

## EVERGREENS AMONG PEAR TREES.

Hon. E. H. Hyde, Vice-President of the Connecticut State Board of Agriculture, planted a number of small evergreens in a circular form around some pear trees, simply for ornament, intending to keep them down in the front of a hedge, and to allow the pear trees "for effect," to appear above them. The plan was neglected after a while—as many such plans are—and the evergreens soon outstripped the dwarfs, and towered up above and nearly encircled them. It came to be noticed after a while that while the pear trees away from the evergreens were irregular bearers of rather inferior fruit, those within the circle were almost invariably prolific, and the fruit was of superior quality. There was no other apparent cause for this result than the influence of the evergreens, hence the inference in favor of protection would seem to be a just one.

A California paper says:—Some of the cherry trees of Mr. Bidwell's orchard, in Butte Co., yielded \$200 to the tree this season, the fruit selling as high as sixty cents per pound in San Francisco.

## COLD AND THE CURCULIO.

In relation to this subject we find the following in the *Galaxy* for June:—

A writer in the *Gardener's Monthly* states that after severe winters, during which the ground was unprotected by snow and therefore frozen deeply, he has observed that the plum crop of the succeeding season was unusually good, the fruit being fair and abundant. He accounts for this by the theory that the pupae of the curculio are frozen in the ground below the possibility of resuscitation, and that the trees, which usually blossom full and set well, are thus freed from the attack of this most destructive insect. In accordance with this explanation he recommends that on the approach of cold weather the ground under and about the fruit trees be cleared from snow, so that the frost will penetrate deeply into the soil. As the trees do not appear to suffer when the ground about their roots is naturally exposed, it is believed that no harm will follow this practice.

The editor of the *Gardener's Monthly* appends a few remarks to the effect that before this view can be accepted, two questions remain to be settled:—First, does the curculio hibernate in the ground, and in what state or condition? And second, will cold destroy hibernating insects in any of their forms?

Let any one who has a piece of land overrun by Canada thistles treat in the following manner and he will be surprised at the result: Plow as late in June as possible, and give time for the maturity of a crop of barley. The thistle will have attained quite a growth, and by plowing and harrowing thoroughly, the roots will be pretty well torn out. Sow the barley and harrow in well. The warm sun will bring up the barley at once, and before the thistles recover from their rude treatment, the grain will quite shade the ground, and nothing will be seen of the thistles but a few sickly looking specimens. A good crop can be grown on such ground, where little would grow if early sown.

## Billington's Improved Grain Drills.

We now take pleasure in introducing to the notice of our readers Mr. J. P. Billington, of Dundas, and his hobby, the grain drill. We believe in specialities. When a person devotes his time and attention to one business, or one implement, or one idea, he is apt to surpass in that particular line others that are divided in their pursuits.

We presume we have to place Mr. Billington at the head of the list as regards seed drills. He was the first introducer and first manufacturer of seed drills in Canada. He has watched and adopted every improvement, and furnishes drills unsurpassed by any maker. Some may have advertised more extensively in places, or put out more talking agents, but the following fact should show to the people of Canada the high estimation his drills are held in. We look on the farmers of Oxford as being unsurpassed by any class of farmers in any county in Canada. They read, practice, have the best agricultural meetings in their county, and are as wealthy as the farmers in any other county, and vastly superior in practice to the farmers in a large majority of the counties, if not at the very top in this respect; they stand second to none.

In this favored county alone Mr. Billington has, during the past three years, sold three hundred of his seed drills. We presume this number is more than is owned in four or five other counties where they have had ten or fifteen years to introduce them.—Other drills besides Billington's have been tried in Oxford, but his stands A 1 there.

His prices are as low as those of any other manufacturer. You can send your orders to him, or those wishing to be supplied by us may do so, as we do not intend selling any other grain drill until we are convinced that a manufacturer has a superior article.

We have always found Mr. Billington a strictly honorable and reliable person as far as our transactions have been with him. We cannot say as much for all manufacturers with whom we have transacted business.

We quote below his own remarks concerning his drills:—

"From the unprecedented sale of grain drills last fall and spring, the subscriber has been induced to manufacture a very large number for the coming seeding. Some alterations have been made in his drills, such as past experience has suggested to be necessary and useful, and he is thoroughly convinced that the drills which he now offers to the farmers are sure to give every satisfaction, nothing having been left undone to make them the most perfect machines yet offered for sale; and having had an experience of twenty years in the construction of many different kinds of grain drills, he feels competent to discriminate between them and judge of the merits and demerits of the very many different kinds now for sale.

ject of constructing practically any particular part of the machine, and to overcome objections that might be made on that score in selling.

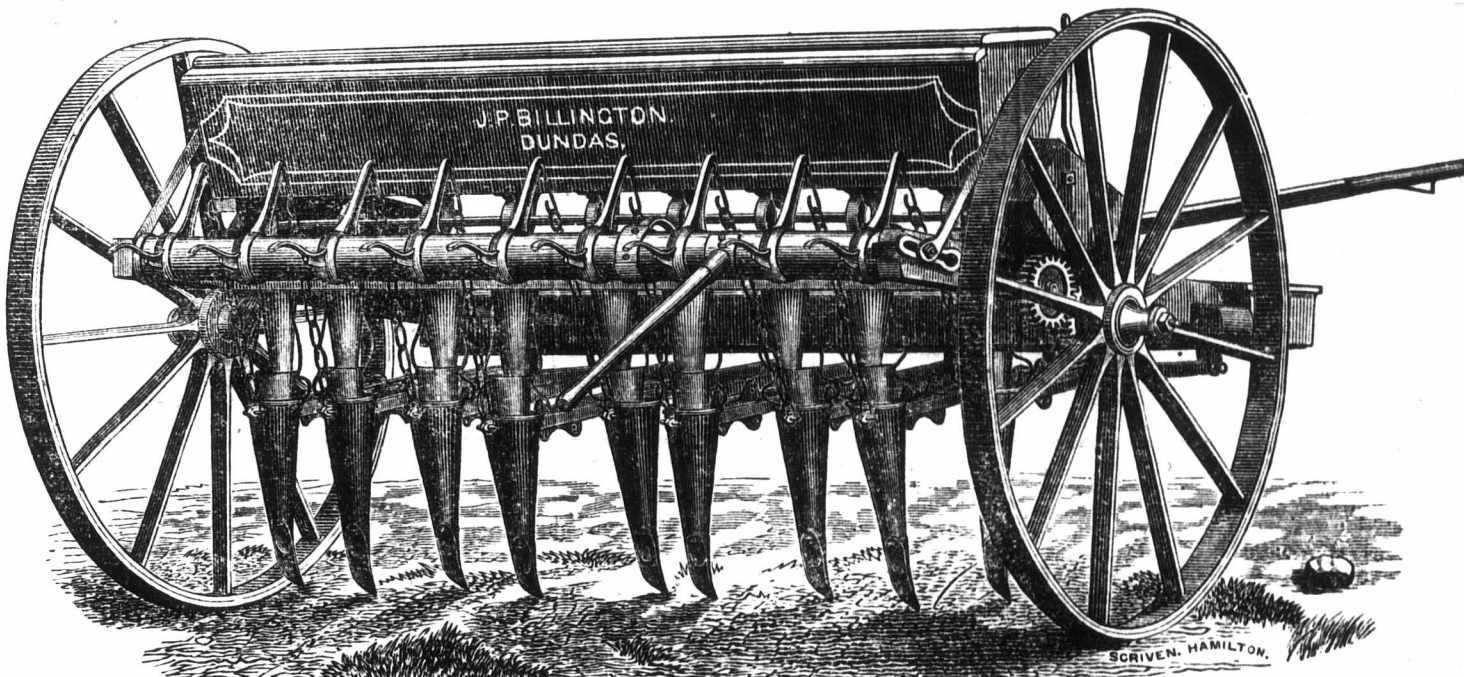
"In this age of progress in farming, it seems of little use to speak of the advantages of sowing seed with a drill over broadcast sowing, but I will say that on an ordinary sized farm, the saving of seed alone fully covers the investment. We will suppose a farmer sows twenty acres of fall wheat, and uses two bushels of seed per acre. In using the drill he would save three pecks per acre, making 15 bushels of wheat, worth \$1 per bushel—\$15. Say he puts in 20 acres of spring grain, he saves one-half bushel seed per acre, making 10 bushels, worth 50 cents per bushel—\$5; which added makes \$20 in the season. This certainly covers the investment. Most farmers say who use drills that the increase of crop over broadcast sowing is on an average from three to five bushels to the acre.

"The subscriber believes that he is fully warranted in every statement made in the foregoing, and is so perfectly satisfied of the perfectness of the drills which he is now offering, that he has no hesitation in warranting them in every particular in sowing grain, and to be made of the best material and workmanship, and hopes to secure your patronage.

"All of which is most respectfully submitted."

Dundas, 1873.

The list of testimonials are most satisfactory, and of such a length and so flattering from all parts of Canada, that we cannot spare space in this paper to publish them, but quote the following as samples of them:



BILLINGTON'S IMPROVED GRAIN DRILL.

North Oxford, Jan. 23rd, 1872.

This is to certify that I bought one of Billington's Empire drills in the year 1871. It works to my entire satisfaction, and from past experience I am satisfied that it is the most useful and profitable implement that a farmer can be in possession of.

Blandford, Jan. 24th, 1872.

This is to certify that I bought an Empire drill in the year 1870, and am satisfied that there is at least a saving of one-half bushel per acre in seed, and decidedly a better yield. It is also one of the most useful and profitable implements that a farmer can use on his farm.

M. OVERHOLT, Reeve.

West Oxford, Jan. 16th, 1872.

This is to certify that I bought one of J. P. Billington's grain drills in the spring of 1871. I feel satisfied that there is a saving of fully half a bushel of seed per acre taking all kinds of grain together. I am satisfied that my drill has paid me in seed and yield from \$75 to \$100 in one year.

RALPH FEATHERSON.

## WASH FOR SHINGLES.

A wash composed of lime, salt, and fine sand, or wood ashes, put on in the ordinary way of whitewash, is said to render shingles fifty-fold more safe against taking fire from falling cinders or otherwise, in case of fire in the vicinity. It pays the expense of itself a hundred-fold in its preserving influence against the effect of the weather. The older and more weather beaten the shingles, the more benefit derived. Such shingles are generally more or less warped, rough and cracked.

## Recipes.

## EXCELLENT WHITWASH.

The following is said to be the very best of the numerous recipes for whitewashing:—White chalk is the best substitute for lime as a wash. A very fine and brilliant whitewash preparation of chalk is called the "Paris White." This we buy at the paint store for three cents a pound, retail. For each sixteen pounds of Paris White we procure half a pound of the white transparent glue, costing twenty-five cents (fifty cents a pound). The sixteen pounds of Paris White is about as much as a person will use in a day. It is prepared as follows:—The glue is covered with cold water at night, and in the morning is carefully heated, without scorching, until dissolved. The Paris White is stirred in with hot water to give it the proper milky consistency for applying to walls, and the dissolved glue is then added and thoroughly mixed. It is then applied with a brush like the common lime whitewash. Except on very dark and smoky walls, a single coat is sufficient. It is nearly equal in brilliancy to "zinc white," a far more expensive article.

## TO CLEAN PAINT.

There is a most simple method of cleaning any kind of paint that has become dirty, and if our house-wives would adopt it, it would save them a great deal of trouble:

Provide a plate with some of the best whiting to be had, and have ready some clean, warm water and a piece of flannel; squeeze nearly dry; then take as much whiting as will adhere

to it, apply it to the painted surface, when a little rubbing will instantly remove any dirt or grease. After this, wash the part with clean water, rubbing it dry with soft chamois. Paint thus cleaned looks as well as when first laid on, without any injury to the most delicate color. It is far better than soap, and does not require more than half the time and labor.

Or save the tea leaves for a few days, then steep them in a tin pan for half an hour, strain through a sieve, and use the tea to wash all varnished paint. It requires very little rubbing or "elbow polish," as the tea acts as a strong detergent, cleaning the paint from its impurities, and making the varnish shine equal to new. It cleanses window-sashes and oil-cloths; indeed any varnished surface is improved by its application. It washes window-panes and mirrors much better than soap and water, and is excellent for cleansing black walnut and picture frames. It will not do to wash unvarnished paint with it.

## BONE FELON.

Of all painful things can there be any so excruciatingly painful as bone felon? We know of none that flesh is heir to. As this malady is quite frequent, and the subject of much earnest consideration, we give the last recipe for its cure, which is given by that high authority the *London Lancet*:—

"As soon as the disease is felt, put directly over the spot a fly blister about the size of your thumb nail, and let it remain for six hours, at the expiration of which time, directly under the surface of the blister, may be seen the felon which can instantly be taken out with the point of a needle or a lancet."