

The machine in question has also this peculiar excellence,—it enables the farmer within his own family and means, and during the unoccupied winter months, to reduce an article of growth in a staple fit for export or home consumption without going through the hands of a manufacturer. The average weight of flax straw grown on an acre of land varies from 2 to 3 tons; the seed is always eagerly sought after for the oil manufactory, and in the English and Canadian markets brings a good price.

The merchantable flax fibre produced by the machine in question averages one-fourth of the weight of the flax straw; the chaff and refuse is available for feeding cattle, and is equal to a similar weight of oat or barley straw. The flax to be dressed by the machine requires neither steeping or rolling, it is taken direct from the barn after being thrashed, and with a slight drying if damp, or in damp weather, is at once converted into a merchantable article for which cash is now paid in every town and city of Canada, and for which there is an almost unlimited demand in England. Armed with this machine, the Canadian farmer has not to fear the losses to which the Canadian manufacturer is at times exposed. The cost is not more than that of a common thrashing machine, the labour is entirely amongst his own family and hands, the machine is simple, easily repaired, and not likely to get out of order, and the extra profits on one year's crop will far more than pay the outlay and cost for obtaining it. Accompanying the machine was a pamphlet of full particulars and instructions, and a lithographic plan of the machine; these were distributed gratis to all comers, and can be obtained free of cost by applying to the Canada Company's Office in Toronto, where also the machine may be seen in full operation.

The liberal prize of £6 was given by the Company for the best sample of flax, and a sum of £4 for hemp, both of which were taken by Canadian farmers.

The liberality of the Canada Company in giving these prizes and the expense they have incurred in thus importing the flax machine, as well as their handsome prize of £25 for the best sample of Fall wheat, cannot be too highly spoken of, and it is believed, is fully appreciated by the public.

Near the Flax Machine, we noticed a beautiful piece of mechanism for plaiting Whips. We invite especial attention to it as suggestive of many complicated operations to which machinery may be applied with advantage. It was exhibited by Mr. Medcalf of Toronto.

The celebrated Montreal Fire Engine of A. Perry, which obtained a prize at the World's Fair, was on the ground. It is too widely known as a masterpiece of workmanship in its way, to need any eulogy from us—it fully merits all that has been said in favour of it.

Another very superior example of Canadian constructive skill was exhibited by D. O'Gorman, of Kingston, in a beautiful Skiff of 19 feet keel, made to pull two pair of sculls. Her model we consider faultless, and the workmanship equal to anything of the kind we have ever seen. She was built of Red Cedar and Butternut Wood, and not being painted, exhibited the grain of the wood and the excellent workmanship to good advantage. It may be interesting to some of our readers to know that O'Gorman has built skiffs in Kingston, to fill an order sent to him from Switzerland, one of which we fortunately saw safely shipped during the past season. It is said that equally good material is not found there and some gentleman being desirous to have the very best, commissioned a friend to procure them, who had been in Kingston, and who at once sent the order to O'Gorman.

The exhibition of foreign Machinery though not so much in advance of the home made articles as to give it that premium hitherto usually awarded to it, still exhibited some things worthy the attention of our mechanics, especially in the superior taste displayed in the finish of their work. The McCormick and Hussey reaping machines were conspicuous in this part of the exhibition and though circumstances have recently transpired in Scotland which go far to take from our neighbors the originality of the invention, they still claim our acknowledgements for introducing it here. (See *Canadian Journal*, page 39.) We look upon the Ketchum Mowing Machine as of fully equal if not superior importance to the farmer as the Reapers, especially to those who raise large quantities of Hay.

We noticed a "Gang Plough" which appears to be a very useful implement and exceedingly well made. We mention it as we did not observe a similar machine by Canadian exhibitors.

The Straw Cutter exhibited by Messrs. E. Taylor, Thomas & Co., of New York, claims notice chiefly from its novelty, and not in our opinion for any excellence it possesses over other varieties; indeed we think it inferior to many on the ground. It consists of a series of circular knives placed parallel to each other on an axis and entering the grooves of an opposite cylinder, the latter being furnished with projections. The fodder is passed between the cylinder while revolving and is thus cut. There was one thing connected with it which we would commend to the notice of our Canadian manufacturers—namely, the perseverance of the persons exhibiting this machine in setting forth its superiority over all others, past or present. There is no denying but our neighbors are far ahead of us in this system of bringing their articles into notice. We were at a loss to obtain particulars of Canadian implements in many instances—no one appearing to own them or have any interest in them.

A Root Cutting Machine appeared well calculated to answer the purposes for which it was intended, and is worthy the attention of our mechanists as it must be an essential implement on farms where roots are raised for feeding cattle.

There were some very excellent cultivators exhibited,—that termed the Expanding Cultivator we consider the most generally useful.

There were some very useful Drills for a variety of purposes—the Grain Drill by Shipton we consider a very fair article. The Horse Powers did not present any new features to our notice; neither did the Fanning Mills, Grain Separators, &c. The Ploughs we did not consider as at all superior, indeed hardly equal to those exhibited by Canadians.

We would particularly commend to the more general attention of our mechanics a Tenoning Machine manufactured by Harding of Rochester; also a machine for working mouldings in wood by the same maker. They are of course chiefly of interest to the builder and cabinet-maker, to whom they must be great labour saving machines—as such, economising the production of articles which contribute to the comfort of all.

Of a very different class but still equally valuable, we would notice a machine for the preparation of hard bread, biscuit, crackers, &c., by Messrs. F. W. and T. Gage of Rochester. It is a very efficient machine and worthy of notice as an example of manufacturing skill.