

uniformity in their own proper colour, throughout. The Swedish and Danish butters were perfect in this respect. We think that churning at a low temperature would do a good deal towards banishing this defect.

With the exception of one, all the samples retained too much water. I do not think we shall succeed in getting the highest prices on the English market until we send them butter in a drier state. Here again, as in the case of the look of the butter, the Danish and Swedish butters may serve as examples.

Lastly, I must tell you that the parchment-paper generally used is much too thin, and is by no means suited to packing export-goods.

J. D. LEOLAIR.

(From the French).

## COMPETITION OF AGRICULTURAL MERIT.

REPORT OF THE JUDGES

To the Hon. The Commissioner of Agriculture and Colonisation Quebec.

Sir,

The "Competition of Agricultural Merit," of 1895, covered, for the second time, the first of the five districts of the province of Quebec.

The improvements that have taken place, not only on the farms of the competitors, but in general throughout this part of the province, are most interesting.

Everywhere we met with a pleasant reception, that proved how pleased the people are with the liberal efforts made in various directions by your government to assist the farmers of the province.

This provincial competition, which was one of the objects of your care, has been, and we are convinced will continue to be, a striking example of what energy and capacity united can do for agriculture; and it consequently affords a useful and instructive lesson, profitable to all those who are willing and anxious to profit by the experience of men who, each in his own locality, may serve as models to their neighbours.

The short report, which we here submit to your notice, will therefore be an abstract of the practical instruction that flows naturally from the operations carried out by the successful competitors this past season.

### SYSTEM OF CROPPING.

The first thing in the excellent scale of points that serves as a basis for our judgment is the system of cropping pursued by the competitors. In fact, the distinctive mark of the farmer who is improving his occupation, when compared with him who is merely vegetating, is the way in which crops of one kind are made to succeed crops of other kinds, always considering any peculiar circumstances under which locality may place him.

A good system of cropping should tend therefore:

1. To the proper working (amelioration) of the land, that is, its due preparation, according to the quality of the soil as well as to the plants about to be committed to its bosom.

2. To the increase, or at least the preservation, of the productiveness of the land.

3. To the destruction of weeds.

4. To the supplying of the most profitable markets.

The system pursued must indisputably vary on farms more or less remote from towns, or from any large market; and equally must the treatment of sandy soils differ from that followed on clays; hence, derive several courses of cropping, of which, seeing how greatly this has always interested those who know something of practical farming we shall later give some examples.

### Mr. JAMES DRUMMOND'S SYSTEM.

*First year.*—Oats after pasture. Ploughs directly after the oats are carried, and cleans the stubble. (1)

*Second year.*—Roots and hood-crops, with 50 to 60 loads of dung to the arpent (acre). (2)

*Third year.*—Wheat or barley, with 2 gallons of timothy and 5 lbs. of alsike clover to the arpent. Mr. Drummond never lets cattle into the piece after harvest.

*Fourth year.*—If the grass taken well, he leaves it for hay. If not, oats are substituted and the next year the land is manured for barley with grass-seed. Fifth, sixth, and seventh years, cut for hay; eighth and ninth years pasture.

As the farm is close to Montreal, Mr. Drummond could sell all his products in the raw state, but he prefers consuming them on the land with his dairy-cattle; and in this way he improves his farm instead of exhausting it. If he does sell some of his crops it is only to exchange quantity for quality. Thus, in 1894, he sold.

7,500 bundles of hay at .....	\$6.00
20 loads of straw at .....	\$2.00
400 bags of potatoes at .....	\$0.60

and bought

30 tons of bran at .....	\$16.00
30 tons of moulée at .....	\$24.00
5 tons of cotton-seed-cake .....	\$23.00
1,000 lbs. of linseed-cake .....	\$ 3.25

per 100 lbs. (2)

So it is clear that Mr. Drummond only sells the produce of his farm to replace it by richer and more profitable feeding stuffs.

He sold in 1894, 15,200 gallons of milk at 26 cents a gallon, \$2,680.

On 290 arpents (214 acres), there are kept 86 head of cattle, i. e., 1 to every 3½ arpents; and, in addition to their dung, he buys 800 loads, and 20 barrels of plaster.

The farm is free from weeds, and the proprietor does not mind paying an extra price for grass-seeds or grain so as to be sure of their being clean.

In 1895, the crops were: 46 arpents in hoed crops, 14 of which were in corn to fill two capital silos.

95 arpents in meadow;  
72 arpents in pasture;  
64 arpents in grain-crops,  
And a very fine orchard.

Although very close to the town of Montreal, the farm of Mr. James Drummond, whom every one knows, may serve as a model to farmers in general in this province.

We allot to Mr. James Drummond the Gold Medal for 1895.—*From the French.*

(1) He had better grub, or skim-plough, or brava share.—Ed.

(2) Some mistake! Linseed cake is never worth \$65.00 a ton! Must be \$32.50 per 2,000 lbs.—Ed.

*Note by the Editor.*—We have long known the Gold Medallist of 1895, and have always held the opinion that his farm is the best laid out, the best watered, and the best cultivated of any farm in the province of Quebec. We congratulate Mr. Drummond most heartily on his well earned distinction, and wish him many happy years to enjoy his merited reputation.

### THE FARM OF Mr. JOHN BAPTIST,

AT

LA RIVIÈRE-AUX-RATS,

ON THE ST-MAURICE.

Very few even of the educated people of this province are acquainted with the district through which flows the St-Maurice. This is owing to the want of communication, which, up to the last few years, has been the great obstacle to the progress of this district, and also to the absence of publicity, if we except the reports of some land-surveyors, and the fanciful statements, the entirely personal impressions, of some infrequent tourists.

Besides, the navigation of this river is only practicable for small boats, of very light draught, on account of the numerous falls and rapids that obstruct its course. Still, it is easily navigable for a distance of 196 miles, divided into three distinct parts: 1. from Grandes Piles to la Tuque, 70 miles: there, the la Tuque falls mark an interruption formed by rapids that extend over a distance of 44 miles, up to the *Grand-Détour*, from that spot to Weymontachingue the river is again passable for 46 miles, when another succession of rapids occurs for 30 miles; when this is overcome, there is deep, navigable water for 80 miles.

At his own risk, in spite of all the difficulties of the undertaking, Mr. John Ritchie, of Grandes-Piles, confident in the future of the St-Maurice country, resolved, three years ago, to open up this superb river by a regular service of boats, at least over its first practicable part, that from Grandes Piles to la Tuque; so he organised a bi-weekly service of small steamers, which work with perfect regularity, and are of great use to colonization and trade.

About 55 miles above Grandes-Piles the Rivière-aux-Rats is met with. It is an affluent of the St-Maurice, and, a few arpents only above the Rivière-aux-Rats, the Weissouneau flows into the St-Maurice. Both these affluents traverse a great extent of alluvial soil, in the midst of which is situated the fine farm of Mr. John Baptist, the subject of the annexed engraving.

This farm is one of the best and most renowned of the whole country. Its numerous buildings, most carefully kept in repair, give it the appearance of a small village. Mr. Alexander Adams, the manager, has under him 15 men for work of the farm, the product of which is an enormous quantity of oats, and some 35,000 bundles of hay, for the consumption of the great "shanties" belonging to the firm of Baptist & Co., on this part of the St-Maurice.

For many years, the lumbermen have been taking vast quantities of logs of pine and spruce from the banks of the Rivière-aux-Rats and the Weissouneau, and yet these two valleys are far from being exhausted.

On the opposite bank of the St-Maurice is seen the mission of the Rivière-aux-Rats, comprising upwards of twenty families. There we see, on a

small scale, the physiognomy of the old rural parts of Canada. The settlers hunt and fell timber during winter, and in summer about half of them work on the farm. The harvests on the banks of the Rivière-aux-Rats, are as abundant as the harvests on the banks of the St-Lawrence, and so are those on the Weissouneau. For many a mile along these two streams, there is room for a large agricultural population, without reckoning that industries of different kinds, apart from lumbering, might make very profitable use of the streams and water-power that are here ready for employment.

There ought to be here a large village, a populous parish; but, as we said before, the absence of communication kept back many things in the St-Maurice district. We were long in ignorance of the value of this important territory, which though it does not offer to colonisation so vast field as do other districts, yet is able to endow the spirit of enterprise and industrial exploitation in its numerous forms with an unlimited scope for the exercise of its beneficial exertions.

### SPEECH OF THE HON. LOUIS BEAUBIEN

AT THE DINNER OF THE

Bankers' Association, at Quebec  
September, 1895.

IN REPLY TO THE TOAST OF "OUR RESOURCES."

*Mr. President,*

With what pleasure have we heard you speak of all that interests us so deeply! you bring back to us our traditions, our history, in such a pleasant way! you free yourself of all the severity of the financier, and speak as from the soul of the poet. You pay homage to all the glorious memories that this ancient city of Quebec, the cradle of our race, includes. You relish them as we do, and appreciate them like ourselves. You share our feelings both for the past and the present. Be welcome, then; we throw open to you all the great gates of the national patrimony, for you have the heart to understand as well as the tongue to express.

Lofty indeed has been the spirit of the discussion of to night, and with the representatives of the Dominion, of Great Britain, and of of United-States present here, how could it have been otherwise?

If I am called upon to address you, it is especially because I am the representative here of this province. You will doubtless, then, pardon me if I restrict my observations a little, and only speak of the affairs connected with the province of Quebec.

Our material resources, Messrs. Bankers, I find described in your speeches, in your reports to your shareholders, and I might rest satisfied with quotations from them to show how important these resources are, and how largely Providence has blessed us in the distribution of its gifts. Along the majestic course of our noble St-Lawrence lie the most prolific farms of the Dominion. Without disparagement to the fine province of Ontario, we shall, before long, extract from them all the profits possible.

The picturesque chain of the Laurentides furnishes us with superb pasturage, which ensures the success of our great dairy-industry for ever.

Do you remember, two years ago, the time when the neighbouring countries were being beaten down by financial