

on the growing of potatoes, on the improvement of meadows and pastures, and on other crops.

The *Agricultural Gazette* and the *Farmer's Gazette*, both papers published in the United-Kingdom, constantly bring these experiments before their readers. These experiments are, emphatically, practical experiments, their teachings cannot possibly be deceptive, and great importance seems to be attached to them.

The farmers of this province, too, have been making many experiments, of late, under the supervision of the Clubs. The reports we receive of them are, almost all of them, interesting. For instance: A report by M. Cléophas Gagné, a competitor in the experiments organised by the Farmer's Club of Cap St. Ignace, Montmagny, for the encouragement of the improvement of meadows:

"For the improvement of an *arpent* of three-year-old meadow on heavy land, well-ditched and water furrowed, I began by cross harrowing it; I gave it 22 bushels of ashes (*probably leached*), and a barrel of plaster, which dressing I spread by a stroke of the harrows lengthwise, and this harrowing so pulverised the land, that I thought it would answer to sow a mixture of clover and timothy over it.

After sowing the seed, I rolled it, the roller weighing about 500 lbs. The work was finished by the end of April. The crop of timothy was clean and abundant, while that of the neighbour-plots yielded one-third less, their hay being full of weeds, such as fox-tail, (1) wild mustard, (charlock), etc.

So well pleased am I with the success of this experiment, that I intend to renew this practice in future on my other meadows."

Cap St-Ignace, Oct. 6th, 1896.

(Signed) CLÉOPHAS GAGNÉ.

This report is confirmed by the Judges, who assigned the first prize to M. Gagné.

The second prize fell to the lot of M. Olivier Bernier, who, at the end of his report, says, like M. Gagné, "I am so pleased with the results, that I mean, next spring, to put as much of my meadow land as I can manage through the same treatment."

Such examples set by farmers must have great influence on the improvement of the meadows of the district in which they live.

(1) This cannot mean the grass so called. Ed.

Since the Department has instituted these experiments in the use of wood-ashes, and the results have been published in the *JOURNAL D'AGRICULTURE*, farmers seem to have paid more attention to the preservation and purchase of that manure; they appreciate its effects more highly, and its use tends to become more general. In my opinion, these trials are one of the best means to insure the adoption of the best systems of cultivation, and they cannot, I am convinced, be too earnestly encouraged by prizes offered by the agricultural societies. No more judicious use of their funds can be suggested.

*Competition of milch-cows.*—Another competition that ought to be especially encouraged by the agricultural societies is that of milch-cows, the same that was organised last year by the Hon. the Commissioner of Agriculture. In these, not only should the quantity of milk be reckoned, but, if possible, its richness as well.

It is with pleasure I observe that the Dairy-men's Association highly approves of these competitions. In an article it has just published in the *JOURNAL D'AGRICULTURE* it prays that greater extension be given to this organisation, since it points out the best cows, from whom heifers should be raised, to keep up the herd in its original profitable state, a practice indispensable to the success of dairying in general.

One of ~~the~~ st bulletins from Belgium tells us that, ~~in~~ country, too, the greatest pains are taken to find out the best milkers. Syndicates are organised there for the improvement of cattle. This is what the bulletin says on the subject:

"The movement in favour of the improvement of our cattle by means of selection is only of recent date. Almost all the societies mentioned in the following list were got together in 1897 and 1898. The number, relatively great, of societies created in such a short time, and the number, already so considerable, of animals entered into their herds-books, testify to the confidence placed by breeders in this plan so highly to be recommended."

The number of syndicates in Belgium is 187, and 14,792 head of cattle are entered in their books. By means of competitions of milch-cows and of registers kept for that purpose, Farmer's Clubs, and Agricultural Societies can perform the same functions as well as these syndicates.

*Competitions of standing-crops.*—As useful, too, to farmers are the competitions of standing-crops, as are also those for green-fodder and roots to