

condition of agriculture in other lands should be of service to us. Glancing across the big pond to France, we find that if the French farmers are in any respect behind us professionally, they cannot charge the government of the country with apathy or neglect in not providing facilities, incentives and rewards for acquiring professional knowledge and skill. The Government of France provides three steps in agricultural education, viz., Farm Schools, Provincial Agricultural Colleges, and the National Agricultural College. Farm schools existed in France in the early part of this century; but in 1848 the care or patronage of them was undertaken by the government as part of a scheme involving the establishment of a farm school in and for each of the 86 departments. The Act providing for their foundation declares the object of these schools to be—To furnish good examples of tillage, and—To educate agriculturists to be capable of intelligent cultivation, either upon their own property or on that of others. The equipment of these farms, and the scheme of instruction are admirably adapted to fulfil these practical objects, so difficult of attainment in agricultural education. The farm buildings and the farming are such as the students should and might, within the means probably at their disposal, have or follow on their own farms, and both are adapted to the peculiar circumstances and wants of the several departments. The schools are placed under the supervision of Local Boards, composed of practical farmers, and each has a Director, who must be one of the best farmers of the department, a farmer, an overseer of accounts, a nursery gardener, a veterinary surgeon, and an instructor in the specialty of the department, an expert in the management of the vineyard, in the cultivation of silk, the care of sheep, etc., as the case may be. The directors are required to conduct the farms so as to afford the best means of instruction for the pupils, and at the same time so that the aggregate results of each year's operations shall be equal to that of other farms of the department. Failure in this respect for two consecutive years incurs expulsion, and the Board selects another director. The directors are obliged to submit their books, accounts, etc., to the government for inspection of farm schools; to present an annual report to the Minister of Public Instruction, and to publish a full account of each year's farm operations. The Government boards the pupils, who are all expected to work on the farms, and makes each an annual allowance of \$14 for clothing. Three hours per day on an average are devoted to instruction, the first in studying a manual, or listening to lectures on practical agriculture; the second hour is occupied with lessons on book-keeping, land-measuring, or general arithmetic; and the third to arranging notes taken during the practical instructions of the day, received from the various farm managers or instructors.

There are three Provincial Agricultural Colleges in France, one of these, that of Grignon, the most successful of the three, was established in 1827, and is still in successful operation under six Professors of Agriculture; one of Zootechny (economy of animals); one of Sylviculture and Botany; one of Chemistry, Geology and Physics; one of Rural Engineering, Mechanics and Surveying; and one of Political Economy, Rural Economy, Rural Legislation, Book-Keeping, Literature, etc.

The National Agricultural College was established in Paris, in 1876, and in the following year had 17 Professors and 96 students. The course of study comprises the following subjects:—General and Practical Agriculture, Agricultural Technology, Comparative Agriculture, Rural Economy, Zootechny, Sylviculture, Horticulture, Arboriculture, Viniculture, Chemistry in all its applications to Agriculture, Botany, Zoology, Geology, Physics, Meteorology, Mechanics, Rural Construction, Administrative Law and Rural Legislation.

France has also agricultural schools for girls, the chief of which, situated near Rouen, comprises 400 acres of land, has 300 students between the ages of eight and eighteen years, who do all the farm work, and has a staff of twenty-five Sisters. The graduates of this school are in great demand, on account of their skill as stewards, gardeners, farm managers, dairy-women, laundresses, etc. Each girl receives on leaving the school an outfit and a small sum of money, earned in spare hours; and should any one of them at any time want a home, Darnetel, their alma mater, is always open to them.

A dairy school for girls is to be established at the farm school of Trois-Croix, under the direction of the Minister of Agriculture. The fee for boarders at this school for a six month's course will be \$50. Eight scholarships in this school have been offered by the State. Lately, the French Government has ordered an agricultural course in every primary school in the country. To cap all, an Order of Knighthood, especially for farmers, has been established by the French Government, and is to be conferred on farmers who especially distinguish themselves in their profession. The badge of these knights of agriculture ("Ordre du Merite Agricole") is a fine pointed star of green enamel, surmounted by a wreath of olive leaves, and supported by a green ribbon with a pink edge.

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