

Harvest Labor versus Self-Binding Harvesters.

— VIEWS OF A PRACTICAL FARMER.

There is a point beyond which it will not pay to hire manual labor, and when the cost is closely connected with the element of uncertainty and inconvenience, it quickly places the question of manual labor or machinery beyond argument. The man who, with the aid of a half-grown boy, can do all his farm work by machinery, is independent. A man and a boy, or two men, can, with a full complement of machinery, do all the work necessary here on a farm of two hundred or three hundred acres. The work is easily so arranged that no task will crowd too closely upon any other. The daily milking of a large dairy is a heavy task when there are few to perform it. This work can be lightened, and perhaps the profits can be increased, by keeping, in place of part of the cows, a flock of sheep and one or two brood mares. Work can be better managed by growing crops that ripen in succession. Wheat can be sown in fall and harvested immediately after haying. It is very easily handled by machinery, and is profitable. There are few crops that cannot be followed to good advantage from the seed bag to the thresher by machinery.

The great objection to machinery is its first cost. A self-binder is the most important machine on the farm. It saves labor at a time when labor is scarce and high-priced, but as a mere labor-saving machine it is absolutely necessary, and perhaps may become a necessity even upon farms of small size. Farmers cannot afford the time to secure grain crops by manual labor. The expense, risk and press of other work forbid it. The whole question is reduced to one of expediency. Crops must be secured—can we afford the means of securing them? The farmer with only fifteen or twenty acres of grain is in a hard position. He delays from year to year the purchase of a costly self-binder, for the reason that the importance of his harvest will not warrant the outlay, and he goes on from year to year, and in the life-time of a self-binder he has lost much more than the price of a machine. Judicious investment in farm machinery is never a mistake. One objection to buying costly machinery, is that such machinery is being constantly improved from year to year. A machine that is perfect this year, will, in half a dozen years, become, or appear to become, old in style and inferior in operation. This cannot be avoided. No one wishes his machinery to wear out, nor does any one wish to retard the improvement of labor-saving machinery.

It seems to me that this will become necessary in view of the great uncertainty of procuring good and reliable men, and I think it will be cheaper than to do without needed machinery.

F. K. MORELAND.

BUYING TOOLS.—The winter is the time to buy tools. Every farmer should, at this time of the year, determine what implements he will need for the next year, and make arrangements for procuring them. If a mowing machine is to be bought, let him take time by the forelock, and look into the merits of each kind of these machines, and buy intelligently; do not wait until the grass is ready to cut, and buy the one nearest at hand. By sending to the Massey Manufacturing Company, Toronto, circulars with full directions, and illustrations, can be obtained, together with prices, etc. If a plow is needed, do all the work of selecting it, before the busy season is at hand, that it may not be "on the way," just when the best week for plowing is passing. In the peace of winter, prepare for the war of summer.

THE MASSEY MOWER

The Lightest and most efficient
Grass Cutter ever produced.

— ITS POPULARITY IMMENSE. —

For Strength, Durability and Powerful
Cutting it has no equal.

— 1,000 BEING MADE FOR 1884. —

This Machine has been before the public since 1879, during which time it has grown rapidly into favor and has been justly called a "little gem." So great has been the demand each year that we have never been able to supply all those who have desired to purchase this machine.

As a grass cutter it has no equal. It is extremely simple in its construction and well made, weighs about 600 pounds, and cuts a swath of 4 ft. 3 in.

Its gear is very strong, neat and compact. Enclosed in a strong iron box, which thoroughly protects it from all dirt. The quality of the material is of the very finest. Its shafts are made of steel with highly polished surface which run in brass bearings.

The tilting apparatus of the Mower is very complete, the lever being conveniently situated that the driver can instantly lower the guards to cut the very worst down clover and grass, or raised to cut a higher stubble or pass over stones or obstructions.

The lifting lever is also a very great convenience by the use of which the bar can be quickly raised to pass large stones or stumps without stopping the knives or team. It runs very still and the draft very light, it is less liable to get out of order than any other Mower.

The guards are of malleable iron in which are hardened steel plates securely riveted. These plates may be easily removed and replaced at a small cost at any time when worn out.

If you raise heavy hay crops and would harvest them successfully the Massey Mower is the machine you want. There is nothing in the shape of fodder it will not cut, and do it in a superior manner and without the vexatious delays incident to so many low price shoddy machines.

Remember the Massey is guaranteed "all wool," and its operation in the field fully warranted.

Boys Should Learn to Use Tools.

Encourage the boys in the use of carpenters' tools. I never was more impressed with the necessity for this than when, a short time ago, a young farmer purchased a neglected piece of property where the house was sadly out of repair. He was obliged to take his family into it just as it was, and two or three weeks passed before he could set anyone to make a few repairs, during which time they all became ill from exposure. This could have been prevented had the purchaser been skillful in the use of two or three of the commonest carpenters' tools.

Of course boys will dull and sometimes break them, but if carefully taught their use, and if acts of carelessness are followed by a season of deprivation, they soon learn that it pays to be thoughtful. Encourage them in making their own kites, in putting new boxes on their express waggons, and in building their coops for their own biddies and her broods. These will be crude and rough, but *praise the work*, and the next time they attempt it, offer a few suggestions, that every effort may exceed all previous ones.

One who has some knowledge of carpenters' tools is more fitted to direct workmen, and give plans when he wishes a building put up or repairs made. Then how often a mere novice whose hands are accustomed to use saw and chisel can, with a few directions, put up a shop or henery, at a time when farm work is slack! Then the convenience of being able to fashion a door or ladder, to mend a broken gate, or replace a few shingles blown from the roof, and do it all in a workmanlike manner that brings no shame at the result.

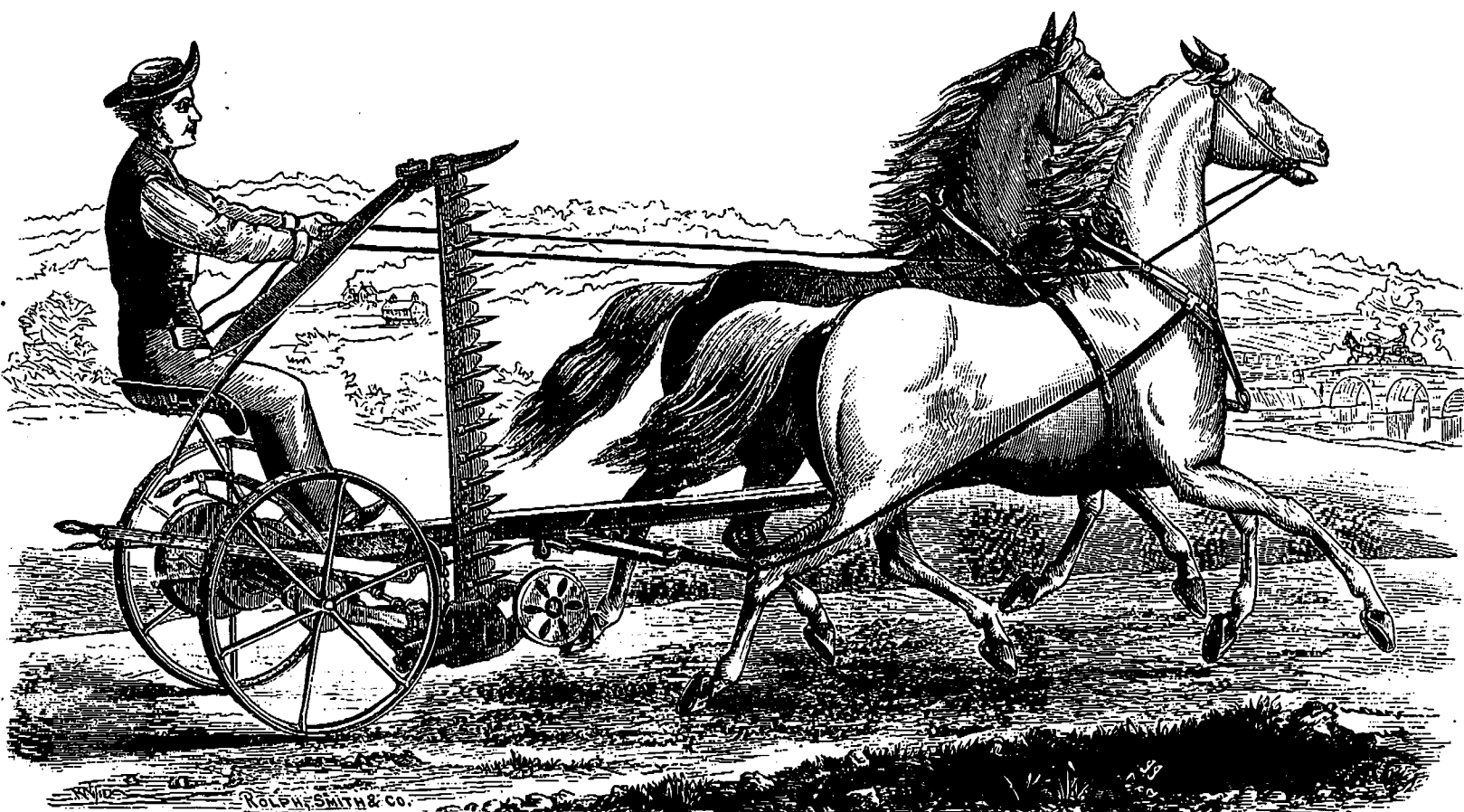
Then there are a thousand and one little things about the house which would save much weariness and many steps—little things for which one hardly likes to call the carpenter, and that the father or one of the boys might do if he could saw off a board straight, or drive a nail without pounding his thumb and losing his temper. Then there is real pleasure in accepting a token of love fashioned by the hands that give it. I have in mind now a pretty centre-table and a book case, made by a young farmer during the stormy days of a cold winter. It was not the money value alone that gave them worth, for "my husband made these" was often said by the recipient of these favors.

Provide a warm workshop, as nice as can be afforded, but at least with a stove, a chimney, and a whole roof, and give the boys permission to saw and plane as they like. It is not necessary to allow them free use of the choicest tools, neither is it wise to restrict them entirely to old and broken ones. People do not condemn their children to the use of trenchers, because they occasionally break a plate, nor would it be kind to forbid their touching the tools, because they sometimes break an awl or lose the pinchers.

O. A. O.

JUST twenty years ago, the twenty-ninth day of last month, the Agricultural Implement establishment of Mr. H. A. Massey, at Newcastle, was entirely destroyed by fire. Out of the remains has grown the largest concern of the kind in Canada—the works of the Massey Manufacturing Company, Toronto.

Study the comfort and welfare of your household and not turn your house into a boarding-house during harvest, but buy a Toronto Elevator or Massey Low Down Binder, and your wives and daughters will cry, Eureka!



THE MASSEY MOWER ON THE ROAD.