

The Double Plow.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I must say I heartily endorse the stand "The Farmer's Advocate" is taking in urging farmers to adopt wide, fast-working machinery. With labor at \$1.50 per day, every day saved means just so much larger a bank account. Having had some experience with double plows, I will give it for what it is worth. The first double plow I purchased was an Imperial Gang—a walking plow. This plow had a twelve-inch cut on each plow, and was not adjustable to a narrower cut. It did very well for skimming, in the spring, land that had been fall-plowed; but when I came to do deep fall-plowing with it, I found it a miserable failure. It was too heavy for three horses, and, moreover, it would not stand up to its work, but would kick out to the left when it struck a hard spot. I think this fault of "slewing" or running crooked is common to most walking double plows. In a short time I consigned this plow to the scrap-iron corner.

This spring I purchased a double riding plow, with rolling coulters. I have just finished plowing in seventeen acres of clover and timothy on a summer-fallow. I must say I never had an easier job in my life. The rolling coulters cut a clean furrow edge, chopping off the clover and grass like a cutting-box. A chain was used to pull down the tall stuff, so that it would cover. The plow turned everything upside down, and kept an even depth. Four inches was the average depth. I used four good horses, and found that they had sufficient load for a hot day. The off

horse walked on the plowed land, and was given an advantage; in fact, I gave the off team an advantage of 2 inches on the long "quad-rupletree." Much of the dislike to double plows arises from the fact that agents almost invariably represent them as being easily handled by three horses. This is a mistake, as the double riding plow, in almost any land, is a four-horse implement. My land is a friable clay loam, not at all stiff, and three horses would be badly overloaded.

I give below two styles of four-horse eveners, with measurements. No. 1 is best suited to a riding plow, while No. 2 is suitable for any implement where it will be carried on the tongue. Any man handy with tools can make them, or they can be purchased for from \$5 to \$5.50.

In style No. 1, one of the doubletrees is placed below, the other above, the long evenner. This prevents "swing" of the evenners. Two large washers are placed between the doubletrees and the long evenner in No. 1, so that the doubletrees may work freely. The clevises are of flat iron. Into the center hole of the long evenner a piece of piping, large enough to admit a clevis bolt, is driven. This prevents the hole in the evenner from wearing. No. 2 style of evenner explains itself, and may be made of any length to suit the implement it is used on.

Dimensions of No. 1.—Long evenner, 5 feet 6 inches; doubletrees, 2 feet 7 inches; whiffletrees, 2 feet 4 inches. The hooks or clips can be obtained for about fifteen cents each. I have used No. 1 style on my double riding plow, with entire satisfaction. I use an evenner similar to No. 2 on the disk and cultivator.

In conclusion, I would say, when buying a double riding plow, by all means have the rolling coulters. I have considerable stone in my land, but the rolling coulters seem to get around them all right, and you are never annoyed by having a stone stuck between the coulter and the share.

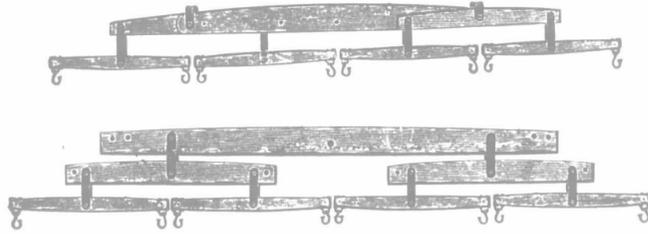
W. E. WILLIAMS.

Middlesex Co., Ont.

Twentieth-century Plowing.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I have just read your commentary, in July 1st number of "The Farmer's Advocate" regarding the value of the modern two-furrow plow to the Canadian farmer, and, as I have been a user of this implement for five or six seasons, I can



Two Styles of Four-horse Evenners.

heartily endorse your opinion as regards its utility, both as a time and labor saver, and a means of doing a first-class, even job.

Although a good many farmers fail to see it, yet, I believe that the two-furrow plow is one of the greatest mechanical boons ever conferred upon the agriculturist. As I stated above, I have used one a half dozen seasons in succession, and would not return to the old single-furrow method for anything. We use a two-wheeled Cockshutt walking plow, and, by opening it up, and cutting two twelve-inch furrows at a time, and hitching it to a four-horse team, I can plow four acres of the heaviest land in ten hours, providing the field is of fair length, thereby avoiding too much turning.

In your article, you remarked that, in using four horses, one would have to take the plowed ground. Now, while this may be true of some makes of plows, I find it is not so of the Cockshutt, as the plow is furnished with a wide draw device, which allows me to shift the four-horse evenner to the left to such an extent that I am enabled to put the off horse in the furrow, with the remaining three on the land.

Some men, on big farms, use the three-wheeled riding plow, but on a hundred-acre farm, where there are a good many fences, I would prefer the walking plow, as the former is furnished with a

tongue, and consequently requires more time and trouble to turn at the end; besides, I have noticed that, when at work, the off horse takes the plowed ground, because two horses are placed on each side of the tongue.

As to the choice of coulters, we like to have both kinds on hand, because the different kinds are more suitable to different conditions of surface. The rolling coulter works best where green manure or weeds are to be turned under, as they are fast to the ground, and cannot drag with the plow; but, where farmyard manure is put under, we prefer the straight coulter, because, if the ground is not quite hard, the rolling coulter is easily clogged, and the manure will drag until the plow is eventually thrown out of the ground; but, with the straight coulter this difficulty does not exist, as can be seen, except where the manure is unusually long, or contains many corn-stalks. Then, by standing on the plow, and using a stick of the proper strength, the straight coulter, being more easily cleaned, can have the obstructions pushed away from it while the plow is moving.

Another advantage in using the two-furrow plow is that the surface of the field is left perfectly even, providing it is even before being plowed, and that the levers are properly adjusted. This advantage is to be plainly seen when implements of tillage are brought on, as the furrows, being even, all come in for their share of tilling.

Regarding the number of horses needed to run the two-furrow walking plow, would say that four horses are not really necessary. We have plowed a great deal with three, but can cover about an acre more ground in ten hours with the fourth one.

In Essex County, many farmers every year are having their eyes opened to the incontestable value of this modern implement, and we believe it is safe to predict that, inside of ten years, no farmer of enterprise will be found trudging across the field in the old nineteenth-century method, turning a solitary 10-inch furrow.

Essex Co., Ont. SUBSCRIBER'S SON.

Harvesting Alfalfa for Seed.

In harvesting alfalfa for seed, cutting should be done when the greater proportion of the seeds are hard, but not sufficiently ripe to shell. At this stage a majority of the pods are turned a dark-brown color, and the seeds are fully developed. Frequently, the cutting can be raked into windrows after two hours, if the weather is drying, and in two or three hours more put into cocks, and let stand from twenty-four to forty-eight hours, as the weather may justify. It should, however, be well cured and thoroughly dry when put in the stack, or there is danger of heating, and stack-heating seriously injures the vitality of the seed. It is not uncommon, if extremely ripe, to leave the cutting in the swath only an hour, or a half hour, then stack, and let stand for autumn or later threshing. If allowed to stand in the stack for about thirty days, the entire mass goes through a sweating and curing process which makes the threshing easier, while less of the seed is left in the straw than would be if it had not been stack-cured. In Western Kansas many seed-raisers cut their seed crop with a self-binder, put the sheaves in shocks the same day, and thresh in about ten days, or put it into a stack to await a convenient threshing time. They claim to secure 20 per cent. more of the seed in this way than if they cut with the ordinary mower. Others cut with a mower having a dropper attachment, which leaves the alfalfa in small bunches, at the will of the driver, in the center of the swath, and these are "straddled" by the team and the wheels of the mower in the subsequent rounds. These bunches are left for two or three days, and then stacked. There is little, if any, danger from mold or spontaneous combustion in stacks of alfalfa cut for seed, but there is danger of the seed heating in the stack if stacked when damp. If bright, clean seed is expected, the stacks must be well topped with slough grass, covered with tarpaulins or boards, or given other protection. It is better still to put the alfalfa intended for seed into a barn.

One Western Kansas farmer reports that he used a self-binding harvester, shocked the sheaves like those of grain, let them stand ten days, and then put in a mow, with no bad results.—[From Coburn's "The Book of Alfalfa."]

Good feeders appreciate the value of choice, early cut clover hay. Rette Bros., of Oxford County, Ont., began clover haying this year on June 21st. By July 1st they had cut two pieces of clover, and were then haying in three or four acres of alfalfa. The earlier cuttings of clover were coiled. Later, the loader was used. The hay was then raked into small windrows in the evening, tilled in the morning, and hauled in the afternoon.



Saving One Man's Wages. A Two-furrow Plow in Essex County, Ont.