

be seen as a whole, we should compare very favorably with those who reside in more southern latitudes.

DRAINING NEGLECTED, AND WHY.

Draining the land has not been attended to in this riding as much as the health and prosperity of the occupier have required; and without doubt for the very palpable reason—want of funds. It must be patent to every body, that when a man goes back into the forest to clear a home for himself and family, every surplus dollar is required for the erection of a few buildings; and before he is aware, those he first erected require to be replaced by others, at an extra cost, thereby leaving no surplus for draining. But this is not all, for if the unfortunate settler on a lot of land happens to be of a subsequent importation to that of his neighbor, who purchased is land from the Government, he has to purchase his lot from the speculators, who have taken up every lot from the land agent at a nominal price of, say \$1.50 or \$1.75 per acre, by merely paying the first instalment, and who then sell their right for four times its actual value.

This system of land jobbing has been carried on to a ruinous extent in North Simcoe, and has been the means of crippling the poor settler for life; for every dollar must go to pay those who have been greedy of gain, instead of being expended in draining or otherwise improving property. Another fact which is not generally known, and which is really injurious to actual settlers is, that lands are taken up by speculators, and are not settled, and whereon no settler resides, cannot be assessed for taxes. Had the lands in North Simcoe been sold to none but actual settlers, by this time we might have been a flourishing community, for a healthier part of the Province cannot be found. While the actual result is, emigrants from the old country are going past us; and our sons who ought to have been an acquisition to our adoptive country are moving to some far off place, seeking a home to themselves; and in many instances to the United States. We have noted that the speculators have crippled every poor but honest settler so much that they cannot properly cultivate and drain their land; but we are pleased to be enabled to report that there are a few who are in better circumstances, and have commenced farming, and with very satisfactory results. Lands which have come under our observa-

tion, and which, when in a state of nature, were wet and cold, and actually useless, have been rendered extremely valuable by drainage. In the spring of the year when the farmer should be plowing such land, and otherwise preparing the soil for seed, the water prevented the teams from walking over it, and this state of things was obliged to be submitted to until the water was partially evaporated by the sun—the subsoil being of a hard nature always prevented it sinking. While in this state seeding was late; and harvesting was late; ten to twelve bushels of wheat, per acre, was considered a tolerably good crop, and to think of planting potatoes, Swedish Turnips, or any other roots, would be considered the height of folly. But when drained, that portion which before was worthless for roots now yielded, in 1858, over 300 bushels of potatoes per acre; and in 1859, nearly, if not quite 40 bushels of wheat per acre, and of superior quality. We hesitate not to state that there are thousands of acres of land in North Simcoe, which, if properly drained, could with ease be made to yield four times the quantity it produces at present, but the occupiers, for reasons already stated, are too crippled to attempt it.

IMPLEMENTS.

North Simcoe may be considered in the rear with respect to improved implements; mowers and reapers are not numerous, in fact they are almost useless until the stumps and stones are removed, and the surface of the soil levelled. The Horse-rake cannot be said to work properly on the virgin soil; and in a vast number of instances the farms are too small to require implements similar to those already mentioned; and in others, until a better system of cultivation is adopted, the returns will not warrant the outlay.

HORTICULTURE.

In horticulture we cannot report very favorably. The peach and more delicate fruit trees do not thrive here, they may live through some of our winters, but cannot be relied upon. Even apple-trees brought from the Nurseries have proved almost a failure, nevertheless we believe we are not singular in this case. Although much trouble has been taken and large sums of money expended, yet we have not met with encouraging success. But this privation is now in a great measure overcome by the construction of the Northern Railroad. Apples, the growth of