Wilson to New-Zealand, where he won this year the champion (or, as we should say, the sweepstakes) prize at the Wanganui exhibition. The portrait is reëngraved for the COUNTRY GENTLEMEN from the London Live-Stock Journal.

Prevention of Potato Disease.

I have now before me the last six issues of the AGRICULTURAL GAZETTE, in which are inserted several notices on potato blight and Bouillie Bordelaise. I venture to send a few additional notes on that topic, in the hope that they may be of some practical usefulness to your readers.

The application of the aforesaid mixture to potatoes, with a view of lessening the damage done by the potato blight, is very commonly carried out in our country. In the county of West Flanders, especially, a large area has been treated with the bouillie, and next year one-third of the total acreage planted with potatoes will receive the dressings. In some districts half the acreage has been dressed this very year. This is enough to show how unquestionable the benefits of these dressings must be. Our farmers are just as reluctant to adopt new devices as the most stubborn ones of any other country, and they adopt only what is clearly and undoubtedly profitable to their interests. The method has been in use here for more than two years, and has always and in every case given good results, provided the dressing was well applied.

And here I must state that I am of the same opinion as your correspondent Mr. Charles Plowright, who thinks that the astonishing results of Messrs. Sutton's experiments were caused by a defect in the manner of making the bouillie. This year, in one instance, having used lime of bad quality that was carbonated by long exposure to the air, I had the leaves of the dressed potato plants injured, but I provided better material for the next dress and the leaves remained healthy, as they always did and do in the whole country.

Experience has shown that the dressing must be repeated three times to give the full extent of the obtainable benefits —the first to be given in the first fortnight of June, the second a fortnight thereafter, and the third on July 15th. For very early potatoes the dressings must begin in May, and be repeated three or four times every ten days, as these kinds are very subject to the blight. The results of such treatment are splendid. (1)

The quantities of copper-salt and lime used are the following, for one dressing and per acre :—

Sulphate of copper..... 8 lb.
Lime..... 4 lb.
Water.....62 gallons.

The second dressing requires more mixture, as the foliage is then broader.

Mr. Proost, the inspector of our Agricultural Department, who has introduced the treatment into the country through his corps of State's agronomes, prescribes the following proportion :—

4 lb. copper salt
2 lb. lime } in 22 gallons of water.

One must take care, first, to dissolve the salt in nearly 2 gallons of hot water ; then to dilute to solution by the addition of 18 to 19 gallons of cold water. In the meantime the lime has been gently sprinkled with water, and when cooled, diluted with a gallon of water, completely stirred, and purged of stones, &c., that could obstruct the pipes of the pulverisator. The lime is then poured through a copper sieve into the solution of sulphate : the whole is well stirred, and the mixture is ready. When the bouillie is prepared in that way you may be sure of the result. The mixture must be well stirred before pouring it in the apparatus.

I see that one of your readers speaks of using the Strawsoniser for these dressings. I examined that implement at the Doncaster meeting, and, if I recollect well, saw that the tank and the whole apparatus is an iron one. That would not do for the bouillie, which does not admit of coming in contact with any iron whatever. This is to be carefully borne in mind when preparing the solution. No iron pails should be used, nor iron rods to stir the water.

I will add that the fear of introducing copper into the potatoes is wholly frivolous. On the contrary, on our Belgian markets the potatoes that have been dressed are paid 1s. more per 200 lb. than the non-dressed.

An ordinary farmer's servant will dress 3 acres a day in June, and 2 in July.

Here are three of the differences that I obtained by the dressings. You will see that the matter is worth a trial ; and no one who has tried will ever leave off :—

No.	Dressed.	Non-dressed.	Difference per acre
	lb.	lb	lb
1	9,144	7,128	2.016
2	19,840	9,360	6,480
3	22,792	16,920	9,832

I shall ever be delighted to give any desired particulars on the dressings. They are undoubtedly the most precious application of science to agricultural purpose that has been discovered for years.

EDMOND LEPLAE,
Engineer in the State Agricultural Service,
Courtra (Belgium).

(1) I have found it just the reverse. With me the early, in-light-sprouted potatoes hardly ever rot. A. R. J. F.

Laying Out Farms.

All farms which are worked by mixed husbandry must be divided into fields which may be cultivated separately. The only exception is where all domestic animals are kept in stables or yards. This, however, would be scarcely practicable with modern farming. To keep cattle of all kinds, sheep and other animals, shut up the year round would be attended with serious objections.

The only exceptions would be where nearly the whole farm

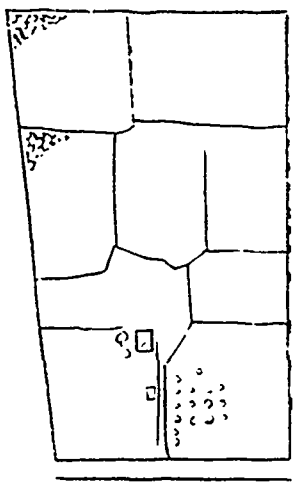

Fig. 1.—Badly laid out.