

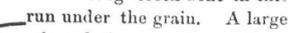
On the Wing.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.

A person fairly posted may obtain considerable information about agricultural implements by going through implement factories or attending agricultural exhibitions. But such observations never made a plowman. It is by actual work in the field, observation and real practice that efficiency and defects must be found out.

To gain a little more knowledge about implements we have devoted a little more time this year than usual to their observation. At the present time no agricultural implement is specially engaging the attention of manufacturers so much as the Binders. Mowing and reaping machines have been brought to such a degree of perfection that it appears almost impossible to add to their efficiency. There have been a great many alterations made in harvesters during the past few years. Some of the machines with these alterations have been brought out under new names, as new or improved machines; but actual trial during the past year has convinced us that the word "deteriorated" would often be more applicable than "improved." There are some manufacturers who through parsimony or ignorance have used inferior material when constructing even really good machines. Some agents under the cognizance of manufacturers have made incorrect statements to farmers to enable them to effect sales of implements, knowing the machines to be of inferior quality, sometimes worse than useless.

All the available inventive genius that reaper manufacturers can procure is now centered in perfecting the binder. We presume many hundreds of thousands of dollars are now being expended for this purpose both in the States and Canada. There are eight in Canada we have heard of who are working on this binder business, and if we reckon all who are agitated about it, we have no doubt but we might add one 0 to the 8, perhaps two; and if we step across the border we presume we might add the third 0. The fact is that binders have now been brought to such perfection, and are such a success, that the best farmers will have them. Although the price is high, the investment is a paying one, and in some localities it would be almost a ruinous matter to attempt to employ men to do the work. There are many efficient wire binders, but in using them there will always be danger in the impossibility of keeping the wire from the grain and the straw. By the use of strong magnets the millers can pretty effectively remove it from the grain, so we need be in no apprehension of finding it in our bread. But the poor animals may be compelled to eat the straw and chaff, and have not magnets and sieves to protect them. A tooth may be broken, a small piece may get between the teeth, a portion may be swallowed, or it may stick in the claws of the foot. What ails that cow, ox or horse? Don't know! Veterinary does not know—physic—bill—better death. The fact is, we do not want the wire binder in Ontario, and they do not want it in any part of the States, or anywhere else where the straw is used by stock; and yet so valuable are these binders found that some farmers will risk the danger of the wire.

The cord binders have up to this season not been as efficient as the wire binder. It is to the cord binder or straw binder that attention is now turned. The first binder we saw this season was worked in the county of Middlesex. The machine is a new invention. Five long teeth bent in this form  run under the grain. A large grappling fork then forced the grain to an elevation on which two men were standing, each taking

a sheaf alternately, and thus the work was done. The machine ran on two wheels and was drawn by one horse. We could see no advantage in using this implement, and think the inventor's time wasted.

On the farm of Mr. J. Black, in the county of Haldimand, we saw a Harvester and Binder in operation. This machine is called the St. Paul Cord Binder. It is the original and first cord binder invented; it has been improved. This is the first one of this kind ever introduced into Canada. It works lower and nearer the ground than the other binders, and did excellent work, taking the grain off the ground very neatly and cleanly. It was drawn by three horses, and threw the sheaves clear out of the way of horses and men, and dropped them gently on the ground. Although the machine worked several hours without breaking a cord, at one time when the cord was tangled or of an inferior quality there were a few breakages. The cord used was made of hemp. We are informed that there are many of these St. Paul Cord Binders in use in the States; on one farm ten of these binders were used the past season, and on many farms a less number. But up to the present time A. Harris, Son & Co., of Brantford, Ont., appear to be by far the most successful in the manufacture of cord-binding harvesters in Canada. We are informed that Messrs. A. Harris, Son & Co. made 200 binders the past season, and that 120 of them were sold in Manitoba and 80 in Ontario. Nearly all those sold in Ontario bind with cord, and a large proportion of those sold in Manitoba use the same material. They use a Manila cord. This cord has a decided advantage over the cord made from hemp; it is stronger and it neither stretches nor contracts by being wet, and costs less. All the other cord binders that we have seen used the hemp cord. In the early part of the season they had some little difficulty with some of the machines because the cord was not strong enough, and some did not understand how to use the machines and wire had to be substituted; but as soon as proper cord and instructions were supplied, the difficulty was overcome.

Such is the satisfaction given by Harris's binders that they are about to build extensive additions to their now large workshops, and the demand is such that he says they do not expect to be able to fill the orders, and that if they had the facilities they would build 500 binders for next season's business. The past season, independent of their own productions they were obliged to import binders from the States to fill their orders.

The harvester and binder is not adapted for every farm. It requires a large farm to be able to afford the investment of so much money in one machine; it also requires a person to have some mechanical judgment to manage such a machine properly. A binder would not answer if trusted to that class of old country farmers who object to American hay forks because the tines spring, and there are thousands of people yet on the old sod who make that excuse for not using them.

The abilities of some of our best manufacturers have been unusually taxed this season to enable them to supply the demand for implements, which has been so great that some had not space enough and others could not get sufficient skilled workmen. In Brantford, Harris, Son & Co., Wisner & Son, and the Waterous Engine Works Company, are all making extensive additions to their works. The Waterous Co., in addition to their large saw and grist mill constructions for the Dominion, have turned out 120 portable agricultural engines and

have lots of work ahead. When we consider the capacity of the work of one of these engines, and then consider the number of portable agricultural engines turned out by all the other portable engine builders, some of which turn out nearly as many as the Waterous Company, we must conclude that we are in a more prosperous position than ever. In the city of London alone there are four large establishments constructing portable engines for threshing machines. Then there is Whitlaw, at Woodstock; Abell, at Woodbridge, etc., etc. When these engines have good dry grain they can thresh from 50 to 100 bushels per hour. It should make us consider what a contrast the present is to the past.

The Wave of Prosperity.

During a residence of 39 years in Canada we have not seen such a season as the present in the western portion of Ontario. Labor has never been in such demand; mechanics and farm laborers have been difficult to procure. Many agricultural implement makers could have disposed of greater stocks could they have procured sufficient hands. In the cities and towns building is rapidly progressing. The farmers in this vicinity never experienced a more favorable season; the crops are excellent and the prices good. Many mechanics left for the States during the past few years, and many poor farmers have sold out and gone to Manitoba. The attention of European emigrants has been called to the western and northern parts of this continent, and Ontario has not recently been receiving as many of the better class of settlers as formerly, although the demand for skilled labor, the high rate of wages paid, and the opportunities of purchasing improved farms and living comfortably on them, present, in our opinion, more advantages than are to be found in the old country. There is much land yet to be possessed by the active husbandman, yet unoccupied in Ontario, and our almost boundless extent of land in the North-west offers such advantages to emigrants that we can as yet form but little idea of the number of inhabitants this dominion may contain.

Our regular subscribers are freely invited to send for as many copies of the Exhibition number as they may be willing to distribute among those who are interested in rural affairs. All our friends who are satisfied with the efforts we have made to instruct and please them, are solicited to aid us, through this Fair number, in so extending our circulation that further improvements may be inaugurated and sustained during 1882.

All subscribers who wish for one or more copies of the Exhibit on issue to give or show to their friends, or who wish us to mail copies to those that are likely to become subscribers, will please inform us by post card or letter, and their requests will be attended to.

PRIZE ESSAY.**Our Future Public Agricultural Expenditure.**

BY P. E. BUCKE, OTTAWA.

The paper called for on the above subject by the July number of THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE is of considerable importance to the Province of Ontario, and it is trusted that a large number of those who are interested in our native resources and industries will give their views upon it.

It will be admitted by every thinking individual that Canada at present is essentially an agricultural country; but a country may be purely of a pastoral nature, and yet so undeveloped that its resources are not of a merchantable character. To illustrate my meaning I will cite two instances. First, the butter interests. Thousands of pounds of this commodity have been shipped to the Liverpool market from this country at a loss to the exporter, the article having been so badly made as to turn rancid during transport, and it has finally