

Canadian Agricultural Notes.

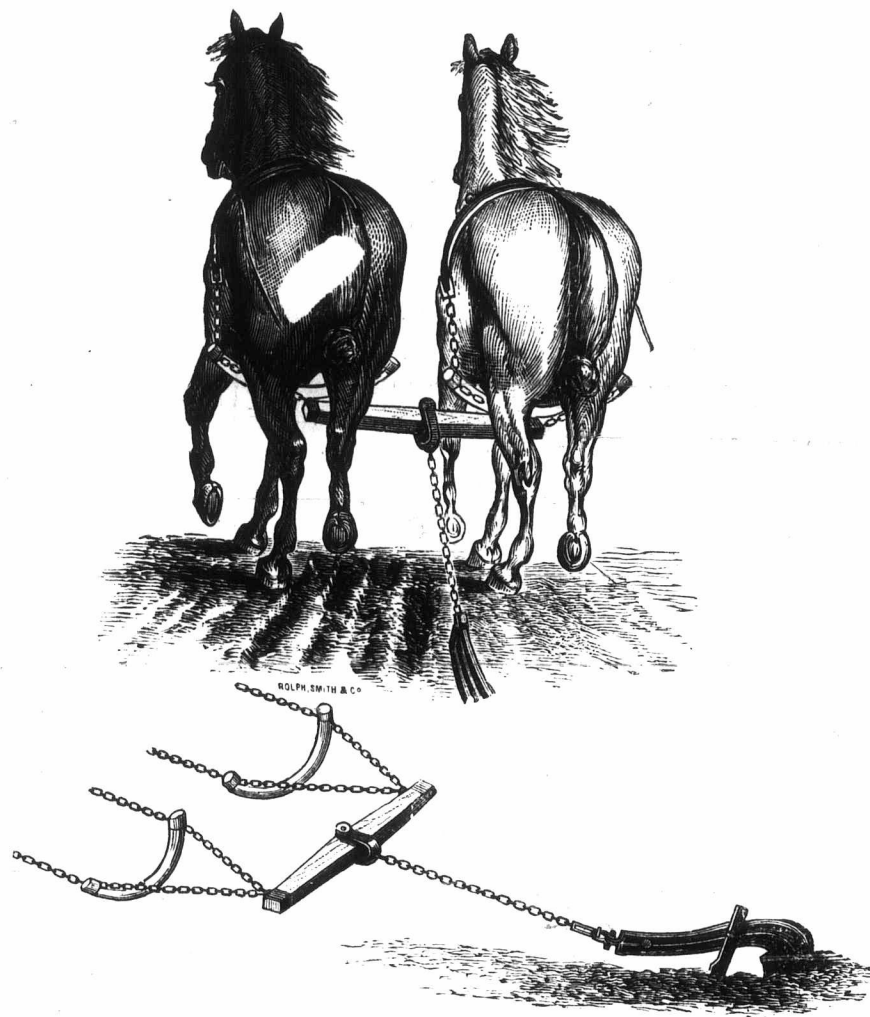
Ontario.

ALGOMA.—This district, though comparatively new in this new country, gives fair promise of not lagging far behind the other parts of the province. There is a constant, unintermittent progress in the several industrial pursuits. Its natural wealth as a mineral region will, as it is developed, encourage agriculture by affording to farmers a good home market for their surplus produce. We were apt until lately to speak of Algoma as a barren, inhospitable region, but that erroneous opinion is a thing of the past. Though the front is, much of it, rough and uninviting, there are large tracts of fertile, arable land. From a letter written at Garden River we give an abridged sketch:—

The work on the Stobie Iron Location, which is being pushed forward with commendable energy and pluck, is progressing very satisfactorily, with every appearance of promising results. The location is situated at the head of Desert Lake, which is about thirty-three miles from Sault Ste. Marie, and fifteen miles from the Bruce Mines. The deposit is about a quarter of a mile north of the lake, in a rocky range, which runs east and west, parallel to the Colonization Road, connecting Sault Ste. Marie with the Bruce Mines, a distance of forty-eight miles; also parallel with the proposed Junction Railroad, connecting the Sault with Lake Nipissing, which road will be constructed without doubt at no distant day, as the circumstances connected with it are so favorable and the route so much superior in every particular to any other, that its completion will eventually follow, for it is inevitable. The road and line referred to pass through the renowned Garden River Indian Reserve, in which is the celebrated silver and lead deposit known as the Victoria Mine, through the townships of Macdonald, Lund and Meredith, the unsurveyed block of Crown Lands lying between the last named township and the township of Plummer, through which the road and railroad line also run, as also thence through the townships of Lefroy and Rose, immediately in the rear of the Bruce Mines. The lands in these townships are generally good, unsparingly watered by numerous streams, furnishing ample water-power for any amount of machinery, and many beautiful lakes of pure, clear water, abounding with pan fish, numerous and various. Quite a number of settlers from the old settlements of Ontario have located during the past two summers in these townships, and express themselves, as a general thing, well satisfied with their choice and future prospects, and certainly they have no reason whatever to be dissatisfied, for unlike many new settlements, they have the advantage of ready, reliable and good markets for every sort or kind of agricultural produce, with a yearly increased demand consequent upon the development of the mineral interests of the district; thus the agriculturists of this country have nothing to fear for many years to come from the ills attending an overstocked or meagre market. Mr. Stobie has opened a good road from the mine to Port Lock Harbor, a distance of seven and a half miles, where the iron ore is to be drawn during the winter for shipment in the spring. A boarding house, store house and stables have also been erected at this point, and a suitable place prepared for the reception of the ore preparatory to shipment. Port Lock Harbor is situated on the north side (main land) of the north channel of St. Mary's River, opposite St. Joseph's Island, which island divides the river at the Nebish into two channels; one channel running south of the island is called the American Channel; the other to the north is called the Canadian channel, and is the

one navigated by the Canadian Lake Superior lines of steamers. The harbor is eight miles from the Bruce Mines, and the Canadian steamers from Collingwood, Sarnia and Windsor pass almost within hailing distance of the spot chosen by Mr. Stobie for the shipment of the ore. The steamer Asia, of the Windsor Line, landed the supplies for the mine this fall without the least difficulty. The opening up of the mine has excited the attention of many land seekers, and numbers are squatting on the unsurveyed block through which the road from the mine to the harbor runs, and it is therefore hoped that the Government will take immediate steps to have the block alluded to forthwith surveyed and opened up for settlement. Much excellent agricultural land is included the block.

The Herefords are strong rivals of the Short-horns. At ordinary fairs and at fat-cattle shows it is about all the latter can do to hold their position. In Illinois they took the sweepstake premiums; the same in Ohio. The Herefords are fine grazing cattle and are growing in favor yearly, east and west.—*Western F. Journal.*



Orchard Harness.

Many persons in Canada are devoting much more attention to fruit growing. No farmer who has raised an orchard, no matter how small, but has suffered loss from barking of trees when plowing it. We have often knocked off a large piece of bark when plowing our orchard, even when we have had a bag to lift the whiffletree. We were desirous of plowing all the ground; in doing so, the most careful will sometimes damage some trees. In large orchards we have known damage to the amount of hundreds of dollars to be done by a careless plowman, in one orchard, by a single plowing. The mode of attaching the above whiffletree appears to suit the requirements. We have not yet used this new invention, but presume it will be found useful for the purpose for which it is made; also, for working in stumpy and stony land. Messrs. Murray & Fuller, of Toronto, are the manufacturers. We presume a horse with this harness will do more good and less harm than when using the old whiffletree. No doubt we shall have reports from those that use them ere long. The cut is so plain that it requires no explanation.

Clover and Wheat.

Time and again, it has been shown that wheat is almost certain to be a good crop upon land previously run to clover. Equally often has it been shown, by actual trial, also, that clover can be made a profitable crop to the farmer. When we consider that these two facts are well known, is it not a little singular that farmers will persist in taking their chances on wheat crops in land not naturally fitted for wheat? Year after year this is done on land not possessing the elements required to produce clover, which in turn, while making a profitable crop, would put the soil in precise condition for a wheat crop. Why not observe these plain facts, and thus become more successful?

Dr. Weisk, of Germany, has shown by repeated experiments the true value of clover as a preparatory crop on wheat land, and, indeed, for corn and other crops requiring similar elements of soil. It was shown that a single acre of clover left enough nitrogen in the soil to produce 116 bushels of wheat; phosphoric acid for 114, and potash enough for 78 bushels. These are the active and essential elements of soils for producing wheat.

We urge again that it is both a useless waste of time and labor to plod along without method or information, or what is still worse, without disposition to yield to what is known on this subject in the production of wheat. If ever the production of wheat is increased, these well known and well tested facts must be observed. It may be true, and is, that there are sometimes failures in wheat crops even in land so prepared. But these are clearly traceable to conditions of climate and atmosphere, character of land, and want of drainage. Lands which are now annually producing poor crops of wheat and corn, can be made to nearly double their production by running them to clover, and at the same time the clover itself may be made a valuable crop.

One other consideration regarding clover. Farmers frequently say that in their section of the country clover freezes out. Now, we suppose that if people should attempt to wear linen coats during winter, they would freeze also. What we mean to say is, that no grass field should be pastured bare late in the season. The practice indulged in of grazing land bare to the roots of the grass is the chief cause of its freezing out. A reasonable aftermath should be left for winter protection, and there would be little of this freezing out heard again.—*Rural World.*

AGRICULTURAL AND ARTS ASSOCIATION.—THE PROVINCIAL FAIR OF 1877. — At the last annual meeting of the Agricultural and Arts Association, it was decided that this year's Provincial Exhibition will be held at London, commencing on the 24th of Sept., and a letter from the Secretary of the Western Fair, requesting that the time of the Exhibition be prolonged, was referred to the Council, which meets in February, and circulars in reference to the matter were ordered to be sent to the various Societies represented at the Council. A resolution was passed to request the Government to have the grain and seeds collected at the Centennial thoroughly examined before distribution for sowing, in order to avoid the introduction of any insect pests. A resolution was also passed doing away with the representation on the Council of the Society of Artists, and limiting the representation of the Association of Mechanics' Institutes to one. This leaves the personnel of the Council as it formerly stood.

An experiment was recently made in Sydney, New South Wales, by way of utilizing the blood from an abattoir outside of the town. A five-acre lot adjoining the abattoir was prepared for a crop of barley, the waste blood being used instead of manure. In eight weeks the barley was four feet in height, remarkably heavy and giving promise of an extraordinary crop.

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