

Professor Johnston has attained celebrity in Europe as a Lecturer on Scientific Agriculture. He is regarded by the scientific and intelligent throughout the world as cautious, searching and trustworthy. His opinions on all points connected with his profession are held as of the highest authority. The Directors therefore addressed the Members of Government, requesting them to invite the Professor to visit New-Brunswick, and report on its Agricultural capabilities. This request was responded to. The assent of the Legislature was obtained, and the Professor came. After spending three months in the Province, travelling upwards of two thousand miles through the length and breadth of the land, issuing queries and obtaining replies from seven Agricultural Societies and fifty-five of the principal farmers, he furnished, as the result, a report, which places the Agricultural capabilities of the Province in a most favourable point of view, and fully corroborates the opinions held by those who were esteemed the most extravagant in their notions.

The principal points established are :

1st. That of the eighteen millions of acres in this Province, thirteen are capable of being cultivated, and five waste. To judge by comparison, Scotland contains nineteen millions of acres, only five of which are capable of being cultivated.

2d. That of this land, the Professor, from his own observation and researches, pronounces eight millions of acres to be very good in quality, and capable of producing on an average two tons of Hay or forty bushels of Oats per acre, and that the thirteen millions of acres of available land are capable of producing, even with the present method of cultivation, one and a half tons of Hay, or twenty-seven bushels of Oats per acre.

3d. That the climate is exceedingly healthy, and that it does not prevent the soil from producing crops, which, other things being equal, are not inferior either in quantity or quality to those of average soils in England.

4th. That, as compared with Canada, New-York and Ohio, the produce per acre of grain and vegetables of all kinds, is greater in New-Brunswick.

5th. That better prices are obtained for grain, vegetables and meat in New-Brunswick than in Canada, New-York, or Ohio.

6th. That "all the circumstances which have had an influence in rendering the agricultural body less prosperous, the agricultural interest less influential, and the agricultural capabilities of the soil less appreciated in New-Brunswick, are independent of, and extrinsic to, the natural capabilities of the soil itself, and that they do not in reality determine, nor permanently interfere with, the natural adaptation of the Province as a field of agricultural exertion."

And finally, "That those who have confined themselves to their farming operations alone, and have been ordinarily skilful, industrious and prudent, have, in no case, failed to do well."

The Directors will only notice and endeavour to refute one objection which has been frequently made to the correctness of this Report, and on which much of its value depends.

It is, "that much of the information furnished is obtained from farmers who either had better land and better crops than their neighbours, or were desirous of making things appear better than they are."

To the first part of this objection it is replied, that there are included in the other returns seven from agricultural Societies—that it may be presumed that these gave the general produce of the County or district which they represented.

The Directors beg distinctly to state, that the return furnished for this County was made up at a full meeting by unanimous consent; that the meeting consisted mainly of practical farmers, and of others well acquainted with the produce of the County; and that the returns were given as the *general average produce* of the County.

Now, on comparing the returns of those seven Societies with those from individuals, it will be found that they do not, in any material point, vary.