

ment and healthy condition of our agriculture, as the main source of all the general prosperity we ever can enjoy. It is when adverse circumstances occur to the agriculture of the country that we feel the necessity of a thorough knowledge of the science and art of agriculture, to enable us to apply a remedy to counteract the effects of wheat insects or any other plague that may visit us. The loss of our wheat had something like a similar effect upon this country, to what the loss of the potatoes had upon Ireland, so far as wheat being our staple produce, and losing it, and we have since sustained the loss of potatoes also to a great extent. Can it be a matter of surprise, under these circumstances, that there should be a general depression? Certainly not, to any one who understands the real state of the case, and can attribute effects to the proper causes. We are not without hope, that as wheat was a chief means of support provided for mankind, there will ever be means of producing it. When land was first cultivated it produced abundantly without manure or much trouble, but in after years this land refused to give crops, and man had to apply a better cultivation and manure to produce crops. Had he, on the contrary, despondently given up and starved, there would not now, perhaps, be any human beings in existence. Draining, better cultivation, and selection of suitable varieties of wheat, might, we have no doubt, enable us to produce as good crops of wheat in Canada as we ever did. Experiments should be made continually to ascertain what is the best time of sowing—what the most suitable variety of wheat—and what the most proper mode of cultivation. Of course, farmers without means or skill cannot or will not make these experiments, and unless they are made by men of capital, who have or can pay for skill, or by the Government, we have not much hope that useful experiments will be made. The first capital that ever had existence was the surplus of produce of the land over what was consumed by those who cultivated the soil; but although this is undoubtedly

the first source of capital, and must always continue to be the source of capital, yet it could never have had existence among those who commenced the cultivation of land, had there not been a spontaneous production of fruits or animals to support them while raising the first cultivated crop. Thus it is at the present day—farmers are frequently prevented from making improvements for want of means of support while engaged in these improvements until returns can be obtained. Most farmers could improve their lands by summer fallowing, but they think they cannot spare their land to remain idle for a year, or the labour required in fallowing properly. Our whole system is wrong, and we are thereby in a false position, and unable to help ourselves. We know that a remedy is possible, but those whose duty it is to apply it will not do so, and we may go on continually lamenting our condition, without adopting the necessary means to improve it. Until agriculture is estimated as the most important interest in Canada, and receives all the attention that its vast importance entitles it to, we have no hope that our circumstances will improve. It may be very plausible, that as we argue that agriculture is the source of capital, it should provide capital for its own improvement; so it would if the plan of "Associations of Agricultural Credit" were introduced, and allow farmers to create a capital that might circulate amongst them on the security of their land and improvements. This would be affording them something like the advantages that other interests possess. As we before observed, no cultivated crops could ever have been raised, had not the Creator given mankind a spontaneous production which supported our race while employed in cultivating the land, which would not otherwise produce sufficient for an increasing population. This was a species of capital to commence with. The better drainage and cultivation of a field, however certainly it might refund the expenditure, cannot be undertaken here without the means to do so. Men may have succeeded