

Copy of the report of a committee of the Hon. Executive Council, dated December 11th, 1886; approved by the Lieutenant-Governor, 11th December, 1886.

No. 501. On the appointment of a veterinary-surgeon.

The Hon. Commissioner of Agriculture and Public-works, in a memorandum, dated 11th December, 1886, recommends that Dr. J. A. Couture, professor of veterinary-surgery at Laval University, be attached to the department of agriculture and public-works as veterinary-surgeon, entrusted with the duty:

1. Of watching over, for the department, the operations of the farm assisted by a government grant for the production and distribution of vaccine lymph;

2. Of inspecting the herds of cattle at the agricultural exhibitions, and at the farms of private persons, and of giving one or more lectures at each of his visits of inspection, in accordance with the instructions of the department of Agriculture;

3. Of keeping, for the department, the herd-book and golden register of Canadian cattle, which is to be established in conformity with the Act. 48, Vict., ch. 7;

4. Of replying, in the *Illustrated Journal of Agriculture*, to questions in connection with veterinary matters that shall be propounded to him through the department;

5. Of fulfilling such other duties connected with veterinary-science as shall, from time to time, be assigned to him by the commissioner of agriculture and public-works.

That the salary of Dr. Couture, as veterinary-surgeon to the said department, be five hundred dollars (\$500) a year, independently of his travelling expenses, and that, until further legislative arrangements be made, this salary be paid to him out of the disposable balances of articles 72 and 77 of the budget.—Certified.

(Signed) JOSEPH A. DEFOY,
Clerk of the Executive Council.

This report was adopted.

A letter was read, from Mr. George Moore, horticulturist and lecturer on agriculture, submitting to the Council a work on the cultivation of orchards, small fruit, and ornamental shrubs, fit for our climate, and advising farmers to beware of the numerous varieties of fruit and other trees, offered them for sale by pedlars, which are too tender for our climate. This letter was accompanied by recommendations from the Hon. MM. Rhodes and Joly de Lotbinière, MM. Auguste Dupuis, St. Roch des Aulnaies, and Hiram D. Moore.

The Council approved, unanimously, of this work, and expressed the hope that the Hon. commissioner of agriculture would be good enough to purchase it and have it printed, in both languages, for distribution in the province.

Another letter from Mr. George Moore was read, drawing the attention of the Council to the importance of the cultivation of the potato, and on the utility of holding a competition and offering prizes of value sufficient to induce our best farmers to show how great a profit can be derived from the best and most economical methods of cultivating that crop.

Proposed by M. Marsan, supported by Mr. Fisher, and carried unanimously; That the Council request the Hon. commissioner of agriculture to have the goodness to institute a competition, next year, for the best and most economically grown crops of potatoes, the competitors being held to make to the department of agriculture a report in detail of their methods of cultivating the crop that may serve as instruction to the farmers of this province.

The following report on the subject of the agricultural schools was read.

Proposed by Mr. Blackwood, seconded by M. Rocheleau:

That the third resolution adopted at the session of the Council of the 12 March, 1891, be amended as follows:

That the Council now open books of pedigree for thorough bred sheep and pigs:

That Col. the Hon. T. Rhodes, MM. Eugène Casgrain, and Robert Ness, be the committee charged to carry on the books of pedigrees;

That Dr. Couture, M. V., be the secretary of the committee;

That the fee payable for each animal registered be 25 cents;

That these fees be used for the payment of the secretary, and that the seal of the Council of Agriculture be affixed to each of the certificates or pedigrees.

Report of the visit paid to the agricultural schools of Ste-Anne de la Pocatière and l'Assomption by the Hon. G. Ouimet, MM. Pilon, Blackwood, and Tarte, members of the committee on schools, and M. Joly de Lotbinière, president of the Council of Agriculture, on March 31st, and April 1st and 2nd, 1891.

While adopting the report of the committee on schools of November 1890, the Council of agriculture, by its resolution of the 11th March last, instructed the committee to visit the schools anew, in the first week of April, to see if it were possible to come to an understanding with the directors for the purpose of carrying out the recommendation of the committee.

The committee did not lose sight of the end proposed by the Council in ordering this second visit. It took great pains to discover the means of making the best possible use of the schools, and it has returned under the impression that it is, perhaps, possible to find those means, and that there is no need to renounce completely all hopes of improvement.

The working-stock is not of course so complete as in the agricultural colleges created and maintained at great cost by the State in other countries; but, such as it is, a certain benefit may be derived from it were it used as it should be for the instruction of the pupils.

The great difficulty there, does not lie in this direction. What is chiefly required is to modify, if possible, the relation existing between the institutions entrusted with the management of our agricultural schools and the schools themselves. It is the duty of the committee to give its opinion on this point frankly, since it is of vital importance to the solution of the problem.

At the latter visit, as well as at the previous one in November last, the committee was much better pleased with the examination of the pupils at l'Assomption than at Ste-Anne's; but, at neither of these schools did it find that any earnest effort had been made to fulfil the first condition of thorough agricultural teaching, which is the instruction of the pupils in the art of combining theory with practice. The only exception seemed to be in the working of the creamery at l'Assomption.

The committee is of opinion that with the present system, the great majority of the pupils on leaving our schools of agriculture have never learned how to direct the operations of a farm in a profitable manner. If, before their entrance into the schools at Ste-Anne or l'Assomption, they did not already know how to plough, sow, drain, &c, they certainly would not learn how to perform these operations there; they would not learn how to use the improved agricultural implements, whose employment has now become indispensable.

As to the care of cattle, especially of mares and cows at parturition, before and after that epoch; as to the rearing of their offspring, the preparation of their food, the milking of cows, &c., the pupils of our agricultural schools obtain in them no practical knowledge of such things.

The committee tried to find out the reason for such a state