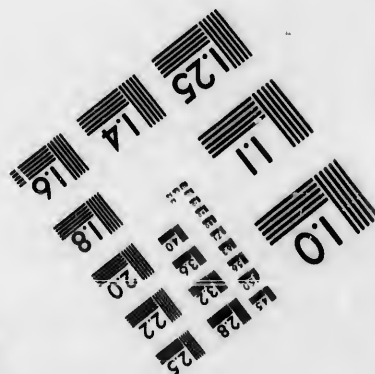
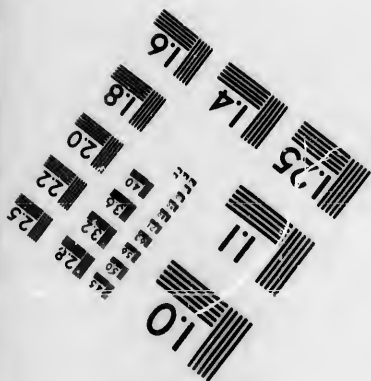
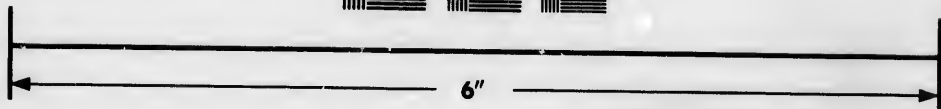
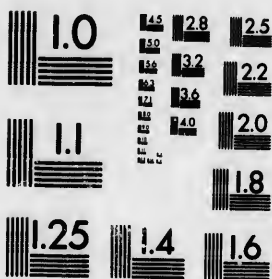


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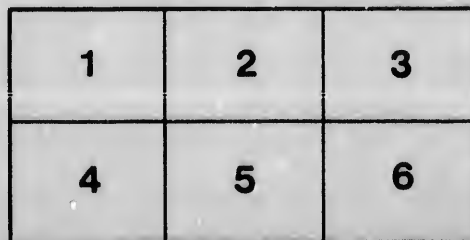
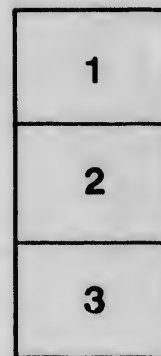
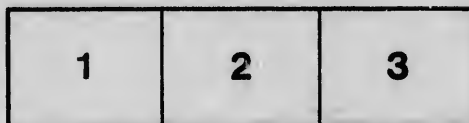
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INSTRUCTIONS TO THE JUDGES

FOR THE COMPETITION



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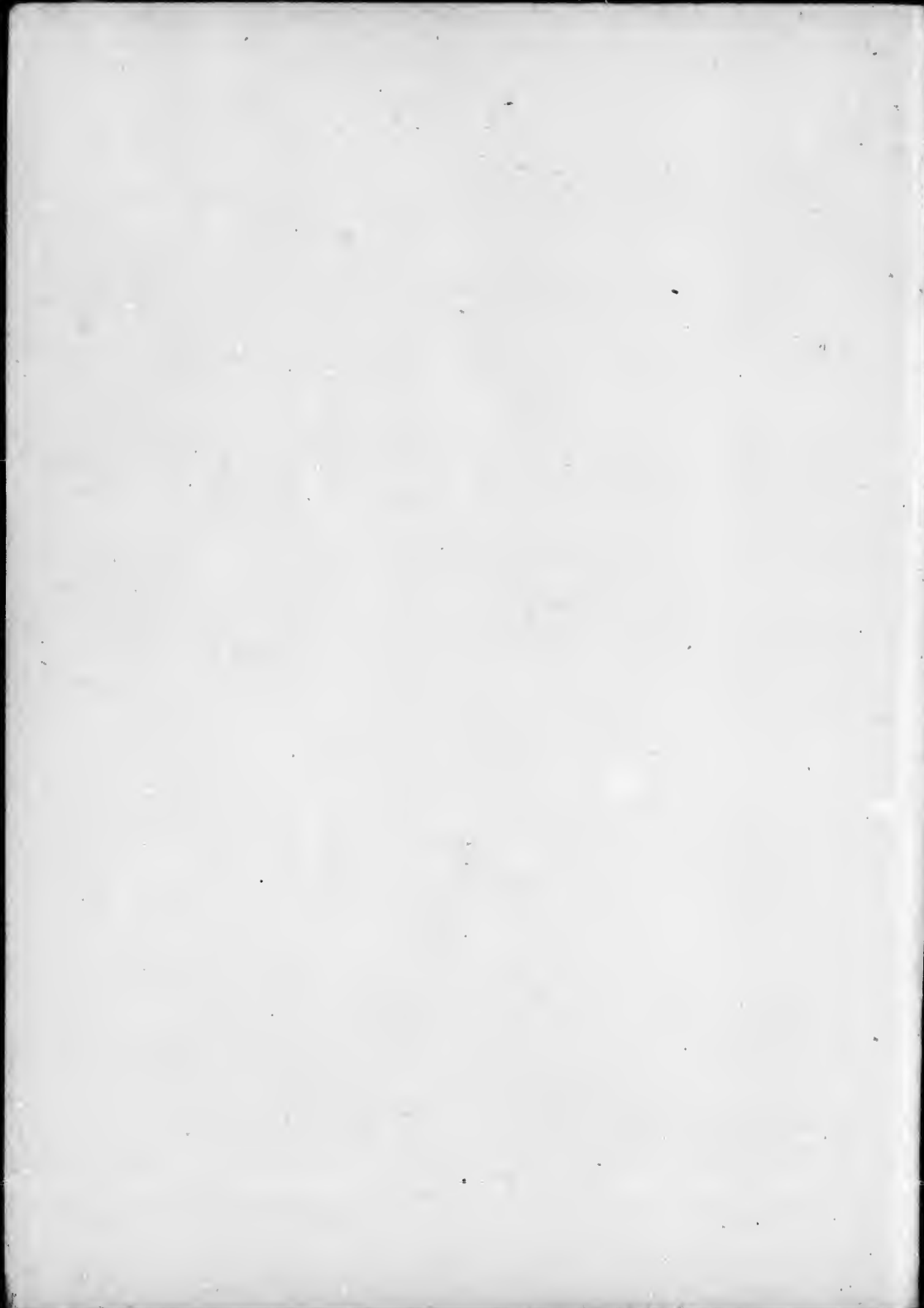
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INSTRUCTIONS TO THE JUDGES
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INSTRUCTIONS TO THE JUDGES
FOR THE
COMPETITIONS OF THE BEST CULTIVATED FARMS

AS APPROVED BY THE

Council of Agriculture of the Province of Quebec.

PROGRAMME.

I

The system of rotation to be from six to twelve years on all farms which can be so cultivated.—*Ten points.*

EXPLANATIONS.

The judges will allow 10 points for a system of rotation when the Farm is sufficiently good to be cited as a model. And for any defects they may find, they will deduct an equal number of points.

They will act in a similar manner with regard to the other conditions of the programme.

By rotation is meant the order followed in the cultivation of a farm, for example :

1^o Hoed crops, such as potatoes, turnips, carrots, beets, Indian corn, &c. ;

2^o Wheat or barley with clover and grass seed ;

3^o Two or three years of hay according to the nature of the soil ;

4^o Two or three years in pasture.

5^o One or two years of cereals, wheat, barley, rye or oats provided the same grain is not sowed twice in succession on the same field.

Hoed crops, which are the bases of a good system of cultivation, are then resumed to commence a new rotation.

There may be other systems, also good, of shorter duration. The nature of the soil, the proximity to a large market, the diverse speculations of the proprietor, such as the production of milk, butter or cheese, the raising of cattle on a large scale, the proximity to a beet root sugar factory, &c., such circumstances may require certain changes in the order of the rotation recommended above, and the judges must take these into account in order not to deprive the proprietor of the benefit of points, if his system is that which is best adapted to his requirements and yields him the most profit.

In a good system of cultivation the soil must be improved by manuring and mellowing, which is the reason for beginning with hoed crops which require abundance of manure, deeper ploughing, weeding and hoeing.

A system of cultivation which does not improve the land cannot be considered a model, in which case the Judges must not allow the ten points.

II

The different divisions of the farm should be fenced, and communicate with the stables by means of an alley or otherwise, for the passage of the cattle. Uncleared portions of the farm shall not enter into the system of rotation.—*Ten points.*

For points to be allowed, please see Article XII.

It will be observed that, in a good system of rotation, the land must be divided into as many equal parts as there are years in the rotation. Thus, in a rotation of ten years, the farm must be divided in ten equal parts. Each of these parts, in succession, should be cultivated according to the order of rotation.

Where an alley is not necessary, the judges must not deduct any points.

III

The fences shall be kept in good order. —
Ten points.

The different fields need not be divided by fences, but they should be marked out in such a way as to be easily seen. Those in pasture are the only ones which *must* be fenced.

Fences tied with wire are preferable to those made with pins, they should be straight and tops of the pickets well rounded to prevent their breaking or splitting when driven into the earth.

Pickets should be driven $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet into the earth, to be free from the action of frost.

IV

Ditches and trenches in good order. — *Ten points.*

The sides should be slanting to prevent the earth from falling in. A ditch or water course, having perpendicular sides, does not deserve points.

The bottom should have a uniform fall to prevent the water from remaining in it.

The cleanings from the ditches should either be spread over the land or carted to use in a compost heap.

Ditches should draw off the water from the adjoining land.

The ends of the furrows connecting with the rigoles should be thoroughly cleaned out after harrowing so as not to obstruct the water.

V

No stones nor weeds in the fields. Weeds along fences to be mowed.—*Ten points.*

Weeds should be mowed along the roads and highways.

Farm competitions having been established with the object of promoting improvements, and remunerating the labour of the competitor and of exciting emulation among farmers, no points should be given for the absence of stones where there have never been any.

For the same reason, in counties where roots and hay are cultivated on a large scale, or where there are large permanent meadows or pastures, Agricultural Societies will be permitted, with the sanction of the Council, to modify some of the conditions of the programme.

Large stones should be blasted and carted away, used in making fences, or broken up for draining purposes, or macadamising roads, and should not be buried as under the action of frost, they generally rise to the surface.

Weeds along fences or elsewhere should be pulled or mowed before they arrive at maturity.

VI

Cattle in good condition and in proportion to extent of the farm : at least one head of cattle to each four acres under cultivation five sheep counting as one head of cattle.

—*Ten points.*

By head of cattle is meant one horse, one cow or bull, five sheep, or four pigs. For instance, on a farm of 2 by 42 arpents or 84 arpents in superficies in a good state of cultivation, there should be at least 21 head of cattle.

In a more advanced state of culture this same farm could feed a greater number.

Should the farmer find it more profitable to sell part of his fodder, without any detriment to the proper feeding of his stock, the Judges will take into consideration the surplus value of fodder sold.

Particular attention should be paid to the circumstances of each case. Some people ruin themselves by selling too much fodder, or their stock becomes poor and the soil exhausted from want of manure. As a general rule, the sale of forrage, in large quantities, is not advantageous for the improvement of the soil, and it should be considered as a bad

practice, especially where the farmer has no other source of obtaining manure but from his own stock.

The farmer, who finds it more profitable to sell his forrage and with the proceeds purchase artificial or natural manures, should not be deprived of the points.

VII

The stables, pig-sties, dairy, barn, sheepfold, yards, agricultural implements, &c., must be suitable, in good order, and on improved principles. — *Ten points.*

In examining the buildings of the farm, the judges will observe the following points: 1st The facilities for the distribution of food and water to the stock; 2nd If there is good ventilation; 3rd If there are small gutters in the flooring, to receive the urine and conduct it to a common reservoir. They will also observe if the yards are well laid out and kept clean.

VIII

Manures well prepared and well preserved. — *Ten points.*

The keeping and preservation of manures until they are fit to be used, are well worthy of the attention of the judges. In the yards or in the fields the heaps should be made in such a way as to offer the

least possible surface to the action of the sun's rays or to washing by rain. The farmer should prevent the liquid manure from running into the trenches or ditches. A small ditch should be made around the heaps to collect the liquid manure, which from time to time should be thrown upon the heap. By this means is preserved a large quantity of liquid manure which is certainly the richest part since it contains all fertilizing properties.

The manure should be preserved to be used each year on one of the fields of the rotation.

It should be sufficiently decomposed, a result which can only be obtained by turning over at least once, otherwise the farmer may reap a crop of weeds.

The judges are authorized to allow five points for a compost heap of at least 15 cart loads.

A compost is a mixture of different substances, such as ashes, lime, weeds, night soil, stable manures, mortar, bog land, &c.

All these details should be well noted by the judges and awarded points.

Five points to those who manure at least 6 arpents a year at the rate of 25 cart loads of well decomposed manure per arpent.

IX

Good pastures in the system of rotation, generally succeeding the hay crop, shall be equal to at least one third of land in hay.

— *Ten points.*

Pastures receiving ten points are supposed to be in a high state of fertility and yielding abundantly. Pastures succeeding hay should form at least one third of the land cultivated.

X

Good and large meadows ; pasture and meadows forming at least one-half of the cultivated land.—*Ten points.*

Weeds should be mowed as often as necessary to prevent them going to seed ; cow's and other droppings should be well spread at least once during the season.

XI

Five points shall be allowed to those who cultivate at least half an acre of root crop ; and five points to those who shall have drained at least five acres of land.

Drainage being one of the most important improvements to land, and one which deserves the greatest encouragement, the judges, in allowing these five points, should carefully examine the manner in which the drains are layed out and their effectual working. Drains should be either of tiles, stones, or wood, but in all cases, the drains must have been layed during the two years previous to the competition.

XII

Every division of the farm should be in good productive condition.

Each division or field of the farm should gradually be brought to the highest degree of production. The judges will inquire into the previous cultivation to ascertain whether the method adopted has been the best.

The field where root crops are grown should be changed every year. Turnips, carrots, beets, potatoes, indian corn, horse-beans, &c., are considered as hoed or root crop being useful for the nourishment of stock.

XIII

In examining a farm, the judges may deduct part or the whole of the points, allowed by the foregoing Rules according as the conditions have been more or less, or not at all fulfilled.

For an extent of summer fallow of at least three arpents, if the fallow be necessary for the improvement of the land, the judges may allow five points, and *five points* for the planting of at least ten fruit trees during the two years previous to the competition.

XIV

With regard to the 12th condition, the judges shall allow for each field of the rotation a number of points, which shall not exceed a total of 50, and shall increase or diminish the number of points according to the state of cultivation of each of them.

Thus, for a rotation of seven years, each division shall be entitled to $7\frac{1}{2}$ points, if the judges consider it worthy.

Gardens shall not be considered as part of the land entered for competition.

XV

In counties where root crops, or hay are cultivated on a large scale, or where there exist permanent pastures, or land unfit for cultivation of root crop, the conditions of this programme can be modified by the Directors of Agricultural Societies, with the consent of the Council of Agriculture.

IMPERATIVE CONDITIONS.

XVI

No farms of less than 60 arpents of cleared land shall compete ; but, with the consent of the Council, the Directors may form two classes : one for large farms of at least 60 arpents, and the other for small farms of at least 20 arpents of cleared land.

Small farms shall consist of 20 arpents of land and large farms of 60 arpents *under cultivation*; but in no case shall a farm be allowed to compete unless its whole extent be entered for competition.

XVII

A farm that shall have taken a first prize, may be excluded from the following competition only.

XVIII

The premiums awarded for the best cultivated farms shall be the following: \$50 for the first, \$40 for the second, \$30 for the third, \$20 for the fourth, \$10 for the

fifth; but in counties where there are two or more societies these prizes may be divided into two or three and the amounts reduced accordingly.

XIX

When there are two classes (for large and small farms), the Directors shall determine the number and amount of prizes to be awarded, the total of which shall not be less than \$150.

XX

Agricultural Societies should have separate competitions for the best cultivated farms in each parish or township irrespective of county competitions, mentioned in these regulations; provided always that each parish or township shall have at least ten subscribers, and that the amount subscribed towards said competitions shall not be less than one third of the prizes proposed to be offered.

Any farmer residing in another county can enter for competition in the county in which his

farm is situated, provided, that he complies with all the conditions of the competition, notifies the Secretary or President of the Society, in writing, and deposits the amount of subscription required from each member, at the time fixed by the regulations.

XXI

The competition for standing crops, &c., &c., shall be held the same year as that for the best cultivated farms.

The competition for standing crops is not obligatory, but when it is held, it must take place at the same time as the competition for the best cultivated farms.

The judges may allow ten points to each competitor who has a regular system of book-keeping for the farm, showing the receipts and expenditure, in the various departments, and the cost of land improvements, &c., and net profits of the entire farm.

This clause it is not obligatory, but any one who takes the trouble of keeping an account of all his farming operations, deserves credit and should be awarded points.

Advice to Agricultural Societies.

The judges shall be three in number, advanced agriculturists, disinterested, and beyond any suspicion of favoritism.

TO THE JUDGES.

1° They will write down their observations in a book kept for that purpose.

2° They will look into the system of book-keeping followed by the competitor for the receipts and expenditure of his farming operations.

3° Their visits should be made without any previous notice to the competitors, and be taken advantage of to impart information where the competitors are found wanting.

4° When possible the judges should board at an hotel or with some party not interested in the competition, in order that they may not be placed under obligations to the competitors, and thereby avoid the suspicion of having been unduly influenced.

By order of the Council of Agriculture, P. Q.,

GEORGES LECLERE,
Secretary.

