

Our Implement Manufacturers.

Canada has been a good field for the enterprising manufacturer to develop his abilities in. The great demand for labor-saving implements has made it necessary for every farmer worthy of the name to expend many hundreds of dollars in good implements. Numbers have spent thousands; thus immense sums are annually expended. Our manufacturers are keen, shrewd men; some of them go to the continent of Europe to examine and find out any new improvement that can be made on any new implement. Others go to the States annually for the same purpose. If the least improvement can be found, it is eagerly sought after and adopted here.

Each one strives to be the first to introduce any improvement, as it gives them a decided advantage in effecting sales. Sometimes old plans are adopted, on purpose to make a change to talk about, or to create a little excitement. In attending exhibitions, we have observed that nearly every implement exhibited has some special improvement or alteration to draw attention.

None can deny that the construction of our implements is as good as can be produced in any part of the world, and far better adapted to our use than most of the implements made in Europe. In fact, the Dominion implements have now obtained such a name that instead of the necessity of our importing from Europe, our machinery is finding a market there, and some has also been sent to Australia.

It is to be regretted that one manufacturer in particular, who, having gained some Provincial prizes on an important implement, manufactured a large number. Aided by the first prize ticket, he disposed of his wares, but either from desisting in putting in a proper metal, or employing efficient workmanship, many farmers found they had a useless implement in the time of need.—We ought, perhaps, to mention the name, but the law is such that if we were to do so, we might be dragged into a lawsuit for libel.

A great desideratum in some of our machinery is greater durability. Our best manufacturers are turning their attention to this to a greater extent every year. The latest improvement we have heard of in this particular has been a novel process of mixing metals. An American discovered a way of melting steel, wrought iron and pig iron together, a process that was not known. Of course he patents his knowledge. He was likely in Canada, and we hear that one of our leading manufacturers has, at a great expense, purchased this right, and is now beginning to use this amalgam metal, which is claimed to be superior to steel, wrought iron, or the best cast iron, for many purposes. If this metal proves half as good as represented, it will give to the manufacturers a decided advantage. We have not yet seen it, nor have we seen the inventor.

This patent business tends to make the large shops more numerous, and the small ones fewer, as a small manufacturer cannot cope with the larger ones in paying great prices for testing new implements or new inventions.

The Cockle Burr.

Of large weeds, this is one of the most generally met with in the neighborhood. Like others, the old proverb is to it very applicable: "One years seeding, ten years weeding." Along fences and by the road side we meet it every day, and its means for scattering its seed abroad are continually extending the evil. The ripe burs adhere to whatever they touch with their pricklers, cattle bringing them clinging to their hair; but the wool of sheep is still more liable to be the means of disseminating them than any thing else. We often bring them adhering to our trousers, after a walk by the wayside or in neglected fields, and brushing them off, we leave the seed to grow where it is left, making more work in hoeing up weeds the following season. Professor Bissey writes of them as follows in the *Western Farm Journal*, in reply to a correspondent sending him some of the seed with other seed for identification:

Of the first one, the sender says "it is a new comer, is very troublesome in corn fields and gardens, does not trouble small grain, and is a great nuisance with sheep raisers." The specimen, upon its arrival, proved to be the cockle-burr, (*Xanthium strumarium*, var. *coquinatum*.) It grows usually in most rich

soil, has broad leaves, and produces an oblong "fruit," or burr, (an inch or more in length), which is covered with stout hooked prickles. Inside of each burr are generally two seeds lying side by side and running its whole length. As this plant is quite apt to be found in the waste places of the farm, and by the road-side, it is almost useless to fight only in the cultivated fields. It must be attacked *everywhere*. The "boy" must be sent with hoe not only in the corn field, but also into the road bordering the farm, and into the timber lot where the miserable things grow. Too often our farmers and gardeners make the great mistake of thinking that clean culture of that part of the farm which is in corn, wheat, oats, or other like crop, is all that is necessary, while the timber lot, the fence rows, and the road side are all allowed to grow up with the vilest of weeds. Let it be remembered that the seeds of plants have locomotive powers, which in many cases have carried the species from one continent to the other, across the broad ocean, through a space of perhaps ten thousand miles. It is folly to attempt to keep the inside of a garden or field clean if weeds are allowed to grow up all around the borders.

Increased Value of Land in England.

The *Mark Lane Express*, in a late number, refers to the general complaint of the value of land continually increasing, while the quality of its cereal produce is, by the repeal of the duties, below its just proportion.—The causes to which this is assigned are: the increase of population; the increase of capital; the improvement in agriculture, and the employment of machinery. The improvement in agriculture only can account for the fact that English farmers can pay high rents and taxes, and spend such large amounts in farm improvements, while the price of grain is so much lower than it was some years since. The superior quality of stock on the farms of Britain and the cost of high farming prove that high farming is profitable. The judicious investment of capital in farming is almost certain to bring in large profits. So well is this understood that a good farm can hardly be got to rent or purchase, in consequence of the great competition, and the sons of farmers are in many instances forced to pursue some other occupation than that of their fathers. It is said that it requires as much interest to get a farm as a Government appointment.

Of the consequence of the increase of population and the improved farming, the *Express* says:

"It is evident, too, that this increase in population and in the value of land is accompanied with an increase in the value of the produce, especially animal food, which is not so readily obtainable from abroad as cereals. In 1821 good rounds of beef could be purchased in Whitechapel Market at 4d. per lb., which could not now be had for less than double the money. And this enhanced value of the product is, of course, another consequence of the increased value of the land, and a powerful stimulant in the advancement of rent; so that everything connected with landed property tends to increase its value, and that value gives no sign of diminution, but rather the contrary.

"Then, the increased and increasing wealth of the United Kingdom is patent to everyone who knows anything of commercial affairs; and this is not confined to trade and commerce only. The agricultural classes have in many instances accumulated wealth by high farming, and having discovered the grand secret of farming—namely, that the more money expended judiciously upon the land, the larger will be the produce, and consequently the return. Thus, the limited quantity—in fact, scarcity—of land at all times in the market, whether to purchase or to hire, encourages competition, which is largely increased by the increase of wealth in the country. It is in the natural course of things that when a person—whether tradesman or otherwise—finds himself in the possession of a surplus of capital, which he does not wish to employ in trade or commerce, he looks out for land to be disposed of, which he purchases, less for the rent it will bring than as a safe investment, besides giving him a standing in society that no other kind or outlay can procure. The desire of possessing a portion of, or something connected with the land, is a principle inherent in mankind; and we see it displayed by all classes in society, from the poor

weaver who cherishes a few plants in his window to the owner of thousands of acres.

"Science has intervened to a great extent in the cultivation of the land, and indeed, by the increase of wealth, bids fair to produce a complete revolution in agriculture, with the help of machinery, which is already introduced upon the farm to an extent which supersedes manual labor to a large amount, and is still daily advancing. Those who can look back fifty or sixty years will be able to judge how far the capital acquired in agriculture has been accumulating during that period, when one of our best agriculturists had purchased and used a drilling machine, for which he paid 19l.; but he foresaw that the expense was too great to admit of its being generally purchased or adopted! "Thus we see that while the influx of population has largely increased, if not doubled, the value of land has acquired a corresponding advance, as the same causes have produced appliances in the way of machinery and so forth to an extent little contemplated by any former generations of farmers. Despite, in fact, low prices for produce, an impetus has been given to agriculture which must still advance, until England becomes a vast garden conducted on scientific principles, and with improvements extending on every side."

Remarkable Cases at the Last Assizes.

A farmer received serious injuries at a railroad accident near Komoka. The jury awarded him \$8,000 damages. Another person was awarded \$4,000. We are under the impression that jurors make the R. R. Co.'s pay too much when accidents occur to passengers; men are liable to accidents quite as much when travelling in their own conveyances.

The destruction of life or property at railway crossings, when men act with due care, should be smartly paid for by the company. But a mere accidental occurrence should be treated differently. We should ask for justice and should act justly towards the parties who invest their money in our country.

Another case was tried that from the novel mode of arriving at a decision, must be interesting. Plaintiff sued for recovery of a sum of between 400 and 500 dollars. The judge charging the jury instructed them to return answers to the certain questions. On their answering these questions, he declared the verdict for the defendant. The jurymen arose and said: "We agree that plaintiff should have the money sued for." But the judge ruled adversely, according to law, which empowers him to have certain questions answered by the jury, on which answers he was to decide the verdict. This is the first case we have noticed where the jury agrees on one point and the judge rules oppositely.

A person was placed in the Asylum in London to prevent him from interfering in an election. He escaped twice from the Asylum. He prosecuted the parties who caused his detention, and received one shilling damages.

Blight in Fruit Trees.

The cause of the blight that has been so disastrous to many trees during the past season, we attribute to the lack of moisture. Pear trees blight more than apple trees because they emit more moisture from the leaves; some varieties blight worse than others from the above cause.

The best preventative is to plant such varieties as are least liable to blight; secondly, dig or plow the ground, and keep clean.—Underdrain the land. Excessive moisture prevents a proper growth of the roots.—Trees on clay soil are less liable to blight than trees planted on sandy soils.

The Little Giant Threshing Machine.

We understand that great improvements have been made in the construction of this implement. We are pleased to hear it, as there is a growing necessity among many good farmers to have a threshing machine for their own work, as they would thus be enabled to keep their farms cleaner, and have fresh threshed straw for their stock, and could thresh just when they choose.

Mr. Sharman, the manufacturer, is sending them to all parts of Canada. For particulars we would refer you to his advertisement in the November number.

Insurance on Sheep.

Farmers are continually losing sheep by dogs. They come to the township councils and claim damages for their loss. If they met with a loss from fire the Insurance Co. would not pay the claim if the farmer had neglected proper precautions.

It is our opinion that not one quarter of the sheep would be killed by dogs if proper precautions were taken, that is, of attaching a bell to one sheep in a flock of fifty or under, and two bells if over that number are kept in a flock. Would it not be well to compel farmers to take the necessary precaution, or to make them run their own risk and loss if they neglect it. Let us hear from some of you in regard to this suggestion.

Prize Essay.

RAISING SHEEP

We offered a prize at the North Middlesex Exhibition for the best essay on agriculture. We give the present part of it, we may give more in a future number.

Although sheep can make a living on poorer pasture than other animals, yet they thrive better and are more profitable when kept on good rich pasture. A high and dry situation is more suitable for them than a low or damp one, let it be ever so rich. They should have access to water at all seasons of the year. In winter they should be provided with a comfortable shed, open to the South, and a yard or field to exercise themselves in, as they cannot bear confinement well.

Feeding racks and troughs should be provided, and the racks should be so arranged that the hay seed &c., will not fall upon their wool and injure it.

Their food should consist of good clover or timothy hay and pea straw, and they will thrive on the latter even though not very well threshed.

Oat and barley straw may be given occasionally for a change.

A mixture of oats and peas should be given daily; from one half to a bushel per day for 40 sheep makes, a fair allowance. Roots should be given daily, especially towards spring, but should be fed sparingly to breeding ewes, unless they are well fed and sheltered, as weak lambs often follow heavy feeding of roots where insufficient shelter is provided; but after the lambs are dropped, they should be fed freely, as it induces an abundant flow of milk. Before going to grass in spring the tag locks should be carefully removed, it saves considerable work and often saves the animal a great deal of inconvenience.

Sheds should be provided with a number of box stalls, which can be used as hospitals to confine any weak or sickly one in. A ring in the ear, with the owner's name and the number of the sheep, should always be used, as they often prevent the sheep from being claimed by persons who are not the owners; and by the aid of the rings an account can easily be kept with each sheep, and if any one is found to produce weak lambs, poor fleece &c., it should at once be marked for sale; and those which are found to be most profitable can have their good qualities credited to them and treated accordingly.

By following out this method; by selling the inferior and keeping only the best, always using a good ram and feeding and caring for the flock properly, they may be wonderfully improved in a few years with but very little additional expense.

Shearing should be done as soon as the weather will admit, and should be *well done*; as it adds great to the appearance of the sheep. Each fleece should be carefully weighed and the proper weight credited to each sheep, and those which give the lightest weight should be fattened for the butcher as soon as possible. The weight of fleece can thus be increased in a short time, and the profit will increase in proportion; and the profit on a flock giving six pounds of wool may be double that of a flock giving only four, as in all animals it takes a certain return to pay expenses, and only what goes beyond that can be called *clear gain*.

About shearing time, lambs should be examined, and they will often be found covered with ticks; these should be destroyed at once. Miller's preparation will destroy them in a short time, and at but little expense.

Any animal suspected during the year should be examined, and means taken to effect a cure as soon as possible.

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