

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

AND SOUTHERN FARM GAZETTE

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WHAT ARE YOU DOING THESE DAYS?

EVEN if it is midwinter and the Holiday season, we feel sure that, as a progressive farmer, you find plenty to do these days. We know from experience that on the average farm there is something waiting to be done every day in the year. We know, too, from observation that some farmers fail to improve the winter days, and therefore leave undone many things that should be done, with a corresponding decrease in the profits from their year's work.

We don't know what you ought to be doing at this season, for we do not know your conditions. It is safe to say, however, that, if the weather admits, you ought to be busy; ought to have your help busy, if you have help; ought to have the teams at work.

Only two weeks ago Professor Duggar pointed out that team work costs many farmers an exorbitant price simply because they get so few days work out of their teams in a year.

Therefore, let us say that the teams ought to be kept busy during the winter. We do not mean, of course, that they can be kept as busy as in the crop-making season, but there can be found something for them to do most winter days.

There is land to plow, for example—not all land, and not at all times, but there should be twice the winter breaking in the South that there is. There may be stumps to pull, too; ditches and terraces to make; gullies to fill; hauling of many kinds to do; rocks, in some places, to clear off the fields; certainly manure to haul out on the fields. All these jobs and dozens of others can give the teams occupation on favorable days. Then there is one you may not have thought of, for days when it is too wet to plow—make a drag and drag your road. Oh yes, it will pay. We are going to have a letter next week from a man who has tried it.

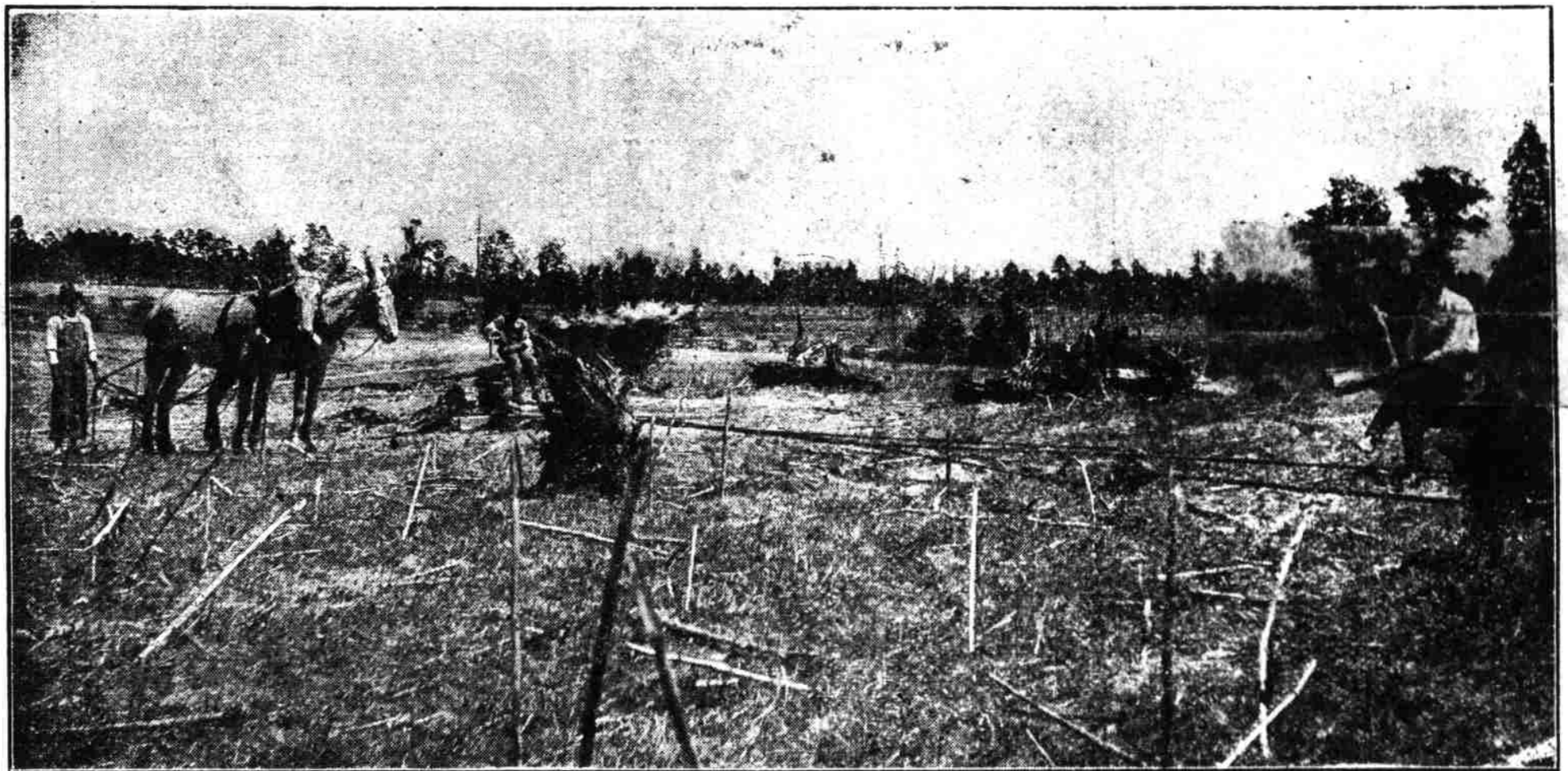
For yourself and hands, all the jobs we have mentioned are available; and there may be draining to do; fences to build; grubbing and clearing to look after; repairs about the buildings to make,—there is never a shortage of pressing work on the farm!

On days when you cannot get out, you will still find plenty of tasks in the house, and about the barns. One of these you should by no means neglect, is to go over the machinery and see that it is all ready for use. Look after the harness, too; oil and repair it. Use the paint brush freely on buildings, tools and everything that needs paint. Give some time also to looking closely after the livestock. Take good care of the work-stock, and keep them busy and they will meet the spring rush in better shape than if they had been allowed to idle all winter.

And on cold days and evenings, you can still be at work. To take an inventory of the farm, to make a review of the past year's opera-

tions, to lay plans and make preparations for the coming year, to study your crops, your soils, your stock—all this is work of the most profitable kind, and it is just as pleasant as it is profitable.

So we would say, keep busy these winter days, for long idle spells



HERCULES STUMP PULLER AT WORK—PHOTOGRAPH FROM MAURICE FLOYD.

and good farming seldom go together, and you wish of course to do better farming next year than ever before.

Don't keep so busy, however, at this or any other season that you have not each day a little time for rest and recreation and mental development. It is not a long rest and then a season of rush and strain that the farmer needs, but every day some work to do and a little playtime. And work can be done now that will help you get the breathing spells you will need next summer.

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