

content to do it by crossing with the allied branches of the original stock :

"If a fair test were made of the merits of cattle but little known, including the Belgian breeds, it would be discovered that the 'craze' for so-called blooded breeds is a great mistake, and that Americans pay enormous and absurd prices for foreign cattle. * * If our people at home would use the money spent in the purchase of foreign breeding cattle in constructing quarters for our native cattle equal to the housing quarters of Europe; if they would give the native cattle the same care they give to their high-priced foreign cattle, within four generations of careful breeding, always selecting the best bulls and the best cows and keeping the others thinned out by the butchers, the United States would have a native breed that would rival any cattle in the world."

This is putting it pretty strongly, no doubt; "four generations" can hardly develop and establish the qualities sought for by the breeder to anything like the degree that has been attained in Europe after the patient endeavor of a century and in many cases very much more. Still, the admonition not to regard everything native here as unpromising, and everything imported, as certainly of sterling excellence—is timely; and there is much truth in the following remark :

"As a whole the European people take more interest in their stock than do the people of the United States, and there are more inducements in this regard offered in the former than in the latter. The English hold a dozen agricultural or cattle shows to our one, offering thousands of dollars to our half dollars in premiums, and it is no marvel that the cattle are far superior, that the farmer in England should draw closer to his cattle than does the American farmer to his, treat them kindlier, and give them better dispositions."

Prizes.—What on earth is the good of giving prizes at our exhibitions to calves, of the year, *over* six months and *under* six months. Surely, the two classes might, without diminishing the interest, be united. Prizes for the best aged bulls, the best 2 year-old, the best yearling bulls, and the best bull-calves, ought to be sufficient. The judges have quite enough to do without their time being wasted on absurdities.

Canadian cows.—I saw no Canadian cow at Quebec bearing such evident signs of a real dairy-cow as *la Tave'rie*, Mr. Prudhomme's cow, of Sorel, a photograph portrait of whom appeared engraved in the June number for 1886, p. 88. She would have certainly taken the first prize in her class at the exhibition, but I could not goad her proprietor into action.

Agricultural College.—Mr. Blackwood, of Shefford, one of the committee of the Council of Agriculture on Schools, told me the other day that the College of Ste-Anne de la Pocatière was decidedly doing better than the rest.

Butter.—A pleasant surprise to-day, August 30th: my butter-woman tells me she must have 30 cents a pound for butter for the future! At the grocers', I find upon inquiry, creamery-butter is selling for 28 cents! What will it be at Xmas? Now is the time, if ever, for a good dairyman to buy cows down-calving in October, and earn a fortune by making winter-butter.

Hop-picking.—Mr. Dawes is just now picking his hops: a fair but not a large crop, and very irregular in yield. The people of Lachine have been talking about nothing else for the last ten days, and seem to be deeply interested in the work. It is a pity some of them do not pick a little more carefully: some of the "bins" had too many leaves in 'em. The garden is *perfectly clean*, but would have been all the better

for a little later stirring. The land treads as if it had been meddled with when too wet: it is *not kind*, but, then, all the land here seems to break up harsh and cloddy. The wind, which as far as I can see, is the favourite production of Lachine, has damaged the garden considerably, and this is probably the reason why the hops are being picked in such a decidedly immature condition. As for green hops giving a deeper colour to pale ales than ripe hops, that is quite a mistake, and every one who has studied the matter knows that there is a much greater quantity of condition, i. e., *lupuline*, in ripe than in unripe hops.

CONCOURS DES PIÈCES POUR SOREL.

Pacage (pasture).—1er prix, Sénateur Guévremont.
Prairies (meadows).—1er prix, Narcisse Larochelle; 2e, Antoine Larue.

Blé (Wheat).—1er prix, Narcisse Larochelle; 2e, Sénateur Guévremont.

Orge (barley).—1er prix, Sénateur Guévremont.

Pois (pease).—1er prix, Narcisse Larochelle.

Avoine (oats).—1er prix, Narcisse Larochelle; 2e, Antoine Larue; 3e, Sénateur Guévremont.

Blé d'inde (corn).—1er prix, Séraphin Guévremont; 2e, Narcisse Larochelle; 3e, Antoine Larue.

Potatoes (potatoes).—1er prix, Séraphin Guévremont; 2e, Antoine Larue; 3e, Narcisse Larochelle.

Betteraves (mangels).—1er prix, Séraphin Guévremont, 2e, Sénateur Guévremont.

Carottes (carrots).—1er prix, Séraphin Guévremont; 2e, Sénateur Guévremont.

J'ai l'honneur d'être, avec considération, votre humble serviteur,

RAYMOND MAGNAND, Berthier.

It will be seen by the above extract from the *Sorelois* that my pupils at Sorel have not done so badly in the competition for the best crops. The Senator would have been more successful with his oats had he taken the trouble to clean the seed. As it was, the grain was so full of bits of straw and other rubbish that instead of $3\frac{1}{2}$ bushels to the acre I do not believe more than $2\frac{1}{4}$ were sown. M. Séraphin Guévremont has done as well as I expected—won all the first prizes for corn and roots. This young man has made wonderful progress during the last three years, and is now fit to take the management of any farm in the province. I should have expected the first prize for wheat to have fallen to the Senator, for a better plant than there was when I left, on the 7th of June, I never saw. This was the piece that the neighbouring *habitants* howled at him so for rolling, as I mentioned in the July number: "What are you doing there, you band of fools?" The rolling does not seem to have done much harm, after all! I fancy the farmers round Sorel will learn many a good and useful lesson from the Guévremont family.

Grapes.—I should not think grape-growing can have been very profitable this year. The prices have been very low, any quantity having been sold in the Montreal market for from $2\frac{1}{2}$ cents to 4 cents a pound.

Hessian Fly.—I regret to say that the Hessian Fly has found its way into England. The poor farmers on the grainlands have enough to contend with already without a new and powerful enemy like this. Miss Omerod, the entomologist of the R. A. Soc. of England, has been doing her best to discover and spread abroad the best means of obviating the destructive attacks of this *bestiaccio*.

Potatoes.—I would not sell a bushel of potatoes, were I a grower. They must be very dear this coming winter.