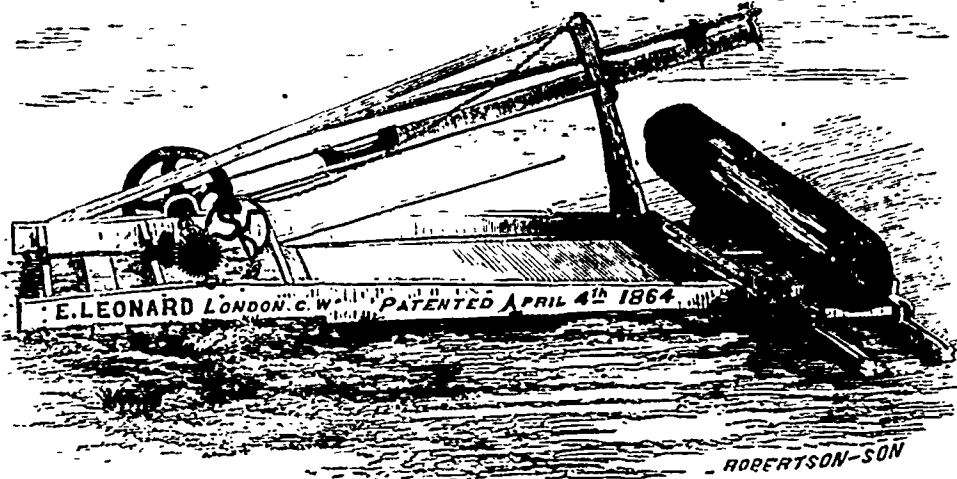


### Leonard's Rocking-motion and Self-lifting Sawing Machine.

THE axe, time-honoured tool though it be, is beginning to give place to a more scientific implement. While there are certain operations in the bush that still require the axe, and will continue to do so until the last forest-tree is felled and stripped of its branches, the saw is far preferable for working up the trunk. It makes neater work, effects a considerable saving of chips, and cuts up the tree with far greater celerity. Time is economized and hard work avoided by the substitution of the sawing-machine for the axe, wherever it is practicable to do so. The axe and sawing-machine stand related to one another very much as do the scythe and mowing-machine. We cannot wholly dispense with the scythe.



There are corners, and rough, stumpy fields that only the scythe can operate upon, but wherever it can be used, the mower is far preferable to the keenest scythe, handled by the expertest workman. So of the sawing-machine. The annexed cut represents one of these machines, which is manufactured by Hon. E. Leonard, London, C. W., to which was awarded the

first premium at the recent and previous Provincial Shows. Its chief peculiarities, as compared with other machines of the kind, is a rocking motion, by means of which the saw clears itself, and also a self lifting arrangement, both of which are practically found to be advantages. This machine is warranted by the maker to cut ten

cords of stave wood per hour. Sawn wood is generally regarded as more valuable than that which is chopped. Some railroad companies in the United States pay 50c. a cord more for sawn wood than for chopped. These machines will also cut up knotty, crooked, and gnarled logs, which have been abandoned by choppers. These, reduced to stove length, are easily split into size fit for use. We are not advised of the cost of the machine here figured, but our impression is that it is somewhere in the neighbourhood of forty dollars.

All particulars may be had by addressing the maker.

### Canadian Natural History.

#### The Mink.

(*Vison Lutreola*.)

This lithe and sleek little creature is spread over a large extent of the earth's surface, being found throughout the more northerly portion of Europe, as well as in North America. It ranks high among fur-bearing animals, and is much more in request for its valuable coat than it used to be. For some reason or other, the fur of the mink, though unquestionably handsome in appearance, and very thick and warm, has until recently brought but a low price, thus creating a temptation to substitute it for the sable, a much more expensive fur which it greatly resembles, and to which in real utility it is not much inferior. Mink fur is brown in colour, but the shades are very variable, the darker ones being most sought after. A white patch of dimensions varying much in different specimens, is always found about the jaws of this animal, and in some cases the fur about the head is of so dark a brown as to be nearly black. The mink is a water-loving animal, and frequents the banks of ponds, rivers, and marshes. Naturalists say that it prefers the stillest waters in the autumn and the most rapidly flowing streams in spring. Its food consists mainly of fish, frogs, crawfish, aquatic insects, and the like. In general appearance, it somewhat resembles the marten or ferret.

It is not unlike the otter in some of its characteristics and movements. Indeed, it is called by such names as the Smaller Otter, and the Musk Otter. From its resemblance in some respects to the pole-cat, it has been called the Water Pole-cat. The feet of the mink are slightly webbed, so that they are well adapted to facilitate the process of swimming. Hunting and trapping the mink are familiar pursuits in all the newer portions of this country and throughout the great fur-bearing region known as the Hudson's Bay Territory.



**DESTROYING RATS.** A Delaware Co. farmer says:—At this season of the year, when cellars are crowded with fruits, vegetables and all kinds of winter stores, rats often become an intolerable nuisance, which must be abated. Poisoning may afford a temporary relief, but in the end the remedy is worse than the disease, for the rats, after eating the poison,

crawl into inaccessible corners to die, and the house is soon filled with their unwholesome and offensive odor. They may be driven from a dwelling infested by them, by setting, in a measure of meal a steel trap, and covering it lightly with the meal, affixing to it a small chain attached to a spring-pole, with the trap so arranged that when the rat pulls, the trap will be drawn up by the pole. The rat thus caught, will warn his fellows by piercing squeals of the terrible punishment awaiting them, and the premises will be vacated for a season, but they are

liable to return, and the last state of that house is usually worse than the first. When a boy, my father sent me into the cellar to get some apples from a bin which had not been opened, as the fruit being an extra keeping variety, had been reserved for spring use. On returning, I set the family into a burst of laughter, by reporting that "the hogs had gone up the drain and chewed the apples all to pieces." The apples were destroyed, but rats instead of the depredators. A large kettle was immediately carried into the cellar, and half filled with water, then a thick covering of oats poured over the surface, and a short board placed with one end on the ground and the other

against the side of the kettle, and another narrow strip laid across the top of the kettle in close proximity to the end of the board running from the ground to the kettle. In the morning twelve quarts of rats, by actual measurement, were taken from the kettle, and not even a Noachian rat escaped from the flood to disturb the serenity of our repose.