

portance, and followed the example set them, with the effect of increasing the value of their previously worthless land. The price was raised from forty to eight hundred dollars. The total number of acres now worked at "La Briche" for farming purposes is two thousand, yielding sufficient beets to supply the distillery for a hundred days at a hundred tons per day; also a grain crop sufficient to supply three hundred laborers with food. "La Briche" farm has numerous roads and woods, and the most important of the first is shown in the illustration. On each side trees have been planted, rendering the street to the distillery most attractive. Before entering, we pass over a good-sized ditch, which receives the drainage of the enclosure which it surrounds. On entering we pass "Porte d'Hommes," and find

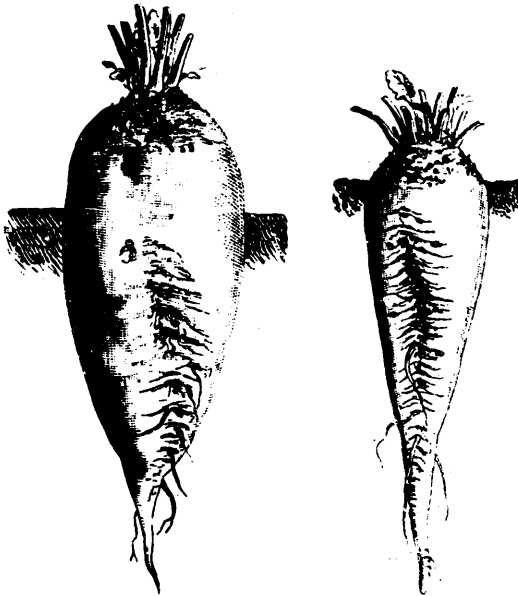


Fig. 1. BAD SHAPE. Fig. 2. IMPROVED VILMORIN.
WHITE SUGAR GRAYISH TOP.



Fig. 3. GOOD SHAPE.
IMPROVED DUPREZ.

an immense yard 450 feet in length and 165 wide. To the right is a large building, the upper stories of which are for the storage of grain, the ground-floor being occupied by the offices of the overseers. Each floor of this building has an area of 4,320 square feet, or, for the three floors, a total of 12,960 square feet, sufficient for the storage of 1,000,000 litres (or about 35,166 bushels) of grain. This building cost \$12,000. On each side of it may be noticed two covered sheds used for housing the farming implements. On the left, after entering the before-mentioned yard, may be noticed three structures which are each 196 feet in length and 85 feet wide, and have a total capacity for six hundred head of cattle. The space between the buildings is a manure-yard. There is a most excellent arrangement for the cattle in the interior. The animals are arranged in four rows. The pulp from the distillery is received in cars that circulate upon tracks visible in the figure, in front of their stables. These stables cost \$100,000.

The large circular structure on the left of the entrance is a sheep-fold, having a capacity of four thousand animals, and costing \$7,000 to build. The distillery is of considerable importance at "La Briche" farm, and the three buildings clustered at one corner of our illustration give the reader an idea of its importance. Alcohol marking 96° B is made, and pure enough to be used in the manufacture of quinine and numerous other chemicals where a solvent is required. The beet-distiller is in France a public benefactor, as the manufacture of alcohol from the beet keeps down the price of almost every article sold in pharmacy, and thus enables the suffering poor to relieve their pains at a low figure. The pulp required for feeding would otherwise be a waste product, and hence is an important factor in the profits.

Besides the buildings mentioned as being within the enclosure, we find others devoted to the cooking, gas manufacture, etc.

In conclusion, we can say that the entire working of "La Briche" farm came nearer to the desired standard than any other of which we know; and much credit is due Mr. Cail for the energy and enterprise there displayed.

WHAT THE BEST SUGAR BEETS LOOK LIKE.

When we experimented throughout the country with various varieties of *sugar-beet* seed, with the view to ascertaining the soils best adapted for their cultivation, we were thoroughly convinced that but few farmers had even a slight idea of *what the sugar beet looks like*. Some, when asked if they had grown these roots, replied that they had, but that they would not continue to do so, as these had not proved to be profitable crops, either in the market or when used for feeding domestic stock; and that they were convinced that the carrot and other roots came nearer to what was required than did the beet. When these gentlemen entered into the details concerning the size, general external appearance, manner of growing, etc., their ignorance of the subject became more and more apparent. For example, in New Jersey we were told that these roots grew some eighteen inches in length, frequently with a diameter of eleven inches; that twenty pounds for their weight was not uncommon; that they grew about one-half above ground; that their flesh was watery, and that hollowness was general. Upon investigation we found that their so-called "sugar beet" was the mangel wurtzel,* or that frequently the ruta-baga† had passed for what it was not. When these farmers were informed that the sugar beet (unlike the mangel wurtzel) grew well underground, that the neck alone was visible, that the diameter of the roots was small, that the color of the skin was nearly white, and that the weight rarely exceeded two pounds, they became convinced that they did not even know *what the sugar beet looked like*. When the beets from our seed were ready to be taken up, we remained upon the field to ascertain by the farmers' actions if the sugar beet had been actually before planted. Their amazement on seeing roots of this kind was beyond description; and they acknowledged that *then* the sugar beet had, for the first time, been grown in their section of the country. Some few roots were fed to their cattle, and they acknowledged the resulting beneficial and fattening effects.

When farmers or those interested in the sugar-beet culture buy seed with the view of testing their soil, it is desirable to know if this was, *when bought*, of the best variety. This cannot be actually ascertained in advance, as the crops alone will be proof

* "Mangel Wurtzel" is derived from the German, and means *scarcely* root; while, on the contrary, it is most abundant. These roots were first known in Germany, and were brought to France by Dr. Lytton.

† This is a Swedish turnip, and contains seldom over two per cent. of sugar.