

THE AGRICULTURIST

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Devoted to Agriculture, Literature, Education, Useful Improvements, Science, and General News.

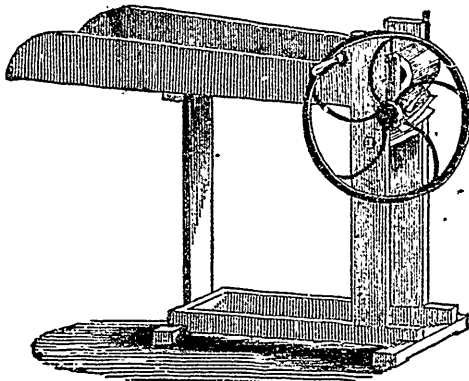
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HAY AND STRAW CUTTER.

In our last number, we gave a cut of an improved straw cutter, made in this city. We have just received a machine of which the above is an engraving, from the shop of those distinguished Manufacturers, Ruggles, Nourse and Mason, Boston. We saw a great variety of these machines at the late fair at Saratoga, and those made upon the plan of the above were admitted to be superior to any yet invented. Mr. Allen, Editor of the *American Agriculturist*, keeps a large warehouse at New York, and he assured us that this was the *ne plus ultra* of straw cutters. He had more of these in his warehouse than of any other kind, because the demand for them was greater than for any other. They are just the thing to answer the purpose of the ordinary farmer of this country. Neither heavy, cumbersome, complicated nor costly. The size sent us (No. 8,) is not adapted for large establishments, but for one or two teams a child may cut what is necessary in a few minutes. We shall be happy to take orders for parties who may wish to purchase, and to that end invite our friends to call at our office, where the one in our possession may at any time be seen.

After some excellent remarks on the value of cut-food, the manufacturers say of this machine:—

It is now generally conceded that for cutting hay, straw, and stalks, those machines having knives set upon the circumference of a cylinder, and cutting against a roller of raw hide are the best yet introduced; the work is easily and rapidly performed by simply turning a crank, and the machine is a perfect self-feeder without any extra and complicated fixture to perform that part of the work.

For this kind of cutters, *crooked* or *spiral* knives have been mostly used, which could not without much difficulty be properly sharpened or replaced except by the maker, which subjected purchasers to much inconvenience and expense; and as the knives are confined to the cylinder by some makers, by means of flanges, slots and screws, the knives are weakened, the screws are liable to be lost or injured, and the flanges prevent the knives being placed upon the cylinder so

near each other as to cut the straw, &c., as short as is by many thought to be necessary.

We have recently made important improvements in the construction of this kind of machines, by using straight knives confined by a simple cap, and placed in such a manner upon the cylinder that they perform the work in every respect as easily and expeditiously as the spiral knives. Thus improved, our machines possess several very important advantages.

First. The knives being straight, are readily ground or sharpened by the purchaser or operator.

Secondly. They can be replaced by a common blacksmith when worn out or broken.

Thirdly. The knives are made heavier and attached to the cylinder without slots or screws; confined at both ends and supported in the middle in a manner much stronger and less complicated, thus leaving the strength of the knives unimpaired and avoiding the great liability to twist, cripple and break.

Fourthly. The manner of attaching the knives to the cylinder admits of their being placed near each other, so as to cut as short as is desirable, and

Fifthly. The hide roller when used with straight knives properly set, will last much longer than when used with the spiral knife.

We have the same kind made very large and very strong, and rigged to go by horse power. One has cut a ton of hay in 50 minutes, by a fair trial, and may be calculated upon for cutting a ton any time in an hour and a quarter.

ANNUAL MEETING OF HOME DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—This Society met on Wednesday the 9th instant, to elect Officers for the present year, and transact other important business. E. W. Thompson, Esq., was again chosen President; George D. Wells, Esq., Secretary; Franklin Jackson, Esq., Treasurer; and W. B. Crew, Esq., Assistant Secretary. The President presented a report, containing some important suggestions as to the conditions on which premiums should be competed for in future. We shall publish a portion, if not the whole of this report in our next number, believing that some of the points remarked upon are worthy of general consideration. The finances and prospects of the Society, are we believe better this year than last.

NEW YORK STATE FAIR.—We observe that the next State Fair is to be held at Buffalo, in September. Our esteemed friend L. F. Allen, Esq., is chosen President. We have just received a letter from him in reply to our remarks in the last number. In a note he states, that a large class of foreign stock will be allowed to compete, and says they "will expect a liberal turn out from the Canadas." The premium list will soon be published, which we shall notice.

It will be seen by an advertisement in this day's impression, that Mr. Harland, of Guelph, offers a number of his highly celebrated Yorkshire pigs for sale. Mr. H. has for several years past, been in the habit of receiving orders for pigs from all the States in the neighbouring union, even as far South as Georgia!! We are told that it is possible to fatten them to the weight of 400 lbs. at one year old, and it is by no means uncommon for crosses from them to be sold in the Dundas market at the age of eighteen months, weighing from 450 to 550 lbs.