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For carrying out the Provincial Exhibition of 1868, in conjunction with the Board of Agriculture.

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The Presidents, Secretaries, and Treasurers of the Horticultural Society, the Fruit Growers' Association, and the Poultry Club.

Communications.**DRAIN TILES.**

The subject of Drain Tiles having been on several occasions referred to in this *Journal*, we desire to call the special attention of all improving farmers to the following important communication received some time ago from Colonel Sinclair. Several matters are referred to, and hints thrown out that are deserving of careful consideration. With a plentiful supply of drain tiles and bone dust produced in the Province, there will be no excuse for bad farming:

Office of A. G. N. S. M., }
Halifax, N. S. }

DEAR SIR,—I am much obliged for the *Journal of Agriculture*.

Taking 1½ inch drain pipes as base of estimate, these pipes sell in England at about 18s. stg. per M. (\$4.50); of course, as we know, labor there is not only much cheaper than here, and the men do more a day. We never, in our brickyard, averaged ¾ what English moulders do. This is accounted for by the fact, that in Great Britain men stick more to one avocation; here they are more versatile. With freight, I see Mr. Thomas pays \$10.50; certainly a very high price, but I question whether the Crown works could deliver them much cheaper at Windsor, as the rail freight would, of course, be much heavier than water freight, of nearly the same distance. The uncertain demand is as yet rather in the way of our venturing on such machinery as we would wish to have in case of entering on tile-making. Such a machine and engine would cost, at least, £800 stg., and would make about two million tiles a year; perhaps not so many in our short seasons.

The best draining ever done in England was performed by government. Parliament, notwithstanding the strong agitation against governmental subsidies generally, appropriated a large sum for agricultural draining, to be lent to estates, repayable by interest counting as instalments, the security being on the land.

Land here, however, has hardly that cognizable value, except in very well-settled and cultivated places, which would allow of such a system here.

The greatest advantage in the place, or at least one of the greatest, was that government employed its own regular

gangs for the work, each man having his proper post—top spit, 2nd spit, 3rd spit, &c., scooper and cleaner, pipe-layer and filler; consequently, the work was so well done always, that, except by poplar or willow roots getting into the pipes in solid fibrous masses, or some such accidents, the drains lasted for years without repairs.

I never saw the collars alluded to by Mr. Thomas used. Should we determine to make drain-pipes, we should make round ones not needing collars, and not allow a crooked or imperfect one to leave the yard.

I think Mr. Thomas will conclude that no drains in this climate should be laid less than four feet down. The deeper the drains, to a reasonable extent, the better they draw and the fewer are required; for physical reasons, obvious enough.

Draining in this country, speaking from observation, gets the frost out of the ground much earlier in spring,—an object often of some importance, not so much for securing early crops as for the farmer to get work behind him.

I will send one of the papers to my brother-in-law, manager of the Crown Brick Works, New Glasgow, who is an experienced, practical English agriculturist. Our present constructive state of pottery manufacture at present occupies all his time. By and bye, if we find we can attend to bricks and tiles, and got contracts to justify the outlay, we may take the business up, as we have already made satisfactory arrangements about the machinery, should we want it.

I should feel a delicacy about offering any suggestions concerning the prize-list in a matter in which I am personally interested with others. After all, I don't think that remunerative prizes should be the object of exhibitors, only that they should not be expected to run heavy freight expenses; and if the railway carries articles for exhibition free, I think it would be unreasonable to complain about prizes being few or small in amount, as many may not have our advantages. We do not intend to limit ourselves to small ware, but should we keep the same men we have, we expect we shall have some large, imposing pieces that will add to the general appearance of the Exhibition.

These will be worth a considerable sum of money the pair. I hope the committee will give a timely hint to have the shaky parts of the railway line well adjusted before the Exhibition. We dare not send crockery by it at present (however, water freighting is cheaper), and I never like to be importunate, myself, to the railway department in return for much civility received.

R. B. SINCLAIR.