

than he could afford to pay. The next year he accordingly purchased a mower for one hundred dollars; and with the assistance of one man, at ten dollars a month, and a boy, he gets his hay as well and as quickly as he did the year before, at a cost of ten pounds less, putting board at £2, and charging interest on the cost of the mower. His hay crop, too, was somewhat better than the year previous. Another party with whom we are acquainted, cut 4 3-4 acres of oats in 5 hours and 40 minutes. The grain was laid in bundles, which could be tied if necessary. Another useful implement in haying, is one called by the high sounding name of a "hay-elevator." It is a fork, twice or more, as large as a common manure-fork. The fork when in use is suspended over the mow by a rope running through a pully attached to a rafter, then to the floor, and reeving through a block fastened there. To the end of the rope is fastened a hook. When a load of hay is driven into the barn, the horse or horses are taken off, and the whipple-trees hitched to the fork. The man on the lead takes hold of the fork and plunges it into the hay—the horses start, and up goes two or three hundred weight. When it is drawn over the mow, the man lets go a small rope which holds the handle of the fork down, and the hay is deposited in the mow. A fork of this description is used by a farmer of our acquaintance, who says it answers the purpose admirably, especially when the hay has to be pitched over the upper girt.

Another thing we should like to see more frequently on the farmer's premises, is machinery for thrashing grain, and for sawing wood. The tediousness of flail thrashing sometimes deters farmers from raising as they might, could they get their thrashing done expeditiously. In the case of buckwheat, this is of more consequence than oats, for unless the day is clear, and the air dry, this is a very tedious grain to thrash with a flail. But in the matter of preparing wood, a machine is nearly indispensable. Our winters being long, a great deal of wood is constantly required, and the slow process of cutting it up with the axe is too often a portion of the daily work through the summer. They cannot be too strongly censured. Our season for out-door farm labor is not so long that any of it ought to be done in preparing fuel.

Windmills are in use in several localities for sawing wood. They cost but little, and

for this purpose answer pretty well. There is no contrivance in those we have seen to regulate the speed; but if the saw goes fast or slow it is sure to cut.

We hope the use of machinery will come to be more used, year by year, by our farmers. It dispels somewhat the monotony of farm life. It enables more to be done in a given time. It gives to the youngsters an idea that there is brain as well as hand necessary in the labors of the farm; and it enables one to drive his business, when without its aid, his business might drive him.

SHINGLES VS. SLATE.

HAVING noticed some observations in the Cultivator relating to the value of sawed shingles, I thought my experience might be of some benefit to the public. It is 25 years since the east side of the roof of one of my buildings had to be shingled. The shingles were sawed pine, and decayed in 12 years so much that if a shingle was raised up by taking hold of the lower end, it would break off five inches from the end, all above that being rotten. These shingles were sawed out of the best of heart pine. It is now 27 years since I built a dwelling-house, and shingled it with sawed pine shingles. When the shingles were laid, the workmen were directed to throw out every knotty, shaky and decayed shingle. In laying 14,000, 2000 were thrown out. The roof lasted, with very little repair, 24 years, when it was renewed with rived spruce shingles.

I have laid on some of my roofs, sawed black-ash, elm, red-oak, and hemlock shingles. The hemlock have proved better than either of the other kinds above mentioned; but none of them lasted more than 15 years without repairs. In the year 1838 I put a new roof on one of my buildings, and as sawed chesnut shingles were at that time highly recommended, I procured 10,000 with which the roof was shingled. In 16 years it was necessary to repair the roof on the south side, and in 20 years the south side was again shingled. The north side of the roof still remains, and has been repaired but little.

As good pine shingles in this vicinity are now valued at between four and five dollars a thousand, and there cannot be a supply at that price, quite a number in this place, who have had occasion to renew the roofs of their buildings, and those who