

repeating that the advice and the information he received from you have been very useful to him.

#### THE COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURE.

No such thing exists as the council of agriculture : it has been established twice and twice abolished.

#### NATIONAL STUD.

The government seems to have been unlucky in its agricultural legislation. Five years ago, intending to found a stud, the government bought 25 stallions : Percherons, Clydesdales, Hackneys, &c., some from the States, but the greater number from Europe. They were let out to the agricultural societies, and so neglected by the grooms that they were ruined. Consequently, the stock was abolished shortly after its establishment and the horses were sold for a mere song. By this, the province lost several thousand dollars.

The government also started a stock-farm, but had to give it up, as the animals on the farm were too much neglected.

A few silos are beginning to be made in this province.

There is no school of agriculture.

#### PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

At Charlottetown, Mr. Morrison, the Commissioners' secretary was good enough to show me over the stock-farm, which is about three miles from the town. On this farm, there is a shorthorn bull that weighs 2,500 lbs., an Ayrshire, from Scotland, costing \$180.00 ; 20 thoroughbred Ayrshires cows, 25 thoroughbred shorthorns, Berkshire and Yorkshire pigs, and Leicester and Shropshire sheep. The animals reared on the farm are auctioned off by the commissioners in the spring and autumn. The only condition imposed on the purchasers is that any animal bought by them should be kept in their possession, *on the Island*, for three or four years. At Southport, I saw a farmer who, having bought a shorthorn calf for \$45, sold him, a few years afterwards for \$117.65, i. e. 2353 lbs. at 5 cents a pound !

#### AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

Here, there are neither societies nor council of agriculture. The exhibitions are held by means of grants from government.

The beauty of the crops that covers the island astonished me. What a fertile province it is ! Everywhere are fine fields of grain and potatoes, as well as rich pastures, where the cattle graze on perennially green and abundant grass. It may well be called a garden. The soil is a *red loam*.

Only in New-Jersey can a similar soil be found. It is not uncommon to find fields of potatoes of 6, 8, and even 10 arpents. The abominable potato beetle made its appearance in the island two years ago, having sailed over the Straits of Northumberland—so they say—on the sea-weed. This seaweed is a great addition to the natural fertility of the soil of the island ; at low-tide, the farmers gather it on the shore, and spread it in their yards, mixing it with the manure of the cattle.

#### DAIRY-SCHOOLS.

In each of the maritime provinces there are dairy-schools, to the support of which the federal government contributes.

#### BREEDS OF STOCK.

Of cattle, the chief sorts kept are : Jerseys, Ayrshires, and Shorthorns ; of sheep : Leicesters and Shropshires ; of pigs : Berkshires and Yorkshires.

#### CONCLUSIONS.

As the result of my investigations on the working of the agricultural laws of these provinces, I have arrived at the following conclusions :

#### IMPROVEMENT OF STOCK.

These provinces, by their legislation and societies, take more pains to improve their stock than we do, and we ought to imitate them.

I do not advise the establishment of stock-breeding farms. We have breeders who can get for us all we want. Our agricultural schools, too, ought to keep pure-bred stock, to register those they rear, and be in a position to supply our societies with all the animals they require.

If they would do this, they would find it, as others have, a paying business. I am not in a position to say what breeds should be kept ; I leave that to more competent persons. Some farmers say Jerseys are the breed, and if butter be in question, they are doubtless right ; but if cheese, then we should listen to the admirers of the Ayrshires.

Others will tell you that we have no need to search for foreign breeds ; that we have in our province a race of hardy, milk-producing cows, whose superiority over others has been proved by the Director of the Central experiment-farm, where there is a herd of Canadian cows, as well as by experiments you yourself have made at Quebec. We have only to improve this race, by selection, to prove that in hardiness as well as in abundant yield of milk, it is superior to all others.

The agricultural societies ought to make more frequent purchases of pure breeding stock. Instead of retaining them as their own property, they should follow the system adopted by most of the societies of Nova-Scotia, and by the commissioners of Prince Edward Island. This system consists in selling the animals by auction, the purchasers being bound to keep them in their possession for so many years, and to fulfil certain conditions imposed upon them by these societies in the interest of their members. Thus, the purchasers become interested, as proprietors, in taking care of the cattle, which, if left to the care of the servants of the societies are generally neglected. This has proved to be the case in a hundred instances, among others, here and in New-Brunswick.

#### AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

In Nova-Scotia, the agricultural societies, which resemble our farmers' clubs, appear to give satisfaction, and I do not see why we should not adopt the same system. All we need is to allow the legal organisation of those clubs that number at least 25 members, and subscribe at least forty dollars : at the same time we might grant them the same rights and advantages as the other agricultural societies. These clubs are doing good and useful work. All they need to complete their utility is the aid and privileges we give to the agricultural societies. This legislation would not increase the expenditure ; we should only have to decree that the government grant be the same it is now for each county, but that it be divided between the agricultural society and the clubs of the county, or *pro rata* of the amount of the subscriptions of each association. This is the system pursued in Nova-Scotia, where the grant cannot exceed \$400 a county, whatever be the number of societies it embraces. More liberal is the government of the province of Quebec, since it allows for the agricultural societies \$656 00 a county. Every one admit that the agricultural society No. 2 of Terrebonne, composed of farmers' clubs organised by Dr. Grignon, has rendered and continues to render great service to the farmers of that part of the country. The funds of this society are divided between the clubs, each of which deals with its share either by holding exhibitions, by