

the granary of Nova Scotia." I think the observation was well applied, for I know of no county in the province that holds out greater inducements to begin and perfect the most approved systems of agriculture." Mr. Oxley's estimate written eighty-seven years ago of the agricultural capabilities of Cumberland were not overstated but when coal, which at that time was not mined to any extent, is added to the assets of this county, with the enhanced value of its lumber and its fishery privileges, Cumberland must take rank as one of the richest in natural resources of all the counties of that province.

Agricola had another correspondent from Cumberland, Thos. Roach, Esq., of Fort Lawrence. Mr. Roach took exception to some statements made by Mr. Young touching the climate of Nova Scotia. Mr. Young immediately wrote to Mr. Roach saying that nothing was further from his intentions than to slight his judgment or hurt his feelings. This brought a reply from Mr. Roach in which he states that he was willing, though still thinking Agricola to be sanguine about the climate, soil and season of this province to forego his own opinion and that of his friends, and meant never more to write anything that might be considered as typosing his laudable endeavors to stimulate the inhabitants of this province to be independent if possible of the United States for bread.

The war of 1812 between Great Britain and the United States opened the eyes of Nova Scotians to the danger of so largely depending upon the United States for wheat flour, and Agricola's letters were due in a considerable degree to a desire to make his adopted country independent of the United States for "bread corn."

The following letter received by Agricola from Colchester, contains so much that is interesting and brings out so distinctly the contrast between those days and the present that I have copied it in full:  
To Agricola:

Sir,—I was bred in this country and am well pleased to see its improvement. I must confess that I had very little hopes of much good coming out of your letters at first, and although I read them like my neighbors, I rather wondered than was instructed, but I am now beginning to think that we shall be benefited in good earnest. In our settlement we have always (some good years excepted) had much difficulty in raising our own bread, and when our wheat crops failed the purchasing of flour was a great evil, and a heavy drain on us. Within two years I have had to reduce my stock of cattle to buy bread for my family, which not only hurt me but all our neighborhood. The mice did us serious injury and I am very mistrustful of them this season. The snow has so long covered the ground that I fear they will come out like locusts on us in the spring and summer and destroy the fruit of the earth. I wish some of your correspondents would turn your attention to these vermin and contrive some effectual remedy of guarding the country from these savages which in my opinion resemble so much the plagues of Egypt that I sometimes think they are sent us for our sins.