

Agricultural School should do its utmost to engage the services of a permanent well qualified principal for that institution, and that, on this condition and provided that the proprietors furnish to the Government sufficient guarantees for its existence, on a proper footing, for a certain number of years, the Council recommends that the same subsidy granted to the other schools be paid to the proprietors of the Richmond school. (Carried.)

*Resolved*: That the Government be requested to add the sum of \$1400 to the annual grant to the Council, to enable it to meet the subsidies payable to the Agricultural Schools.

M. G. Ouimet, seconded by M. A. Casavant, moved:

That the cultivation of the farms attached to the Agricultural Schools ought to be carried on in accordance with the agricultural instruction given in such schools, and that the manager (*professeur-gérant*) should have all the latitude necessary to direct the work in accordance with it. (Carried.)

Certified true copy.

GEORGES LEOLERO, Secretary.

Quebec, 30th November, 1887.

(From the French.)

The London Chamber of Commerce offers a prize of £50 for the best sample of tobacco grown in England or the Colonies. Great efforts are being made in England to encourage the growth of this plant. The opportunity is worth taking for Canadians to be among the first occupants of the English market. The samples should be sent before the 1st December, 1888, to the Chamber of Commerce, tobacco section, London, England. For further directions, address Mr. Kenrick B. Murray, Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, Botolph Street, Eastcheap, London E. C., England.

*Le Courrier du Canada*—7th Dec. 1887.

(From the French)

Should any of my readers care to try for the above prize, I shall be very happy to answer any questions in connection with the growth of the different qualities of tobacco. According to my experience, the small Canadian pointed leaf sort, with a queer-looking bent stem, sown in a hotbed in the first week of April, pricked out into a cold-frame in May, and finally set out in the open about the 10th of June, would be as likely to win the prize as any. Observe that quality, not size of leaf, is the desideratum.

ARTHUR R. JENNER FOST.

#### DE OMNIBUS REBUS.

Box 109, Lachine—Nov. 1st, 1887.

The *Montreal Star* which does not often concern itself with agricultural matters, has, in its issue of October 31st, a very sensible article on the neglect of growing roots in the province of Quebec.

After observing that "in Great Britain and Ireland the failure of the turnip-crop is looked upon as almost a national calamity," but that "here in Quebec they do not give the roots a chance to fail, as they do not sow them," the writer goes on to say that "those establishments of very dubious utility, our agricultural schools, do little or nothing to inculcate the knowledge of growing turnips or other root-crops, and agricultural societies in rural districts, as a rule, quite ignore the poor roots, or give them such a decided back-seat on their prize-lists, that they have not the heart to vegetate."

All perfectly true, and the reason of this neglect is perfectly clear: the farmers, in the French-Canadian districts especially, have never learnt how to grow roots, and, as far as I can see, they have nobody to teach them—the schools of agriculture have not, certainly, done this duty; and to tell

the truth, the absurd way in which those who have tried, from their own heads, to cultivate root-crops, and the enormous sums they have expended in hoeing, singling, and other operations, have long ago convinced me that until a "travelling tutor" is sent over the province, with instructions to afford information on this important subject to all inquirers, the less the French-Canadian farmer has to do with root-growing the better.

For example: M. Pierre Guèvremont, of Sorel, tells me that, up to the year 1885, he had given up *trying* to grow roots. He had made several *coups d'essai*, but as he found that the expense of hoeing came to at least \$14.00 per acre, he had retired beaten from the field. Now, however, he will not hear of the manual labour costing more than from \$2.50 to \$3.00!

M. l'abbé Chartier, *procureur* of the Seminary of St. Hyacinthe, puts the cost of the cultivation of mangolds at \$12.00! This, of course, is for singling and hand-hoeing!

M. Séraphin Guèvremont, of Sorel again, will not hear of the hoeing and singling of root crops costing more than \$3.00 an acre.

There is no earthly reason why, when the people understand how to set about it, the cost of cultivating roots should exceed the cost of growing them in England by more than the difference between the wages of the two countries. In Kent, where the day wages of farm-labourers have always been high, I used to pay 7s. 6d. (\$2.00) an acre for two hoeings, the crop to be left singled out at 12 inches apart (swedes or mangolds), and the land perfectly clean. Piece-work wages in Kent were 72 cents, (1) which would, allowing for the difference represent 80 cents here, quite as much as the average day-labourer earns; so that an acre of roots ought to be singled and hoed here for \$2.66, which, as we saw above, is about what they do cost when the work is done by these who understand how to do it.

In Scotland, a woman will single, with the hoe, half an acre of turnips in a day, and Mr. Henry Stephens, in his "Book of the Farm," relates that he, with twenty women, singled 82 acres of turnips in 8 days! As, when he wrote, women in Scotland only earned 20 cents a day, this would make the cost only 40 cents an acre. Pretty cheap work!

"The barn of the average Quebec farmer," continues the *Star*, "is a veritable *hortus siccus*, and his young cattle, as they stagger into the fields in the spring, after their six month's regimen of sapless straw, look like a lot of very acute angular frames, with exceedingly old and shabby buffalo robes tacked over them. All this would be changed if he got into the way of growing turnips enough to give his stock even an occasional feed." True again, but then how are they to be persuaded to get out of the rut in which they have been travelling all their lives? I really do not see, except, as I said before, by travelling missionaries being sent round the country. And it will be more difficult than ever to persuade French-Canadians to grow roots, now that some of their leading men have been building silos, and growing fodder-corn to fill them.

Lastly, the observation of the *Star* that "if a few intelligent farmers took the matter up over the province, and grew an acre or two of roots, we should soon see their example followed by every man who had the acumen to note the improved appearance of the root-fed stock, and the sense to know the reason why,—this I consider to be a most sensible proposition. The only thing against it is, that except these "few, intelligent farmers" follow their more unintelligent neighbours to their very hearths, and din their advice per-

(1) I mean that a man expected to earn 72c a day when at piece-work.