

plentiful and cheap then, men came in scores from the back townships, where the land was later, seeking work at seventy cents a day or less. And at times on our farm we had as many as thirty men employed in what was then called working in line with sickles. And the men were boarded and bedded in the farmhouse, being fed five times a day, the forenoon and afternoon lunches being carried to the field by the womenfolk of the household, which, of course, meant much hard work. But strong girls were plentifully available as help at four to five dollars a month, and no "afternoons off." Later, when the grain cradle came into general use, it was not unusual to see ten of these swinging in line on our farm, and, besides the cradlers, as many men raking the grain into sheaves and binding it by hand, which meant hard work for all, as a cradler laid low from two to four acres a day, and it kept a binder hustling to keep close up to him, as was the common practice, for, if one lagged, he was pretty sure to lose heart and his place. The first horse-power reaper that came on the market was a ponderous affair, and was only a reaper, without delivery, the grain having to be raked or forked off the platform by a man riding on its rear end. Later came the self-rake reaper, which was a great improvement, though with both these the grain had to be bound by hand, requiring four to six men to keep up with the machine. And, later still, in the evolution of harvesting machinery, came the self-binder, the greatest boon that has come to the agricultural world as a labor-saver, without which our Dominion would have been half a century behind its present state of advancement.

Succeeding the flail, came the open-faced threshing machine, run by the sweep horse-power, and which delivered the straw, chaff and grain on the barn floor, all mixed, the straw being pitchforked over a barrier placed across the doorway, and the machine stopped at intervals of an hour to allow of the moving of the mixed wheat and

chaff into the granary. Later came the separator, which, with the horse-power, had to be unloaded and loaded on wagon or chaise at each barn where used, involving heavy lifting, all of which outfits were crude affairs compared with the present-day steam traction

and Old Grey Clyde; while, in bovines, the brindled bull and the line-backed cow were common, the cattle being mostly wintered in the open barnyard around the straw stacks, from which they drew their scant nourishment, and it was not unusual to see the women tramping through the snow after the cows to secure the little milk secreted from such feed. Hollow-born, so-called, was a not uncommon complaint of cattle so wintered, an ailment later conceded to be the result of a hollow stomach, or, perhaps, of what is called in these advanced times an unbalanced ration.

It was in 1854, when I was a boy of fourteen years, that my father first turned his attention to breeding pure-bred stock, when he purchased the first-prize yearling bull at the Provincial Fair, held that year at Hamilton. And in my seventeen-mile walk leading "Belted Will" home from the nearest railway station, with his pedigree in my pocket, I was probably the proudest boy in the county. In the same autumn our first pure-bred cow and pair of sheep were purchased, and so strong an impression did these animals, by their size and superiority of type, make upon my mind, that they seem to have been photographed there, as every mark and characteristic in their make-up is remembered as clearly to-day as if it were an occurrence of yesterday. And these animals were the nucleus of a herd and flock which in process of time gained a continental reputation in prizewinning, while the boy of the period of their foundation has registered a remarkable—probably a record—experience in fair-going, having never once since 1854 missed attending one of the Ontario Provincial, nor one of the Toronto Industrial Exhibitions, having twice attended the Royal Show of England, and taken in, also, the American Centennial, at Philadelphia; the Columbian, at Chicago; the Pan-American, at Buffalo; the Louisiana Purchase, at St. Louis, and the Lewis & Clark Exhibition, at Portland, Oregon.

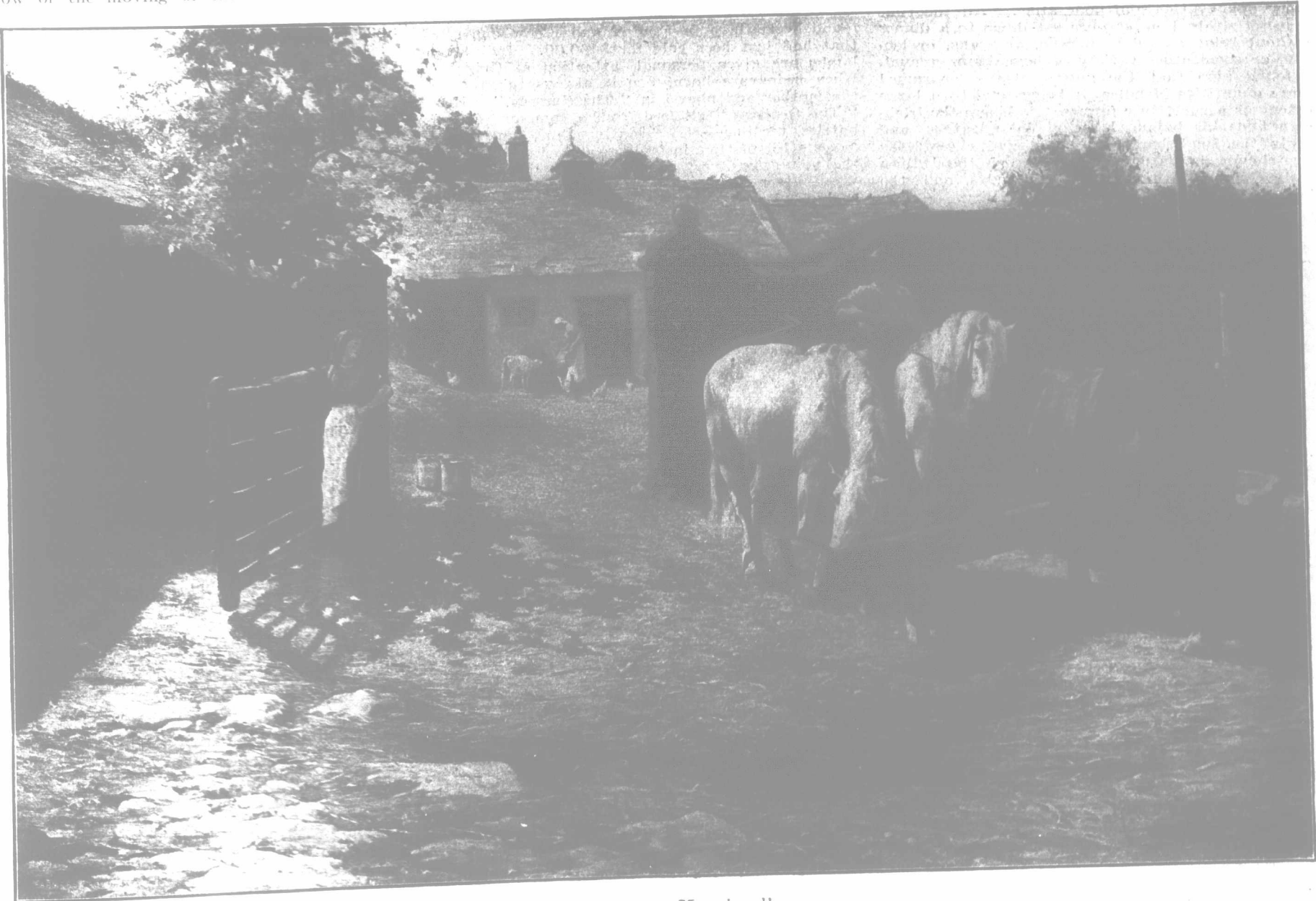


A Time-saving Implement.

The two-furrow plow, drawn by three horses, is being successfully used by a good many farmers east of the Great Lakes.

drawn and driven self-feeding threshing machine, with vibrating straw-blower and stacker, reducing manual labor to a minimum.

Pure-bred stock was little known in Canada in the early fifties, the common run of horses being principally hardy grades of the French-Canadian class, and of the blood of Grey Messenger



"A Summer Morning."

From a painting by Harold Swanwick, R. I. Loaned by the Corporation of Liverpool to the Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto, 1908.