

Lanark, very little underdrainage had been done previous to 1907, and when we first took up this work, we found four obstacles barring progress in this particular line:

1. A lack of appreciation of the benefits to be derived;
2. Lack of technical knowledge in laying out systems;
3. The absence of tile factories in any part of the county;
4. Lack of experience in digging drains to grade, laying tile, etc., and inability to secure competent labour to do this work.

During the seasons of 1908 and 1909, we overcame the first difficulty to a certain extent in our propaganda work by means of addresses, newspaper articles, demonstrations, etc.

The second difficulty was met by offering our services free of expense in making surveys, laying out systems, preparing plans, etc. During the fall of 1909, some of the systems laid out by us were partially installed by hand labour. One of these fields made an excellent demonstration field, as it chanced to lie beside a leading road and had previously been deemed impossible to drain satisfactorily. This spring, when adjoining fields lay sodden with water, the drained field was dry and in first-class condition. It was in shape for seeding fully three weeks before neighbouring fields, but was kept for corn. This corn crop, grown where corn had never been grown previously, was conceded to be the best crop within a radius of several miles. Not only was it tall and vigorous, but it was uniform over the entire field and was well matured. Needless to say, we had a great many requests for drainage assistance in that section this year, while the owner of the field himself put in nearly a carload of tile this fall.

The difficulty in obtaining tile in the Perth district was overcome through our local Farmers' Club. By buying co-operatively in carload lots we have been able to lay down tile in Perth at a cheaper price than they can be bought right in the yard at many tile factories.

This year, with another wet, backward May to back us up, we launched another drainage campaign, with the result that since the first of June we have devoted every available day and half day to drainage work in various parts of the county. An opportunity to secure the services of a steam ditcher from the province of Quebec assisted us in overcoming the fourth difficulty, and incidentally gave underdrainage the greatest impetus it has yet received in this district. The owner of the ditcher placed himself in our hands, took only such work as we laid out for him, followed our grades, etc., and stayed with us for two months, digging at the rate of at least 2,000 feet per day and as much as 3,000 when conditions were favourable. Breakages, due to our stony land, prevented us accomplishing as much as