

present want of capital and skillful workmen, although decidedly the cheapest in the long run, is far too expensive at present.

The next sort of drain is made by opening the spongy, springy or swampy lands to the depth of four feet, placing two feet of stones broken to pass through a two inch ring, in the bottom, cover with a stone flag, or a sod with the turf downwards, returning the earth on the top; this for a main drain, with open ones made with the plough to empty into it, will dry low grounds sufficiently for carrying crops of grain, hay, or potatoes; in very low wet meadow, large open drains may answer, but without some sort of draining sweet hay or pasture cannot be expected.

Open drains of less dimensions are better than none, particularly head drains to prevent water in spring and fall, overflowing and remaining on and in the soil; thereby souring the land, and injuring the crops of grain or grass.

The value of manuring is nearly thrown away, unless the land be drained and well prepared to receive it. In many parts of the country some drains are constructed with hemlock poles laid lengthwise, two at the bottom and one over leaving a hollow below, putting the hemlock brush upon the poles, and tramping the earth back upon them; this sort of drain will last many years. Mr. Richmond, a small farmer near Gananoque, in the county of Leeds, has commenced draining his land with narrow boxes or tubes, of deal boards from four to six inches in the square, holes bored at intervals in the sides; such when covered over with two or three feet of earth will probably last a long time, and in the absence of stone is a good plan. Others in that neighbourhood are following his example upon a small scale.

To bring the draining of land to any thing like a state of perfection, it must be studied as a science. The work should be completed in a substantial methodical manner, under professed drainers and labourers employed in this essential work. It is to be hoped that our newly appointed Board of Agriculture will bring the subject of draining before Parliament, with a view to the enactment of a law for devising some means for the encouragement of draining the heavy lands of this Province. Meantime it would be worthy the attention of County and Township Agricultural Societies to promote more extensive draining by offering rewards or premiums to such farmers in their respective localities as shall perform a given quantity of draining in the most skillful manner.

There is a very curious and valuable article

on draining, in the May number of the Agricultural Journal of Lower Canada, wherein the subject of draining is scientifically explained by Mr. Scott, at the Chippenham Farmer's Club, in Wiltshire, England. This document is well worthy the attention of farmers in Canada, who contemplate draining their land to any extent. Mr. Scott goes on to state that nearly one-fourth of the land in the United Kingdom requires draining, and that it would employ 1,000,000 men for 50 years, and require an outlay of £80,000,000 Stg. to accomplish the work. You will see how important it is to have its principles correctly understood, and its practice properly carried out. It is well established that drainage improves the climate as well as the soil; that it is equally conducive to the health of beasts as of man—that it gives us an earlier harvest, and it lengthens our summer by enabling us to turn cattle out earlier, and to keep them out later. Drainage also eradicates thistles and other weeds, and aquatic plants, cures and prevents rot in sheep and brings inert vegetable matter into action.

Draining the soil in Canada will have a wonderful effect in producing more abundant crops. Even without it, Heaven has, this summer blessed the farmer with a bountiful harvest throughout the length and breadth of the land, from the Bay of Chaleurs, on the Gulf of St. Lawrence to Sarnia Bay, on the confines of Lake Huron; embracing a line of country more than a thousand miles in length, consisting of every variety of soil. In the rich lands of Eastern Canada, stretching from the River St. Lawrence up to the magnificent Ottawa, crossing southward to the eastern townships, in all this space draining to an immense extent is no doubt required, and will, if skillfully performed, well repay the expense. In stretching away westward the same operations will produce similar benefits, even to the western limits of the Province; and when the lands shall become more cleared, and a larger extent prepared for cultivation, the draining spade will open in the rich loamy soils of the west, a mine of wealth to the agriculturist exceeding in certainty the gold digging mines of California.

The climate in the west is more mild, and when the flat lands in the vicinity of the Grand River, the Thames, and the Sydenham Rivers up to the beautiful St. Clair, shall become more densely settled and those parts drained that require it, with the great Western Railroad now preparing from Hamilton to Windsor, with a branch from Port Sarnia to the town of London, the industrious husbandman will be enabled