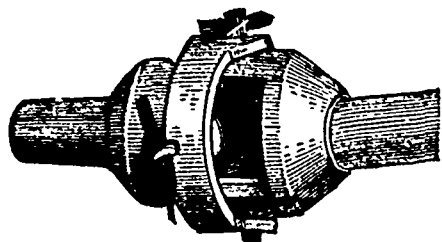
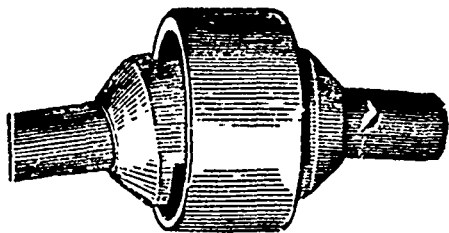


### Safety Cap for Covering the Joints of Connecting Rods.

We have much pleasure in giving the accompanying remarks and out a place in our columns. As our readers will readily see, the "Safety Cap" is a simple and efficient covering for the projecting bolts used in coupling tumbling rods, and from the exposure of which, accidents are frequently resulting. Our correspondent writes.—"The connection between the power and the separator of a threshing machine was formerly made by means of a belt passing around a jack or hand-wheel attached to the power, and also around a pulley of the separator. The objections to this were numerous. 1st. The belt being generally of leather, was liable to stretch in damp or wet weather, so that proper motion could not be kept up. 2nd. High winds would throw it off the hand-wheel. 3rd. Trouble of changing its length to suit different barns. 4th. The person driving the teams could not see the separator. 5th. When sufficiently tight to prevent slipping, it created too much friction on the bearings, &c. Now, to avoid all these difficulties, the present system of connection by iron rods was adopted. Such rods are fastened together by what is known as the 'universal coupling.' (See Fig. 1) It will be seen the bolts of the joint project



beyond the outside surface of the coupling ring, thus presenting a very dangerous part for persons to run against, as these rods or shafts revolve with considerable velocity, and are always in exposed positions in the barns, where persons employed about the machine, or are led there by curiosity, are constantly in danger of having their clothes caught by these projecting bolts, and whirled round at the risk of life and limb. There are few machines that have worked for any length of time but have produced some calamity by this means. It is said that there are more accidents with threshing machines, in proportion to the number of persons employed about them, than any other machinery in use, and by far the greatest number, perhaps nine in every ten, occur as stated above. It is therefore strange that machinists have not, ere this, instituted some means of covering such joints; but it is pleasing to be able to announce to the readers of THE CANADA FARMER that there is now a means of making the dangerous part secure, as seen in Fig. 2. The joint represented by this cut,



be it remembered, is the same as Fig. 1, only it is covered with what is known as Shaver's Patent Safety Cap, which, when it is brought into universal use, will yearly prevent much suffering and loss of life. It is to be hoped that the various manufacturers throughout the country will use all lawful endeavours to bring this new, useful, and thoroughly tested invention into general use as soon as possible."

"LOOSEN A NUT RUSTED TIGHT.—by holding a hammer or something heavy one side, then placing a cold chisel as you would to cut the nut through to the bolt; give a few light taps on the chisel, which will expand and loosen the nut and seldom injure it." So says "P. G." of Peekskill, N. Y.

### Unleached Ashes as a Manure.

UNLEACHED ashes, in my humble opinion, are of far more value than many people imagine. I have used ashes as a manure every year since I commenced farming, and so satisfied am I of their fertilizing value, that I would not sell a bushel for twice or thrice the price paid for them at the asheries. I will give a little of my experience in the use of them as a fertilizer, as the best I can say in their favor. The greatest increase caused by the use of them that I have known, by actual measure, was on potatoes, used as a top-dressing in the year 1816. After dressing my corn with ashes that year, I had one bushel left, which I put on eight rows of potatoes, which yielded, at digging time, one bushel more to the row than any other rows in the field. It was a sod land, turned over in the spring and planted without manure of any kind. I have no doubt that the one bushel of ashes increased my crop of potatoes eight bushels. The rows were about fourteen rods long.

For corn, I think ashes and plaster, mixed at the rate of two parts of ashes and one of plaster, and a small handful of the mixture put into each hill, is the best way to use them. This mixture, I prefer to either alone or both, used as a top-dressing. I think it has made one-half difference in the value of a piece of corn, judging from one row left without the ashes and plaster, not from actual measurement. It was on ground without manure of any other kind. Ashes alone, as a top-dressing, are very beneficial to corn. After it has come up, I find where I have used it so, the stalks are larger and taller, the ears longer and better filled out, and the corn sounder and some earlier.

On grass, such as meadow, if it has run out, so that it yields but light crops, a dressing of ashes, fifteen or twenty bushels to the acre, has increased the crop of hay two, three, or even four-fold, and, for several years after, good crops of grass have been obtained.

I have never used ashes on wet land, nor with any other manure except plaster.—I. RANDALL, in Wisconsin Farmer.

VALUE OF MUCK AS A FERTILIZER.—I have seen remarkable results from the application of muck direct from its swamp bed, without any admixture with stable manure or anything else than the soil on which it was placed. I once made an application of this kind on land prepared for wheat, and the effect was the same as is often seen on lands where manure from the barn-yard has been deposited in heaps. The same vigorous growth was as apparent from the muck as from the barn-yard manure.

### Stock Department.

#### The Shorthorns Eighty years Back.

WHAT the earlier shorthorns were, the shorthorns we mean of the last twenty years of the eighteenth century, for not before then had shorthorn breeding taken the form of a systematic pursuit, we have now no accurate means of determining. There is no possibility of comparing them with the shorthorns of the present day; for weight, of which we have many records, and bad pictures, unfortunately too numerous, are but imperfect criterions. Not till something like Tennyson's Dream of Fair Women takes place with regard to shorthorns, and the most celebrated animals of the last eighty years pass before us in a chronological line and order, can the question be satisfactorily settled. Then, at a glance, the truth would be flashed upon us. We should be able to compare reputation with appearance, and separate what was due to merit from what was due to fame. Failing such an agreeable mode of gaining information, one thing, however, seems to be certain, that a very remarkable difference exists between the breeders of those days and the breeders of these. In those days, they belonged chiefly to a class of practical agriculturists, who sought the improvement of their cattle in the natural way of ordinary business; in these days, they are divided, not very equally, between the same class of men and men to whom breeding is a pastime and a luxury. It is notorious that what may be called the element of fashion has been especially cultivated by the latter class; and it is scarcely less notorious that the former class has felt its influence. We have reason therefore to infer a difference, consisting in some-

thing more than a reduction of bone and offal, between the present specimens of the shorthorn race and those which belonged to a period antecedently contiguous to that in which the Collings and their contemporaries lived and laboured. One who can look back thirty years will see a difference even between the animals of that day and this—in some respects for the better, in others for the worse—though he may have failed at the time of their occurrence to observe the particular circumstances which produced it; for changes, plain enough when viewed from a distant height, are often imperceptible when we stand in the midst of them. The subject, in itself most interesting, may be illustrated by a passage in one of the works of Dr. Trench, Archbishop of Dublin. A thoughtful reader will need no instruction as to the analogy which gives the following extract from "English, Past and Present," its suitability in this place. Apart from that suitability, it has great intrinsic value. "How few aged persons, let them retain the fullest possession of their faculties, are conscious of any difference between the spoken language of their early youth, and that of their old age; that words, and ways of using words, are obsolete now, which were usual then; that many words are current now which had no existence at that time. And yet it is certain that so it must be. A man may fairly be supposed to remember clearly and well for sixty years back, and it needs less than five of these sixties to bring us to the period of Spenser, and not more than eight to set us in the time of Chaucer and Wiclif. How great a change, what vast modifications in our language, within eight memories. No one, contemplating this whole term, will deny the immensity of the change. For all this, we may be tolerably sure, that had it been possible to interrogate a series of eight persons, such as together had filled up this time, intelligent men, but men whose attention had not been especially roused to this subject, each in his turn would have denied that there had been any change worth speaking of, perhaps any change at all, during his lifetime. And yet, having regard to the multitude of words which have fallen into disuse during these four or five hundred years, we are sure that there must have been some lives in this chain which saw those words in use at their commencement, and out of use before their close. And so, too, of the multitude of words which have sprung up in this period, some, nay, a vast number, must have come into being within the limits of each of these lives. It cannot then be superfluous to direct attention to that which is actually going forward in our language. It is indeed that which of all is most likely to be unobserved by us."

#### Cleanliness of Swine.

In one respect, farmers commonly show the worst of their management in fattening hogs. These animals appreciate and enjoy cleanliness, yet their owners make them live in dirt, and then charge them with a natural fondness for filth. This is oppression and slander combined. Every person familiar with their habits, knows that when clean straw beds and other comforts are given them, they are scrupulous to keep them clean. When shut up in a narrow pen, where they must eat, sleep, and live in one apartment, they cannot but be uncomfortable; and such a condition greatly retards their thriving. A "hog pen" has become proverbially a repulsive place; this is the owner's fault, and should never be suffered. There is no reason why it should not be clean, and even attractive. We hear farmers who raise grain say that they have more straw than they can sometimes use, while at the same moment their hogs have not enough of it to make a dry and clean bed.

Animals can never thrive well unless kept clean. Every one knows that a well groomed horse is better than a neglected one, with a shabby coat. Nearly the same result has been found when this treatment is applied to swine. Let every manager lay down this rule, that a hog pen should never be distinguished by its odour twenty feet distant. The sleeping apartments should be separate, and kept perfectly clean and dry. The other portion should be daily cleaned out, and the manure at once mixed with muck, loam, coal ashes, &c., to make compost and destroy the odour, which is as injurious to the health of swine to breathe as it is to human beings. It is not necessary that a piggery should cost five hundred dollars that it may be kept in splendid order; a cheap and simple structure may be subjected to the most perfect system of cleanliness. The satisfaction it will afford the owner, the comfort to the occupant, and the profits to the purse, will be a three fold compensation.