

... or some other hard substance, as from  
 high specific gravity of the acid, and its af-  
 fecting for moisture, it sinks into an earthen  
 ... Dried or charred bog earth put at the  
 bottom would tend to absorb it, and also any  
 ... matter emitted during decomposition.  
 ... thus prepared can be drilled with turnip  
 other seeds, and their action is in general  
 mediate and powerful. This has been the  
 result of experience, whether they have been  
 used on this or the other side of the Atlantic.

### Land Drainage.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CANADIAN AGRICULTURIST.—By publishing the following extract from  
 a letter from Mr. John Johnston, near Geneva,  
 New York State, in reply to the inquiries of a  
 Canadian farmer on the subject of the under-  
 draining of land, you will confer a favour on the  
 ... and a benefit to farmers generally.

Yours, &c., J. W.

...guacousy, June, 1861.

DEAR SIR,—Yours of the 8th inst. is received,  
 I will answer it the best I can. It is impos-  
 sible for me to tell how far apart drains should  
 be unless I saw the land, and unless I saw some  
 ... dug, and even then I would if I could  
 ... drainage in very wet weather, and ex-  
 ... cent at from 33 to 40 feet, until I saw which  
 the land driest. It cannot be made too  
 ... If your subsoil is very tenacious at 2 to 2½  
 deep, your drains may require to be less  
 33 feet apart. With regard to depth, that  
 depends upon how deep you have to go before  
 you reach a hard bottom. Drains ought to be at  
 2½ feet deep, but if possible you should get  
 ... until the water comes in at the sides of  
 drains, and does not rise from the bottom of  
 the ditch. If you have to go 3½ or four feet  
 before you get as deep as the water lies, I  
 like it the better. Although it costs a  
 deal more to dig it, you save a great deal  
 ... as you might perhaps put your drains 50  
 ... more apart. Four inches deeper for your  
 drains is enough. I like what is called  
 shoe tile best for side-drains, if the bottom  
 is level. Side-drains may be the length of your  
 ... no matter how long that is. If much  
 runs, you have to increase the size of the  
 ... or the lower end. I have lateral or side-  
 150 rods long and more, and I have no  
 but they might answer ten times that, if  
 ... crease the size of the tiles needed; but 2  
 or 2½ inches ought to answer in any side-  
 ... There is a drain-plough made some 12  
 ... of this, called the Thomas Draining-  
 ... costing not over 12 or 15 dollars, that  
 ... several speak well of, and said to be very  
 ... There is another differently con-  
 ... 4 costing some 25 or 30 dollars, that is

also said to be very profitable; but if you can  
 get ditches dug as cheap as I hear they get them  
 in Whitby and Darlington, C.W., say 8 cents per  
 rod for three feet deep, I would never bother  
 with ditching-ploughs. I could procure you  
 either of the above ploughs if you wish it. I am  
 not positive as to price, but it is about the price.  
 Farmers have generally enough of work for their  
 horses without putting them to digging ditches.  
 Paddy and his spade are the only machines I used  
 to dig ditches, and I think them better than any  
 other thing yet invented. I have not seen either  
 of the ploughs at work, but I hear them well  
 spoken of by those who have used them. I am  
 certain of one thing, that underdraining is very  
 profitable when properly done.

Yours, &c., J. J.

### The Season—Prognostications of the Weather.

EDITOR OF THE AGRICULTURIST.—In the  
*Agriculturist* of the 6th of April, I stated in a  
 communication to you that your readers may  
 look for a cold and backward spring, with the  
 wind hanging around the north during the greater  
 part of the months of April and May.

You and your readers can now judge how far  
 I was correct.

Now then for the summer quarter, what of it?  
 Well, you may look for a cold summer, the wind  
 will blow mostly from the east and north-east  
 during the three months, with many cloudy days;  
 June is likely to have a larger share of the  
 southerly wind than July or August. From the  
 6th of June until the 5th of September there  
 will be twenty-six days on which it will rain. By  
 that I do not mean to say it will rain all day,  
 and it may not even fall a shower just where I  
 am, it may pass around either to the north or  
 south of me, but it will be seen in that number  
 of days somewhere amongst your readers.

The inference from these remarks is, that it  
 will be a poor year for corn and a good year for  
 buckwheat, and as it will be rather a dry sum-  
 mer, I advise farmers who can do it to cover  
 the ground with straw or long manure where  
 they have planted their potatoes; the ground  
 should be covered with the straw to the thick-  
 ness of five inches; this will keep the ground  
 moist and prevent the growth of grass or weeds;  
 will save the trouble of hoeing, and will insure  
 a much larger crop than can be produced by any  
 other method of cultivation.

The above plan I have adopted for the last  
 four years with success. STEPHEN KING.

Ryckman's Corners, June, 1861.

### Pea Harvesters:

EDITORS CANADIAN AGRICULTURIST.—Just on  
 my departure from home the other day, I ob-  
 served in your number of the first May, an article  
 on "Harvesting Peas," and I have been too  
 hurried, since my return, to reply to your re-