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The Field.

Steam Cultivation.

Enough has been written in the foregoing series of articles to enable our readers to form a fair idea of the apparatus, modes of operation, and advantages of steam culture as practiced in Britain, at the present time. We could have gone more minutely into the actual yearly expense of steam as compared with horse tillage on several "old country" farms; but to have done so would have required more space than we can at present afford. At the same time, it is very questionable whether the method of comparing the expense of the two systems forms a fair criterion by which to judge. By the steam plough, work is performed and results are obtained, which would be literally impracticable by the employment of horses. Incomplete experiments and conventional routine may in some instances, have created a prejudice against the steam plough. Still, the fact is as firmly established in the advanced agricultural mind of Britain, as a mathematical axiom, that the heavy and laborious work of a farm must ere long, be performed by the agency of steam. To this extent the engine must eventually supersede the horse. Although the primary outlay is much greater than that required to purchase a fine large team of horses, yet the several contingencies incident to both systems being fairly estimated, it results that engine-power is more economical than horse-power. When the locomotive is not at work, it has no craving appetite to supply; but whether the team be at work or no, it must eat to sustain life. Then again there are the "thousand ills, which (horse) flesh is heir to" whether during work or during play, by which machinery is totally unaffected. When the living animal has the misfortune to break a leg, or be struck down with any painful disease, there is little chance of immediate relief. But should the machine get out

of order, a piece of good iron, a handy mechanic, and a little oil will soon set all straight. We urge our readers to carefully weigh the comparative advantages of the two systems, and we have little doubt on which side the preponderance will be found. Hitherto we have regarded the subject chiefly in its British aspect. In our comparatively young country, we are, not unnaturally, some distance behind that stage of agricultural development, at which the more enlightened "old country" farmers have arrived. The immense reform effected in farming processes in Britain—like most other reforms—has been the growth of centuries. As we have already seen, the subject of steam ploughing has been before the farmer of the "old sod" for nearly two hundred and

that the idea of a steam plough will be laughed to scorn in many sections of this Province, for some years to come. There will no lack of old steady-going, now-and-ever-shall-be farmers to assert that while the machinery of the steam plough is being prepared and started in successful operation, a man could do as much with a pair of horses and a plough. It may be well, in anticipation, to remind such an objector that by the same process of argument, a man could dig just as much while the team and the plough were being got ready for work.

There can be no manner of doubt that on thoroughly cleared farms, in the older settled sections of the Province, that the steam plough, in some of its various forms, could be introduced and successfully used. Want of enterprising capitalists, and the presence of stumps and land-fast stones, seem to us the principal obstacles in its path. The first difficulty may be overcome by the formation of a company, and time and tillage will gradually remove the other two. The steam plough seems to us the only practical remedy for the midge and Canada thistle plagues; while, by its use, deeper, seasonable, and more thorough tillage would, from less seed, insure larger and better crops. In a country like ours, where the season for farm operations is necessarily brief, the steam engine would enable the farmer to perform the largest possible amount of work in the available time. Not seldom is a crop comparatively lost, from no lack of will, energy, or determination on the part of the farmer, but from the want of a power to do the proper work at the proper time.

fifty years. Its present comparative perfection has been the more immediate result of the great impetus given to mechanical science by the inventions of late years. The discoveries of Britain come, without the tedious processes of elaboration, as an heritage to us. All that is demanded on our part is to be satisfied of their applicability to our special circumstances and condition, and their adoption will necessarily follow. This, of course, demands energetic progress, and considerable time. It is always a difficult task to convince mankind that there are more approved ways of operating, more economical processes, and speedier means of obtaining a greater result than those they now practice. Some farmers still affect to treat improved agricultural machinery with ridicule, and it is not impossible

The subject demands the earnest attention, as well of our agriculturists as of our implement manufacturers. A very trifling modification would adopt some of the very excellent engines exhibited at the last Provincial Exhibition to the purposes of ploughing and cultivating. We leave the subject in the hands of our readers, and commend them to turn it over in their minds occasionally, and if a really useful idea occurs to any of them, like "Captain Cattle" of happy

