

To prove this point, it will be only necessary to notice the circumstances which have promoted or retarded the production of flax and hemp in these provinces.

This fundamental cause may be justly traced to the extreme ignorance of the Canadians, with respect to agriculture in general.

Upon this cause a variety of others are hinged, such as, the reduced state of the land in point of fertility; the defective knowledge of the natives, concerning these crops; and their tenacity of antient habits and established practices. Although these circumstances have been already noticed, it is nevertheless necessary here to make some further observations, in order to shew how far these impediments are capable of being removed, and to what extent they stand in the way of the cultivation of hemp and flax in particular.

Although the exhausted state of the soil is a cause which, to a certain degree, operates against the cultivation of these crops generally, and in particular where combined with certain other causes, actually prevents their cultivation, yet, under other circumstances, it would not by any means prevent their being cultivated