but it is believed that the leading principles, remain substantially the same:—

Flax-straw with the seed on is purchased from the farmer at a fixed rate per ton; it is sometimes sold out of stock, but it is better if it has been stacked for a short time, as there is less risk of heating when built in large stacks, and also less loss by drying. Some large concerns have lost from the last item alone as much as £300 per annum.

Each farmer's straw is kept separate from others in its different stages, viz:—Stacking, seeding, steeping, drying, and scutching. By this means its loss by seeding, and the yield of fibre can be more readily determined, affording to the purchaser a criterion for his guidance in future years.

Round stacks with ventilators in the centre are preferred, the whole resting on cast metal pillars (Fig. 1) with inverted dish-shaped caps of the same material. These prevent injury being done to the straw, by rats or mice.

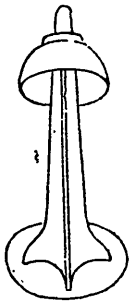

Fig. 1.

All extensive factories of the kind under consideration have rail-roads for trucks radiating from them in different directions. Among these one to the stack yard, with a view to the easy and rapid carriage of the straw to the seeding-house.

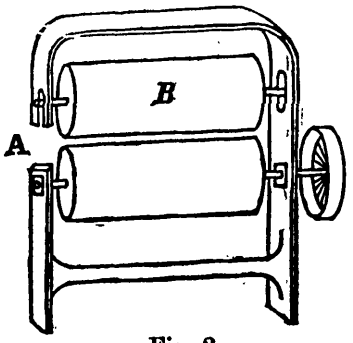

Fig. 2.

It is again weighed and the loss in stack ascertained. The seed is taken off by means cast iron rollers, (Fig. 2) making twelve revolutions per minute. They are solid, nineteen inches in length and twelve in diameter. A handful of straw is taken by the operator and the seed end passed between the rollers at the root end being firmly held by the hand. This is repeated three or four times, and the bolls are sufficiently crushed. The roller B, is free to move upwards.

A different apparatus for seeding has been described on a previous page.

Seeding in winter is a constant operation. The greater the quantity sold to farmers for seeding the greater is the profit, as the price for *crushing purposes* is less.

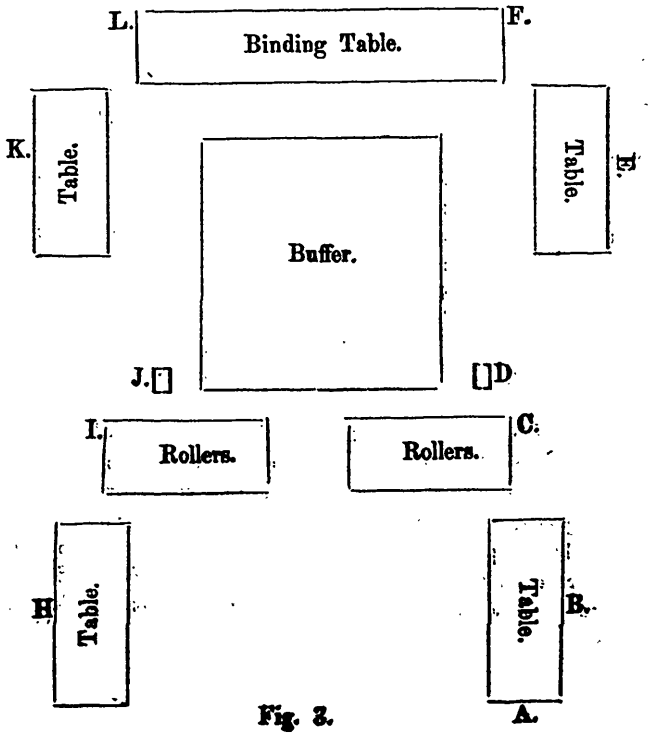

Fig. 3.