

model-farms of which I have spoken. The experimental farm should be under his care, and it should be part his duty to see that all experiments tried on the model-farms should be carefully conducted, and a regular register of their results kept. I need hardly add that the success of this project depends, entirely, on the choice of the person entrusted with these important duties."

It seems to me that a single superintendent for the province would be sufficient, but he should have, in addition to the council of agriculture, active and experienced assistants, each charged, under his direction, with the duty of visiting and inspecting a certain district of the country. These assistants, as soon as they are qualified by experience, would direct and watch over the societies; they would visit the parishes of their respective divisions, they would report as to the wants of agriculture, and would deliver, on the spot, to the farmers of the neighbourhood, familiar lectures containing counsels for their future guidance.

It has been, I think, sufficiently proved that the good administration of our agricultural affairs demands imperiously the appointment of a superintendent of agriculture. We must now enquire what direction he ought to give to the societies, that the public may derive from them that benefit which they have a right to expect.

It is admitted that, although up to this time, most of the agricultural societies have restricted their operations within a very narrow circle, still, that they ought to extend their advantages, as equally as possible, to all the parishes in the country. The means to be employed to effect this are, to offer prizes in each parish for the most useful improvements, and the same for the counties, that the best farmers of each parish may be incited to show themselves the best farmers in their own county. The parish prizes which will do the most good are those offered for the best cultivated farm as a whole. All parts of the cultivated land on each farm should be included in the competition for these prizes; it will show, in reality, who are the best cultivators, and, if the decision is carefully considered, if the judges, in giving their judgement, show by means of marks for each division of the land, the comparative state of advancement at which each farmer has arrived, they will give the best possible lessons on agriculture, since their decision will point out that which is perfect, and how much remains to raise the rest to an equal condition.

Marvellous effects have followed the introduction of this system wherever it has been tried. Cultivators in several parishes, in several counties, have begun their preparations two years before the date of the competition, by improving the whole system of their procedure, and by, as much as possible, curing all the defects of their cultivation. Only good judges are wanting to make these contests exceedingly popular. Our best farmers, as every one knows, are not devoid of pride, and, in every parish, there are at least fifteen or twenty who would be very loath to admit their inferiority to their fellows. Let only a competition be opened in any parish and there will be no want of competitors, many of whom will make arduous efforts to merit and win the prizes, so that, if the umpires do their duty, the winner of the first prize will exhibit to his neighbours a truly *model-farm*, the more useful as a model, in proportion as the judges have pointed out how much remains to be done, before it can be said to have arrived at perfection.

By following out the same system of marks, the judges will easily decide who are the best farmers in each county. Thus, the best farm, in each parish, the best farm in each county, will be patent to the view of all. Talk about *model-farms*, indeed! We want *model-farms* in each county. That is what all sensible men have been asking for during the last fifty years. There can be no means pointed out for the esta-

blishment of genuine *model-farms*, except at a great expense to the country, poor enough, and indebted enough already, so likely to be successful, as the encouragement, by means of the prizes we have spoken of, in each of the parishes and counties of our land, of a sound and honest competition.

But, if this system is to be successful, enlightened and unbiassed judges must be chosen, independent enough to point out the defects of even those farms to which they have given the prizes. They ought to show why certain marks have been assigned to certain bits of cultivation in preference to others. They should, also, give in a carefully revised report of their work, that every farmer may become acquainted with the reasons which have influenced their decisions. If they could manage to read aloud in public, and comment upon their judgment, in each parish of the county, it would be giving one of the best practical lessons in farming, and, one that the farmers themselves would not be slow to appreciate.

To lay down a scale of marks for the guidance of the judges is simple enough. The number of marks, more or less, for each division of the agricultural improvements, would make the farmers understand what are their own points of excellence, wherein their competitors excel them, and what are the particulars of their system which must be corrected before they arrive at perfection.

The Superintendent should have the power of granting certificates, and medals of different value, according to the degree of merit at which each competitor has arrived. An emulation of the most useful kind cannot fail to arise among our agricultural population, if it be once kindled by such devices as these.

I have laid great stress on the prizes for the best cultivated farms, because they seem to me of the greatest importance; but it will be easy to encourage, with such an organization, all the improvements in farming which may be thought necessary, especially the most simple and the most pressing. Neither will this plan put a stop to the provincial and county exhibitions. Still, I think they might well be held less frequently, since they do not pay their expenses, and thus a considerable part of the government grant might be appropriated to the prizes for the best cultivated farms, ploughing matches, etc, in every parish, in every county, and even in every district. For, it must be admitted, these competitions will cause greater improvements to take place in agriculture, than can be expected from the very best managed exhibitions.

As to the best cultivated farm competitions, it will always be difficult to find a judge thoroughly competent to discharge the duties of his function, and who will himself take the trouble to visit each of the parishes of his county. Formerly three judges were necessary; this would only add to the expense, and run the risk of having two incompetent men to one competent. In my opinion, one judge is enough, particularly if a right of appeal, in cases of disputed decisions, should lie to the superintendent. He should carefully watch the labours of the umpires, since the success of this plan will depend, entirely, and emphatically, on the greater or less intelligence and activity which they display in the discharge of their duties. By granting this right of appeal, the competitors will be better satisfied, and the judges will be induced to do their best to deserve the approbation of their chief.

But, however perfect may be the guidance given to the agricultural societies and exhibitions, both provincial and local, it is certain that our system will be incomplete if it do not embrace a thoroughly planned curriculum of agricultural instruction.

As far as I can see, this teaching should include first, the publication of a short elementary treatise, thoughtful, but essentially practical, secondly, the publication of a good journal of agriculture, with illustrations, thirdly, instruction in the