

The Field.

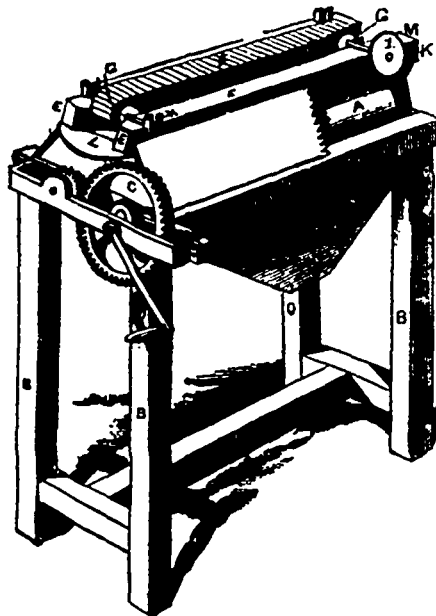
"Bush" and "Clearing."

An esteemed correspondent sends us the following communication:

There is an epoch in the career of nearly every Canadian farmer, where almost insuperable difficulties arise, where debt and trouble begin, and discontent fastens itself in the family, and which oftener causes the dispersion of the sons, and the loss of the property, than any other epoch which happens in the man's life. It is when he has cleared up all his best land, and before he has got the ground free of stumps, when bush-farming ends, and good scientific farming cannot begin for want of room.

The average of the best lands in Canada do not contain more than sixty per cent. of high, dry, wholesome land, such as is sure to bring a good crop of wheat on a newly chopped fallow, without draining or other expense. Of course some farms are all good, but this is rare; second-rate farms do not contain more than forty to fifty per cent. of such land, and third-rate farms not so much. The rest of the farm is either low and flat, or piny or hemlocky, or something else. It is land that eventually will make good meadow, but is by no means certain to produce a good crop of wheat the first year after clearing it up. So long as the settler can clear up ten acres each year of good dry land, and get a good crop of wheat as the first crop, so long is he prosperous. If his means admit of his laying the land down to clover with the first crop of wheat, so as to form a good covering that will keep down thistles and all kinds of rubbish, his land is improving for five or six years, and when the small stumps are rotten and he can plough close round the large ones, he can then depend on his second crop of wheat; but supposing him to be so situated that he cannot clear the proper quantity of new land each year, and is obliged to sow a second crop of wheat or other grain immediately following the first crop, then his troubles commence; he gets some crop, it is true, but more thistles and weeds, and lays the foundation of future trouble beyond calculation. Many a farmer on a third or fourth rate farm goes on in this way (particularly if he has only fifty acres of land), until he actually farms himself out of house and home; and if he does not lose the land, it is only because it is so uninviting to others, that no one envies him the occupancy of it. There are two cures for this evil; the first is that all the family who can work out for hire should do so, and their earnings go towards the general fund; and this oftener happens than people in the upper walks of life would believe; the second and more reliable cure is "more forestland." Well, the reader will naturally think, how can this be? The man is already ruined by clearing land, how should he improve his circumstances by continuing the same course? The following case will show—John Horsey, (the name is not real, though the fact is) took up one hundred acres of third-rate land in Amaranth, it turned out to be a very frosty place, and although good land, was low and very mucky in places; the consequence was, no fall wheat, and spring wheat frozen year after year with summer frosts. He had a pretty good stock on the farm; but he had nine children; he could keep his family with difficulty, but pay he could not. After ten years, he found himself with forty-five acres cleared; his land unpaid for, and a heavy store bill. What could he do? Crops were a comparative failure, stock grew and increased and just kept him going, but the loss of his farm was imminent, and ruin stared him in the face. Fortunately for him, the Township has a very bad name for new settlers, and the lot just across the road was vacant, and wild. Horsey is a Yorkshireman, and slow, but with a good deal of the traditional keenness of the Yorkshireman about him. The owner of the wild lot had

a cleared farm of his own, was tired of paying taxes, and only wanted the wild land for his boys as they should grow up. Horsey offered to clear up the farm, build a barn, and pay taxes, for the free occupancy of the place for eleven years; and the owner thinking that a cleared farm for his boys would do better than forest land, consented. Horsey's two eldest boys were seventeen and nineteen years old, and were willing to work with their father; the man himself was sufficiently skilled as a bush carpenter to build the barn, (a double log one with shingled roof); the old farm would find food, and the landlord, knowing the facts, was merciful. Horsey and his boys went to work a year and a half ago on the new place; they have now the barn built, and forty acres cleared, and ready to put into spring wheat this spring; the land of the new farm is of first-rate quality, is high and rolling, and will be tolerably certain of a good crop of spring wheat, and if it should fail, he can burn off the stubble next harvest and put in a crop of fall wheat; meantime every spare hour will be employed in chopping and clearing more land on the place, and there is no doubt that the old farm will be paid for in full within two years, or three at the outside. The ashes and spare stock have furnished him with money to pay up his store bill and make a payment on his land, and those who know the facts consider his future as certain, and his troubles at an end. He is now following the old farm extensively; every month during the summer will see the stumps out more and more, and in three years it will be all in clear fields and come under the usual Yorkshire culture of deep ploughing, well fallowed, with more or less manure each year. When once he has the forty-five acres of the old farm producing well, he will clear up the wet part, and experience of the neighbourhood has shown that under these circumstances the frostiness of the land disappears, and good crops result with tolerable certainty. This is a case that speaks well for the latin adage "*Similia similibus curantur*," or in the vernacular—cure yourself with a hair of the dog that bit you.



Improved Corn-Sheller.

The accompanying engraving represents a new Corn-Sheller, made on an improved principle. It is claimed by the inventor that this machine will shell more corn in a cleaner manner, and with less labour than any machine ever brought before the public. It consists of the revolving roller A, in which are inserted teeth or pegs, and which is made to revolve by means of the wheel and pinion C and crank D, or in any other convenient manner. Above this roller the two frame pieces E E, are fixed in such a manner as to form a sort of trough or passage down which the corn can pass and be kept in contact with the roller A; between them is the endless band F F, which is allowed to rise and fall by means of the slots H H, or their equivalents, and is put in motion by means of the rollers G G and pulley I, from the axis of the roller A. The action of the machine is

as follows:—The corn is fed in at L and is drawn toward M by the endless band F F, by which it is pressed down and kept in close contact with the drum A, and is yet allowed to turn and present a fresh surface to the action of the teeth or pegs on the roller A, by which means the grains of corn are rapidly stripped from the cob and fall into the hopper N, while the cobs are thrown out at M. A great advantage of the endless band is, that very small cobs may be fed in immediately after very large or irregular ones, and be equally well cleaned, the endless band pressing equally on the small end of the cob as the larger. The machine is easily worked by one man, and will shell, perfectly clean, one hundred and fifty bushels per day.

We believe this to be a good machine, well adapted for doing its work; and wherever corn is grown in Canada some sort of Corn-Sheller is indispensable. In the Western States it may be pardonable to feed and market corn whole, but with us a more economical method is essential to profit. The advertisement of Mr. D. Codd, in the present issue, will supply the necessary information respecting the price, &c., of the above useful machine.

On the Importance of Thick Sowing of Clover Seed.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—I experience great pleasure in reading the numerous and interesting articles on the various subjects which appear from time to time in your highly-valued and extensively circulated journal, and although there will occasionally appear something very unique and puzzling from some of your correspondents, yet from the discussion of some subjects there is much to elicit and call forth valuable information and profitable reflection to those interested in agriculture and horticulture. But I feel somewhat surprised never to have met with an article touching on the subject at the head of this communication.

There are, however, but few farmers, I am well aware, who know as I do, from many years' experience, the real value and importance of thick sowing of clover seed; a few advantages of which it is now my desire and aim here to point out, as briefly as I possibly can.

Many farmers think five pounds of clover seed to the acre, with a few pounds of Timothy, a sufficiently liberal seeding to secure a heavy crop of hay, or good pasturage. As far, however, as my experience goes, which has been pretty extensive, I have never seen that accomplished yet! But I have seen from such seeding twenty to thirty cwt. of hay per acre, and perhaps, in a very favourable season, a trifle more, though more often less! and the pasturage has been commensurately meagre.

Now let us consider how trifling the additional cost is of ten pounds more seed to the acre, in comparison with the gain (which is certain) from this additional outlay! If fifteen pounds of clover seed are sown, with four or five of Timothy, to the acre, or even without, I will guarantee, in a favourable season, a cutting of three tons or three tons and a half of hay, the first year, and two tons and a half the second year, and more especially so, if a hundred or a hundred and a half of plaster to the acre, is sown each year as early as vegetation begins to stir, or, in other words, a ton and a half more grass shall be cut to the acre, for the extra quantity of clover seed sown, independently of at least a double quantity of pasturage being gained thereby. But there is another equally important consideration to be taken into account, never thought of by many, resulting from this thick sowing of clover seed. The clover root is the best preparation or auxiliary that you can possibly have for a wheat crop. From this process I have had my winter wheat better in quality, and far heavier in bulk and in weight, after ploughing up my one year clover, which had been eaten off by all kinds of stock close