



Professor Reed O.A.C., Guelph.

sort of instruction in veterinary science which should be given to young men who intend to follow farming as a business, and his subjects when engaged in institute work cover the same range.

MR. SIMPSON RENNIE, of Kelvin Farm, in the Township of Scarboro', has, like his brother, Mr. William Rennie, of the O.A.C., a well-deserved reputation as being one of the best farmers in the province. Born in 1840, he took charge of his father's farm in 1864, and, although at first only renting the farm, he began at once to improve it by removing stumps and stones, underdraining it, destroying weeds, fencing it, putting up buildings, etc. This work of improvement was continuously kept up, and when, in 1883, the prize farm competition, instituted by the Agriculture and Arts Association, included the district in which Mr. Rennie lived, he was awarded the gold medal for the best managed farm in the group of counties (six or seven) to which the competition was restricted; and when, in 1896, the competition comprehended all the farms that had previously won medals throughout the province, Mr. Rennie was awarded the sweepstakes prize for the best managed



Simpson Rennie, Mi.iken.

farm in Ontario. In their report upon the farms in this competition the judges especially commended Mr. Rennie's system of rotation, the absence from the farm of all kinds of weeds, the thorough state of the tillage, and the neatness with which all the work of cultivation was done. It goes without saying that in his farming operations he follows a regular system of rotation. For a number of years past Mr. Rennie has made a specialty of feeding hogs and cattle; the latter he usually ships to England. But it is as a root-grower that Mr. Rennie is best known to his fellow farmers. He has taken more prizes for field roots at the Industrial Exhibition in Toronto since it was first established than any other exhibitor; and his mammoth and luscious-looking turnips, mangolds, carrots, etc., are always the first things that one sees when entering the building devoted to these products.

Wm. Rennie, Farm Superintendent, O.A.C.

MR. WILLIAM RENNIE, Superintendent of the Experimental Farm at Guelph, in connection with the Ontario Agricultural College, is one of the best-known and most highly thought of agriculturists in Canada to-day. As a *farmer*—that is to say, as a tiller of the soil and a producer of crops—it is safe to assert that Mr. Rennie has no superior, even in this province of good farmers. He was born in the township of Scarboro' in 1835, and in 1860 began farming on his own account in the township of Markham. Ten years later he started in Toronto what was soon to be known as one of the most prosperous and most honorably conducted seed businesses of the country. This business, on his being appointed to his present position in 1893, he resigned to three of his sons, who now conduct it. Mr. Rennie's success as a farmer has been due (among other things) to the methods which he pursues to retain and increase the fertility of the soil he cultivates. By a carefully planned system of rotation of crops, he managed to have a clover sod plowed under on every part of his farm every four years. This left the land rich in vegetable matter and also restored to it the nitrogen it lost in cropping. In fact, his soil was always as rich in fertility as it was in its virgin state. Inasmuch as his farm was run in connection with his seed business it was largely devoted to the raising and testing of new varieties of grains, field roots, and vegetables. In this way Mr. Rennie's experience with crops of every sort, and of the methods of cultivation best suited to produce them abundantly, became very great. When he was appointed to the Farm at Guelph he followed out the methods of cultivation he had previously been so successful with on his own farm, especially shallow cultivation and the regular plowing down of clover sod. The result is that the farm is producing remarkably heavy crops. Mr. Rennie has a love for a beautiful landscape. This shows itself in the taste which he displays in making improvements on the land he tills. His own farm was proverbial for being as "pretty as a picture"; and the work of adornment which he is accomplishing at the Farm at Guelph will certainly end in making that naturally fine piece of landscape one of the most beautiful in the country. A most practical benefit to the province is gained from this, for even now many farmers send him drawings of their farms to have him suggest to them plans of improvement, in order that their homes may be made more attractive; and we have no doubt that the influence for good which Mr. Rennie is creating in this direction will be greatly increased when the merit of his work is more generally known. For a portrait of Mr. Rennie, and also for an account of a useful contrivance of his for the keeping of ensilage, see this number of FARMING, page 265.