

Central Farm at Ottawa. This last is our chief concern, as it is intended to exert its influence over the farmers of the Province of Quebec.

The extent of the important central station is 466 acres. It is situated on the outskirts of the city of Ottawa, and occupies a gentle declivity, whence one has a splendid view, not only of the Federal capital, but also of the picturesque country in its neighbourhood both in the province of Ontario and in that of Quebec. The soil presents that diversity necessary to the practical working of experimental agriculture. All sorts of soil are present, from heavy clay down to light loam. (1)

The short space of time that has elapsed since its foundation has not allowed this establishment to attain to what may be called the pitch of perfection. Part of the land had to be cleared; buildings had to be erected; implements, both common and special, had to be provided, and the plans of operation to be laid down and combined. Still, the visitor will be agreeably surprised at the high degree of organisation and the perfect state of working which have been secured in so short a time. The fact is, that the Minister of Agriculture has been very fortunate in his selection of the persons entrusted with the management of the farm. They are men thoroughly competent in their several departments, and have been chosen for their merit alone. It may be said in this case with truth, that *the situation has sought the man, and not the man the place.*

Thoroughly equipped in every point, the central farm has now seriously and practically entered upon all the phases of experimentation.

A great variety of trees, of shrubs, and of fodder and leguminous plants, many varieties of grain, the improvement and introduction of which are considered useful to Canada, have been already cultivated there in a careful and judicious manner; and compared with each other.

The chemical laboratory is in full work, and is doing good service to the farmers. At their request are analysed products, artificial manures, and all matters a knowledge of the chemical composition of which may aid and interest the agricultural public.

A short time ago, a French colonist of the Eastern Townships, who is in the habit of examining with care and intelligence the soil of his farm, was anxious to know what percentage of carbonate of lime it contained. He sent a sample of the soil to the experimental farm, by post, and, a short time

And blowing sand.

A. R. J. F.

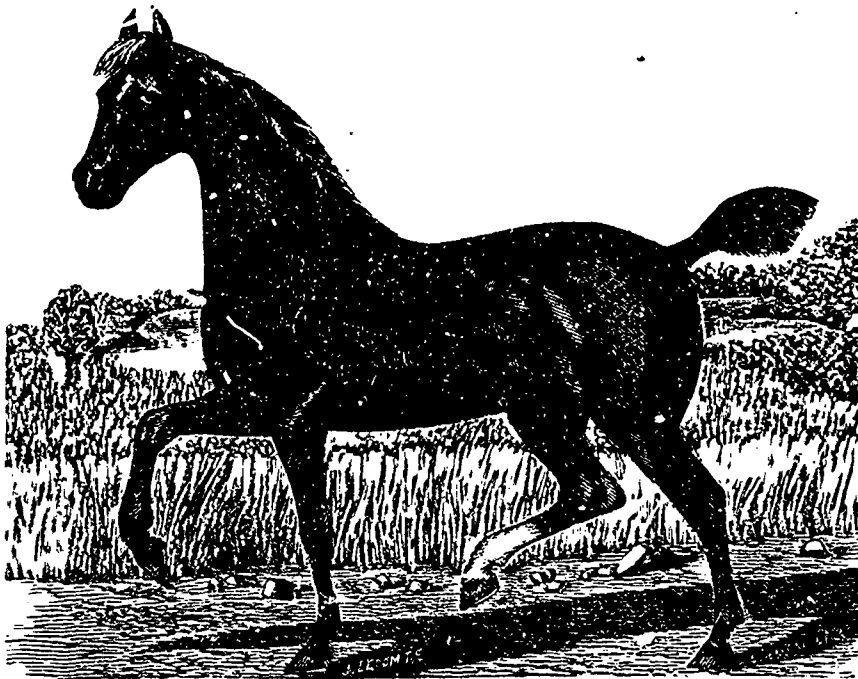
afterwards, received, by the same route, an elaborate report which gave him ample satisfaction.

Last winter, many farmers had recourse to the farm for the purpose of testing the germinating value of the seed offered for sale by the Montreal and other dealers, and this facility offered to all of controlling, free of cost, the quality of their seed, has already had the effect of putting many seedsmen on their guard, and will hinder the perpetration of many abuses.

Special attention is given to the cultivation of fruit trees. Varieties from Russia and other cold climates have been and continue to be imported. As soon as the value of any species is sufficiently proved, and when no doubt remains of its acclimatisation in our country, its general adoption here will be recommended; and more, a gratuitous distribution will be made of cuttings and grafts for the purposes of propagation.

III.

Here is [one] praiseworthy side of the experiments as conducted by a government; the experiments being conducted solely for the sake of instruction and to show the utility of any novelty, it has no interest in boasting about them, or in taking credit for them. Having neither the idea, nor the wish to make a speculation out of them a source of profit, it is not tempted, as a private individual would be, to brag out of all reason, and often prematurely, about the success of its enterprise.



IMPORTED FRENCH COACH STALLION INDRE.

What mistakes, will our honest and sometimes too confiding *habitans* avoid! Four or five years ago, a man from the neighbourhood of Boston, drew thousands of dollars from the pockets of our farmers by selling them young apple-trees, the fruit of which was to surpass anything that had then ever been seen in this country. His promises and demonstrations led to the planting of several orchards, the leaves of which, during the first two years, gave hopes of success; but the rigours of our winters played havoc with these exotics. The nurseryman might have been acting in good faith, but he was not the less a cause of injury and discouragement to those who, like himself, were not aware that our climate resembles that of Siberia rather than the climate of Massachusetts.

A few years ago, a travelling agent went through the country with vine-plants which were to do marvels. Each farmer could plant a vine-yard without trouble, the richest grapes were to be gathered in abundance, and the cellars were to be full of generous wine. Unfortunately, this rival of the Boston