

one of the new cross-bred varieties named Russell, which is a cross between the Prize Cluster, a branching variety and the Giant Cluster one of those with a sided head. Much the larger proportion of the more prolific sorts belong to the branching oats represented in figure 2.



FIG. 5.—Half sided Oat, Russell, half natural size.

UNIFORM TEST PLOTS OF OATS.

During the season of 1896, fifty-nine varieties of oats have been tested under fairly uniform conditions, to gain information regarding their relative yield, earliness and other qualities. They were all sown on the 30th April and 1st May, on plots of $\frac{1}{20}$ acre each. The soil was a clay loam of fair quality which was manured in the spring of 1891, with about 20 tons of barn-yard manure per acre. It also received an application of about 150 bushels of unleached wood ashes per acre, in the autumn of 1893. No fertilizers have been applied since. The previous crop was barley. The land was ploughed soon after harvest with the gang plough about two inches deep and harrowed with the smoothing harrow to cover and germinate weed seeds and shed grain, and later in the autumn it was ploughed about eight inches deep. In the spring of 1896, the land was disc-harrowed twice and harrowed with the smoothing harrow before sowing. In figure 6 a view is given of these uniform test plots at the time of harvest.