

must be sent in to the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, at Toronto, on or before the first of next month. They are requested to see, as far as is in their power, that all the reports forwarded to them are complete and correct, and that a list of the Officers and Directors for the current year is added to each. We are glad to learn that a few at least of the Societies are competing for the prizes offered by the Board for Reports.

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### PORTABLE GRAIN MILLS.

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In many of the British Colonies, and in the more recently settled portions of the United States, portable mills for the purpose of grinding wheat and making it into flour, have been found an important acquisition; enabling widely dispersed settlers to enjoy that primary necessity,—pure and wholesome bread,—in the midst of the wilderness. Upwards of twenty years ago we saw many of these mills in England, intended chiefly for the Australian Colonies; they were of simple construction, made of the best materials, of a superior style of workmanship, and did their work very effectually. Wheat was ground into meal, which was separated by a series of sieves into flour, both fine and coarse, shorts or pollard, bran, &c., with almost as much nicety as could be effected by ordinary flour mills. Since then, improvements have been made in these, as well as in most other kinds of machinery and implements; and portable mills are now fitted up that are capable of not only making good flour for domestic use, but also of grinding or crushing oats, peas, flax, &c., for feeding horses, pigs, and cattle. A single machine capable of being applied to such various uses, must be of great economic value, not only

in newly settled countries, but also in such as are more advanced. Accordingly we find that these improved portable mills are used extensively in Britain for crushing grain, &c., for cattle, and that a homestead of any extent can scarcely be found without appliances of this nature. In Canada, and the neighboring States, these machines are beginning to be understood and appreciated by the farmers, and more than one kind has been pretty extensively introduced into the more advanced districts.

A great saving is effected in bruising grain before it is given to animals; not only by diminishing the time and power required for mastication, but also by enabling the stomach to digest more easily and thoroughly and the absorbents to take up more completely, the nourishing ingredients of the food. It is well known that oats, when given whole to horses, pass through the intestines in great numbers unbroken; and consequently that little or none of the nourishment contained in the flour of the grain will be assimilated. The difference in the case of horses between whole and crushed oats, is probably not less than 25 per cent; and in the case of cattle it would be found far greater. To working animals especially, the saving of time and labor in the act of mastication, by the employment of crushed grain, and cooked food, is of great importance, as it affords them longer opportunities for rest.

Subjoined is a representation of one of these combined Portable Mills, brought up to the present advanced state of mechanical knowledge, and adapted to the existing wants of farmers and recent settlers. It is manufactured by *Messrs. Ransomes & Sims*, of Ipswich, England; a firm that has for many years been distinguished for the superior construction, materials, and workmanship of their numerous machines and implements; and to whom the highest premiums and medals of the national Agricultural Societies have been frequently awarded.