

contracts of government. Although this method of employing their lands might be then profitable, it was now the very reverse. Let any man count the expense and trouble of raising a calf—the milk it consumes, the hay expended the first, second and third winters ; and let him count his own time in tending it at 1s. a day ; and he will find that he cannot afford beef under 6d per lb. There cannot, therefore, be a greater folly than rearing so many cattle and neglecting the plough. This has not always been the case in Nova Scotia ; for he had been lately turning his attention to the ancient records of this province, as preserved in public offices ; with a view to collect any facts illustrative of our agriculture. When the English took possession of this country, there might be 40,000 souls in it, and the plough was the support of this population. He found that an embargo was imposed to prevent the exportation of wheat and pease from Nova Scotia to the neighbouring state of Massachusetts. Although this may appear very strange to some, who have been crying both long and loudly that we could not raise our own bread ; he could assure them that it was a positive fact. What was the consequence of the embargo, thus laid on the agricultural produce of Nova Scotia ? Why the state of Massachusetts takes the alarm, and sets forth a very strong remonstrance and complaint that their supplies were cut off. On this his Majesty's Council taking their case into consideration ; and willing to give them all the relief in their power, grants them a licence of three months for the exportation of wheat and pease. This plain fact, which occurred in 1752, is sufficient evidence to put down all sort of opposition, and shut the mouths of those croakers who have annoyed us so long. But, sir, in what manner did the French raise this surplus for exportation ? They did not feed their cattle in those days on the finest marsh hay ; but on the straw of their white crops, and on the sedges growing by the sides of the dikes. The marsh of Bellisle and the grand Prairie raised then more wheat, than the whole province of Nova Scotia now does. And it is now time for us to alter this system, and to introduce the plough into those lands which are so well calculated for wheat. The hardness of the times is compelling the farmer to look about him, and find some more profitable employment than the hay husbandry. I am only afraid, Mr. President, that the