

at the late Provincial Show held at Hamilton of the unjust decisions of inexperienced and incompetent judges." He thinks the only persons fit for judges are exhibitors—and at the same breath he says, "The judges permit and almost court the presence and interference of parties who are themselves exhibitors." And to such an extent is this carried that he himself has witnessed exhibitors accompanying the judges in the classes in which they were more immediately interested, particularly in stock, through the whole of the examination. It appears to me that judges and exhibitors are tied with the same stick, and all this knavery might have been prevented by having honest, intelligent, practical farmers at the head of our Agricultural Societies. In more than one of our County Societies, the directors seek no further than among themselves, and although many of them don't know how to grow a rotation of crops, without a blush they assume the office of a judge in any class of animals, from a horse to a hen, even to animals that they never saw before, and without knowing anything of their merit, make their remarks of approval or disapproval. The symmetry of an animal is scarcely ever looked at, if they are big and fat it is all they care for; and there is no doubt if Barnum's woolly horse was shown among the Cotswolds he would get a prize or attract a recommendation. There is something very objectionable in the unfair manner in which sheep are shown; it is two months since shearing was begun in a neighboring county for the Provincial Show; all the shearing they get is a little taken off the top of the back; all round the sides, and below is never sheared; this is nothing but deception in order to increase their apparent bulk, and hide their deformities. They are fatted on grain and oil-cake from the 1st January till the last of December. Both sheep and cattle of that stamp are unfit for breeding; and I know of more instances than one where the owners, after keeping them for a season, have been obliged to dispose of them without any lineage.

A FARMER.

On Tile Draining.

EDITORS AGRICULTURIST,—As the farmers in this section of the country are beginning to see the advantage of underdraining, perhaps you would be kind enough to inform us, through the *Agriculturist*, how Tiles are covered up in the ground, and whether straw or any other material is necessary?

So far as our knowledge extends there is not a tile laid in the ground east of Kingston.

Single underdrains have frequently been made in this locality, but stones have been the material altogether used for making the pipe; and in some instances small round stones have merely

been thrown in to form the drain. But it has always been considered necessary to throw straw or brush on the stones, before filling in the earth.

Yours, &c.,
ANDREW WILSON.
Maitland, May 6th, 1861.

Where proper tools can be obtained the bottom of the drain can be cut of the exact width of the tile or pipe, which should be carefully put in on an even bottom, having a sufficient and uniform fall. In a heavy clay subsoil it is a good plan to cover the tile a few inches with brushwood straw or the lighter portions of the soil, which renders the earth contiguous to the drain more porous, and thus allows the water a quicker access to the drain. A few inches of gravel or small broken stones are excellent for this purpose, but in many situations such additions would materially increase the expense of the operation. In lighter soils it is advisable to cover the tiles with the stiffer portions of the earth that has been thrown out. If the soil is very light and porous, it is of importance to dig the drain deep enough, if practicable to reach a stiffer stratum of the subsoil, and to cover it with the stiffest earth that can be obtained to the depth of several inches. In loose running sands,—the most expensive and difficult of all soils to drain the greatest care should be exercised, or the work will speedily fail. Where a stiffer soil cannot be reached, which always ought to be done if possible,—say within five or six feet,—a board should be laid at the bottom of the drain, and the pipes carefully laid upon it, and a few inches of soft clay closely trod upon and at the sides of them. The pipes or tiles should be made to fit each other at their joinings as much as possible. Indeed for running sands there is no safety but in having the pipes fit into each other or connected by collars, and protecting the joints by clay. If such precautions are not taken the sand will be sure to find its way sooner or later into the pipe and effect a partial, or, as is generally the case, a complete obstruction to the exit of the water. An inverted sod, either in stiff or light lands is a good covering for the drain. But in the sandy soils referred to clay is an indispensable material.

Stones are a good material for constructing drains, when they can be readily procured and