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IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE.

It is impossible that any subject in the whole compass of human affairs can be of more importance to mankind than agriculture; which must produce the means of food and clothing for a thousand millions of human beings who inhabit this earth, and who must at once cease to exist, if this produce was not regularly supplied for them. What is the value of any other occupation of man compared to this? Trifling indeed—except so far as they assist, and are necessary to agriculture. Other occupations would not be necessary, and could have no existence, unless supported by agriculture. Let us suppose for a moment, a city of merchants, manufacturers, and members of the learned professions, surrounded by a wall that would cut them off from all communication with the inhabitants of the country; how long could they continue to exist? And what would be the value of their learning, manufactures, or merchandize, when they had no customers except themselves? We leave those who neglect and despise agriculture to reply to these questions, though we know perfectly well what the consequence must be. We do not advance this proposition from any desire to lessen these occupations in the respect and estimation in which they deserve to be held by civilized communities; but we wish to convince, if possible, all who read our journal, that the importance of agriculture to the world generally, and to Canada in particular, is vastly greater than any other occupation in which man is employed. It would appear that it is only in Canada that a wrong estimate is made of the importance of agriculture. In every other country, the first in rank, wealth, and power, feel a most lively interest in the advancement of the improvement and prosperity of agriculture, and do all in their power to promote this prosperity. Here it is exactly the contrary. During our long residence in Canada, we have never seen, with a few exceptions, agricultural meetings at Montreal, attended by the leading

men in wealth, influence, or politics, or take any part whatever in the matter. It was from our knowledge of this, that we have constantly urged the necessity of a Board of Agriculture, to act for the general advantage of the Province; and to see that the public money, appropriated for the improvement of agriculture, should be applied to that purpose, to produce improvement where it was most required. If all the leading men in Montreal, both in office, and out of office, were to interest themselves in this most important matter, there would be no necessity for a General Board of Agriculture, as they might answer all the purposes to this country, that the Royal English Agricultural Society does in England. The chief cause of the general apathy here, towards agriculture, amongst the wealthy and educated classes, is, that they appear never to have considered, or allowed themselves to believe, that it is agriculture that must furnish revenue, and the means of wealth for every man in the country, who has not an income from some other country. The means of subsistence, of wealth, and of revenue in this country, can never exceed in amount the value of the annual productions of Canada—except that which may be gained by the carrying trade, and the expenditure of the British government here. It is on these grounds that we advocate the necessity and expediency of all classes in the country uniting heart and hand, in promoting the improvement of agriculture, so that its products may be augmented in quantity and value to the uttermost, that they are capable of. We would be delighted to see trade and manufactures in the most prosperous condition here, *as the effect* of a prosperous agriculture; because we are convinced that there is no other basis upon which the permanent prosperity of trade and manufactures can be built. Trade and manufactures must be the effect, and be supported by agriculture, or could not exist. It is the products of agriculture that must set both in motion; though agriculturists may be subsequently sup-