

92 x The corners of the crop being reaped. Our first reaping machine, was a very heavy cumbersome affair and very heavy to the draught draw. The main driving wheel, was solid cast iron, I think about five feet in diameter & about six or seven inches broad. There was a segment attached (that is cogged all around,) in the gear box also made of one casting, was the smaller segment wheel, to drive the knife, another very heavy chain was worked from the big wheel which turned the fans, to draw the cut grain onto the platform. The whole, was very cumbersome. The driver sitting on a high dickey seat, & another person walked behind with a big drag rake, to pull off the reaped grain, when sufficient had fallen onto the platform. The size of the sheaf was according to the persons ability to judge. These sheaves lay on the ground until time could be found to bind them up. Often they lay unbound for weeks, because not always was labour available. ~~The~~ Our first machine was an importation from Victoria, & made in Barbours.

93 There were other kinds, such as the Hornsby, & Samuelsons side deliveries, which automatically put the reaped crop on the platform & delivered it on to the ground. These were the most popular machines until the arrival of the Binders which did the whole job in one operation. The original machines did the binding with very fine wire, but later, ~~these~~ machines did it with string. There were very many different kinds, & in every way, very greatly improved each year. The harvesting period was the one that I liked best, with the stack building & threshing. The first threshing plant, was owned by Messrs Cunningham & Boag in conjunction & was of English manufacture, & did excellent work. This plant, engine, combine & elevators was portable, that is to be drawn about by horses, and there was often a lot of trouble. Later came the traction engines which got about from place to place much quicker. It was fortunate for me, so I always think that the binders came out at the time when