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It is impossible to hide from ourselves the general depression of agriculture and every other trade and business in Eastern Canada, but it may not be so easy to understand the causes of this depression. In respect to agriculture, there cannot be any doubt that the principal cause is the generally defective system of husbandry, and the deficiency of wheat for the last fourteen or fifteen years, in consequence of the ravages of the wheat-fly. Previous to the appearance of this destructive insect, there were very few farmers who had not wheat to sell, and many of them a large quantity. Since 1834 or 1835, this resource was nearly cut off, and they have had flour to purchase for their own consumption, instead of having wheat to dispose of. Within the last few years the Black Sea wheat has been grown to a certain extent, but very trifling compared to the period when farmers were able to sow a superior quality of wheat, and immediately after the lands were clear of snow. The cultivation of the Black Sea wheat, the farmers look upon as a poor substitute for the favourable wheats they were accustomed to heretofore, although it is fortunate that they have this substitute. If there were no other cause for the general depression experienced at present, the loss of wheat for the last fourteen years would fully account for it, as we are convinced it amounted to not less than eight or ten millions of pounds currency to Lower Canada alone. \*If the country were now able to obtain this amount of money, in what a different position it would place every interest in Canada. It may be difficult to convince non-agriculturists that our

present condition is mainly to be attributed to the deficiency in the value of our agricultural products for several years past; but the fact is not the less certain, and we may satisfy ourselves further that the country will never have more to expend than the value of her own products, whatever they may amount to. The most valuable benefactors, therefore, this country will ever possess, will be those who shall be the means of improving and augmenting our annual productions. Parties may propose many schemes to benefit the country, but they will all fail, unless supported by a prosperous agriculture, which must be the basis of general prosperity to the Canadian people, and should, therefore, obtain all possible care and attention before any other interest. We have no object in making these statements, except to induce others to consider a subject that has been so long neglected, and we feel satisfied, if the subject is duly considered until it is understood, others will have the same convictions that we have respecting it. Agriculture is despised because it does not appear to make returns to those engaged in it that would support a style of show and expenditure, equal to that which has been introduced in our cities and towns. The consequence is, that all other interests are likely to receive more attention and consideration than the despised profession of the farmer. It is, nevertheless, the farmers' surplus produce that must support the style and expenditure of almost every inhabitant of our cities and towns, and also the means of paying revenue for the support of our Government, Let us "begin at the beginning," and provide for the improve-