

at a no very great advance in prices, by taking proper precautions to enable it to be done in the winter. For instance, the plan of drainage might be laid out in the autumn, and the line of the drains covered with litter or manure, which will be useful in the field the following spring, and thus prevent the frost from impeding the work. The main difficulty in this matter is, that few persons, if any, have means to meet this very large outlay, and the only measure which I can conceive to remove it, is for our legislature to follow the example of the British Parliament, and pass an act to provide means to be placed at the disposal of every landholder for the accomplishment of this special purpose.

The provisions of the English Act 9 and 10, Vic. c. 101, can with very slight alterations, be made perfectly applicable to this country. The most important among them are the following. Any owner of land desiring to obtain a loan under the act, must make an application to the commissioners appointed for the purpose, containing a statement of the particulars of the land to be drained, of the manner of draining, of the estimated expense of the work, and of the estimated increase of the value of the land by the same, also the estate and interest of the applicant in the property, and whether the advance is to cover all or what portion of the expense of the work. If the application be entertained, the land, plan, estimate and specification of the proposed drainage, are to be inspected at the expense of the applicant, by an assistant commissioner, surveyor or engineer, and a report by them to be made and sent in with the plan and other documents accompanying the application, attached.

If the advance be deemed expedient, the commissioner is to issue a provisional certificate, that on the work being satisfactorily performed the advance asked for and approved of will be made, or, as the work proceeds, not over two-thirds of the sum actually expended.

This provisional certificate, however, cannot be issued until notice of the application has been duly published for two successive weeks, and two months have elapsed after the last publication, and in case any other person having any estate in or charge upon the land, sends in a dissent to the loan being made, no certificate can issue until the dissent be withdrawn, or an order be made in court, upon the matter being referred to the Master in Chancery to report whether it will be beneficial to all parties interested in the land that such advance be made.

The commissioners are to cause the work to be inspected, and all particulars of the execution and expense ascertained, and for this purpose may take declarations from any parties in any matter of enquiry under the act. Upon the issue of the advance in order to pay the debt, the land becomes subject to a rent-charge of six and a half per cent on the amount of the loan for twenty-two years, and a certificate of the advance is registered against the land.

This rent-charge has priority to all other charges upon the same land, and is collected half-yearly by the collectors of other land and assessed taxes for the several districts in which the lands are situated.

The out-falls for the drains are to be kept open and clear, and a yearly certificate of their condition is to be sent in to the commissioner.

Two objections have been urged against the propriety of the government of the country making any advance for this purpose. The first is the financial position of the Province, and the second the difficulty of ensuring the proper expenditure of the money, and afterwards of collecting the charge for re-payment. The first part of the latter difficulty is removed by the precaution of not paying the money until the work is done, which might be further strengthened by making it a penal offence to make a false declaration, and to draw any money under such false pretence, and the collection of the charge can be made equally regular and certain with that of the ordinary municipal taxes of the country.