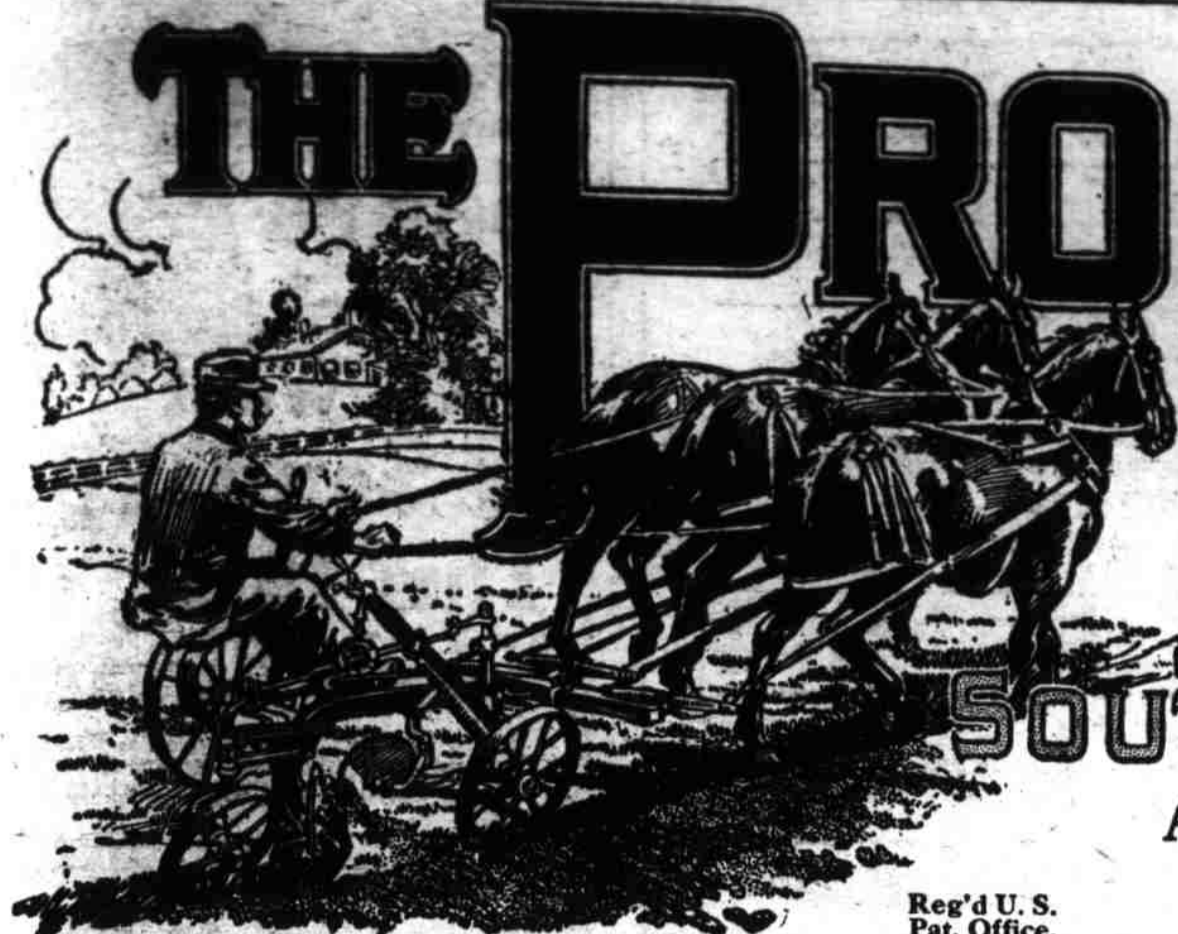


THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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Cleaner Fields, Better Tools, Shorter Hours, More Work.

By A. L. FRENCH.

ONE of the Editors of The Progressive Farmer wrote recently, giving it as his opinion that we would be obliged to go to using the big plows, the disk harrows, two-row planters, smoothing harrows and two-horse cultivators, before we would raise crops of corn that it would be a burden for us to handle. I believe he is exactly right in his contention.

The above-named tools have come because of the demand, from progressive, thinking farmers, for implements that would enable them to reduce the cost of cultivation while aiding them to increase production per acre, and they will certainly "turn the trick."

I wonder how many farmers there are in our section who, having

changed from obsolete methods to big teams and good tools, have ever returned to their first love? They are few in number, I believe.

To be sure, there are men who have bought two-horse cultivators for use in fields abounding in ditches, stumps and stones, and who have found these machines entirely unfitted for use in such fields.

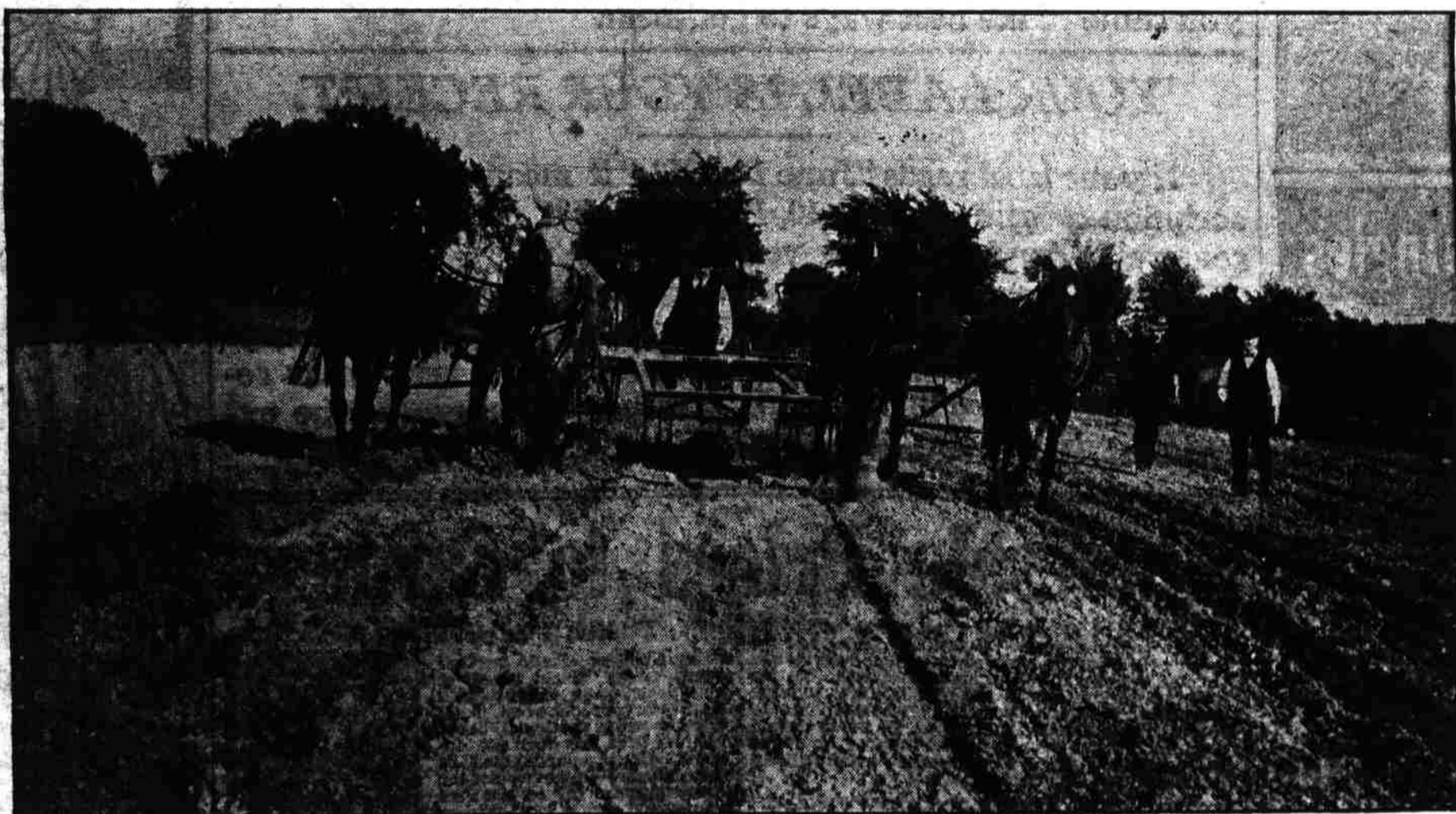
I have known many such cases. But where the man was made of the right sort of material, instead of abandoning the labor-saving tool, he has turned his energies to the task of making conditions on his farm, right for its use. And that is the proper spirit; for we cannot afford to go through life with a load of boy tools hanging about our necks, thwarting our efforts, when, by the use of a little extra exertion for a short time, we may get our farms in shape to enable us to make profitable use of a man's kit.

There are men in my county today—I have seen some within a week—who are going afield while I am yet asleep in the morning, and who remain in the field until long after my horses have received their night feed. And yet, when Saturday night comes I have plowed and harrowed more than three times the amount of land any one of them has during the week, and done a far better job.

The reason is that I am pulling the lines over 3,800 pounds of good horse flesh and riding on or walking behind a good tool, while they are clucking at 800 pounds of mule in an effort to do a man's day's work with a toy tool.

It is very true that in a rolling country it is more difficult to handle labor-saving tools profitably than in a section where fields are level.

But a lot of thought given to the matter will enable the man of determination to see where a few stumps removed, an old fence-row grubbed out, or a few hundred tiles used to blind a deep ditch will do much to enlarge the fields and make profitable use of good tools possible.



—Courtesy Moline Plow Co.

JUST THINK OF THE GROUND ONE MAN CAN COVER WITH A TWO-ROW CULTIVATOR.

Then, too, the deepening of the soil and its better preparation, that good tools enable one to bring about, will do much toward so increasing the yield per acre of the more level portions of the farms that considerable of the steepest land may be laid down in permanent pasture, when team work on it will be done away with.

The good tools mean so much to the man on the land that thought expended in an effort to

make their use possible will pay far higher interest than the same thought expended in making excuses for not using them.

Shorter working days, cleaner fields, and better tools will cut out much of the drudgery of life, fill our farming with more of thought, and less of "main strength and awkwardness."

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