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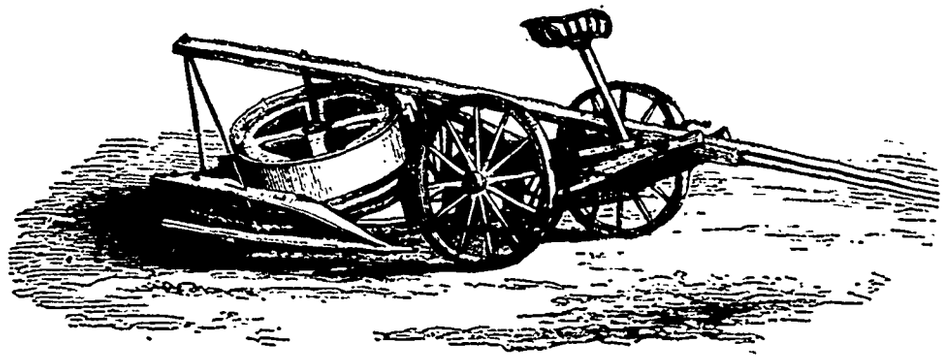
The Field.

Oswald and Patterson's Flax Puller.

MR. J. A. DONALDSON has sent us a photograph of the flax-pulling machine exhibited at the recent Provincial Exhibition. The accompanying illustration, copied from the photograph, will give a pretty correct idea of this important invention. When the implement is at work the standing flax is collected between the rod of iron, shown in the engraving, and the share-like projection at the side; the stalks are thus directed towards the drum, and caught between it and a thick hempen rope, by which they are held sufficiently tight to draw them from the ground as the drum revolves, without breaking or bruising them injuriously. In reference to this invention Mr. Donaldson writes as follows:—

"While flax as a branch of Canadian industry is yet in its infancy in the New Dominion, it must be admitted that it is rapidly gaining favor with the farmers generally. The great drawback hitherto experienced has been the expense of pulling by hand. This has now been entirely overcome by this pulling machine, which is produced at a cost quite within the reach of every farmer.



"It is well for those to know who have not yet commenced growing flax, that a party who had fifty acres on his own farm this season, saved the cost of one of those machines in harvesting his crop. The cost of hand-pulling this quantity or number of acres would have been at least $200, four dollars an acre being the common price paid, and often more. The same number of acres has been pulled by the party I allude to for one-half this sum, clearly showing he has in one season saved the price or cost of the newly-invented flax puller.

They are manufactured at the low rate of $80 each, by Messrs. Oswald and Patterson, of Woodstock. Several of them have been at work this season, and all proved a success. The quantity pulled will average from three to four acres a day. In sections where scutching mills have been already established, it would pay farmers of a neighborhood to join in the purchase of one of them. They do the work for about one-half the cost of hand-pulling, and it is done much better and more speedily, an advantage which in the hurried season is of vast importance, and enables the farmer to make sale of his flax crop sufficiently early to realize means wherewith to carry on his other harvest operations.

"The success of the various linen manufactories now at work is a guarantee that this branch of trade is found profitable. We find the enterprising firm of Messrs. Gooderham and Worts have removed the machinery from one of their largest flour mills, and substituted in its place linen works. In like manner the firm of Messrs. Elliot and Hunt, of Preston, after their woollen mills were burned down, replaced the woollen machinery with linen works; and both of these manufactories have been producing from 500 to 1000 seamless linen bags per diem, as well as other descriptions of linen goods, such as threads, twines, ropes, &c., &c. On all such goods, when imported, farmers and other consumers have to pay a duty of fifteen per cent.

"While we can boast of having some ten or twelve thousand acres grown in the country, we must not forget that this is only about one-sixth of a single township; and while we have now a large increase of territory, there is plenty of room to put a large portion of the land under flax, and every farmer who is growing his wheat, barley, oats, and root crops, should endeavor to put in at least a couple of acres of flax every year. This would give a large increase, and add to our wealth and prosperity, which I believe not to be second to that of any other part of the world at the present time. Parties who have not given this new crop a trial, and wish to do so, will readily obtain every information on the subject by application to me. J. A. DONALDSON.

11 Front St., Toronto, Oct. 16th 1867."

Cultivation of Turnips and other Roots.

THE following article has been furnished by a correspondent. We do not endorse all he says, but publish it as a matter for thought and research. To our readers many of the views mooted are new, and different from those ordinarily received on this continent. It is a matter purposely thrown open for discussion, and we trust that some of our correspondents will reply to it, and that the subject may be extensively considered and discussed by occupants of every different kind of soil:—

There is one fact patent to all agriculturists on the northern portion of the Continent of America, including Canada, viz—That the quantity of grain produced per acre is not more than one-half (if so much) as the yield of similar crops in England, and further, that the average grows less and less on all old land, unless in some extraordinary instances of good farming.

Now, in reckoning the yield of a farm, it is the last few bushels per acre that produce the profit, since it costs nearly, if not quite, as much to cultivate the land which yields twenty bushels per acre as that which yields forty bushels, whether of wheat or of any other kinds of grain.

A Canadian agriculturist who farms several hundred acres of land, and who has lately visited England, was struck with astonishment at the amount of grain raised in places well known to him (he is an Englishman), and which forty years ago certainly did not grow half the grain now produced from the same land.

How is this? It is neither season nor chance. The seasons are the same as they used to be, and the crops, as seen and examined by the party alluded to, were the ordinary crops raised every year on the same land. The course of cropping was as follows:—Wheat, turnips (or other root crop), the land having been ploughed four times for the root crop, viz.—once in the fall, when the stubble was ploughed in, then cross ploughed in the spring, and subsequently worked till the season for sowing the turnips, with at least three ploughings (often more), and intermediate dragging and harrowing, and cultivating, until all the couch grass and other root weeds were extracted and burned, or picked and carried off, and all the growing seed weeds destroyed. The land was then manured with farm-yard manure, and finally the seed of the root crop was drilled in with artificial manure, such as super-phosphate, bone dust, guano, &c. The root crops were then horse-hoed, and finally hoed by hand. Then, when matured, they were hurdled off to sheep, or fed in some other way. The land (being then as rich as possible, and clean from all weeds), is next prepared for barley, which, as might be expected, is certain to be a noble crop, yielding from forty to sixty bushels per acre. The barley having been seeded down with clover and rye grass, (of which the crop cannot fail to be good) the "seeds," as the