

### Surface Packer Advised

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE :

The topic for discussion this week should prove one of the most valuable that has been chosen since this excellent department was started some time ago. I look forward to the issue of the 19th with interest to learn what others have to say about this subject. The time has come when farmers more than ever realize the necessity of packing their land in one way or other, to conserve the moisture, and prevent the prairie winds from drying out the seed bed, the roller and the packer being two of the several agencies for securing this desired condition.

To prepare land for the harrow it should be harrowed until the soil is perfectly pulverized, with no large lumps on the surface. A farmer down East once said, "the roller is a curse to the average farmer." I believe him, for the simple reason that very few farmers take the time and trouble to get the soil in proper shape before applying the roller. The consequence is that these lumps are pushed into the ground, the result being an uneven crop.

There are two kinds of packers on the market, each doing different work under different conditions: one a surface packer, the other a sub-surface packer. The surface packer is an implement that every farmer should procure as soon as he is able, it being in my opinion away ahead of the roller, for general use. It not only packs the land well, but in so doing it breaks up the lumps, leaving the soil nice and mellow on top. The condition of the land would be much improved if it had one or two strokes of the harrow after the packer, which operation would make the soil take large sized "wheat granules." If the land is worked up too fine it is apt to blow, so there is a time to stop cultivation; but only very few of us reach that stage, it being generally the other way about, cultivation being stopped before it has proceeded far enough.

The subsoil packer is an implement which is used for the purpose from which it derives its name, viz., to pack the subsoil, and no doubt it does excellent work, but of the three mentioned, roller, surface packer and sub-surface packer, I would advise a beginner with limited means to purchase a surface packer, which implement I think could do least harm if used in the wrong place and at the wrong time, and nine cases out of ten it would undoubtedly be doing much good.

Man.

C. E. GULLAND.

### Advantages and Use of Packer

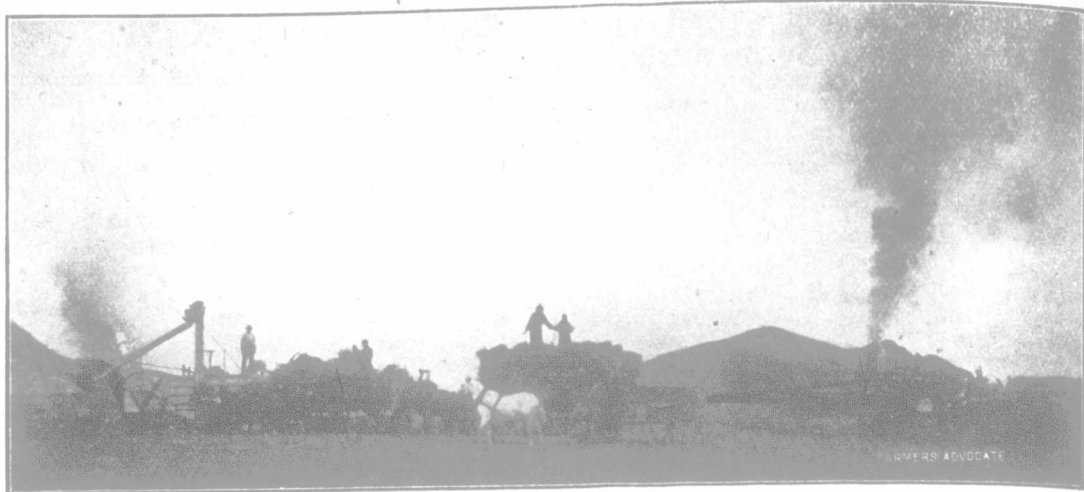
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In comparing the usefulness and efficiency of the roller and packer I would say that both implements are of great benefit to the soil, but I think the packer far superior to the roller. The roller was all right before the packer came into use, but in this enlightened twentieth century the roller is a thing of the past. My reasons for preferring the packer are that the land is left in such shape that it will not drift, and I think at the same time packing does as much good as once harrowing, for there is a mulch left on top that will help to retain moisture; whereas if the roller were used the land is left smooth and is sure to drift and not hold moisture near so well.

I will give my method of using the packer. I formerly packed all spring, plowing right after the plow without harrowing and then seeded, but I found this was not satisfactory, as there was not a uniform seed bed. Some places there was unevenness in the ground; in other places a few holes, and the grain was not sown at a uniform depth, consequently when it was harrowed some grain was covered too deeply. Last spring I harrowed all my land after plowing and then seeded. I found there was a great difference, as the harrowing helped to level the land and when the packer was used it made the land more solid, better seed bed was made and the grain came up more evenly. I would also advise harrowing before packing for other reasons. Packers are heavy implements and if the plowing is harrowed first the packer hauls easier and so does the seeder, thus saving horse flesh. My advice to the average farmer who is halting between two opinions whether to buy a packer or roller is this: Buy a packer and buy the best you can get and I am sure you will find that it will pay for itself in increased crops.

Man.

THOS. WALKER.



Threshing outfit belonging to Isaac Yerx at work on Orton Stoodley's farm in Neepawa district.

### Fame and Fortune on the Farm

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The boy leaves the farm in the first place to better his condition, to obtain an education and get in touch with human nature, so as to get fame and fortune. He wants to make a success of life in a higher calling, where chances to get rich are more promising; his very being calls to him to leave the prosaic life of the farm, where he has to be up late and early, work hard twelve hours a day in rough cloths, isolated from society, knowledge, finance and healthy mingling of fellow feelings or friendship, and ambitions such as all have. But one may get the embryo of future success on the farm; then if he wishes to gain a fortune he must leave the old homestead and follow the true path of business in one calling or another; go to the financier, brush up with the capitalist, learn of his ways, study bonds and securities, public utilities, railroading and promoting schemes. He wants to study politics, for if his ambition is to fill the premier's chair he can't waste his time doing work on a farm that a Doukshobor could do for \$1.00 a day. Can a man run a real estate office on an isolated prairie farm or in the back woods?

In a public gathering is it the poor farmer that is called to preside or make impromptu speeches? He would be out of his sphere; he has not had time to study the proper procedure; he has been feeding the stock, helping mother at her many labors, and by the time chores (and that word I will always dislike) he is fast asleep on floor or lounge—no time to read or study the great plans of the world at large. Even if they did try to delve into financer or statesmanship the environments of the farm are not conducive to accomplishment. He has seen only a few neighbor boys and heard the common farmer talk when they meet, and all they said was: "Have you commenced to sow? Have you cut any wheat; threshed yet, going to ship your own grain? I am ahead. I got 10c. a bushel more than the elevators would give me," and he does not figure out that the man who shipped it for him does that.

The conversation one hears on the farm does not entertain or instruct, I can say it from experience. I was raised on a farm, and I am still a farmer and very successful, but I do think had I had my boyhood wish granted, that of the railroading, I would have done better, get much

enjoyment and contentment and had my dollars to show for my work; as my heart would have been in my business, and it has never been in my farm. To-day when I see a train I wish I had control of it.

The chance of success in getting fame and fortune is not on a farm. Garfield left the farm to follow a mule on the toepath on the canal which lead to the White House. Lincoln ran a rowboat on the river Mississippi for delivering trunks to the steamer—the first money he ever earned. That doesn't speak well for his home and the farm, and he never went back to the farm. James J. Hill commenced work as a section hand at \$1.45 a day. This was more to his taste than farming. He can talk farm for the other fellow—he will make more money.

Jay Gould left the farm to make a sun dial, and that beat his farming, because it led up to fame and fortune. Vanderbilt made his first pile boating on the Hudson River. He never could have built up the Vanderbilt railroads following a plow. But why cite instances to prove that it is wise for a smart boy to leave the farm? Can you think of one who left the farm, made a success, got rich and went back to following a drag across a dry wind-swept seed-bed of a quarter section, dust-covered horses, dust-drifted on every part of the body, eyes filled full, teeth gritty with the sand? When he goes into his meals he is a stranger to himself in the mirror. I fail to see anyone returning to the farm to carry hay or straw, the wind blowing 50 miles an hour and the thermometer near 40 below zero. Think of drawing water from an open well with the old broken bucket that used to hang in the well—but ice has filled it up so it cannot hang there.

There are some pleasant things on a farm, but a boy cannot see them until he has been away in business for himself, until he is 60 or 70 years old, then he tries to tell the boys how they should stick to the farm. He knows that only once a year will you see any money, and then only till November 1st, when father pays his debts and the boys may get 10c. for peanuts. It is like the doctor's medicine—better to prescribe than take it.

Boys, take my advice; improve your time on the farm, in school read and study; get all the papers and books you can read, find out what line you like best; then as soon as you have your high school education make a break for fame and fortune, never to return to the farm except as a visitor or a landlord. SASKATCHEWAN FARMER.



Threshing finished on the farm belonging to M. Csversko, a Hungarian in the Galician settlement some miles from Neepawa, Man. Mr. Csversko has been 23 years on this place and always has good crops.