

To meet the demand of 1852, the Society has imported of Clover and Cow Grass Seed, 27,680 lbs. In 1850 there was sold of Turpin Seed, 134,400 lbs. In 1851 there was sold of other seeds, 134,400 lbs. but which was quite insufficient to meet the demand. To meet the demand for 1852, the Society has imported, of Turpin Seed, 3554 lbs. Neither the clearance of new land, nor the increase in population in three years, can account for this greatly increased demand for these Seeds. What then has caused it? The reason we believe is, that Farmers are beginning to find that to procure good crops of Hay, they must employ the benefit of Turpins in feeding Stock, they are rapidly extending its cultivation; and your Committee feel, that the fact of the greatly increased demand for these seeds, may be looked at, as significant of that improvement, which the operations of the Society are gradually effecting in the husbandry of the country.

Your Committee have already remarked, on the almost total failure of the wheat crop in some localities, owing to the attacks of the midge. Indeed, between this insect and the rust, the impression seems to be gaining ground, that the cultivation of this grain will in a great measure be abandoned. The cleared land does not now produce such crops as it formerly did; the cry is raised that the climate has changed; farming here won't pay; under this impression many are sacrificing their property, and their farms, and flying to California and Australia, for gold; or emigrating to Western Canada, thinking on its soil they will escape the evils that beset them here. This has induced your Committee to turn its attention to the History of Crops, particularly the Wheat crops of other countries; and from the investigations they made on this subject, they feel confident, that in the falling off of the wheat crops, this island only feels what all new countries feel.

The States of America are considered excellent wheat countries, many of them formerly averaged 25 to 30 bushels of wheat per acre, but with them, as with us, it is now generally reduced to from 10 to 15 bushels. The following tables, prepared by Professor Johnston, shewing the average yield, per acre, of three of the most fertile States in the Union:

	NEW YORK.	MICHIGAN.
Wheat,	15 1/2	10 1/2
Barley,	24	16
Oats,	33 1/2	26
Wheat, 1/2 bushels per acre,	12 1/2	10 1/2
Barley,	17 1/2	16
Oats,	24	20
Rye,	11 1/2	25
Potatoes,	69	90
Turpins	88	

From these tables it appears that the Wheat Crop in this island averages only 15 1/2 bushels per acre; New York, 14 bushels; in Michigan, 10 1/2 bushels; and Canada West, 12 1/2 bushels. The following extracts from Professor Johnston's Notes on America, gives so close a picture of this state of things, and of the decline of the best settled portions of the Continent, that your Committee cannot refrain from inserting them, trusting that the interesting nature of the subject will excuse the length. He says: "To the Farmers of America we must observe, that Professor Johnston travelled through the United States and Canada: had access to the best statistical information: is a man highly qualified to observe, and to compare, and to give an opinion on the most serious consideration. Speaking of the Farmers of America, as a body, he says—

"They labour, therefore, those who till the soil, to make as much and take as few acres out of the land as they can in the least possible time. The result or effect thereof of this condition of the rural art, and of the Agricultural population, upon the state of the soil, is to change it, in some cases, to a more or less, complete exhaustion; whatever be its quality or natural fertility, this is the final and inevitable result. In land which is very rich, the effect is produced in a shorter time, and in those who hold land which for fifty or one hundred years has yielded crops of corn, without the addition of manure, will scarcely believe in the possibility of its ceasing at last to give crops, but old and worn, and in some modern science, alike demonstrate that the richest soils, by constant cropping, without the addition of manuring substances to replace what the crops carry off, must ultimately arrive at a state of complete barrenness. It is not to be wondered at that men should be faithless on this point, when it is considered how grateful the soil is for kind treatment; and how very long it is, in some cases, before it begins to resent it, in any course of procedure. The lifetime of one man may be spent in gradually improving and enriching a field by skillful management, and the whole lives of two successors may be employed in impoverishing it again, without reducing it to the low condition from whence it had originally been raised. The first practical or economical consequence of this exhaustion of the land is, that it gradually yields up to the atmosphere a greater return of the crops which have been especially cultivated upon it. In North America, generally, this crop has been wheat. As the exhausting culture proceeded, therefore, the quantity of wheat raised beyond the requirements of the State or Colony, that is, the surplus for exportation, gradually decreased. I need not enter into details upon this point, the grand consequence is such as have been described; and the great proof of it is the wheat exporting regions of North America have, as I have already stated in my remarks on Western New York, been gradually shifting their locality, and retiring to the westward. The fate of the former Saint Lawrence were the granary of America in the times of French dominion. Western New York succeeded them. Next came Canada West; and in some cases, the surplus of wheat and other supplies for the markets of Europe are drawn from the newer regions beyond the Lakes. These in their turn, as the first virgin freshness passes away, will cease to be productive of abundant supplies. Each year, therefore, they then look for its supplies of this grain, either to a better culture of its own exhausted soil, or to regions still nearer the setting sun."

"This natural consequence of an exhausting system of culture, has been aided and hastened by other causes, the history of which is full of instruction. I may advert to one of these. When a soil becomes unfavourable to the growth of a plant, if exhausted, the surplus of the soil, either to be made to grow upon it, or to be taken up, and ble to disease, and to the attacks of insects; and

parasitic plants, whether as a natural consequence of this kind, arising naturally from exhaustion of the soil, and the weakening of the wheat plant, or as the result of the operations of insects, it is an important fact that the attacks of the wheat midge have, in Lower Canada, been leading their way for many years to diminish the wheat crop in quantity, and to render it less valuable for bread and for exportation, and has been taking place, not only in the husbandry, but in the food of the people; also in the kind, as well as the quantity of surplus produce they have been able to bring to market. The following Table, published by the Canada Board of Statistics in 1849, exhibits the amount of this Produce, in bushels, in the years

	1827	1831	1844
Wheat	2,916,110	3,466,941	4,835,325
Barley	363,117	394,795	1,195,450
Oats	2,341,529	3,142,374	7,338,768
Rye	317,543	334,529	334,446
Indian Corn	323,150	339,633	341,003
Black Wheat	137,397	106,059	374,300
Peas	823,318	904,758	1,210,420
Potatoes	6,796,390	7,357,416	9,189,849

In this Table we see that from 1827 to 1844, the quantity of Wheat, Barley, and Potatoes, which existed, and that a gradual increase took place in the amount of all crops raised, a natural consequence of increasing population, and of the larger supply of land ever brought under the plough. The wheat crop increased by 600,000 bushels; the Oat crop by 800,000 bushels, and the Potatoe crop by 500,000 bushels.

In 1844, however, a very different state of things presented itself. During the interval of thirteen years, from 1831 to 1844, the Wheat crop, instead of increasing 2,000,000 bushels, as it ought to have done, had diminished from 3,500,000 bushels to less than 1,400,000 bushels. Barley, on the other hand, had increased by 800,000 bushels; that of Peas by 400,000 bushels; of Potatoes, by 2,500,000 bushels; and of Oats, by the enormous quantity of 4,000,000 bushels more.

"Whoever is acquainted with the practical operations of husbandry, will be able to conceive how many anxieties and losses, and repeated failures of crops, must have attended the husbandry of the Oat crop of cropping could be so changed as almost entirely to substitute Oats for Wheat, in the fields he had set aside for grain. The case of Lower Canada illustrates, in an exacting manner, in the opinion of your Committee, vastly paralytic to the fisheries. The rocky coasts of Nova Scotia, and the barren lands on other parts of the Atlantic shores, may compel their inhabitants to draw their food from the sea, and the fisheries are of primary interest; but the easily tilled land of the Island is so inviting, that no large portion of the soil will embark in the fisheries until a greatly increased capital is accumulated, and the land is obtained. The prosperity of the Island most consequently, for many years, depend on the exertions of our agriculturists; and the advancement of their industry will therefore occupy the greatest share of attention."

The legitimate object of Bounties should be to open a trade that will afterwards support itself. The meat trade has since commenced, by the encouragement of Bounties, would have been a great benefit to itself. The demand would induce exertions to meet it, and the exertions to keep up the supply, would encourage the country to meet a larger demand; this demand and supply would react in each other. In the United States and Canada, immense quantities of meat are packed for the British market. Professor Johnston says, that in an establishment of this kind, 30,000 hogs are annually disposed of in this way. How much capital must be employed, and how much money must such an establishment circulate among the rural population?

It is objected, that the Canadians and Americans can afford to sell their meat for less than we can. The following return from the Toronto Market, in October, 1818, certainly shews the range of prices at the time.

Beef per lb.	3 1/2	3 1/2
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Butter, per lb.	3 1/2	3 1/2
Fresh, "	3 1/2	3 1/2
Cheese "	4 1/2	4 1/2

When our meat comes into the British market, we cannot afford to obtain more for it than they do. We admit, the States and some parts of Canada possess advantages we do not; they have a milder climate. Cattle pasture longer, and much of their corn fed off in the fields, by which labour is saved; but by reference to the produce table it will be found, that in the yield per acre of meat, making produce the advantage, is all with us. The average yield of Indian Corn, the great dependence in many of our Colonies, is 12 to 15 bushels per acre, whereas, from 70 to 90 bushels; turpins not over 100 bushels per acre. While our farmers can easily obtain 40 bushels of oats per acre, cultivated at much less expense than Indian corn; 200 to 300 bushels of potatoes; and 600 bushels of turpins per acre. These advantages being fairly balanced.

Your Committee feel confident, that the trade once opened, our meat can be sent to the British market with a great profit to our farmers, as the American or Canadian meat is to theirs. We therefore respectfully but earnestly commend this subject to the attention of the Legislature, and the farming population, relative to their own true interests, will back our request."

The potato disease seems to be wearing away, but farmers should be cautious not to plant too much of this crop for many ages, although they meet with disappointment. They are necessary to our domestic comfort, but for other purposes the Turpin is a safer ally and more powerful friend, and your Committee would again recommend its more extensive cultivation. It is to be observed, that the fields of Turpins last year, overrun with weeds, which would reduce the yield to nothing compared to what it otherwise would have been. Those who neglect to hoe about corn, and other crops, should be hoed at the proper time, and well hoed; there is some art in hoeing well; a common error is in using a dull hoe, many weeds are then only scraped down, and do not get out off, and the weeds grow ground entirely taken away; the consequence is, that in a few days they regain their upright position, and the field is nearly as dirty as ever. The hoers should be ground sharp every day, and the hoers should be made a quicker cut, and deep enough to sever the root of the weeds below the ground, nor should one weed be left in the ground after he hoe has passed over it."

In the Report of last year, the importance of introducing Agricultural Instruction into our Schools was alluded to; as the system seems about

to undergo revision, your Committee would again call the attention of the Legislature to this subject. Latin and Greek may be polite accomplishments, and Mathematics would have direct attention to another subject, the opening a Market for our surplus produce.

The large Towns on the Sea Board of the United States, and the best of the best of the surplus Grass and Potatoes; but, by the introduction of an improved system, Farmers will soon be able to bring much larger quantities of Meat to Market than they now do. The neighboring Colonies will soon supply themselves; and the British Market is too uncertain to be depended on. It is evident that we must look to Great Britain as the chief consumers of our surplus Meat. To fit it for exportation, it must be well dressed. Your Committee would recommend that, at the Easter Shows, Prizes should be given for the best carcasses of Beef and Pork. The object being to induce Farmers to improve their mode of feeding. None but those whose sole occupation is farming should be allowed to compete.

The Society's influence, however, can only operate in improving the system, and pointing out to Farmers the best mode of conducting a mercantile article. The Meat Merchant must spring up to purchase and pack for the British Market, or the Farmer's labor in feeding will be thrown away. The Legislature should help in this respect.

Your Committee observe that, during the past year, nearly £1000 has been claimed for Bounties on Fish. The object of these Bounties is to induce the Merchants and Capitalists to embark in the Fishery, and thereby open a valuable trade. We ask the Legislature to give the same encouragement to the Farmers, by giving a Bounty of 10s. or 12s. per barrel, for the best of their produce. This would induce Capitalists to embark in the Meat Trade. Establishments for buying and packing Meat should soon spring up.

The farmers, instead of hawking their Beef and Pork, as they now do, barter it off for goods at exorbitant prices, which they do not want, and find a ready Cash market. This would induce them to feed more—more manure would be made, and the farms would soon feed but one beast, would soon feed two beasts well. We would not undervalue the fisheries, but very mistaken ideas seem to be entertained by some in attaching great importance to the fisheries, and in expending large sums of money in the opinion of your Committee, vastly paralytic to the fisheries. The rocky coasts of Nova Scotia, and the barren lands on other parts of the Atlantic shores, may compel their inhabitants to draw their food from the sea, and the fisheries are of primary interest; but the easily tilled land of the Island is so inviting, that no large portion of the soil will embark in the fisheries until a greatly increased capital is accumulated, and the land is obtained. The prosperity of the Island most consequently, for many years, depend on the exertions of our agriculturists; and the advancement of their industry will therefore occupy the greatest share of attention."

The legitimate object of Bounties should be to open a trade that will afterwards support itself. The meat trade has since commenced, by the encouragement of Bounties, would have been a great benefit to itself. The demand would induce exertions to meet it, and the exertions to keep up the supply, would encourage the country to meet a larger demand; this demand and supply would react in each other. In the United States and Canada, immense quantities of meat are packed for the British market. Professor Johnston says, that in an establishment of this kind, 30,000 hogs are annually disposed of in this way. How much capital must be employed, and how much money must such an establishment circulate among the rural population?

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