



A SCENE ON THE SEA SHORE.

in Cape Colony, to the Barrydale district. We saw at work the only Self-Binders that were ever used in Barrydale, and you will be glad to know that there, as elsewhere, the pioneers were Massey-Harris machines. The Barrydale wheat farms are not extensive, most of the good ground being given up to vineyards, while the hills support herds of cattle and numerous flocks of sheep, common goats, and the beautiful Angora goats, from which is clipped the white silky mohair fleece, one of the most valued exports of the country. The district is well suited to Ostrich farming, and although the price now ruling for feathers is exceedingly low, the people admit that they pay, even now, better than anything else on their farms. We were fortunate in seeing many large bands of the ungainly birds. On one farm 230 were together, but, of course, they had many hundreds of acres of feeding ground over which to wander. The breeding birds are usually separated from the larger band, and the chicks, two or three days after being hatched, are, for greater safety, taken from the parent birds and carefully reared.

During the day they feed about some small enclosure, but at night they are carefully housed. If the weather is cold the little fellows are wrapped warmly in woollen blankets. Great care must be taken both in feeding and sheltering the young birds until they are three months old, after which they are usually sufficiently grown to take care of themselves. The first plumes are cut when the bird is seven months old. These have but little value; two months later the quills which have been left in the wing "to ripen," are drawn out with pliers. Two months later still, or four months subsequent to the first cutting, the new plumes appear. At 12 months old the birds begin to show their permanent color, the males gradually turning a glossy black, while the females become a dull yellowish brown. The second cutting is made when the birds are 16 months old, but the plumes are not at their best until the birds have attained their 24th month.

Thereafter the plumes are cut every eight months.

A few years ago when Ostrich plumes were in great demand, it was not uncommon to realize an all round price of £10 for each bird's plumes, even when there were as many females in the band as males. £35 has often been paid for the plumes of one good male. The most valuable plumes are the long white primaries; then follow in value the fancy black and whites, of which there is but one in each wing. The long blacks rank next, and so on down to the short drab plumes of the female birds. A pound of rarely choice white feathers is still worth from £35 to £40, and, of course, a much larger price in the markets of Europe. The best plumes have very slender stems, so slender indeed that when the plume is held in an upright position the tip will bend down all but touching its own base. These plumes are from 15 to 18 inches long, and are not infrequently 12 to 13 inches

across at the widest part. The birds mate at the age of 3 years, the females laying from 12 to 22 eggs, in the incubation of which both birds assist, the male bird usually covering the eggs at night, and the female during the daylight hours. Good birds will nest from 2 to 3 times in 12 months, successfully rearing from 20 to 30 young Ostriches. In the good old days when feathers were in demand, £5 would be paid for a single egg. £10 was the standard price for a chick 3 days old, and though from £25 to £30 was the running price of birds in a band, as much as £500 has been paid for a pair of good breeders. The male birds are very vicious during the nesting season, and it is not safe to go near them even on horseback.

Leaving the Swellendam district we drove through the mountains to the pleasant vineyards of Monhagen, where, in addition to the profitable industry of wine-making, attention has recently been given to the making of raisins and with most satisfactory results.

The largest wheat areas and the most valuable wheat lands in the Colony lie adjacent to and beyond Malmesbury to the north of Cape Town. Although the same primitive method before described of planting the seed is in vogue even there, the lands are much more carefully cultivated before the seed is plowed under and the fields are afterwards harrowed until quite smooth on the surface. Large numbers of binders and reapers are used to harvest the grain, but on some of the farms the sickle is still used. The growing grain is never very thick on the ground, but when rain has been abundant the heads are usually well filled and supported by the stiff straw. I have not seen one field of lodged grain in this country.

The farms, as a rule, are very large, often from 10,000 to 20,000 acres, sometimes 40,000 acres. A man owning not more than 1,000 or 1,500 acres is considered a small farmer.

As the country is all mountainous, only the lower hills and the valleys are suitable for grain growing, the higher ground being reserved for grazing.

Cape Colony has as yet done very little mixed farming, though she is beginning to realize that she has within herself all the elements neces-



AN OX TEAM DRAWING "OAT HAY."