The Hork Gleaner

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Professor Johnston, F. R. S., in his report upon New Brunswick, estimated that the Province could sustain a population of from 3,640,000 to 5,600,000, according to the source from which the fuel of the people was derived. If all the available land, which was then known to exist in the province, could be devoted to agriculture and stock raising, he estimated that it would sustain:—

Men, women and children

Although later data alter the relative proportions between the different descriptions of soil in the province from what Prof. Johnston placed them at, and the aggregate productiveness of the province would be found to be in excess of his estimate, we may accept the above figures as showing the possible limit of population which the province is capable of sustaining by_agriculture alore. No account is here taken of the fisheries, of lumbering or manufactures, but making an allowance for these, it is within bounds to estimate that New Brunswick, if all its available soil could be devoted to cultivation, would sustain a resident population of 6,000,000 people. The smaller estimate of 3,640,000 is based upon the supposition that all the fuel used by the people is grown upon land which would otherwise be cultivated, but this we know will never be the case, and it also expressly omits to take into account the domestic coal supply, which is practically inexhaustible.

It is worth while to test these figures by comparison. Let us take for example Restigouche County, which is admitted to contain, according to the best authorities, fully 1,000,000 acres of arable land. Although later data alter the relative

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