sefydlu sioe ehangach ei gorwelion a fyddai'n agored i bawb.

Tal-y-bont c.1896

Roedd Tal-y-bont yn bentref pwysig a byrlymus erbyn diwedd y ganrif ddiwethaf. Wedi ei leoli fwy neu lai hanner y ffordd rhwng Aberystwyth a Machynlleth, ac yn ganolfan brysur ers canrif i'r diwydiant mwyngloddio, gyda nifer dda o siopau, pum ffatri wlân, dwy dafarn, ysgoldy, tri chapel ac eglwys yn ogystal a chae oedd yn fwy nag addas i gynnal sioe amaethyddol arno. Wedi seibiant o rai blynyddoedd aed ati i drefnu ras drotian eto yn 1894 a 1895 ar yr un llinellau a'r rhai blaenorol, gydag ychwanegiadau y tro hwn. Cynhaliwyd y rasys rhwng Penlon a Thaliesin fel cynt, ond ychwanegwyd

On 28th March 1888 the first trotting match was held in the district to the north of Aberystwyth. The starting point was Penlon, Tal-y-bont. There were ten horse races, one mule race, one sack race and one hurdle race. A large crowd gathered that day some coming from Aberystwyth and Goginan as well as nearby villages. Richard Jenkins, Henhafod, Thomas Thomas Neuadd yr Ynys and Thomas Jenkins, Cwmslaid were very prominent in the races between Penlon and Taliesin.

In 1894 the ***Cottagers' Show,*** which had previously been held at Aberystwyth, was re-established and called the ***North Cardiganshire Horticultural Society.*** The show was held in August with Lord Lisburne, Trawsgoed as President. From its inception this show had a stormy time until it was disbanded in 1904. Almost every year the show had been a financial loss.

Fortunately Sir Pryse Gogerddan had other plans. His dream was to establish an agricultural show in the north of the county which would be equal to, if not better, than those already established at Carmarthen, Newcastle Emlyn (1839), Lampeter (1877), Llanybydder (1872) and Machynlleth (1888). Since 1861 as we have seen he had organised his own annual ***Tenants' Show*** **at** Gogerddan and although these were successful his wish was to establish a show with wider horizons that was open to all.

Tal-y-bont was a thriving and important village at the end of the nineteenth century. Located approximately half way between Aberystwyth and Machynlleth, it was a busy centre for almost a century for the lead mining industry, boasted a substantial number of shops, five woollen mills, two inns, a school, three chapels and a church together with a field which was more than adequate for an agricultural show. After a break of a few years the trotting

cystadlaethau cneifio a threialon cŵn defaid ar gae'r Llew Du. Noddwyr y rasys trotian oedd Dr Harries, Aberystwyth; J. Francis, Wallog; Hugh Bonsall, Fronfraith; J. Parry, Glanpaith; R.C. Richardes, Penglais; R.H. Rees, Woodlands; J.M. Williams, Brynbwl; Seymour Davies, Glanrafon; a Dr John James, Y Fagwyr. Apwyntiwyd WR. Morgan, Ffatri Isaf, Tal-y-bont yn Ysgrifennydd a J.M. Williams, Brynbwl yn Drysorydd. Gwr ifanc dibriod oedd J.M. Williams, oedd yn adnabyddus iawn yn y byd ceffylau ac ni ellid fod wedi dewis neb mwy egnïol na WR. Morgan yn Ysgrifennydd. Diddorol yw sylwi nad oedd yr un o wŷr Gogerddan ymysg y noddwyr nac yn aelodau o'r pwyllgor; ond yr oedd Syr Pryse a'i fab Pryse Pryse, Lodge Park yn cadw llygad barcud ar y gweithgareddau.

Wedi sylweddoli y gallai Tal-y-bont fod yn well lleoliad hyd yn oed nag Aberystwyth i gynnal sioe, ac wedi mesur llwyddiant y ddwy ras drotian a drefnwyd er mwyn mesur yr hinsawdd ar gyfer sefydlu sioe amaethyddol ar raddfa fwy uchelgeisiol o lawer na'r hyn a drefnwyd, fe roddodd Syr Pryse a'i fab Pryse Pryse holl rym eu dylanwad y tu 61 i'r cynllun o sefydlu ***Cymdeithas Amaethyddol,*** gyda'r nod o gynnal sioe flynyddol o dan adain y gymdeithas honno.

Er mai Sioe 1894 oedd un o'r sioeau gorau a gynhaliwyd yng Ngogerddan fe benderfynodd Syr Pryse nad oedd sioe denantiaid arall i'w chynnal yno wedi hynny. Roedd y gwartheg duon Cymreig yn cael lle amlwg yn y sioeau hyn ac E.J. Williams, Cynnullmawr yn enillydd cyson yn erbyn rhai fel Richard James, Brynllys a John Edwards, Nantsiriol. Cafwyd beirniadaeth ar ddeg o'r ffermydd a gystadlodd sef Wileirog Uchaf, Ruel Isaf ac Uchaf, Nantsiriol, Ty'nyrabby Peithyll, Frondeg, Glanfred, Glanymor a Phenwern. Yr enillydd oedd John James, Peithyll gyda Nathaniel James, Frondeg yn ail a chymeradwyaeth uchel i David Jenkins, Glanymor. Enillwyr y cnydau gorau oedd Frondeg gyda John Edwards, Nantsiriol yn ail a chymeradwyaeth uchel i E.J. Williams, Cynnullmawr, yn arbennig o gofio fod y fferm ar dir llawer uwch na'r lleill. Y tri pheth o bwys a ddigwyddodd yn Nhal-y-bont yn 1896 oedd dechrau adeiladu rheilffordd yr Hafan, agor llyfrgell a stafell ddarllen a sefydlu'r ***Gymdeithas Amaethyddol*** a'i sioe gyntaf.

matches were again held in 1894 and 1895 on the same lines as before, but with the addition of a sheep shearing contest and sheep dog trials on the Black Lion fields. The trotting matches were sponsored by Dr Harries, Aberystwyth; J. Francis, Wallog; Hugh Bonsall, Fronfraith; J. Parry, Glanpaith; R.C. Richardes, Penglais; R.H. Rees, Woodlands; J.M. Williams, Brynbwl; Seymour Davies, Glanrafon; and Dr John James, Fagwyr. WR. Morgan, Lower Factory, Tal-y-bont was appointed Secretary and J.M. Williams, Brynbwl Treasurer. J.M. Williams, a young single man, was well-known in the horse fraternity and it would have been difficult to find anyone more industrious to act as Secretary than WR. Morgan. It is interesting to note that no one from Gogerddan was a sponsor or a member of the Committee, but Sir Pryse and his son Pryse Pryse, Lodge Park, kept a close watch on events.

Having perceived that Tal-y-bont was potentially an even better location for a show than Aberystwyth, and having noted the success of the two trotting matches to test the waters, Sir Pryse and his son Pryse Pryse used their influence to support a scheme to establish an ***Agricultural Society*** in the village with the aim of organising an annual show.

Although the 1894 show proved to be one of the best held at Gogerddan, Sir Pryse decided that no further tenant shows would be held there. Welsh Blacks were featured prominently in these shows and E.J. Williams, Cynnullmawr was a regular winner against people such as Richard James, Brynllys and John Edwards, Nantsiriol. There were adjudications on ten of the farms which competed, namely Wileirog Uchaf, Ruel Uchaf and Isaf, Nantsiriol, Ty'nyrabby, Peithyll, Frondeg, Glanfred, Glanymor and Penywern. The winner was John James, Peithyll with the second prize going to Nathaniel James, Frondeg, David Jenkins, Glanymor was highly commended. The winners of the best crops were Frondeg with John Edwards, Nantsiriol second and E.J. Williams, Cynnullmawr highly commended especially as they were grown on much higher ground. Three historical events took place in Tal-y-bont in 1896; they were the start on building the Hafan Tramway, the

Cystadlaethau cyffredin iawn yr adeg honno hefyd oedd yr ymrysonfeydd aredig a gynhelid yn y sir drwyddi draw. Cynhaliwyd y rhain yn flynyddol yn Nhal-y-bont ar gaeau'r Llew Du, ac yn dilyn yr un a gynhaliwyd ar ddydd Mercher 12 Chwefror 1896, trefnwyd pwyllgor ar y nos Fercher dilynol yn yr hen ysgol i drafod ei llwyddiant. Ar ddiwedd y pwyllgor hwnnw fe gynhaliwyd pwyllgor arall i drafod y posibilrwydd o sefydlu ***Cymdeithas Amaethyddol.*** Roedd y dirwasgiad mawr a fu rhwng 1873 a 1896 yn graddol gilio a'r rhagolygon i'w gweld yn llawer gwell ar y diwydiant amaeth. Prif bwrpas y cyfarfod ar 19eg Chwefror oedd sefydlu'r Gymdeithas, a threfnu i gynnal sioe amaethyddol ym mis Medi canlynol. Prif symbylydd y cyfarfod oedd Pryse Pryse, Lodge Park ac ef a etholwyd i'r Gadair yn ddiymdroi. Roedd ei bresenoldeb ef wrth y llyw yn ddigon i sicrhau ei llwyddiant ymlaen llaw, gan ei fod yntau fel ei dad yn dangos diddordeb dwfn yn ei denantiaid a phobl yr ardal. Yr wythnos ganlynol ymddangosodd hysbyseb yn y papurau lleol yn nodi'r ffaith fod ***Cymdeithas Amaethyddol*** wedi ei sefydlu ac y byddai Sioe yn cael ei chynnal yn Nhal-y-bont a'i bod wedi ei chyfyngu i ogledd Sir Aberteifi, o fewn ffiniau'r afon Llyfnant i'r gogledd a'r Rheidol i'r de. Yr oedd unrhyw un a danysgrifiai ddegswllt a mwy yn ymaelodi a'r pwyllgor. Tua'r un adeg yn union fe ail-ffurfiwyd ***Cymdeithas Amaethyddol Sir Gaerfyrddin*** a'i galw'n ***Gymdeithas Amaethyddol y Tair Sir.*** **Wrth** sefydlu'r Gymdeithas yn Nhal-y-bont yr oedd teulu Gogerddan yn gwireddu'r freuddwyd o gael sioe yn eu tiriogaeth eu hunain oedd yn agored i bawb a ddymunai danysgrifio iddi ac yn rhydd o unrhyw ymyrraeth gan dirfeddianwyr mawr eraill o fewn y sir.

Ymryson Aredig/Ploughing Match

opening of the Library and Reading Room and the establishment of the ***Agricultural Society*** and the first show.

Another regular attraction held throughout the county at this time were ploughing matches. One was held annually on the Black Lion Fields, Tal-y-bont, and after the one on Wednesday 12 February 1896, a meeting was called in the old school the following Wednesday evening to discuss its success. At the end of that meeting a further meeting was held to consider establishing an ***Agricultural Society.*** There were signs of recovery following the depression between 1873 and 1896 and the future for agriculture appeared to be more promising. The main aim of that meeting on 19th February was to establish the Society and to organise an agricultural show for the following September. The chief instigator was Pryse Pryse, Lodge Park who was elected Chairman. His involvement was sufficient to guarantee the success of the show in advance, as he like his father was deeply interested in his tenants and local people. The following week an advertisement appeared in the local press giving notice that *an* ***Agricultural Society*** had been established and that a show would be held at Tal-y-bont. This show would be limited to those living in north Cardiganshire between the boundary of the Llyfnant in the north and the Rheidol to the south. Those willing to subscribe ten shillings or more would become members of the Committee. At about the same time the ***Carmarthenshire Agricultural Society*** was re-established and called the ***United Counties Agricultural Society.*** **With** the establishment of this Society at Tal-y-bont the Gogerddan family were realising their dream of an open show in their own area which would be free of interference from other large landowners in the county.