

furnish us with a sufficient number of men skilled in all the essential branches of agriculture.

Thirty-five thousand dollars, at least, are given by the province to our agricultural societies! A dead loss, most of it. A comparatively small part of this, added to the grant already made to schools, would keep one or even two, pupils from each county at our schools. Would it not, we ask, be better that one-third of the grant to the societies be diverted from them, and that they should thus have the opportunity of having one of their number taught in our agricultural and dairy-schools? For us, who have probably had more experience in this matter than any one else, on account of our frequent meetings with agricultural societies and clubs, the reply is easy: the sums now granted to the agricultural societies cannot bring to the province the *one-hundredth* part of the benefit to be derived from the diffusion of a good system of agricultural education! And this education to be thorough, should carry with it encouragement to the agricultural clubs, in supplying them, from our schools, with suitable lecturers.

This, Sir, is my principal point. I know well your desire to improve the state of our agriculture. Well, improvement is there. It represents more millions of money than either you or I can mention. (1)

And this improvement, so desirable so sought after, may be realised without any additional expenditure of the public funds. It is for your, Sir, to endow us with that which will indubitably merit the gratitude of posterity.

ONE SINGLE SCHOOL.

Some persons, with, doubtless, good intentions, have, from time to time, strongly recommended the abolition of our present schools, for the purpose of replacing them by one single school, conducted on the same principle as the College of Guelph, Ont., and Lansing, Michigan. After much thought, and after having carefully examined these institutions and studied the course of lectures given there, I have come to the conclusion that the project is both unjust and impossible of realisation. Unjust, because our present schools have vested interests, and do not deserve to be abolished. Impossible of realisation, 1. because one single school however good, cannot give to our whole agricultural population, the practices of which are so varied, the instruction which three district schools can give, schools situated in totally different circumstances, following plans based on the respective wants of their particular districts, and offering by their system of cultivation those precious teachings which well managed model-farms are able to present. This latter point is the less to be despised, since our agricultural population does not possess the advantages common in Ontario and in the United States.

(1) To show that we do not at all exaggerate, we will cite the progress due to dairy-work in two parishes with which we are acquainted. At St Jean Baptiste de Rouville, six prosperous cheese factories are in operation. The revenue of the six exceeds, I am told, sixty thousand dollars a year. At St Justin, Trois-Rivières, three years ago, there was only one small factory. This year, two cheese and butter factories gave \$22,000 to their patrons. The parish, three years ago, was considered poor, and the farmers were in debt. To-day it is so prosperous that the real estate is worth twice as much as it was three years ago. This increase, equal to a million dollars and more, is due solely to the successful introduction of dairy-work, assisted by the efforts of the indefatigable Curé, Mr. Gené, and his intelligent parishioners.

Lastly, it appears by indisputable official documents that the annual value of the agricultural products of the province exceeds \$70,000,000, and that it is very possible to double and triple this amount by a well planned system of farming which will necessarily follow a practical and thorough system of agricultural instruction.

where the farms of skilled European agriculturists offer models of cultivation to every passer by. For this reason, Ontario especially may well content itself with one institution, based rather on the study of the sciences attaching to agriculture and on new experiments in cultivation, than on sound practice only, such practice as all good farmers are supposed to follow on their respective farms; 2 Still more difficult of realisation, because Lansing and Guelph cost at first a sum of money almost inconceivable to us (about \$500,000 and \$350,000 respectively) and still cost for their annual expenses a sum equal to four times as much as our three schools together cost this province; 3. Not to be realised, since our people do not yet feel the need of, and consequently do not desire an agricultural education rather scientific than practical, such as is given to the sons of English and Scotch farmers, who are, for the most part, accustomed from their childhood to view daily the best practical cultivation in Europe; and lastly, because of the two distinct peoples of which the population of this province is composed—different in religion, in language, and in habits—differences which would render impossible, or nearly so, the proper direction of such an establishment.

OKA, WENTWORTH—SOREL.

I cannot finish this report without expressing the pleasure I felt during my visits to Oka, Wentworth, and Sorel. I do not hesitate to say that our province has just been enriched with three institutions where agriculture of the most advanced and most profitable, and therefore of the most model kind, is put in practice, to the benefit of the neighbouring people and even of the whole province.

The Trappist Fathers, at Oka, and the Marianite Fathers, at the agricultural orphanage at Notre-Dame-de-Montfort, have not yet been two years in the province. Nevertheless, any one passing near these establishments must see at once that the good *fathers* are thorough masters of agriculture, and that they hold this art in high esteem, for the *fathers* themselves work for a great part of the day in the fields, while the *brothers* labour still longer than our most earnest farmers, in addition to the time spent in their religious duties. The progress they have made since their arrival in the county is quite astonishing, and promises much for the future.

I can say the same of the farm attached to Lincoln College, Sorel. Mr. Jenner Fust, our very able editor of the English Journal of Agriculture, took the management, only last spring of a farm of sandy soil, excessively foul and completely worn out by frequent cropping. He has already transformed it to such a point that one sees there a great and successful variety of hoed crops; there are plants quite new to the country, such as *rape* for fattening sheep, and new varieties of cereals, the success of which shows how well our editor understands the wants and the circumstances of this province. Already a considerable number of pupils attend, of their own accord, the very interesting course of lectures which Mr. Jenner Fust continues to give at the college.

Later on, I will return to the instruction which these three last institutions afford us. In the meantime, the whole country may well be glad to see the precious gift it has received in the establishment of such places, devoted to the teaching of the best agricultural processes without the expenditure of a single dollar of the public funds.

ED. A. BARNARD.

From the French.

Since writing this report, Mr. Jenner Fust informs me that he too, is trying to bring to perfection our excellent