

Lower Canada, and will now proceed to enter into that difficult part of their investigations.

The state of advancement of Agriculture among a people may, in a greater or less degree, be inferred from the comforts which they enjoy, taking into account the nature of the soil and influence of the climate of the country they inhabit, and is to be compared, in its relations with the progress of human knowledge, to the state of advancement attained by other nations placed under similar or analogous circumstances. "It is in fact," says Mr. Johnston, in his Report of an Agricultural exploration in New Brunswick, "the actual condition of the practical Agriculture of a country, which will determine the actual productiveness of its soil; while, on the other hand, the possible productiveness of its soil being known, the amount of produce actually raised must serve as an index of the actual condition of the Agricultural practice."

Your Committee will now enter into the consideration of these different points in so far as they relate to the actual state of Agriculture in Lower Canada; and, in the first place, they lay down as an established principle, that few countries have been more highly favoured than Lower Canada as respects the quality of the soil; and that the position it holds in point of climate is in nowise unfavourable. The more the climate of Lower Canada is examined with the eye of a practical observer, the more convinced we become of the fact, that it is anything but unfavourable.

The result of an enquiry instituted in New Brunswick (the climate of which is similar to ours), proves it to be a fact, that the cold and snow of our winters have a fertilizing effect upon the soil, and naturally produce a degree of friability in the soil which elsewhere cannot be obtained but by dint of labour. The durability of the productive faculty of our land is such that even to this day our meadows yield,