

organization. During the year 1898 there were 516 farmers' clubs in operation. One can be established in each parish or township. A club has seven directors. Its object is to promote improvement in agriculture and horticulture. (1) By holding meetings for discussion and for hearing lectures on subjects connected with the theory and practice of improved husbandry; (2) by promoting the circulation of agricultural papers; (3) by offering prizes or essays on questions of theoretical or practical agriculture; (4) by importing, or otherwise procuring, animals of superior breeds, new varieties of plants and grain, and seeds of the best kind; (5) by organizing plowing matches, competitions respecting standing crops and the best cultivated farms; (6) by procuring books, reviews, and newspapers treating of agricultural subjects for the use of their members; (7) by promoting and favoring experiments in farming, manure, and improved agricultural machinery and implements.

The Journal of Agriculture, published twice a month by the department of agriculture in both English and French, is sent to every member of a club. The Journal penetrates now into every region of the Province. Many of those clubs have several meetings every year, in order to hear lectures and discussions on agricultural subjects. Two lecturers are employed by the department to give lectures before those clubs. Other lecturers also visit those associations. Besides the salary of the official lecturers, there is a vote of \$3,000 to pay the traveling expenses of those lecturers. The salary of each lecturer is \$1,600 a year. The annual grant given by the Provincial government to each club is from \$25 to \$50, according to the number of members. The total amount paid last year was \$19,542.71. The number of their members was 40,993; they subscribed \$51,037.85. In 1887 they spent for agricultural purposes \$85,747.92.

The lectures given before the farmers' clubs are popular and well attended. The institutes or meetings are generally under the auspices of the farmers' clubs; sometimes the lecturers will hold meetings of farmers in a parish or township where there is no club, but, in such cases, the organization is not so good and the meetings are not so well attended. The official lecturers hold every year about 200 or 300 meetings of farmers. Many clubs hear lectures from persons not employed by the department. There are many lectures given every year by Roman Catholic priests who take an interest in agriculture. The existence and usefulness of many clubs are due to some of these priests. The annual programme adopted by each club must be approved by the commissioner of agriculture.

RHODE ISLAND.

1891. No specific appropriation. About 10 institutes were held during the year at an average cost of about \$40 each. These were held under the auspices of the State board of agriculture. For a few win-

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