

Stupendous Loss From Neglected Implements

Mac. C. Cutting, Associate Editor, "The Farmer," St. Paul, Minn.

One of the most stupendous losses that our farmers are bearing is directly the result of their own negligence and carelessness. The ravages of insects and diseases on their crops and the disastrous effects of drouth, hail and frost, they are not responsible for, and the battle against such ad-



One Good Way of Cultivating Corn

verse conditions must be energetic and continuous if they are to reap the benefits of their farming operations. But there is another great drain on the natural revenues of the farm, ranking high in its effects among the conditions mentioned and far more easily remedied, for which the farmer deserves absolutely no sympathy or support, as the responsibility rests entirely on his own shoulders, and the evil can be averted only by his own voluntary action. This is the loss and depreciation in value of farm machinery due principally to wilful exposure to the action of the elements and in a lesser degree to the lack of repair equipment.

The financial loss to the farmers of America from this cause actually amounts up to the million dollars, and it is strange indeed that such a condition of affairs should be allowed to exist in this enlightened age among a class of the community noted collectively for their thrift, their industry, their hard common sense and their practical appreciation of the worth of dollars. Still more unaccountable does it appear when we consider that the farmer, who has learned the necessity of constant activity and constant attention to details in the production of profitable crops, remains undisturbed at this most obvious wasting of his profits.

THIS NEGLECT IS WIDESPREAD.

The exposure of farm machinery is not confined to a few scattered homesteads, but is evident on thousands of our average farms where the experience of years should have brought understanding, but where the plow still stands in the last furrow, to be worked around in the summer, and the binder remains where the last sheaf was cut, and the plow is plowed around in the spring. Seeders, harrows, mowers and rakes sink quietly out of sight beneath a hiding mantle of snow as though thankful to escape from the shame of their exposed position and the sneering comments of passersby.

The remedy for this condition is the storehouse or implement shed. The excuse for leaving machinery out of doors is usually that it is too expensive to build a shed; but this is no excuse at all, as the money lost by exposure in a lifetime would build a shed to house all the tools in the neighborhood, and the investment would work a permanent improvement, whereas in the other case the money vanishes into thin air. It would be cheaper, if necessary, to borrow money for this purpose, as the man in such straitened circumstances would inevitably go further into debt with

the waste of his machinery than with the cost of a shed to house it.

It is not necessary to erect an architecturally beautiful building for this purpose, but simply to build some kind of a shed that is sufficiently large to contain all the implements and tools of the farm and tight enough to protect them from the destructive action of inclement weather.

Machines for Cultivating Corn

N. C. Campbell, Brant Co., Ont.

There are many machines that the farmer can get along without, though it is sheer folly to do without them. On any farm where large areas of corn are grown, the two-horse corn cultivator is a machine that comes within this class. For years we cultivated from eight to 10 acres of corn each year by means of an old-fashioned one-horse scuffler. It did good work, but it was hard work on the man and on the horse, and unless the operator had a special interest in the crop, the work proceeded slowly. It became known that fairly good work could be done with an ordinary spring tooth cultivator by adjusting the teeth so as to fit the rows. We made a trial of this implement and it did the work so well that for the most part it occupied the place formerly taken by the scuffler. It had its drawbacks, however, the wheels not being the proper width apart often broke down much corn, and it required much care on the part of the driver else much damage would be done.

Finally, quite by accident, we were induced to

Cannot Afford to Be Without It

Enclosed please find \$2.00, for which give me credit on my subscription. I like Farm and Dairy very much. The various articles published therein seem to have so much of the practical side in them, coming as they do from men who have made a specialty of some particular branch of farm or dairy work on which they write. In fact, I do not see how anyone engaged in any rural pursuit can afford to be without Farm and Dairy in his home, especially since it is published at the exceedingly low price of only \$1 for 52 copies.—N. S. McLaughlin, Huron Co., Ontario

try the machine made for the purpose, and forthwith the other cultivator was laid aside never again to cultivate the growing corn. The two-horse corn cultivator is the greatest machine conceivable for cultivating corn. With its interchangeable narrow and wide points and its protecting shields, cultivation can be given as deep or as shallow, and as thorough, as suits the operator. With its swinging sections controlled by the feet of the driver, a row of corn can be followed and given the best possible cultivation without damage from covering or from the wheels breaking down the corn in the adjoining rows. Words fail one when about to contrast this machine with the old-time scuffler. Suffice it to say that aside from its superior work, the operator is enabled to ride, thereby saving his energy and inducing him to push the work along.

House the Implements.—It is nothing short of folly for so many farmers to invest so much money in farm implements and then leave them exposed to the mercy of the wind and storms. On my own farm, I have 1,700 feet of machine shed floor space. I never allow any implement on wheels to remain in the field over night, as there is a good wide lane to the whole length of the farm and a good wide gate to every field, leaving no excuse for not having farm machinery housed every night and thus saving wear and tear from storms, etc.—E. Terrill, Northumberland Co., Ont.

Decided Preference for New Machines

D. Osborne, Assiniboia East, Sask.

Whenever any of my machinery is getting out of date or is about worn out, I always trade it off, taking whatever I can get for it. I follow this practice especially with a binder. I traded off my last six-foot-out binder last year on a new eight-foot-binder. I now have four eight-foot binders and with them we cut 700 acres of grain in a little less than 10 days' time working nine and one-half hours per day.

The time that it especially pays to have good machines is when we are cutting grain. Then wages are from \$2.50 to \$3.00 a day. Time is money and we realize it when wages are high and the grain is ripe. We can ill afford then to make any stops in order to make repairs.

This year I traded my portable engine for a new traction engine. I ran the old one for seven years, and I do not remember having lost one hour of work with it or spent \$5 on it for repairs. I could not expect such results with that engine for the next seven years. It has paid for itself, however, two or three times over, so now I have purchased a new engine of the same power as the old one, paying \$1,000 on the deal. The advantages of the traction will more than pay for the difference that it took to make this deal; and then we have not as yet taken into consideration that we have a new engine that will in all probability run for seven or eight years without any expense or loss of time.

How to Destroy Wire Worms

Thos. D. McGill, Shelburne Co., N. S.

Forty years ago there were a few wire worms in a corner of one of my fields. They gradually spread and drove us from one acre to another until I was cleaned out of that field so far as a crop was concerned. I could not raise potatoes or grain on that land, as the wire worms would destroy the plants. I seeded this down to grass 30 years ago, never to touch it again, as it was so full of couch grass and wire worms.

At last I made the discovery how to destroy both the wire worms and the couch grass. So two years ago I plowed this piece of land and had potatoes on it last year. Not one potato plant was eaten nor did a spear of couch grass appear.

The way to destroy wire worms is to plow the land as soon as the grass has been cut. The field should then be kept perfectly clean by cultivating and harrowing it once a week. The second year of this practice will kill every wire worm, it makes no difference how thick they are. If the



But Here is a Much Better Way

This lower illustration shows Mr. S. A. Northcott, of Ontario Co., Ont., last summer as he was cultivating close with this way of cultivating corn have little experience with the other method, also depicted on this page.—Photo by an Editor of Farm and Dairy.

land is clear of couch grass, one will not need to harrow so often.

One season is not sufficient time to kill the wire worms, as they can exist on the dead roots of the grass; but the second year fixes them all right.

It is worthy of special mention that after spending over \$2,000 worth of the hardest kind of labor and then to fail, that after the methods I now follow, it costs me only about \$5.00 a year to kill the couch grass and to clean out the wire worms. I can show my fields to-day clear of these pests.