

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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Larger and Cleaner Fields as a Guide Post to "\$500 More a Year Farming."



[Courtesy International Harvester Co.]

D ID YOU EVER run a mowing machine in a smooth, level meadow where the horses could walk steadily from one end of the field to the other and the mower clicked merrily as the tall grass fell over in even swaths? There is no finer work on the farm.

Then did you ever try to guide a mowing machine over a piece of land where stumps and bushes and other obstructions bobbed up every little bit, and you had to keep pulling on the lines and raising the cutter-bar and shifting your course, working hand and leg and eye and mind till the horses were wearied and fretted and you were hot and tired and out of humor? Then, perhaps, in spite of all your care, you would run into a stump or a bush and have to stop for repairs, losing time, injuring the machine and raising both your bodily and mental temperature to the boiling point. There is nothing fine about such work as that.

It is the same way with any kind of farm tool. There is a vast difference in turning long, even furrows through a well cleared field, and in lifting the plow around or pulling it from against stumps or stones, jerking the team, straining the plow and wearing yourself out at what should be comparatively easy work.

It doesn't pay to leave the fields full of obstructions or to have them broken up into little irregular patches. Improved machinery cannot be used to advantage in such fields; and with any sort of implement there is constant loss—loss of time from unnecessary turning and stopping, loss in the greater wear and tear on the implements, loss in the increased strain upon the work stock, loss in the harder labor exacted from the workman, loss in the necessarily poorer work that is done, loss of the satisfaction which comes from good work, and loss of nerve force in the constant effort necessary to keep down bad temper and restrain bad language.

Let us get down to business, clean up the fields we expect to tend and put them in shape for the doing of economical and satisfactory work. We can't do it all at once, of course, but by persistent effort we can soon make a wonderful improvement, and the work will repay us handsomely, both in increased satisfaction while doing our work and in larger returns from it after it is done.

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