

Good Work with the Drag.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

There has been so much printed in the columns of your valuable paper in favor of the split-log drag, that it is hardly necessary to say much more about it, except to keep it fresh before the public. After two years' experience with the drag, I have no hesitation in saying it is the most effective known means of keeping earth roads in proper repair. I dragged the same portion of clay road last year that I did the year before—about a mile—as early in the spring as the roads began to dry on the top, and continued it on through the summer, as often as it got a big wetting, but that wasn't very often last year. I got one of my neighbors at one time, after a big rain, to go along the edges of the ditch with the disk harrow, to cut the grassy shoulder off in places, and followed with the drag, bringing the loose earth to the center, making a pretty good job. This was part of our statute labor, but the council has commuted statute labor this year and appointed two road commissioners for the township. I don't know that any action has been taken by the council for the systematic dragging of the roads, but I think it could be used to very good advantage on all clay or earth sections of the roads, if there were drags placed with farmers along those roads, to be used after each big rain, just when the clay is beginning to dry a little. It fills the ruts, and leaves a smooth surface, allowing the water to go freely into the ditches, and the cost of the drag is only trifling. When a man is handy to the road, the work is quickly done, at a less expense than it can be done in any other way, for it is a well-known fact that one fixing in a year isn't going to keep earth roads in proper repair. Thanking you for the interest you have taken in this important work.

JOHN SOMERVILLE.

Russell Co., Ont.

Details of Post Driver.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I saw a fine plan for driving posts in "The Farmer's Advocate" of April 1st, and would like further particulars. The fences have to be fixed up every year, and in the hot spring days, when the sun is pouring down, it is hard to stand with a sledge-hammer and pound stakes into the ground. Also, we have quite a lot of intervale land, on which, after haying, we pasture cattle. We have to build a fence, and thought your correspondent would not mind telling something of the making of his machine. I should like to know the measurements of axle, pounder, derrick, and the frame, and other particulars.

D. J.

Ans.—The axle is 11 feet from end to end, 3 sills 4 x 6 in., and 10 feet long; sill under derrick same size, and 12 feet long. It projects two feet behind axle, so to put a brace from the end of it well up to side of derrick. Two cross sills, 4x6 in., and 11 ft. 6 in. long; derrick, 2 pieces 3x6 in., and 14 feet 6 in. long; two studding, 4 x 8 in., and 4 feet long, for rear end of log. They can be halved 6 inches from the end, 1 inch deep, to form a shoulder to sit on top of sills, and bolt firmly to inside of cross sills. The derrick is done the same way, and both well braced. The sills are laid on edge on top of hind axle and front rocker, and bolted there. The two inside sills should be placed on angle, as shown in cut, to form a brace, as well as to support the weight on top. The center piece, as shown in cut, is a reach, attached to king-bolt underneath the axle, also bolted underneath the hind axle. There is a piece bolted across the end of the two sills, top and bottom, next post, and the lever rest goes in between, so it can be shoved in when moving the wagon. There is a long brace on each side of the derrick which projects two inches past the derrick, to form a step to oil pulley. The hooks on the derrick are 5 feet from top of sill, and should be sunk into the wood a little, and two good bolts in each. The top of derrick leans in about 12 inches over wagon. Any good hardwood will do for pounder, which is 15 feet long, flat on two sides and underneath where it strikes post. Put 1½-inch bolt through rear of log. The frame is a little narrower in front, to allow for cramping. If low wheels are used in front, so as to swing under frame, so much better. Get two irons to go through axle, with a nut on one end, and a hole in other end to put rod of sleigh-pole through. There are three pulleys. The one shown on log is hitched to trip, which is not shown. Get an eye made, with a thread about 4 inches long, to screw into top of log to hook the trip into. It is impossible to give sketch of trip. Our blacksmith charges \$1.50 for making.

E. J. NIXON.

Carlton Co., Ont.

Notes from Ireland.

THE TRANSITION OF IRISH AGRICULTURE.

The division of the big grass estates into small holdings, and the creation of peasant proprietors, augur hopefully for the eventual building up of a contented and happy rural population in Ireland, a country which for generations has been oppressed and kept in a state of continual unrest by unpopular and unfair land laws, among other disabilities. The responsibility for our industrial welfare is to a certain extent being shifted, and the country is looking to the newly-established proprietors to demonstrate the wisdom of the altered system of land tenure. What a calamitous matter it would be if fond expectations were to be disappointed!

No legislation, per se, is capable of guaranteeing prosperity to any country, much though it may help; the people, rather than the parliament, must always be the vitalizing force in every national regeneration, be it industrial or otherwise. It is, therefore, a matter of the most vital concern that our future land-holders should realize the obligations which they owe to the nation, and work their farms as the source of the country's wealth, with intelligence, skill and industry. Will they do so? The question is one which will agitate many minds, not only in Ireland, but in every part of the earth in which Irish affairs are taken an interest in. Time will alone supply an authoritative answer, but if indications count for anything, it may be fairly said that there are many bright stars of hope already shining clearly, with others beginning to glimmer in the still somewhat cloud-haunted firmament of our agricultural world.

Foremost among these omens of better things I would place the growing popularity of the educational agencies in operation throughout the country. Information, up-to-date, comprehensive and widespread, will be one of the most potent

ing, and averted many threatening incursions upon the rights and privileges of those engaged in it. The consistent and extending activity of these organizations demonstrates in the most forcible way the existence of a living spirit of independence and progress among those who constitute them.

Passing on to yet a third satisfactory sign, an observer who happens to be "in the know" cannot but detect the keenness with which the more advanced class of Irish farmers are looking out for improved market openings and better methods in getting their produce to the consumers. No doubt, in this respect (if I may say it without giving offence) many of them are "out-Yanked" in cuteness, and "out-Scotched" in canniness, and may have, in some other characteristics, to acknowledge themselves less accomplished (?) or, let us say, adept, than their compeers in other lands; but, withal, every student of the commercial aspect of Irish agriculture will concede to the credit of our farmers a well-developed, and straightforward business instinct. Space does not allow me to cite examples, but I could do so, if necessary.

LABOR-SAVING IMPLEMENTS.

A rather interesting thought now arises, as to whether the effects of enlightenment, co-operation, enterprise and other beneficial factors will be sufficient to counteract other tendencies which have of late years been reducing the tillage area of Ireland. This, from a purely agricultural standpoint, is the crucial feature, and assurance that the plow shall enjoy a reign of greater popularity in the future than it has done in the past would go a long way to enhance our expectations. As I have, on more than one occasion, intimated in "The Farmer's Advocate," the labor difficulty is one of the chief obstacles—but not the only one—to the extension of tillage. Realizing this fact, a notable effort, recently put forth in the County

Waterford by some public-spirited men, materialized in an event which ranks as absolutely unique so far as the United Kingdom is concerned, at any rate. This was a big working demonstration of almost every conceivable kind of up-to-date tillage implements, about 300 separate machines being exhibited by over 40 different firms. The appliances included motor plows, four and double furrow plows, one-way plows; harrows, both spring-tooth and disk patterns; various kinds of cultivators; artificial and farmyard manure distributors; corn drills, etc. The demonstration was a huge success, and was attended by

something like twenty thousand farmers from different parts of Ireland, as well as large parties from England and Wales, and all observant spectators availed of the exceptional opportunity of studying in actual working the wonderful modern machines that alone may be expected to solve the labor problem, as well as rendering routine duties more interesting and attractive to the workers. It is intended, during the summer, to organize a corresponding demonstration of harvesting machinery, so that the labor involved in tillage should not continue to prove an insurmountable hindrance to its spread. However, we must wait patiently for the verdict of experience, as to whether the remarkable developments in machinery, in facilitating agricultural advancement, will be fully availed of by our farmers. Prospects are, at any rate, hopeful that they will.

"EMERALD ISLE."

Hardwood Burned to Destroy It.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I enclose you a few lines on the forestry question. I homesteaded 200 acres, and my son another 100, which I bought. Purchased another 100 from the Department of Crown Lands, at 50 cents per acre. The land is fit for agriculture only as it is compared with places that are less so. Of course, I live, and grow good crops; but I'm living just as the lumberman is doing—out of the stored fertility of centuries. That's the secret.

This is how the forestry question works out in practice with me. I have 400 acres of what 12 years ago was covered with standing timber



Roadside Scavengers: Weed Consumers.