

Scientific American.

THE ADVOCATE OF INDUSTRY, AND JOURNAL OF SCIENTIFIC, MECHANICAL AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS.

VOLUME 5.]

NEW YORK MAY 11, 1850.

[NUMBER 34.]

THE
Scientific American,
CIRCULATION 14,000.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY.
At 123 Fulton Street, New York, (Sun Building,) and
13 Court Street, Boston, Mass.

BY MUNN & COMPANY.

The Principal Office being at New York.
Hotchkiss & Co., Boston.
Geo. Dexter & Bro., New York City
Stokes & Bro., Philadelphia.
R. Morris & Co., Southern.
Responsible Agents may also be found in all the
principal cities and towns in the United States.

TERMS--\$2 a year--\$1 in advance, and
the remainder in 6 months.

Rail Road News.

The Hudson River Railroad.

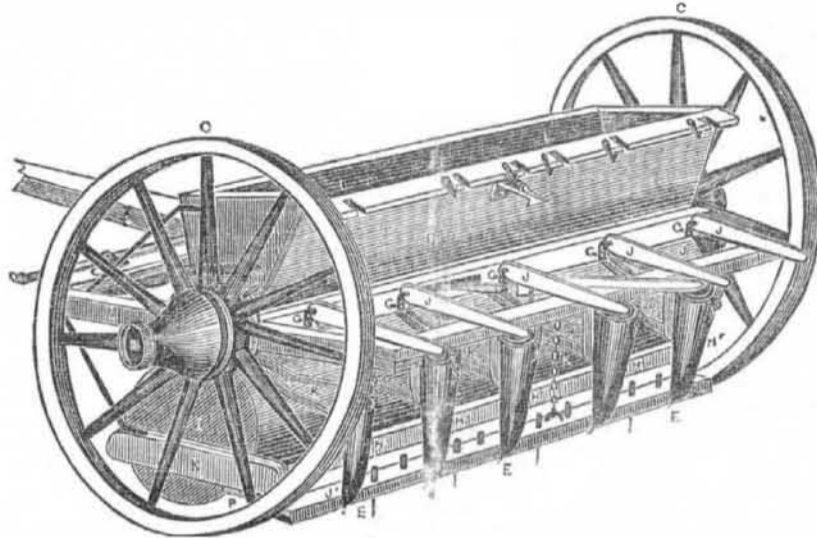
A report from Mr. Young, the chief engineer of the Hudson River Railroad, now being constructed from New York to Albany, says the engines in use have been proved to possess a capacity to run at the rate of 72 miles in two hours and a half, including from ten to fifteen way stoppages. The same rate of speed would cover the distance between New York and Albany in five hours. Mr. Young is confident that a through-train, stopping only three times, will make Albany without difficulty in four hours. The travel upon the road since its completion to Poughkeepsie, has been increasing monthly at an average rate of about twenty-five per cent. The rates of fare are one and a third cents per mile, which will be equivalent to \$2 to Albany. In the winter two cents per mile will be charged, or \$3 to Albany. The road is rapidly progressing north of Poughkeepsie.

The receipts of the Erie Railroad Company, for the month of April, 1850, were 141,994 89 against \$62,123 24, for the corresponding month in 1849 showing an increase of \$79,861 65, for the month this year. The above sum this year was from the traffic of 360 miles of road, while the receipts of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company for 180 miles of road, for the month of March last, were \$160,000. There are, at least, two other railroads in this country earning more in the aggregate than the Erie, on one half the extent of road. We allude to the (Massachusetts) Western, and the Baltimore and Ohio; the first costing about nine million of dollars, and the latter seven million. When the running expenses on 360 miles of road, wear and tear of track, depreciation of superstructure and bridges, cost of maintenance of ferry, and lateral roads, interest on bonds, and floating debt, are all paid for the month, very little will be left out of above amount, but we regard the road as doing well under the circumstances, and the stockholders may reasonably hope for a profitable investment, when the road is concluded to the lake.

The Portland and Kennebec Railroad, from Portland to Augusta, requires a large amount to finish it. All the towns along the line have voted to apply to the Legislature for leave to sustain the enterprise with their credit. Augusta voted last week, 398 to 195, to petition for liberty to raise \$200,000 towards finishing the road. The whole cost of the road is estimated at \$1,000,000, and only \$540,220 have been paid in while the expenditures, have already reached 1,145,663. The Portsmouth, Saco and Portland Railroad, have voted to take \$100,000 of the stock, and it is estimated that \$100,000 more may be collected of the stockholders.

The Railway Times of Boston, is printed in ink that knows not how to blush, at least that was our impression in reading its first page of
May 2nd.

IMPROVED SEED PLANTER.--Fig. 1.



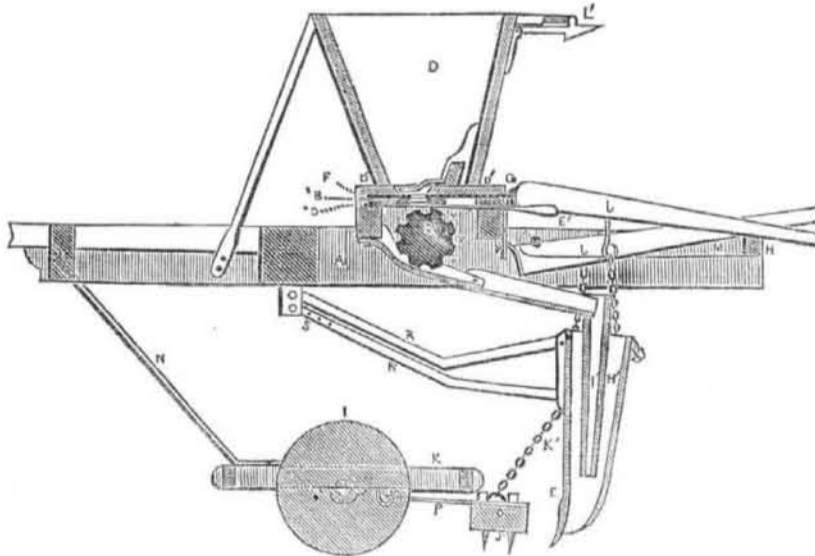
This improved Seed Drill is the invention of Messrs. Flory and Geo. A. Grove, of Chambersburg, Pa., and secured by U. S. Patent on the 12th day of last March.

Figure 1 is a perspective view, and figure 2 is a vertical longitudinal section. The same letters refer to like parts.

The principal features of it are its being so constructed that the deposit of seed is regulated by a register, by which the seed is continually agitated, thus ensuring a uniform discharge. The cultivator teeth, which form the furrows, are secured on tubular shanks, and arranged in such a manner that either one or all of them may be raised from the ground and secured in their raised position, and while raised, the discharge of seed is stopped in the tubular shank or shanks of the one or more raised teeth. The most important part of the improvement is for crushing and crumbling clods, which is arranged to precede the cultivator teeth, thus smoothing the ground to an even surface before the deposition of the seed. A is the frame, hung from the axle, B, of the

two wheels, C C. The wheel to the right hand is loose upon the shaft, the other is made fast to it, and the shaft turns along with it. The shaft is a cylinder perforated with cavities, V V, which discharge the seed. D is the hopper, supported on the frame above the shaft, and has a series of openings, through its bottom, D', in number corresponding with the cavities, V V. Each opening is closed by a plate, E, in which is a hole to allow the seed free passage. Below the plates there is a sliding Register, C', extending the length of the hopper bottom, and pierced with holes to correspond with the position and number of those in the bottom of the hopper, and is operated by a hand lever, E', to shut part of the openings or close them entirely, to regulate the quantity of seed to be discharged. Above each plate is a separate register, F, to slide at right angles to the large registers, and it is connected with a hook, G, depending from the hinged end of the hand lever, J. E E are the teeth, they correspond in number to the holes mentioned, and each is secured on the lower end of

Figure 2.



a shank tube, H, through which the seed is conducted through a flexible shute, J, and the pipe, I' and dropped into the furrows made by the teeth. Each shank is attached to the compound beam, R R, which is hinged to the frame. This beam is composed of two parts, the upper one unalterable, the other is pierced with holes, S, any one of which, by a pin, may change the length of beam by connecting it to the cross bar, to give any desired inclination to the shank of the tooth, E. The chain, R', by its hand lever, J, will raise the tooth by

lifting it up, and will draw the register, F, over the hole of the plate, B', and stop the discharge of seed. The lever can then be held up by a catch, L, on the back of the hopper. The hand levers when down, rest on the cross-bar, H, extending across the frame and attached to the arm, M. By raising the cross bar the whole of the levers resting on it are raised, and the whole may be held up by the large spring catch, L', on the back of the hopper, D. To prepare the ground for the seed, I is a roller running in the frame, K, and connected

to the front of the frame by the bar, N, which is hinged to the frame, to allow the roller to rise and fall. J' is the harrow, formed of a heavy bar, O, which is furnished with teeth, and is connected with the roller frame by a rod, P, on each side. The harrow is connected with a hand chain, K', and to the lower lever, J, fig. 2 (letters turned wrong way), and the roller by it can be lifted from the ground, and it can be raised at the same time with the teeth, and can also be secured by a catch. A shaft is secured to the front of the frame, to which the team is attached. When the machine is in use, the several members of it occupy the positions represented in fig. 2. When the cultivator teeth become clogged, they can be raised to free them from grass, roots, &c., and the teeth can be raised to pass any obstruction. It will be observed that the crushing of the clods and the harrowing and smoothing of the surface of the ground is a very excellent combination, and will be generally appreciated. The patent claim is based on this, in combination with the seed planter.

More information about the rights, &c., of this invention will be obtained by letters addressed to them (p. p.) at the place mentioned above.

Useful Receipts.

Japan Writing Ink.

Boil four ounces of logwood one hour in six quarts of water, supplying the deficiency as it wastes; strain the decoction, and add more water to make the quantity up to five quarts; if it be deficient, and while the liquor is still hot, add twenty ounces of bruised aleppo galls; four ounces of sulphate of iron, previously calcined to whiteness; three ounces of brown sugar, six ounces of gum arabic, and half an ounce of acetate of copper, set the vessel past for fourteen days, frequently agitating it, during the above time; afterwards let it stand at rest till the coarser parts have fallen to the bottom, then pour off and bottle for use.

Good Writing Ink.

Take finely bruised galls, three ounces; sulphate of iron, one ounce; logwood shavings, one ounce; and of vinegar, one quart, put these ingredients into a bottle, and agitate them occasionally for twelve or fourteen days, then let the courser parts subside, and pour off the ink for use.

Note.—The tendency of ink to become mouldy is prevented by keeping a few cloves in the ink bottle, or by dissolving about three grains of corrosive sublimate in each pint: but collect corrosive sublimate is virulent poison.

Russian Ink Powder.

Blue galls, two ounces; gum arabic, half an ounce; sulphate of iron, four ounces; all powdered and well mixed together.

Green Ink.

Dissolve distilled verdigris in strong vinegar, and make into a proper consistency for writing with—with a solution of gum arabic.

Yellow Ink.

A little alum added to saffron and water, makes a very good yellow ink, thicken with gum.

Red Ink.

Take a strong decoction of Brazill wood, and a little gum water and some little alum with a few drops of the chloride of tin.

A huge skeleton of an Indian was dug up last week, at Harsimus, N. J., among the oyster shell strata. It measured eight feet in length. The skull measured two feet in circumference, and 15 inches over the top.