

any kind is always kept wet it lasts longer than where exposed to alternations of wet and drought.

Whenever the farmers take to tile draining, the price will soon fall, and then a great many will be induced to make a trial, as it is now, the cost bars out many who would otherwise give it a fair chance.

The past season ought to convince the most sceptical, that it would pay to drain their soils—for they are at a great advantage over their neighbor who is at times about drowned in water—while again they are at a great advantage—as M. Mortureux shews that underdraining is a safe guard against drought.

It is not very often than any particular thing answers well in opposites—such as a waggon on a dry road goes well while in snow it does not do well at all, in such a case a sleigh would answer much better.

But underdraining dries wet lands and then again enables these same lands to withstand the drought much better than if there was none.

Underdrains especially tile ones do not need much fail to them, they are better to be put in to a good depth for two reasons: first to be sure to escape the frost, and secondly, they have a chance to draw the water from greater distances when deep.

This like many other reforms require to be drilled into people, line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little. The great hobby with some people is to own a lot of land, but my advice is not to get too much, but what you have make it pay. A small farm well tilled will make more money to a farmer than hundreds of acres only poorly worked. Many men are land poor—and will be to the end of time.

I would suggest to some farmer who has never tried it, to make one short drain in the lowest, wettest part of your farm, take a piece of land almost useless as it were, and see if, in a year or two, you have not made it one of the most productive. Keep strict account of the cost, and then see

what interest you will get on your investment: you will be surprised at the result, for you will find that in a very few years it has paid not only the interest on the investment, but the capital too. If you could do so in one piece, why not try it more extensively?

Hoping these few lines, Mr. Editor, may encourage some one to make a trial.

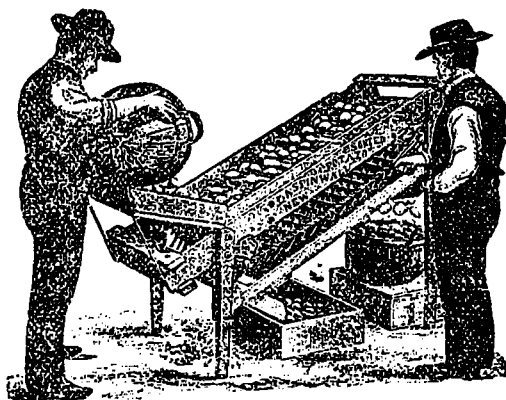
I am yours truly,

PETER MACFARLANE.

October 29th, 1900.

A NEW POTATO SORTER.

The new potato sorter is a radical departure from ordinary methods. As will be seen in the illustration, an elevator with long-distance travel is used, which enables very rapid sorting, combined with excellent work. Another excellent feature is gained in the construction by having the upper down low, making easy work in shovelling and feeding the machine. The



A new potato sorter.

entire work is under the control of the operator and any potatoes which are decayed or ill-shaped may be removed while the work is progressing; there is no bruising or injuring the potatoes in the least. The machine makes a sorting, or separation, into three sizes, the marketable or large potatoes; the second sorting, or seed; and the small, or feed size. The potatoes in each size are sifted thoroughly from the dirt. The capacity of this machine is very great, being upwards of 2,000 bushels per day.