

do not cultivate from the motives which will actuate the farmer is in a most miserably backward state as respects gardening. The few gardens there are, are equally badly planted and cultivated. We are inclined to attribute this largely to the ease with which considerable tracts are obtained, even by the poorest, and the preference which is given to the plough over the spade. Wherever gardening has flourished and the peasant prides himself on the neatness and productiveness of his little inclosure or *jardin potager*, land is dear, and the annual rent of a plot of it, will be greater than the fee simple of one of the same size here, excepting in the immediate vicinity of what we here consider large towns. Being a valuable article and in many situations very difficult to obtain it is carefully attended to.

We cannot, therefore, think that except where market gardening can be carried on, on a pretty large scale it will ever be so profitable as good agriculture. But we fully agree with Mr. Bell as to its domestic and humanizing influences.

There is, however, one difficulty which Mr. Bell does not foresee, and that is, at what period of the year shall the prizes be distributed. We hear much of rotation of crops; but a field only produces one crop in the year. The essence of good gardening is to produce a succession of crops. For instance a plot of one kind of vegetable may usually be followed by one of another kind. But overlooking that difficulty and supposing each garden to have only one crop in one season, who shall say what that crop ought to be? There are spring crops, there are mid-summer crops, there are autumn crops, and with good management, a succession of intermediate crops during the whole open season. To keep perpetual supervision of those is we fear impracticable, and yet without that it is impossible to do justice to the general merits of any gardener.

#### AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

We publish in our present number several reports of the Local Agricultural Societies, with which we have been favoured. The accounts are generally highly satisfactory. The law seems for the most part to work well, though experience has suggested, as in other laws, some improvements. These will be found in the reports which we subjoin.

COUNTY OF VERCHERES, No. 2.—The Committee of the Society congratulates the

members on having surmounted the difficulties which the novelty and complicity of the law embarrassed them with at first. The Committee have distributed a number of copies of the *Farmer's Journal*, among the Schools in each parish, and to each subscriber a portion of clover seed, and other seeds of superior quality. The results have been very gratifying. The cultivation of root crops has been extensive, and the breeds of animals have been much improved. The exhibition was very satisfactory, both as respected the articles exhibited and the attendance. They express their opinion of the necessity of education—and their gratitude for the increase of the grant, and the nomination of the Minister of Agriculture. They pay a compliment to Lord Elgin and the Honorable A. N. Morin, the Hon. James Leslie, and G. E. Cartier, Esq., M.P.P. They recommend the establishment in schools of an elementary course of agriculture. They think the plan pursued in the *Journal* of giving a condensed history of the agriculture of the month is preferable to mere references to books, not always to be procured. They recommend the establishment of model Farms. Also the division of the grant to the different Societies of Agriculture within the same county, to be proportioned to the number of agriculturists, and not to all classes indiscriminately. They think that under the present system, the presence of a populous commercial village carries off an unjust share of the grant from the other sections of the same county, inhabited almost exclusively by farmers. They think there ought to be a law for the protection of the standing wood, which is subject to destructive fires from the carelessness of sportsmen.

They express their gratitude to Major Campbell for the offer of a liberal premium for the best treatise on agriculture. They observed that this is unprecedented, and they hope his example will be followed by others. The subscription was thirty-five francs, but the result is that it was too small to accomplish its object. It should not be left to an individual, but rather to a Society or to the government.

COUNTY OF QUEBEC.—We are obliged to abridge this report very much, but we believe that we have left nothing out of it, but what is of purely local interest.

COUNTY OF MONTREAL SOCIETY.—We gave the whole of this report in the journal of March last, the only additional being a

few lines, containing a more full description of Mr. J. Bte. Lecour's mode of rotation of crops, which we here copy.

"With a view of encouraging French Canadian farmers to adopt a system of rotation, the Directors take the liberty of submitting the experience of a French Canadian farmer, Mr. J. Bte. Lecour, residing at St. Laurent, the most successful competitor for crops, this year. He says, my farm is situated at Cote de Verte, in the Parish of St. Laurent, and contains about one hundred and eighty arpents, I had this year about one-third of my arable land under grain crops, one-sixth under green crops, something more than one-sixth in hay, and rather less than one-third in pasture. I obtained the following premiums, to wit:—For potatoes, 3rd prize; mangol wurtzel, 1st prize; Indian corn, 3rd prize; and 2nd prize for the best laid down field of grass. The soil of my farm is of a dark grey loam, on a tolerably open subsoil. I have no under drains, but prepare my land in the ordinary way, using an English plough, and surface drains, the crops that preceded the potatoes and Indian corn were oats upon lea, that had been pastured, the manure used for the potatoes and Indian corn, was taken from the barn-yard, the quantity, seventeen single horse loads per arpent, laid on the stubble, and turned under a light furrow in the month of October, with seven or eight additional loads of manure to the arpent, for the corn, put on in the spring with the seed, which was planted in drills three feet apart, the potatoes were planted in drills thirty inches apart, and the seed laid ten inches distant in the row; the mangol wurtzel was sown upon a piece of old and rich grass land, without any manure, in drills, thirty inches from each other; the plants, twelve inches apart in the row, the after culture of these crops being performed with the plough and drill harrow.

My new laid down grass is upon land that was under crop last year, producing wheat and barley this year. All the seed used was grown on the farm except the mangol wurtzel seed used, which was purchased in Montreal, it was the long red sown the last week of May. Indian corn yellow Canadian, sown 20th May; potatoes, common red, sown the 10th of June. Mr. Lecour remarks, that he has followed the system laid down in a pamphlet, distributed by the Governor General, and that the instruction therein given has been of great service and advantage to him, and he believes, would be to all others, who would follow them."

#### REPORT OF THE QUEBEC AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY NO. 1.

The Board of Directors saw with regret that the practical farmers of the County took very little interest in the proceedings of the Society, very generally declined be-