

existed in the rural economy of our country.

"The first school of the kind was open at Virton the 22nd May, 1891, with the aid of the professors of the regional agricultural school annexed to St. Joseph's College, and was established under the Christian Brothers of Nancy.

"This useful institution bestowed on Belgium is due to the initiative taken by Mr. Brayn, the Minister of Agriculture, and of Mr. A. Proost, the Inspector-General of Agriculture. Already, in the month of April, 1881, Mr. A. Proost, then Secretary of the Central Agricultural Society, secured the creation of agricultural schools for girls. He pointed out countries wherein the technical education of farmers' daughters was an object of their governments' care.

"As long ago as 1878, Wurtemberg started this special instruction. 'Will Belgium,' asked Mr. Proost, 'be the last to follow this excellent example?'"

"The farmer's wife," says Joigneaux, "is the soul of the house; she, too, needs elasticity of mind, activity, economy, a spirit of order, an knowledge of business, tact in giving orders and all the special information that constitutes an accomplished housewife. For our boys there are agricultural schools, and also masters who go into the canton, to the commune, and even to their homes to teach them useful matters. For you, farmer's daughter, there are neither schools, nor masters, as there should be. It is said proverbially that, the women make and ruin the house; but our girls are not taught what they should know in order "to always make and to never ruin it." The education in young ladies' boarding schools does not impart anything to create a love for country life, or that which should constitute the constant life of our house-wives. We desire special schools for our girls; when shall we have them?"

"In truth, we ask ourselves," says M. Jules Simon, "why we spend so much money and pains to prepare our boys for business, when we disdain to train our girls in the equally difficult task of household economy!"

"In 1890, on his return from a trip to Austria and Germany, on the occasion of the Vienna Exhibition, the Minister, M. de Bruyn, and his able fellow-worker, Mr. Proost, full of admiration for the grand results obtained from the farm-household schools of Austria and of Germany, conceived the project of starting the establishment of similar institutions in Belgium."

"The 22nd May, 1891, the regional agricultural school, annexed to St. Joseph's College, at Virton, offered the Minister, M. de Bruyn, the assistance of its special professors to start, at the Virton convent, the first school of the kind, and to assure it an adequate technical instruction.

The 22nd May, 1891, the first household school was opened at Virton.

OBJECT AND ORGANIZATION OF THE SCHOOL.—The object of this school is to initiate farmers' daughters, by theoretical and practical instruction, in all household-work, in the work of the farm, and particularly of the dairy. The school, for farming studies, is placed under the direction of Mr. Mercier, an engineer, former agriculturist, and professor at the agricultural school, as well as director of the Virton laboratory.

THE ESTABLISHMENT.—The Household Farm-School of Virton is established after the plan of the German schools, and may be considered a ty-

pical school of its kind. It is established on a farm at Virton, St. Mard, and includes:

a. Orchard and gardens of over 11½ hectares, washed by a dam and the River Ton.

b. Vast dwelling houses.

c. Numerous out-buildings well arranged for poultry keeping.

The school forms an establishment entirely independent of all other boarding-schools; it is solely devoted to the professional education of farmers' daughters, is separated from the neighboring dwellings, and is thus sheltered against all outside influences; thus, presenting the best conditions of order, stability and development for a complete course of instruction adapted to the technical education of the daughters of farmers.

The school is expected to display in its exhibition, the PRACTICAL UTILITY of its teaching, as may be judged from the following tables which contain a list of its exhibits.

A HOUSEHOLD GUIDE-TABLE FOR THE CHOICE OF BUTCHERS' MEAT.

Bill of fare for dinners:

a. of small dinner parties, and expenses per individual;

b. of the middle classes, and expenses per individual;

c. of the laboring classes, and expenses per individual;

The bills of fare (1) of dinners and expenses varying according to the resources of the different seasons of the year.

Preserves, prepared by the pupils:

a. of smoked meat;

b. of fruit;

c. of vegetables.

Hygienic liqueurs; the utilisation of fruit and plants gathered by the house-wife for family use.

The special products of the dairy:

a. Butter, cream obtained by the centrifugal process;

b. Different cheeses of the best standard:

1. Brie;

2. Port du Salut;

3. Camembert;

4. Munster.

AUTOGRAPH LECTURES OF MR. MERCIER, ENGINEER.

Technical instruction suitable to the farmer's daughter:

1. Elementary lessons in horticulture and garden-practice;

2. Ideas on agriculture;

3. Dairy lectures;

4. Elements of stock-raising (*élevage*), the hygiene and feeding of cattle; care of poultry yard;

5. Lessons on domestic economy; elements of pedagogy; principles of the development, corporeal and mental, of children;

6. Copybooks of ordinary letter-writing.

BOOKKEEPING:

a. Of the household:

1. Inventory of the furniture, bedding, linen;

2. Inventory of kitchen utensils;

3. " of the cellar, etc., etc.

NEEDLEWORK:

a. Cutting out and fitting;

b. Farmer's blouse (*smock frock*), etc., etc.

MENDING: 1. An example of pressed seams; 2. darning; 3. hemming; 4. tablecloth darned; 5. different patchings, men's trousers; 6. knitting on

(1) In England, we always use the word, menu.—Ea.

of heels (1) 7, needlework trimming of stockings; 8, trimming of stockings with cloth; 9, re-knitting (*remailage*).

SWEDEN.

We find the following in a document on Sweden; The School of Higher Dairy-Instruction, under the control of the Government, is situated at Alnarp; the complete course extends over months.

THEORETICAL INSTRUCTION.

1st. Anatomy and physiology of the cattle and hogs.

2nd. Chemistry.

3rd. Feeding, raising and care to be given to cattle and swine; study of the different foods—their influence on milk.

4th. The most frequent diseases of cattle and swine and the remedies to be applied.

5th. Chemical and physiological studies of milk.

6th. Milk industries.

7th. Care of boilers and engines.

PRACTICAL INSTRUCTION.

1st. Chemical analysis of milk, of its products (butter and cheese), and of its sub-products (skimmed milk, butter milk and whey), with the different instruments used.

2nd. Plans and estimates for cow-houses pig-sties, butter and cheese factories.

3rd. Practical work, during four months, in the butter and cheese factories.

4th. Practical work, during two months, in the cowhouse and pig-sties.

5th. Weekly visit to a butter exporting house to learn how to judge of and discover the cause of faults found, etc. The pupils are accompanied by their teacher and the exporter, who also make an examination of the butter.

Admission to the school is only allowed to those whose instruction is sufficiently advanced, and who are highly recommended as makers of butter and cheese.

The fee for the course of instruction is 750 *crowas*, including board. The bedding and washing are at the pupil's expense.

The school furnishes the room, the furniture and the heating, and also takes care of the same.

The course is also intended for those who desire to secure teaching diplomas.

The examinations take place at the end of each term.

PRIMARY DAIRY-SCHOOLS UNDER STATE CONTROL.

There are two which receive, each, six pupils (girls). Lodging, board and instruction are free.

The length of a course is one year. Only pupils who can write and cipher correctly are admitted.

VII

PUBLIC ROADS.

In Denmark, as in the other countries that we visited, the public roads are in excellent condition. The great highways of that country, leading from one city to another, are under government control, and are kept in order by means of a tax on the ratepayers

(1) Perhaps, "turning the heel of stockings"—A. R. J. F.

of each district that they traverse. The front (1) roads are maintained by the farmers themselves; each of whom is obliged to furnish a certain amount of stone and gravel in proportion to the length of road under his care. This method of contributing seems preferable to a tax in money, since the ratepayers submit to it more willingly. The Danish farmers are the more anxious to perform this duty, as they consider the perfection of roads indispensable to successful farming. Moreover, the roads are now in such good order that the expense of keeping them so is small.

If we wish to imitate them in our farming progress, we should also follow their example regarding the roads. Unfortunately, in certain parts of our Province, the transportation of agricultural produce is very difficult, and often for weeks impossible in autumn and spring, above all in our most fertile parishes, where the soil is clay. It is at the close of navigation that the price of farm produce is generally the highest, and it is just at that period that in our country districts travelling is almost at a stand still. It is only necessary to mention this fact to give an idea of the incalculable losses that result therefrom to our farmers; the breaking of vehicles, of harness, all kinds of troubles, damages resulting from the many accidents that ensue... And all these things could be avoided, if we had good roads at all seasons!

We know of farmers who, without being obliged to do so, have macadamized their front roads.

This practice should become general, and to secure that result, our farmers might adopt the Danish system, which is to furnish each year a certain quantity of stone or gravel for road purposes. This yearly contribution should be more or less extensive according to the local facilities of securing the material, and with time, and with the aid of municipal by-laws to that effect, in a few years we might have most excellent roads.

The agricultural class would be the first to derive great benefit from such improvements. Our municipal code should be amended if it does not allow the making of by-laws authorising contributions in material.

In Denmark, the metalled roads are less rough than our stone roads, because they put on a great deal of gravel and the stones are broken much finer.

Let us hope that the Farmers' Clubs and the municipal councils will seriously take up this question, the solution of which so deeply interests the farming population.

VIII

THE AGRICULTURAL SITUATION.

The fall in the price of grain, caused by the large production and exportation of farm produce from Western America and Canada, is very prejudicial to the European farmers, above all to those who, having devoted themselves to the growth of grain, do not dream of attempting any other more lucrative branches of agriculture.

America and Australia have become their nightmare. Even the Danes complain, and declare that their position would be intolerable if they did not produce large quantities of butter and pork. What saved them from ruin was having followed the advice of Mathieu de Dombasle, when he said to the

(1) *Chemin de front*, road before the farmhouse?—Ea.