

A MANUAL OF DRAINAGE.

CHAPTER I.

THOSE who may search herein for something of literary interest will be disappointed. This has been written for common men of common sense who have not time to study excellencies of style or diction. What a misnomer to say common sense, when it is the most uncommon sense. Though agriculture is of a common nature, it is not so unimportant an industry as certain people think, or appear to think, it is.

A moment's reflection will convince the most of us that all the people upon this earth must live of the productions of the soil. The earth is the great mother—the foundation and fountain of sustenance to every one who lives upon it.

While the factories may flourish, wealth abound, and the protected professions and business-men flourish, the farmer, though he had the start of them all, languishes in the race; and it is no uncommon thing to hear said, "farming does not pay," while the active brains of the coming generation of farmers are thinking of entering the "hives of industry" in order to study law, medicine, and other protected professions, trades and businesses.

Why farmers should be interested in the legislation of the country, will appear from the following statement of values: The value of each state has been arrived at by capitalizing the average annual value of farm products for the last three years, less operating expenses, at current rates of interest. This is the true way of estimating the value of a farm or a state, because property is worth what it will fetch in open market. The amount capitalized for which a farmer sells his produce, after deducting working expenses, is the value of his farm. Suppose a farmer realizes \$1,000 per year from his farm, then, having regard for the value of money, his farm is worth about \$20,000, for money is worth about 5%.