

the industrious settler, and to the Province as well, instead of being, as they have been, a continual drain on our resources; but on this condition, that means of ingress and egress for their imports and exports shall be economically and prudently provided, and a salutary watch shall be kept over the settler, to insure a careful attention on his part to the wise cultivation of the soil, instead of his being left at liberty to ruin both himself and the public land, as he has done, and, unfortunately, is still doing.

A wise and active direction must be given to our colonisation. It will need, in the present state of our finances, a special loan, on the guarantee of the public domain, to enable us to place the settler in a position to repay any advances made to assist him in clearing his farm, and to pay for his land at the rate of from \$4 to \$10 an acre, which, in our opinion, is the value of all land in the Province which is worth the pains of bringing into cultivation.

Our point is, that it is possible, and by no means difficult, to draw a return of from \$4 to \$10 an acre from all the public domain sold, instead of giving it away, and paying, in addition, half the amount of the surveys and road-making. If

the Americans in the Western States can, by their railroads, improve the value of their lands, situated as they are thousands of miles from the more thickly populated places, to such an extent as we have seen, cannot we, with our marvellously wealthy forests, situated close to the ports of shipment, hope to equal, if not to excel them, in their patriotic labours.

We shall be prepared to prove our statements when the time comes.

#### Mr. Tasse on the Agricultural Question.

We have received the following deeply meditated communication from Mr. Tassé, President of the committee appointed by the Council of Agriculture to consider the alterations desirable in our agricultural laws.

The writer has been engaged in agriculture, and has found it a profitable occupation, for 35 years. He has read before the Council of Agriculture several papers which have been highly appreciated, and, as President of the Agricultural Society of the county of Two Mountains, he has given general satisfaction.

#### The Agricultural Question.

"The strength and prosperity," says Fénelon, "of a country consists, not in an abundance of badly tilled provinces,

but, in extracting from the soil all that is required for the support of a numerous population."

The question of agricultural improvement is the question most frequently touched upon in this Province. It is seldom, or never, searched to the bottom.

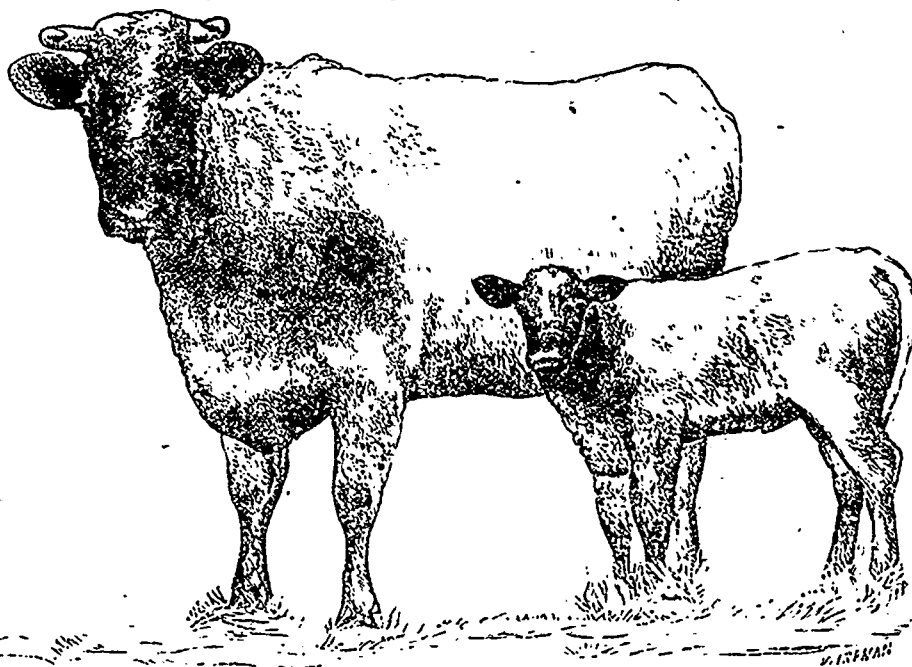
The papers point out from time to time, some of its faults. They never plunge the knife boldly into the quick flesh.

Heaps of documents relating to the subject are laid every year before the Committee of the House—a report is made—the report ends the matter; for the improvement we are still to seek. At last, in 1878, Mr. Barnard and the Abbé Provancher, in answer to the question proposed by the "Institut Canadien" of Quebec. "What is the art of Agriculture in Canada, and how should it be improved?" laid their hands boldly on the wound; they probed it, and pointed out the proper remedies. The essays were published (Côté & Co.) but, in spite of their practical good sense (particularly I would here draw attention to Mr Barnard's brochure) the papers hardly mentioned them, the legislators were too busy with politics to notice them, and Agriculture lies still at the bottom of its burrow, abandoned to its own resources.

It is supposed that, next session, our Agricultural laws will be remodelled.

Now then is the time to recall the opinions of thoughtful men on the subject, and to call attention to the proper means of improving the rules and orders which guide our rural population.

No one can deny that, in spite of a little progress here and there, the state of our farming is deplorable.



Shorthorn Cow and Calf.

Why is it in such a condition? Has the *habitant* no intelligence, no skill, no strength, no courage? It is not these that fail him—he has them all in abundance—but he has also, unfortunately, become accustomed to see, from childhood, the very worst specimens of farming the world can show, and his mind has become imbued with the idea that these wretched examples are to be followed in his practice.

The reformation of a whole people's agriculture cannot be made in an instant. For many a long year attempts at it have been made by schools, societies of agriculture, county and provincial exhibitions, &c., &c. These and other like things have produced but little fruit in proportion to the sums lavished on them (\$2,000,000). What can be the reason of their failure?

The first reason is the defects of our agricultural organisation.

1. The chief of this branch of the public service is the Commissioner of Agriculture and Public Works. He it is who has to put it in motion the whole machine of the administration. to examine the resolutions of the Council of Agri-