

regular markets, we must have a languishing agriculture, and precarious gleams of prosperity. To increase mere numbers by immigration could only add to our embarrassment; we have numbers already unemployed. I will not occupy the time of the Society with the details upon which I found my estimate, but I think I am safe in saying that there are within the municipality of Fredericton alone, a number of persons of various ages and of both sexes, not less than 500, who, though not absolutely unemployed, could, without detriment to any other employment, be transferred to new and profitable employments. Suppose that number of persons could, one with another, earn more than is now earned, only five shillings per week each, the year round, at some new branch of industry; this would add more than £6,000 to the income of the whole community, with the unfailing moral and social results which mark the difference between industry and comparative idleness.

If I am not greatly mistaken in this view, it is then of corresponding importance to us to invite and promote the immigration, not of mere numbers indiscriminately, but of skill and experience, with a due proportion of capital, in such arts and manufactures as are suited to our circumstances; and without which, during the stagnation of our almost solitary commercial resources, our agriculture must be without a market.

It is therefore, I conceive, of much importance to acquaint ourselves with the history and example of communities everywhere, which have signalized themselves by successfully enlisting in aid of their growth and prosperity, such of the industrial arts as may be applicable to our own situation.

We need not confine our view to mechanical and manufacturing arts only. It may be possible to cultivate certain crops with advantage, not only for domestic use, but for exportation; say for instance flax, hemp, or hops. The last is indeed indigenous to the soil, growing rank and neglected in the recesses of our unreclaimed alluvial lands. In England this crop is exceedingly precarious. In this country it might not be so; or it might be abundant when a failure in England.