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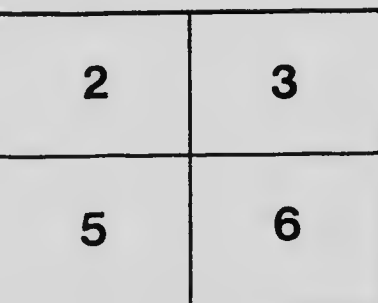
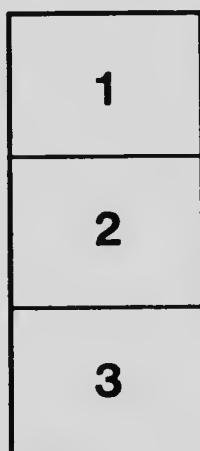
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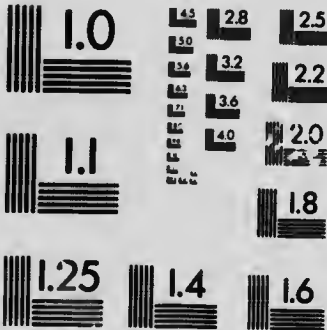
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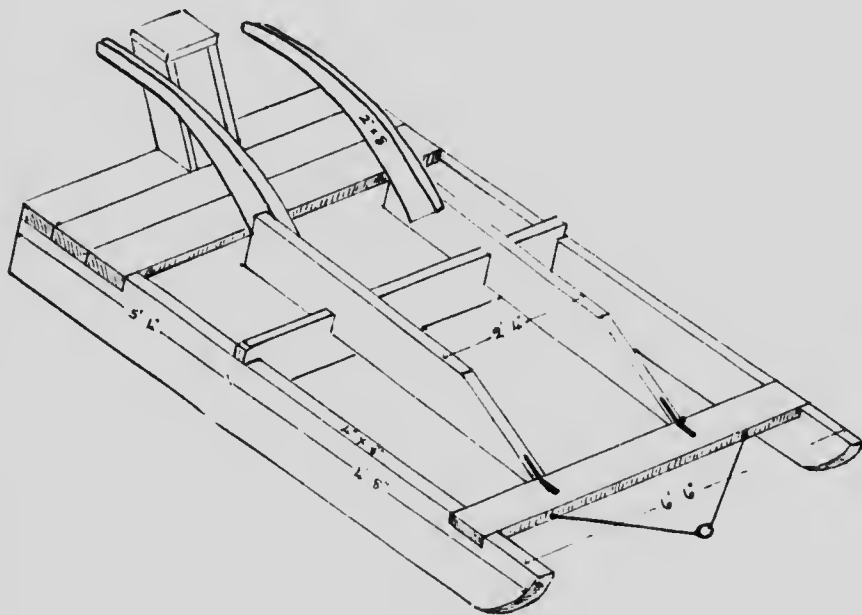
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# LABOUR SAVING DEVICES ON THE IRRIGATED FARM

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By  
G. E. PARHAM



THE LEVELLER

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# Labour-saving Devices.

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## LEVELLER, FURROWER, MARKER AND REAPING ATTACHMENT.

by G. E. PARNHAM.

In these days of labour shortage, every labour-saving device is of importance, for any delay in farming operations may not only add to the work eventually, but in many cases may result in the partial or complete failure of a crop.

A delay in irrigating is perhaps fraught with the most serious results.

The farmer who is cultivating a large area of land can afford to purchase the most up-to-date modern implements; the small farmer, however, is not in the same position: his limited crop area renders such expenditure inadvisable, and with small fields to work, many of the modern farm implements could not be used to advantage.

The accompanying diagrams illustrate a land leveller and an irrigation furrower, as used at the Invermere Experimental Station; both devices are simple in construction, and could be made by any handy carpenter, at very small expense.

The leveller has the advantage over many forms now in use, in that the operator can ride and so have better control of his team: the lifting device is simple, and can be operated by the teamster, but on very irregular ground, where constant lifting may be necessary, it is found advantageous to employ a second man.

Two light horses can draw a leveller of the width shown in the diagram.

The time spent in levelling the land would be more than repaid, in any one season, by the saving of labour in irrigating, and a more even distribution of water would result.

On many fields it would pay to run this, or some form of plank leveller, over the land each spring, prior to seeding.

The furrower, illustrated by the second design, is not claimed to be a new idea, but rather an improvement on the devices used on many ranches. It requires only one horse, and will draw out three or four furrows at a time: the furrowing attachments may be placed at any distance apart, to suit the widths of the drills, or the nature of the soil.

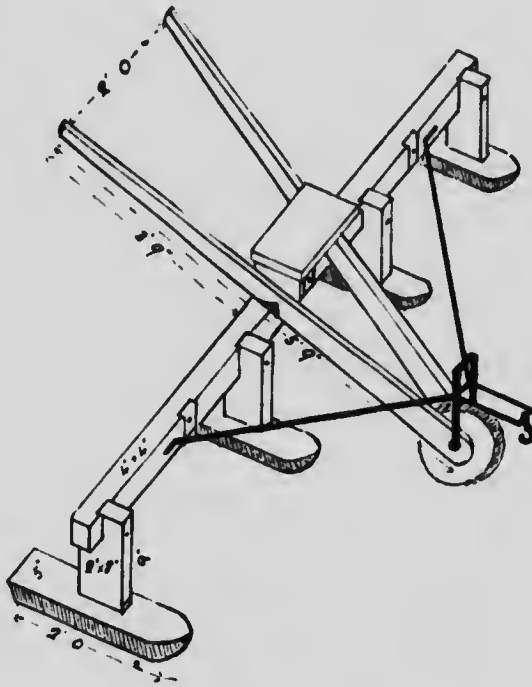
For corn in its early stages, and for roots during their entire period of growth, three furrowers can be fitted, the centre one to follow the horse, and one on either side to run between the adjoining drills. The weight of the rider, and the depth adjuster provide the necessary weight to consolidate the furrows.

It is not necessary here to explain at length the method of irrigation by the furrow or corrugated system, which, like every system, has its advocates.

A double mould-board or double-furrow plough can generally be made use of to connect the main ditches or flumes with the smaller ditches made by the furrower.

The implement is not intended for land in sod, though its use on such land might be made possible by the addition of a steel point to each furrower.

The distance a stream may be carried in any one furrow would depend on the nature of the soil and on the amount of water available.



The Furrower.

The marker is a simple attachment used in conjunction with any heel-cultivator or seeder, and may be fixed to the latter by means of a bolt and nut. It consists of a 1 x 2 in. wooden bar, twelve feet long, with grooves cut at various



Making furrows for irrigating a root crop.

distances, in which are placed movable strips of light wood, one foot long (wooden labels as used for garden work are found very suitable for this purpose).

When the rows are required two feet apart, one turn of the implement will mark twelve rows, and the time required to mark out an acre should not exceed one hour.

The lines so marked proved much more accurate than those made with the marker supplied with many seeders.

It can be used to advantage for marking rows of corn, for planting out cabbages, tomatoes and the like, and has been found particularly useful for marking the lines for planting potatoes, when the single horse, double furrow plough is used.

After the land has been finally prepared for seeding, pegs are placed at measured intervals, at either end of the plot, to indicate the centre or wheel track for each turn of the marker: a string is then tightened from the first peg at either end of the plot, to give the first wheel track. It will be found advantageous to have two lengths of string in use, or the assistance of a boy at one end, to change the line over to the next wheel track.



Cutting oats with the reaping attachment.

The reaping attachment is shown in use in the accompanying photograph when oats were being cut: it is undoubtedly a labour saving device, and one that might be more generally used to advantage for small plots, and on small ranches where a binder cannot be obtained. It has been found particularly useful for cutting experimental plots of grain.

The attachment can be obtained from most of the makers of mowers, at a small cost, and is easily attached.



