

colour to the first dawnings of hope; and the new scheme of prizes, by which was meant to be ascertained the quantity of white and green crops procurable from an acre, promised a fair opportunity of contrasting the fertility of our soil with that of other countries. You all know the issue of that comparison, and the elevation it communicated to the public mind. Oatmeal now came rapidly into repute, and obtained in the eastern districts. In the course of eighteen months, thirty one mills for manufacturing it were at once the reward and triumph of your labours; and for these altogether £260 only were offered in the shape of bounties. At the next meeting of the Legislature in 1821, the new system had begun to settle firmly in its foundation, and to present for the first time an air of stability. The theory had been put to the test, and partly grown into practice. The incredulous began to mistrust their former conclusions—the wavering gathered confidence, and waxed more and more confirmed. Manures, throughout the whole province, were collected with greater care, and every source was examined from which materials could be drawn to augment their quantity. The method of tilling was now perceptibly improved—the drilling of green crops was coming into fashion—new implements were fabricated in several places, arable cultivation was obviously on the increase, and silently encroaching on the grazing husbandry. In the autumn of that year the effects of this fresh and growing energy became apparent in the superabundance of all sorts of vegetables and roots. Potatoes and turnips were poured into the capital in so full a tide as completely to inundate us; and these first fruits of plenty derived from our own territory were gladly hailed as a sure presage of that fullness in bread corn which would attend the future labours of the plough. Under these circumstances the last grant of £800 was voted—a sum which has been found totally inadequate to forward the objects deemed more essentially connected with the present stage of our progress.

After this succinct account, the various steps of which are within your remembrance, it will be the business of this report to trace what may be considered as the causes of this rapid and singular change in Nova Scotia, and to mark such new occurrences of favourable