

soils, when the snow and frost are disappearing in march and april, the most dangerous period is experienced ; for if snow water becomes frozen on the surface, the young plants are apt to be destroyed, and it is still more injurious when it comes on slowly with alternating of thaw and frost. There is no such danger with thorough drained land. Would not general drainage and deep ploughing then, be of incalculable service to Lower-Canada ? When we have a fall of snow during the night, which is soon melted after sunrise, the thawed soil becomes saturated with moisture, and being unable to penetrate downwards through the indurated inferior stratum, it continues hardened ; and the saturated soil freezing during the night, raises up the superficial layer of earth subject to its influence, and rends the plants and their tender rootlets growing therein. The latter are upturned and torn by this means ; and during the day, the earth thaws again and becomes collapsed, falling back into its original position ; but the plants remain high and bare on the surface. This process is often repeated for several days and nights in succession, and every repetition of the process becomes more and more destructive. The more porous and light the soil the greater the danger. Wheat looking promising in march, has often been almost completely destroyed by such causes. But if soils were thoroughly drained, the cause would be removed to a great extent, and with it the effect ; and Eastern Canada would again become a wheat growing country,—and the more valuable crop of *Winter Wheat* might be risked with safety. Light soils would answer better for spring wheat ; and by draining, too, the wheat crop would be saved from the loss wrought by rust and the weevil. There can be no doubt on this score ; and the government would by the introduction of a Drainage Bill attain their object in effecting the permanent riddance of these pests, and the agricultural produce of the country would speedily be increased twofold. There can be no doubt on this point, and the Legislature could adopt no more certain or speedy method of increasing the revenues of this country, and getting rid of her indebtedness, and restoring the balance between its imports and exports than by passing a General Drainage Bill through both Houses of Parliament. Any other proposed means will prove no better than quackery and imposition. We shall be but imposing upon ourselves. By doubling the agricultural produce of the country we shall be opening an inexhaustible mine of wealth—ever increasing in productiveness, and it would require no prophet to predict the beneficial results which must follow. *This is the true solution of the problem ; what are we to do to restore to us prosperity ?* We may attempt reduction of expenditure—we may chop and shift as we please — we may take out of one pocket and put into the other, and drain the country of gold to equalize the account with strangers—but unless we increase the productiveness of the country we cannot expect to thrive—it is mere imposture and make-believe wisdom. We are imposing on ourselves—getting certainly poor and increasing our indebtedness. By increasing the surplus produce of the country we rectify this at once, and permanently, and it is clearly the only certain and rational remedy. Who can doubt the wisdom of falling back then on a General Drainage Bill for Canada ? It can only be resisted by the obstinacy of ignorance. It is the first improvement in agriculture. It should precede all attempts at good farming. Both manure and labour are expended in vain without this preliminary improvement. The material resources of the country are prodigally wasted—the returns are small and uncertain ; and instead of abounding prosperity, we are constrained to content ourselves with debt and dependance at home and abroad.

If still unattended to, cellars must be forthwith cleansed from decaying vegetables and other impurities—white washing the walls. Let them be freely ventilated, as a sanitary precaution. Sow the different varieties of seed as the weather will permit. Continue draining as convenient opportunities offer.—