

Farm Conveniences

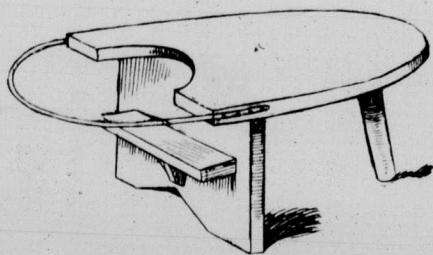
FARM TOOL ROOM

On a great many farms tools are left just where they were last used, either in the barn, wood shed, field, hung in trees or anywhere but in the right place. On a certain farm, however, there is a large space at the end of the implement shed which is called a tool room. At times the tool room floor is covered with heaps of rusty iron, old leather, broken harness, odd tools and the thousand and one articles which accumulate in disorder around every farm. The old iron is sorted over and any bolts, nuts, rings, snaps, clevises, etc., which are good are put into a box fitted with different compartments and the rest is carried out into the scrap pile in an out-of-the-way corner of the barn yard. If there are a few odd straps and buckles of the old harness worth saving, the leather is oiled and put away for repair purposes. Right up close to the roof and high enough so as not to interfere with anyone walking or working below, a shelf is made by nailing some one-inch pieces of board so as to hang down from the rafters and meet similar pieces nailed onto the studding. On these pieces, boards are nailed, making a good, wide shelf on which a lot of odd, small stuff can be stored away in a tidy manner. A drawer in the bench below this shelf is handy for holding small tools and in the rows of pigeon holes arranged above the bench can be found different sizes of nails, screws, etc.

Across one side of the shed a rack is made by fastening stout pegs about a foot apart to the plate and placing on them a long narrow board. This leaves a space about five or six inches wide between the edge of the board and the plate, thus forming a means of hanging up long-handled tools. About four feet from the floor a similar rack is made for shovels, chains, whiffletrees, etc. All the tools are brought to this room except those needed every day in the barn. A paint pot ought always to be on hand so that on wet days some of the tools or implements in the shed can be cleaned off and given a coat of paint. Perhaps this seems old-fashioned advice, but it will be found to pay all the same. Machinery is too expensive to be allowed to rust out in the open, and altho bad crops are by no means to be wished for, yet a continuance of adverse seasons will do more than any one thing to instill into farmers' minds habits of frugality and care, much to the benefit of both their pocket books and machinery.

A MILK STOOL

The stool is made of three pieces of board and a piece of round, or stake, iron. The appearance and manner of construction are clearly shown in the illustration. The seat board is sawed

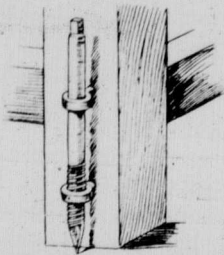


out to fit the circumference of the bucket to be used, and the iron is also bent to this curve and fastened to the board as shown. The little shelf on the front support holds the bucket at the right height, and keeps it clean and out of the way of the cow's foot while milking.

TO STEADY THE FANNING MILL

The illustration shows a contrivance for steadying portable fanning mills which should be very useful when the mill is in use cleaning seed grain. It

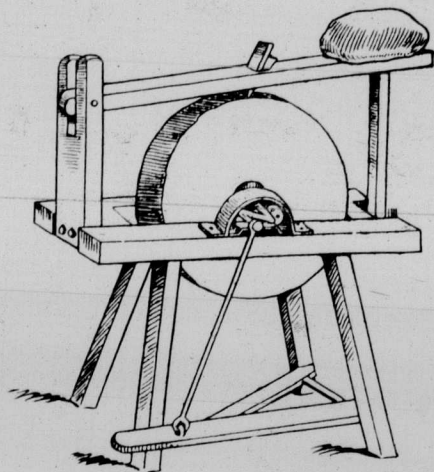
consists of an iron rod of suitable size, about a foot long, fastened by a couple of iron brackets to the leg of the mill. Three or four inches of the rod is threaded thru one of the brackets by means of which it may be moved up



and down at will. The lower end is pointed and the upper end squared so that it may be readily turned with a wrench. The rod is fastened firmly to the side of the leg (one on each of the front legs), and turned down so that the point will dig into the floor just enough to hold it firmly.

THE FARM GRINDSTONE

There is usually to be found a grindstone on every farm, but seldom is it kept in good working order. Generally it is out of true, that is, worn out of its proper perfectly circular shape. Often the axle is set in a new stone so that it does not run true and the longer it is used the worse it becomes. The best work can be got out of a grindstone when it is perfectly circular, because then an even pressure can be kept on the tool which is being ground thruout



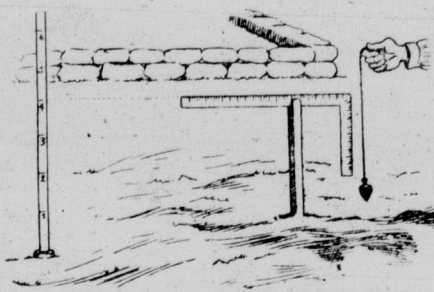
each revolution of the stone. A grindstone which has become worn out of true can be brought back again into proper circular shape by the use of a worn-out file. This cannot properly be done by hand, but may easily be accomplished by using a contrivance as shown in the accompanying illustration. An upright piece of two-by-six, slotted in the upper part, is bolted to the frame. A piece of hard wood, long enough to reach over the frame, is pivoted in the slot. This piece should, in the widest part, directly over the top of the stone, be made two inches wider than the stone, and be pivoted, so that an opening can be made in the middle of it, of the same width as the stone. This opening is made with sloping ends so that a broad file may be wedged into it in the same manner as a plane iron is set in a plane. At the opposite end of the frame a second post is bolted on. A long slot, or a series of holes, is made in the lower part of this post, so that it may be raised or lowered at will by sliding it up or down upon the bolt. To true the stone up it should be set so that the upper piece of wood may rest upon it exactly in the position in which it is desired that the file touch the stone. In order to aid in the work, a weight can be laid upon the upper piece to keep it down and thus hold the cutter upon the stone. When the stone is turned around slowly the uneven parts are cut away, while those which

do not project beyond the proper line of the circumference are not touched.

A word might be appropriate about grinding tools. The useful effect of many tools depends greatly upon the exact grinding of their edges to a proper bevel. A cold chisel, for instance, requires an edge of a certain bevel to cut hard metal, and one of a different angle for softer metal. The harder the work to be cut the greater should be the angle formed by the edge, and the softer the metal the more acute the edge. The same rule applies in a lesser degree to wood cutting tools.

A HANDY LEVEL

Very often on the farm some construction work is being done which it is desirable to get leveled up, so that a good, neat job will result. A builder's same time if one is not available a level surface can be readily obtained by the use of a common iron square and a

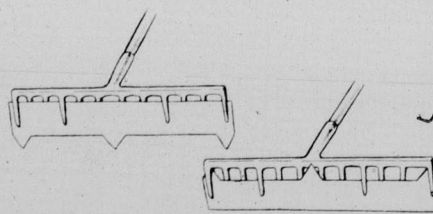


plumb line. For example, a wall is level is not very expensive, but at the being built and the proper level is required for it. Take a piece of board about three feet long, sharpen one end and drive it firmly in the ground. Make a notch in the top of the stick large enough to hold the square firmly in position, as shown in the drawing. Now get a piece of string having a weight attached to its end and suspend it close to the square so that its short end may be set exactly parallel with the suspended plumb-bob. When this is done, the top of the square will be exactly horizontal. Now by sighting over the square any irregularity in the object to be levelled can be very readily discovered.

The same arrangement can be used in a hilly country to take levels on the ground so that the contour or general outline of the piece of ground surveyed over can be mapped out. To do this the square is placed and levelled up with the plumb line as before described and then a sight can be taken over the level edge towards a pole or measuring rod held at any desired point. If a line of levels is desired along a piece of land in order to decide just where it is best to dig a ditch for drainage purposes, this may readily and cheaply be done by following out the method described above.

MARKER FOR GARDEN RAKE

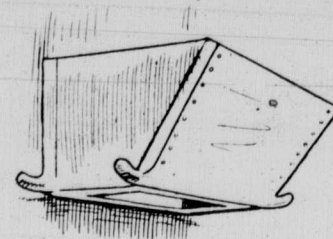
A good way to make drills or seed rows of uniform width and depth is to have an attachment for the garden rake as shown in the sketch. The device consists of a piece of tin or sheet



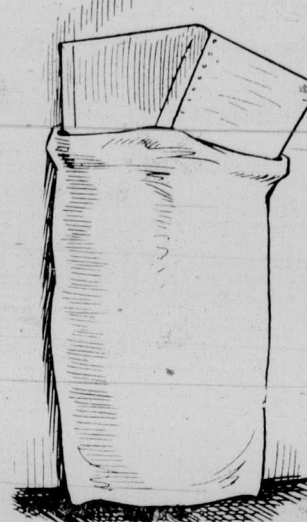
metal having V-shaped projections on one edge the width of the rows. The other edge of the metal is inserted between the teeth on the rake. Thus it can be easily drawn over the garden bed to mark the rows. After the seed has been planted, reverse the tin and use it as a hoe for filling the row.

HOPPER FOR FILLING GRAIN BAGS

Just recently an enquiry has been received for a contrivance which can be



used to hold bags while they are being filled in the granary with a grain scoop. The accompanying drawings illustrate a very simple arrangement. It consists of a hopper, open, of course, at the bottom and just wide enough below to fit the mouth of the grain bag. At the top it should be made a little wider than the scoop shovel. The back board is made long enough to nail up to two of the granary studdings and it is cut at the bottom with a projection on each end over which the mouth of the bag is stretched. The front board, too, is cut in the same manner so that the mouth of the bag is held in position around the open bottom of the hopper. The hopper should be nailed securely to the granary wall just low enough so



that the bottom of the bag when being filled will rest firmly on the floor.

A VERMIN GUARD

Very often farm cellars and granaries are badly infested with mice and perhaps in some parts, even rats have appeared. In order to keep food, grain or other edible materials away from the attacks of these pests it is often suspended from a wire or string attached to the joists or rafters of the cellar or granary as the case may be. But even placed in this way it is not safe. To overcome this, however, a very simple device may be made use of. Procure the bottoms of some old fruit cans by melting the solder which holds them upon a hot stove. Bore holes in the centre of these discs and string a few of them loosely upon the wire, cord or rod on which the articles are hung. When a rat or mouse attempts to pass upon the rope by climbing over the tin discs these will turn and throw the animal upon the floor.

A Polished Diplomat

"Did you see anything that particularly struck your fancy when you were looking around the furniture shops today?" asked a young husband of his bride on her return from a tour of furniture inspection.

"Yes," she replied, "I saw some thing exceedingly pretty in looking-glasses."

"I have no doubt you did," he observed, "if you looked into them."

And the halo of a calm, sweet peace rests upon that home.