ACROSS
1. Study by country's leading economist (6)
4. Cheap containers (6)
8. Insect endlessly eating into house plant (7)
9. Works as party secretary at first (7)
11. Unsettled by endless touring Sheeran retired (10)
12. One having an edge over Miles in test (4)
13. Safe-breaking expert not unknown (5)
14. Cooperate with the French by turning over everything on Penny (4,4)
16. Persuade city fellow to stop working? Just the opposite (8)
18. Frequently getting to start with us for a bit of practice (5)
20. Pants of inferior quality (4)
21. Talked about managing change without Henry or Victoria for instance (6,4)
23. Pester daughter to get out of nearby Georgia (7)
24. Lie when in charge after fellow gets into trouble (7)
25. City father not initially surprised by hint of nepotism (6)
26. Manages to pass without honours eventually (4,2)

DOWN
1. Frank's a tool they say (5)
2. Try wearing torn clothing (7)
3. Continue doggedly with idols Nero replaced (7,2)
5. Furious with deserter found in the middle of Amiens (5)
6. Saw priest in preference to bishop (7)
7. Material of value mostly returned to poet (7)
10. Fool about after lips met excitedly (9)
13. Advocate removing power from adversary in support of prince (9)
15. Juxtaposed with a theatrical device involving trousers for the most part (9)
17. Rex checking Peter out in Japan (7)
19. Implied without being stated by American historian (7)
21. Mark ignoring Iseult's last letter (5)
22. Strange piece of computer software by the sound of it (5)

Solution 15,545
A I C R S W M U
S Y N T H I N T H E M A I N
S E A G U L L S
E A R W I G G E D L E A V E
R R N I I W W E
T H A I S N E O L O G I S M
N G R L F I T T E S S F I N A L L Y
N O T H I N G O F
L E T T E R T W O O F F A L
E O R R E T Y E E
S O R R Y A U N T S A L L Y
P R O M O T E D
U N I O N S U I T E N S U E
N S E P E R S N