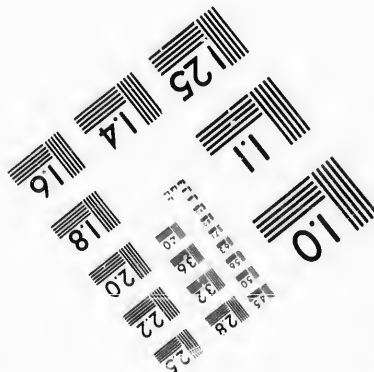
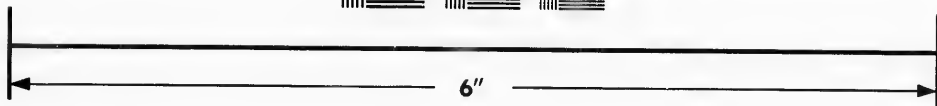
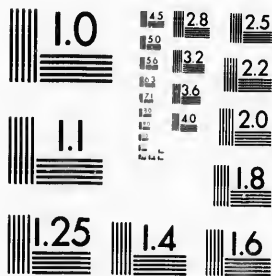


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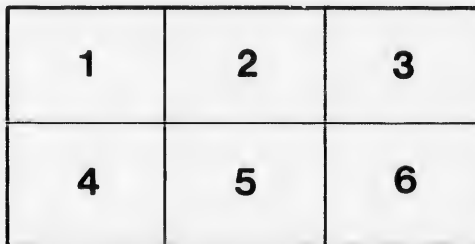
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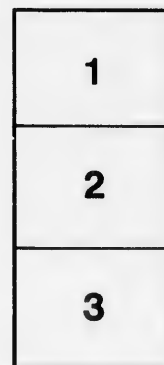
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A
WORD IN SEASON,

TO THE

FISHERMEN AND FARMERS

OF

NOVA-SCOTIA.

BY

A. MECHANIC.

PICTOU:

PRINTED AT THE COLONIAL PATRIOT OFFICE.

1836.

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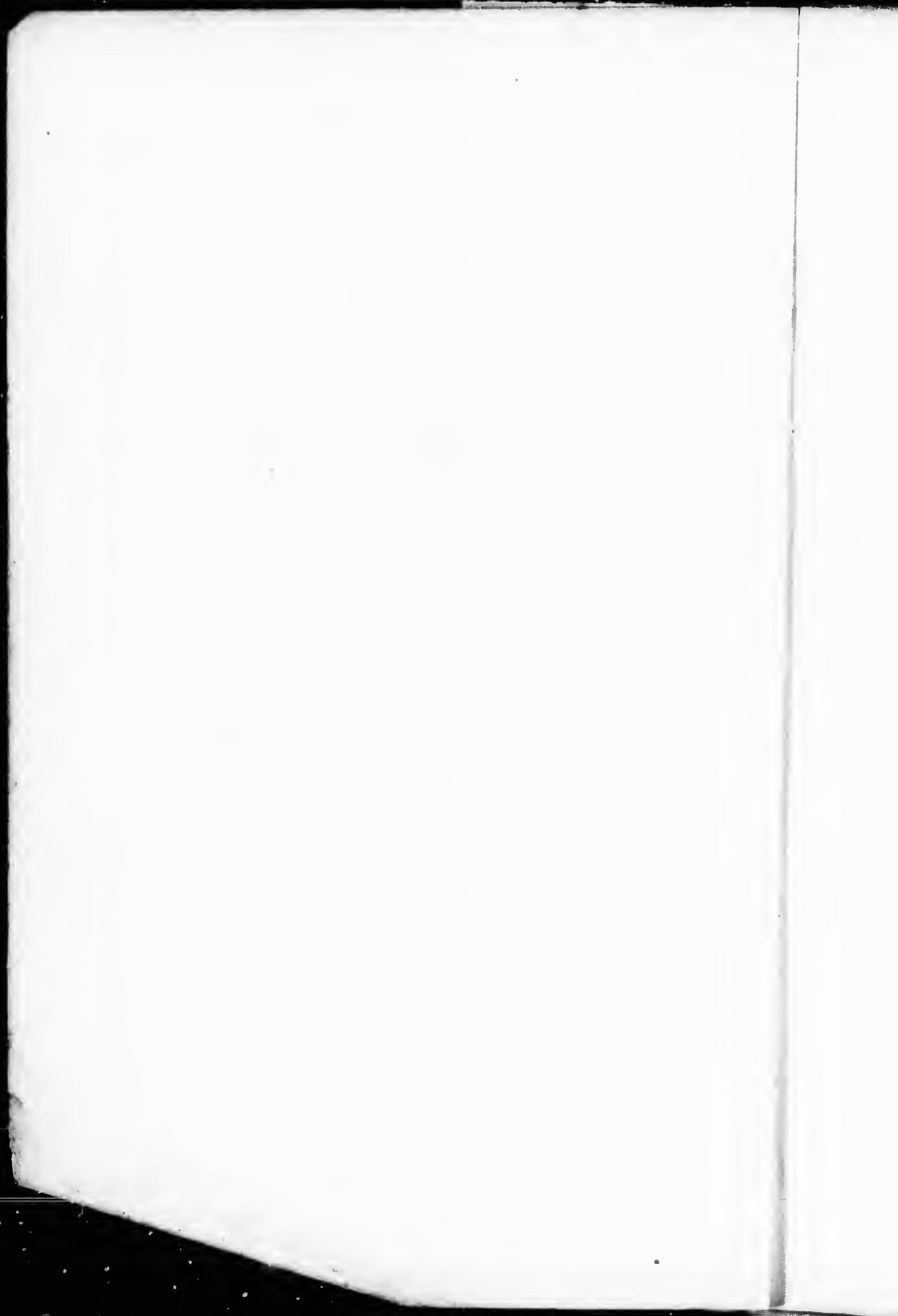
TO THE HONORABLE THOMAS NICHOLSON JEFFRY,
The present Administrator of the Government of the Province of
Nova Scotia, &c. &c. &c.

This humble attempt to direct public attention towards applying
the natural resources of this Country to their legitimate pur-
poses of meliorating the pecuniary circumstances of its Inha-
bitants, is respectfully inscribed

By

THE AUTHOR.

22876



ARGUMENT.

The real interests of the Fisherman and Farmer are best consulted by engraffing their Individual claims of National protection, upon the natural resources of the Country.



A WORD IN SEASON,
TO THE
FISHERMEN AND FARMERS OF NOVA-SCOTIA.

THE following view of the capabilities and natural resources of this Province is most respectfully submitted to the intelligent and liberal minded people of Nova Scotia, by one of themselves; being fully convinced that there are amongst them many that will to aid his endeavours to benefit the country, by assisting his efforts exhibit the manifold advantages with which nature has so bountifully endowed this Colony. The unwearied zeal manifested by the Legislature for the advancement of the respective interests of the fisherman and farmer, is also a pledge, that if it contains anything that legislative enactments can reduce to practice, so as to contribute to that end, there are several individuals in that assembly who will be found in their place to advocate those measures that may tend to improve these branches of national prosperity, and thereby promote the very object of their legislative labours. If it does not contain any practicable application of the subject, I feel equally confident that their good breeding will induce them to overlook what their good sense or knowledge of the subject may enable them to see amiss in the attempt; and that they will value the production not so much on account of its real value, or merit, if any it possesses, as the motives which actuated the writer and the end he had in view.

An elaborate disquisition is entirely unnecessary to convince not only them, but the majority of those whose interests they represent and consequently immediately concerned; that on these and these alone, with the exception of its mineral productions,*

* See appendix A.

entirely depends our prosperity as a nation and comforts as individuals. Nor is it necessary to expatiate at any great length on the inseparable connection which ought to be observed between these relative branches of national industry, in order to make them harmonize and tend to the general interests of the common good of the whole. It is not however such an easy task, nor so unimportant to ascertain, the full extent of that connection, and point out by salutary laws the most efficient manner to secure it; as it is to admit the principle that it ought to be scrupulously observed. That the fisheries alone constitute a source of wealth, if properly prosecuted is established beyond conjecture by the Dutch. Their present High Mightinesses were originally a colony of poor Fishermen, and the large and populous cities they now exhibit were nothing more than a few huts for the accommodation of those industrious men, who by their skill and wise laws, have excelled all other nations in the art of taking and curing Fish.

Such was the importance justly attached to this their *only* staple commodity, that in 1636 when Charles the First prohibited the Dutch from fishing on the Coast of Scotland, the States General were so sensible of its value, that they paid the King £30,000 for the liberty to fish that season, and offered to pay annually the same sum for the liberty to fish for ever; but it was refused. Thus, for the first did the British see the real value of that source of national wealth which they so much neglected altho' placed by nature at their very doors, but to which the Dutch owed their origin as a nation, not only as a powerful auxiliary to make them a maritime people by recruiting their numerous and powerful navy, but by being their only source of commerce and consequently the only means to raise and support a navy, not only in Men but every other material requisite for national defence. Such was the extent and perfection to which the Trade was prosecuted that it is supposed that since the year 1500 they must have realized the enormous amount of Three hundred Millions Sterling. Such an oversight on the part of Great Britain was as detrimental to her commerce as it was profitable to the Dutch. While the latter were extending their political influence by forming cities at home and Colonies abroad, the former was making little or no progress towards that political ascendancy amongst the nations which she now so transcendently enjoys, and which in a great measure may be attributed to her Fisheries. She not only lost the advantages arising from a lucrative trade, but by a species of unpardonable imbecility, allowed her fish curing rival to profit by her impolicy to such an extent as almost cost her the brightest gem in her imperial diadem. Does not this case bear a striking similarity to the manner

in which the Americans enjoy our fisheries, and carry away an immense treasure yearly from our very doors, while we, like our forefathers in the case of their fisheries, are content to look on with exquisite simplicity, wondering at their success and our failure. While we forget the maxim, "That the hand of the diligent maketh rich," and in no pursuit more literally correct, than in the case of the Fisherman. That the Americans have some advantages over us in the article of provisions cannot be denied, for they can procure it much cheaper, (and I believe can husband it better when obtained) than we do the native growth of our soil; but that our contiguity to the fishing stations with which we are surrounded, except those on the Labrador, is a much greater privilege, is equally true. Our Fishermen whose dwellings are on the borders of Gulphs, Bays and Harbours, which for salubrity and safety are not equalled any where, and which are swarming with every species of the piscatory tribe, in many instances within gun-shot of their very fire sides, enables them to prosecute the fisheries in boats; while the Americans from the distance they are obliged to come, the convenience required for making and stowing away the proceeds of several months labour, together with the room required for salt and empty barrels, require a vessel of fifty times the magnitude, and consequently fifty times the actual cost of our boats. Between their outfit and our's, upon the whole, therefore, we have the advantage; for the difference in the price of provisions holds no proportion to the cost of the vessels required to carry on the trade to an equal extent. It is therefore clear that not upon the high price of provision alone, rests the blame of our repeated failure, and their invariable success. The fact is, that the calculating persevering Jonathan is pursuing the fish from bank to bank, and from station to station, with unwearied assiduity, which almost invariably ensures success; while our Fishermen, or rather those who ought to be fishing, are either walking about upon the beach of Fox Island, in confident expectation that the fish will run *a ground*, as they were wont to do, or by drinking blue ruin render themselves perfectly indifferent what the end will be, until the empty Puncher or the chilly North Wester, announce the approach of winter to a penniless and creditless Fisherman, with empty barrels and imaciated constitution. If these statements be correct, it is a subject which well deserves the attention of the Legislature, and that they are true is too notorious a fact to be concealed, however painful the admission may be to that class of people more immediately concerned, or however derogatory it may be to the united wisdom of their Rulers. That matters are to be adjusted all of a sudden is not to be expected, and to suppose that our Fishermen will arrive at that degree of

perfection, in the art of taking and curing Pickled Fish, which will enable them to compete successfully with Brother Jonathan, would be assuming a position which the history of ages contradicts, and the passing events of every day's occurrence tends to confute. Experience alone may do it without any pecuniary aid, but all the money in the Provincial Treasury will not do it, for twenty years to come, without experience. That a struggle must take place for the ascendancy in Foreign Markets, before the end is accomplished, is clear beyond a doubt; the sooner it commences the sooner it will have a termination; and the sooner the Legislature lends their encouraging influence, by salutary laws and pecuniary assistance to such a laudable enterprise, the sooner will they be the Representatives of a wealthy, intelligent and happy people. Injudicious systems frequently prevent rather than accelerate the accomplishment of the very end they were intended to gain. Mismanagement also renders the means that were intended for the public good too frequently the *scourge* rather than a *blessing* to those very individuals who ought to have been benefited. In no case within my knowledge has the principle been more fully developed than by the sums annually appropriated for the encouragement of fisheries, but more particularly by the *introduction of fishing supplies without paying a duty*. In making this charge I am well aware I run the risk of incurring the displeasure of those who not only sanction it, but support it most strenuously, under the conviction that they are most faithfully discharging their duty, at least to themselves. To those who may be prejudiced against the sequel of this humble attempt on that head, and who may be careless or hostile to what may be advanced with seeming propriety, and found not only applicable but practicable and expedient in the present exigencies of the case.--To those I would merely reply, that although the ends never sanctify the means, yet the motives very frequently justify the deed—and thence their apology. That the introduction of foreign provisions for the benefit of the Fisheries, as it is called is very impolitic is quite obvious from the following reasons viz. In the first place it is giving the Merchant the benefit which was solely intended for the Fisherman. *Secondly*, because it introduces a foreign article for the consumption of commerce and manufactories, which ought to be raised upon our own soil, and *thirdly*, it defrauds the revenue and has a benumbing influence on the energies of the native farmer. That the merchants solely are benefited by this foolish act even admitting the article be consumed by the Fisherman, is too notorious a fact to require illustration, let it suffice to remark that the very flour which costs in New York 6 1 2 Dollars a Barrel is sold to the Fisherman for 12

Dollars per Bbl.* a pretty reasonable profit "I guess" providing the duty was actually paid. That the articles so introduced find their way to "general consumption," is not doubted by any one, however difficult it may appear of actual proof. The following is an extract taken from the Journals of the House of last session, see Appendix No. 8. "That the Committee are further of opinion that no two measures could be more calculated to retard the progress of our agriculture than the very extensive construction lately imposed upon the clause of 6 Geo. IV. ch. 114, allowing flour, Bread and other provisions to be imported duty free for the use of the fisheries and the late repeal of all the duties on grain, rye flour, Indian Corn meal &c. with the exception of 5s on wheaten flour. By the first of these, Flour warehoused for the use of the Fisheries is withdrawn without duty, and by various ways finds its way into general consumption; and by the operation of the second all the fences by which the Imperial Act of Parliament above alluded to meant to guard and protect our agriculture are broken down, and this market is thrown open to the competition of the United States." Consequently an attempt to prove the assertion that our revenue is defrauded and the best interests of the Province sacrificed in the persons of our farmers, by the injurious effects on agricultural prosperity, would be reasoning a priori *argumentum ad judicium*, and consequently superfluous, for he who does not see it *a priori facit*," must have the organs of his political penetration beared with prejudice or blinded with self-interest. In a community like Nova Scotia, where manufactures or Mechanic Arts have made little or no progress, the bulk of the people must apply themselves to the cultivation of the soil; and if their skill and industry increase, there must arise a great superfluity beyond what suffices to maintain them. They have no temptation therefore, to extend their skill and industry, since they cannot exchange that superfluity for a commodity which may serve their avarice, or vanity,—to be more explicit.—For that commodity which corresponds in value *in their estimation*, to the labour which produced the article they have in the market. The consequence is, that a habit of indolence naturally prevails. The greater part of the land is left uncultivated; or what is cultivated yields a poor crop for want of skill and industry. Thus the agricultural life is every day becoming more or less reputable, in the same proportion as farmers are becoming more wealthy or less independent as compared with the commercial class. Hence the reason why so many of the young men in this Country choose a speculative, to an agricultural life, and which swells the lists

* 14 dollars a bbl. was charged by a Coaster for flour this fall, which paid no duty.

of Traffickers in a much greater ratio, than the natural trade of this Country requires or is conducive to its prosperity.

That a different opinion prevails I have every reason to believe. It is a very erroneous idea, however, to imagine that Merchandize must fall in price as the Merchants (as they are called) multiply. The fact is that in the Country places, and out ports of this Province there are but few Merchants, and very few in Halifax, compared to the number of Hucksters. Both in Town and Country those we are in the habit of calling Merchants are nothing but domestic traffickers, who in all their transactions never add a farthing to the common stock of *actual value*. It is true that very frequently they accumulate property and not seldom amass riches. The amounts thus acquired only change hands from the Farmers and Mechanics, whose productive labour is given in exchange for the nominal value the articles they furnish acquire in their possession. It is therefore clear to the meanest capacity, that the greater the number of such *gentry* there are to maintain the greater the tax on those who work. It is clear to the meanest capacity also, that in the same proportion that the number of such schemers increase, so must their maintenance be a drawback on the energies of the Country. To elucidate the matter more satisfactorily, let us suppose that this District consumes yearly the sum of £20,000 worth of goods, and which is furnished by twenty Individuals at 20 per cent. Which leaves a yearly income to each of these individuals of £200. A sum which is only sufficient to afford the necessaries of life, and meet contingent losses. But if forty Individuals engage in the same traffic and lay claim to an equal share of this 20 per cent; the consequence is that the income of each is reduced one half, or the price of the goods raised 20 per cent more to secure the £200 to each. A sum which is only equal to the amount of his personal and contingent expences. Is it not therefore clear that a greater percentage is the consequence to save themselves from Bankruptcy.

Is it not a fact that strikes with appalling astonishment the eye of the most superficial spectator, that in this Province as soon as a young man can push his credit so far as to get hold of a Puncheon of Rum, a Keg of Tobacco, and a Chest of Tea, he forsooth assumes the dignified name of Merchant; in the course of a very few years he is not only better fed and clad than the poor despised Farmer, but ten to one if two or three of his nearest neighbours and best customers are not obliged to move off, in order to make way to this self important individuals growing dominions and balance what he calls his Ledger.

These possessions worth hundreds of pounds pass into the clutches of these Tax gatherers without costing them one hour of productive labour. It necessarily follows therefore, that the consideration which was paid must be realized by a direct imposition upon the industry of the Country; given it is true by voluntary contribution. Is it a wonder therefore that our Farmers are incessantly complaining about bad times, and a corresponding negligence follow in the train of such universal misapplication of time and means.

That an intelligent and liberal class of *actual Merchants*—Gentlemen who not only understand but act upon the enterprising and just principles of real commerce, are the greatest and accurate pledges of a Country's prosperity is a fact that cannot partake of a doubt, and that among the genuine mercantile class in this Province we have a great majority of such worthy and valuable individuals, is a truth to which the present state of our foreign commerce bears unequivocal testimony. Indeed to their excess of liberality may in some degree be attributed the state of things, of which I now complain. The generous liberality of a Halifax Merchant has really become proverbially, and more deserving of pardon than of praise. To their indiscriminate confidence and universal credits may be traced the prolific propagation of those public nuisances, Hucksters and Pedlars—I beg therefore to be plainly understood. I mean not to breathe a whisper to the prejudice of those Capable Individuals, who act upon the true principles of fair dealing however poor—those who have studied and learned the Trade. I most acknowledge however that I entertain no such delicacy towards every blockhead, who has *only sense enough* to see that the manual labour of cutting away the forest to make way for the plough, is not such a lazy life as watching a Puncheon of Rum with his hands in his Pockets waiting the sale of a Bottle of Grog. These are the Caterpillars that devour the foliage of the poor Emigrants labours, and the locusts that destroy the efforts of the old settlers and paralyze the very stamina of our political existence.

I repeat then, is not this a state of things which well merits the attention of the Legislature and demands an immediate interference of efficient laws to consolidate the respective interests of Fishermen and Farmers by making them a mutual support to each other, so that the interests of the one is best secured by respecting and protecting that of the other, never will the common good of the whole, or the general character of our husbandmen be effectually maintained until such is the case.

That the Fisheries is the only mart to which the Farmers can now look to, for a ready sale for the overplus of their annual produce is a fact that cannot partake of a doubt. Owing to the geographical and mercantile relation in which this Province stands to the more fertile countries of the Canadas and United States. And that the prosperity of our Fisheries must ultimately depend on our own natural resources is equally certain.

Owing to the very high price of labour in this Country and the amazing cheapness of manufactures at home, our progress in supplying our own wants in manufactured articles, must be very slow from these causes; but tramelled as the energies of the Country at present are, by the most odious and degrading monopoly* that ever disgraced the records of any Country, and the most oppressive which a free born Briton had ever endured, they cannot for a few years advance to any degree of comparative prosperity. This Channel of national wealth being entirely engrossed, (for a short period *only*, I hope) the farmer is deprived of the privilege which would arise to him from supplying the wants of those, who would be otherwise employed in manufacturing the raw materials. To the Fisheries alone, therefore we can look with any degree of certainty at present, to extend our commerce abroad and encourage industry at home.

The present system is not only futile and proves completely at variance with every principle of sound policy, but it actually baffles every attempt at improvement, and if much longer continued will involve the Country in debt as a nation and beggar its inhabitants. At all events it will dry up the fountains of revenue as regards the first, and prevent the latter from becoming independent. How can it be otherwise? American Flour and Pork are now allowed to be introduced "*duty free*" for the use of the Fisheries. What a boon to Fishermen!!! They are really privileged to buy from the Coasters *American flour* at 12 or 14 Dollars a Barrel, when by judicious management they might be supplied with as nutritive and wholesome a diet of native growth, at one half the price.

According to the returns made by the Custom House, and published in the Journals of the House of Assembly for the year 1832 we find that the following articles were imported for the use of the Fisheries in 1831.

See appendix B.

10,617 1 2 Bbls. of Wheaten Flour at 30s	£ 15,926 10 0
1,683 " Rye " " 25s.	2,104 10 0
1,150 " Beef and Pork " 60s.	3,450 0 0
Duty upon the aggregate	4,047 0 0
	<hr/>
	£ 25,523 0 0

That Twenty five Thousand pounds worth of provisions imported from foreign countries have been consumed by the Inhabitants of the Province is by the above proved beyond a doubt. It matters not as far as the Province as a whole is concerned whether it was consumed by the Fisherman or Farmer. The effect is the same ultimately. To prove this proposition let us suppose a Coaster to start upon a trading voyage, he applies at the warehouse for Provisions "for the fisheries," he selects his goods, swears that "I A. B. of Halifax Nova Scotia, Merchant, do make oath that the above articles are not only fit and necessary for the British Fisheries, but are intended to be consumed solely therein." He gets his Cargo, the very best articles he could possibly procure to ensure success. Let us suppose the amount £500 worth of provisions. That the voyage proves a good one which yielded 50 per cent, or a return of £750 worth of Fish. Let us further suppose that he shipped these fish to the West Indies, that by the time they arrived there the amount of the whole increased 50 per cent more—say £1125 and by the time he has his returns in his stores the amount increases 33 1 3 per cent more or £1500, and that two thirds, or one half is in rum (which I feel confident is not overrated taking the average of our returns from the West Indies, and we have no other) and we find not only the principle of £500 the capital vested completely lost, but fifty per cent more, as far as the Province is concerned, when the Speculator may actually make hundreds by the transaction. We must keep in view that the profit comes out of the pockets of those who consume the article, and in the same proportion therefore, that our Farmers consume rum, which is the proceeds of fish, and fish the proceeds of American provision, in the same proportion do they effectually consume American Flour, Pork Beef, &c --for which the Merchant pays the American in Cash, and the Farmers refund Cash to him and take Rum in exchange. That the amount of every returned Cargo which consists of Rum is ultimately lost to the Province is a truth which cannot be gainsayed, whether that Rum is the proceeds of our own Country produce or that of the Americans. The difference is simply this, that when our Farmers consume Rum which is the proceeds of their own produce, they only consume the superfluity of their own labour, but when they consume Rum, or any thing else, which

is the proceeds of foreign labour, they then in fact kind up their own hands and tax their lands and industry by encouraging foreign competitions. It may be argued that by consulting History we find that in most nations, foreign trade has proceeded any refinements in home manufactures. To this I would reply that our case is widely different to many of those Countries of which we read, and particularly so when compared to older Countries where the Artizan and Mechanic is every day inventing some new article to suit the Commerce or indulge the luxury of wealthy citizens or pampered aristocrats. Importations of foreign commodities into such countries furnish materials for new manufactures, and by their exports produce labour which in particular commodities could not be consumed at home, whereas provisions imported to a Country where the land is capable of repaying the labour of the Husbandman; but where the art of farming is wanting to shew its capabilities, is throwing obstacles in the way of men of Capital and skill to embark in the undertaking, and consequently prevents the resources of the Country from yielding any proportionate return to their extent and capabilities. If these premises be correct and the inference drawn from them not at variance with the true state of affairs; it necessarily follows that the Legislature ought immediately to encourage the Farmer to supply the Fisherman with the necessaries of life of native growth.

That in order to secure those advantages to the Community more effectually, which such a connection would produce; the Merchants ought to be encouraged to bring in return for their united labours such commodities as would best administer to the comforts of the inhabitants; and discourage the importation of such articles, as not only impoverishes the consumer without adding to his comforts; but actually and literally consumes his physical energies, destroys his moral faculties, and renders him alike unfit to support himself or benefit his Country.

To ascertain what these articles are which ought to be rejected, and those that sound policy would alone patronize, does not require any extraordinary political penetration; or much legislative profundity to frame laws that would bring the one to common use, while the other would be shortly rendered obsolete. To say that *Rum* is an article which we can do without and the consumption of which is fraught with many bad consequences to Individuals and States, is really using very mild language to state a fact. And to say that *Tea*, (although a very agreeable beverage, and leaves no traces of immorality in its train) is an article that might be superseded with a benefit to the Province by

the more wholesome & equally palatable article of Coffee, is equally true. That from forty to fifty thousand pounds worth of Tea, is consumed annually in this Province is a fact that perhaps is not generally known; all of which is paid in specie, and which is sent to the "utmost ends of the earth" never to return—while Coffee the produce of Sister Colonies which takes our fish in return, is seldom seen, in a farmer, mechanic or even a Country Gentleman's house, for reasons which I dare not mention, for fear of getting myself into a scrape with my Landlady, but which the Legislature may remedy by sending "the Schoolmaster" to the Kitchen. That their constituents will concur in any rational measure that will tend to lessen the crime of drunkenness and strengthen the cause of industrious and moral habits, is quite manifest from the laudable efforts already made by them in various parts of the Province.

By reference to "Abstract of dutiable articles imported to the Province of Nova Scotia between the first day of October 1830 and the thirty first day of December 1831 as furnished by the Custom House for the information of the House of Assembly" last Session will be found that 1,199,786 Gallons of Rum, Gin, Brandy and Wine was imported during that time and 959,329 for the year. Now a tax of 2s. per gallon upon the aggregate for the year would amount to £11,997 17 3, or in round numbers

£ 12,000 0 0
Loss for probable drawback one third
4,000 0 0
£ 8,000 0 0

By reference also to parliamentary documents for the year 1827 (the latest I have seen) 394,562 lbs. of Tea have been imported to and sold in Halifax that year, and which at 3d per lb. amounts to

£ 4,932 0 6
Deduct for probable quantity exported 1-3
1,644 0 0
£ 3,288 0 6
£ 11,288 0 6

That these articles of luxury will bear such a Tax without interfering with the comforts of any Individual in this Province, I believe no one will deny. The only objection, which I know that can with propriety be urged against it, is, "the risk of encouraging an illicit trade" and at all events the only excuse that can be adduced in favour of the present *too low duty upon Spirituous liquors*. Let the Import duty stand as it now is until a more

effectual plan be adopted to prevent the possibility of smuggling. Let the retailer of the article (in quantities less than a Cask or Box) pay the proposed duty in the shape of License money which will prevent the possibility of smuggling to any great extent, as I believe that no law is, or possibly can, be more rigidly observed and impartially administered than that Law, and as far as the retailer is concerned, it matters not to him how he pays the duty, whether into the license or excise office, he of course puts it on the article, and the consumer in this as in all other cases pays the duty ultimately. By an extract taken from the Custom House of this District (Pictou); the quantity of Spirituous Liquors imported between the 5th of April 1830 & 5th of January 1831 were as follows:

	Rum	Punchons	Gallons	Total Gallons
Foreign parts	78		3,585	
Coastwise	539		60,368	
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
	617		68,953	68,953
Gin				
Foreign parts	22		1,902	
Coastwise	8		925	
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
	30		2,827	2,827
Brandy				
Foreign parts	16		1,642	
Coastwise	6		522	
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
	22		2,164	2,164
			Total Gallons	73,944
Deduct 1-4 for extra quantity imported owing to no duty being paid that year				18,486
				<hr/>
				55,458
Less 1-3 for probable exports				18,486
				<hr/>
				36,972
And which at 3d. per gallon would raise a revenue of £462 3 0.				
Now the number of Individuals who retail spirituous liquors in this District are, Tavern keepers				40
Shops who Retail by the Quart				30
				<hr/>
			Total	70
which at £7 10 would amount to				£525 0 0
Deduct 10 Individuals, who might drop it				75 0 0
				<hr/>
				£450 0 0

Being above the eighteenth part of the Eight Thousand pounds proposed to be raised as above stated and consequently the one eighteenth part of the spirits consumed in this Province. Having not had an opportunity of ascertaining the actual quantity of Tea consumed in this place, it is presumed, that if the same proportion be adopted between the quantity consumed here and quantity imported, as there is of the article of Rum, the data will be found pretty near correct and which is 14,614 lbs. and which at 3d. is £182 13 6. The number of Individuals who retail the Article at present is 65, which at £3 10s. each would amount to

£227 10 0

Deduct as the probable number who would drop it

42 0 0

12 persons at 70s.

£185 10 0

And making a total of six hundred and thirty five pounds ten shillings, which I feel confident only requires to be tried in order to prove successful.

Having thus far established by various views of the case, that a complete and universal reform is not only required but imperatively and promptly demanded in our present commercial transactions. And having theoretically at least, shown the ways and means to accomplish the end, or at all events having exposed a few dormant truths, which may hereafter assist some more able politician to exhibit more fully the palsied nerves of our present policy, and demonstrate more ably the theorems of the desired desideratum; let us return to the position from which we first started and endeavour by plain statements of unvarnished hypothesis to show how the connection spoken of, between the Fisherman and Farmer is best secured and maintained by fiscal aid and legislative enactments.

To protect the Farmer therefore from foreign competition is the first step which ought to be adopted towards this connection. Let all foreign provisions pay the duties without any exception whether they are for the use of the fisheries or otherwise. The province cannot be expected all at once to be able to supply the wants of the Fisherman, as the farmers cannot increase all of a sudden, their skill and industry. Lands uncultivated cannot be brought into tillage and profitable cultivation for some years. Foreign produce must therefore in the meantime be imported. Let the duties be collected and applied most scrupulously to the encouragement of the fisheries. Not as the present system admits of their application, by allowing every unprincipled speculator to pocket the duties, and charge the poor ignorant

462 3 0.
Liquors in
40
50
—
70
0 0
0 0
0 0

fisherman two prices for these very articles which he procured "duty free for the use of the fisheries" Let the amount thus raised, be paid to the actual fisherman, in the shape of a bounty upon the catch. This will not only enable the native Farmers to meet foreign produce with a fair chance of competition, but at the same time give the actual fisherman, that in the shape of bounty which was taken from him in the shape of duties; without giving every Gentleman speculator the benefit of pocketing the duties which the fisherman formerly actually paid without receiving any thing in the shape of a recompense.

The duties relinquished upon articles withdrawn from the Warehouse for the use of the Fisheries in the year 1831 amounted to £4,533 6s "a pretty considerable sum I guess" if collected and judiciously applied, as already stated. Being in a guessing mood I may be allowed further to "guess" that the amount and manner of obtaining the draw back may in a great measure account for the number of disinterested advocates it had in the House.

The second step towards this union, is, a law for the inspection of all agricultural produce offered for exportation, or entered in the Custom House for trading Coastwise. Articles thus put up, ought to bear the Inspector's name, the Curer's name, quantity, quality, what year and where cured, and of course to be put up in suitable casks. The Curer of Beef and Pork to receive a certain sum for each barrel, cured, inspected and entered as above, of the first quality only. The dealer in flour, meal, and biscuit, to have similar regulations and similar encouragement. The Inspector to have a certain sum for each and every barrel so inspected, all of which to be paid out of the License Money raised by the duty already mentioned. The Bounties to be recoverable on quantities not less than 25 barrels of each commodity, and not to be paid until the end of the year, when certificates from the Custom House will be considered proof of the fact. The Grand Jury and Sessions to have the appropriation of the amount, and the bounty for the year to be governed by the funds, and the quantity shipped of agricultural produce, but never to exceed so much per barrel. Say 2s. 9d. for each bbl. of flour, or oatmeal, & 1s. 3d. per cwt. of biscuit, out of which the 3d. per barrel to the Inspector, would leave 2s. 6d. for the first, and 1s. for the latter, to the exporter. The amount thus raised by the increased duty on Rum and Tea, would be sufficient to pay the bounty on 2311 bbls. of Beef and Pork at 2s. 9d. and on 3631 do. of Flour or Meal at 1s. 9d. making a total of five thousand nine hundred and forty two barrels in this District.

In order to facilitate the necessary traffic between the farmer and provision dealers, Public Markets ought to be established in every principal County, Town, or District, in the Province—Markets to be held on particular days in each week, spacious and suitable houses to be built in convenient places for the accommodation of dealers in grain, provisions, &c. (The unpardonable, and I may add culpable negligence manifested by the Magistrates of a certain Town in this Province, although a law empowering them to tax the Inhabitants, and make all necessary arrangements to carry the same into effect for four years past, and many of the Magistrates who have seen and experienced the incalculable good, markets have produced in their native country, makes their apathy appear the more unaccountable.) That sinister motives have been attributed to some of them, not for their negligence, but hostile opposition to the measure, I am well aware. That the characters of traffickers and Magistrate are too frequently blended in the same Individual, in many parts of this Province, I am also well aware, and that the bartering system which frequently assists the goods to disappear from off the shelves of the former, might not have some influence on the Magisterial duties of the latter, I am not at present enquiring. I know however, that specious arguments are frequently used by interested individuals, to prevent any thing like system, or afford any fair chance to the farmer to get money for the overplus of his produce. They say, “increase the quantity of provisions in the market, and the price will fall,” but at the same time forgetting to add, “that the prices of commodities do not depend on the quantities of such articles in the market, as much as upon the proportion between commodities, and money in circulation” Increase the commodity and their price will fall; increase the money and they will rise in their value, as on the other hand a diminution of the former, and that of the latter, have a contrary tendency. That no measure will ensure as effectually to the farmer a ready sale, and money in exchange for his produce, than a Public Market, is a fact too well established by the experience of other countries, to require any support from my pen; and that no measure will, or can possibly maintain a wholesome proportion between commodity and money in a bartering country, especially for exported articles, is equally true. That the bartering system is more advantageous to the man who gives goods in exchange for agricultural produce, is obvious from the following facts. The farmer brings his article to market—*sell it he must*, having no place to leave or inclination to take it home where he has a sufficiency already, otherwise he would not have brought it to Market. Consequently goods must be taken at the price of the buyer, not seldom at 25 per cent advance; the far-

mer returns with his bargain, perhaps *one half in Rum* to get rid of his produce. Is it therefore to be wondered, that those interested individuals should oppose Public Markets, knowing that by once establishing them, the axe would be laid to the root of the bartering system, and consequently cut short their own profits. The greatest wonder is, that the farmers and mechanics do not seize upon their own rights, and insist upon those whose duty it is, to carry such measures to effect, to do so promptly; and thereby render themselves a chance of even handed justice at least in the Markets of their country.

To legislate on the most efficient mode of taking and curing fish, being of a more intricate and complex nature than that of agriculture requires more caution to frame laws for its guidance. That a complete code of laws therefore, can be concocted without the test of experience, and which will invariably command success is not to be expected. Undertakings of a less precarious nature than the fisheries, having the best digested laws for their rule of conduct, are not at all times accompanied by success, as the inseparable concomitant of legislative wisdom. A comparative degree of perfection is only to be attained by prudent and persevering assiduity in every department of human usefulness. Those self evident maxims which now govern the actions of the most eminent statesmen and experienced Merchants, were a century ago, considered chimerical innovations of the established order of things, and consequently considered sacred by the many—But the Combination of system and experience has now rendered them the objects, on whose observance depends the success of State or Commercial prosperity, as does the mariners on the observance of the laws of attraction and magnetism. Human conceptions as regards future events, are now as obscure as they were *then*, nor can the many see now more clear than did their predecessors the consequences that must necessarily follow certain combinations. That the Schoolmaster hath lectured upon the laws of analogy and the inseparable connection between cause and effect I am fully aware, but that Fishermen upon the extensive coasts of Nova Scotia, including Cape Breton, have had an opportunity of benefiting by his far famed and useful pilgrimage, I am not informed. It is no matter of astonishment therefore, that these secluded individuals who although they have advanced in common with the bulk of mankind, in the universal stride of the "March of Intellect," should fail to see, all at once, their own true interests through the variegated shades, of the political prism of the nineteenth century. But that the Legislature should for a series of years of repeated failures, tenaciously persist in supporting a system fraught with loss to the Fisherman

and disgrace to the Province, is not only a matter of surprise, but of actual stupidity or unpardonable negligence.

That the Herring and Mackerel Fisheries of this Province should invariably prove a failure is no matter of astonishment, to any one who choose to bestow upon the method of prosecuting them a few minutes calm reflection, as heretofore conducted. To see hundreds of those who call themselves fishermen collected in groups upon the Beach of Crow Harbour and Fox Island, with a dip net in one hand and a Bottle of Grog in the other, may well afford the means of ridicule and merriment to their more frugal and calculating rivals, and who with equal success, holds the plough, mows the meadow, jigs the Mackerel, hooks the Cod; furnish provisions for Cash to Nova Scotians, supplies foreign markets with the produce of our Gulphs and Harbours, and "guesses," that Nova Scotians are "tarnation lazy" or monstrous stupid. How long will our Solons foster such ludicrous scenes for the exercise of their amphibious neighbor's risible faculties, and enrich their nation, while at the same time, they produce the most ruinous consequences to the Province, and must end in beggering those who as constitutents, placed their individual destinies in their hands, and their rights as a nation. If they do not know the fact, it is time they did; That the Americans are yearly curing, and carrying away from our very doors, thousands of No. 1 Mackerel, taken by the Hook and line (which they call jigging) from on board of vessels of from 30 to 100 Tons burthen, and the most of which are caught to the North East of P. E. Island, in the months of August, September and October. During all this time, and a month longer, our fishermen are basking in the Sun, reclining in the Shade or warming their toes in a hut put up for the occasion;—*drinking Rum, chewing Tobacco,* and wondering *that fish is so scarce on dry land,* while the shipping which ought to be engaged as the Americans, are safely moored in Crow Harbour, Fox Island or some neighboring creek with thousands of goods of which American produce is not the least in quantity or in demand.—All exercising the most exemplary and praiseworthy duties of a christian—*faith and patience,* waiting the stirring of the Waters, and the dipping of fish in boat loads, until November proclaims that the fruits of *faith without Works* in the fisheries, are *barrels without fish* and *vessels unemployed for want of freight,* although the *Charter party* must be paid.

I repeat then, will the Legislature any longer continue deaf to such unfavorable tidings; will they turn aside from beholding the impending rain that awaits such confusion and mismanagement. Will they not rather abandon a system, which by common con-

sent is already condemned; and adopt such measures as are now practised by the Americans with universal success. Let Laws be immediately passed giving a certain bounty on the catch of Mackerel, Herring, Alewives, Shad and Salmon, let them be properly inspected, branded and classed as the present law directs; the bounty only recoverable on the first and second quality; such a measure is sure to command success, if a corresponding bounty will be given to suitable crafts at so much per Ton, for prosecuting the Mackerel fishing as the Americans now do.

The quantity of Fish cured and branded in this Province between 1st Sept. 1830 and the 1st Sept. 1831 is, according to Report furnished by the Chief Inspector, as follows,

	No. 1	No. 2	No. 3	No. 4
Mackerel	2,507 1-2	19,530 1-2	17,795	1,100
Herrings	4,812 1-2	846 1-2	"	"
Alewives	7,036	7,077	"	"
Salmon	338 1-2	330	"	"
	<hr/> 14,757 1-2	<hr/> 27,784	<hr/> 17,795	<hr/> 1,100

Upon the presumption that such a measure as I am advocating, should be adopted by the Legislature, and that the Catch of Fish would prove as successful, the amount required for the purpose would only amount to about Three Thousand pounds Yearly—

No. 1 Mack'l	2,507 1-2 Bbls. at 1s. 6d. Bounty	£182	1	3
" 2 "	19,530 1-2 " 1s. "	976	10	6
No. 1 Her'ng	4,812 1-2 " 1s. 6d. "	360	18	9
" 2 "	846 1-2 " 1s. "	42	6	6
No. 1 Alewives	7,036 " 1s. "	351	16	0
" 2 "	7,077 " 8d. "	235	18	0
No. 1 Salmon	338 1-2 " 5s. "	84	12	6
" 2 "	330 " 3s. "	49	10	0
	<hr/> 42,478 1-2 Bbls.	<hr/> £2,289	<hr/> 13	<hr/> 6
No. 3 Mack'l	17,795			
" 4 "	1,100			
" 3 Salmon	316			
	<hr/> Total for 1831 61,689 1-2 Bbls. at 3d. for Insp'n	<hr/> 771	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 4
	[Amount carried forward.]	<hr/> £3,060	<hr/> 15	<hr/> 10

[Amount brought forward.]

Total for 1831, 61,689 1-2 Bbls. at 3d. for Inspec'n 771 2 4

£3,060 15 10

Amount of duties relinquished for articles imported for the fisheries during the same period is

4,588 6 0

Leaving a balance of

£1,527 10 1

Say fifty vessels employed catching Mackerel on the American system, at an average of 50 tons each, and 5s. per ton

625 0 0

£902 10 1

which still leave sufficient funds to pay the bounty upon 12,033 Bbls. of No. 1, either of Mackerel or Herring, without taking one shilling out of the ordinary revenue of the country.

The short trial the country has had of the present law respecting pickled fish, fully satisfy the public of its utility, by the evident improvement of the quality, although a general cry has been raised against the sum required for inspecting each barrel, and the mode of paying it. It also proves that the Inspector ought to be paid out of a general fund; for in many instances the Inspectors are dependant on those very people who have the greatest quantity of fish to inspect; such dependance may at times perhaps influence their judgment, so as to brand the quality a grade better, and thereby impose upon the consumer. Such Inspectors also are very apt to supersede the more conscientious ones, as it naturally follows that those who make the greater number of No. 1, out of a cargo are the most likely to be employed, especially if there is a chance of his taking goods for his fees instead of Cash, and which his dependance presumes.

The fifteen hundred pounds that are annually thrown away on Militia Musters, might perhaps with equal propriety and advantage to the Province, for one year at least, be appropriated to the erecting of Sheds and other conveniencies on the best fishing stations for the accomodations of those who cure Herrings. That such edifices as will screen the fish from the scorching rays of a July sun are wanted, and that the scarcity of No. 1 Herrings are entirely attributed to the want of them, I am creditably informed, by those who are experienced fishermen, and who have suffered by not having them; being convinced that Herrings ought not to be put in water of any kind, *not even pickle*, until properly struck with salt. It is impossible, therefore, to keep them fresh and green, in such a warm season, without being

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protected from the sun, and which only can be done by building shades for the purpose. Great care also should be observed in making the barrels of proper wood, and so close as to hold in the first pickle, *which alone cure the fish*, as may be learned by reference to the following extract, taken from a number of the Edinburgh Magazine of 1819. The writer treating of the laws by which the Dutch govern their fisheries, states that, "the moment the Herrings are laid upon the deck, they are strewed over with salt, the gills and gut are taken out by an incision made by a knife instead of the fingers, as is the custom with us. The using the knife is the preferable way, as the great blood vessels of the heart are laid open, and a considerable quantity of blood is discharged. By this means the Dutch Herrings are much whiter than the British, being secured from blackness occasioned by the coagulation of blood. They never take more Herrings on board in the morning than they think they are able to cure about the going down of the sun. If any should remain after that period, the Master is obliged to throw them overboard."

"The master of the Buss, maketh oath that he will separate the Herrings taken in one night, from those taken in another, and that he shall notify in the list of the marked barrels, on what night each were taken, under the penalty of forfeiting the ship and cargo. He must not fill up the barrels more than once with pressed Herrings, taking special care that they are laid even in the layers from the bottom to the top, always taking care *that none of the bloody pickle be spilt*"

"Every 12 barrels of Herrings to have 4 barrels of Salt, and the Herrings to be well gutted and properly laid in the barrels under the penalty of 300 Guilder."

"No Herrings shall be repacked and sent abroad, before the Cure Master has inspected them, and ascertained that they are properly packed. The Cure Master may order the barrels *twice* for inspection, and at each time to receive half a farthing for each barrel, one half to be paid by the buyer, and the other by the seller."

From these regulations and a host of others, we may see that the Dutch Government considered the Herring fishery as a trade of great importance to the State; it was not left to the management of a few ignorant individuals, but made a national concern, and to this may be attributed their extraordinary success. By their success also we may learn, that a community, however poor, when their attention is turned to any one useful undertaking,

aided and assisted by Government, will, by prudence and perseverance, eventually succeed in enriching themselves, render the State formidable, and consequently respected. That the Dutch have raised themselves into a nation that commands respect among European Potentates, their present position amply proves; when with a degree of confidence, which bespeaks power and independence, we see them put on the armour of defiance against the united efforts of the most powerful combination that the world could devise to intimidate them, we may naturally infer that they are rich and independent; and if they have thus become respectable at home, and formidable abroad, by prosecuting a trade that required them to leave their homes for four months in each year, and live at sea hundreds of leagues from their houses, how much more so may this Province become so, possessing every advantage which nature could confer to make us comfortable as individuals, and independant as a nation. Besides having the influence and protection of the most powerful empire that the world ever produced, to encourage our commerce abroad, and shield us from the aggression of avaricious neighbours. It is our fault, then, and our's only, if we allow the prize to escape which is placed within our reach on such advantageous terms that nothing but criminal ignorance of its worth, or sheer contempt for our own and country's prosperity, can possibly defeat us.

That no Colony belonging to the British Empire possesses more natural resources which indicate the germs of greatness, as do this Province, and at no distant period that it must rise to consequence, is obvious to any person who chooses to enquire into the nature of its capabilities. Possessing an extent of Sea Board of several hundred miles of extent—indented with innumerable Harbours and Bays, swarming with every variety of Fish, and studded in every direction with quarries of Gypsum and Freestone of the first quality—the incalculable extent and riches of its Mines and Minerals, affording the means of an extensive revenue from the exportation of Raw Materials*, and a soil which yields an average of twenty returns by the rudest manner of cultivation, together with the astonishing fact that the Province contained in 1827, cultivated acres of land 1,292,009, when at the same time the Inhabitants amounted only to 123,348 Individuals, leaving 10 1-4 acres of cultivated land to each Inhabitant, which, together with the peculiar benefits it derives from its geographical and political relation to Great Britain, the States and the Canadas, and the manifold advantages it possesses over the

* See Appendix C.

latter owing to its proximity to the West Indies and Mediterranean, with which it can trade at all seasons of the year, are a concatenation of happy circumstances, as seldom fall to the lot of any one State, much less a Province. If therefore there is any possibility of this Province remaining in its present unpropitious state as regards the Fisheries and Agriculture, the fault is entirely our's, for its natural and political advantages are so palpably developed and so evidently flattering, as to leave us not the shadow of an excuse, if we fail in turning to good account those inestimable treasures.

APPENDIX A.

The following Letter appeared in the *Pictou Observer* of February the 8th., 1832, which is considered conclusive upon this point.

To the Hon. the House of Assembly, in Gen. Sessions now convened:

GENTLEMEN,—Since Nova Scotia became the undisputed Colony of Great Britain, by the Treaty of 1763, no event arising out of the prerogatives of the Crown has occurred, which involves more serious consequences to its inhabitants, than that of leasing the Mines of the Province to Rundell, Bridge & Rundell, for the term of Sixty Years.

With you, who I presume are individually acquainted with the theory and practice of political economy, it is useless to expatiate or declaim on the pernicious effects of *all* monopolies: you also who are acquainted with the rapid advancement of the manufacturing towns of Great Britain must know, that the unprecedented growth and industry of Glasgow, Manchester Leeds and Birmingham, is entirely to be attributed to the mineral productions of their soil. It therefore requires no extraordinary efforts of political vision to discern, that this act of Kingly power is alike subversive of Colonial prosperity and British freedom.

That the prosperity of a country must be retarded in the same proportion that its capabilities are sealed or tramelled by exclusive privileges, is an axiom in political economy, ratified by the experience of every country and age of the world. If the Legislature therefore, allows these articles to be engrossed by irresponsible monopolies, they tacitly make over the very vitals of the commerce and manufactures of their country to the caprice and cupidity of a set of pawnbrokers in London, who with be-

coming generosity and modesty, send their agent to legislate for Nova Scotians, and dictate to the Province upon what terms it is to receive the benefit of those articles of paramount necessity, which Nature has placed at their doors, and without which no country can thrive. The article of coal alone, enters largely into every species of manufactures. As fuel it forms a large item in the necessary expenses of every family, especially in a cold country like Nova Scotia. The train of evil consequences that must necessarily arise therefore, out of the arbitrary power which the General Mining Association exercises over that article, is of itself a matter of no trivial consideration. But when the principle upon which they have acquired this exclusive right is taken into the scale, the question then assumes a character fraught with momentous consequences; separate and apart from the influence which such a right may have on the nominal value of the article. It then involves the question, whether the crown has a right to exercise a power so completely at variance with the acknowledged right of the Colonies to manage their own local affairs.

That the value of real estate in every country is regulated by the state of prosperity or depression of their respective manufactures and commerce, is too plain a fact to require illustration. Every obstruction therefore, to a fair competition in trade, has a direct and prejudicial influence on the value of the soil, as well as a benumbing and chilling effect upon the spirit of invention and discovery; which can be looked for only where commercial enterprise and manufacturing industry receives the fostering care of good laws and wise legislatures. It therefore follows, that the monopoly enjoyed by the General Mining Association is a dead weight on the energies of the country; that it depresses the value of real estate, while at the same time it increases the value of the necessaries of life. Whatever may be said of rights secured to us by the British Constitution, it is worse than ludicrous to talk of them, as long as the General Mining Association will retain their present power. That that inestimable fabric is a buttress of defence against the encroachments of arbitrary power, is a proposition that is universally admitted. It is however the height of absurdity to imagine, that it is of itself an impregnable barrier between civil rights and the injurious extension of monarchical prerogative. It is only a citadel or tower of security to protect the subject, while in his own person or those of his representatives, he fights the battles of legitimate rights, in defence of those liberties secured to all British subjects as the birthright of freemen. The inhabitants of Nova Scotia being British subjects, governed upon the broad basis of the British constitution, ought to have as extensive protection of rights and

liberties from the Laws of Nova Scotia, as Englishmen have from those of England. How far the comparison holds good is a problem of easy solution as regards the mineral productions of both countries. In England there is no monopoly of these, no exclusive privileges in favour of stock jobbers. The trade is as open as any other for capitalists to engage in. The reverse of all this is the case in Nova Scotia. And to whom are these concessions made? To men who are living out of the country, who may just be regarded as foreigners, having no other object but that of hoarding pelf exacted from the inhabitants, under the most onerous and unfair conditions that ever disgraced the transactions of usurious Jews.

If in the nineteenth century, it was possible to find in England a King and Ministry so void of common sense and reckless of the people's rights, as to suggest the idea of siezing upon any supposed source of wealth with a view to appropriate it to the exclusive benefit of the crown, let alone a *Company of private individuals*, would not the united voice of the people and their representatives rend the air—make the throne tremble to its centre with the universal cries of “privilege! privilege! liberty! liberty! and freemen's rights!”

APPENDIX B.

From the *Pictou Observer*, of 26th. September 1832.

To the Freeholders of the County of Cape Breton.

GENTLEMEN.—The Imperial Parliament of Great Britain has come to the irrevocable conclusion, that *Nova Scotia must support its own civil establishment*. This arrangement, under ordinary circumstances, would be a judicious, just, and wise policy, and as it is, may eventually turn out to the benefit of the Colony, providing such a proceeding will be met by Nova Scotians, in that enlightened spirit which will convince the Ministry, that while the prerogatives of the Crown will be duly respected, their own constitutional rights will be manfully asserted, and firmly maintained. Your Representatives in Legislative Assembly, being the Tribunal which is to decide what these prerogatives are, as well as the organ through which your rights must be asserted, ought of necessity to possess sufficient political knowledge, to discriminate between the power of acting and the right of exercising an acknowledged prerogative, but one which like all others, was never intended to be enforced but for the general interests of the State. If ever therefore there was a period which required more talent, disinterestedness and independence than another, the approaching Session of the General Assembly is that period. Such is the importance, in my estimation, of the subjects which must necessarily come before them, that every County and

Township which has the privilege of returning members, ought immediately to petition the Executive for a dissolution of the House, in order to afford them an opportunity of returning such only as would act in the spirit of the following resolutions, which should in my humble opinion be universally entered into. The now altered circumstances of the Colony imperatively demand such a course.

1st. that it is inconsistent with, and subversive of the constitutional rights and liberties secured to all British Colonies possessing Legislatures, that any Individual or body of Individuals, should be thrust upon the Colony to monopolize and exercise uncontrolled dominion over the natural productions of the soil, without their knowledge, approbation or consent.

2d. That the commodities engrossed by the General Mining association, comprise the necessaries of life, the very sinews of commerce and manufactures, the most successful means of acquiring national wealth and prosperity, as well as the surest source for yielding the greatest amount of Revenue to the Country and productive labour to its Inhabitants.

3d. that in order to secure to ourselves and posterity our rights as Freemen and British subjects, and likewise the means of prosperity to our Country, we will endeavour to get the iniquitous monopoly of the General Mining Association cancelled, and the mineral productions of our Country placed under the controul of the local Legislature.

APPENDIX C.

From the Pictou Observer of 26th. Sept'r., 1832.

To the Freeholders of the County of Cape Breton.

GENTLEMEN.- -That the Coal Mines of Nova Scotia alone, constitute the most lucrative source of revenue which the Province does or possibly can enjoy, is so clearly established by the following facts, that any person possessing sense enough to count his own fingers may satisfy himself as to its correctness. The Coal Mines on the East River of Pictou, now known by the name of the Albion Mines, were leased by Adam Carr, Esquire, from George Smith and William Liddell, Esquires, in 1820. The following were two of the conditions enjoined by that lease, viz.: "That he the said Adam Carr, his Executors, Administrators, and Assigns, will pay at the office of the Secretary of the Province, quarterly and every quarter, during the continuance of his said term, for the Mine on the West side of the River on McKay's grant, the sum of Sixty-five pounds currency, and will at the end of each year, pay at the same place, the further sum of Three shillings currency, for each and every chaldron of Thirty-six Bushels each, above the quantity of Fourteen Hundred Chaldrons

which shall be taken and carried by him from the said mine or pit."—"And the said Adam Carr, doth hereby further covenant, promise and agree, for himself, his heirs, executors and administrators, to and with the said George Smith and William Liddell, their heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, that the said Adam Carr, will pay quarterly, unto the said George Smith and William Liddell, one shilling and eight pence currency per chaldron, for each and every chaldron he may dig from the said pit, and for which the said duty is to be paid as aforesaid;" Thus you will perceive, that the former Lessee, paid a tax of five shillings and five pence per chaldron, for the first fourteen hundred chaldrons dug in each year, and four shillings and eight pence per chaldron, for the residue, a burthen which it is evident it could bear, from the notorious fact, that Mr. Carr accumulated a comfortable independence, while he sold the coals at the very price now charged by the Company at the Pits!! The exportation of Coals at Sydney for the month ending the 31st August last, was 6,200 chaldrons, which I presume will be a pretty correct guide to ascertain the quantity exported for the present year,

say Six Month's in Summer at Sydney 6,200 Chals.	Chal.
per month,	37,200
Six Months in Winter at Sydney, 3,100 chals. per month,	18,600
Six months in Summer at Pictou 4,000 chals. per month,	24,000
Six Months in Winter at Pictou 1,500 chals. per month,	9,000
Making a total of	88,800
which at the 4s. 8d. per chaldron amounts to	£ 18,970, 0, 0
The Company now pay annually	3,333 13 4

Leaving a Balance due the Province of £ 15,636, 6, 8

Here then you will observe is a plain calculation, founded upon their own admissions, and which I feel confident is not exaggerated, and which admits of being multiplied at least tenfold before the expiration of the Lease, and which at that time will amount to the amazing sum of £ 150,000 per annum. I ask you therefore, will you be the active instruments of sealing the Company's monopoly and your own and Country's oppression?

THE END.

