

NEW PRAIRIE PLOW.

We see in the western papers notices of a newly invented plow, which promises to be a very valuable acquisition, if what is said of it be correct. Mr. E. Abbott, former editor of the *Valley Farmer* at St. Louis, writes to that paper as follows:—

"This afternoon we rode out on the prairie to witness the first experimental trial of a new prairie plow, the first of which has just been finished at the Eagle Foundry in this city. Mr. Jesse Frye, its inventor and builder, is a most ingenious mechanic, and by the production of this implement has put himself in the front rank of inventors. The plow of which we speak is styled 'An adjustable anti friction carriage plow: and when we say that with two horses attached to it, a furrow twenty-four inches wide and five inches thick was rapidly turned in the toughest kind of prairie sod, and that too in ground that had been beat down by cattle, and dried by the summers drouth, until it was as hard and as dry as ground could be, our readers will not think us extravagant when we style it one of the greatest inventions of the age. Moreover in this trial, the driver of the team and the inventor of the plow, both heavy men, rode at their ease on a seat prepared for the purpose, and placed over the plow. It appears a very simple machine easily adjustable, and not liable to get out of repair. An ordinary plow-man can ride at his ease, manage the plow, and drive without difficulty. A select number of the best mechanics and scientific men of this city, all without a dissenting voice, pronounced themselves wonderfully pleased at this success, and considered that it would save at least 75 per cent. of the power usually employed in breaking prairie. Several farmers present affirm, that with a team of four horses, they could easily break four acres per day of prairie, than they could two acres with an ordinary breaking team of twelve oxen. Some of the peculiarities about this plow are:—

"*First*—It is supported on a carriage which runs on four wheels. This carriage takes all the *weight* of the plow, leaving nothing to be dragged on the ground. It also overcomes all the *land side* friction—the share being held firmly in its position by its attachment to the frame of the carriage, cannot press upon the land sides. Thus when the plow is out of the ground, a boy twelve years old can move it all about the lot, a feat not easily performed by two men with an ordinary breaking plow.

"*Second*—The mold-board is composed of anti-friction rollers, which are arranged in most scientific manner, so as to lift the turf and turn it over, with the least possible resistance, thus overcoming nearly all the friction from this operation.

"We believe Mr. Frye has perfected an improvement in the plow which is of immense importance to the farmers of our country, and as the principle is equally applicable to plowing all kinds of land, we predict a great change in the manner of performing this hitherto laborious but necessary part of farm labour. We learn from Mr. Frye that he will visit several of the fairs this fall."

We add to the above the following from the *Illinois Farmer*.

"On the 16th of August there was a public trial of this plow on the Sangamon Bottom Prairie, at what is called 'Marsh's Ferry.' The trial was made on what is called swamp ground, the toughest piece of ground that could be found in the whole prairie. The plow was put into the ground about three o'clock and was drawn by four horses. It did the work well, cutting some twenty-six inches. The ground was, of course, baked hard. It was hard work for the horses; but it was conceded by good farmers present, that eight yoke of cattle would not have drawn a common plow, cutting the same width which was cut by the Adjustable Plow, with anything like the ease with which the horses did their work.

"At the close of the trial, the company present was organized into a meeting, and the following resolution passed:—

"Resolved, It is the sense of this meeting that the 'Adjustable Anti-Friction Carriage Plow,' invented by Mr. Jesse Frye, is an important improvement on any plow now in use, and will do more with less power than any plow with which we are acquainted."

We need only add, that since the above noticed trial of the plow was made, it has been subjected to several other trials, and in all cases has been successful. The exact amount of the power saved cannot be ascertained except by the use of the dynamometer.

To see two or three horses breaking prairie with a plow cutting twenty-six inches—the plowman seated comfortably on a seat above the plow—having the team and the plow at perfect control—is a gratifying and wonderful sight, even in these days of progress.—

Wisconsin Farmer.