

REPAIR OF FARM EQUIPMENT

By E. F. W.

(Continued from last month)

DIVIDERS.—The little implement known as dividers, or compasses, is desirable for drawing circles or segments of circles in the making of special parts of machinery from wood. The cost of a pair of dividers with a segment and set screw for setting to any angle should not be more than 60 cents.

PLIERS.—Some form of pliers for working wire is essential. Besides their use for handling wire a good pair of pliers are desirable for a great many lines of repair work. There are a number of styles of pliers on the market, but one of the simpler types (fig. 18) will give the greatest amount of service. As a rule a very serviceable pair of pliers can be secured for about 60 cents.

FIG. 17.—Pliers.

CUTTING NIPPERS.—A pair of heavy cutting nippers with circular jaws is useful for many purposes, especially for removing a shoe from the foot of a horse or for trimming the edge of a broken hoof. Where a horseshoeing outfit is maintained, the cutting nippers will be included.

CROWBAR OR PINCH BAR.—A crowbar or pinch bar will be found useful on the farm for prying or moving heavy objects. Where stones are to be removed from the soil a bar of this character is almost indispensable. A bar for general purposes weighing about 20 pounds will cost from \$1 to \$1.50.

MAUL, OR BEETLE.—A maul, or beetle, can be hewn from a gnarly piece of hickory or gum. The head portion of the maul should be about 9 inches in length and 6 or 7 inches in diameter. Through the middle of this block a hole about 1½ inches in diameter is bored and a shaved hickory handle inserted, forming a mallet weighing 16 to 25 pounds. If extra-heavy work is to be done, the head can be reinforced by means of iron rings, which are put on while hot and shrunken into place. This tool is desirable for driving heavy stakes and similar work.

GRINDSTONE.—The farm repair outfit will not be complete unless some form of grindstone is included. The old type of stone with its wooden shaft, crank, and bearings has largely been replaced by the light-running treadle grindstones. No part of the repair work is so important as the keeping of tools in good order, and proper facilities for sharpening are essential. A good stone,

mounted ready for use, will cost about \$3.50.

OILSTONE.—The oilstone is a necessary adjunct to the grindstone, its use being to put a smooth edge on the tools after grinding. Chisels, the bits of planes, and similar tools require grinding only occasionally, but may be sharpened quite frequently on the oilstone, and a fine cutting edge maintained. Instead of water, use kerosene or any light oil on the oilstone and wipe off clean when through sharpening. Oilstones can be bought at prices from 60 cents to \$1.

OILER, OR SQUIRT CAN.—This device is a convenience about the shop, for both oiling machinery and keeping tools in order. A small oiler is desirable for use in connection with the oilstone. A can of this character will cost from 10 to 40 cents according to quality. In purchasing an oiler care should be taken to secure one having a folded seam where the bottom is joined to the main portion, as a soldered seam is liable to give out in a short while. It is also essential that the bottom should have plenty of "spring" to force the oil from the spout.

WIRE STRETCHER.—On farms where wire fencing is employed it will be necessary to provide an appliance for stretching lines of wire. For light work, where short runs of single wire are to be handled, one of the hand-lever stretchers will be found most satisfactory. This tool consists of a wood lever about three feet in length, about one-third the distance from one end of which is attached a pair of grips or pliers to hold the wire. The wire is gripped in the holder, the short end of the lever passed around the post, and the power applied to the handle. A stretcher of this type can be purchased for about 75 cents.

Another form of stretcher consists of a wire grip to which is attached a ring through which an ordinary crowbar may be passed to serve as a lever. This type of grip is obtainable for about 50 cents.

STAPLE PULLER.—A staple puller is essential to the repair or alteration of wire fencing. An old mower guard will serve for this purpose, but a more satisfactory device may be constructed from a piece of ¾-inch steel rod, about 15 inches in length, by drawing one end to a point, then turning about 1½ inches of this point at a right angle to the main portion. In using this tool the point is driven behind the staple

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