

*culturist* a paper on draining land, wherein it is recommended that the drains should be eight yards apart; since that time I have gathered some valuable remarks on agriculture by Mr. Meehi, of Tiptree Hall. On Draining, as follows:—Mr. Meehi says in his speech at East Essex, in Oct. '16, he lately saw a field of twenty acres perfectly drained by a single drain; it was not spring water, but a single drain took all the rain water that fell on the field. To know when every part of the field was perfectly drained, he made holes in various parts of the field and placed pipes in them to the depth of five feet and rammed earth round them, down this telescope of pipes he put a rod like a yard measure but longer, and he thus found before he cut the drain that the level of the water was within eighteen inches of the surface. Having cut a single drain through the field, he then found that the water in these trial holes began to lower more rapidly near the drain and less rapidly farther from it, but ultimately there was no water nearer the surface than the depth of his drain, four feet six inches.

The result was, that the whole field was drained by one small and inexpensive drain where others would probably have cut them 20 or 30 feet apart, and multiplied the cost tenfold. Therefore, a man before he presumed to say what drains his land required should cut his test holes, and by examining the rod, from time to time, he would see what was drained and what was not. That was important, because he had himself thrown hundreds of pounds away, and he was sure others had thousands, and he wished to prevent this in future.

Please cause this valuable information to be printed in the *Canadian Agriculturist*.

I remain, dear Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. B. MARKS.

#### COUNTY & TOWNSHIP SOCIETIES.

##### *To the Editor of the Agriculturist,*

Sir,—You would oblige me and other officers connected with Township Agricultural Societies by stating in your next number what authority or power, if any, County have over Township Societies.—In perusing the statutes, others as well as myself maintain that Township Societies are a corporate body as distinct from and independent of the County Societies, as these are of the Townships; and all the connection between them being the forwarding by the County Society of a

statement of the amount of subscription, and annual report to, and conveying the Government grant from the Board of Agriculture, but having no right to dictate as to the management of their affairs, far less inflicting fines and penalties. One thing I am confident of, that Township Societies do more to promote good agriculture than the County Societies, and if the County grant were divided among the Township Societies and the County Societies done away with altogether, it would prove more beneficial to the country.

Yours, &c.,

D. ROBERTSON.

[REMARKS.—Although we cannot agree with our correspondent as to the expediency, or even admissibility, of abolishing the County Societies, we willingly insert his communication, for the sake of affording information to such societies as may not have studied the act fully in regard to the relations subsisting between the County and the Township Societies. Our correspondent is quite right in his view of the matter. Under clause 47, it is the duty of the Township Societies to send in their report of proceedings for the past year to the County Society in time to be laid before the annual meeting of the latter in the third week in January. Under clause 43, it is the duty of the County Society to receive such reports. Under clause 57, it is the duty of the County Society on or before the 1st day of May, in each year, to receive in deposit the subscriptions of the members of the Township Society for the year, and to pay the same to them along with their just apportionment of the Government grant, so soon as the County Society shall have received the latter from the Board of Agriculture. Under clause 44, it is the duty of the County Society to reply to queries from the Board of Agriculture, or the Minister of Agriculture, and as a necessary consequence to this it would, we think, follow that the Township Societies ought to afford any information the County Society might request of them, in order to be enabled to answer the queries from the Government or Board of Agriculture satis-