

tage to start a steam-ploughing cultivation company, for the sake of supplying ploughs, engines, and other agricultural implements to tenant-farmers, and it was for the purpose of ascertaining what the opinions of the agricultural world were on this subject that the present meeting was called together. It was proposed to purchase the most improved steam cultivators and sell them to agriculturists upon the principle of a mortgage of the machinery, to be paid off by instalments: and whether this company was successful or not he was certain that its existence must prove a great advantage to the agricultural world.

Lord R. Montague moved — "That the cultivation of the land by steam is now proved to be an advantageous and highly economical process, and that the machinery now used for this purpose is of a character sufficiently perfect to be recommended for the use of practical farmers.

Mr. James Williams, of north Court, Abingdon, seconded the resolution, and pointed out the advantages of steam ploughing in the capability of the machine to work continuously for any number of hours.

Mr. Brooke was not satisfied with regard to the economy of steam cultivation. He was a land-owner in Suffolk, and he had tried the application of steam to thrashing, but had found the expense greater than the receipts to defray those expenses. Except upon very large farms he did not think that horse labor could be superseded by steam.

The Earl of Suffolk moved — "That one great obstacle to the progress of steam culture is the inability of the generality of tenant-farmers to purchase the expensive machinery now used to break up and prepare the soil."

Sir H. Vavasour seconded the resolution.

Mr. Beavis, a Gloucester tenant-farmer, believed that a great deal was to be accomplished from the employment of steam-tackle for ploughing, and he doubted whether farmers, though an isolated class, were more backward than manufacturers in adopting anything that was for the good of their pockets. He should be glad himself to have the opportunity of hiring a steam plough, if it would do the work at 10s an acre.

Mr. Harrison, who could speak from his experience in connection with the Gloucester Steam Plough Company, declared that

the letting out of apparatus on hire was impracticable because unprofitable. The true way of assisting the promotion of steam cultivation was to do as the proposed Steam Company intended, sell the apparatus and receive payments by instalments. For the security of the Company it would, however be necessary to have additional guarantee of repayment; and that he proposed to obtain from the owner of the land. Let the tackle be in effect the property of the landowner (whose only part, however, would be to guarantee the payment for it) until the engine had by complete payment become the tenant's. He proposed — "That considerable advantage would arise to tenant-farmers and others from the establishment of a joint-stock company for the purpose of supplying steam apparatus to applicants, allowing them to repay the cost price by instalments extending over a certain number of years, on the principle of a rolling-stock company." In his opinion the purchase should be made by the landlord and tenant in conjunction, the company taking a bond from the landlord for the payment of the money.

Dr. Voelcker seconded the resolution, in a long and excellent speech, expressing his belief that by steam cultivation they could get from many soils an immense quantity of manure, and thus save a great deal of money in the purchase of artificial or the production of home-made manure; and there were many soils in this country which were not in a fit condition to receive the manure, if the farmer had a willingness to purchase guano, superphosphate of lime, or to apply his own farm-yard manure to the land which would be made fit by the operation of the steam cultivator.

A gentleman, the owner of sugar estates in the West Indies, spoke of the success with which steam cultivation had been introduced into Demerara, Barbadoes, and Antigua, had argued that attention should be turned to simplifying the machinery, and thus reducing its cost.

The resolution was carried.

On the motion of Sir George Jenkinson, seconded by Mr. Hutchinson, a resolution, approving of the objects of the General Steam Cultivation Company, and the mode in which it was designed to carry them into effect, was also adopted.

A cordial vote of thanks was then accorded to Mr. Holland for presiding, and the meeting separated.