

The Field.

Tile Draining—Cost per Acre.

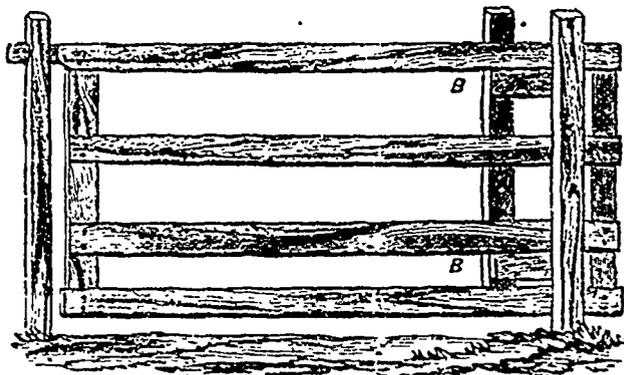
In England the cost of tile draining is from \$25 to \$50 an acre. The average cost is calculated at \$35, and it is thought to be the best expenditure that a farmer can make upon land. The same estimate cannot be made here, because the cost of labour is so much higher, but a calculation can be made from the following statement of the amount of ditching and the number of tiles required. It is from an English paper, and says:—

“An acre of land drained at four yards apart requires 3,000 tiles of 12 to 15 inches in length; at six yards distance, the number required is nearly 2,000; and at eight yards distance an acre will require between 1,400 and 1,500 tiles. A cubic yard of stones, of the size of road metal, will fill to the depth of twelve inches above two rods or perches of drain in the width of six to twelve inches, which constitutes in point of carriage an advantage of nearly six to one in favour of tiles against stones, as a cart-load of the former will lay about 100 yards of drain, and as carriage is the most laborious part of draining, it is a most important particular for consideration in undertaking a drainage of wet lands. The future saving of labour in working the land may be fairly estimated against the expense of carriage that is incurred by the first performance.

“In an acre of land drained at four yards distance, there will be 200 rods of excavated cavities; at six yards apart the number of rods will be 150; and at eight yards distance there will be 100 rods in the drained acre. The average cost of digging drains two and a half feet deep, and two feet wide at the top, and six inches at bottom, by the rod of six or seven yards in length, is 5d or 6d., as the soil may be soft or hard, and the average expense of cutting and filling the drains is 1s or 1s 2d., by the same rod of length. This last estimate includes every material and all the expense that is incurred. The number of rods in an acre being multiplied by the cost, gives the amount of the general expense.”

SAW-DUST FOR GRASS.—Mr. A. Lewis stated at a late meeting of the Little Falls Farmers' Club, N. Y., that on 25 acres he cuts grass enough to feed fifty head of cattle. This is the result of underdraining and top-dressing, with saw-dust used to absorb the liquid excrements of his stock. He regards the liquids as more valuable than the solids. The conclusion had been arrived at by experiments. Stakes had been set in pastures and meadows to note the effects of

liquid and solid manures, and the growth of grass is in favour of liquid manures. Some few years since he commenced using saw-dust for the absorption of liquid manures, and spreading the compost on his grass lands, the soil responding in a remarkable manner. Latterly he had used the dust at the rate of sixty bushels per week. The manure is hauled upon the land and spread out as evenly as possible with a shovel or fork; it is then brushed and completely broken up and distributed. This division and fineness of the manure is regarded as of peculiar advantage, since the plants readily appropriate their food, and it reaches a greater number. About half the meadow is underdrained with horse-hoe tile, the drains being sunk 39 inches. On this part of the meadow grows the largest grass.



A New Gate Plan—Worth Trying.

G. W. TAYLOR, of Ogle Co., Ill., sends to the *American Agriculturist* the above sketch, of which he says:—It is a very handy gate. Any farmer can make it, and I find it cheaper for a field gate, and handier than any other I am acquainted with. The frame is simple, one end hangs between two posts (A. A.) set a foot apart and enough out of line to admit the pieces of hardwood plank (B. B.), which support the gate so that it will slide upon them. To open the gate, it is shoved from left to right till it nearly balances, and then swung round like any other gate. Hoop iron on the rails will lessen friction.

Flax Culture.

On Wednesday evening, the 28th ult., an interesting lecture on the importance and value of the culture of flax in Canada, was delivered in the Mechanics' Institute, in this city, by Mr. B. Walker, under the auspices of the Boards of Trade and Agriculture.

T. D. HARRIS, Esq., President of the Board of Trade, was called to the chair, and, after a few remarks on the importance to Canada of the subject to be brought forward, introduced the lecturer to the meeting.

Mr. WALKER proceeded to deliver a lecture abounding in practical information, and conveying many valuable hints to both farmers and manufacturers, with reference to the growth and subsequent treatment of the flax crop. He urged that the growth of flax, and the manufacture of it into the state when it was ready for the spinner, should be kept distinct as two separate branches of business, they were, however, mutually dependent on each other, and there ought to be an understanding or engagement between the farmer on the one hand and the flax buyer on the other—the farmer to grow the flax, and the latter to purchase it and prepare it for the flax spinner. He showed that in consequence of the scarcity of cotton, the products of flax had come into great request of late, while at all times linens were admitted to be

intrinsically superior to cotton goods for most purposes, more especially as regarded heavy goods. Now, he believed, was the opportunity for Canada. The Americans were alive to the importance of the subject, and were straining every nerve to make up for the deficiency of cotton by having recourse to the production of flax. We had in Canada, the lecturer said, for the growth of flax, a soil and climate equal to any in the world, and perhaps there was no crop which, judiciously managed, required so little skill and attention, or furnished so large a return for a small outlay. After stating a variety of particulars with regard to the properties of the plant, the lecturer proceeded to speak of what belonged to the farmer's share in the production of flax. One point of prominent importance was the selection of the seed. It should be plump, shiny, and heavy, and above all free from the mixture of the seed of weeds. He knew it was of no use to recommend our farmers to weed their flax, as was done in Belgium, Russia, and Ireland. They would as soon think of weeding their wheat fields. However, by sifting the seed carefully, and having the land well cleaned, the danger of having the flax straw mixed with weeds would be obviated. The quantity of seed to be sown was 1½ to 2 bushels per acre. It was better to sow it too thick than too thin. Flax would thrive in a great variety of soils. Sandy loams, light and heavy clays, peat and reclaimed marsh lands, were all found, under ordinary circumstances, to produce a good crop. The wheat lands of Canada were all well adapted for the growth of good flax. In harvesting the crop, it was necessary that it should be pulled up by the roots. As regarded the profits, he made the following estimate. The yield of an acre, sown with 1½ or 2 bushels of seed, should be two tons of straw divested of the seed, for which the grower should get \$10 a ton. That was what had been paid, he believed, at Norval, near Georgetown, where there was a flax

factory.