

been made to these schools for the purpose of establishing creameries or cheese-factories, but the managers have not thought it worth their while to avail themselves of it.

The professors of the three colleges are in number twenty-one—almost a professor to each pupil! Their pay amounts, annually, to \$4,880.00—about \$180.00 for each pupil! It is clear that the staff of one of the three schools could easily give instruction to the twenty or thirty pupils who attend them.

Reforms.—One of the two schools of veterinary surgery to be attached to a school of agriculture. It is evident that no good teaching can be expected from a professor of veterinary surgery at \$60.00 a year!

To each school must be attached a creamery or a cheese-factory. The absence of either one or the other of these at Ste-Anne's and at L'Assomption, is inexplicable and very much to be condemned.

The practical teaching of the two arts of butter- and cheese-making would throw open to the pupils on leaving school a trade which would be most useful to them in after life.

The schools should refuse matriculation to all candidates for admission who have not received the elementary instruction requisite to enable them to follow the course with profit.

A short treatise on agriculture should be studied by, and explained to, all the pupils of the country schools.

The system regulating the admission of pupils should be entirely changed. The parent or guardian of each lad should sign an agreement, covenanting to repay to the government the cost of board and teaching in case that, when his time expires, the pupil shall not betake himself to the practice of farming; unless he shall be prevented by ill-health.

Plans for the future.—The commission recommends that:

1. A single school shall be established, at the cost of government, for the whole province, supplied with a laboratory, museum, &c.;
2. the school to be independent of all other teaching bodies, and under the sole control of the minister of agriculture;
3. a complete staff of professors shall be appointed;
4. the course to be one of three years and no pupil less than sixteen years of age to be admitted;
5. a farm to be annexed to the school and divided into two parts, one for ordinary farming, the other for experimental work;
6. a dairy to be added for the sake of practical instruction to the pupils in both butter- and cheese-making;
7. one of the veterinary colleges to be attached to the school;
- (1) 8. the situation of the school, if possible, to be at a distance from large towns, and to represent, as nearly as possible, the average climatic conditions of the province;
9. a grant to be made by government, sufficient to insure the proper discharge of the duties of the establishment;
10. the Journals of Agriculture to be edited by the professors of the school;
11. land-grants to be made to successful pupils;
12. licenses to practice to be given to pupils who have passed, by the professor of veterinary surgery.

Instead of the present Council of Agriculture, the commissioners recommend that a commission be formed composed of the Minister of Agriculture, president *ex officio*, and ten members, at most, of the committee on agriculture of the legislative assembly, chosen from those members of the house who possess a practical knowledge of agriculture; and of five others, named by the Lieut. Governor in Council, at the recommendation of the commissioner of agriculture. All the funds and powers now possessed by the council of agriculture to be handed over to the new commission.

The agricultural clubs to be aided in the extension of their

action by government. Agricultural industries, such as the cultivation of flax, starch, superphosphate, wood-pulp, &c., to be assisted and encouraged, as well as the manufacture of wine from the native or wild grape of the province, the cultivation of fruit trees, and the production of beet-root sugar, the latter by the premium of fifty cents a ton on all the beets delivered at the factory at Berthier, the only one now at work in the province.

A minister of agriculture and colonisation to be appointed; the said minister to be a practical farmer.

Letters from divers quarters follow, but they are too long to be quoted.

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Agricultural panaceas.—A friend of mine was asked, the other day, why he, who was such a thorough-going liberal in politics, was so complete a conservative in agricultural matters. His reply was to this effect: I am not a young man, and, if you will allow me to say so, I have not kept my eyes and ears closed during the forty odd years I have been, more or less, engaged in agricultural pursuits. I have seen all sorts of panaceas brought forward, and recommended to the farmers as cure-alls of their so constantly recurring troubles. Bokhara clover was introduced into England, about the year 1835, as a plant that would grow about eight feet high, and produce enormous crops with a very trifling dose of manure. Then came "Gold of Pleasure," the yield of which was to be about sixty bushels an acre, and the seed was to make good beef for three pence a pound! Black barley, and nursery-wheat were to do wonders, and beans with turnips between the rows, were to produce a double crop, which, for some unexplained reason, was to exceed the yield of the two on separate pieces of land of the same extent as that occupied by the double crop. Pig-feeding, again was in extraordinary vogue in 1852. A friend of mine, who farmed some 800 acres of thin, poor chalk near Brighton, was so impressed with the idea that this was the real royal road to wealth, that he, for three years, bought on an average some 400 pigs, and fattened them on purchased food. At the end of that term, he gave up the business, as he found it to be an unprofitable one. At Sir Humphrey de Trafford's, in Lancashire, poles, on the tops of which run electric wires, were erected at a vast expense, and stood for two years, as may be seen more fully described in the Journal of the R. A. Society of England, about the year 1849. Flax and beet-root sugar were to make the futures of all the East Anglian counties; but they did not! And so the play went on. The few tenant-farmers who were induced by their landlords and their agents to embark in these wild schemes soon gave them up, and returned to the good, well tried system of producing a fair varieties of the different agricultural crops which form the main dependance of a regular agricultural exploitation.

Lachine farms.—M. Daigneault's farm, which he rents from M. Boyer, M. P. P., is beautifully situated, and, at present, affords a lively picture owing to the vast quantity of charlock, cadluck, or 'kilk—i. e., wild mustard—which adorns the lower twenty acres. The queerest thing is that M. Daigneault makes money by his farm, though it is, on the whole, about as badly cultivated as any in the province!

Hops.—These do not get the cultivation they need here. The horse-hoe can only go up and down between the rows of hills, instead of having at least two paths, or four when planted *quincunx* fashion, as all hops ought to be. In consequence of this error in setting out the hills, the land is not stirred near enough to the plants; the roots are confined to a very small space; and the growth is restricted, as may well be imagined. A couple of furrows in the middle of the alleys,

(1) If the school is to be established in a country place, I do not see how sufficient practical work for the veterinary students can be secured; v. art. 8.