

BETTER TOOLS AND HEAVIER TEAMS.

The Two Go Together and Will Yet Bring About a New Era in Southern Farming.

Messrs. Editors: The Western farmer is making use of the best farming implements to be had, and as a result he furnishes the corn for a good many of the Southern farmers to feed their mule while they make two trips across a field to cultivate one row of cotton or peanuts or tobacco. This is not as it should be, for we can grow as much corn to the acre here as can be grown anywhere.

We need more time, and labor-saving tools, used in a practical manner, will give us more time. Better tools however, will generally call for more if not heavier teams with the Southern farmers. It is useless to expect an implement to do good work and not have a heavier draft than one

that does not do so much or so good work. That is, do not expect something for nothing. If you find a plow that will do your work exactly, but is a little too much for your team, change the team and not the plow. If two will not do the work, try three abreast.

The double cultivator and two-row corn planter have come to stay, and slowly but surely the light one-horse plow is giving way to the heavier plow of the chilled type; but the majority have yet to learn to run them deep enough. It is also a very hard matter to get some of our farmers to stop using the turn plow to cultivate the corn crop, but the change is gradually coming about.

The Southern farmers are learning to replace the decreasing amount of vegetable matter in their soils; and while the average yields per acre of the Western farmers are growing smaller because he thinks his land is inexhaustible, that of the Southern farmer is slowly increasing, because of the increasing amount of humus. Now if we will only use the implements and methods of cultivation that they use, and thus produce our crops at a decreased cost by a saving in time and labor we may hope to do for ourselves what they are doing for us.

We need better implements, more and heavier teams, and plenty of live stock to eat our hay and grain, and turn it into meat and manure—the meat to go to market at the present fancy prices, and the manure to go to improve the sadly depleted fields of our beautiful Southland.

THOMAS BELL.

Surry Co., Va.

TWO NOVEL STALK CUTTERS.

I.—A Cultivator Attachment.

Messrs. Editors: It is almost impossible for any up-to-date farmer to get along conveniently without the use of a stalk cutter. Any one using a two-horse cultivator can have practically the same machine for a few dollars by making a reel cutter and attaching to cultivator.

Make two rims of ordinary two-horse wagon tire, 56 inches in circumference. Drill eight 5/8-inch holes 7 inches apart in each rim. Make crosses, using 2 by 2 1/2-inch timbers, and fit tightly in each rim. Then use 3 or 4-inch flat iron for the knives, making them 18 inches long. Use 3/4-inch bolts, flatten the head end of bolt and rivet one to each end of knife, allowing thread end of bolt to go through rim and top to go on inside of rim, thus making knives detachable, so they may be sharpened when necessary. Make hole in center of each cross and put an iron axle through. The axle should be square and not allowed to turn in the reel but made round at the ends to turn in holes bored in pieces of scantling to be bolted to gangs of cultivator.

I use the Planet Jr. cultivator, and by removing all but the two front feet and bolting the two pieces of wood that carry the reel to the gangs of cultivator, I can adjust pressure as desired. The two front feet without shovels serve as drags to drag together the straggling stalks. I think this

can be attached to most any of the riding cultivators.

G. G. BLACKWELDER.

II.—A Disk That Does the Work.
Messrs. Editors: A stalk chopper

is a tool I would not have as a present, I have something that beats it so far. Several years ago I decided to buy a disk harrow, and I found one having four disks on one side and five on the other, not running paral-

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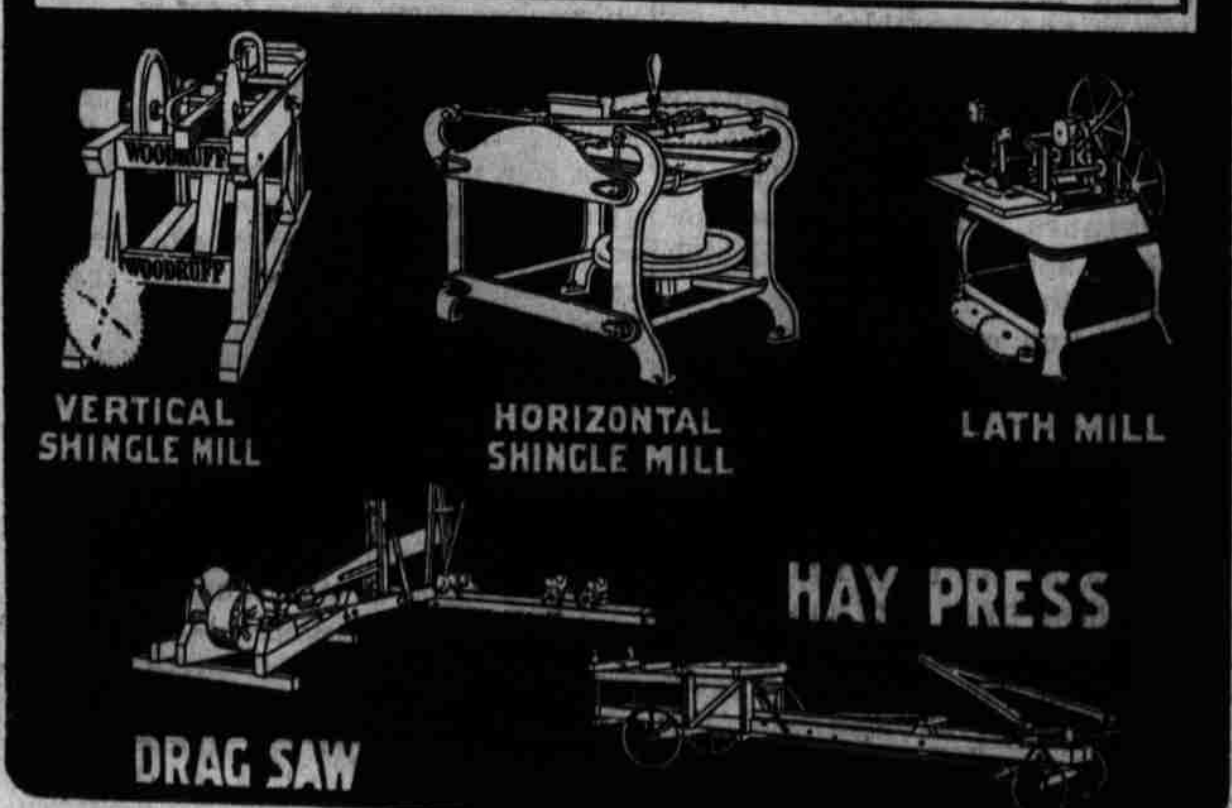
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