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### A REPORT ON THE STATE OF AGRICULTURE IN THE COUNTY OF HASTINGS;

By Wm. Hutton of Belleville.

TO WHICH WAS AWARDED THE PRIZE OF FIFTEEN  
POUNDS, BY THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE  
OF UPPER CANADA.

#### LOCALITY.

The County of Hastings is bounded on the West by the Counties of Northumberland and Peterboro'; on the South by the Bay of Quinte; on the East by the County of Lennox; and on the North by unsurveyed wilderness. The Western boundary is one hundred miles East from the City of Toronto. The County has several harbours on the Bay accessible by large steamers at all times during navigation. It is about thirty miles wide and forty-four deep, and contains a very large extent of rich arable land, and is well watered by never-failing streams. It contains twelve Townships, but there are two in which there are no inhabitants, in Lake and Grimsthorp; and one, viz., Tudor, in which there are only about seventy.

#### POPULATION.

It contains a population of 31,977 souls, and the County Town is Belleville (situated on the Bay at the mouth of the river Moria), which contains 4569 inhabitants.

#### NATURE OF SOIL AND SUBSOIL.

The soil is of a very superior description—about one-third of heavy clay—one third dark mucky loam, and one third gravelly and sandy loam. The subsoil is about one third heavy retentive clay, and the other two-thirds porous limestone gravel, occasionally limestone rock, and in a few situations a red sand, not however ferruginous nor injurious to vegetation.

#### VALUE OF LAND.

The value of improved farms in the front five concessions of the front Townships is from £1 to £10 per acre—say average £7. From that

to rear of second range of Townships from £3 to £6—average about £3 15s., and for improved farms in the rear Townships from 25s. to £3 per acre—average £2; and for wild lands from 5s. to 30s., according to quality and locality. The Government price is 8s. per acre.

#### AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

It is about ten years since the first County Agricultural Society was established. This was followed in a few years by the establishment of Branch Societies, but not until lately have they effected much good.

As the working of them becomes better understood and experience is acquired in their management, the amount of good which they do extends in an increasing ratio. The Agricultural mind required time to prepare it to receive knowledge, but the fruit is now every year improving in quality and abundance.

The good which they have done in this County is now very apparent, and truly gratifying to those who have been connected with them since their formation.

These Societies have enabled the Farmer to procure seeds of various kinds from a distance, giving him the benefit of a change which his private unaided means could not accomplish.

By the association of numbers together, they have been the means of creating a rivalry and competition and honourable emulation in the management of farms far more than the mere desire of obtaining money premiums creates.

They have enabled him to import and cause the manufacture of labour-saving machines of the best description.

They have enabled him to procure at an easier rate clover seed and plaster to increase the quantity and quality of winter food for cattle—they have enabled him to pay for the importation and use of the best descriptions of sheep and cattle to consume the extra food so procured—have enabled him, by associating with