

influence a preponderance over all other considerations, it is destroying of all knowledge on the art. In Scotland, the English kind of ploughing passes merely for an imitation of good ploughing. In England, the *swing ploughs* used are constructed to please the friends who rest all criterions of efficiency on the dynamometer, and the wheel ploughs cannot set a furrow: so neither of the English ploughs can manage but common furrows, such as 5 x 8, 6 x 9, 7 x 10, which will not at all be accepted in Scotland in lea-ploughing. King's and Ransome's swing ploughs—at present the best England makes—were at one time the only kind used in Scotland, but the superior ploughs of the West, from Wilkie's original improvements, have gradually progressed to the East, and, in their course, are not leaving a solitary instance of the Ransome kind that it ever existed there—notwithstanding all the ludicrous attempts of the East to suppress the invasion; but the matches told a woeful tale to the implement of the Eastern counties, by the implements of the wild moors of the West beating them hollow off the ground; but the time is not far distant when the English style will change, and wheel ploughs become practically unknown in England.

At present, however, from the scope given to improvement by such as the Highland and Agricultural Societies of Scotland, theoretical men are judges of mechanical Agriculture implements, and follow the proper notions sometimes a little in their decisions, and thus influence agricultural implement makers to depart from their better judgment, for interest sake, in the construction of their implements. I will here give two cases of both times at which the Highland Agricultural Society's Show was held at Glasgow, in 1844 and 1850.

The Grays' of Addington, along with many others, competed for the Society's prize, for the horse plough of light draught, and won the prize. I remember well of that in 1844, when standing with one of the sons, with whom I was well acquainted, how he chuckled to himself and laughed at the many criticisms of the many farmers respecting the merits of the premium plough; as to its qualities for lea ploughing, each had some objection, such as the sock too flat, the coulter

not plum enough one way, and too plum another, and the mould board too baul or convex, and altogether a shade too light. Unable to contain himself longer, he wheeled round, giving me a *dump with his elbow*, and saying in a merry mood:—"They're right enough, but she *wasna* made for *matching*, but was made for light draught for the dynamometer," and perhaps through this very plough he obtained many orders. But in making or mounting a plough for a *crack* ploughman, for catching prizes, how different the construction and trim in the superficies that gives the results! Then, at the same Society's Show, held last July in Glasgow, the same kind of farce was acted over again, which I here quote from a letter of a friend—a blacksmith, and judge on the matter he speaks of. Respecting the implements, he says:—"The Glasgow's were all beat with the ploughs. The plough that got the first prize was of the class of ploughs, as Smalls, with a loug convex board—the sock horizontal with the sole—and the coulter in plum with the landside plane. She may do for fallow or red land, but for work that requires *setting*, such as lea, she will be a vexation. At a glance, I saw she was nothing for particular lea, but I examined her properly for satisfaction. The owner and exhibitor was explaining its properties to a number of farmers, but one of them questioned him about its lea working qualities, and doubted much whether it would plough that well. The exhibitor said it had beat all the rest, and besides it was *easier drawn*. I then put in my word, and asked, if that was a great improvement? He replied, I was not acquainted with ploughs, or I would never have asked that. I said, I was that much acquainted with the subject, that I could give him this strange piece of information, that its lightness of draught, from its construction, constituted its defects for the lay ploughing, and was no improvement at all, but rather an overlook, and a very ignorant one, of the judges, and that it, nor any of its sort, that is so easy drawn, could no more plough a *round ridge of lea* properly, than it could fly in the air. He then said he'd bet £50, that it would plough old lea, any place in Scotland, as well as any plough on the Show ground. Well, said I, here's one that I'll take, (I did not