

The frequent failure of the Potato Crop should inculcate upon the people the wisdom of not relying upon any one esculent as the staple product of their farms and gardens; and I am happy to believe that the laudable efforts of the Agricultural Society are doing much to diffuse greater intelligence in this matter. There are few edible roots belonging to a temperate climate which cannot be produced readily in this country, and it is most unwise to depend solely upon the supply of Potatoes, which experience has shown to be so frequently liable to almost entire destruction.

It is only too obvious, from the teachings of past years, that the true remedy for that periodical pauperism of so large a mass of our people, which has become so certain, can only be found in new enterprises, by which occupation can be given to our operative population, especially at that time of the year when the fisheries cannot be prosecuted. With this view, and for the purpose of encouraging the rearing of Sheep, the Act was passed to make provision against their destruction by dogs; and much good may be confidently anticipated from the application, by the Agricultural Society, of funds placed by you at their disposal, for introducing a good breed of Sheep in various Districts.

But while appreciating the benefit which may be so afforded to the community in the establishment of auxiliary occupations, efforts should be redoubled to utilize without waste the wealth for which this Colony has long been celebrated. The value of the Herring Fishery would be greater than it is if prosecuted with more attention; and if sufficient pains were taken to ensure such cure and packing of the fish as is necessary to sustain the character of the produce in foreign markets. I recommend you to consider whether some regulations established by Law for this latter purpose may not be attended with good effect.

*Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Honorable House of Assembly :*

You will be glad to hear that the Revenue for the past year was equal to the estimated amount. The accounts for 1866, and the estimates for the present year shall be promptly laid before you. You will, no doubt, give careful consideration to the requirements of the Public Service in the provision of necessary means for the maintenance of Public Credit, and the support of the departments of Government.

*Mr. President and Honorable Gentlemen of the Council :*

*Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Honorable House of Assembly :*

During the last summer I was enabled to visit many districts of the Southern and Western Coasts, of which I could not previously acquire any personal knowledge. In the course of my tour I obtained much