

Agricultural Intelligence.

LAND DRAINAGE.—We extract from the *Colonist* newspaper, as bearing upon this important subject, part of a report of the Annual Meeting of the West Riding of York Agricultural Society, at Weston, in January last, as follows :

"H. J. Boulton, Esq., of Humberford, one of the Directors, in speaking to the Report, the purport of which he concurred in, said that he regretted he had not been able to attend meetings of the Directors lately, or he should have been glad to have suggested something for their consideration, to be embodied in their report. He had been lately in England, where he had made it his business to study the peculiar features of their agriculture and their climate, and note wherein they differed from ours. There was a general idea here that the English system of agriculture could not be carried out in this country, that our climate would not permit it; but he was convinced that this was an error, and the *sooner we disabused ourselves of it the better*. We possessed a great advantage over the English farmer in the ease and little expense with which noxious weeds could be got rid of by the aid of our hot summer sun, while in England they had to be laboriously gathered up by hand, and burnt. Another great advantage which we possessed was in our winter frosts, which pulverised and mellowed our soil a great deal better than all their clod-crushers and other expensive machines could do it in England. These peculiarities of our climate and others which he enumerated, he thought fully counterbalanced any advantages which the English farmer possessed over us in other respects. But though we possessed so fine a country, he would state that in all his travels through it (and he was well acquainted with it,) he had never yet seen a farm. Land there was in plenty, and cleared, but not a farm, or a farm stead-ing. The fertility which the land possessed when first cleared was gone. It was not cultivated. The crops we raised were contemptible. In England, crops of 40 and 48 bushels of wheat, and 80 bushels of oats, were common; even 60 bushels of wheat per acre were frequently produced, and all the other crops were in similar proportion, while here we do not now get near half those quantities. This great difference arose from the superior system of farming in England. And this superiority was brought about by the energy with which English landed proprietors, capitalists of all shades of opinion, in fact people of all ranks, threw themselves into the question of Agricultural improvement. Noblemen of the highest rank took the lead in the matter, studied it, and experimented, not lavishly and wildly, but with economy and skill, and their operations were attended with success. Here you could scarcely get any one to pay attention to the subject, or listen to anything upon it. One of the objections most strongly urged against the possibility of the adoption of the English system of agriculture here, was, that the feeding of turnips to sheep upon the ground where they grew, which was the very basis of the agriculture of England, was impracticable here, owing to the severity of the climate. Now, to show how erroneous this idea was, he would state that the Swede turnips, which were the principal crop used for this purpose, were not fed upon the ground as they grew in England, without pulling, at all. It was only the Aberdeen yellow, the white, and the other less valuable kinds of turnips that were eaten off the ground in this way. The Swedes were always pulled, thrown into heaps, and afterwards cut and fed in troughs in the field. That this could be done in this country too, he knew from actual experiment, as he had fed sheep in this way the present season up to the present time. This it was which enabled them to farm so successfully in England, to raise such immense crops, and produce such quantities of meat for the butcher. But at the bottom of the whole system of agriculture in England lay the improvement of the land by thorough drainage. People in this country did not understand the subject, nor appreciate its importance. Mr. Boulton referred to the mode in which thorough draining by the use of tiles, was performed. In England there was an Act of Parliament by which the owner of any landed property, no matter how much encumbered, could obtain money from Government to drain it, paying six per cent per annum interest and sinking fund, which paid off the debt, principal and interest, in twenty years. And this debt formed the first charge upon the land, taking precedence of all other incumbrances. In this arrangement all parties interested concurred, because it was fully admitted that the improvement of the land by drainage made it so much