

That the raising of hemp in those colonies on an extensive scale would prove a source of wealth to the country, at the same time that it would afford to Great Britain, within its own dominions, a material of national importance which she is forced to seek in foreign soils, has been felt many years ago; and hence have arisen the various trials that were made to promote its cultivation in Canada, under the auspices both of His Majesty's Government and of the Society for the Encouragement of Arts and Sciences in England.

From various causes, however, originated by no means in the inadequacy of the soil to produce hemp, these trials successively failed; and all subsequent efforts, founded on the original principle of encouragement by the tender of premiums, have met with the same fate.

Amongst the chief causes that have rendered abortive all past endeavours to promote the growth of that valuable plant in Lower Canada, it must appear obvious, to any one acquainted with the people and agriculture of the province, that the great obstacle to its general cultivation was the want of a market where it might be disposed of as a raw material. Hemp found no market but in a prepared state; and the farmer who was unacquainted with the process of its preparation, felt reluctant to devote any portion of his land to the growth of a new article which appeared to entail upon him much additional trouble without an immediate corresponding profit.

That this has heretofore been, and still is, the only substantial objection contemplated by the inhabitants of those provinces, will appear evident, when it is considered that no climate or soil can be found better adapted to the growth of hemp and flax, as appears by the report of sworn surveyors, made to the surveyor-general and recorded in his office at Quebec, and further proved by experience in several sections of Lower Canada, where individuals are to be found who hold medals from the British Society of Arts and Sciences for samples of hemp raised on their farms. But, without reference to former experiments, a knowledge of the climate and a mere examination of the richness and depth of the soil so generally prevalent will convince the observer that the system hitherto adopted to introduce hemp to the attention of the Canadian farmer were in themselves insufficient and defective, or must have succeeded when nature so favoured the project.

The unsuccessful results of former encouragement, when their causes are duly weighed and estimated, will throw some light upon future undertakings of the same nature; and from what has already been stated it may be very ostensibly advanced, that if, under the countenance and support of the Imperial Government, a company of British merchants were formed for the promotion of the hemp trade in Canada, and the adjacent colonies of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, on the basis set forth in the under-mentioned project, not only would the agriculturalist be rewarded by handsome returns, but the merchant would be engaged in a branch of trade extensive, exhaustless, and more lucrative, probably, than any heretofore carried on between the mother country and the colonies.

The company being formed in England on the plan of similar associations for mercantile purposes might be called the "Canada" or "The British North American Hemp Company;" and the establishment in Lower Canada, under the management of a Board of directors, should consist of one general superintending agent and a given number of sub-agents, who would be so judi-