

article of Canadian agriculture cannot be denied ; nor will it be disputed that, while depending so much as we have done, and are likely to do, upon our wheat exports, the hopes of the farmer and the prosperity of the province have alike suffered through a partial failure of the grain crops. Grant that the wheat crop of 1859 was an agreeable surprise, and a welcome advantage to commercial, as well as agricultural interests. Yet this improved state of things resulted more from the will of Providence than the agency of man. The cruel frosts of June, which were so much mourned over at the time, contributed more than anything to the abundant harvest of last year, and the cold which cut down the gardens killed or made less hurtful the destructive insects which in other years ravaged the field. If Canada is to retain her position as a wheat growing country, and if our agricultural exports, of which wheat must always be the most important, are to assist in balancing our trade imports, careful attention will have to be given to every circumstance calculated to render our wheat crops more reliable. Foremost among these means stands the question of drainage. It would take up more space than an editorial article in a newspaper could give to go into the particulars of farm drainage. It will be sufficient for our present purpose to affirm that by means of good till-trainage, which after all is not so expensive as at first sight might appear, in consequence of the soil being made thoroughly drier and warmer, and being lighter, the young wheat would be able, during the temperate warmth of spring, to push a vigorous root through the then teeming soil, and put forward strong and healthy shoots. It is believed that by these means the young wheat may be advanced in its growth fully ten days or a fortnight, and thus reach a state of maturity ere the dry hot weather sets in that would render comparatively harmless the insect scourge which under other circumstances, has done so much mischief. This consideration alone is of the utmost consequence to the country at large, and if the estimate of the advantages to be derived from drainage are only one half of what are represented, it is clear that to adopt land drainage on a large scale, would add, say fifty per cent to our home resources. Throughout Canada, farm drainage, as yet, has been rather an experiment than a practice, more an indulgence than a recognized necessity, and has been resorted to only by men who had the money to do it. But rich as Canada is in natural resources, our agriculturist, except in some favored cases, are not blessed with much superabundance of floating capital ; and if any one wishes to realize the full difficulty of want of money from private individuals, only let him go forth and try to borrow some ! How then are our broad fields to be prepared for the successful and *reliable* growth of wheat ? The suggestion is, that in Canada, as in England some years back, the Government should originate a plan of pecuniary assistance to farmers by way of loans for drainage purposes. There does not seem to us any insurmountable difficulty in the way of such a scheme. It would assuredly be a popular movement ; and if carried into effect, would go far to disabuse the country of the Clear Grit misrepresentation so busily circulated that the Ministry think more of place and power than of the practical wants of the people. The Inspector General has won merited renown by his financial success with the New Canadian Loan. The Post-Master General has been equally deserving of praise for the admirable postal arrangements he has concluded for the benefit of Canada, by means of our railways and ocean steamers. And now let our Minister of Agriculture come forward with a judicious plan to assist our farmers to drain their land, and thus grow more wheat, and, depend upon it, the hearty blessing of the whole country would attend such patriotic legislation.—
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