

with the breeders of western Canada. The almost exclusive cultivation of grain for sale can no longer pay us, on account of the competition of the western States. Besides, our late spring and our premature autumns make grain-crops hazardous.

For many a long day, then, we must direct our efforts to a system of farming devoted chiefly to the rearing of stock for dairy-purposes.

#### THE CULTIVATION OF GRAIN CROPS.

All the same, we do not wish to lead people to think, from the preceding statement, that we are opposed to the growing of grain-crops; far from it, we would suggest a system of rotation that, while leading the farmer to put most of his land into pasture and meadow, will show him how to cultivate the rest in roots and grain. The keeping of a large stock of cattle for the dairy will enable the farmer to make plenty of dung, which will furnish him with the means of manuring abundantly the small extent of land he keeps under the plough, and from this reduced area he will obtain three or four times the yield he used to harvest under the old system of routine. But a point on which we must insist, everywhere where other manures besides dung cannot be economically obtained, is that the whole of the produce of the farm must be consumed by the cattle and the family of the farmer. According to this system, the products that are sold off the farm must only be butter, cheese, and meat, poultry fed on the refuse of the dairy, the grain, and the fodder consumed, and the crops of some fruits that suit the locality and that sell well.

#### SELECTION OF SEED

In order to successfully institute a system of cropping like the above, as well as any other sort of farming, the first thing necessary is to know how to select seed. In our province, we have, most emphatically, to reckon with the severity of the climate. Both for cereals and grasses we must look for hardy and quick-growing sorts. Another point: we must choose those that tend to overpower weeds. Weeds are one of the greatest curses, if not the greatest curse of our agriculture. In every one of our journeys we saw, queening it over charlock, daisies, wild chicory, tansy, alongside of their worthy rivals, both common and sow-thistles. Almost universally, when we searched for the original cause of this invasion of weeds, we found that it was attributable to foul grass-seeds, bought frequently, because they were cheap, by some careless or ignorant farmer. Wherefore, we think it our duty to stigmatise the disastrous work of certain seafarers who thus expose for sale foul, damaged seed, to tempt the cupidity and the poverty of farmers, whom cheapness invariably seduces.

#### EXPERIMENTS IN CROPPING AND BREEDING.

To help us to make a judicious choice, not only of our seed but also of our cattle, we have positive need of experiments. For, the province of Quebec occupies an immense superficies between the 45th and 49th degrees of latitude, and the difference of climate between these two extremes is immense. Nothing, then, but the experience of the farmers of each region can teach them what suits them and what is useful to them. For instance, certain kinds of maize which do very well in the extreme west of the province, fail entirely in the east. We may justly recommend the fine Ayrshires or the Jerseys, both so product-

ive of cheese and butter, to a western farmer; while to one in the east we must say: stick to your little Canadian; improve her by selection, feed her well, for she is the cow of all others best suited to your austere climate. Above all, do not be in a hurry to sell the best specimens of this good and useful breed to the western breeders, who, convinced of their merits, come to your farms to buy them.

On this subject of experiments, we are happy to say that the Ottawa Experimental station is doing much good by its distribution of seed of all kinds among our farmers. We know many who have availed themselves of this distribution and have greatly benefited by it.

#### HORTICULTURE.

Not only are the experiments mentioned above necessary to successful field-work, but they are also useful in the garden; for, if the field supplies the household with bread, it is indebted to the garden for those delicious vegetables, those appetising condiments, which are not only agreeable to the taste, but are also necessary to the maintenance of a salutary equilibrium in the general economy of food, and to the preservation of the health of the members of the family. In certain parts of the province, horticulture is held in honour; and in the neighbourhood of the great towns it is a source of large profits to those who carry it on. Contrariwise, in but too many places, it is sadly neglected, and we have seen too many farms where the garden is a thing unknown.

#### FRUIT-TREE CULTURE.

All that we have said about the garden is applicable to the orchard. In every place, the farmer may, with some trouble, grow fruit for his family. We say "in every place, since, even in the farthest North-east, where the plum and the apple are much more difficult to grow, cherries, raspberries, currants, and strawberries will succeed. Fruit-growing which, in these less favoured regions, is hardly to be recommended except for the use of the household, may be made a source of great profit on local and foreign markets for those farmers who undertake it on a liberal scale. In the eastern part of the province the most favourable region for the plum and the cherry is found from Kamouraska to Quebec.

These fruits succeed well along the St. Lawrence from Quebec to Montreal. We saw with pleasure that several attempts at growing the newly imported Russian apples are going to extend the cultivation of this excellent fruit much farther into the northern and eastern parts of the province than it reaches at present.

#### SILOS.

To return, before we conclude, to regular farming, we must say something about the practice of ensilage relatively new, but now becoming very common in the province. In order to establish, in a general manner, a system of rational cultivation, suitable to the dairy industry, recourse must indisputably be had to the silo, if it be desired to obtain the greatest possible yield of milk at the least possible cost. Indeed, to make the dairy pay, our cows must be induced to give milk throughout the year. Now, in winter, this continuous yield of milk can only be cheaply ensured by the use of silage or by the use of fodder treated with hot water. We cannot too highly congratulate our legislators on their having offered prizes to encourage the construction of silos. On the other

hand, we are delighted to see the number of farmers who have put in for these prizes, and we trust that the movement brought about by this plan will increase more and more. As an encouragement to those who propose to go in for ensilage in the future, we can assure them that, throughout our tours, we never saw one farmer who had made a silo who would now be without one; and that, on the contrary, we saw many who intended to double the capacity of those they already possess.

#### THE DAIRY-INDUSTRY.

We return, for a moment, to the dairy-industry because, as may be elsewhere easily seen, according to what we have already said, we consider it as the basis of all good farming in our province. We attack it anew to beseech our legislators to continue their encouragement of this great business, to pray our *agronomes* to continue their instructions on the subject, to popularise the knowledge of its principles, and to develop its latent resources; that our farmers may be encouraged to practise it more and more, and to profit by the numerous advantages which are offered to them in order to render it still more profitable.

#### FARM-IMPLEMENTS.

In making a fair copy of these our notes on the Competition of Agricultural merit, for the present report, we observed that one of the things that have helped the numerous competitors in the improvement of their farming is the judicious use of perfected agricultural implements, such as those that are within the reach of all those that care to get them. Every thing in this line is improved: ploughs, harrows, rollers, grubbers, mowers, horse-rakes, harvesters, separators. All these apparatus have been the constant study of engineers and agricultural mechanicians, and enable nowadays the intelligent farmer to perform, perfectly and with ease, those operations that, formerly, were among the most laborious, the most difficult of execution. As instances of these improved implements, we note, cursorily, the subsoil-plough, the disc harrow, the iron wheel-roller, the *Acres* pulveriser, chain-harrow, the *Excelsior* chaff-cutter, &c., &c. Of these it may be said, without exaggeration, that to those who use them with intelligence and true economy, they return more profit than they yield to the firms that make them.

#### RESOURCES TO BE IMPROVED IN EACH SECTION OF THE PROVINCE.

In every region, the wisdom of Providence has assigned all that is necessary to the well-being of its inhabitants. This is as true as regards our province as it is as regards all other countries. Beginning at the East, we find the *Baie des Chaleurs*, a district eminently fitted for pasturage and root-crops, especially potatoes, thanks to the abundance of manure furnished by the sea. The climate of this part is also well suited to fruit culture, as we saw "with our own eyes." Travelling westward, we found the country between Rimouski and Quebec to be excellently adapted to dairying, on account of the facilities it offers for the economical production of pasture and fodder plants. No place is more suitable to sheep-farming than the higher districts of this region. Onwards, towards the west, south of the St. Lawrence, we enter the fine valley of the Chaudière, and the splendid Eastern-Townships, the ancient name of which, "*Les bois francs*," testifies to the richness of the soil.

Here is the *Eldorado* of cattle-breeders, who formerly devoted themselves to the production of meat, but they, too, have now become dairymen. To the north of the Townships, on both sides of the St. Lawrence, dairying is coming to the front. Lastly, around Montreal, and all over the western part of the province, the climate being more favorable, agriculture is flourishing in all its various branches: horticulture, fruit-growing, dairying grain growing, tobacco planting, and the breeding on a large scale of horses, cattle, pigs, sheep, poultry, &c., all are carried on successfully.

#### TENDENCY TO ASSOCIATION.

A remark that applies to all those parts of the province over which we have just cast our eyes, is that great good has been effected by co-operative work. Progress we found invariably wherever associations of farmers had been formed. Farmers' clubs, dairy men's associations, syndicates of creameries and cheese-makers, cattle-breeders' clubs, all those associations that serve to bind together like a faggot our agricultural class, and to guide the members along the road of improvement, have worked, and are now working before our eyes, marvellous developments of our national resources.

Let us, then, congratulate these men of progress, of investigation and labour, who, possessing the faculties required to manage these associations, form them, direct them, and distribute to their members, as their daily bread, the information which they need, in order to promote the great and noble calling of agriculture, the gallant craftsmanship of which art the order of Agricultural merit was instituted to crown.

The whole respectfully submitted,

B. CASORAIN,

JAMES MCINTOSH,

Judges of the provincial competition of agricultural merit.

#### Provincial competition of agricultural merit.

THIRD YEAR, 1892.

#### AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT NO 3.

Order of Merit.	Names.	Addresses.	Counties.	Total Points
1	R. H. Mooney,	Inverness,	Mégantic,	23 74
2	Cyril Quillet,	Kamouraska,	Kamouraska,	25 75
3	E. C. P. Chev- reuil,	Somers- et,	Mégantic,	26 63
4	Jos Langlais,	Rivière-Qué- bec,	Kamouraska,	27 69
5	F. A. Talbot,	St-Thomas,	Montmagny,	28 5
6	Louis Belisle,	St-Fabien,	Rimouski,	28 56
7	Charles Doucet,	St-Victoire,	Arthabaska,	28 56
8	F. X. Lé- vesque,	St-Pierre,	Montmagny,	28 56
9	Rémi Belisle,	St-Fabien,	Rimouski,	28 56
10	Chs P.	Letellier, Rivière-Qué- bec,	Kamouraska,	28 56
11	Jos Thompson,	Indre,	Beauce,	28 56
12	Idred O. Lavelle,	Dudswell,	Wolfe,	28 56
13	Damas Caron,	Rivière-du- Loup,	Témiscouata,	28 56
14	Alr. Sirois,	St-Anne de Lapointe,	Kamouraska,	28 56
15	D. McCalhoun,	Indre,	Beauce,	28 56
16	H. W. French,	Trois-Pistoles,	Témiscouata,	28 56
17	Edgar Gagnon,	St-Fabien,	Rimouski,	28 56
18	Dame Ve A.	Gagnon, St-Fabien,	Rimouski,	28 56
19	La Rivouack,	Warwick,	Arthabaska,	28 56
20	Tor. D. Lavelle,	Dudswell,	Wolfe,	28 56
21	Louis Parry,	Weldon,	Wolfe,	28 56
22	Chs Quillet,	Kamouraska,	Kamouraska,	28 56
23	Chs P.	Hudon, St-Anne de Lapointe,	Kamouraska,	28 56
24	Jos. Vignean,	St-Sophie,	Mégantic,	28 56
25	Jos. Chenard,	Ble,	Rimouski,	28 56
26	James Yeo,	Rivière-du- Loup,	Témiscouata,	28 56
27	J. P. Lebel,	New-Carlisle,	Beauce,	28 56
28	George Lebel,	Cacouna,	Témiscouata,	28 56
29	Cal. Nichaud,	St-Victoire,	Témiscouata,	28 56
30	Sam Edwards,	Inverness,	Mégantic,	28 56
31	Onk. Lupton,	St-Valère,	Beauce,	28 56
32	P. Bessignol,	St-Denis,	Beauce,	28 56
33	Thos. Côté,	Trois-Pistoles,	Témiscouata,	28 56
34	Edgar Hamel,	Hercourt,	Nicolet,	28 56
35	Alfred Picher,	St-Georges,	Nicolet,	28 56
36	Onk. Talbot,	St-Michel,	Beauce,	28 56
37	Alr. Deveau,	Lambton,	Beauce,	28 56
38	Pierre Godbout,	Lambton,	Beauce,	28 56
39	Néris Richard,	St-Georges,	Nicolet,	28 56
40	Aug. Lafard,	L'Islet,	Beauce,	28 56
41	J. H. St-Jean,	St-Jeanne,	Montmagny,	28 56
42	Th. Roulin,	St-Ovide,	Beauce,	28 56
43	John Stewart,	Inverness,	Mégantic,	28 56
44	Ilyac. Laroze,	Lotbinière,	Lotbinière,	28 56
45	Ger. Caron,	Trois-Rivières,	L'Islet,	28 56
46	P. Laguerre,	St-Romuald,	L'Islet,	28 56