

at Oshawa, employing from forty to fifty men, with the most improved machinery, driven by steam power, in the manufacture of threshing machines, plows, &c.; and of A. S. Whiting & Co., at the same place, employing about thirty men in the manufacture of scythes, hoes, forks, &c., they also use extensive machinery worked by steam power. There are also numerous small establishments throughout the County where agricultural implements of almost every description are manufactured. The cabinet manufactory of Fuller & Co., of Oshawa, employs about fifty hands, with a large amount of machinery driven by steam power; there are a number of cabinet and chair factories on a smaller scale, producing articles of every style of workmanship.

The merchants' shops in the towns and villages are well supplied with every description of goods, required for necessity, comfort, luxury or fashion; some of the merchants in Whitby and Oshawa import their goods direct from the British markets.

TOWNSHIP BRANCHES.

PICKERING.—One hundred and forty-one members; amount of subscriptions, \$162.50; balance from previous year, \$222.03; government grant, \$107.05; receipts at show, \$71.60; total received, \$563.18. Paid premiums, \$393.50; expenses, &c., \$61.52; balance on hand, \$108.16.

WHITBY.—One hundred and eighteen members; amount of subscriptions, \$127; balance from previous year, \$133.74; government grant, \$90.10; entries at shows, &c., \$31.50; total received, \$382.34. Paid premiums at shows and plowing match, \$249.50; expenses, \$34.97; balance in treasurer's hands, \$77.87.

EAST WHITBY.—One hundred and sixteen members; subscriptions, \$126; balance from 1858, \$54.05; government grant, \$90.83; total received, \$270.88. Paid in premiums, \$170.50; expenses, &c., \$49.18; balance in treasurer's hands, \$51.20.

Miscellaneous.

Wood Ashes.

The opinion has become quite prevalent, that leached wood ashes have nearly the same value as unleached. This is evidently a great mistake, particularly when potash is the ingredient required for the crop. It is true that all the inorganic constituents contained in wood ashes are in a progressed form, and, therefore, have great-

er value than when taken from lower forms of nature; and it is to this fact that their effect, as a manure, is to be attributed, and not to the potash that they contain, for the lixiviation removes all the soluble potash so thoroughly, as to render them nearly or quite valueless in that particular. Unleached wood ashes, however, have great value to the farmer; they not only supply the valuable constituents of plants, (potash) but precisely in the state in which it can readily be appropriated by them; and, in addition to this, power to decompose both the organic and inorganic elements of the soil is very great. So chemists have supposed that ground felspar, because it contains thirteen per cent. of potash, would supply this element to plants. This is an error, however; the potash of felspar is not in a progressed condition, never having been in organic life, and, therefore, cannot feed plants of a higher class.

On this subject Von Thaer seems to have fallen into a strange error; but still to have observed the fact, that wood ashes have a greater value than potash in a more primitive form. He says, "Ashes must contain some peculiar and hitherto undiscovered matter, which gives to them an action so much more efficacious than that of an equal quantity of the same earth which they contain, and taken in another state. It is possible that some portion of vegetable life remains in them which we are unable to appreciate or cover."

If Von Thaer had experimented with weight quantities of ashes, he might have discovered that the ashes of a burnt hay stack are more valuable than those of burnt wood, and that potash lixivated from the ashes of higher organisms, had greater value for agricultural purposes than that separated, by any process whatever from any of the rocks containing it. No farmer can afford to sell his ashes at twenty-five cents per bushel, provided he has soil not replete with potash, and still we find the soap boilers buy ashes at farm houses all over the country. The ashes taken from air-tight stoves is of a superior quality; the potash not being volatile, remaining in the stove, while the other portions of the ash are carried by the draft into the chimney, thus at the end of the season, the ashes from an air tight stove, in which wood has been burnt, are nearly pure potash.

Dressings of ashes around grape vines, trees, &c., are of high value, and soils topped with ashes, never suffer grain crops of kind to lodge: the siliceous of the soil is changed into silicate of potash, and supplies this silicate to give coating and strength to the straw, thus enabling it to hold the grain. Perfect straw cannot be produced on an imperfect plant; nothing tends more to perfect the cereals, the presence of phosphate of lime and potash in the condition in which it exists in wood.

—Working Farmer.

HABIT.—"I trust everything under the sun," said Lord Brougham, "to habit, upon which, in all ages, the lawgiver, as well as the philosopher, has laid the greatest stress."