

Inning Saltings.—This art is coeval with civilization, and in Great Britain goes back at least to the Roman occupation. In deliberateness it approximates to the primitive processes of growth. The richest agricultural lands are often by this means evolved. Many bold schemes of land reclamation have brought fortune in their wake; in other cases, owing to an insufficient height standard of walls or badly designed drainage, large expenditure has been for many years unremunerative or even abortive.

The primitive method of reclaiming slob land is still in vogue—i.e. warping. The process of warping is that of permitting or assisting the tidal water carrying silt in suspension to flow, with as little disturbance as possible, over a tract of low-lying land, when, by inappreciable degrees, new land comes into being as the result of deposit. Sometimes low embankments of earth or faggots are adopted to check the exodus of the silt and quicken the process of deposit. The land so formed is often agriculturally extremely valuable. The famous root-growing lands of Lincolnshire have been largely created under this system. Frequently gorse is used for forming the fascines to hold the detrital matter. Where silt carries any considerable proportion of sand, the sand is usually found to be deposited near the source of the alluvium in suspension, as the fine particles of earth travel with the water a much greater distance than the sand. Whereas brick earth in suspension will sink at the rate of about 7 inches per minute, sea sand in the same period will sink about 12 feet. Almost all rivers of low gradient flowing through alluvial lands are heavily charged with detritus, and by simple methods this may be captured for land-making, in the same fashion as deltas are formed. The yield per acre of crops of oats, wheat, and beans from land of this character is exceptionally great, and a sedgy waste may thus be converted into valuable agricultural land. In one case of warp land on the Trent 184 acres of peaty deposit, owing to the ingress and egress of the tide, in three years were raised from 1 to 4 feet in height. At the end of the first season grass seed was sown, in the following year white clover, and cattle were allowed to stray over it. In three to four years the land was ploughed and