

Ditching Machines

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ONE of the greatest hinderances to underdrainage in Ontario to-day is the slowness and the high cost of existing methods of digging the trench. Especially is this true during the dry part of the year, when the ground is hard, when the spade is of no avail, and the pick and shovel must be resorted to. During

In cases where the ground is hard enough to need picking there are two implements now on the market which facilitate the digging very materially. The "pick-plow," manufactured by various plow companies, has under actual test been shown to reduce the cost of digging forty-one and two-thirds per cent. below the cost when the hand



SIDE VIEW OF DITCHING MACHINE.

the months of July, August and September ditching operations are practically at a standstill because, owing to the extreme hardness of the ground the diggers cannot "make wages," and the farmers are unwilling to pay a higher price in the summer than that for which the work can be done in spring or fall when the ground is soft, and so the operations are held back.

pick was used. The ditching plow manufactured by the Wilkinson Plow Co. is also said to work very well and lessen the cost materially, but I have no figures as to the exact percentage.

But even these are not fast enough, and for many years the need of a ditching machine has been keenly felt. Many have been tried, but none manufactured in Canada has passed the trial