

Hanson's Machine for Digging Potatoes.

Mr. J. Hanson, farmer, of Doagh, Belfast, has recently introduced an apparatus to be used for digging or removing growing potatoes from the earth, as a substitute for the ordinary hand-fork, the object being the more rapid and economical removal of the roots.

The implement consists of a light, open timber frame, supported on four running wheels, the motion of the main axle being applied to the driving of an arrangement of rotatory digging forks. It is drawn by a pair of horses attached to a transverse bar, at the end of the frame opposite the forks, the connexion being similar to that usually adopted in the common plow. The end transverse bar projects at one side, and serves as a handle for turning the machine at the headlands. The front pair of running wheels, next the horses, are of large diameter, and are furnished with radial spikes on their peripheries, so as to have a firm hold upon the ground in revolving, and thus provide sufficient resistance for the fork-driving action. The main axle, revolving with these large running wheels, carries a toothed bevel wheel, in gear with a bevel pinion fast on the forward end of a horizontal shaft, supported in bearings in the centre of the hind part of the frame. The opposite end of this shaft projects slightly at the extreme rear of the frame, at which part it has upon it two or more radical rotating forks, which of course revolve in a plane at right angles to the line of the implement path. At the part of the frame immediately behind the small back running wheels there is attached a horizontal plow piece, slightly inclined on its upper surface, the rear

portion of which is just clear of the forks, as they work round. This plow piece, which is adjustable vertically, to suit the depth of the action required, passes along beneath the drill of potatoes deep enough to lift up both the manure and the potatoes. In this way, as the manure and potatoes are elevated upon the incline, the rotary action of the fork scatters out the potatoes, which can then be easily removed. Provision is made for allowing one of the large driving wheels to turn back, to facilitate the turning of the implement at the end of a drill.

Setting Fence Posts.

We hear frequent complaints of the perishableness of fence posts set in the ordinary way. And to the suggestion that the lower end of the posts should be charred, it is replied that while charring benefits the outside of the timber, it cracks it open so that water penetrates the wood still further, and causes a rapid decay in the interior.

Let us, then, make another suggestion: Char the lower end of the post for eighteen inches or two feet, so that about six inches of the charred part will be above the surface of the ground. Have in readiness a kettle of hot coal tar, (a cheap article,) and plunge into it the lower end of each post; or apply the tar with a brush, taking pains to get it into the crevices. A second application is desirable, as soon as the first becomes dry, and will make the timber water-proof for many years.
