

Farm and Garden

FIELD BEAN CROP.

Harvester That Throws Two Rows into a Single Windrow.
By L. C. CORBETT.

For many years the handling of hoe crops, such as field beans, upon an extensive scale was impossible because of the great amount of hand labor necessary to gather the crop. Within recent years, however, labor saving devices have been invented, so that now the once laborious practice of hand pulling individual plants can be done away with by the use of a bean harvester.

This implement is built on the principle of a pair of shears and consists of

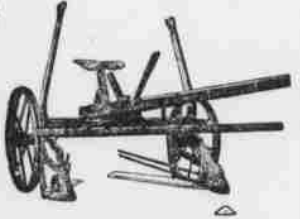


BEAN HARVESTER AT WORK.

two long steel blades mounted upon a strong framework carried upon wheels. The long shears-like blades are set to cut the roots of the plants just beneath the surface of the ground. Above these blades guard rods or guide rods are so arranged as to move from their original positions the plants whose roots have been severed, and since the implement is designed to cut two rows of beans across the field the plants of two rows are thrown together in a single windrow. This clears a space for the passage of one of the animals in the team, so that it is necessary for only one to pass through the standing crop, thus decreasing the amount of loss by shearing which would result from both animals being driven through the standing crop.

After the plants are thrown together by the harvester it is customary for men with ordinary pitchforks to follow the harvester and place the beans in small heaps to cure for several days before storing them in barns or sheds for thrashing. In some instances where the work is done upon a very extensive scale and where the loss from shearing is not considered sufficient to justify the employment of hand labor for bunching the beans with forks an ordinary horse rake is employed for the purpose.

Where the beans are to remain for a longer period and to become more thoroughly cured in the field and where the work of harvesting is done entirely by hand the crop is frequently placed in shocks which are built about a pole four or five feet in height, both ends of which have been sharpened and one end placed firmly in the ground. A small quantity of straw, grass or other material is placed around the base of the stake and the beans as they are pulled and are piled



BEAN HARVESTER.

around the pole until a compact miniature stack about four or five feet high is formed. The operation is very similar to the common practice followed by growers of peanuts in stacking and curing. The curing process in any case is carried far enough to prevent the vines molding after storing them in the farm prior to thrashing. If the vines are thoroughly ripened in the field before harvesting they can be stored in from two to three days if the weather is satisfactory.

Plow Points.

Where too large a proportion of the farm is kept under plow the soil soon becomes impoverished and unproductive.

All animals thrive best when fed at regular intervals and given each time no more than they will readily consume.

Clean, straight fence rows, and fences in good repair, add materially to the appearance and value of the farm.

When the cost of keeping a good article is no more than keeping a poor one it is certainly advisable to keep the better.

No vegetable accessible to the farmer absorbs so much nitrogen from the air and leaves so rich a storehouse of it as clover.—Kansas Farmer.

Some New England Dairymen.

Not a few New England dairymen are so favorably located and have so much skill that they get an advance above the ruling price for an article of extra quality.

BEET HARVESTERS.

Lifting the Beets by Means of a Plow or Puller.

To harvest sugar beets costs from \$5 to \$10 an acre, depending upon the condition of the soil. Most of this work is now accomplished by a system borrowed from Europe. This consists in extracting the beets from the soil with an implement drawn by two to four horses. It is in the nature of a plow. There are several forms, one of which is called a "puller." This has two fingerlike tapering prongs, which run through the ground parallel with the surface, but about ten inches below. The space between these prongs is wider at the points, gradually lessening to their back ends. These prongs are supported by two upright pieces attached to the beam. When pulled through the soil the points are carried on either side of the beet, compelling it to pass through this diminishing space. Directly the prongs tighten against the beet as it is being forced through the space, breaking off the taproot and forcing it up. The beet is elevated two or three inches and left in the loose dirt.

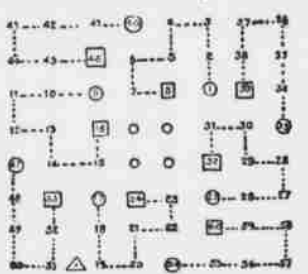
Another Form of Plow.

Another form of the implement consists of a plow with a narrow moldboard and a long sharp knife-like share, the edge of which penetrates the soil at about the depth of ten inches, cutting off the beets, lifting them several inches and throwing them on the side over against the loose dirt. A workman comes along the row, takes hold of the top, lifts the beet from the loose soil and with a sharp knife cleaves off the crown from which the leaves have grown. The beets are then lumped together to remove the adhering dirt and thrown in piles and the tops in others. From these piles the beets are loaded into wagons and delivered to the factory.—G. F. Saylor.

Saving Steps.

In spite of the extensive development and use of corn harvesting machinery the fact remains that much corn is still cut by hand. Therefore the accompanying sketch recently sent to the New England Homestead by a reader will prove of interest.

It has figured out that if the plan outlined is followed a sixty-four hill shock, or stalk, of corn can be cut at a minimum number of steps. The cir-



CUTTING A SHOCK OF CORN.

cles in the center represent the four hills tied together or between which the shock is built. After the foundation for the shock is ready the man goes to No. 1 and cuts in the direction of the numbers until he reaches No. 8. After placing his armful in the shock he begins at No. 9 and cuts to No. 16, again depositing his load and continuing the operation in the way the hills are numbered until the shock is completed. It will be noted that in addition to saving steps this plan brings the cutter near the shock with his heaviest load, or when his arm is full of corn.

Mutton Chops.

You can never improve a flock by using a grade sire.

Wethers intended for market should be put in a pasture by themselves, where they can be liberally fed.

The ewes and the sire should receive generous feeding.

When ewes are gaining in condition at mating time there will be a larger percentage of twins and the lambs will be stronger.

A supply of roots is necessary to success with sheep.

Have some way of marking your sheep. Many neighbors have been made enemies for life by their sheep getting mixed in the pasture.

It is important to give good care to all animals, but particularly to sheep. To restore flesh to an animal is an expensive process, as costly to sheep as to other animals.—Farm Journal.

Planting Strawberries.

After plowing land deeply for the fall planting of strawberries encourage the germination of weed seeds by frequent cultivation so far as possible to get rid of the trouble of weeds getting ahead of the plants after they are set out. Use barnyard manure freely if the same can be had free from weed seeds, advises Southern Planter. In order to insure this it should have heated well and be partially rotted. This may be supplemented with an application of a good fertilizer rich in phosphoric acid and potash, say 300 to 400 pounds of acid phosphate and 200 pounds of muriate of potash per acre. The rows may be laid off three feet apart.

Tobacco Seed Plants.

The production and introduction of new varieties of tobacco must be followed by continued effort on the part of the growers to preserve and improve the type in order that the fullest and best results may be obtained. Without selection of seed plants year after year by the growers the life of tobacco varieties is comparatively short. The accidental cross fertilization of seed saved without protection, the use of inferior plants for seed production and many other causes contribute to the deterioration, breaking up of type and so called running out of varieties.

BETTER DAYS.

Easier for a Man to Live Down Disgrace.

"Amid the storms and sorrows of life the affection of man may veer, but unchanged and unchanging is the true heart of woman; she loves and loves forever." That splendid tribute to the better half of the human family was written by Washington Irving, who lived and died a bachelor. Of course, it is not true as to all women, for many of them are as fickle as that contemptible creature, the male coquette. But there is as much truth as poetry in it, and there is a great deal of both. The affection of man do veer more frequently than those of woman, and in most cases, when a man loses the love of his wife the loss is his own fault.

An incident that occurred last week in a Western city reminded me of the Post of Irving's matchless tribute. The wife of a man convicted of bank looting, or complicity in that crime, and sentenced to a term in the penitentiary, did not complain of the law or the courts, for she realized that he had deserved such treatment; but she showed her love for him, undimmed by his fatal fault, and declared that her fondest and most confident hope was that he would live to restate himself in the respect and confidence of the entire community.

Thanks to the steadily increasing intelligence and charity of the people it is not so hard a task for a man of strong will and high purpose to live down disgrace and get a new hold on the esteem of his neighbors as it was years ago. It is not half so true today as it was in Shakespeare's time that "the evil that men do lives after them; the good is oft interred with their bones." The practice of debiting a man with "all his faults and follies and exaggerating the ugly aggregation while forgetting all that was good in his record is going out. True, there are persons who have not changed in this respect. Most of these are cold-blooded patterns of propriety and many of them are heavily overloaded with self-righteousness. They have not yielded to temptation because they have not felt its power. Pity for a man who has given away under great temptation has no place in their philosophy, no matter how long and will be traveled in the path of honor, no matter how many were his ministrations to the distressed. But, in these times, these new times that are so much better than the old, it is oftener the rule than the exception with the best elements of our citizenship to look at the credit as well as the debit side of a brother who has fallen and give him encouragement in efforts to climb up the declivity down which he has slipped. Many men with a prison record which they have not tried to conceal are living among their friends and neighbors in good repute.

Byron wrote that "one sad loss is a name for aye." That was not literally true in his time. Today it is grossly untrue. The father and other relatives of a bad man, no matter how atrociously wicked he may have been, are not held responsible for his crimes. If they deserve sympathy, they have it, and only the ignorant and vicious speak unkindly of them for that of which they are blameless. The time will come when organized society will be able to deal with all offenders against criminal laws justly but without malice, remembering that it is quite possible for one who has resisted more evil than the most moral and upright of his neighbors to yield at last, in a moment of weakness, and be justly convicted of and executed for murder.

"What's done we partly may compute,
We know not what's resisted."—Washington Post.

A Chicago physician last week recovered \$100,000 in court from the estate of a wealthy woman, wife of a theatrical manager who had promised to remember her in her will in consideration of exclusive personal attention during the remaining days of her life.

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