

practice, on account of his own non-success to weigh the subject in all its bearings.

It is well known that moisture is absorbed from the atmosphere, in a comparative ratio, to the amount evaporated by the sun, and also as the amount of absorption, must be in proportion to the amount of surface exposed, the real difference between the ridged and level surface was still a matter of question, in that respect, but with regard to the mechanical operation of horse or hand hoeing, the difference was decidedly in favour of the ridged surface. As Mr. Wright and most of the Gentlemen present have confined their remarks principally to green crop. Mr. Black's observations on wheat drilling are of great importance, and calculated to take up the subject more fully, and as Mr. Black and himself occupied adjoining farms, and he was in the habit of seeing Mr. Black's operations, he could most satisfactorily endorse his statements, and had home witness to the difference in a field of wheat of his, between drilling and broadcast sowing with respect to winter killing, the difference in favour of the drilled part being not less than fifty per cent.

The Drilling Machine not only puts in a given quantity of seed at regular intervals, and at an uniform depth, but it leaves a narrow ridge of earth between each row of wheat, which not only forms a protection to the plant, by breaking off the wind and holding on the snow; but it also keeps the plant earthed up by the crumbling down of this ridge by the action of the frost and rain, and all but providing a remedy for what is called heaving out.

As the preceding remarks on grain drilling have been confined to Winter wheat; he would also state his observations with regard to drilling spring grain. The same advantage in saving seed obtains, in this department as much as the other; and while the advantage of the ridge of earth as a protection was not required at this season: yet the greater facility afforded for the extirpation of weeds either by the hand or horse hoe, rendered drilling of quite equal importance; and he knew of no other way to combat the foul weeds to which we are so much liable, than by cutting or pulling them up; and if the grain is not in rows, it is almost destroyed in the operation. His intention in future even on lea or green sod turned over, (and which was considered if properly ploughed, to furnish the best kind of seed bed,) was to sow his Peas by the drill after scarifying and harrowing the surface as much as possible without disturbing the sod, he was quite satisfied of the benefit of harrowing, tried it for the last two years. The Pea was the most difficult of all seeds to cover by the harrow, and he was satisfied that not less than twenty-five per cent of the seed was usually lost, by either being buried too deep or left uncovered on the surface, in the common manner of sowing broadcast and harrowing in. Another remarkable advantage drilling possessed, was this, that plants sown thickly together, have the property of forcing each other forward. As proof of which, it was only necessary to notice clumps of grain, or seeds, which may have been spilt on the ground in sowing or in any other way. This fact has been taken advantage of in turnip sowing; as the most

successful means of combating the ravages of the insect, which preys on the plant at its germination. It is now almost the universal practice in Britain to sow three pounds of turnip seed to the acre, when as many ounces would furnish plants enough for a crop, if nothing was in the way to destroy them, and it is done quite as much from the circumstance just mentioned, as from the fact, that should there be a given amount of insects on every acre, there would be a better chance to save a portion of the plants for a crop if a large amount was supplied for their consumption instead of a small one. And further as this insect can only materially injure the plant while in the seed leaf the sooner it is forced out of that state the better, and this is decidedly produced by thick sowing.

And with respect to wheat, this fact is of considerable importance, that is if by placing the same amount of seed usually scattered all over the surface of the land in rows nine or ten inches apart, the same principle is made use of. And as rust is the most formidable enemy wheat-growers have to contend with in this country, and as it is universally allowed that the earliest crops are the least subject to its ravages; it follows that should drilling be found the means of forwarding its maturity only three or four days, the advantage would be almost beyond calculation.

A vote of thanks was given to Mr. Wright for his excellent Essay.

The next meeting was appointed to be held at Wilson's Inn, Court House, on Saturday, April 24th, at 2 o'clock. The Subject for discussion to be on the adaptedness of the improved breeds of neat cattle to the wants and circumstances of this country.

Mr. J. Wade to introduce the subject by an Essay.

WALTER RIDDELL,
Secretary.

HINTS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN FARMING.

(To the Editor of the Canadian Agriculturist.)

{ SOUTH CAYUGA, near Dunnville,
April 24th, 1852.

DEAR SIR:—In these times of great distress amongst the honest, industrious men engaged in Agricultural pursuits (the most honourable that I know of) permit me to address you with the few following lines, under the impression that the greatest produce of every kind ought now to be raised at the least possible expense of money and time, that no unnecessary waste of money or labour should be committed.—I do not mean to say that any one, after having got his farm into a proper state of cultivation, to produce a good average routine of crops of grain (not straw alone) for 7 years, or any longer period (which is so rarely seen here) should, by neglect or improper treatment, run it down to poverty (as that would most likely run him into poverty also); but I mean that the land, of