

The crops, this year, are, as usual, very good indeed

Nothing can be better than the ditches, drainage and the water course.

We cannot but congratulate Mr Roberge on his love of agriculture, and he has the additional merit of setting an example to his neighbours of neat and seasonable farming.

We assign him 89.10 marks, and we trust that in 1902 he will be one of the fortunate competitors for the gold-medal.

#### No 7: J. F. DESCOTEAUX.

We inspected this farm on the 28th August, and can say with truth that M. Descoteaux is, this year, one of the best farmers of the district.

The system of rotation is good, and we gave him 13 50 marks out of 15 for his cattle which are, generally speaking, pure Ay-hires.

The management of the fields, which are perfectly divided, is capital.

Though the proper water furrowing of the land is but too often neglected by farmers, we are happy to say that M. Descoteaux attends carefully to this important business.

Too many people seem to forget ; if they ever knew ; that good ploughing is absolutely essential to the proper drying of the soil.

It will be seen, by looking at the large table, at p. 34 of this volume, that everything on this farm is suitably arranged ; and this is a proof that the work and management of it are carried on with regularity.

M. Descoteaux is a man who spreads around him a praiseworthy ambition to secure both the improvement of stock and the progress of agriculture in general. We gave him 87.90 marks, which entitles him to a silver-medal and a diploma of the highest merit.

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### Notes by the Way.

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**Linseed.**—We are greatly in favour of every farmer, of suitable land, growing a couple of acres or so of flax, always provided the seed is consumed on the farm ; but to advocate the growing of this crop, to be sold entirely, seed and straw, off the land is by no means in accordance with our views. The soil is robbed quite enough already by the sale of hay, straw and grain. If dung were brought back in place of the exported produce, we should have nothing to say against the practice of turning the whole produce of the farm into money ; but as it is, we think there are robber-crops enough grown in the province already.

**Potato-Crop in the U.-S.**—The growers of potatoes in the States must either muddle their returns, or else some of them must grow infinitesimal crops. The average yield of the potato is given, for the year 1897, as 64 bushels to the acre ! Now, 64 bushels at 60 lbs., equal 1½ ton (gross) ; and as potatoes are, in the States, generally planted pretty widely apart, if we take the average distance between the sets as 3 x 1 feet, the product of each set will be, at 64 bushels to the acre, as nearly as possible 4½ ounces ! Not worth the trouble of digging. As we said before, there must be some mistake in the returns ; for, if the *average* is so low, what must the yield of the poorest acre be ?

**Butter for England.**—Mr. Reid, who seems to be an unprejudiced man, writes to "Hoard's Dairyman" on the question of the flavour most in vogue in England. He found, on his return from a visit to that country, that the American butter "tasted quite too rank." If the taste in butter preferred in the States does not suit the English palate, he, very sensibly, concludes that there is no use saying, that the English do not know good butter when they see it, but the wisest thing to do is to make the American