

Editor's Table.

HARD TIMES.—Hard times is the key-note of many an article in our exchanges. That facilities for the borrowing of money at legal rates are now withheld is very true. That confidence among business men of each other's soundness and ability to meet obligations falling due, is also true. That extravagance and recklessness among those who claim to be the leaders in society, have lowered the standard of conventional morality among our citizens, is also true. Meantime, while thousands of operatives are thrown out of employment in all our large cities, while many of our extensive manufactories and machine-shops are discharging their laborers, or reducing the time of working, the agriculturists, as a class, were never in a more stable position than at present. Everything that a farmer raises in every section of the country will command money, and at highly remunerative prices. Mother earth is kind, and though she may not at all times honor drafts upon her banks with profuse liberality, yet carefully cultivate her fields, give as well as take from her broad surface, and seed-time and harvest will never fail. The reverses now being experienced by many, will have a salutary effect, if they tend to induce more economy in the details of business and household expenditure, in shutting down the gates upon reckless speculation, whether it be in land, stocks, or agricultural staples. It is a characteristic of our people to go ahead. It is a good trait of national character, but one condition is requisite to safe progress—"Be sure you're right, then go ahead."

In times like these, when labor in some sections seems to be a drug upon the market, let those who have improvements to make, avail themselves of the supply, and cause their swamps and marshes to be thoroughly drained and fitted for cultivation. Many a family will be grateful for the chance of employment given to the father, and many a cry for bread in the homes of the poor can be hushed, if true philanthropy will give employment to those willing to labor. We do not favor the idea of giving food without work. We see daily in our streets those who are too lazy to work at fair prices, but not too proud to accept relief at the hands of our public officers. For such we have no sympathy; and we question whether the liberal provision now made in nearly all our large cities for the relief of destitute poor, does not in a measure increase the evil it aims to avoid. Let not the word hard times induce those who can give employment to laborers, to withhold the opportunity.

DRAINAGE.

At a time when the results of extensive and scientific practice are daily adding their incontrovertible testimony to the latent capabilities of the soil, and thereby strengthening the conviction that in the progressive development of its productiveness rests the true and permanent prosperity of this Province, and at a time too, when passing events seem to warrant the continuance of highly remunerative prices, it may not be inopportune or unprofitable

to bring under the special consideration of the Farmers of Canada the important operation of Drainage.

Although the art of Drainage is, to a certain extent, almost as old as cultivation itself; and although, we find ample evidence of its being the practice both of the Egyptians and the Romans, yet it was not until the force of circumstances and the requirements of the nineteenth century, obliged the land owners of Great Britain to depend upon their own exertions and intelligence, that the operation in our day had made any very material advance over that which Columella so minutely describes, as prevailing in his time. It is quite true that English landlords and farmers have, during the present century, had periodical stimulants, from fashion and other causes, for Agricultural Improvements, when drainage was always a prominent feature; but in the absence of precise and scientific knowledge of the effects to be produced, and from the cost and scarcity of suitable material, all the systems which one after another came into vogue, were more or less imperfect, both in execution and results, and served only to demonstrate the necessity (as was indeed the case in many other industrial operations,) for that more complete and perfect system which had its introduction with the repeal of the Corn Laws, and has since grown into that gigantic, practical, and durable reality, which counts a sum of at least Ten Millions Sterling, as its invested cost within the brief period of the last ten years.

Now, when there is encouraging proof on all hands that the Province is fully alive to the progressive influence of the times in which we live, it would be a great injustice to her Agriculturists to suppose that they are insensible of their own direct interest, or of the position they occupy towards the country and the world; and hence, that, knowing the means, they will not be as ready to raise the average yield of their farms to that higher standard of productiveness corresponding with their own increase of knowledge, as they are to avail themselves of those increased facilities for transit and locomotion which now happily exist. If a digger from California or Australia was to come amongst us and show from his experience and practical data, that the farmers of Canada, by cutting a few parallel trenches, four or five feet deep across their lands, could extract from these diggings as much of the precious metal as would fully repay them for their trouble (with here and there a nugget or two for greater encouragement,) there would soon be diggers in abundance for the expected treasure; how much rather then, when by the self-same process, under the name of Drainage, they can, as we confidently assure them, secure a no less golden harvest of twenty latent bushels of wheat per acre, and that too (unlike the gold diggings) in perpetuity.

As at one time in England, so in Canada, the want of suitable material, at a reasonable cost, must for a time prevent the execution of such effective and durable work as it is the best interest of the farmer to have done; and when we speak of suitable materials, we allude to the pipe-tiles now exclusively adopted in the mother country. As showing the progressive demand for this description of Drainage material, since it was first introduced ten years ago, it may be mentioned that whilst, at that period,