

some of our Government officials know it. We could depict fearful results from injudicious movements. Despite these remarks, even at my age, I would not be afraid of getting a living in an agricultural line in British Columbia. There are some here that are making money rapidly. The greatest interest has been taken in mining, lumbering and fishing. Gold mining was the most remunerative. Now the coal mines are developed; they exceed that of the coveted metal, and those that either work in the coal mines or in the counting houses connected with the mines, are getting more gold than those that are digging for it.

Having just passed through a portion of our grain and stock producing west, we saw the over-flowing granaries and herds of fat cattle, and know that the necessities of life are more accessible to a larger number of persons here than in any other part of the world; where we know of more millions of acres of available fertile land to be given away, and know that emigration is turning from the sunny south to the fertile, beef and grain producing north; even American farmers find that bread, beef and labor are better than latitude, rags and bananas. The great North-west is destined to be filled with millions of inhabitants; towns and cities must spring up. When we bring before our view the impoverished B.A.'s and M.D.'s, and know the close, pinching economy practiced to keep up an outward appearance by thousands of the middle classes in Europe; when we bring to our mind those poor, half-starved thousands in England, Ireland and Scotland—

"Oh wad some power the giftie gie us,
If those deserving could but see us."

The accompanying illustration (given in a former issue), was intended to show the attempt to unite Great Britain and the colonies in a stronger bond of union. The plan of the hub represents the parties desirous of uniting the nation. As a nation of honor, liberty and equitable laws, we know of none to surpass her, despite the corruption and oppressiveness that have been exposed. Let us all unite, hope and work for her unity, and by veracity and justice endeavor to increase the growing amity of our sister the United States, and with her form a unity that may be a blessing to ourselves and those connected with us. Will you, who have not as yet aided us, use your influence, to strengthen, bind, and put on the tire?

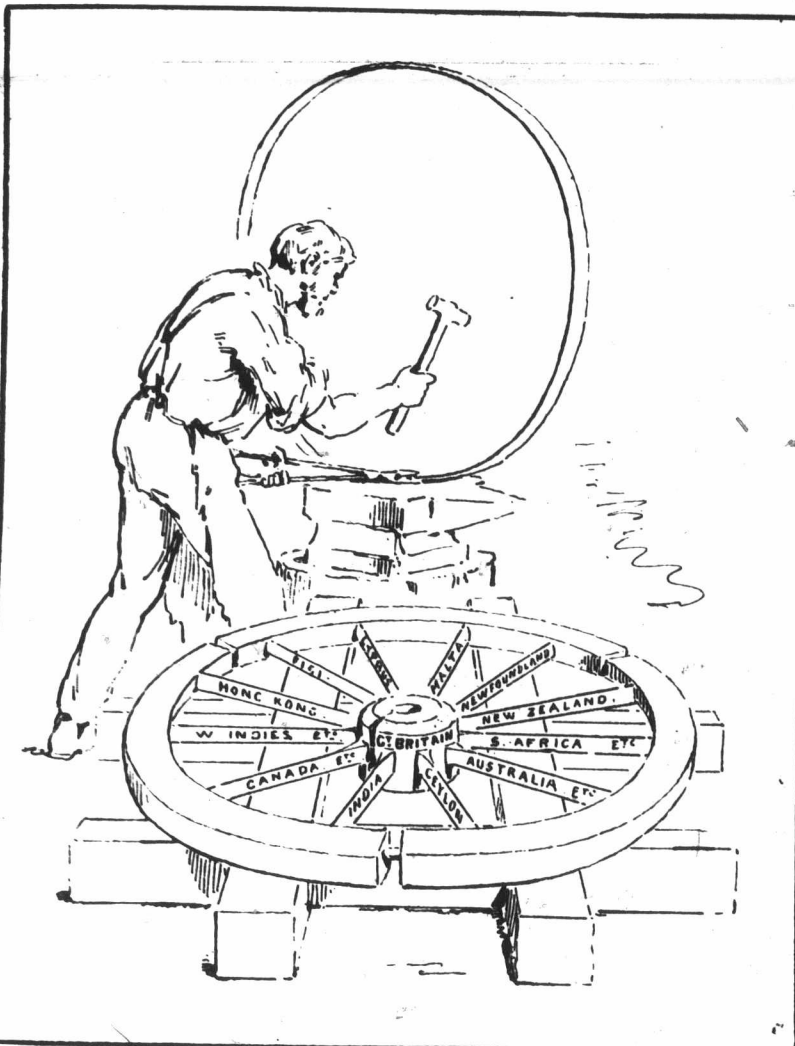
[TO BE CONTINUED.]

The New York Assembly passed the Thompson Bill, fixing a bounty of two cents on every English sparrow killed.

The cultivation of dandelions for "greens" is getting to be quite an industry. The markets are fairly well supplied this year, but more could have been sold easily. The prices now are 15 and 20 cents per quart.

New Canadian Invention.

Your correspondent had the pleasure the other day of inspecting a model of the "Romaine Steam Farmer." The public are perhaps not generally aware that Mr. Romaine has been diligently working out an idea for the past thirty-six years, which now, if ultimately successful, promises to revolutionize farming. It is a machine that is to perform all the work on the farm. It is to till the soil, sow the grain, reap and thresh the harvest; and all without the use of horses. I was rather staggered when I heard of a machine that was to do all that. Of course, I am not yet prepared to say that it will do all that, nor could any one, not a machinist, give an opinion as to its merits, but practical machinists have given it as their opinion that there is no mechanical reason why it should not succeed.



The peculiar feature of the machine is that it does not "plow," that is, it does not overturn or invert the soil. Mr. Romaine went to a good deal of trouble to explain his invention. It will be a large machine, of some twelve or thirteen tons, and the probable cost will be \$10,000. It will travel over the land at the rate of between one and two miles an hour, taking a "swath" of about twenty feet. It is supported by large wheels at the sides, fifteen inches wide. A track the width of the wheel will not be plowed, so that it will travel over the same beaten track every time. The plows, or rather the cultivating apparatus—for it has no plows—are arranged in the centre, between the driving wheels, and consist of a series of vertical, rotating spindles, to which are attached sharp steel points, which penetrate the soil to the depth of fifteen or even

twenty inches, if required. These pulverizers rotate very rapidly, and so effectually stir up and pulverize the soil as to leave it in a far better condition to receive the seed than can possibly be done by the present method. In the fall the sod is to be broken up by a different set of teeth, and in the spring, by going only once over the ground, the land will be cultivated and the seed sown, and left in a better condition than by going over it any number of times by plow and harrow. But the inventor was not satisfied with that, and the machine has been made so that the crops can be cultivated while growing, keeping down weeds at the same time. When the crop is ripe the harvesting gear is attached, and the crop cut and bound, and thus all done without a man or beast having set a foot upon the land, the workmen riding on the machine. The

threshing will also be done by the machine. Mr. Romaine says the machine will cultivate 2,000 acres of crop each year, and the expenses will be only \$3.00 an acre. The principle of pulverizing or stirring the soil instead of turning it over, Mr. Romaine claims, is the great advantage of the system. He thoroughly satisfied himself that this was the true method of cultivation, and secured opinions to this effect from eminent agriculturists in the Old Country. Of course, the Western prairies will be the best field for the machine. Whether it will fulfil its mission remains to be seen. All whom I have talked with on the subject seem to agree that if it will do all that he claims for it, it will be one of the greatest inventions of the age, certainly, the greatest in the way of agricultural implements.

Mr. Romaine goes to the Glasgow Exhibition in a few days, where he will exhibit it, and endeavor while there to raise capital for its manufacture.

Mr. Lovell on the Thistle.

Mr. Lovell, in another column, has dealt very thoroughly with the thistle question, which deserves more attention and discussion than it receives. We

have seen many fields throughout Ontario, when the yield has been lessened from one-quarter to three-quarters by this persistent enemy.

Too great stress can hardly be laid on early fall cultivation of all cropped land not seeded down. A very successful farmer of our acquaintance has cleared a large farm of thistles by gang-plowing as soon as the crop is taken off, then harrowing thoroughly, at least twice, as soon as plowed, before the soil becomes at all packed, the dryer the soil (as long as it will work), the better. When the land is very thistley we have found great benefit by going over it as soon as harrowed with a spring tooth cultivator, or chisel tooth harrow. When gang plowing see that all the land is cut clean, this is imperative, no plow should be used that will not do this. After harrowing and cultivating,