

in which the concentric rings are close, thick, and uniform, and has, when cut, a glossy varnish-like appearance, and is of a pale yellow or straw-colour. That which has a bluish tinge is generally tough, but is apt to be elastic or springy.

**STEEL DRILLS.**—A mechanical journal says that drills should be made as short as the work to be done will allow. Much care is required in hardening them, as it is a very easy matter to make them too hard, or to overheat the steel. After the proper temper is obtained draw the temper a little above the point, and there will be less danger of the drill breaking. Do not use oil as a lubricator when drilling steel; water is much better. All that is required is to keep the drill cool.—*Ohio Farmer.*

### To Prevent Decay of Shingles.

The following is said to effectually prevent decay in shingles: Take a potash-kettle, or large tub, and put into it one barrel of lye of wood ashes, five pounds of white vitriol, five pounds of alum, and as much salt as will dissolve in the mixture. Make the liquor quite warm, and put as many shingles in it as can be conveniently wet at once. Stir them up with a fork, and when well soaked, take them out and put in more, renewing the liquor as necessary. Then lay the shingles in the usual manner. After they are laid, take the liquor that is left, put lime enough in it to make white-wash, and if any colouring is desired, add ochre, Spanish brown, lamp-black, etc., and apply to the roof with a brush or old broom.

This wash may be renewed from time to time. Salt and lye are excellent preservatives of wood. It is well known that leach-tubs, troughs, and other articles used in the manufacture of potash, never rot. They become saturated with alkali, turn yellowish inside, and remain impervious to the weather.—*Ohio Farmer.*

**HOW TO GUARD AGAINST DROUGHTS.**—A Central Illinois correspondent gives, in an American paper, the following means of guarding against the worst effects of drought: 1. Underdraining, trench ploughing, or ploughing 6 or 7 inches deep. 2. Fall ploughing, or where that has not been done, ploughing as early as the last half of March. 3. Sowing and planting, if not in March, at the earliest practicable hour. 4. Sowing and seeding thinly, and clean and careful system of cultivation.

The rise in the value of farm property has been very general in all parts of Canada for a few years past, but the Chatham Planet says the county Kent has far outstripped any other section, now that the fame of "the Garden" has been spread abroad. Farms which might have been bought a few years ago for \$10 or \$15 an acre, have now doubled in price, and it is no uncommon thing to

hear of sales of choice farms at \$30, \$40, and even \$50 an acre. A few days ago Mr. Wm. Williams sold his farm in Dover, (124 acres) about three-fourths of a mile down the river, for the enormous sum of \$9,000. The purchaser is Mr. Pullar, at present residing on the mountain near Hamilton. South of the river the Southern Railway is affecting the prices of farm property very materially, but the figures asked are by no means exorbitant.

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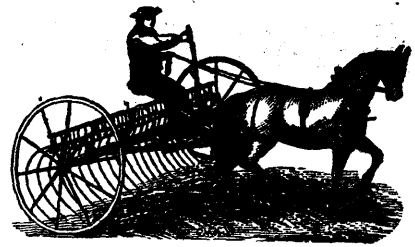
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