

made of it, its relative scarcity and the high prices it commands; its rapid growth, the facility with which it can be cultivated, stored, handled and shipped, finally its improving qualities as plant, should induce our agriculturists to devote themselves, on a larger scale, to the culture of this indispensable product we have up to now imported in considerable quantities for our own consumption.

In fact, is it known that our crop of dry beans which amounted to 330,000 bushels in 1907, with an average yield of 26.60 per acre, had fallen to 78,000 bushels in 1916, with an average yield of 17.75?

Are we aware of the fact that the city of Montreal only, used to purchase from outside for \$500,000 worth of dry beans yearly and that some were even imported from Germany before the war?

It is true that our production has greatly increased since.

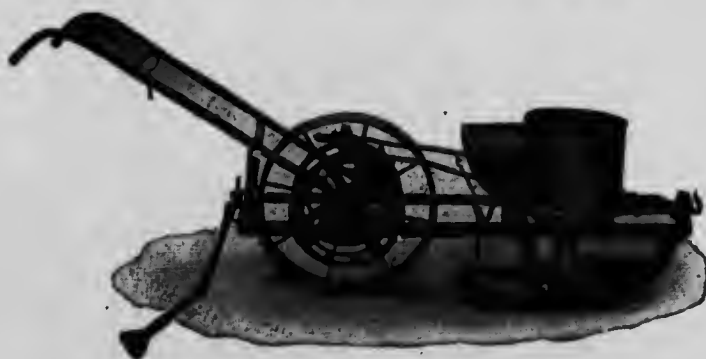


FIG. 2.—“Massey-Harris” Planter.

Thus, from official statistics, the 55,157 acres sown with beans in the spring of 1917 have yielded 841,000 bushels, or 15.25 per acre.

Nevertheless, in spite of this huge growth, we are still far from being in a position to export appreciable quantities; the crop is just what is required for our own supply. And yet it would be more than ever advisable to produce large crops for export: because the demand for this food is so great in Europe, that not only is surproduction not to be feared, but because we will probably not be able to meet requirements, for a long time.

It being given that this culture has become the object of a trade constantly growing in importance and that it shall constitute, within a short time, one of the elements of wealth of several regions in this Province, it is of consequence that we resort to methods and cultural processes most susceptible to have this production reach the yield and quality that will assure remunerative prices.

It is to be hoped that the outline we will give in these few pages, of the methods and processes appearing to us as the most recommendable for this Province, will effectually contribute to the obtaining of the results in view.