

"Root-crops."—A good deal of difference exists among Ontario farmers as to the best way of preparing the land for root-crops. Mr. Rennie, of Milliken, very sensibly sows roots after oats, the last crop in the rotation, and therefore when the land is in the poorest condition. He probably farms heavy land, as he ploughs in the manure in the fall, though why he should drill up his land in the spring, to sow on that raised surface, we do not see, unless the soil is very wet. In singling, the rows being 30 inches apart, he sets out his mangels at least 24 inches in the rows, which is a perfect absurdity; two feet between the rows and a foot between the plants, would give a far heavier crop and, probably, of a better quality. At the distances, Mr. Rennie uses, there would be 8,712 plants on an acre; at the same distance between the rows and the plants set out a foot in the rows, there would be just double as many, i.e., 17,424.

If the dung is ploughed-in during the fall, as it should be on heavy land, nothing is gained, except, as we said before, on wet land, by sowing on the raised drill, particularly in our hot summers.

Mr. Rennie does not like making drills for potatoes with the double-mould-board plough; he thinks it packs the soil with its long sole. Possibly it may, but if at the first or second time of cultivating, the horse-hoe is let down as deep as it will go, the disturbance it creates will break up any "packing" caused by the d. m. b. plough. Horse-hoe deeply the first or second time; afterwards, as you please.

### THE IMPROVEMENT OF STOCK.

(Official circular).

Department of Agriculture.

Quebec, February 1st, 1901.

Sir,

I beg to draw your special attention to a resolution of the Council of Agriculture, adopted at its sessions of the 23rd and 24th of January last, and intended to aid

the Agricultural Associations in the improvement of farm-stock in this province.

In future, the agricultural Societies will be empowered, when they think it advisable not to hold an exhibition, to devote the grant they receive from the government, either to the purchase of breeding animals—stallions, bulls, etc.,—or to making grants in aid of their keep to the proprietors of stallions, etc., in which cases, the directors of the said societies may return to the members, in artificial manures or grass-seeds, the whole amount of their subscriptions. The agricultural societies will thus have every needful facility of enlisting additional members.

By thus enlarging the sphere of action of our agricultural societies, the Council of Agriculture has only fulfilled the desires so vehemently manifested, and the wants that the whole farming class would, without exception, glad aid in satisfying.

No one dreams of denying the importance of the improvement of stock, and even if there is still a difference of opinion as to the best means of gaining that end, there is no dispute as to the merits of the problem to be solved.

Particular attention should be paid by the agricultural societies to the breeding of "the horse." Of late, England has been buying an enormous number of horses, but, unfortunately, while we were selling the English many a cargo of hay, meat, and canned fruits, we could only furnish them with a very few specimens of the stamp of horse required. Hardly 3 per cent of the horses bought by England came from the Dominion, although Canada is considered to be a country well adapted to the breeding and rearing of horses.

Thus, we lost a favourable opportunity of realising great profits, not because we had not plenty of horses, but solely because we had not the stamp of horse required.

Here, then, in the improved breeding of good horses for the remounts of the army, and, indeed, for trade in general, lies a future for the farming population of the country.