

In Ireland a system of agricultural education has been recently introduced into the elementary schools, which is full of promise. The schools are associated with school farms and gardens, where children are taught the principles of agriculture and horticulture.

In a recent report it is stated that from 45,000 to 50,000 children are annually examined as to their proficiency in agricultural studies, and that about half that number have succeeded in gaining passes for their proficiency in this branch. The Albert Agricultural Institute at Glasnevin, besides carrying on other good work, is training teachers for that purpose, as all those now engaged in elementary schools in Ireland are required to pass an examination in this subject before entering on their duties. Were some such measure as this adopted in Canada, and the interest of children of all classes awakened by presenting to their minds some of the more attractive features in agricultural pursuits, there is every reason to believe that the effect on agricultural progress would be very marked in a single generation. The Munster Agricultural and Dairy School is rendering eminent service to farmers in the county of Cork.

A large number of agricultural experimental stations have been established in different parts of Germany, some eighty in all, many similar stations are in active operation in Austria, Hungary, Italy and other countries of Europe, most of them supported or subsidized by the respective Governments. The growing of timber on a large scale has engaged the attention of many of those countries, and is also being carried on in a very large way both in Australia and in India.

Japan too is moving in this matter. Some years ago the Japanese established agricultural testing farms near Tokyo, where trees, shrubs and fruits from foreign countries were grown, and the most promising sorts propagated and disseminated. Recently the Japan Government has engaged the services of an eminent American agriculturist for a term of years, at a liberal salary, for the purpose of establishing, in the Japanese Empire, experimental agricultural stations on the American plan.

CONCLUSION.

The work which it is desired should be undertaken may thus be summarised:—

(a.) Conduct researches and verify experiments designed to test the relative value, for all purposes, of different breeds of stock, and their adaptability to the varying climatic or other conditions which prevail in the several Provinces and in the North-West Territories;

(b.) Examine into scientific and economic questions involved in the production of butter and cheese;

(c.) Test the merits, hardiness and adaptability of new or untried varieties of wheat or other cereals, and of field crops, grasses and forage plants, fruits, vegetables,