

ON DRAINING, WITH REFERENCE TO FIELD WORK AND ALSO FOR PLANK ROADS.

To the Editor of the *Agriculturist*.

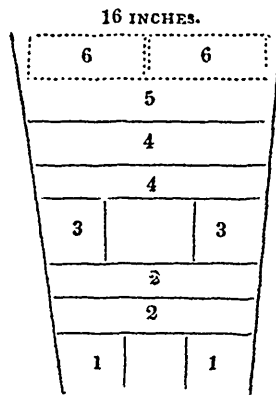
Mr. Editor :—

As the season as now arrived in which Draining operations should be called into requisition, a few practical observations may be useful to many, and not inappropriate at this season for the pages of the *Canadian Agriculturist*.—Herewith I send you a sketch of a section of a drain constructed with split oak timber peculiarly suited for Canada, and especially applicable for our plank roads. Some years ago I sent a copy to the Board of Works, and if it had been adopted, it would have saved 50 per cent in the cost of maintaining the said roads; besides the additional prices that would have been obtained at the late sales; and it must yet be adopted before any effective road can be made. The drain described forms the base of the centre string piece or sleeper; the advantages are many, but chiefly in the increased durability of the road, from its dry and firm state, and preventing the sinking or springing of the sleepers or string pieces; and will also prevent the wasting out of breaches or holes by the accumulated force of torrents in heavy rains, but the greatest advantage and comfort to the public will be in leveling all the present dangerous open ditches, cut at short intervals at right angles with the road, foolishly intended to take off the water, but entirely ineffectual for that object, and which has caused numerous accidents, especially in the night. For field work the drain proposed is preferable to either tile or pipe draining, and somewhat cheaper; the chief advantage is, that the water soon filters through into the drain, consequently will dry a larger area, and thus diminish the outlay. Every owner of a strong loam or stiff clay soil will find, after a few years, however well such land had been drained with pipe or tile, that the discharge is very slow;—this will be the certain consequence of tillage on arable land, especially when ploughed in a wet season. When in England in March last, I inspected work done under my direction 15 years ago, and now in good operation. As a grand result of draining you have doubtless read of the wonderful crops said to have been grown by the Rev. Mr. Huxtable in Dorsetshire, whose farming as been so much discussed at the Tamworth Dinners, and elsewhere; I was in the neighbourhood of the Rev. gentleman's farm at the period alluded to and dined with a large party of respectable farmers at Dorchester.—From what was then stated, there seems to be

much exaggeration in the accounts which have reached us respecting this celebrated agriculturist, but it is understood that the Rev. gentleman has married a rich wife and is now entering eagerly into agricultural experiments; having made the transition from the humble Dissenting Minister to the Episcopal Clerical Magistrate, an incongruity of frequent occurrence amongst the more aspiring divines of that church in England but happily unknown on this side the Atlantic. It may be recollected that the character of such men is well described by Cowper as being anomalous in his time.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
HENRY MOYLE.

Section of a Drain constructed with Split Oak Timber.



The depth of the side 22 inches: width of bottom 12 inches.

REFERENCE,

- 1 1 Base Shoulders, 4½ inches square, 6 feet long.
- 2 } { Cross Covers, 2 inches thick, five or six inches wide, care being taken to cover the joints.
- 2 } {
- 3 3 Upper shoulders, having their beamings in the centre of 1 1.
- 4 } { Cross covers same as 2 2.
- 4 } {
- 5 Rye straw with a thin covering of effete Tan Bark to serve as a filter.
- 6 6 The centre string pieces, each 12 feet long 2½ inches thick, having the joints opposite corresponding centres, these are sawn timbers.

Observations.—For field work the layer of straw or tan bark will not be necessary, but for a Road Drain it will be needed as a filter, and to prevent the drain being filled with sand by the shaking of the road. The upper shoulder will not be necessary where there is sufficient fall