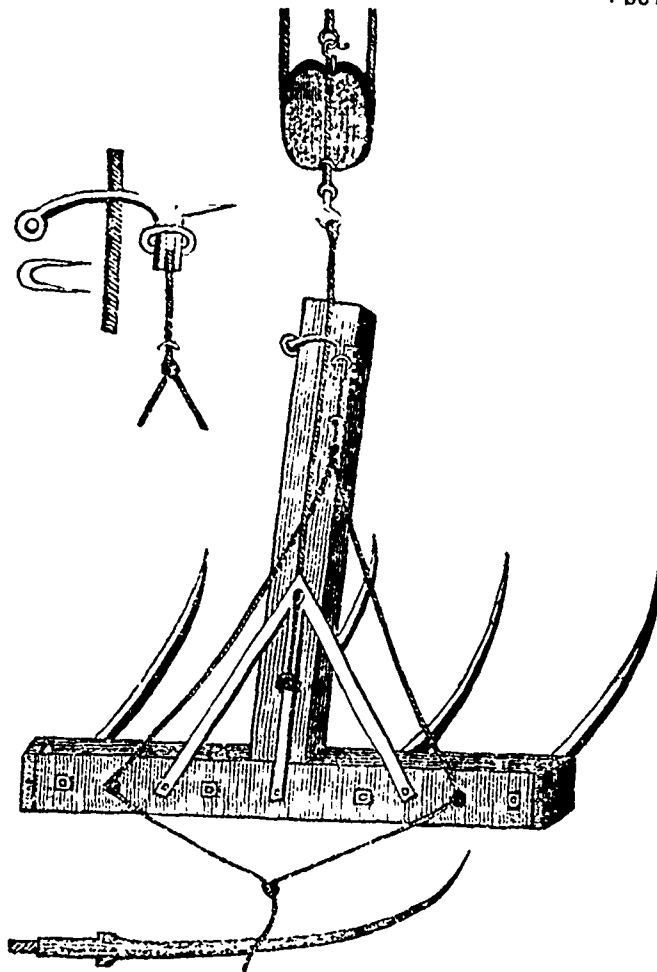


how often it is that a little over-exertion incapacitates one for useful labor the remainder of the season! As an illustration of our views on this subject, we herewith present our readers with a cut descriptive of an improved hay fork, which we copy from the *American Farmer*. A cut of a somewhat similar instrument has been given in a former volume of this journal; but with the improvement of the sliding catch made by Mr. STABLER, we do not know how a more efficient instrument can be desired.

"EDITOR AMERICAN FARMER:—In compliance with a request in the last number of the *Farmer*, I annex a diagram and description of the hay fork. We have had it in use several years, and, as now improved in



IMPROVED HAY FORK.

the mode of discharging the hay, I consider it not only a labor-saving, but also a time-saving machine.

"As originally made (for the plan of which I was indebted to a friend in New Jersey) the rope was fastened to the upper end of the handle; and although the hay was raised equally well, it was found tedious and laborious to work the trip cord; and very difficult, if not impracticable, to discharge the hay when and where desired on the mow. In this way, its operation was not at all satisfactory.

"By attaching the rope to the handle, six or eight inches from the head piece, instead of the upper end, and passing it along the handle, under the trigger, at

this point, a slight jerk of the trip cord, held by the man on the wagon, instantly changes the fulcrum—of course the position of the fork—and the hay falls. The trip cord also serves to pull back the fork to the wagon.

"I am thus particular in describing both fixtures, as many inquiries have been made, and perhaps by some who use the original plan. A mere trifle in cost will add the improvement, and, as I think, nearly double its value.

"The 'tackle' is attached to the peak of the rafters, and directly over the center of the hay mow; the fall rope passes under and near the rafter, to a guide pulley fastened to the upper end of the door post, down by the side of the post to within a foot of the floor, and through another guide pulley; to this end of the rope is attached a swingle-tree, or hook, as may be most convenient in working a horse, or yoke of oxen.

"If properly managed, the fork will readily raise from four to six hundred weight of hay at a time (while a hand fork is moving the tenth part of it, perhaps); and when high enough, the horse stops. A hand or two on the mow, with forks, sway it backwards and forwards, to give an impulse in the desired direction, when the trip cord, by the strength of a finger, throws it instantly in a compact layer, as taken from the wagon. Considerably more hay can thus be mowed in a given space, with comparatively little manual labor, fewer hands, and in a third or fourth of the time. Very respectfully,

"EDWARD STABLER.

"Head of tough scantling $3\frac{1}{2}$ by 4 inches, 3 feet 3 inches long, with bands at ends.

"Handle $3\frac{1}{2}$ by 4 inches, 3 feet long, inserted at right angles, and braced with 3 iron plates $\frac{1}{2}$ by $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

"Steel prongs $\frac{3}{4}$ inches square at shoulder, set angularly in the head, and tapered to the point, 22 inches long clear of head, with screws and nuts at back end.

"As the handle does not raise vertically, the prongs should curve upwards considerably, so as to resist the hay.

"The trigger is very simple—an iron pin $\frac{1}{2}$ inch diameter, bent at right angles, one end driven into the handle, projecting an inch, and ranging down the handle about $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches. A curved iron strap with an eye, and confined at the opposite side by a small staple, passes over the rope; and the other end bent parallel with the pin; a small ring attached to the trip cord slips over both; the tension of the rope while hoisting, effectually fastens it, until the cord

pulls off the ring.

The independent horse-rake, by means of which a lad of twelve years, or one unable to do a stout laborer's task, may rake up a dozen acres in a day, will pay for itself for neighborhood use in one season;—as also the revolving horse-rake, and the mowing machine, or reaper. True, these improved implements cost money; but where one is unable to buy for himself, let him unite with a neighbor or neighbors, and thus mutually contribute to each other's success.