

the case, the tenant or worker of the farm is crippled, has to continue the process of exhaustion to pay his interest, and the landlord or mortgagee's security gets worse every day in spite of his extreme caution. I notice a large farm offered in England only the other day, in which no tenant will be accepted with less capital than ten thousand pounds? does not this tell its own story, does anyone imagine that he would be expected to pay a portion of this capital to his landlord, crippling himself and deteriorating the prosperity. Referring to the balance of fertility, many farmers speak of the number of loads they haul out, and think they are doing justice to their farms, wondering at the same time that they annually grow poorer. The first restriction placed by landlords on tenants in Great Britain, was, that at least two thirds of the crops should be consumed on the place, and as a great deal such as grass and turnips were consumed on the land, the loss from waste of manure was not great; afterwards high farming and stimulating manures disarranged this custom, and good farmers were allowed to do exactly as they pleased, so long as the balance of fertility was kept up. The experiments of Messrs. Lawes & Gilbert and also those on the Imperial Farm of France, have shown that land is exhausted in the following proportion: Every ton of hay six dollars, grain six dollars, straw about thirteen shillings, it is not worth while going through the whole list, I have sufficient for illustration. I should have said, that the value of manure from a ton of each of these articles fed was so much. Of course this would not prove that land deteriorated in this proportion, as some crops, such as clover and turnips take a large portion of their nutriment from the atmosphere, but hay will come the nearest of anything. To illustrate the principle spoken of above, whenever the interest money is paid by hay sold off the farm, the landlord or mortgage holder's property is actually deteriorating annually, to the value of half his interest money, to say nothing of the loss by actual waste of manure from what is consumed. As an illustration, if a capitalist has five thousand pounds on a farm, it would take one hundred tons of hay to pay the interest, value of manure that could be made from one hundred tons, one hundred and four pounds, depreciation of property the same. If consumed on the place increase of value the same. If this really is the case, the ultimate result can easily be anticipated. On the subject of draining, not the practically carrying it out but the providing means of payment, drainage being to a certain extent a permanent investment, it is desirable that whenever it can be done, it should be done with the resources of the tenant farmer, the money

may be procured either by Government Security, Land Improvement Companies, or an intelligent landlord or mortgage holder wishing to improve the property he is interested in and charging his extra interest. But the cost of draining locks up too much capital for the ordinary farmer; few farmers in Nova Scotia have the capital to own, drain and work a farm, so as a rule, the farms are owned but neither drained nor worked, and if the farmer's capital is small, and he mortgaged his farm to drain, the chances are that it would be mortgaged and drained but not worked, as the cost per acre would absorb one half the necessary farm or tenant's capital.

The writer of this article, eight years ago, wrote a letter to a leading paper, advocating the assistance of the Legislature in different ways for drainage; the article was published in the *Journal of Agriculture*. No notice whatever was taken of it, and, sometime after, an article came out in the same paper that the article was originally sent to, advising the English Farmer to emigrate to Nova Scotia; among other inducements offered, one was that they were not compelled to drain their lands to get crops, as their landlords compelled them to do in England, the real fact of the case being, that few landlords charge over four per cent. for this improvement, while the tenant gets from ten to one hundred, besides being secured from total loss. Judging by my experience I should say that the tenant was amply repaid by the increased facilities of working the soil. I then plainly saw that the time had not come for anything to be done in that line, particularly afterwards when the Legislature on my petition to have the duty remitted, as tiles could not be procured by me except at an expense that amounted to a prohibition, refused, adding to the burden of the already overworked horse. I speak generally, not individually, that when the necessity of drainage is so plainly seen, that the question of mortgaging for that purpose is beginning to be discussed at Farmer's Clubs, then there seems to be some hope of the matter being taken up. Had the Legislature of Nova Scotia seriously interested themselves with the subject, they would have had the honor, which Ontario now has, of taking the most important step to rescue agriculture from the state of degradation into which it has fallen. The farmers of Nova Scotia who wish to succeed, have plainly the choice before them, either to take the question politically into their own hands, as suggested by Commodore Maury, or emigrate to countries where the Legislatures assist, instead of throwing obstacles in their way. What country can show the extraordinary tariff of Nova Scotia? In the United States, Brother Jonathan is extremely anxious to protect his sons,

but he takes care to omit the duty on such machinery as is not manufactured there, giving the chance of copying whatever new piece of machinery may come from other countries, and either buying the patent, or putting in a few extra screws, and claiming a new one, we say nothing about the morality of the thing; but, our present tariff has the practical effect of putting us back to about the time of Charles the first, and we are completely cut off from all the benefits to be derived from the constant competition and searching trials of machinery, that take place at the different agricultural shows in England, for the duty is almost a prohibition. To show how careful the Legislature of Great Britain is, that no extreme burden shall be put upon the tillers of the soil, when the Chancellor of the Exchequer casually mentioned agricultural machinery as an article on which a revenue might be raised if required, he was so taken to task by the Leader of the Opposition, for attempting to add to the incumbrances of those who provide the food for the multitude, that he literally had not a leg to stand on, and this in a country where, in estimating the value of crops, the horse feed is entirely omitted; Nova Scotia not even producing the latter article.

Before finishing this article I cannot help referring to the Central Board, both past and present. The general success of the farming population seems to be, according to the opinion of one member's expression in one of those annual congratulations, which are so common with bodies elect, and which mean so little, almost guaranteed by the exertions of the Central Board. This puts one in mind of an old picture in Punch, of the Right Hon. Foster Chairman of the Committee of Education, to the little people: now we have been earnestly considering whether you may learn to read, and have come to the conclusion, that, under certain restrictions, &c., you can. The farmers are coolly told that after all they have had done for them, it is their own fault if they do not go ahead and prosper, the fact of the matter being, that the Board have not removed one single difficulty that lay in the farmer's way, and have accomplished nothing that any small body of farmers with equal control of the Government funds could not have done. I hear this opinion universally expressed, and when a member in the Legislature proposes the total abolition of this body (which I think would be a great mistake) it shows that a screw must be loose somewhere. Much good may come of the efforts of the Central Board, if properly directed, but, I do not believe that devoting the whole funds to almost nothing but the importation of stock will suit the requirements of the country. As a suggestion of what might be done, in de-