

the next year they came again, and kept all hands busy for weeks pulling them out from amongst the next crop, and it was several years before the plague was stayed.

The stalks and leaves are not well relished by cattle and sheep: they are bitter, and when other provender can be had, they are refused. They are not hurtful, however, and animals when confined to them, will do well on them and eat them up clean.

Any one may thus see what a dangerous pest this is, and if ever a law was required it is against "wild oats." These are nothing to them. A thorough summer following, with so frequent ploughing as to prevent their ever "showing green"—from five to six times during the season—will absolutely free a field from thistles, but wild oats only "hide their time." So long as the seed is in the ground, so long you may be sure that in time, and under favorable circumstances, they will again appear in a greater or less degree.

If the wild oat could be hybridized (a most hazardous undertaking, however,) and made to produce berries as heavy and nutritious as Angus, or black oats, they would become a valuable crop, on account of their earliness and hardiness; but we fear the time is far distant when this will be done. Meantime, utter destruction is the only course which can be safely pursued.

### Potato Growing.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—In your issue of March the 16th, I noticed the remarks of E. R. S., of Napanee, on growing potatoes, a subject which, if properly discussed, I consider of very great importance. It appears to me that he has not done justice to it, although I agree with him in the sentiments expressed in the commencement of the article. They are very good as far as they go, but I think he has laid too much stress on the ignorance of his neighbours. I have frequently visited that part of the country, and I think that E. R. S. has very different neighbours from the class which he has represented. He should surely admit that the reason of the light crops last year was in consequence of the dry season. In the neighbourhood where I reside, I saw whole fields where the ground was well cultivated, that did not yield

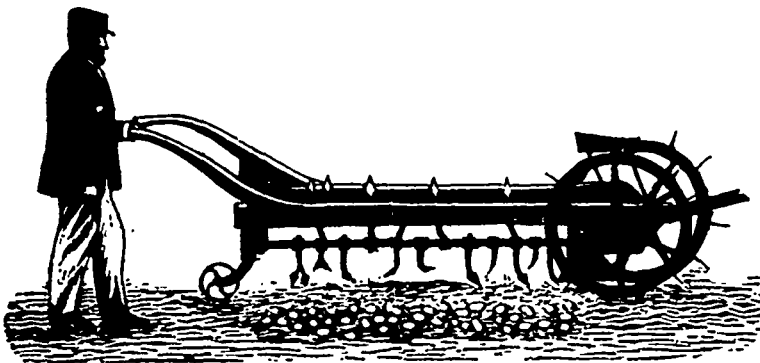
more than one quarter of a crop. In consequence of the extreme drought, many farmers did not plant any potatoes. The wet in spring continued so late, that they thought it useless to make any attempt after the season was so far advanced. This, I think, accounts for the light crops last year. He gives us his experience with regard to preparing the seed and planting. I agree with him in cutting the large ones, but those that are too small to cut once should be fed up, as I think the practice of planting small potatoes should not be indulged in. In the township where I live, farmers prepare their ground by manuring, and summer fallowing if necessary, and also their seed by cutting in such a manner that there are from three to five eyes on each piece. They cut a light furrow, drop the cuts about one foot apart in the drills, and put the rows about twice that distance, cover with a plough, and when they are about coming out of the ground, put on a harrow with teeth two or three inches long; harrow once in a place; the potatoes being in the furrow, will not be disturbed. This levels the ground, destroys the weeds, if any, and gives the potatoes a good start. They are then left until ready to hoe, which is done by ploughing through them with a shovel plough. If this is properly done, there is very little occasion for the hoe. In this way I have raised and seen others raise very remunerative crops. I think it would pay E. R. S. to cut his potatoes very small, if he only wants four stalks in one hill, for the smallest potatoes have from ten to fifteen eyes; and to put in the whole potatoes would certainly produce more vines than four.

A SUBSCRIBER.

Ernestown, April 29th, 1868.

### Hay Tedders.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Co. Gent.* expresses the opinion that the Hay Tedder is not sufficiently appreciated. In this I fully agree with him. Having a large crop of hay to secure the past season, and believing in the use of improved and labor-saving implements, I determined to test the value of the tedder. After getting what information I could, and examining different patterns in the market, I purchased "Garfield's," manufactured by the Ames Plow Co., which they have exhibited at the fairs this fall; on which, they informed me, they had expended \$20,000 in perfecting. After cutting with the machine, we started the tedder, which turned up the grass, and left it lying up light so that the sun and air could act upon the whole. This made the labor of raking very easy. In a good day, by repeating the process two or three times, the hay would be made sufficiently dry to go into the barn. It turned hay, spread from the cock or windrow with great rapidity, and much better than by hand. One advantage of this tedder is that the hay is not raised more than eighteen inches from the ground; and should the wind blow, it is not scattered where it is not wanted. I have never used an implement with better satisfaction. It is of easy draught for one horse. It performs its work better and much quicker than by hand. In catching weather, as in the past season, there is less risk from damage. In curing second crop, its services are invaluable. Every one knows the difficulty of getting it sufficiently cured. Hay dealers inform me, that since the advent of mowing machines, the quality of the hay is not so good as formerly. The grass lying flat, the top is made too much, while the bottom remains green. This is remedied by the tedder, as it is mixed indiscriminately, giving all parts an equal opportunity to make. *Co. Gentleman.*



### Prize Potato Digger.

Among the implements exhibited at the Provincial Exhibition last fall was a very effective looking Potato Digger, which we briefly noticed at the time. The first prize was awarded for this implement. We have since seen testimonials in its favour by persons who have actually used it, and who speak in high terms of its efficiency. The accompanying illustration will give some idea of its general appearance and mode of working. It is drawn by two horses; one on each side the furrow. The large wheels in front are connected by their axle and cog-wheels with a rod running underneath for the whole length of the implement. This rod is furnished with shovels or teeth, projecting sufficiently to enter the ground, as the rod revolves, and passing below the tubers without cutting them. To throw them out to some little distance on one side. The two hinder teeth are forked, to take up the smaller tubers left by the others. The rod revolves pretty rapidly, and the dirt and the tubers are separated as they fall to the ground, the latter being thrown further aside, so as to be partially cleaned in the operation. The inventor is Mr. Alfred J. Lemon, of Lynden, Ontario, to whose advertisement in the present issue we refer the reader for further information. We believe the price of the implement is somewhere between \$30 and \$40. It will be to the interest of manufacturers to make them as cheaply as possible, otherwise farmers will continue to dig their potatoes with the plough.

### Varieties of Wheat.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—Believing that it would be a general benefit if the numerous readers of your excellent paper were to contribute their experience in testing different varieties of farm produce, I will give you mine with the following varieties of wheat, viz.: White California, Italian White Mediterranean, Virginia Blue Stem, Norfolk Red, Bald Mediterranean, Boughton White, and Diehl. The first four were winter-killed, and the remaining three varieties have wintered first-rate and promise well.

Of the Diehl wheat I had an average of forty-four bushels per acre from nine acres sown last year, and for hardiness, productiveness and quality, I consider it superior to the other varieties named.

I am, Sir,  
Yours, &c.,  
LEWIS SPRINGER.

Hamilton, May 13th, 1868.

### Cabbages, Kohl-Rabi, and Rape

We learn from *The Farmer* (Scottish) that in 1866 "nearly six per cent. of the land, under green crop cultivation, in England; three and a half per cent. in Ireland; and seventy-five per cent. in Scotland, was occupied with cabbages, kohl rabi, and rape. In the different English counties, the extent of ground under these crops varied greatly; thus, in Cambridgeshire, they occupied twenty per cent. of the area under green crop; in Lincolnshire, ten per cent.; and in Northumberland, two per cent. They are found in all parts of Ireland, though they are most extensively grown in the midland and southern counties. In Scotland, they were cultivated most extensively in the counties of Lanark, Dumfries, and Edinburgh; however, no county contained more than 500 acres, and in no instance did they grow three per cent. of the green crop. In Orkney and Shetland, 355 acres were grown; 2.19 per cent. of the area under green crops."

It is doubtless one of the faults of Canadian farming that such crops are not more extensively grown, supplying as they do a juicy food of which stock are very fond, and helping to form a desirable rotation which leaves the soil in a very mellow state. We scarcely remember any instance of a field of cabbages being raised in this country for feeding to cattle. The same remark may be made in reference to Kohl-rabi. Has any one given this plant a trial in Canada, and if so, with what result? Rape we have occasionally seen, but its culture is a very rare thing. Those who are going into the breeding of improved cattle and sheep, will find it to their advantage to grow such crops. Dairymen also should turn their attention this way. At seasons when the pastures fail, they come in very opportunely, and in the winter time, nothing is more relished by stock than such succulent food as a change from dry and often dusty fodder. Crops of this description are easily raised, and with proper implements and good methods of culture, the labour connected with them is nothing like so great as many people erroneously suppose it to be.

THE VALUE OF TOWN SEWAGE.—In his account of the consumption of 35,000 tons of London sewage in 1867 at the Lodge Farm, Barking, Mr. Morton has the following remarks:—"I believe we have proved that every hundred tons of sewage used during the past year have actually produced, under circumstances of average favorableness, one ton of grass over and above the quantity needed to pay an ordinary rent and an ordinary farm labor bill."