

SPEECH

OF THE

HON. LOUIS BEAUBIEN

COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE AND COLONISATION

DELIVERED IN THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

26th DECEMBER, 1893.

ON

AGRICULTURE AND COLONISATION.



MONTREAL:

GAZETTE PRINTING COMPANY.

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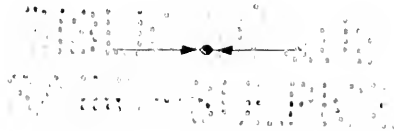
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MR. SPEAKER: SIR,

It is with great pleasure that I open this debate on the agricultural policy of the administration. I especially request the members for the rural counties to take a full share in this discussion, for they, more than others, can aid me in finding means to bring to perfection what has been already done, and to inaugurate that which is to be proposed.

I will not at present pause over all the items of the agricultural and colonisation budget; I reserve myself for giving on each item, when it shall be brought forward, all the details that can be desired.

Soliciting the support and co-operation of the members of this House and of all who are interested in farming, and in the development of the province, by colonisation, I will state what measures I propose to bring forward for the present. This programme may be briefly set forth as follows:—For agriculture: To fill our agricultural schools with pupils; to establish at once a creamery or cheesery in every parish in which none exists at present. For colonisation: To

conduct it as much as possible by groups reuniting all its elements together, and not allowing them any longer to venture in isolated bodies and thus to be without power in the country; leading them when thus grouped, to settle on good farms, and then assisting these new settlements to furnish themselves with creameries and cheese-factories.

For the execution of these projects, I fortunately find rushing to my aid many powerful associations; otherwise, I should not dare to hope for success.

THE FARMERS' CLUBS,

four hundred and eleven in number, have ardently entered the arena. Their power for good is very great; unlimited, indeed, and is already making itself cogently felt. I may say incidentally, that a great cattle breeder of the Island of Montreal, Mr. Andrew Dawes, wrote to me the other day, that "The farmers' clubs will soon change the face of the country; since they started, I have not been able to supply the demand for thoroughbred stock."

The law of last session establishing these clubs, has, we may say, satisfied a real want. It was the beneficent *Agricultural Decentralisation*, permitting the different groups of the rural population to organise themselves in a convenient manner, to derive advantages from all those who, generally speaking, guide the opinion of the people of any locality; to make of them devoted advisers, thoroughly trusted, and leading them gently but firmly along the paths, new to many, of sensible and remunerative agriculture.

The members of any one and the same club, from their mutual vicinity, can render to each other all the good service of generous neighbors; a costly implement, purchased by the club, will be used, from farm to farm in turns, by the whole parish; interesting discussions will take place, which will be frequented by large numbers, and it will not be very inconvenient to attend them. When the agricultural missionary or lecturer announces his arrival, there will be a crowd to listen to him.

The agricultural societies cannot supply all the local wants. Their members have more trouble to assemble together on account of the long distances they have to travel; so they confine their work to the holding of exhibitions, competitions of best cultivated farms, and ploughing matches for a whole county.

We were far from expecting so much success from this legislation concerning the clubs. For my part, I am happy to say that it has greatly exceeded my forecast. The clubs have expended \$27,000 in the improvement of our agriculture in different localities. Thanks to them, our *Journal of Agriculture* numbers 30,000 subscribers. They are generally presided over by the curés or by persons of influence in the parish; the members number 21,800, and all this in little more than a year. The house will remember that, at the beginning of the present session, in order to grant to these clubs a dollar for each member, we had to place the sum of \$25,000 in the supplementary estimates for 1893.

Should the movement continue, we shall soon have a club in every parish.

I have every reason to hope that by this means I shall be able to address a considerable number of farmers. These societies receive the public documents as well as the publications that furnish information on the best way of conducting remunerative agriculture.

The clubs, like the agricultural societies, are obliged to send in a yearly report to the department. By consulting those we have already received, we can judge of the results obtained.

I will not linger over the recital of these reports, some of which, however, are very interesting. We publish, in the *Journal of Agriculture*, as far as space will allow, those that will serve as models. The Hon. members read I suppose, from time to time, this journal which, I am happy to say, is appreciated by our rural population; they must have seen the fortunate results which have been attained, even by those clubs that do not possess large means. In many places the system of farming has been strikingly improved. Everywhere the people discuss, read and gain information. Here, at Lévis, prizes have been given for the best built, the best cared for cowhouses. In the County of Assomption, they have succeeded in placing at the service of a whole parish thoroughbred breeding stock, and at the same time increasing the means of the association. In other parts, the growing of green fodder crops, the secret of successful dairying, has been vigorously pursued. Others, not having enough farmyard manure, have devoted all their means to the purchase of fertilisers. It is pleasure enough to relate all these new attempts done in common,

thus introducing a good example everywhere; it is enough to give us confidence in a general and rapid advance.

I do not doubt that, when we ask each parish for a pupil to be sent to our farm schools, we shall have the support of all these associations. Responding to the appeal of the generous and devoted men in whom they have full confidence, they seem to be all determined to travel resolutely along the path of progress.

AGRICULTURAL MISSIONERS.

It is with deep satisfaction that I observe the arrival of our devoted agricultural missioners. Appointed by the Bishops of the Province, they have begun their labours, dividing among them the different parishes of each diocese, so that every parish shall be visited twice a year. They will thus go about, carrying the good news without cost to the state, and with great benefit to our people.

To the clergy we are indebted for the higher education, which has furnished us with the men we needed for our guidance and defence, and to ensure to our country her proper position among the surrounding nations. To the clergy we shall be indebted for the good farmer of the future, the strong man of the nation, who feeds it and makes it what it is.

For, this second task undertaken by the clergy, we shall doubtless find conducted as successfully as the former; and is it not still easier?

These agricultural missioners working in concert with well disposed men who have at heart the improvement of our agriculture, have already met in consultation several times. They have agreed upon a plan of agricultural instruction. On their return to their different divisions, the same directions having been given everywhere, we may expect that the same excellent results will everywhere follow.

Lastly, I rely on all friends of agriculture, and I am happy to be able to reckon a great number of those who desire the immediate improvement of our farming, and who, to attain this end, are willing to sacrifice their time. I am about to arrange all these efforts, to get them to work in the same direction, a direction that will, I trust, lead us to the success we all desire.

OUR FARM-SCHOOLS.

We want to fill them with students. What sort of schools are they? If they are not yet quite what they ought to be, it is because work has been unobtainable by the good workman. With a full lecture room, the teacher feels himself stimulated to communicate all he knows to his hearers. But, with empty benches before him, his ardor evaporates without any fault of his.

Still, there need be no fear that the teaching will not be such as is wanted. Strong in the intelligent aid at my disposal, I can assert that if the pupils are entrusted to me, I will be responsible for their instruction. The schools we have at our command are sufficient for the present. Some changes, some improvements will allow us to utilise the staff whose efforts, up to the present, have not had the wished for success, and we shall in this way recompense the devotion and sacrifice of many a long year.

Let us employ the existing means, let us fill our schools with students. When the scholarships are all taken up, let the students come all the same, their parents or friends paying the trifling charge for board either to the school or in the neighbourhood. It be taken for granted that the means of giving practical and theoretical instruction will increase with the number of the students; we will see to that. When these schools, well managed, shall overflow with students, we will think of establishing other schools which will then have happily become necessary. But I will have no more empty schools; and still less will I have a great central agricultural school, which will be empty too, very likely. Up to the present, we have had schools without pupils. Let pupils come to us now by the hundred; that is what we are striving after.

NOTRE DAME DU LAC (OKA).

"The finest farm in Canada"; that is what a recent report says of the farm of the R.R. P.P. Trappistes. And the report is signed by such universally known good farmers as Messrs. G. Buchanan, Judge of "Agricultural Merit," Thomas Irving, of Logan's Farm, and Robert Ness, of Howick, Chateauguay. There is a good school. If any one doubts it, let him spend at least a day there, enjoying the hospitality of the good fathers. A whole day will not be at all too

long to give him a chance of even glancing rapidly over this extensive farm.

There, our pupils will find good examples in every branch of farming, and, more than that, they will be able to learn a good deal about more than one industry connected with it.

Perfect theory demonstrated by intelligent practice; that, in one sentence, is the programme of the school. It is only just open, and already numbers of students attend it.¹

The good Prior is not satisfied with working with all his power to put his school on a good footing, but carries his solicitude still further. Appointed by the Archbishop of Montreal as president of the agricultural missionaries of the diocese, he finds time to attend the meetings and to do his share of the common work. And that is not all; he has founded, on the banks of the great Lake St. John, the Mistassini establishment, which will be for that entire region what the mother-house is for the western part of the province.

Ah, he is indeed a sturdy workman, a great toiler!

STE. ANNE

We must congratulate ourselves on the zeal and spirit of enterprise manifested by the directors of the *School at Ste. Anne*. The fields are in good order and the crops abundant. The herd is rapidly improving, and the pupils are more numerous than usual.² This school prospers, and furnishes a proof under the very eyes of our farmers that good farming pays. A few more improvements, which its managers are always ready to accept, and we shall have here an institution that will be of great assistance to this part of the province.

It is my intention that the directors, professors, and even the pupils of our schools, should interchange visits during the year. From this will, I trust, result a general improvement. Good systems will be initiated, bad ones laid on one side. When everything has been got into good order in all the schools, there might be granted, to excite greater emulation, certain prizes to the one that shall distinguish itself the most.

¹This school, although only opened last autumn, already reckons twenty pupils. With the fathers they grow root and green fodder crops on a large scale; take their turn in the cheesery and creamery; learn how to graft and manage fruit trees, and even how to make cider and wine. A fine vineyard is all ready there, and is the admiration of visitors.

²Here, too, there are, at present, fifteen pupils.

L'ASSOMPTION.

The School at L'Assomption has not yet completed the changes and improvements we thought it our duty to suggest; but they are getting on, and by next summer will, we doubt not, attract a good number of pupils.

COMPTON.

We have only just founded the *Compton Model Farm* for the Eastern Townships. Every one knows that the locality selected is one of the most celebrated for the excellence of its farms, for its good farming, and for the care bestowed on the breeding of the best kinds of cattle. The country of our great breeder, the Hon. Senator Cochrane, known throughout America for his success in winning prizes at the exhibitions, is indeed the place where one can most advantageously collect young farmers and instruct them in the intelligent breeding of cattle, as well as in the art of growing crops suited to dairying. And, so, I thought it right to accept the offer of the municipality of the village of Compton. The principal proprietors, all of whom are well known farmers, take great interest in the new establishment; the council has bought the farm with its good and complete buildings, for which \$6,500 were paid, and has put it into the hands of a syndicate of experienced men. A model creamery the council is building, for which all the necessary fittings have been carefully selected and bought; it will be ready to receive pupils next summer. Numerous will those be, I hope, who will flock thither to perfect themselves in their business on this classic land of good farming.

Three members, one of whom is appointed by the government, compose the syndicate. The House will learn with pleasure that we have chosen my Hon. colleague, the member for Compton, as our representative. This eminent post among his fellow-citizens, was his due since he was the chief founder of this school, and took the greatest pains to arrive at the desired end, its successful establishment. It was also his due, on account of his success as a farmer, for by that business alone has our honorable colleague raised himself to the distinguished rank he holds among us. If I add that the son of the former partner of the Hon. M. H. Cochrane, Mr. F. H. O. Smith, who exploits at Compton one of the best as well as largest farms of the province, is one of the founders of this model farm and devotes all his time to it,

it will be admitted that the young establishment is in good hands, and that we have a right to expect great results from it. We rejoice in it for the sake of our English-speaking friends; and I cordially congratulate the municipal council of Compton on its enterprising spirit, and the good example it is setting to the province at large.

So much for our schools, at least for the present, for I am sure that if they are overcrowded, the House will hasten to aid in the establishment of others.

Shall I say a word on the

SCHOOLS OF INDUSTRY AND OF HORTICULTURE FOR GIRLS.

The mothers of our robust and intelligent population have always been renowned for their adroitness, the dexterity of their fingers, and their skill in the management of the garden, whence comes more than one pleasant offering to the master of the house. We all admire, too, the taste with which she adorns her home, thus making it more attractive to the children. Shall we allow all these charming industries of the fireside, which occupy so equally and profitably the country life, gathering the family together, concentrating it, full of affection, to the great benefit of the whole—shall we allow these, I say, to perish?

I enjoy the acquaintance of an excellent lady, a scion of one of our old families, the ornament of society from the good qualities of her mind and her heart, the joy of her family in which she can count the grandchildren of her children; skilful among all, no one ever excelled her in the little industries of the home and in the management of her brilliant flower garden. Now that her poor eyes are beginning to shun the light, her nimble fingers, working for the poor, still furnish her with an agreeable occupation, while she amusingly narrates tales of former days.

Such were our mothers; such we must wish our wives to be.

ROBERVAL AND ST. BENOIT.

If we read the programme of the *School at Roberval*, Saguenay, kept by the R.R. Ladies of the Ursuline order, and of the *St. Benoit school*, Two-Mountains, kept by the R.R. Gray Sisters; if we visit their establishments, we shall soon be convinced of the good they are likely to do in our province.

At Roberval, not only is the interior domestic industry prosperously carried on, not only is the garden a model, but even the farm, throughout its whole extent, is an example of superior cultivation.

For certain tendencies to be given to the teachings in our schools, I can fortunately calculate on the assistance of men of judgment and experience, men who have already given proof of their skill in agriculture. Among those, I may mention my honourable friend, the member for Compton, and his colleagues in the Council of Agriculture.

Liberal offers have been made to us for the formation of new agricultural schools. To these we have answered that we welcome their institution with pleasure, and will grant them all possible assistance as soon as we should feel justified in doing so by the increase in the number of pupils.

THE AGRICULTURAL PUPIL.

Can we supply a numerous body of students to our schools? By what means? I reply at once, by the same means that have filled, nay, even overcrowded our classical colleges.

God forbid that I should regret all that has been done in that direction. The friends of classical education, fortunate in the enjoyment of its benefits, will always honour the memory of those men of enlarged views, the founders of our colleges, prosperous to-day and always necessary. From their bosom have sprung the leaders of the nation.

In so praiseworthy an object, I intend to imitate their mode of action, hoping to follow in their successful steps. This time, without fear of overcrowding, of excess, which, in every undertaking, is prejudicial. The field is vast, enormous; in the new arena energy of all kinds may find scope, and there will be no failures (*déclassés*). There will be none of those lads who, having prepared themselves for honourable positions, see them fade away before them in spite of their efforts and sacrifices.

In this province, there are five thousand students attending our classical colleges; a vast number indeed, out of all proportion, I may say, to the population at large. We have overshot the mark.

How has this result been arrived at? How comes it that the taste for the higher education is so widely spread that almost every one of

our farmers longs for it for at least one member of his family? It has, so to speak, become habitual. No one has to cry it up any longer; it can walk alone. Look at this settler who, full of joy, leaves his home on the skirts of the forest. He is taking his son to the college of his selection. He is about to realise the project so long, so fondly discussed by the fireside. What trouble, what labour, have been submitted to for the accomplishment of this purpose! But he will have among his children, one educated man at least, and what hopes for the future rest on his head! Who has advised this step, who has urged him to it? No one; he is only just doing what others are doing.

It is by constant exertion that this result has been arrived at. After having, by dint of many sacrifices, built the colleges, the clergy set strenuously to work to find pupils. The farmer, who could not afford the cost of his son's board, was assisted by the clergy, who found the money as they found the earnest advice; the pupil was secured.

Thus, the province was supplied with educated men, some of whom became able and devoted leaders. What was done in this case was more difficult than the steps we are now advising. The college student was at first harder to find than the pupil of the farm-school will be nowadays.

And the time is propitious for the new enterprise. A great agricultural awakening is taking place. The movement is growing rapidly; farming is the fashion: because it is becoming profitable. Let us profit by the favour it is now enjoying to fill our schools with pupils. Let us incite the farmer to feel an earnest desire to have his family represented there; let us once more undertake the task which we have already performed; let us advise him, let us help him. Let the Club and the Agricultural Society come to the aid of the father if, without their assistance, he cannot support his son at school. When he returns, he will be an example for the rest to follow. The government will not be wanting in assisting the clubs to have their representatives at school.

We must insist upon a pupil from every parish. The demand is not exorbitant. If successful, though, it would bring in from 900 to 1,000 pupils; for there is that number of parishes. And we pledge ourselves that they will become proselytisers. For they will be well treated. They will learn to love both the school and agriculture.

When at home once more, they will find rivals and school-fellows among their young friends, and, thenceforward, as was the case with the higher education, the system will go along of itself.

When the school has become too small, never fear, it will be increased in size or others will be built.

Give me the pupil, and I will provide the school, and a good one, too.

In every parish and every club there is to be formed a small committee whose special duty will be to find this pupil. By their own exertions, the clergy has already found pupils for the colleges, and now will assist us greatly for the agricultural missioners make it the first item in their programme.

The movement is organised, the plan is arranged, just as formerly, but this time, it is the farmer's son at home whom it concerns. At last, it is his turn. He, entrusted with the duty of keeping up the family and its traditions, of maintaining the family-house in good repair, of sustaining the hospitality of the home, of that home to which will resort for renovation more than one brother who at one time turned his back on the fields and betook himself to the noisy life of towns.

I have known curés who, when the colleges were scantily supplied with pupils, kept at their own cost fifteen to eighteen lads as students. What expense and trouble! Good, reiterated advice from the same men will be sufficient now for what we aim at.

And, moreover, the time is at hand when the cultivation of the land will offer a new career to our lads on their leaving college. More and more is science finding its place in the exploitation of the land as well as in the duties of the professions. It comes in a marvellous way to the aid of man by the multiplication of machinery; it studies the soil, prescribes and applies the elements in which it is defective; keeps in store remedies for the diseases of plants and crops; watches vigilantly over the health of our valuable herds; repels contagious diseases or contends with them when they occur: travels afar to find new markets, studies them carefully, and shows us how to prepare goods suited to their demands; and now we find it, strange to say, bending electricity to its service in hastening the growth of plants.

Yes, indeed, farming will soon attract to its pursuit the educated youth. In it he will find a reward for his industry and intelligence.

If his arms cannot—and they should not—be at work all the time, the work will go on none the worse for that, seeing that a well stored brain will be superintending every operation.

It has been sometimes said that the vicinity of the college has been detrimental to the success of our farm-schools, the pupils being all the time agitated by the idea of rising to the higher education of the college. All this will be changed ; agriculture is engrossing all kinds of studies as it is talents of every description, at the same time that it is becoming remunerative and universally in vogue.

Now is the time for the student at the college to pass over to the farm-school, there to finish his education and to start on a happy and prosperous life.

For admission to the farm-school, the pupil must be fourteen years of age, be able to read and write, and to satisfy the Director and the government Inspector, that he really intends to follow farming as his life business.

The first fifteen pupils admitted to a school are to be called bursars and receive teaching, board, and lodging, gratuitously. The next that enter will have to board themselves, at the school, or in some house in the neighbourhood. They will receive theoretical and practical instruction, free.

Speaking of our schools, I will mention one that I call our

TRAVELLING SCHOOL.

It is a way of getting good out of the system of "Agricultural Merit."

It is well known that the judges entrusted with the distribution of the prizes to the owners of the farms submitted to competition have to traverse successively the different parts of the province so as to complete the circuit in five years. Up to the present, their duty has been to settle who deserve the medals and diplomas. I have determined to get a greater amount of service out of these judges, who are men of experience and judgment. I have instructed them to inspect each farm carefully, and to enter their remarks and advice in a note book, a copy of which is to be handed over to the proprietor, the original to be kept for themselves. The competitor thus receives from these judges a body of counsels calculated to make his farm more than ever a model to the neighbourhood. In this book, which he may consult

with benefit for years, will be found entered all the good that he has done on his farm, all that might have been done differently to advantage, and the innovations that the judges think he had better make in his usual practice. The lessons, thus, are given on the spot, after discussion with the competitor, while the judges are passing field by field through the farm.

There, is a system that is as pleasant as it is practical and useful. It is good advice, disinterested advice, and consequently welcome advice, and therefore well followed, to the great benefit of the farmer as well as an example to the whole district, and I may say that people accept it with gratitude and that it may be truly said to be effective. It is "An object-lesson," to use a school term, is this question discussed on the very spot where the finger can be laid on all that is deficient as well as on all that is efficient.

Competitors have declared that the visit of the judges of agricultural merit marks a quite novel era in their system of farming; that they were pleased with the advice offered, and would avail themselves of it at once; and that it was more valuable to them than any medals or diplomas that might be awarded to them.

The managers of our dairy-association sometimes employ teachers who, furnished with the requisite implements, travel through the country teaching the best way of making butter at farm-houses; the plan is found to be a good one, and wherever these teachers have been, it is proved that benefit has been derived from their lessons; and so with the tours of our judges of agricultural merit. The farms that are submitted for competition are naturally the best managed in the district, and by improving them by the advice of the judges we are creating model-farms without cost to the province.

We are going, if possible, to bring this travelling farm-school to perfection. The judges are instructed to remain on the farm of each competitor as long as there is any good to be done as regards his system of cultivation. The distribution of prizes, although made with never so much care and judgment, becomes thus a merely secondary matter in the duties of the judges. Their first duty is to teach, to reform practice, and then to reward. I have every reason to congratulate myself on this innovation. After the successful issue of the dairy-school, it is the one that I think the most valuable. It is not, here, the boy who goes to school, it is the school that goes to the boy in

earnest, and the pupil is anxious enough to benefit by the benefits it carries with it. The competitors of the "Agricultural Merit Competition" average sixty annually.

THE ST. HYACINTHE SCHOOL.

I do not speak here of the dairy school at St. Hyacinthe, for the excellent reason that to mention it is enough! It is successful! Two hundred and fifty to three hundred pupils! Thank goodness I have no reason to trouble myself about it, for it goes alone, like our classical education. It can do without our encouragement—in our speeches, at least—for the farmer and his son attend it. It sows prosperity broadcast over the whole province, to which it furnishes specialists. I do not include this among the establishments I commend to the care of our farmers, for two reasons: first, because it is thoroughly appreciated; secondly, because, if we wish it to continue to be filled with students, we must everywhere increase our production, improve our farming, and make our farms yield more butter and cheese, both articles of export trade that bring in the greatest profit. It is the cultivation of the land that must be now attended to, since the final making up of the goods is all right. Thus, we are providing by our schools for the instruction, the need of which is making itself felt in our rural districts, and we are acting, moreover, in concert with the clergy, who, now more than ever, are entering with energy into the arena.

But our agriculture needs immediate aid; we want a fountain of prosperity that can be turned over our rural parts, especially where the loss of population has been most severe, and where a good many farms are without occupants.

THE DAIRY INDUSTRY.

Dairying here comes in, with wonderful effect, to the rescue. It will prove to be an effective inducement to lead the farmer to improve his cultivation. By its aid he may become a lender, instead of the borrower he too often is; by it, farms, the houses on which, entrusted to the care of a neighbor, are *under lock and key*, will find happy and prosperous occupants; by it, the desert caused in some of our parishes by an exhaustive system of farming will become gay, and the population dense where it is now scanty. Everywhere our land will feed

plentifully a happy people and emigration will cease. In the old parishes there will be a scarcity of labour, and work will be paid better for than it is abroad.

And much more, our compatriots will return from the States, finding that there is plenty of work here, while it is scarce in that country.

Experience, especially of the last two years, has shown us what this industry of making butter and cheese can do for our land.

One of our leading financiers has just told us that it has sheltered our province from the fearful commercial hurricane that lately swept over the American Union. While, there, the financial institutions were plunging into the depths one by one, in the midst of a general reign of terror, ours, in a serener atmosphere, were peacefully pursuing their prosperous and happy path. Thanks to dairying, the farmer, receiving cash for his goods, has been able to pay cash for his purchases at the store, the storekeeper has made all his payments; the prosperous *branch* has paid the great *central* bank, and thus our agriculture has saved the province from the disasters that have raged elsewhere.

Wherefore, we intend putting to some good use the services of the clubs, of the agricultural missionaries, and of all well disposed men, to encourage the establishment of this business, from this year, in all the parishes which are not already favored by its existence. This can be done, now that the St. Hyacinthe school furnishes us with dairy-men.

Some of our parishes last year sold as much as \$60,000 worth of butter and cheese apiece. What a success to lay before the eyes of those of our farmers who, as yet, have not profited by this industry!

The cattle exist in every part. What is wanted is the assured co-operation of a sufficient number of patrons. The moderate capital required can easily be found. At the St. Hyacinthe school, as well as at the more successful of the factories, the most suitable working implements can be selected. All the arrangements can be made in a very short space of time, and then the farmer will begin to draw monthly payments for his labor. This is, indeed, very different from that system of farming, the returns for which were only felt at the end of three or four years!

By the production of a good article, extending for that purpose our system of syndicates of creameries and cheeseries, making it even

obligatory if necessary, as well as by the stamping of our products, we shall shortly have to dread the over-supply of the markets to which we now consign our goods.

There is also the *winter fresh butter business*, for which we have, in our large towns, a sale that we are far from exploiting as we might do. In this, we should imitate a country as cold as ours, Denmark, which sends to England yearly \$24,000,000 worth of butter. There the cows calve in September and October, so their greatest yield of milk is in winter.

GREEN FODDER.

But if dairying is to be carried on *green fodder-crops* must be grown. THAT IS THE REAL SECRET OF DAIRYING! Let the field be well manured and ploughed in the fall, and see that it be extensive enough to furnish a good supply of food in aid of the pastures during the summer droughts. The cows will then go on milking, and will be kept so throughout the autumn until they go into winter quarters; and here, again, there must be a provision of green meat for the winter months. The field, to fill the silo, or the bay of the barn in layers alternately with straw, besides furnishing the summer's food, must be pretty large. Thus, the cows will be kept in milk for ten months; they will always be in good condition, whether to go into winter quarters or to go out to grass in spring.

People ought to bear in mind that when a cow is once checked in her yield of milk it is very difficult, if not impossible, to restore the flow.

COLONISATION.

Alongside of this word I shall place the word *re-peopling*; the re-peopling of our old parishes. In some of these, desertion has passed like a tornado, a fire, leaving everywhere a void. Numbers of houses are locked up, under the care of a neighbor. If he thinks fit, which seldom happens, he will get something out of the farm, to the profit of the absent one.

"How many vacant farms are there in your parish?" asked I of a good parish priest, who was doing his best to get up a farmers' club. "From thirty to forty," replied he, with a sigh. "And the parishioners?" "Gone to the large towns!"

Must not we fill up these sad voids while we are making such inroads into the virgin forest?

Let us seize upon the land, as people often say. After seizing upon it, the thing is to keep it. The successful general, after the victory, leaves a good garrison in the captured towns.

We have already a great deal too much land under the plough. If we ploughed less and farmed better, the profits would be larger. I saw the other day a capital book, by an American author. Its title was, "We farm too much land." In it he preaches the concentration of cultivation, and brings plenty of evidence in support of his doctrine. (1)

There is also a fact that we see proved every day ; as soon as dairying becomes thoroughly established in a parish, the demand for labor becomes greater than the supply. Laborers have to be imported. Dairying paying the farmer, he at once increases his herd, and he has the means of paying the help he needs.

Our rural population is by no means too thick ; every place will soon have its creamery or cheesery. In spite of this, there will always be need of colonisation ; it must be led, aided, in such a way that the settler, that hardy skirmisher of our exploitation, does not despair and abandon, he as well as the man of the old parishes, his task when half finished.

There will always be settlers to look after, to protect on the flanks of the forest. These are led thither by divers motives ; many of them cannot be induced to take hold of one of the cleared and abandoned farms of our old parishes. No, it is the father of a large family who sells his little farm near the village for the purpose of settling his sons around him and giving to each a large property, the fruit of his toil and foresight ; it is the farmer who met with misfortunes at the old village ; he leaves it for the forest, to hide his trouble, and to renew his stock of energy and courage ; prosperity may await him there ; it is the son who sees no prospect of inheriting further wealth, who only expects it from the employment of his vigorous arm ; when he has cleared his land, built his house and barn, he will return to

(1) The other day, at the agricultural congress at Huntingdon, that skilled *agronome*, Mr. Macpherson, of Lancaster, brought forward a farmer who testified to the excellent results of the concentration. This man had failed in exploiting a farm of 150 acres under the plough, and was now doing well on a lot of 50 acres ; he kept more stock and sold more. And he stated this as a fact before the large meeting above mentioned.

his old home, there to unite himself to the intrepid partner of his labor and his life.

HOW THESE SETTLERS SUCCEED IN THE FOREST.

These settlers leave home, each in his own direction, seldom in important groups. They generally select the nearest spot, follow the roads opened in the forest, or leave the road for some notion that strikes them, or from some information they receive; they bury themselves sometimes in the bush, separated from the rest of the world by the absence of roads. After years of misery of all kinds, the government perhaps comes to their aid and gives them means of exit. There are people established thus, 20, 30, even 50 miles from our establishments. Snowshoes in winter, canoes in summer: such are their modes of travel. Again, have they chosen good land for themselves? How often, after having laboriously cleared off the bush, have they not found that, to their grief, the soil was ungrateful and would always be so.

There are thus whole parishes that never ought to have been cut out of the bush. The timber was large and stout, but the farmer's land will never bear full crops. The wood was valuable, but the crops that succeed are no great things.

The elementary part of settling has thus been left to itself; it arranged itself as it could, rather by chance. Can we guide these precious elements, urge them on in groups towards those rich valleys where the thick layer of alluvium promises them success; make them renounce the rule of each one for himself, his own way to each, put a stop to isolation, which paralyses everything, and replace it by the benefits to be derived from the group, the beneficent effect of the parish? This is really what I aim at, and for my encouragement I have the experience of what has been done among us during the last three or four years. With an object, excellent from their point of view, persons whose position commands the respect of the public, have come among us for the purpose of recruiting the population of whole parishes to people our Canadian North-West. Aided by the facilities so freely granted by the C. P. R., they send off in spring several train-loads of entire settlements. These families, transported with their furniture, and even with their stock, are carried to places two or three thousand miles away. There, is an entire parish moving off along the line, and about to settle under other skies.

Could not we try to do something of this kind to arrive at the same end, but at a much nearer spot, remaining at home, in our own province ?

In fertile townships, within each diocese, I will have selected by the explorer of the department the best places for the occupation of settlers. I will beg the agricultural missionaries, on their visits to the parishes, to be good enough to collect the names of all those who wish to seek out new farms. All those of the same district will, as far as possible, be directed towards the same point. The parish should be formed at once, and would then be easily provided with roads by the government. If the settlers now are suffering from want of roads, it is because the settlements are too numerous and too scattered, so that the means at our disposal are not sufficient.

Shall we succeed in thus guiding the stream of emigration towards the Crown lands, in so arranging it that, there as elsewhere, union shall give strength ? This is what I hope for, thanks to the powerful movement we now observe. And the settler, far from having to take his sad and lonely path into the bush, will arrive there full of good spirits ; he will find new neighbors, all delighted to afford him help and pleasant companionship.

With groups like this, progress will be rapid ; mutual aid will be efficient, and the assistance granted by government will benefit a greater number. The people will be ready at once to receive the lecturer, the agricultural missioner.

As soon as there are fifty cows belonging to the group, let a moderate grant be made in aid of the establishment of a creamery or cheesery. Thenceforward, the success of the settlement is assured.

The dairy industry, carried on by the settler : that is the best means of promptly securing his success. When he gets regularly paid by the factory for the products of his cows, he will gladly take upon himself the making and care of his roads. To start with, his hardwood lands will furnish pasture, and his burnt clearings will give him maize, tares and oats for winter food.

How many settlers, in places where we are still making the roads, have told me and the members of this House that they would willingly take charge of the roads, if they could be provided with a butter or cheese factory.

I can say, without hesitation, that part of the grant devoted to colonisation roads might be advantageously employed for the above purpose.

I have in some degree, but not as much as I could wish, put this plan into practise, and the results are wonderful. The settlers are in great spirits—many of them having left their homes poor—at being able to earn hard cash at once, and that paid monthly, while they, at the same time, are carving out fine estates for themselves from the bush. News of the successful issue of the settlement is soon spread abroad; the settlers arrive with their cattle; in the second year the number of cows from fifty mounts up to seventy-five or eighty. At the end of three years the factory no longer needs assistance, and a new parish, young and full of energy, has arisen in the province.

I will have an account written, for the House or in the *Journal of Agriculture*, the history of one of these colonisation settlements in the maiden forest, in which the establishment of a factory produced ease and comfort from its very commencement. We helped it, and, in return for that help, the settlers willingly took the care of the roads on themselves. The settlers drive to the factory with their milk and drive back with the cash. Money in the bush! This is indeed a discovery, since the lumbermen have left!

This experiment greatly encourages us to persist. The factories will be of the greatest service to colonisation, but it must depend upon the grouping of the settlers together; they must be gathered up in a group; we must not be satisfied with making a great boast about opening long roads, planting here and there feeble colonies, and calling upon the people to come at their pleasure. Many will come, but they will go back before long. The roads cannot be kept up, there is not enough population; the bush threatens to recover its lost ground. That is what is gained by spreading one's strength and acts over too much territory. The life of these poor settlements will be weak and ailing. Not that it was unwise to have gone afar and so deep into the bush, to occupy a grand position when everything was promising for a strong settlement; but the colonists should have gone there in numbers, if they hoped to establish a centre of life and activity.

And, now, we shall have to devote ourselves to completing all those outlines that we have before us, where too much has been under-

taken at once ; all these have to be filled with people before we push fresh settlers ahead. Let us combine our efforts, condense our means and action, and try to make prosperous these places that we already occupy.

With the aid of right-thinking men, we shall be able, I trust, to prepare new swarms ; to those who propose to become settlers due notice must be given. They should start in the fall, all together, to make the cut of the undergrowth (*efferdochage*) ; and, especially, word should be passed when the time arrives to go up with the family to take possession of the new estates, to burn the bush, and to make the first sowings. In company—and in large companies—our countryman is always happy, and works with emulation. Do not let us any longer allow him to exile, to isolate himself. Let us do for our settlers what the C. P. R. does for those in whom it is interested.

In drafting the list in each parish of those who wish to take up new farms, we may perhaps, at the same time, gather in some who intend to emigrate to the States, or who are returning thence ; there are many of the latter this year. We shall then have a sort of register which will show us the elements we have to guide and protect.

RE-PEOPLING.

To fill up the vacancies left by emigration in our old parishes, to repair the losses, to fill up the outlines. I have long been anxious to obtain a list of the abandoned farms, what price is asked for each, if they can be rented for ten years, with right of purchase by the tenant at any time during the lease ; how they are off for house and farm buildings, for water and firing, total acreage, how much under the plough, etc. I am succeeding in getting this information. This will be made known to the clubs, and through them to the country. It will be useful to those who wish to take new farms, and to those who intend to return to the country.

More than one man, who knows how to farm properly, may thus at once fit himself for beginning a paying business without having to undertake the long and arduous task of the settler, the struggle with the forest, the encumbrance of stumps, the distance from market. And the parish, by degrees, will repair its losses, and children will be born that will replace those it has lost. The heart of the country, the old parishes, will be sound and strong ; the extremities will of a surety feel its good effects.

All this cannot be done at once, that is certain, but it can be begun, and that without delay. Without much outlay, we have here a good opportunity of being useful, both to the parish and to the individual. (1)

FARMERS' SYNDICATES.

Before concluding, one word on the agricultural syndicates for farmers. They are likely to be a great assistance to us. Upright and devoted brokers, or middlemen, experts in the goods that are to be bought or sold, they will save both the cost of journeys and the search or inquiries necessary to find out the thing required. The one at Quebec has for its president, both honorary and active, His Lordship Monseigneur Bégin, who thus gives a fresh proof of his devotion to the cause. The Montreal syndicate is presided over by the Hon. J. J. Ross, president of the Senate, and Legislative Councillor.

Both are composed of men well known to the public, as well by their acquaintance with their special subjects as by their position in society.

Our farmers may trust these bodies, and confide to them all their transactions both in sales and purchases. Quite unnecessary to sacrifice one's time or money in getting the grain, seeds, implements, fertilisers, breeding stock that one wants, or in selling butter, cheese, hay, etc. All this can be done, at very little expense, through the post, those to whom the orders are entrusted being worthy of confidence.

This idea of syndicates came to us from France, where the system has done wonders. They are associations of good citizens content with a trifling remuneration, or with none at all, who place themselves devotedly at the service of farmers and of farmers' clubs. It is easy to see of how much use they may become. The person who knows nothing at all about the article he orders, may order it all the same, and trust the buyers to do him justice. The article he receives will be all right. Through these syndicates, purchases will very often

(1) While this is at press, I am very happy to find that the Colonisation Society just formed at Montreal is especially engaged in filling up these vacancies in our parishes. I heartily wish it success. The young settlers who shall leave their parishes thus rendered prosperous and populous, will arrive at the new settlement amply provided with everything necessary to immediate success.

be made to much greater advantage than by taking upon one's self the cost and loss of time that a journey creates.

The clubs and agricultural societies can benefit by the services of these syndicates by affiliating themselves with one, at a cost of ten dollars ; individual subscription, one dollar.

The Department has absolutely no connection with these bodies, which are entirely out of its control. Still I think it is my duty to recommend them to the agricultural public, as they may turn out to be very useful to it.

CONCLUSION.

I beg to thank the House for its kind attention, for the marks of sympathy I have received from, I may say, both sides. I would request the assistance of all men of good will, of all those who have at heart the prosperity of our agriculture, to see that our schools overflow with pupils (a guarantee of a permanent agricultural success) ; that creameries and cheeseries be erected where none as yet exist (a guarantee that our farming is at once to become profitable) ; that farmer's clubs be established where there are none ; that colonisation be properly organised, that a hand be extended to the settler to lead him to good land, to protect and encourage him when settled there ; that those of our countrymen who have emigrated, and who are now far from prospering abroad, be brought back to our old parishes ; that emigration from our parishes be abolished, and that every Canadian find a happy home in his own country. Our bankers say that this year our dairy industry has made our province secure and wealthy. Let us continue that which has been so well begun.