

sciences, and handy works of man, are set forth in all their splendor, much to the satisfaction, pleasure, and profit of the community. Then we have our plowing matches; and I have thought it would be wise for our county agricultural associations to get up a *draining match*, and that four handsome prizes be awarded to the men who shall dig the drain one hundred feet long, lay the pipe and fill it in, and do it the best and the quickest; that is to say, each man shall dig and lay the pipe 100 feet. As I have taken the writing of this for a moon-spell I must now bring it to a close. STEPHEN KING.

Ryckman's Corners, July, 1860.

Trial of Mowing Machines.

EDITOR AGRICULTURIST.—As duly announced, the trial of Mowing Machines under the direction of the West Durham Agricultural Society, came off in this place last week. There were seven machines at work.

After a thorough test, both as to manner of cutting and lightness of draught, the Judges were unanimous in awarding the first prize to H. A. Massey, Esq., and the second to Messrs. Patterson & Brothers of Richmond Hill.

We can assure manufacturers, that if they want to dispose of their machines or bring them into notice, they should attend these matches. Farmers attend expressly to see them work, and make up their minds accordingly.

At the trial of Reapers which comes off some time next month, and of which due notice will be given, we expect to have a very large attendance. As has been before stated, it is not the amount of prize, for that is small, that has induced manufacturers and others to attend these trials and the society to hold them, but that, as many farmers in the county are yearly buying machines, it gives an opportunity for them to buy those which they may think, after a trial, will suit them best.

Newcastle, July 27, 1860.

Secretary.

Increase of Root Culture.

EDITOR AGRICULTURIST.—In looking over the last number of the *Agriculturist*, in first article, "Hints for July," we observe you taking notice of Mr. Fleming selling over 100 bushels of Swede turnip seed, a great quantity certainly for him, and we thought probably it might be of some interest to you to know what quantity we have sold in this section. We enclose you our circular of our importations for this season; the quantities are copied from the invoices and are correct to a few pounds, and we are happy to say we are nearly sold out. We have every prospect here of a most abundant harvest, and we think we might compete with the best counties

in England and Scotland, for Mangels, Turnips, and Carrots.

MURDOCH, BROS.

Bowmanville, July 25, 1860,

[We find from the circular above referred to that the Messrs. Murdoch had imported the large quantity of 8350 lbs. of the different sorts of Swede Turnip, 1250 lbs. of other kinds of turnip, 2100 lbs. of Carrot, 1700 lbs. of Mangel, and 200 lbs. of Rape seed. This statement shows that the increase in root culture must be much more general and extensive even than we had supposed, and affords a gratifying proof especially, which we are glad to be able to chronicle, of the improvement taking place in the agriculture of that section of the country.—Ed.]

Agricultural Intelligence.

FLAX PULLING AND RETTING.—Flax, when sown early, will be fit for pulling by the middle or end of the month (July); it requires much nicety to determine the time when it should be pulled. The fibre is in the best state before the seed is quite ripe; if pulled too soon, though the fibre is fine, it will be rendered unprofitable, by the great loss it suffers in scutching and hackling, and if pulled after the seeds get ripe the extra weight does not compensate for the coarseness of the fibre. The proper or most profitable time is, therefore, when the seed capsules are changing from a green to a brown hue, and the stalk yellowish for about two-thirds of its height from the ground; the flax should be caught by the puller just beneath the seed bolls, by which all short stems will be left behind; the handfuls should be laid across each other in a slanting direction, so that the person who ripples may take them up without confusion. The rippling should be performed at the same time or go on simultaneously with the pulling, and the flax carried to the water as soon as rippled. River or soft water is the best for steeping; the flax, after being bound in sheaves, should be placed in one layer, in regular rows, a little sloped, the head of each row lying on the root of that which preceded it, and covered closely with thin, tough sods; as fermentation proceeds the flax will begin to rise, when additional weights should be laid on to keep it down; requires 10 or 12 days steeping; it should be examined from time to time, every six hours after the fermentation subsides; try some stalks of an average size, by breaking it across in several places, about six or eight inches apart; cut the woody part, and if it pull freely out, leave the fibre behind, it is ready to take out of steep; then place the bundles on their root ends, close together, to let them drain for about 24 hours, and spread it out evenly and thin, on a clean short pasture; turn it repeatedly with a fork about 8 feet long and 1½ inch thick, and in about