

capitals, succeeding well in other enterprises of the same kind.

But what class of men is the best qualified for an active agricultural propagand.

This question was carefully discussed when the school was established.

Was it necessary to form men able to conceive and combine a plan of cultivation and realize it by a skillful organisation and management?

Had they only to form active and intelligent subaltern agents, to train them up to all processes, to the management of improved agriculture, and accustom them to follow with docility the impulse which could be given to them?

A school which has to exercise sufficiently its pupils to make them skilful in manual labour, which has to admit them with the very limited instruction which is the ordinary lot of men resigned to such a secondary position, can act but on very few matters.

Its duty is the more difficult that the mode of culture which is perfect in a locality can be defective in another; and, as it is impossible that the school could foresee the circumstances so various in which its pupils could be placed, it would have to vary infinitely its teaching practical.

Moreover Alsace, Flanders, Switzerland, England, Scotland and other countries, renowned for their improved agriculture, can furnish and have already furnished many farms servants. Experience has proved that however skilful these subaltern agents could be, they are seldom successful; they often see their efforts paralysed by the resistance or want of reliance of the proprietor. Sometimes also these subaltern agents meet with proprietors who are indulgent and easy: the subaltern agent commands and often abuses, and leads sometimes the proprietor in ruinous losses.

We must guard against this half learning, resulting from the observation of some

facts adapted to such or such locality; practised in special conditions, it can, in all others, often have very unfortunate results. How many proprietors have been ruined by the unintelligent application of the best improved methods and implements?

Agricultural Industry wants men knowing thoroughly its resources and condition of existence; who will have sufficiently studied its connexion with wealth, population, commerce, manufactures, to be able to practise judiciously in all localities; men finally, who join to economical science a thorough knowledge of all the technical details of the business, calculated to make them foresee and overcome all the difficulties of practise.

These men will not only be able to select convenient methods to a special position, and have them applied, but even form the necessary farm servants; they will even form these agents with more facility than the schools; their teaching being limited to the useful operations of the establishment, the pupils will much quicker attain the desired perfection. The improvement of each land so constituted will then be placed in the most favorable circumstances, the impulse being transmitted, without effort or resistance, from the motive power to the secondary machineries; each chief will thus be able to form four or five agents: and the benefits the country will reap by such an agricultural instruction will increase in an enormous progression.

We must not forget that agriculture needs great capital. The surest means of getting it employed in the culture of the soil is certainly by enlightening the possessors of these capitals and by gaining their confidence. Now, what means of influence belong to the subaltern agents, who have but an incomplete instruction and whose education is barely sketched.

What proprietor, (in France), has not been startled by some reverses, and is not