

of things. It questioned these who are at the head of these schools. The replies never varied: "why don't you make your pupils plough?" "They would plough our land badly." "Why don't you make them sow your crops with the sowing machine, mow with your mowing machine, reap with your harvesters? They would break our tools, and make bad work." "Why don't you entrust your elder pupils, each in his turn, with the care of the cattle and the cowsheds, under the inspection of the bailiff (*steward, grievé*), of the director, or of one of the professors." "No dependance can be placed upon them (*the lads* ?); after all, they are only learners; they would neglect the most important part of their work."

In short, every operation which would tend to develop the intelligence of the pupil, to ripen his judgment, to give a feeling of responsibility, in a word to cause him to make genuine progress, is forbidden him, lest his *inexperience be productive of loss to the college to which the school is attached*. If the lads are put to work at all, it is only at some simple job: to clean out the cowsheds; carry away the dung, curry the cattle, give them their hay, drive the dung-cart, &c. It is only fair that the pupils should do all this work, and, above all, do it well, without omitting the least detail—a point on which we cannot be too particular—but are we to confine thoroughly practical agricultural instruction within such narrow limits as these?

The object of the committee is, not to find fault with the colleges of Ste-Anne and l'Assomption, which are now entrusted with the care of our agricultural schools, but to improve the present system.

It must not be forgotten that these institutions manifested much devotion in undertaking this charge, assuming thereby a responsibility that, of right, belonged to the government.

How far can the government insist that these farms, these buildings and stock, to the purchase of which it contributed nothing, shall be devoted to use of agricultural schools?

Is it not the duty of the colleges of Ste-Anne and l'Assomption to try to win from their property, a property worth a good deal of money, as much revenue as possible for their own support, as well as to enable them to fulfil the purpose for which they were established, a purpose which by no means included the teaching of agriculture?

It will be said that these colleges receive from the public considerable grants for their schools of agriculture: let us see in what these grants consist:

1. \$2,000, a year, to be expended in conformity with the instructions of the Council of Agriculture, to pay the professors and the directors, as well as for the heating, lighting, &c., of the building, but no part of which is intended to compensate the colleges for the use of its property, except as regards the rent and insurance of the school-house. The amount paid as salary to the farm-steward, out of the \$2,000, is utterly insufficient for the remuneration of a man well qualified for his position; one who would devote the necessary time to the pupils.

2. A certain number of bursaries, which are more to the advantage of the pupils than of the colleges.

What profit can the colleges make out of boarding and lodging pupils at \$6 00 a month each? The labour of the lads is the sole compensation offered to the colleges for the use of their working-stock, buildings, &c.

To this (*labour*) the colleges do not attach much value, though, under a better system, benefit could be derived from it; but up to what point would this compensation give the government the right to use the property of the colleges for the advantage of the schools of agriculture?

If a portion of the farm is devoted exclusively to the use of the agricultural pupils, to enable them to learn on the spot all the operations practised in farming, and to explain and

exhibit thereon all the necessary experiments, &c., it must be expected that the colleges will have to incur certain extra expenses, some diminution in the net revenue of the farms, as well as some inevitable losses resulting from the inexperience of the pupils.

This point deserves consideration.

Without in any way discussing (*soulever*) this delicate question, and especially without making any bargain for the future in the name of the government, the committee persuaded the directors to at once set about finding a good farm-steward; to introduce this summer certain improvements in their system of agricultural teaching, as, for instance, to drain at least an *arpent* of land with underground drains executed by the pupils themselves; to let the lads milk the cows during a space of time sufficient to teach them how to milk properly, &c.

It is not, perhaps, impossible to make an equitable arrangement which would give the government the right to insist upon the agricultural schools fulfilling the end for which they were created; still, the affair presents many difficulties, practical as well as theoretical.

The committee did not think itself justified in opening any negotiations with the directors of the colleges on this subject, but refers the question to the Council of Agriculture and the government.

At any rate, it is indispensable that it be insisted upon that the pupils be taught, not only theoretically, but above all, practically, in the fields, as well as in the cattle-sheds and in the class-room, all that a model-farmer ought to know, if it is intended that our schools render some service to the cause of agriculture, for which art there still remains so much to be done in our province.

GÉDÉON OUMET.

Quebec, May 26th 1891.

The above report was unanimously adopted.

The Council was informed by Mr. S. C. Stevenson, secretary of the Montreal Exhibition Company, that a provincial exhibition will be held at Montreal from Thursday, Sept. 17th, next, to Friday the 25th of the same month.

The president stated to the Council the action that had been taken in favour of ensilage and the building of silos. Two thousand four hundred dollars have been offered in prizes, or as special encouragement, to the members of the different agricultural societies of the province; the notices, with all necessary details, will appear in the *Journals of Agriculture*.

At the request of the Abbotsford Horticultural Society, permission was given to the horticultural societies to pass a rule by which the secretary shall have the right to receive an indemnity, not exceeding seven per cent, on all the moneys expended and paid by the society, in compensation for all the services rendered by the secretaries to the societies.

The Council of agriculture empowered the secretary to send to the societies, whose programmes of operations for the current year are not yet *en règle*, a formal and final notice that if, within the delay to be fixed by the Department of agriculture, these societies shall not have conformed to the law and to the regulations of Council as regards their programmes, their grant for this year will be suppressed, and devoted to the purposes of those agricultural improvements provided for by section 1671 of the law.

With a view of making the use of the different commercial fertilisers more general, the Council advises the societies to facilitate their purchase and distribution to their members, and permits the half of the members' subscriptions to be employed in such purchases, provided that this gift take the place of the gratuitous grant of timothy- and clover-seed