

ran closer to the ground, and does not require so much force." In 1848 a certificate was given again to Hussey and Ketchum, which seem to have been the only ones shown. In some remarks on the Implements at the show, it is said, "The trials which have been made with various machines for cutting grain, has, we think, demonstrated the practicability of their success," and it is confidently anticipated that they will be brought into extensive use on smooth lands in a few years. It is also said that Ketchum's Mower was tried, and made very good work—that it was simple and strong, and it is hoped will yet be made to answer the purpose effectually. At the Show of 1849 no mention is made of either Reaping or Mowing Machines. In 1850 there is no notice of a Reaper—a diploma is awarded to Ketchum's Mower. At the Show at Rochester in 1851, there were five Reapers and a Mower, and in 1852, when this Society's great trial at Geneva took place, there seems to have been 11 entries of Reapers and 7 of Mowers,—several, however, were entered in both classes. We need not pursue their history in this Society any further—but, we may notice, as a proof of how slow their introduction into general use was, that John Johnston, Geneva, well known as one of the most enterprising farmers of the State of New-York, does not appear to have used one before the harvest of 1848.—Reaping Machines came more rapidly into use in the Prairies of the Western States, than any where else. There the level fields and sparse population afforded full scope for their successful operation. So early as 1849, the *Prairie Farmer* calculated that there were at work in the West over three thousand reapers and Harvesters, doing the work of nearly seventeen thousand men.

We are not aware who had the honour of first introducing Reaping Machines into Canada,—the first we saw was brought into the neighbourhood of Cobourg, in the harvest of 1844, by J. Wade, Esq., the late President of the Provincial Agricultural Association. In the following season another was brought in by Messrs. McEyes,—both Hussey's. Since then they have been gradually working their way into public favour, and are now to be found in almost all parts of the country, where the land is adapted to their use.

In looking over the pages of the *British American Cultivator*, the first of our Canadian agricultural papers, it is not till near the close of the 4th volume that there is any notice of reaping machines,—then there is an engraving of Hussey's, which the Editor of the paper had seen at Utica. In the April No. of the paper of 1847, the editor states that he had been instrumental in introducing four Reaping Machines into the neighbourhood of Toronto during the harvest of 1846, and also that an ingenious person was building a number of Machines for him

on an improved plan. In the following No. there was an engraving of the Machine, which very much resembles McCormick's. At the first Provincial Exhibition, held at Toronto in 1846, a premium of \$30 was offered for the best Reaping Machine, but none appears to have been shown; we do not recollect of seeing any, and no premium is awarded in the Prize List. At the Show of 1847, first and second prizes were awarded to Mr. Bell, Toronto, for Reaping Machines, and one for a Mower to Mr. Murdock, Ancaster. At the third Show, at Cobourg, in 1848, a first and third prize were awarded to John Helm & Son, for a Reaping Machine, who are said "to have made some recent improvements on them." We believe these first machines were made on the plan of McCormick's, but that they soon abandoned it and built them on the plan of Hussey's. There does not appear to have been any Mower shown at this Show. At the Show of 1849, there was one prize awarded to a Canadian Reaping Machine, Mr. S. Chesnut, Pittsburg,—and at Niagara, in 1850, there appears to have been only one, awarded to J. W. Ball, Niagara.

We have thus brought up our notices to 1850; since then many new and valuable machines—candidates for public favour—of every shape and form,—Reapers, Mowers, Self-Rakers, combined Machines, of many various patterns, have made appearance, and are now manufactured in different sections of the Province.

In the construction of all machines, four objects are particularly desirable,—“1st, strength or durability of material; 2nd, simplicity of arrangement of parts; 3rd, exactness in fitting one part to another; and 4th, easiness and correctness of motion.” As it is a general and well-recognized principle in mechanics, that the fewer the parts are in a machine, and the more simple the construction the better, a good Reaping Machine should not only be made upon a proper principle, but it should be made as light as is consistent with durability; it should also have as few parts as possible, and these so placed as to be easily repaired or replaced in case they went wrong. W. R.

Cobourg, February 1861.

Broad Cast Sowing Machines, &c.

MESSRS. EDITORS,—As this is a terribly stormy day—the worst we have had this winter—I cannot employ my time better than by applying to you for some information.

1st. Can you let me know if there are any broad cast Sowing Machines made in Canada for a moderate price?

2nd. What do you think of "Hildreth's" Gang Plough with seed-box? Will it answer well as a sowing machine for wheat, peas, and oats on a 30 acre farm? Is it made in Canada?