

shipment, and consequently in better order. It is well that I should state also, that I have tried the use of wooden hurdles, which I contracted for at 5s. 6d cy. each. I found them bulky and inconvenient to handle, and to store away when not in use,—very perishable and continually out of order. Out of 150 made some eight years ago, not more than 50 now remain, and those in a dilapidated condition. Whereas the Iron hurdles, with proper care and an occasional coat of paint applied, are all but indestructible, and will endure for years.

I have thus been minute and particular in what I have advanced, in order that no one might be led astray ; my observations are intended for the general good, and not for the private advantage of any one, as in that case I would be no party concerned. Should the Board deem what I have submitted to be worthy of consideration, and have any wish to question me on the subject either verbally or in writing, I will, most willingly attend to their wishes, and give what additional information I may have it in my power to convey. I remain, my dear Sir, very truly yours,

JOSEPH BECKETT.

To W. McDougall, Esq., Yonge Street.

ENGLISH AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENTS.

Several improved machines and processes have recently been produced in England. One, by Alfred Newton, relates to the cultivation of land by spades, operated by locomotive power as the machine progresses in the field. It breaks up, disintegrates and turns over the sward more thoroughly than can be done by the plough. A series of spades is made to enter the land in succession, and cut it into the arc of a circle, when the cut slices are suddenly thrown up against a shield plate, at once reversing and breaking them almost into powder. This machine is only a new form of steam plough, at which English mechanics are still trying with unabated activity. Mr. John Fowler has also invented an improvement in the mode of operating the ordinary steam plough, which greatly simplifies its movements, and enables it to travel through the furrow with more certainty and freedom. Mr. William Dray of London has patented an improvement in ploughs, which applies to such ploughs as are provided with a share in the form of a pointed bar, and consists in the means of securing the bar in its position after being pushed forward, as may be from time to time required by the wearing away of the point thereof. The patentee claims the construction of ploughs which are provided with moveable share bars, in such manner that the bars can be tightened or slackened by means of an eccentric roller or collar. Mr. Robt. Reeves, of Wiltshire, has patented a cart body for the purpose of delivering manure over a field without requiring it to be thrown out by hand. The bottom of the cart body is supplied with longitudinal openings, in which revolve drags or blades attached to an axis under the body. As the cart moves, these drags pull down the manure in a condition of complete pulverization.