

Still Raises Some Hogs.

In a section where sale of milk to condensary and powder factory had well-nigh extinguished not only the cheese but the hog business, it was somewhat of a relief, the other day, to run across a farmer, W. B. Roberts, of Elgin County, Ont., who still keeps about one hundred head of swine. Mr. Roberts, in partnership with his brother, farms 600 acres of land. He breeds his sows for two litters a year, arranging, as far as possible, to have them come in March and August, respectively. The fifty August pigs are wintered on mangels and corn, receiving also rape and alfalfa, and having the run of the corn stubble in autumn. They are sent off in May and June, being thus kept long enough to have a little green feed before finishing. The spring litters are finished on corn, of which ten acres of Longfellow and Compton's Early are grown, to be harvested by the hogs. This system throws a lot of hogs on the December market, which is not usually a good one, but Mr. Roberts follows it because it suits his system of farming. He does not attempt, without milk, to finish his hogs at six months of age, but rather counts on eight or nine months. As to breed, he finds nothing better than the Tamworth-Berkshire cross, preferring the Berkshire sow as being easy to keep, and quiet. Mr. Roberts is quite an enthusiastic advocate of alfalfa, and recommends adding three to five pounds alfalfa seed per acre to the regular seed mixture, in order to improve the pasturage, his only proviso being that he would not include the alfalfa when sowing a field from which he hoped to thresh a crop of clover seed.

The appointment of Dr. F. Torrance, V. S., D. V. S., the newly-designated Veterinary Director-General of Canada, dates from August 1st. It is expected that he will attend the meetings of the American Veterinary Medical Association, and of the International Commission of Bovine Tuberculosis, about the end of the month.

THE FARM.

Device for Stacking Hay.

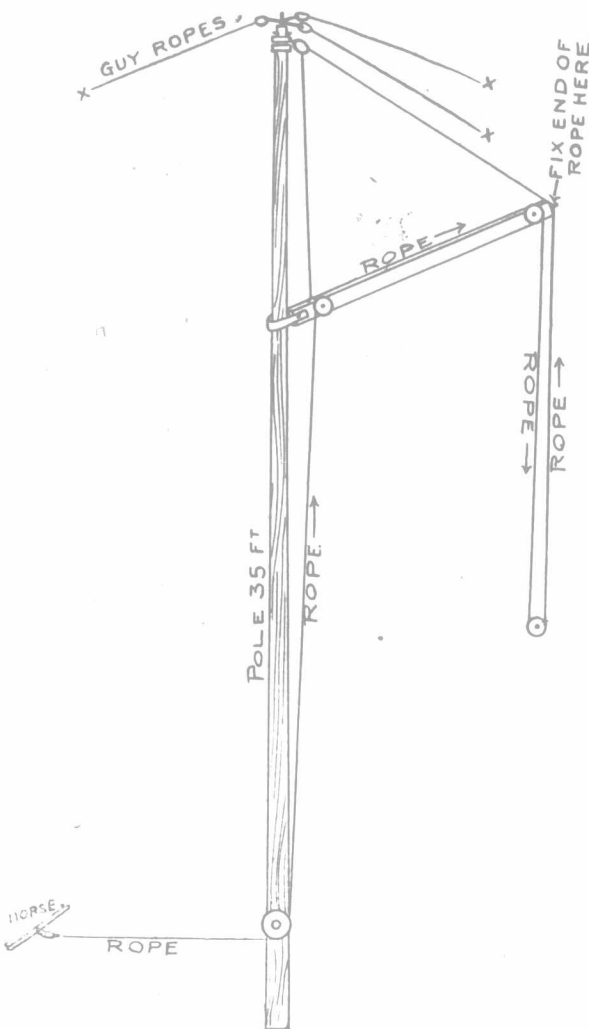
Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I notice in your issue of July 11th a request for a description of a horse fork for the purpose of stacking hay. If you can follow my instructions, I will try to help your inquirer. I have been the means of getting two outfits erected in this vicinity, and I can assure you that, for anyone who has a lot of outside stacking to do, it saves a lot of heavy labor.

In the first place, you require a straight tree (an oak, or one similar in fibre). If the person inquiring has a bush on his place, he will probably find one suitable; get one about 9 or 10 inches thick at the bottom, tapering to 6 inches at top, with a length of 35 feet, or a little less will do, but the higher the better, if your tree is strong enough. Trim your tree, or pole, as you will now call it, so as to remove any knots or roughness. Three feet six inches from bottom mortise a hole right through pole for the purpose of inserting pulley wheel, which must be a shade wider than the pole, so as to clear the rope from rubbing on side of pole. On top of pole you require to trim about 9 inches perfectly round, and fix an iron virole or shoe around the end of the pole that you have made perfectly round, and be sure that it is about 9 inches deep, leaving extreme end open on top. Put a flange on lower end of virole about an inch wide. On top of this flange fix a flat ring about 2 inches wide, which must be loose, for the purpose of swinging round, and in this ring punch a hole and insert a big link, or two, if you like. Be sure to make the links big enough so as to admit a good-sized rope. Now, on top of this flat ring there should be a hole drilled right through the pole, and a bolt or round piece of iron put right through the hole and fixed there, so as to keep flat ring as level as possible when the weight is on it, but be sure to give the flat ring enough room to permit it to travel round easily. On the very top you require three rings for the purpose of attaching guy ropes. This is quite easily done by drilling a hole in extreme end on top, and driving a round piece of iron into hole. Now take a flat piece of iron about 8 inches long and fix a ring or link on each end; put a hole in center and slip on to the round piece that is driven in end. Take another piece half the length and put a hole in one end and a ring in the other, and slip on the end, too; and now you have three rings to tie your guy ropes to.

Now you require a jib for swinging hay on to stack. The jib must be 9 or 10 feet long, and must be a piece of good strong wood, at least 6 inches square on inside and a little less on outside end. On inside end fix a clamp so as to fix or slip against the pole. Six inches from inside end mortise a hole for pulley wheel, and fix a clevis on along with axle pin of pulley; on outside end,

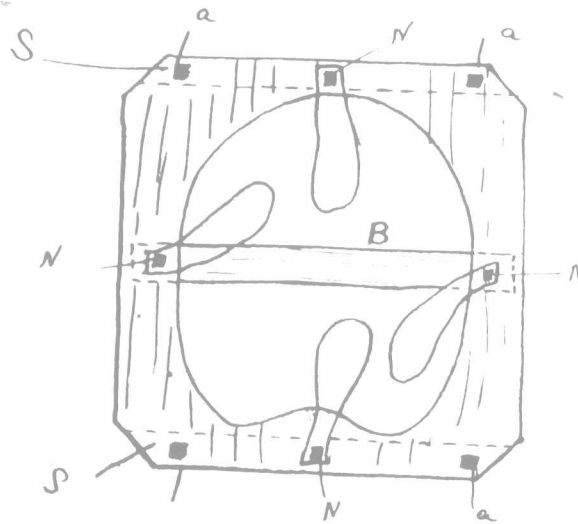
practically same as above, only keep as near end as you think will be reasonably safe with your pulley and clevis. Now you can attach your jib to flat ring on top. With a piece of strong rope, tie from outside end of jib to flat ring on top, then from inside end to same ring on top. Now, this jib can be fixed there stationary, or, if preferred, may be slung on blocks, so as to be movable from the ground at will, whichever is preferred. All that is required now is a long rope for the purpose of working the fork. Pass that through the pulley at bottom of pole, then up and over the pulley at inside end of jib, along the jib and over the pulley at outside end of jib, and down to the ground to your fork. Your fork will



Hay-stacking Device.

likely be one of the usual kind, with a pulley wheel on top of it. If it is, don't fix your rope to fork, but pass round pulley wheel on fork and take it up and fix the end of rope on outside extremity of jib. This little device, being a great saving on horse-power, should not be omitted.

Your rope should not be any less in thickness than one-half inch. The best rope is three-quarter inch, and be sure your pulleys are a little wider of groove than the rope, as thereby your rope will not cut up, and will run more easily. One word as to your guy ropes, be sure your three stakes for tying them to are far enough out not to interfere with the swinging of the jib. In erecting fork, cut round hole about six inches deep where you want it to stand; it is pretty difficult to get up on end. The best way to erect it is to load a wagon of hay, lift up the top end of pole on back end, and back up the horse until you have got it up. Be sure to have a man at each guy rope so as to steady it. Give your



Bog Shoe.

Size, about 1 x 10 x 12 ins.; B, iron bar 1 x 1/4 in.; N, nuts holding straps in place; A, small bolts; S, small strip on under side of board.

pole a list or incline of about six inches, or a little more, so as to enable the jib to swing easily onto stack. Be sure to keep outside end of jib a good bit higher than inside end.

JOHN WRIGHT.

Bog Shoes.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In a recent issue of "The Farmer's Advocate" R. C. was inquiring for a bog shoe for horses. I am enclosing in this a rough sketch of one that we have used for a number of years on our horses in working on a beaver meadow. The shoes are easily made out of a good tough board about 1 x 10 x 12 inches, but the size depends somewhat on the size of the horse. The hole for the foot should be just large enough to allow the bog shoe to slip on over the ordinary shoe. A narrow strip of wood is bolted to the board at either end to strengthen the wood, and a bar of iron about half way between these to bear the weight of the horse. At the four points marked (n) in the sketch looped straps are bolted to the wood on the upper side, and these are long enough so as to allow them to reach above the coronet, and then a strap is run through them and buckled snugly around the pastern of the horse. For an ordinary-sized horse, they need not be more than six inches when they are doubled. The nuts should all be on the upper side of the shoe, and the strips of wood and the bar are all on the lower side.

In using shoes, it is never necessary to use more than two, which are put on the hind feet, and in most cases one on the left foot is sufficient, and with both feet thus shod the horse will walk on places where a load cannot be taken off.

NORMAN C. MCKAY.

Bruce Co., Ont.

Another Bog Shoe Described.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I noticed a query re bog shoes in last week's issue. I never used any, but have seen them. They are simply pieces of plank, wide enough to project about two and a half inches each side of the foot, and of approximately the same length, the thickness of the plank depending upon its toughness, some material being less likely to split than other.

On the upper side of the bog shoe, holes are bored corresponding to the caulk of the iron shoe, which must fit snugly into same to keep the bog shoe from slipping out of place when fastened on. The method of fastening on consists of a light iron band going over the horse's hoof, and fitted with nuts on each end, the band being fitted snugly to the hoof, and both ends going down through the bog shoe close to the sides of the hoof. This, in connection with the caulk holes on the upper surface of the bog shoe, seems to hold it firmly in place, and users have told me that the two or two and a half inch projection on the inside of the foot does not seem to cause interfering, as one would suppose, especially after the horse has worn them for a few minutes. So, you see, the bog shoes are no elaborate affair, being only a square piece of plank, which will prevent the horse's sinking into the soft ground, and fastened to the foot in a very simple manner, which may be accomplished by most any handy man.

B. ARMSTRONG.

Northumberland Co., Ont.

"Ifs" and "Buts" of After-Harvest Cultivation.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In discussing the after-harvest cultivation of our grain fields, we will find the topic quite productive of "ifs" and "buts."

"If" you do as we have done for many years, you will have all your grain fields seeded down with clover and timothy, and then there is no after-cultivation, and there generally ought not to be any pasturing, or, at the worst, as little as possible, if the good of the next crop is considered. "But," we are told, "The best-laid plans of mice and men gang aft a'glee," and on most farms there are seasons and times when our plans are so abortive, and our hopes so shattered, that, like a bad stomach-ache, it becomes a case for the doctor. And the doctors of agriculture are not quite plentiful enough that we may be able to call one for consultation and prescriptions for every peculiar and particular case. And every case is a problem peculiar unto itself. Herein lies the necessity that the successful farmer be a man of intelligence, judgment and decision, with great executive ability.

So far as after-harvest tillage is concerned on our farms, on grain fields, it is nil. Our grain is all following sod or hoe crop, and is followed by sod. Our soil is all light to loamy, with open bottom. We are anxious to have as much organic matter, therefore aim to have as much growing on it as we can. We only break up long enough before seeding to get a well-settled seed-bed.

"If" intended for wheat, the sod will need