

for our decisions, presupposes the existence of perfection somewhere ; but we have rather to act by comparison between the competitors, and to reward the most deserving rather highly.

The most desirable sign of progress would be, that every competitor should become as highly skilled as the best of the whole band.

General observations.

Before presenting a report applying specifically to individuals of the leading competitors, we beg to submit a few general remarks ; and first on

The improvements of our roads.

We were delighted to find in almost every quarter, the road-machine and its perfect work.

All opposition should lay down its arms before so great a result. Only conceive such a prospect as the enjoyment of fine, efficient roads in every part of the province !

What an important improvement, and to what an extent would our dairy-trade have felt it in the quality of its products, had serviceable roads prevented the disastrous competition of so many small factories ! We cannot therefore but praise all those who have earnestly devoted themselves to the improvement of our public highways.

Farm-accounts.

We regret to say that, as regards farm-accounts, very little improvement is visible this year over our last tour.

As the competition of agricultural merit ought to be a course of instruction to farmers in general, the proof of its value can have no better test than the daily account of the operations carried out on the farm.

Doubtless, it is possible for the competitor to succeed without a system of accounts kept in detail, but to the public, at whose expense the school, so to speak, is kept up, it must be interesting to be able to satisfy a legitimate curiosity.

We therefore beg respectfully to say that several well-disposed farmers have asked us if there are not forms of account, composed of simple and methodical questions, that demand nothing further than simple replies.

The whole would form a perfect compendium, and would give very lively satisfaction to all those who wish to ascertain the real advantages to be derived from the several branches of agriculture.

Moreover, we hope to see the primary schools well prepared from this point of view ; in a word,

we want to see the young farmer better taught, better armed for the combat of life, persuaded as we are that nothing but a high degree of intelligence can enable the agricultural class to carry its head as loftily as its grand mission entitles it to do.

The marks given for book-keeping are only assigned as a sort of encouragement ; for there was nothing uniform and perfect in those submitted to us.

Agricultural Meetings.

In accordance to our wish, we have, as far as circumstances permitted, held agricultural meetings ; and we gladly say that these familiar chats with the farmers are likely to do much good.

Many questions were asked, and it was pleasant to see how anxious people were for information. We should not have supposed so great a wish to gain an extended view of things existed ; and this must be reckoned as an incontestable advantage.

Among other matters, we treated the importance of improving the highways, and the duties of the municipalities as regards the destruction of

Weeds.

We are bound to emphasise the fact, that the greater number of municipalities are unpardonably negligent in this respect.

Weeds grow in lush abundance all along the roads, and nothing is done to hinder them from spreading their seeds over the whole country. We know that other provinces have taken severe measures to hinder this, and we cannot understand why certain people of our province think these measures absurd.

We therefore beg the Hon. the Commissioner of Agriculture to act vigorously for the suppression of this negligence ; for we are firmly persuaded that the state of things demands it.

The road-inspectors appointed by the municipal councils seem to utterly ignore this duty of theirs ; and many of them do not seem to know that they have had this duty assigned to them ! They act in a merely formal manner.

We also laid great stress on the importance of

Good ploughing.

Is it not singular that the proper way to plough is of all agricultural things the least understood and the least practised ?

Nevertheless, every farmer ploughs !

As we did last year, so we must once more draw