

Splendid Turnip Crop.

MR. GEORGE THORNBURN writes from Montreal, respecting a crop of turnips grown by him in the township of Shipton, near Danville village, as follows:—

"A short time since, in writing to subscribe for the CANADA FARMER, I stated that I expected soon to be able to quote some pretty large figures in the shape of root yield per imperial acre. I have now the figures.

"A square rod of the field of potatoes, 'garnet chili,' was selected, with impartiality, roots dug and weighed, giving 151 lbs. to the square rod, or at the rate of 402 bushels to the acre. The whole field was quite as good as the rod selected.

"Turnips. 'Blangham's purple-top Swede,' a square rod selected, 'topped and tailed,' weighed 354 lbs., or 1,021 bushels, being nearly 28 tons to the acre. The tops of the same turnips weighed 117 lbs., or almost 8 tons to the acre. If any of your prize crops in Ontario exceed these, I shall be glad to learn. The turnips were sown on the 27th June, lifted 23rd October, having been not quite four months in the ground. The cultivation both of potatoes and turnips was similar to the prevalent Scottish system, viz.: manured in drills, 30 inches apart, thinned to 14 inches between the plants. One and a half barrel of Snow's superphosphate was sown on the top of the manure in the drill before covering."

Care of Farming Tools.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Wisconsin Farmer* says:—

I noticed a piece in your paper, of May 18th, entitled, "A plea in behalf of shiftless farmers," in which it attempts to excuse the dilapidated appearance of the farms "out West."

I acknowledge it to be a fact, in some cases, that this shiftlessness is caused by uncontrollable circumstances, but I do say, that, because a man is poor, he need not let his farm utensils, that he has worked hard to get, lie where he last used them, exposed to sun and rain, and wasting fifty per cent. on their cost every year. You may pass by a great many farms owned by "well-to-do" farmers, and see, here a plough thrown out by the side of the fence, to rust; there a reaper, left where it was last used, in harvest; timber rotting and getting otherwise damaged.

Just take a look into their barnyard, and there you will find old broken reapers, ploughs, waggons, harrows, sowing machines, fanning mills, etc., lying around in all directions, with cattle, sheep, hogs, and colts running over them, and smashing them up generally.

There are also boards enough lying around to make a good shed to keep these things in, or, if not, a few dollars would purchase them, and a few days' work would suffice to build a good, snug, handy place, where he can put every tool away in order, ready for the next year's work. And by so doing, save all the expense of repairing machines, and the perplexity of scouring ploughs, etc., every time one wants to use them. I say all the expense, for I believe there are five dollars paid for repairs, from lying out in the weather, where one is paid for actual wear. Take, for instance, a good reaper. If properly worked and taken care of, only running from ten to twenty days in a harvest, what is there to hinder it to last from ten to twenty years, instead of only from four to eight, as is now the case with a great many?

What man is there among us that cannot better afford to pay twenty dollars for lumber than to pay thirty for repairs? When will farmers that are continually talking about being poor take care of what they have got, and then try to get more? I wish they would remember the old adage, "A penny saved is worth two earned."

Kinney's Patent Harrow.

IN our report of the implements shown at the recent Provincial Exhibition, there was a brief notice of a harrow of peculiar construction exhibited by Mr. Kinney, of Woodstock. We have had an opportunity since then of examining this ingenious invention more minutely, and have also been furnished with a model and photographs, from which our artist has executed the accompanying illustrations, which give a very faithful representation of this new harrow.

The chief peculiarities in its construction are the absence of all morticing and tenons, the parts being fixed by a kind of ball socket joints, and braced together by two strong chains at opposite sides. The advantages which this construction seems to give are additional strength, with sufficient mobility to allow of the implement adjusting itself to uneven ground, whilst at the same time it can be very easily taken apart, or put together, for the facility of carriage, or for altering the size of the harrow so as to suit one or more horses. In the accompanying illustrations, fig. 1 shows the harrow put together and resting on flat ground; fig. 2 shows the manner in

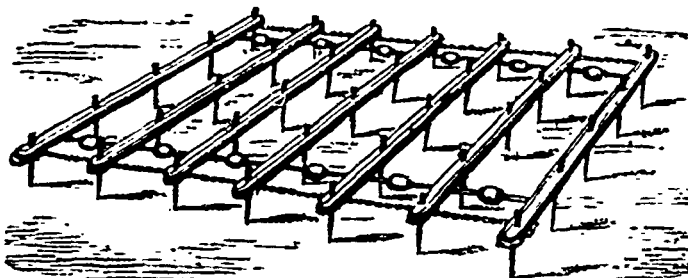


FIG. 1.

which it can be curved so as to follow the inequalities of surface over which it may be drawn.

The maker claims the following merits for his invention:—

"It is fully one-third lighter on the horses; effectually cuts up the sods and lumps, loosens up the ground, leaves the weeds, grass, and other foreign

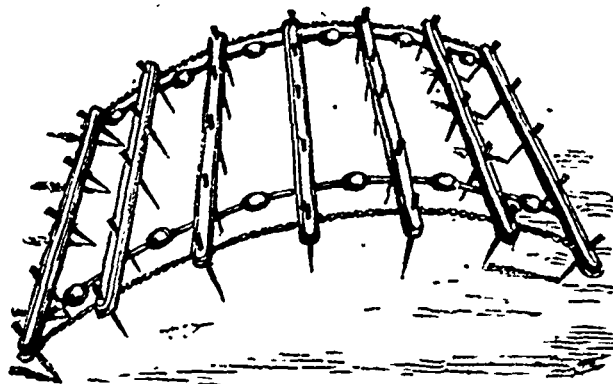


FIG. 2.

matter on top of the ground; every tooth always to work—moving backward and forward, keep themselves clean, and scarcely ever clog. Every beam being independent, it adjusts itself to uneven surfaces and keeps the teeth well in, instead of slipping over the ground. There are no wooden joints to get wet and rot out, therefore no morticing, tenoning, sizing or squaring up. Any mechanic can make four to one of the ordinary kind. Any farmer can, with a saw and an auger, mend, or make a new pair out of round poles if no other timber is handy, and he has the right.

"The ball joints cost only four cents apiece, and twenty-five cents will pay the blacksmith for all his work, excepting the teeth and draw irons. A dozen set can easily be packed in a common wagon-box. Several practical and experienced farmers, after actual test, without hesitation pronounce it superior to any they have ever used or seen."

The same principle of construction is employed by Mr. Kinney in the manufacture of cultivators and other implements.

The price of the harrow complete, is, we understand, \$10 and upwards, according to the number of beams. A notice of this new patent will be found in our advertising columns.



More Advice to Immigrants.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—In your issue of October 1st, I find a communication from an immigrant asking information on different points concerning settling in the backwoods. You are kind enough to give him advice, which is meant very well, but is not calculated to encourage settlers to try the hardships of making a home in the backwoods. Your adverse opinion as Editor of such an influential paper as THE CANADA FARMER is liable to do a great deal of harm to the quick settlement of this country, which I am sure you do not mean to do. Why not let a new settler try his energies and advise him to go and settle in the backwoods? Or do you believe that the born Canadian will ever settle the country? Let me tell you that the best settlers in this neighbourhood, and all others with which

I am acquainted, are immigrants green from Ireland or Germany, and that the Canadians among them are generally the worst off. I have a few years' experience in the backwoods, and find that even the old settlers in the front have a very vague idea of the woods. I suppose they bought their farms half cleared. The born Canadian generally makes a little clearance, starves on it a few years, and then leaves it, or, if so lucky, sells out.

If you will allow me, I will give you my opinion on the subject of the four questions put by your correspondent. First let me make a few suggestions. No one but a good, strong, healthy, and not too old person need begin; if possible, he should be used to work. Two brothers, or a father and some sons and daughters, are the best adapted for settlers.

A single man can do well, if he is an able worker, and needs then very little money. In answer now to our immigrant's questions, I would say this.

1. Almost any township, where what they call in Canada "good land" is plenty, will do to settle in. But I have met newcomers here, who did not stay long, because one thought there were too many trees; another too many stumps; a third too many stones. Our settler must not be of this class. With a firm will, he must strive, with the help of God, to make himself a home in spite of everything. I can recommend our township as a healthy and good one; the more so, as we have two saw mills, and one grist mill in it.

2 As I said above, money is of no consequence to a single man, and I agree with you that he had better wait before he uses it, and he will find it very desirable afterwards.

3. Two brothers (not friends) do well together; and double the money is, of course, an advantage.

4. We all fervently hope that the Government of our young Dominion will open all the wild lands as free grants as speedily as possible. That will settle the question.

Let me say further, in reference to your advice, that all a new settler has to learn, he can only learn by trying his hand himself, not on a cleared farm, but on a new place in the backwoods. Let him try to get into a decent settler's family, and work with the rest, and if he is not too awkward he will earn a little money besides his board. All the rest you mention, he can learn by reading your paper. One of the greatest difficulties with a new settler is to procure a team, cows, hens, &c. Let him work at first, not