

vent abuse. At present the Legislature may feel both unwilling to enter into the projects that are proposed, and incapable of carrying them out, in connection even with the best exertions of the owners and occupiers of land. We would be sorry, even by implication, to suggest unnecessary doubts, and sincerely hope that the subject, when it comes before the Legislature, will receive a thorough and impartial investigation.

Our main object in the present article is to call the attention of farmers in general to the ruder and less perfect means of ridding the land of much of its wetness that are at all times more or less within their reach. There is some risk amidst what is now being said and written on the subject of thorough drainage and the means of accomplishing it, that a large number of farmers, especially in the more remote districts, will conclude that the performance of this important operation is wholly beyond their reach and means. If the purchase of pipes or tiles, and conveying them to considerable distances; the laying out and executing of drains on a uniform scale, in accordance with modern European practice, be absolutely essential requisites, why it is plain that by far the larger portion of Canadian farmers must abandon the idea, for the present at least, as impracticable and hopeless.

Upon the wet and too frequently exhausted lands of the older settled districts, something approaching the English system of thorough drainage; as it is termed, may doubtless be profitably carried out, provided stone or tiles can be procured near the spot, at a moderate cost, and skilful labor obtained on similar terms. Mr. Boulton, we think, has, to some extent, proved this in his own practice. But upon nine-tenths of Canadian farms there are certain preliminary operations to be performed before underdraining can be extensively, and, as we believe, profitably carried into effect.

In making a farm out of the forest, and

for many years after the trees have disappeared, the first and most necessary operations are unquestionably not underdraining, but the extracting of stumps, the leveling of the surface, and the cutting of open ditches, for the exit of stagnant surface water, into which covered drains can be subsequently made to empty. The first thing to be done in most instances is to improve the natural or arterial drainage of a farm or a district, which will often give great relief. The next step is surface or furrow draining, which if properly executed will be found tolerably efficacious. Wherever the first condition has been obtained the second can in general be readily effected. These primitive operations, which were as well known to and practised by the ancient Romans as ourselves, will in general be found as much as the settler for many years will be able to accomplish; and, which indeed, but comparatively few do in fact effectually perform. A farm well ditched along the fences, enclosing conveniently laid out fields,—with a constantly improving surface, and well constructed water furrows, will be found upon the whole tolerably dry; at all events it will be relieved of any very injurious amount of surface water. When the natural outfall is insufficient, and cannot be improved without the co-operation of neighboring farmers; it will be seen to be the duty and interest of all parties concerned to unite, each doing his fair share in rendering the natural outfall sufficient. In case parties refuse to do what is reasonable in such a case, there is a law, we believe, that will compel them to do their part of the work; or the aggrieved party can do it and charge the others with the cost. Until such preliminary operations as these be completed; the more refined and effective systems of draining, and indeed all other means of territorial improvement cannot be with any chance of success even begun.

Let no farmer conclude then, however distant his location or scanty his means, that because he cannot carry out under-