

of horticulture, of forestry, of mechanics, etc. 1. By the holding of meetings for discussion, and by listening to lectures on subjects connected with the theory and practice of a perfected system of farming; 2. By encouraging the circulation of agricultural papers; 3. By offering prizes for essays on practical and theoretical agriculture; 4. By the purchase of breeding stock of fine breeds, new varieties of plants and seeds, and seed-grain of the best kinds; 5. By organising ploughing matches, competitions of the best standing crops and for the best cultivated farms, and 6. By holding exhibitions.

Now, it will be easily admitted that our societies in general seem to have no other aim but to hold exhibitions. Generally speaking, these shows have but little interest except for a few farmers who live near the selected place. Those who live far off, can neither take their stock nor their produce there, especially in autumn when the roads are bad, without running the risk of losing more than they can possibly gain.

As for lectures and discussions, farm-libraries and other means of instructing farmers in their business, most of the societies, as at present constituted, have never paid attention to them. Now, the main object of the law is, essentially, to instruct farmers in such a manner as to make their farming pay better. Wherefore, that which the friends of agricultural progress wish for, as to the future, is that the men of good sense among our farmers should manage to meet together, in their respective localities in order to ascertain by combined research what is to be done to ensure the improvement of agriculture. To arrive at this, the action of the agricultural societies must reach every part of the province. Now, it has been proved by public documents that, out of the 750 parishes of the province, 222 do not reckon one member of the agricultural societies, and 200 more reckon only an insignificant number. Therefore, it is clear that the greater number of our parishes are at present practically excluded from the advantages that the law offers to the entire province.

Is it right that such a state of things should continue? Cannot means be discovered to reconcile all these interests, and, at the same time, to arrange that the grants from government in favour of agricultural societies may, in future, bear fruits of general usefulness?

To prove the efficaciousness of the suggested remedy, I will bring forward one example alone, taken from among a good many agricultural societies that, only during the last three or four years, have been re-organised by means of parish farmers' clubs:

The county of Terrebonne is about 90 miles long at its greatest length. The parishes of Ste-Anne des Plaines, Terrebonne, Ste-Thérèse, St-Jérôme, St-Janvier and Ste-Sophie, are placed in the valley of the St. Lawrence, and are for the most part very rich. Now, in the last few years, there was only one county society, which had hardly 60 members, who belonged to, at most, only three parishes. The eight parishes situated among the mountains that form the rest of the county, had then never had a single member of the society. They then organised themselves, by permission of the Council of Agriculture, into a district society, known as society No. 2 of the same county. Each of these parishes has its club; the president of the club is the director of the agricultural society for his parish, and the different presidents meet together to arrange

the programme of operations of the society.

Every year there are two general meetings of the members of the society, at which the general interests of the society are studied. There is high mass at the summer meeting, an *occasional* sermon, and, in the afternoon, a meeting of the clubs. The curés of the different parishes all give their aid to the clubs, and make a point of being personally present at the meeting. This society has about 400 members this year, and the good it has done is really remarkable. Each club purchases one or more high class breeding animals, sends for and sows improved seed from the Ottawa farm, buys, in combination, the best grass-seeds, &c., and encourages the manufacture of the choicest butter, cheese, &c.

I have brought forward Terrebonne; I might equally bring forward the society of Lake St. John, that of Lake Nominigou, in the north of Ottawa county, and others that are conducted in accordance with the principles of the "Union of the Clubs."

I ask myself: Why cannot such fine results be secured in other counties of the province?

I trust that the question of the re-organisation of the societies of agriculture by means of the parish clubs, or of "Farmers' clubs" in the places inhabited by English-speaking men, will be speedily deeply considered by all the friends of agriculture in this province.

AGRICOLA

Colonisation.

We borrow the following passage from the report of a delegate sent to view the county round Lake St. John.

From St. Félicien, we had still 5 leagues to travel, through Africa, that is through a blue-berry "patch" (*plie*), where, I am told, 3 000 dollars' worth of this fruit has been gathered, then we reached Mr Trottier's at Normandin. Here, I saw the finest possible panorama: the country is so level, that from one end of the hundred miles forming three parishes, Normandin, Tikouapé, and Albanel, were the powers of vision strong enough, one could distinguish a man at the other end of the last of these parishes. Here for four years has resided Mr. Trottier with his five well grown lads. He owns 700 acres, nearly the half of which is under cultivation. The soil is of the first class; the upper layer 15 inches deep; a kind of black earth, and below this a clay that enriches the top-soil, so that it may be cropped for 20 years without manure. (Don't trust to this but preserve your manure carefully. (E. A. B.)

The first range alongside Normandin was settled by 70 farmers, all of whom have land like that I have just described. All have good buildings, houses, barns, and cowhouses. I saw the grain harvested by some of them and found it excellent. I saw sheaves of wheat five feet high, with first class grain; the pease were incomparable and boiled splendidly; oats, buckwheat, and potatoes yielded abundantly. I helped to carry some superb oats on a "burning" of last winter. I saw a very fine farm, eight years from clearing, and the property of M. Dupuis, of Quebec; I was told he had refused last year, \$4,600 dollars for it!

Here, too, is a cheesery managed by M. Trottier. It receives plenty of milk. M. Trottier himself keeps 15 milch-cows, and he informed me that many of the farmers would, from the present time to four months hence, draw \$100.00 each from this factory.

The next day, we went to Tikouapé and Albanel. Everywhere we found the same fertile, level black earth.

Only one thing is needed by the three parishes: a market for their grain. Government ought to make up its mind to aid the extension of the railroad, if not so far as Normandin, at least as far as St Félicien. This, if promises are to be believed, will be done shortly. The extension of the line would save the three parishes from 5 to 6 leagues of driving, and would greatly aid their development. I returned to Quebec enchanted with my trip, and I cannot do better than advise all those who are inclined to devote themselves to farming to direct their steps towards the three parishes I have mentioned.

I conclude by thanking Mr. Scott for his kindness, and M. Trottier for his hospitality. The whole humbly submitted.

ELZÉAR DEMERS.

(From the French.)

Colonisation aided by the Dairy-industry.

A maker of cheese has shown us certain lands on Lake St. John which, though covered with standing timber, are of excellent quality. He proposes to get up a company to clear these lands and establish as soon as possible dairies with cheeseries and creameries attached. After visiting the spot in company with several good judges, we give our opinion of the project as follows, of course pre-supposing that the management be intelligent, active, and perfectly honest:

1. Leaving aside, for the present, the highly interesting questions of social economy which belong to the rational settlement of our uncultivated lands, your plan of settling them by means of capitalists, men of business, utilising the facilities of communication offered by a railroad and the steam boats that complete it, and enable the future settlers to enter into the very interior of this fine settlement; your plan, I say, ought to afford sure and important profits, provided the management of your affairs be well conducted;

2. Seeing, that the site you have selected as the future centre of the settlement is of the first class; that intelligent settlers have been obtaining crops there for the last three years that would appear fabulous to those who do not know what new land well farmed can produce;

3. Seeing, the advantage that the dairy-industry offers by furnishing at once the best of markets for all future crops.

4. Seeing, especially, the fact that the public lands are being sold at the above spot for 20 cts an acre, and that after five years of good farming, of clearing, of *stumping*, easily conducted, which follow a good system of pasturage after *grubbing* (*piochage*), the lands will have acquired a considerable commercial value,

After all these considerations, I do not hesitate to affirm that each arpent of land cleared under such conditions by intelligent, active and competent men, will yield, on an average, a profit considerably exceeding all the expense of exploitation. And more; that seeing the facility of access, and the market opened by the dairy-industry that you propose to institute, these very lands, costing now 20 cts an acre, will be worth, in five years, \$25.00 for every cleared arpent, and from \$10.00 to \$15.00 an arpent for those remaining uncleared. Thus, in your proposal, there is a promise of profits more considerable and more sure than in the greater part of trade enterprises or of the

most seductive manufacturing establishments.

As the question is a very serious matter for those who embark their funds in it, and as my manner of regarding this affair may be naturally considered doubtful by some, I ought to inform you that I began my farming practice and the studies belonging to it, in 1856; that is, I have had 36 years of experience; that I, during the first twelve years, settled on a new-land farm at St Maurice, of the same sort of land as that we visited last Sunday, but of much poorer quality, that the duties of my office for the last 22 years have obliged me to make a special study of the ruinous style of colonisation followed up to the present times and to seek to remedy the evils that lead to the depopulation of, especially, our new settlements.

This remedy I have shown in several official reports. It lies entirely in systematic settlement, by parishes, as much as possible, by means of facilities of intercommunication, which shall dispose with profit of all the goods produced by the settlers, and will enable them to invest their funds with safety provided the management be sound, persistent, and experienced.

By this system, families will be grouped together, and will be able to assist one another from the beginning. They will be the sooner able to obtain the aid of the clergy and of professional men when urgent cases occur. The crops of an average season will bring in sufficient means to continue the clearing without fresh capital being required. The land will acquire an assured value from year to year, which will leave a considerable balance of profit on the capital employed.

I shall be happy to aid in the serious discussion of each of the preceding statements. I believe them to be accurate, and I hope to be able to offer, if an opportunity occurs, evident proof of their correctness.

E. A. B.

(From the French.)

The Northern Districts of Lake St. John

AN ADMIRABLE FIELD FOR COLONISATION.

In October last, thanks to the kindness of Mr. B. A. Scott, we had the pleasure of crossing Lake St. John, and of visiting some of those fine farms situated by steam boat—about 1½ hour from the terminus of the railroad at Roberval.

In order that our readers might be better informed as to the value of the land in these regions, we requested M. Boileau, Registrar of the Department of Agriculture and Colonisation, to inspect as thoroughly as possible the territory fit for colonisation, and we present to them the very interesting report he sent us:

May it not be said that Lake St. John is an interior sea, and that the title of *fleuve* is due to each of the numerous streams that flow into it from all sides? (1)

This vast mirror-like expanse almost semi-circular in form, its lovely banks, the fertile plains that surround it, the relative mildness of its climate, in a word, the entirety of this magnificent region, will never fail to strike the astonished traveler as a marvel, a generous gift of Nature.

To reach it, you must, it is true, traverse a rude, broken country, rough and wild, which remains in its primitive wildness in spite of the presence and

(1) *Fleuve* is untranslatable: a river that runs its own course into the sea. The St. Lawrence is a *fleuve*, the Ottawa, a *rivière*. Ed.