

Visits to the Farms

Entered in the competition of Agricultural Merit, 1897.

No. 1.—CHARLES BOUTET.

On July 15th, 1897, we visited the farm of Monsieur Charles Boutet, at Ste Victorine d'Arthabaska. It contains 191 arpents (1), of which 125 are under the plough, nearly 66 in bush, and 1½ in garden and orchard.

ROTATION.

1ST YEAR.—Mr. Boutet begins his rotation with a bastard fallow, on meadow or pasture, as the case may be, and on it sows hoed-crops and green fodder with manure.

2ND YEAR.—Wheat, barley, etc., with clover and timothy.

3RD AND 4TH YEARS.—Meadow, followed by one or two years pasture.

Great care is taken to increase the quantity of manure; his system of farming is perfect, without, however, being intensive.

The farm is well divided into fields; and the fences are in good order. The farmhouse is convenient and adapted to the requirements of a family.

Nothing can be better than the barn, and the buildings in general are well laid out, with a dung-pit, etc., etc. The silo M. Boutet has a high opinion of. A good ice house and a hot house complete this very perfect set of farm buildings.

Everywhere the management is good; still, some of the implements, especially the ploughs, might be improved upon.

The book-keeping is relatively well done, but Mr. Boutet would, no doubt, be glad of a set of blank account-forms, which would greatly lighten his burden in this respect.

As to permanent improvements, 5,000 loads of stones have been carted off the land, and used for bridges, drainage, buildings, fences, and in making a road across a swamp 4 or 5 arpents wide.

The water-furrowing is well done, as is the ploughing, though it is not quite perfect. (1)

About 8 arpents of land have been levelled and 12 arpents of ditches straightened. The ditches are made with the horse-shovel, and the earth turned over is used for various purposes.

We found more than 14 arpents of drainage, which must act well, to judge by its good effect on the land.

Five arpents of light soil had been covered with bog-earth, and the good grain-crops on them prove the utility of this admixture. Three arpents of buckwheat had been ploughed in, as amendment on heavy land.

Ninety bushels of lime had been put upon part of a piece of wheat, and the difference of the crop on the part so treated is very easily seen. Several experiments had been made with ashes and salt.

We saw considerable new plantations of forest-trees.

The stock is in part thoroughbred, in part being "graded up;" we allowed 12 out of 15 marks for it.

STATE OF THE CROPS.

In spite of the unfavorable weather of this year, as described by the people of the district, Mr. Boutet's crops are very good.

(1) We may as well say, once for all, that the *arpent* is to the *imperial acre* as 11:13. Thus, 191 arpents are equal to 162 acres. ED.

(1) *Egoutter*—surface work; *drainer* is, of course, English. ED.