

*Geo Archer*

# THE MONTHLY FARMERS' ADVOCATE

PERSEVERE OR SUCCEED

Vol. 3] DEVOTED TO THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE COUNTRY. [No. 12

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### Implements at the N. Y. State Fair.

The display of implements and farm machinery was a leading feature. Farmers derive more real benefit from this department than from any other. We have no room to enumerate the multitude of articles, great and small, which found place on the grounds; few, indeed, had even time to view them thoroughly.

The Portable Steam Engine, manufactured by A. N. Wood & Co., Eaton, Madison Co., N. Y., was the center of attraction for numerous spectators. It was mounted on strong iron trucks, made entirely without wood, and designed for moving about readily to drive any kind of farm or other machinery requiring power. It threshes, shells corn, grinds, saws, cuts fodder and furnishes steam for cooking it. As it is always on wheels it can be moved from one place to another as readily as a lumber wagon. It is completely furnished with all attachments of use on a steam engine. These engines are used quite extensively for threshing instead of horse-power, and they are so well adapted for the work—doing it cheaper and better—that they will eventually supersede the use of horses. It costs less to run one a-day than to feed the ten horses which it equals; half a cord of good wood or four hundred pounds of coal and ten or twelve barrels of water, supply its iron sinews with unflagging strength for ten hours. Some spectators suggested there was danger from fire when threshing grain, but the smoke pipe is safely guarded as was proved on the Fair Grounds by placing a bundle of straw within a few inches from the point of escape for the smoke, where it remained and was blackened but not burnt.

Reapers and Mowers were out in great force. A line of tents marked "head-quarters" of various machines, were ranged

along with them. In all there were thirty or forty grain and grass cutting machines on the grounds. The majority were combined machines, and prominent in the ranks were the well known Dodge & Stevenson, Kirby, Wood, Buckeye, Cayuga Chief, and many others well and favorably known to the farmers of our country. A very large proportion of our farmers entertain the idea that it is better to have reapers for reaping and mowers for mowing, instead of endeavoring to adapt one machine to both kinds of work. It is a sensible idea and will probably gain ground rapidly in the future. In the line of machines for reaping exclusively none seemed to meet with more favor than Johnston's Self-Raking Reaper, made at Brockport, N. Y. The famous Johnston Self-Rake is fitted perfectly to this machine, and it is specially adapted to cutting and picking up lodged grain. Several important improvements have been added to this machine during the past season. There was one machine on the grounds built for binding as well as cutting the grain. It looked heavy and somewhat complicated. We believe it has not been thoroughly tested.

In the line of Potato Diggers we saw nothing new; there were several machines on the ground; but farmers, in general, are not enthusiastic over their performances. Sherwood's Potato Planter is a new thing, and looks well. Hildreth & Deyo's Corn and Bean Planter looks very perfect, and we learn gives good satisfaction to the bean growers in Western New York.

The display of machinery for stirring the soil was very good. F. F. Holbrook & Small of Boston, had a fine collection on the ground, including their famous National Prize Plows, horse hoes and seed sowers. Remington & Co., Ilion, had a fine show of steel plows; and on one of the Mohawk Clippers we noticed

Krake's subsoil attachment. The inventor of this claims that an ordinary three-horse team will stir the soil to the depth of fifteen inches. The thing surely had a promising look, and farmers who are ambitious to have more land to work should make a note of it. Of harrows, there were many—revolving, rotating and riding. Steele & McDonald's combined planter, harrow and cultivator from New Jersey was a complicated machine and might work well in a free sand, but would hardly do in our clays and gravels. Simpler than this, and a very pretty implement, is the Starr harrow, made at Homer N. Y. Baker & Hoyt's sulky harrow our readers are familiar with from illustrations: it won good opinions from the crowd of spectators. We learned that a perfect seed sower is now attached, thus making it a very complete machine. Alden & Co., Auburn, had a good collection of implements, including the thill horse hoe, horse rakes, plows, etc.

The machinery displayed by Horace L. Emery & Son, Albany N. Y., was very creditable. The list of their manufactures is very large, including a variety of horse powers, threshing machines, feed mills, corn shellers, saw mills, cider mills, hay and cotton presses, cotton gins, feed cutters, cultivators harrows, seed planters and sowers, and many other valuable implements. The Rochester Agricultural Works were also creditably represented by a good variety, including the different sizes of the Empire seed cutter—a machine which has not its superior in the country. The Ames Plow Co., of Boston, had on the grounds the famous American Hay Tedder, together with mowers, reapers, horse rakes and other farming tools. Grain drills and broadcast seed sowers were numerous; of the former Binford & Huffman's, made at Macedon, N. Y., is a favorite, and is disseminated very ex-

13th. Jonathan Ward, Gladstone, one Patent Gunned Saw.  
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E. A. Taylor, Stationer, London one picture, Frank's four-try of the World, to every person that gets up a club of fifteen or over and do not