

hoop at each side, and the machine is finished. An active man can clean a hundred bushels a day with it, and clean it better than with many mills.

This article is of French origin. The French make as good settlers as any we have in this county. They are contented with little and keep out of debt. It is true their notions of agriculture are rather primitive; manuring they never think of; but then, no wonder—they don't read, nor do they see any manuring done around them; they clean their land off well, make large clearances; what they can make themselves they will not buy, and what they buy they pay for. If the majority of their British neighbours would do the same there would be less complaint of hard times, bad crops, and bad government.

Fruit trees are the next in the list of evils that this country was cursed with. They were pressed upon the people with every promise of indulgence; but the moment the nursery-men got the notes they were transferred to another, clapped into the Division Court the instant they were due, and some of them before it, entered in the procedure book before half the people knew where to go to look for them. But even this was not the worst. Another gentleman, in shape of an agent came from a certain part of Canada, with the astounding information that all the other fellows' trees, being from the States, would do no good in these "hyperborean" regions, but he could furnish them some genuine natives that would do them some good. Accordingly he got orders for two or three thousand dollars' worth, and went to whence he came from. The trees were sent part of the way in the fall, or very early in the spring, I don't know which, tied up in a manner that showed the artist cared very little what became of them. About a month after the time appointed for their delivery they arrived, and in a far drier state than any brush the purchasers had in their fallows. The major part of them took the trees, just to try if they would grow, which they did not, nor did the parties ever expect they would have to pay for them; but, alas for all human calculations, the summonses were received in due time, and that to a foreign court. "This was the unkindest cut of all," it would not do to go 100 miles to defend a suit of from four to ten dollars, as the contract was made in the County of Bruce, and the notes being drawn there they thought they would have been sued there, but it was

fated otherwise. At length one of the victims offered to go if the others would pay his expenses, which they agreed to do. But when the fatal day came for the trial, the respectable gentleman that acted as agent for the nursery, turned about and swore he was agent for the people, and had bought the trees from the nursery for the Bruce people, instead of selling them to them. Every cent of the money was collected, and some people lost their last cow. This transaction cost the County of Bruce not less than four thousand dollars. Although the first lot of trees were good, seven eighths of the parties had no place properly fenced, nor the ground prepared for them; the consequence was that they were either eaten off by the cattle, or dried out from want of moisture.

The next item, furniture, is the most excusable of all, yet if the purchasers had waited until they could have paid the cash, they would have got it much cheaper.

Now that I have explained in the best manner I am able the cause of the distress in the County of Bruce, viz: the credit system, allow me to explain the agent in connection with it, viz: the Division Courts. There are four in the County, held three times a year, and I am sure I am below the mark when I say that the number of cases average 500, each court since the year 1850.

A certain politician said there never was an act of Parliament, but that he could drive a coach and six horses through it; but were he alive and in the county of Bruce now, he might drive a troop of elephants through the Division Court act, for it is quite certain that if the land did not belong to the government one half of it would soon be in the hands of creditors, speculators, Division Court clerks and lawyers. As it is it can never be paid for under present circumstances. A suit of \$40 takes all a man has; say a yoke of oxen and two cows. Crops, such as hay or grain, never bring anything, on account of the impossibility of removal, for want of good roads; and in a suit of the above amount the costs soon rise to \$10 or \$12—the cattle will not pay more than the debt, the balance hangs over the debtor, accumulating costs and interest, which he never can pay until he sells the land and goes to the States, and Britain loses another subject. The Division Court act at the present time is the most abused law on the Canadian statute book; it is the sheet anchor of all tinkers, pedlars, pettifog-