

ner of a log-house their shop; a chest of tea, a keg of tobacco, and a few pieces of cotton their extensive assortment. The producers and consumers being but few, the merchants and their stock of goods were in proportion. But watch the increase of the one with the gradual advancement and progress of the other. In 1820 the population of the district was about 15,000, producers and consumers; and about 20 merchants. In 1843, the population had increased to about 35,000, and in the whole district there were about 80 merchants. Here, it might be asked, what was then its trade, and how and with what was that trade supported?

By a rough calculation, it is supposed, that the goods sold in the district in 1843 were about £120,000; and of this sum were sold to and paid for by other districts, about the sum of £25,000, leaving a balance of £95,000 consumed in and to be paid for by the district. Now who were the consumers, and where did they get the means to pay this large sum? This may be answered by stating, that at least of the consumers were those engaged in agricultural pursuits; and the means of payment were the labour of their hands, and the productions of the soil. It has been calculated, that the district in 1843 has a surplus, after reserving for the necessary consumption, the following.

210,000 Bushels of Wheat @ 4s. 9d.	£43,750
5,000 Kegs Butter, @ 30s.	7,500
40,000 Bushels of Oats, @ 1s.	2,000
Beef, Pork and other surplus products,	5,000

Total. £63,250

And to be added to this £63,250, and which was produced by the labour of the inhabitants in the district, viz:—

9,000 Bbls. Ashes @ £5 per bbl.	£10,000
Squared and sawed Lumber, say	15,000

Amounting to in all, £88,250

To this sum of £88,250 should be added the profit made upon whatever was manufactured for foreign districts, as foreign Wheat ground for export, Snaths, Hames, &c. and not named before.

By these calculations, Mr. Chairman, which are not by any means given as perfect, it will be seen who are the consumers and producers of the country: and to take away this trade, the greater part of which is created by the farmers, what would be the use of the Merchants? There occupation like "Othello's" would be gone.

This may be more clearly shewn, by comparing the surplus yield of wheat in 1843, with that of 1844. The former, as has been named, gave a surplus of some 210,000 bushels, while 1844, it has been calculated, will not yield of good wheat more than 40,000 bushels, showing a deficit of 170,000 which at even 4s. per bushel would give £34,000. This is, indeed, an immense deficiency in the great staple export produce of the district. This is what may be termed a short crop; and are its effects felt by the

mercantile body? I would ask any merchant here present, whether doing business in the town or country, is, or has been much over half as good since the harvest was gathered up, to the 1st of February, as it was during the same period the previous season? Mr. Chairman, do these effects of a short crop not show to you, to me, and to every one here present, more and more conclusively our dependence upon the Agriculturist, and that his interest is our interest: when the hand of Providence blights his prospects, ours cannot flourish. This is so, and must continue so to be, while agriculture is the root and foundation of our trade, and Canada remains an agricultural country.

I would ask, Mr. Chairman how is this large amount of Export Produce to be made good: what substitutes can be introduced, which will pay to send to a Foreign market, while the danger from the insect to our Fall wheat is so justly to be apprehended? There are some gentlemen here present, who are no doubt prepared to give some useful suggestions on the subject of new kinds of Spring Wheat, which, will to a certain extent, be proof against the inroads of the insect and impervious to the rust, and that can with great safety be sown on the land prepared for wheat last fall, but in consequence of the failure was left without seed. I will therefore not touch upon it. But, Mr. Chairman, there are other articles of export, which are now produced to a considerable extent, but which, unfortunately, do not turn out in quality suitable for the market.—There is Beef, Pork, Butter and Cheese, might all be improved very much. All these articles are now exported largely from the United States, and by the news per the last Steamer from England, we may read "that the trade in American provisions had become one of great importance, and has been fully confirmed by the experience of the past twelve months." It is true, that the U. States have important advantages over us in the production of some of those articles, but in others the difference is very little. For instance, Butter and Cheese. Respecting Cheese, I will make no remarks, as there are some gentlemen present, who I doubt not understand and will throw some valuable light on the subject.

The article of Butter, from Canada, until last summer, was selling in the English market for about 4d. to 6d. per lb., about one-half the price of Irish. What has been the reason of this? The inferior quality of the article, growing, in a great measure out of the want of care in sorting, packing, and curing it. To show that this is so, a friend informed me, a few days ago, that last spring, he had packed about two hundred kegs with great care, intending to test whether or not we could make and cure butter that would sell as well as that made in other countries and sold in the English market. He took full bound rough hooped firkins holding about 84 lbs. each, and soaked them in salt and water for about two days. As the butter was brought in, in pails, he sorted each shade of color by itself, worked it over with