

STEAM PLOUGHS—FARMING BY STEAM.

We published a few days since a description of the Fawke's steam plough, an invention which must revolutionize farming upon the prairies, and in this connection it may not be amiss to call attention to the great advance made by Great Britain, especially England, in cultivation by steam. In England, farmers already thresh, clean and grind their grain, bring home, feed and sell stock, all by means of that indispensable agent, steam. A homestead without a steam engine, in England, is almost as half finished as without a mistress, or a parish church without a parson. Of course there are still minor matters scarcely as yet brought within the field of its operations. But these are all bound to follow, and English farmers will soon grub up their roots, pump their water, warm their cattle in winter and cool them in summer as methodically as they now cut chaff or winnow wheat.

That steam cultivation will come into general use in every department of agriculture in England no one there now denies. At the last Farmers' Club meeting the question was fully discussed, and it was announced that Prince Albert had purchased one of the celebrated steam cultivators by Fowler & Smith, and it was agreed that once realize ploughing by steam, and drilling, draining, hoeing, and like work on a farm must follow "naturally."

At the London Farmers' Club, held May 2d, 1859, Mr. Mechi went fully into the subject. He has by horse plough and subsoiler broken up land very deep and proposes to break it up by steam plough a yard deep.

A Mr. Smith said that steam cultivation is an accomplished fact, and profitably so, therefore it is practically attained. Fowler & Smith have been practically proved superior to horse power in saving cost and in effect, and the Royal Agricultural Society of England has sealed it by an award and medal. Who shall say that we shall not have scarifiers and grubbers, by one hundred horse power, go down four, five or six feet? He had done best on a soil accidentally fourteen feet deep, by a filling in.

Halkett's Guideway Steam Cultivator is pronounced in England noble, simple and unerring. Boydell's Traction Engine is now drawing coals in Manchester at a penny a ton a mile on the highway.

Collinson Hall's Portable Engine, of 320 lbs. pressure, burns in a day's work of ten hours 8s. 4d. worth of coals.

Lord Willoughby de' Eresby's "California," a portable engine, on exhibition in 1851 at the Crystal Palace, London, is pronounced one of the most perfect and powerful engines ever seen.

John C. Morton, another member of the Club compares horse and steam power, and is convinced that steam is twice as cheap as horse. A farm of 200 acres, according to Mr. Morton, can fully employ a steam engine. Small farms can agree to hire or can keep one. Steam will do all the work in much less time than horses. At the Middlesex Cattle Show, steam cut in 3 minutes hay into chaff, 128 lbs.; roots for sheep, 314 lbs.; for bullocks, 620 lbs.; roots pulped, 490 lbs.; thick oil cake broken, 165 lbs.; corn, (wheat) winnowed in 13 minutes, 791 sheaves; barley threshed and dressed in 5 minutes 100 sheaves.

Fowler's steam machine ploughed 6 by 9 (a three horse work), an acre in an hour, at the cost of 9s. 2d. per acre.

On an English railway they carry 240 tons of coal a mile in three minutes for 2d.

The manufacturers of England employ 150,000 engines equal to 3,000,000 horses.

Halkett's plan of steam cultivation is parallel rails over the field; deeper cultivation between them and no hardening soil by carts and waggons. These rails are so many straight line guides for planting. I can till, hoe, etc., 150 or 200 acres in 24 hours, and not a foot is set upon the soil. The whole can be drilled in 24 hours ready for seeding. I spread liquid manure rapidly; I water it for a shilling an acre; I mow grass for less than a shilling an acre.

The cost of English steam ploughs is as follows:—Smith's, £500; ploughs 7 acres per day. Fowler's, £270; ploughs 8 acres per day. Smith's costs per day at work, £2 3s. 4d. Fowler's costs per day at work, £2 1s. 7d.

These are some of the facts given at a late meeting of London Farmer's Club, and we have no doubt will much interest our Western readers. The Great West is yet to be the field for steam cultivation, and its triumphs elsewhere must be eclipsed by those which it will realize upon the prairies of Illinois and other Western States.—*Chicago Democrat.*