

On this assurance the British government have offered to spend from £100,000 to £200,000 a year with this Colony in the purchase of good hemp, if we will but grow the article and earn the money. I myself have received an order for twenty tons, at £50 the ton. It seems then, gentlemen, to rest with the landowners whether we shall avail ourselves of the friendly offers of the mother country towards us—should we hesitate? can we do better? If we take into consideration the number of cultivated acres of land in this Province, and every farmer would sow a sixteenth part of his land with hemp, it would, on a fair calculation, put £100,000 in circulation annually among us. I appeal then to the good sense of this Company, whether those are not strong and liberal inducements held out to us to learn and attend to the cultivation of hemp in Canada, and thus render it the mart for the English market. It is understood Cobourg will soon become a Government depot for hemp, under the Commissariat of Kingston; if the ~~to~~ to a ready money and handy market for our produce, we add the acquisition of mills to facilitate the dressing of the hemp, we must consider the former objections to its growth done away with, and the Newcastle District will first have the honor and advantage of establishing in the Canadas this valuable article of commerce.

Gentlemen, at another time it may be necessary for me to extend my observations on this important subject, and I will only notice for the present, that the expenses of preparing a field of wheat, or hemp, and harvesting them, are nearly the same. Where the hemp is mowed and not pulled, the extra trouble is in rotting, drying, and dressing the hemp; but while hemp is worth £50 the ton, and is not likely to be lower, the value of the produce will well repay the extra trouble, and with the addition of the seed, yield on an average nearly double the value of the wheat—the produce and pasturage of our rich meadow land can alone equal the return of a hempen crop.—In corroboration of the above statement, I have read you the reports of Messrs. Bethune, Ash, Brock, Burnham, Hinds, Hagerman, Mallory, and other new growers of hemp, now present, who upon an average, by their own avowal, raised at the rate of 1,500 weight of hemp on two