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## Journal of Agriculture and Horticulture

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## COMPETITION OF AGRICULTURAL MERIT, 1897.

### VISITS TO THE FARMS

No 8. M. DÉSIRÉ BÉGIN.

On September 30th, we visited the farm of M. Bégin, at N. D. du Sacré-Cœur of Rimouski ; it contains 150 arpents, 135 of which are in cultivation. An arpent and a-half of orchard is in full bearing in spite of the rather severe climate of Rimouski.

No system of rotation, properly so called, is followed here. Most of M. Bégin's meadows are river-bottoms, alluvial soil, covered at different times by a thin coat of manure and broken up often enough to prevent the soil from getting too sour.

His other lands are well farmed, with plenty of hood-crops.

Had the buildings been in better order and more handy, and were the accounts well kept, we should have felt bound to put M. Bégin in the first class, for we think him by far the best farmer we saw this year.

And we must not pass over the fact that he has carted from his own land and from elsewhere, more than 10,000 loads of stones, with which he has conduited about 125 arpents of drains (750 yards) which work famously, as well as made several other permanent improvements.

The cattle are a good sort for the dairy ; we allowed for them 11.50 out of 15 marks.

M. Bégin keeps one head of horned cattle to every 3 arpents, which is pretty fair in such a climate, with his long rigorous winters.

Among the crops are 2¼ arpents of very fine