

are considered preferable to hills, the two large holes are plugged up with leather sheeted with tin, and the plugs, made of the same material, taken out of the smaller holes. The seed is then poured into the hopper, the horse moves, the sets are cut, and dropped at regular distances. For planting corn, there is another set of smaller holes, by means of which corn may be planted in hills or drills upon the same principle as the potatoes are planted. For fine seeds, such as onion, turnip, carrot seeds, etc., there are tin canisters with holes suitable for sowing such seeds. In connection with the other wheels, there is a seed-wheel by which the whole is regulated.

Underneath the planter is a large tooth, like that of a cultivator. This tooth makes a suitable place for the seed to fall into, and is placed in front of a hollow sheet-iron tube, through which the seed falls to the ground, and behind the tube are two scrapers so constructed as to cover up corn or potatoes, and two small brooms are used for the purpose of covering up the smaller seeds which drop from the tin canisters. To this part of the planter there is a set in the rear of the hopper, by means of which the drills can be made deep or shallow, as the farmer thinks proper. The whole machinery is simple, and I think will be very beneficial to the farmers of Canada.

In a country like this, it is necessary that the farmer should produce large crops with the least possible expense. Laborers are scarce and wages high; consequently all labor-saving machines should be used to the best advantage. And indeed, they ought to be introduced at once; for, should the present war continue in Europe, it will be nearly impossible for farmers to procure men at any price to put in and take off their crops.

If Mr. NIXON's seed drill proves as useful as it promises—and of this I think there can be no doubt—several acres of corn or potatoes may be planted in one day with two men and a horse, especially where the land is properly prepared, and the soil is light. Few articles now produced remunerate the cultivator better than corn, potatoes, turnips, and carrots. Wheat, certainly, is the great staple of the country, and should be cultivated in the best samples and the largest possible quantities for exportation; but for home consumption, and for feeding cattle, sheep, and swine, our farmers should raise every bushel of corn, oats, peas, potatoes, beans, carrots, and turnips that it is possible for them to grow, as stock and produce of all descriptions will be likely to bring largely remunerative prices for several years to come.

MR. J. W. H. SCHNEIDER, of this city, has bought out Mr. NIXON's right to the Province of Canada, and consequently the power to authorize parties to manufacture the seed drill, now rests with him.

HAMILTON, C. W.

THOMAS WEBSTER.

CULTIVATION OF BARLEY.

MR. EDITOR:—The time has been when farmers in this county (Scholarie) could raise barley almost beyond measure, and with comparatively little labor. But from some cause or causes known to but few, the yield has gradually diminished from year to year, until the present time. Some who formerly grew it in large quantities, do not now sow it at all; and many upon being asked to assign a reason why it will not yield as well as it once did, simply reply, "I do not know," or else attribute it to the seasons. The true cause will of course appear obvious to all who know that the productions of any soil are composed in part of the same ingredients as the soil upon which they grow. Hence the cause of the failure of the crop in question. The ingredients necessary for its production have been exhausted by too much cropping. The first thing necessary to be known in regard to a difficulty is its cause; the second is a remedy which will remove that cause. Now, will some one tell us through the FARMER what this remedy is, and the proper way to apply it? And, as in this case nature is exhausted, the remedy must be supplied, in a measure at least, by artificial means. Therefore, when we know the ingredients composing the grain, we know what is necessary to produce it. When we take into consideration the manner in which farming has been conducted in some sections of this country, it is to be wondered at that the natural fertility of the soil is not entirely exhausted. It has been plow, plow, plow, from four to six inches in depth, and carry the produce to market; and no doubt this will be the case to a great extent until the soil does refuse to produce, or until farmers are well enough acquainted with the chemical properties of soils and their productions to take a scientific view of the matter, and to see nature as it is.

MIDDLEBURGH, N. Y.

M. GARNSEY.

TO KEEP CROWS FROM CORN.—Take a quart of train-oil, and as much turpentine and bruised gunpowder; boil them together, and when hot, dip pieces of rags in the mixture, and fix them on sticks in the field. About four are sufficient for an acre of corn.