

# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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## Better Plowing as a Guide Post to "\$500 More a Year Farming."

**W**HEN YOU COME to think of it seriously, it would be hard to find a severer criticism of Southern agricultural methods than the simple statement of Dr. Butler's on page 3 that he saw last March 189 one-horse plows at work and only 19 two-horse plows. This means that ten out of every eleven farmers were doing practically twice as much work—walking twice as many miles as necessary—to plow an acre of land, and that when the plowing was done it was not well done. In other words, in ten cases out of eleven the labor of a man is considered of less value than that of a mule, and in ten cases out of eleven the crop is reduced below what should reasonably be expected on that land by poor work in the initial preparation for it.

Did you ever think that to produce a maximum crop all conditions must be at their best—soil preparation, seed, cultivation, season and all the other factors which go to the making of the crop? When the land is poorly broken the farmer is at once assured that he is not going to make the crop he should. No matter what else he may do, he has, by this improper breaking, made it a settled fact that he is not going to get as large a yield on that land as it is capable of producing. Is it not strange, then, that we are content to go on doing such poor plowing year after year?

"It is impossible to do good plowing with the little one-horse plows commonly used in our territory." We cannot say this too often or stress it too strongly. Until you get a plow and a team with which you can break up your land thoroughly and to a respectable depth you are not going to make the crops you should. Good plowing is the very basis of good farming, and until we do better plowing we are going to be regarded, and justly, as poor farmers.

We believe in deep plowing as much as anyone, we think; but good plowing is not a mere matter of depth. Good plowing means plowing that leaves the



soil uniformly loose, well pulverized, and thoroughly mixed to a reasonable depth. We do not want the furrows flopped flat over, nor do we want patches and strips all over the field where the plow is allowed to come half out of the ground, leaving hard, unbroken places.

The fine, mellow seed-bed which is, next to a good soil, the first requisite of a good crop, can be obtained only by a bright, properly-adjusted plow, that has power enough ahead of it to draw it steadily through sods, roots or hard places. The plow which "drags-up" or "runs on the point," or tries to stay out of the ground puts a needless strain upon the team and the plowman and seldom does good work. Here are some good plows doing good work. Contrast them

with the one-horse makeshifts that run two or three inches deep; and contrast the teams that draw them with the little mules that couldn't pull a plow that was really plowing.

Good farming is impossible without good plowing, and good plowing is impossible with the sort of plows commonly used in the South.



Courtesy Deere & Company.



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