

the prosperity and fall with the declension of society; on the contrary it is naturally low in rich and high in poor countries, and it is always highest in the countries which are going fastest to ruin. The interest of this third order, therefore, has not the same connection with the general interest of the society as that of the other two. Merchants and master manufacturers are in this order, the two classes of people who commonly employ the largest capitals, and who, by their wealth, draw to themselves the greatest share of the public consideration. As during their whole lives they are engaged in plans and projects, they have frequently more acuteness of understanding than the greater part of country gentlemen. As their thoughts, however, are commonly exercised rather about the interest of their own particular branch of business than about that of the society, their judgment, even when given with the greatest candour, (which it has not been upon every occasion,) is much more to be depended upon with regard to the former of those two objects than with regard to the latter. Their superiority over the country gentleman is not so much in their knowledge of the public interest as in their having a better knowledge of their own interest than he has of his. It is by this superior knowledge of their own interest that they have frequently imposed upon his generosity, and persuaded him to give up both his own interest and that of the public, from a very simple but honest conviction, that their interest and not his was the interest of the public. The interest of the dealers, however, in any particular branch of trade or manufactures, is always, in some respects, different from, and even opposite to, that of the public. To widen the market and to narrow the competition, is always the interest of the dealers. To widen the market may frequently be agreeable enough to the interest of the public, but to narrow the competition must always be against it, and can serve only to enable the dealers, by raising their profits above what they naturally would be, to levy, for their own benefit, an absurd tax upon the rest of their fellow-citizens. The proposal of any new law or regulation of commerce which comes from this order ought always to be listened to with great precaution, and ought never to be adopted till after being long and carefully examined, not only with the most scrupulous, but with the most suspicious attention. It comes from an order of men whose interest is never exactly the same with that of the public, who have generally an interest to deceive, and even to oppress the public, and who accordingly have, upon many occasions, both deceived and oppressed it."

We do not quote this part of Smith's book to give offence, but to show that the interests of agriculture cannot be safely entrusted to the sole management of classes who do not feel any direct interest in its prosperity, but on the contrary, many of them imagine, or appear to imagine, their interest is to depress it, and keep it low. There is one part of this quotation from Smith that may be considered to be against narrowing competition in trade. We know it is, but we nevertheless candidly give the whole article, and wish that all of it may have the weight it is entitled to, coming from such an authority. Smith refers to competition in merchandize, and though it may also be applied to the produce of agriculture, we do not conceive that it could properly apply to our case in Canada, which is a most peculiar one. In fact, our case appears to be this. We have a most fertile soil, in extent three times

as large as the British Isles, with a population of about one twenty-fifth of the latter countries. We have a favourable climate for agriculture, and we are connected with a country that would give us the highest price for all the produce we could raise and spare. We neglect all these advantages, and we choose rather to buy foreign agricultural produce for a part of our own consumption, and to carry the produce of a foreign State to export to our fellow-subjects in England, than raise all this by our own people on their own lands. We repeat now what we have asserted a hundred times, that by instruction and encouragement, we might furnish more agricultural produce here annually for exportation than ever was shipped from our ports in a year. It is a lamentable mistake to neglect and sacrifice all these advantages.

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EXPERIMENTS WITH MANURES.

From the numerous experiments which have been made with different manures in various parts of the kingdom, on almost every variety of soil and situation, it is reasonable to hope that by a comparison of the results obtained by those means, we may arrive at something near the truth, and be enabled to form an estimate of the relative value of the substances that may have been made the subject of investigation. It is with the view of assisting in this important work, that I transmit you the following details of some experiments made at Carclew, in 1844, for the purpose of testing, on a small scale, the merits of certain manures, when applied as a top-dressing to growing crops.

The subjects selected for experiment were—1, nitrate of soda; 2, sulphate of soda; 3, guano; 4, sulphate of ammonia; 5, drainings from the farmyard. The soil, a free light loam, averaging about a foot in depth, on a yellow clayey subsoil, interspersed with spar. It had been well manured the previous season, and cropped with turnips. After these were removed, the ground was plowed and prepared for barley, which was sown in the latter part of April. On the 15th of May, the manures were applied, the tenth part of an acre being allotted for each experiment.

1. *Nitrate of Soda.*—The quantity used was 33 1-2 lbs which is at the rate of about 3 cwt. per acre. It was sown by hand with the utmost care. Little or no effect was observable for some time afterwards, owing, no doubt, to the unusually cold wet weather, by which vegetation generally was very much retarded. No sooner, however, did it become warm and sunny, than a change was apparent, not only in the more rapid growth of the plants, which soon out-stopped those around them, but also in the color of their stems and leaves, which were all alike remarkable, both for their greater size and the rich deep green they subsequently assumed. During the season, this plot maintained its fine healthy appearance, from which I was led to infer that nitrate of soda would prove a most valuable manure; but the result was very different to what I anticipated; the weight of the produce being, in straw, 199 lbs., in grain, 178 lbs., equal to 37 1-2 bushels per acre, and less by 6 1-4 bushels per acre than any in the series.

I was not prepared for such a difference between, the weight of the grain and straw in this experiment, and those of the others, and I am quite at a loss to account for the deficiency. The only way in which I imagine it to have arisen, was from the plants having been stimulated by the application to become more succulent and vascular, than they would have been under other circumstances; so that when they arrived at maturity, and were cut and dried, the straw and grain lost in weight more than their bulk and appearance would otherwise have led us to expect.

2. *Sulphate of Soda.*—The same quantity, 33 1-2 lbs. of this salt, was used as in No. 1. Being pulverized it was sown by hand, as the preceding: and to the same cause may