

you cannot improve by calling strangers to your aid. To you, emigration is forbidden. You are not fortunate enough to be able to learn, neighbour from neighbour, you are here, isolated in this cold corner of North-America. You will have to instruct yourselves, to draw from your own breast those enlightened men, of whom you are in need!" It was then that were formed these highly educated men, reared in our classical colleges, and it is to our clergy we are indebted for those highly educated men. Well I shall never cease repeating it, you all understand that perfectly familiar phrase: now a days, the clergy must change the step they have been dancing. (*change de planche*) (Laughter.) I do not say, Gentlemen, that the institutions of high education must be abandoned, but I say the clergy must give us farmers, men of good education, and they once interest themselves in this behalf, the work well begun will soon be well ended. I decidedly approve of what we have already done; but the movement must become general. Let them give us the farmer honest, religious, industrious, enlightened, as they have given us the intellectual, daring man of high education, and we shall be a perfect people. On one side, we shall have intellectual progress, on the other, sound, material progress: we shall have good farming.

Then, Gentlemen, let there be no hesitation on the part of the clergy...and let them make ensilage! (Prolonged laughter.)

I am sure it is not Monsignor Labelle who will say: What, the deuce, shall I do in that boat? "Monsignor Labelle understands me, and so does M. Montminy, and the clergy in general understand me. They don't hear me now, but my words will reach them.

I am going to preach you a sermon, Gentlemen. When one finds in any part of the country a well to do farmer, I ask the members of the clergy who are present, if 90 times out of the 100 he is not an honest man, an example to the parish. I know the people, I won't pay you compliments, but I will tell you the truth. Take in any parish the farmer; I don't say the richest farmer, sometimes he is lending money at high interest—but take the farmer in easy circumstances, and you have found an honest man, the example man of his parish, religious, and a man who educates his children properly. He is in an awful rage if he cannot make them priests, advocates, physicians; so much has it entered into the mind and habits of the people to bring up their children in such a way that the higher education may form them for professions. So long has this been preached to us, that the moment a farmer becomes at ease, he must always make one of his family a highly educated man. He, the farmer, has always been a ploughman: his ambition is that his son shall be learned, and able to make little speeches, like I am making to you at present. (Laughter.)

If we could put it into the heads of the people, into the heads of our good curés, to give us the man of good agricultural knowledge as they have given us the man of high education, the province of Quebec would become prosperous. There would be no more emigration, no more need of sending cheese, even No. 2 cheese, to England, not at all: we should have perfect prosperity, and our parishes would be rich. We must come to this, and to this end our curés must make ensilage. I know all about this from experience. If you knew how many letters I have had from curés showing intense devotion to the interest of their parishioners! "Sir, I beg you to tell me what to do, my silage is in danger of perishing, and if the contents rot, the system is for ever dead in this parish. Help me, at this critical juncture, save the silage, and the position is saved. Well, one of these curés, like many others, had no land, not even a village-lot. But he said to himself, in probably another form, what I said do you just now. If I had a farmer

to set the example to others I could do a great deal of good to my parishioners. Then said this curé to himself: If I can't find any one else to do it, I will do it myself. He got one of his people to sow and harvest a piece of maize, he ensiled it, and watched over it; when he saw the silage begin to heat, he slept not. It was the first time he ever made silage, and he did not know how to set about it. The walls of his silo let the air enter on all sides: success you see was impossible. But since that time he has succeeded to perfection, and he wrote to me this year: "There are ten siloes in my parish." Well, Gentlemen, there are ten farmers saved from ruin. He who has made a silo won't be without one, and those who make siloes are always sure of their business succeeding.

There is a farmer who has 25 cows, and not enough to winter them on. Were I to say to him: I will winter your cows for you and hand them over to you fat in the spring, do you think I should be doing him a service, and that he would be convinced of it? Well, that is what the silo will do for you.

With an *arpent* of land you can winter 5 head of cattle. I have said as many as 7 and it has been done too, but I have not yet arrived at such perfection. Do you think that can be done with an *ARPENT* of roots or of grain? By teaching people to grow maize for silage, we teach them the way of wintering stock for almost nothing. By showing farmers how to make silage, you render them a very great service.

As it is getting late, I will not detain you much longer but I have brought with me some small plans (*images*) that I wish to show you. You know what a stern winter we have in Canada. I am about to speak to you on another point, but one still that is connected with ensilage. You know how long our winter are, and how we need good buildings to shelter our cattle during these long winters. We are not in the position of those lucky countries where the stock can be left out all the winter, or at least be merely kept in sheds of light construction. Ours must have warm abodes, for, the less warm they are the more food the animals will consume.

Look around you, Gentlemen; in the province of Quebec what sort of farm buildings is to be seen? In the district of Quebec, in that of Montreal, in this district of Sorel, you see the buildings all of one story; and, in consequence, you have a building of from 100 to 150 feet long, by the side of another of 50 feet, another of 25 feet, and so on. The man who attends the cattle during the whole winter, is obliged to go from building to building, and to leave the cowhouse to get water and fodder from another building.

This system gives the farmer double work, and will certainly cost him in labour twice as much as a building where all his stock could be lodged under the same roof.

I thought, then, I might be rendering a service to the farmers in drawing out the plan which I offer for your inspection, and which consists in constructing a building where everything is collected under the same roof: cattle, manure, and the silo. If your land is hilly you will erect your building on the slope of the declivity, and there will be only one story: you can enter from the level into the upper story from the front, and equally from the level into the lower story from behind.

I have had to build extensive stables for the Haras Company. After they were erected, I thought I would make use of the little experience I had gained to make this plan. I gave all the dimensions, Mr. President, to my architect, who drew out the plan which I am happy to present to you. I have had a thousand copies of it printed, and I have distributed them among my friends, the members of the Federal Parliament, the Senate, the Legislative Council, the members of parliament, the presidents of the Agricultural Societies the