

**The Aspinwall Potato Planter.**

The excellent picture on this page represents quite a new claimant for public favor, and one that seems to win its way very thoroughly wherever it is tried. The machine will plant from five to eight acres of potatoes per day, and all the work of marking, furrowing, dropping and covering is done in a single operation. The planting can be varied in depth from three to nine inches, and the covering is uniform. Instead of the dry earth on top, the coverers of the planter draw upon the seed the moist under-earth. The value of this is well-known to all potato growers, for few things are more fatal to the starting of the seed than to cover it with dry earth. The work is superior to hand planting. The furrow being V-shaped, the seed must necessarily be dropped in the bottom in perfect line, and cultivation can be made early and close.

The planter is adjustable for planting either whole or cut seed, and will plant from ten to

**Fodder Plants, Roots, Etc.**

Read by S. A. Bradford, of the Brandon Experimental Farm, at the Annual Meeting of the Manitoba Dairy Association, Portage la Prairie, January 15th.

Owing to the unavoidable delay in providing the permanent buildings on the Dominion Experimental Farm at Brandon, nothing has yet been done towards testing the different breeds of dairy stock, therefore I am unable to speak on that portion of the work. Although scarcely expecting to be in a position to procure cattle this year, it was thought advisable to conduct some experiments with grasses, fodder plants, and root crops, and it is on this subject I would ask your permission to say a few words.

Owing to the condition of the farm when taken over by the government, only a few small plots of cultivated grasses and clovers were sown the first year. Of these, Lucerne, Red Clover, Timo-

Soon after getting possession of the farm, our attention was directed to the cultivation of the native grasses of the province. In 1889 a small quantity of the seed from several varieties was collected and sown in 1889. Despite the severe drought of that year, several of these varieties germinated and survived the following severe winter; these have now been growing two summers and one winter, and some of them are very promising; other varieties have been sown this year, and additions will be made from time to time.

Millet.—Four plots were devoted to the testing of Millet, and on June 5th the following were sown broadcast: German Millet, Common Millet, Hungarian and Chana, or Indian Millet. The yield per acre of dry fodder was as follows: Chana or Indian Millet, 5½ tons; German Millet, 4½ tons, and Hungarian, 3½ tons. The Chana is a plant introduced from India by Prof. Saunders last year, and is very promising.

Throughout Ontario, and in many portions of the neighboring Republic, the main dependence for cattle feed is on fodder corn. A few years ago



THE MODERN WAY—THE ASPINWALL POTATO PLANTER IN THE FIELD.

twenty-six inches apart. At all these variable distances it drops the potato with absolute regularity. The distance of planting is exactly the same in each row.

A fertilizer attachment can be used which deposits the fertilizer above the potato just as a portion of the earth has fallen upon it, thus all chance for injury to seed is avoided.

The mechanical construction of the planter is good. The materials are of the best, and it will last for many years. There is no cog gear and no fast motion. Excepting the pole and hopper, the machine is made of steel and iron.

A corn planter attachment is now made which will be wanted by many who purchase the potato planter.

Altogether, in its present high perfection, the Aspinwall Potato Planter is an implement few potato growers will care to do without. You can secure the catalogue from the makers by addressing the Aspinwall Manufacturing Company, Three Rivers, Michigan, U. S. A. This machine is very highly spoken of by all who have used it. Each machine is absolutely guaranteed by the manufacturers, whose catalogue contain a large number of very flattering testimonials.

thy and Kentucky Blue Grass survived the winter, and yielded a fair crop last season. The plot of Kentucky Blue Grass has proved very interesting; only a few plants of this grass started in 1889, but during the past summer these plants sent out side roots in every direction, and the ground is now covered with a luxuriant growth of herbage, which remained quite green until late in November. Although not suitable for hay, this grass promises well for pasturage; it requires some time, however, to get thoroughly established in the soil.

During the past season twenty-one varieties of cultivated grasses and clovers were sown with spring wheat. Among these grasses the most promising are Orchard Grass, Fescues, Timothy and Hungarian Forage Plant. The following clovers are also doing well: Lucerne, Mammoth Red, Common Red and Sanfoin. A long stubble has been left to collect snow, and we trust some of the varieties will survive the winter and prove useful for hay or pasture.

it was supposed that the climate of this province was not favorable to the growth of fodder corn; but on the Experimental Farm we have grown it for two years with marked success; this year the seed of over thirty varieties was sown with a common grain drill in rows three feet apart, and kept free of weeds by the use of the single-horse cultivator. When cut on the 28th August, the yield of green corn was from 12 to 46 tons per acre, or equal to one-half of this in dry fodder. These yields may appear very large to one unaccustomed to the growth of fodder plants here, but when it is remembered that in our rich soil all varieties of grain have a tendency to throw out side branches or stools, one can the more readily understand the large returns. With us the corn is stacked in large stooks in the field, and drawn into the barn on the first fall of snow; it cures perfectly in the stook, and is readily eaten by the cattle. Next year it is proposed to sow a large area of this grain to be used for ensilage.

I shall be pleased at any time to give particulars as to the best varieties of corn for this province, manner of cultivating, etc., and I trust a number of you will give this promising fodder a trial next season.