

green food for cattle at an early period of the season, and, if cut when in full flower, it yields a most abundant crop. It seems to be relished by all sorts of cattle, particularly milch cows, in consequence of its sweet herbaceous flavour, whether cut in a green state for food, or made into hay; and a plant well adapted for making into hay, on account of its foliage, when dried, being found to impart to the whole crop an agreeable sweet scent, similar to that of the sweet-scented vernal grass, or *Anthoxanthum odoratum*. From its beautiful yellow spikes of flowers, it will form an elegant ornamental plant in every garden."

NEW DRAINAGE BILL.

A very important bill entitled "An act to promote the Drainage of Lands in Ireland and improvement of Navigation and water power in connection with such Drainage," has been before the House of Commons, and has been lately reprinted with several alterations. It occupies seventy-six pages, and contains one hundred and sixty-two clauses.

Secs. 1 to 7. Besides the Commissioners of Public Works, two additional Commissioners to be appointed to carry the Act into execution, who will receive memorials from any persons interested in lands liable to be flooded or capable of being drained. The memorial to state the nature and extent of the land, and praying that it may be drained. Persons interested in rivers near such lands may memorial for the improvement of their navigation. Grand Juries may memorial through their Secretary, after making a presentment, for the same purpose. When a memorial is received, the Commissioners may require either the individual or Grand Jury to make a deposit for defraying the expenses of surveys, schedules, maps, &c.

Secs. 8 to 18. Commissioners, after memorial and deposit, may appoint an Engineer to inspect the land or river, and inquire into its present state—the capacity of the land for improvement by drainage, and its increase in value when improved—the improvable capacity of rivers—whether existing interests would be injured by the necessary works, and whether for that purpose it may be necessary to "purchase, remove, injure, or alter any weir, dam, mill, factory, or other buildings or property." If, on the report, the Commissioners think the cost of works incommensurable with the benefits, they are to decide accordingly; and if they approve of them, they shall cause further and more minute surveys to be made, copies of which shall be open for the public inspection. Grand Juries then to appoint a committee of seven, who may attend the meeting of the Commissioners, and object to any parts of the report. Commissioners to hear evidence on oath, and to give the meeting the fullest information concerning the works.

Secs. 19 to 29. Presentment Sessions and Grand Jury may approve of works, and undertake to pay the cost of their execution; and, if they refuse, may have the works done by securing the payment of the costs. No drainage works, however, to be commenced unless proprietors of two-thirds of the land concur.

Secs. 29 to 40. Where the weir, dam, or obstruction of a mill or factory, causes damage by overflowing, the Commissioners may make alterations and construct works to prevent the floods, and discharge the surplus water, and also declare the level at which the working water-power shall be maintained, by erecting a gauge for that purpose. Owners may object to the level, and Com-

missioners to decide on all such objections. Where works connected with mills or factories, by flooding, prevent the permanent improvement of the neighbouring lands, the Commissioners may alter the machinery, and the levels of the head and fall of the water, but not so as to lessen the power; but where the calculated improvements on the land are three times greater than the value of the mill or factory, the Commissioners may buy them up, and if the owners should not agree to the purchase, they may take them at such a valuation as a jury may allow. Before such a step is resorted to, the Commissioners shall make a declaration, describing the land to be improved—its actual value, and the estimated increase by means of the proposed works—the names of the assenting proprietors, the amount of injury caused by the obstructions, and the restrictions under which they may be interfered with. Then follow the proceedings before the Superior Courts or the Assistant Barrister.

Secs. 40 to 53. After publication of final notice, the Commissioners may proceed to execute the works, by ordering reservoirs and embankments to be made, and providing for their future repair—by making such roads as they may deem necessary for that purpose, and diverting the surplus waters of rivers adjoining the reservoirs. Where embankments may be requisite to afford a constant supply of water to private works, Commissioners may execute them with the consent of mill proprietors, equal in the value of their working power to two-thirds of the value of the working power of the mills affected. Commissioners to raise money for the purpose on such mills or factories.—Fishing weirs may be altered or removed, making compensation to the owners. Where the mill power is improved with the owner's consent, Commissioners may rate him towards the expenses of the works, and any improvement made shall be set off against loss by temporary stoppage. Owners or occupiers not to be exonerated from making such repairs as they are liable to before the Act.

Secs. 54 to 66. The first section describes the general nature of the works to be erected under the Act, which are equally extensive and beneficial. Commissioners, after three days' notice, may enter lands and dig for materials—fill up holes and pits not found useful, and fence off such as may be. They may make drains through lands not proposed to be drained, giving compensation for the damage. They may enforce the cleansing of drains; and any party whose lands may be injured from this neglect may, after service of notice, proceed to scour them, and recover a proportion of the expenses by civil bill. If cuts or other works be made to injure roads or bridges, other more convenient roads or bridges to be made; and where existing bridges are insufficient to carry off the water, Commissioners may re-construct them. In the alteration of dams or weirs, provisions to be made for the migration of fish. When lands shall be cut through, separating the parts of a farm so as to leave on each side of the works less than a statute acre, or less than fifteen yards wide, the Commissioners, if required by owner, must purchase the entire.

The bill goes on to provide that all lands benefited by the drainage, shall be subject to the repayment of the money expended on the drainage with the interest upon the same until repaid. All lands held under the same title shall be subject to the amount expended in the drainage of any part of them.

We give insertion to the heads of this bill, in order that our Legislature may take it into consideration and give us a bill something like it. We tell our Legislature plainly that such a bill would be much more beneficial to the general improvement and interests of the country, than most of those they have passed during their last Session.

PROMPTNESS.—Promptness in mechanics is of the highest importance. The farmer who sows or reaps out of season, will not lose more by doing things out of the proper time, than will the mechanic in a long run by neglecting to perform work and fulfil orders as promised.

The farmer sees plainly by the operations of nature around him, the importance of promptness and dispatch. If he is late in sowing, he finds that the season of genial rains and sunshine are passing away without preparation, on his part, to profit by them; and the green fields of his neighbour are an evidence of his loss, and spurs him on to act.

But the mechanic has less evidences of his loss by neglect. The customer that is often disappointed, may bear the evil silently, but resolves to learn by experience and look for one more prompt for the future.

Disappointments in mechanical work are serious evils; and a great many excellent workmen, who have but little to do, are among the first in their profession in skill; and could do a large business, were they as much noted for their promptness as for their skill and ingenuity.—*Far. Journal*.

PRACTICAL HINTS ON AGRICULTURAL TOOLS.—The following hints is condensed from London's "Encyclopædia of Agriculture:—

"In salting or curing butter the use of wooden vessels is preferable, and they should be made from timber which has been previously boiled four hours, to free it from pyroigneous acid, or they should be made of the lime tree, which wood is without this acid. To feed a horse when hard ridden, or if weakly and tender, it is often useful, to give bread, or bread with ale or gruel. It is of the utmost consequence, if the journey be of several days continuance, that the battings are sufficiently long to allow the horse to digest his food. When any young man intends embracing agriculture as a profession, whether as ploughman, bailiff, steward, land-valuer, or rent-paying farmer, he ought to undergo a course of manual labour for one year or more, in order to acquire the mechanism of all agricultural operations.—When the pupil is not destined for any particular county, then he should be sent to a farmer's in a district of mixed agriculture. When the pupil is intended to be settled in any particular county, he ought to be sent to a county as nearly as possible of similar soil and climate, where the best practices are in use."

OIL OF SPIKE, or a mixture commonly sold under that name, is nothing but some spirits of turpentine, mineral tar, and some essential oil, added in various proportions.—The following is a good receipt for its preparation:—Take spirits of turpentine, one pint; mineral tar, $\frac{1}{2}$ pint; oil of amber, 3 ounces; oil of rosemary, 1 ounce.—*Albany Cultivator*.