

ders, Superintendent of the Experimental farm at Ottawa, The Witness makes that gentlemen speak as follows: They had got together ..... and about 20 000 strawberry plants. The latter had been set out on the 8th of May, and the berries on the table had been picked from them that day; "that day being the 13th of June! Did any of my readers ever succeed in gathering a crop of this fruit in 38 days from planting?"

*Price of seeds.*—I see by the advertisements of the chief seed-men in England that the price of swede seed, by the bushel, there is from 10 cents to 12 cents a pound. Here, it is quoted in the catalogues at from 35 cents a pound. How I wish I was a seedsman!

*Agricultural education.*—As I have often said in this Journal, I do not believe in agricultural colleges. The only way to learn farming, in my opinion, is to live on a farm for at least two years—three would be better—and to put your hand by turns to every operation that is going on. And it seems that my farmer-friends in England hold the same opinion, for Professor Wrightson, the Principal of the Downton Agricultural College, stated at a public meeting last month, that "if Agricultural Colleges depended for their existence on farmers' sons being educated at them, they would not be very prosperous, as neither his own establishment nor the Cirencester College would have more than three or four students." Nine-tenths of the students of these colleges are young men intending to become land-agents, or stewards, to noblemen and large landed proprietors. I hope, I may say, I believe, that next session a proposal will be laid before the house at Quebec to assist really competent farmers, in every county of the province, to admit to their farms a certain very limited number of pupils for the purpose of studying and practising those branches of cultivation which are most profitable in this country. I am sure that in no other way will the youth of the province ever learn how to farm properly.

ARTHUR R. JENNER FUST.

#### Agricultural Clubs.—Agricultural Instruction.

The "Committee on Agriculture" of the provincial Legislature is deserving of all praise from the friends of agriculture on account of the activity it displays in the consideration and study of the wants of the farming population of the province. It received, last April, a deputation from the Dairymen's Association and promised to aid that society in its efforts to obtain certain favours from the government. A few days afterwards, it met, in special session, to receive a deputation from the "Meeting of Agricultural Clubs," composed of the Revd. Messrs. Garon et Montminy, the Hon. Praxède Larue, M. L. C., and Messrs. Ed. A. Barnard, J. P. Tardivel, and J. C. Chapais.

This deputation appointed by the meeting of dairymen held at Three-Rivers, in January last, had for its object the obtaining of the assistance of the committee in gaining from the government a grant for the purpose of maintaining the parish agricultural clubs as well as another grant for the experimental farm at Three-Rivers. It was also charged with the duty of impressing on the committee the importance of the question concerning lectures on agricultural matters and several other subjects connected with farming.

The deputation had prepared, and distributed to the members of the committee in advance, a printed memorandum showing the aim of its mission. M. Bernatchez, president of the committee, opened the sitting by presenting the deputation to the committee, and requested M. l'abbé Garon to explain the views of the deputation as contained in the memorandum,

which had been communicated to most of the members of the committee. The abbé, then, read the document, and commented on each article in turn. It treated of the present agricultural yield of the province; of its potential production, and showed how much commerce, trade, &c., lose by our faulty cultivation, of the working of the agricultural clubs and the agricultural associations; of the encouragement to be given to those farmers who desire to gain information; of the value of the agricultural clubs to the farmers; of the need of money grants for the support of these clubs; of the assistance they can afford to the agricultural associations, of the good they have done in the past, of what they now need, of the want of a supply of lecturers; of the agricultural teaching to be given at the Three-Rivers experimental farm. Details of this farm, established for the solution of agricultural problems, were given, together with a complete plan for agricultural instruction, when there would be a boarding house, a school of workmen, a school for young men in easy circumstances, in connection with the farm, which is, according to the views of its promoters, eminently a work of charity. Lastly, the memorandum explained the views of the deputation as to what should be the relations of the Director of Agriculture with the Council of Agriculture.

After hearing the comments of M. Garon, M. Beauchamp expressed himself as being in favour of a grant to the clubs, but he refused to allow this grant to be taken from the grant to the agricultural associations. M. St. Hilaire was of opinion that the agricultural law, as it stands, provides sufficiently for the establishment of the clubs, and he thought it unadvisable that any more should, at present, be done for them. M. l'abbé Montminy was next called upon; he showed how great has been the progress made by the parish of St. Agapit, of which he is curé, since the creation of a club there. Emigration thence has ceased, cultivation is improved, exhibitions of stock and of magnificent farm-products have been held there, and everything is prospering amazingly. The lecturers have been listened to with the most rapt attention.

M. Garon corroborated M. Montminy's speech, and showed that, in his county, the agricultural associations which had expired through want of support, had been restored to life by the clubs, and were now prosperous.

M. Montminy, in continuation, said that in one very backward parish where he had lectured, the impression made was so great, that farmers, who had never previously bought any grass-seed, had sent an order the following day for 420 dollars' worth. The experimental farm, as proposed in the memorandum, is indispensably necessary. All kinds of experiments in cultivation will be tried there, and the children of the poorer class of farmers will receive instruction, while at the same time they will be earning wages by their labour.

M. Déchêne (l'Islet) asked if the abbé did not think that this farm would prove injurious to the existing agricultural schools.

M. Montminy replied: by no means, since, at the experimental farm, numbers of the poorer children, whose parents could not afford to send them to the colleges, would have an opportunity of learning to farm, and be earning their keep at the same time. Besides, according to the plan proposed, agricultural teaching would be given to girls as well as to boys, seeing that the office of the woman in farming is as important as that of the man.

M. Tessier asked how large a grant was asked for the clubs, and for the farm, and in reply, was told that Mr. Barnard was prepared to answer the question, which that gentleman proceeded to do.

After having explained how the farm had come into his possession, Mr. Barnard showed how, although he was sneered at as having ruined himself by his outlay, he had in reality