

ALL ABOUT THE FARM

HOW THE CORN CROP IS NOW HARVESTED.

Latest Machinery for Taking Care of America's Greatest Money Crop—Subsoil Attachment for Plows—Adjustable Jack for Farm Wagons.

A Modern Corn Binder. The great American money crop is Indian corn. It is without much doubt native to the western continent, where its production is practically controlled, as no other country possesses the soil and climate suited to its best development. The fertile land of the central west is its natural home. Here it brings wealth and prosperity. A loss or

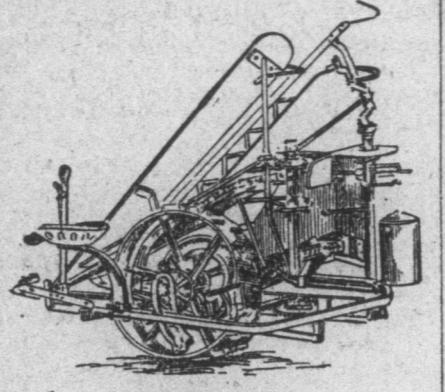


FIG. 1. THE IMPROVED CORN BINDER OF 1895—REAR VIEW.

partial failure of a single crop amounts to a calamity. Machinery for preparing the ground, planting the seed and cultivating the growing plant has been improved upon from time to time; but the one great drawback is the lack of a practical implement for husking standing corn. This has not yet appeared. However, the same object is being partially accomplished in a somewhat roundabout way by means of the corn binder and the combined husker and fodder shredder. All corn cannot be husked by this plan, as it necessitates cutting, shocking and running the cured fodder through the husker, but improved corn binders have made this practice more common than would have been possible a few years ago. The greater appreciation for corn fodder as feed for all kinds of farm animals, and its wide use, have created a demand for better corn harvesting machinery.

A good idea of the 1895 corn binders can be had by carefully studying the accompanying illustrations. Fig. 1 is a view of the complete machine as seen from the rear. Where the corn is very tall an extra set of packers arms is provided. Fig. 2 shows the front part of the machine tilted forward in order to enable it to pick up lodged or leaning stalks. As soon as they reach the elevator chains and packer, these stalks are easily taken care of. The whole machine is light, simple and easily

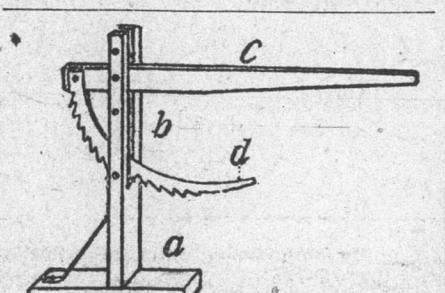


FIG. 2. TILTED FORWARD TO PICK UP LODGED CORN.

operated. Various home-made contrivances for cutting corn have been devised also.

Have but One Breed of Chickens. It is much better for the novice or amateur to keep one good variety of fowls than three or four, for the first year or two at least. It prevents the possibility of their becoming mixed, gives you an opportunity of studying the particular points in breeding to feather, size, etc., and, last, but not least, it does away with the many little details that are bound to be associated with four or five varieties. There is no business that an amateur can take hold of and make a success unless he begins at the bottom, says the Poultry World, and learns the many little details. The chicken business is no exception. Start with one good variety, study its wants and merits for the first year with care, and, then, as you become familiar with the business, add other varieties. It pays to keep three or four of the most popular, and at the same time it is pleasure to see them.

Adjustable Wagon Jack. This wagon jack is made of white oak, the sill (a) 2 by 4 by 18 inches, the post (b) 1½ by 4 by 28 inches. One inch must be cut out of the post (b) half way down for the lever. The iron brace to go through the lever is 1 by 3 by 42 inches. The crescent-shaped and toothed iron (d) passing through the center



of the post connecting with the lever is 1½ by ¾ and 30 inches long. It is crescent shaped with notches about 1½ inches apart. The notches rest in a bolt and three holes should be made in the upright (b), thus insuring adjustability to almost any desirable height for oiling ordinary farm vehicles.—Farm and Home.

The Flavor of Butter. The flavor and aroma of butter are caused partly by the direct influence of the feed and partly by ripening of the cream. To some extent, says Hoard's Dairyman, flavor may be secured by the feed. It would be difficult to produce fine-flavored butter from the cream of cows fed on straw alone. For fine flavor in butter, clover hay (properly cured), pea meal and cornmeal, with bran and a few mangels, would, in my judgment, be best feed, and proper ripening of the cream, together with the exclusion of all bad flavors.

Bulls Need Fresh Water. No animal suffers more from neglect of something to drink than does the hog. The slop and milk which are commonly given to pigs confined in the pen

are not good substitutes for water. The slop thrown into the swill barrel from the table has too much salt to make a good drink, and the milk is too solid to be a substitute for water. Try the pigs at least once a day with clear fresh water, and you will be surprised to find how much they will drink of it.

Holding Farm Produce. A correspondent of the Country Gentleman has found one advantage in prompt sales of produce. Every farmer knows, or should know, how much money he should receive for sales each year to meet the ordinary expense. If receipts are cut down by small crops and low prices, he must plan to cut down expenses, or at least not to incur any extra expense. When a big crop is stored, in the expectation of better prices, one naturally figures receipts at the expected price, and if it is not realized, there is disappointment to say the least.

By converting crops into money as soon as they are ready for market, it seems possible to do a safer business. There is less care and worry. On the other hand, when convinced that any product is selling temporarily at a price far lower than conditions justify, the profit that is obtained by holding goes to the one most deserving it—the producer.

An Automatic Gate. The ideal gate is one that will shut itself and open each way. Such a gate was described in the New England Homestead as follows: A shows the iron for the upper hinge. B shows the lower hinge, which has double pinions, while C shows the catch driven into the post with the spring. To open and shut the gate must be hung about 4 inches out of plumb, having the lower hinge (B) project out from the post much farther than the upper one. It shuts then just like a wagon rolling

down hill. The lower hinge (B) must be 8 inches from slot to slot.

Picking Apples. Gather when the pips turn to a brownish color, and the fruit parts easily from the twigs when turned to one side. As the fruit is gathered it should be laid lightly, not dropped, into a basket, and be just as carefully removed from the basket to the storeroom. A blow or knock will cause a bruise, which will be succeeded by rot. Store on straw on a dry floor. A bed of three inches of straw will suffice. Lay the fruit quite thinly at first, and add another course when the first sweating is passed; later on the apples may lie three or four thick. When sharp frost threatens, cover up the fruit with straw, bags or something of that kind, to protect it from frost.

A Subsoil Plow Attachment. The accompanying illustration shows an attachment by means of which three subsoil plows may be readily brought into use by the driver whenever needed. Suitable cranks, levers and cross-bars serve to make the triplicate attachment conveniently adjustable, either vertically or laterally.

The whole thing is controlled by a lever fulcrumed on the rear of the plow beam, a thumb latch being provided

FOR SUBSOIL PLOWS. A sketch showing a subsoil plow attachment, which allows three subsoil plows to be used together.

which engages a rach on one of the handles. Farmers will all appreciate the advantages offered by this new device.

Fertilizing Value of Wood Ashes. Hard-wood ashes from mixed timbers average, when fresh and not exposed to the weather, ten per cent of potash, three per cent of phosphoric acid and thirty per cent of lime, with some magnesia, soda and silica. They are an excellent fertilizer for every crop grower, lacking, of course, the nitrogen needed to make a complete food for plants. Ashes are excellent for grass and clover, all the vegetables grown in gardens, and for corn. They may be applied in any quantity up to forty bushels per acre, and at any time of the year.

Peach Meringue Pie. Peach meringue pie is delicious and is made thus: Line a deep earthen pie plate with a rich pie crust that has been rolled thin. Peel and slice enough peaches to fill the plate very full and sift sugar over them. Crack half a dozen of the peach stones and take out the meat, blanch, chop fine and scatter among the fruit. Bake in a moderate oven. For the meringue use the white of two eggs beaten to a stiff froth and two tablespoonsfuls of sugar. Spread over the peaches and return to the oven and brown lightly.

Potatoes as Stock Feed. The farmer who grows potatoes does not have much time to spare in growing other root crops. But in every large crop of potatoes there will be a considerable portion that is too rough or too small to sell, and these can be profitably fed. No kind of roots is economical as the main feed. They are only used in small quantities as an appetizer, and for this purpose the small potatoes unfit for market are as good as roots of any kind.

They Lack Persistence. Many amateur growers plant trees with enthusiasm and then grow discouraged over borers and rabbits; over spraying and pruning; over curculio and knots and lice and mice and grubs. They are growers who will never get the markets. They are a great help to the nurseries and give the progressive orchardist a chance to sell his superior products.

HISTORY OF A PARTY.

THE G. O. P. RECORD IS ONE OF POLITICAL CRIME.

Period Cannot Be Far Distant When It Will Be Driven Out of Power and Out of Existence—No More Tariff Tinkering.

Story of Its Shame. Neither in this country nor in any country where the semblance of free government exists has any other political party retained power as long as the Republican party has done with such an utter uselessness for the possession of power and with such a record of abominable abuses in its exercise. It is a marvel in the history of politics.

Trying to Fool the Farmers. The high-tariff press is engaged in an attempt to coax the farmers back to the doctrines of high taxation and monopoly prices for manufactured goods, and points to the reduction in duties in farm produce as a reason for the restoration of McKinleyism. To make a case for protection the Republicans are claiming that under the Wilson tariff a flood of foreign farm products is taking away the markets of our farmers, and that these importations are much greater than under the tariff of 1890.

A comparison of the imports of farm products during the first year of the McKinley tariff, and the first year of the Wilson law, shows that there is not the slightest basis for the claim of the Republicans. The official statement for this fiscal year 1891, during which the McKinley tariff was in force for nine months, gives the total value of animals imported as \$4,945,365. For the year 1890, in which the Wilson tariff was in operation for ten months, the value of imported animals was but \$2,738,202. Of breadstuffs the imports in 1891 were worth \$4,484,449. In 1890 they were worth only \$2,859,449. In 1891 eggs to the value of \$1,184,595 were imported. For 1890 their value was \$324,133. Hides worth \$27,130,759 were brought in in 1891. The last fiscal year's imports were \$26,122,942. In hops there was a much greater falling off under the Wilson tariff, only \$509,744 worth being imported, while in 1890 their value was \$1,797,406. Vegetables of the value of \$7,076,374 were imported in 1891. For 1890 their value was only \$3,971,445. In 1891 provisions worth \$2,108,801 were imported. In 1890 they were valued at \$2,028,658.

The only farm product which shows an increase in 1890 is wool, of which \$25,556,421 worth was imported, against \$18,231,372 worth in 1891. But this increase is explained by the very small imports of 1894, when, owing to the McKinley panic, the woolen industry was practically stagnant, and imports of wool were only valued at \$6,107,438. Democratic prosperity brought a demand for more wool than our farmers could at once supply, and imports were therefore temporarily greater. Including wool, the total value of these farm products imported in 1891 was \$67,757,211. Those of 1890 were valued at \$59,012,028, a decrease under the Wilson tariff of \$8,745,183. Thus do the official figures contradict the high-tariff assertions that free trade is ruining the farmer.

High Tariff Chestnuts. With the advent of autumn comes once more our old familiar friend, the monolithic high tariff chestnut that "protection" caused the great decline in the price of steel rails. The New York Tribune has just heard about the wonderful results of protection in the steel rail industry, and hastens to tell its readers all about it. "Twenty years ago," says the Tribune, "the city of Cincinnati paid \$80 a ton for steel rails. Now rails are less than \$30 per ton. This is the result of protection."

Certainly, Protection did it all. If caused Sir Henry Bessemer to invent the method of making steel which has so vastly cheapened that product. Of course it happened that the new process was discovered by a wicked free-trader in a free trade country, but the Tribune says protection did it, and that paper ought to know. The high tariff also caused the invention of improved rolling mills and other machinery which have been adopted during the past twenty years. At the same time it put great deposits of coal where it could be easily mined, and created the rich iron mines of the Northwest.

At least, it must have done these things if the Tribune is right, for it was due to their existence that the price of steel rails has fallen. Only the Tribune forgot to say that steel rails are now about \$5 a ton cheaper in free trade England than in this country. If protection puts down prices here, what caused them to fall in England? Not our competition, for our prices are still higher abroad.

No More Tariff Tinkering. It is certain that a reckoning will come at some time. Two national defeats within ten years and defeat in many States have already resulted from popular effort. The period cannot be far away when the Republican party will be driven permanently out of power and out of existence.—Chicago Chronicle.

McKinley as a Disturber. The dissatisfaction shown by Ohio Republicans with the opening speeches made by McKinley in the State campaign is not surprising. They are anxious to succeed, and it is patent enough that for McKinley the campaign means an opportunity to help his presidential prospects regardless of the effect on the Republican party.

The McKinley faction is composed of a comparatively small part of the Republican party in Ohio. Ohio sheep-growers with capital enough to own ranches in Texas sympathize with him objections to the prosperity of the woolen industry on a basis of free raw material, and no doubt there are others who share his extreme views, but there are not enough of them to count for much in the politics of the State.

The element which McKinley cannot control is that powerful conservative wing of the party represented by Senator Sherman in the guard, but unmistakable protest he made against McKinleyism in the Senate at a time when a few favored campaign contributors were forcing the bill on the country.

They Lack Persistence. The conservative element which in Ohio and elsewhere gives the Republican party its vitality is opposed to

McKinleyism at any time, and more especially at the present time when the business interests of the country demand the suppression of agitators, fanatics and demagogues whose recklessness threatens to prevent the return of prosperity and to keep the country in the condition it was prior to the repeal of the McKinley law.

It is safe to say that by attempting to make himself an issue in Ohio politics McKinley is not promoting his presidential prospects. Republicans with the business interests of the country at heart are earnestly in favor of keeping him in the background as much as possible.—New York World.

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THE BIG ELM IN SAVANNA, ILL. It is Twenty-three Feet and Nine Inches in Circumference, and is Supposed to Be Three Hundred and Thirty-five Years Old.



On the banks of the Mississippi in Savanna, Ill., stands an elm tree that is the pride and wonder of Carroll County. It is probably the largest in Illinois, if not in the United States, taking circumference, height and spread of branches into consideration. The famous elm of Boston, which was destroyed in 1876, was twenty-two feet in circumference at the base, while the elm of Savanna is twenty-three feet and nine inches. Its height is eighty feet, and the spread of its branches shades an area of 100 feet in diameter. It was a large tree when the present city of Savanna was laid out in 1828. Indeed, if De Candolle, the Swiss botanist, was correct in placing the age of the elm at 335 years, this heavy giant must have sprouted soon after De Soto explored the Mississippi in 1542. The figure of a man in the trunk view serves a double purpose. It illustrates the size of the tree as compared with the body of a large man, and at the same time shows the past of the nation in the person of one of the oldest pioneers, Pliny Taylor, who has lived under the shadow of the big elm for fifty-five years. To D. L. Bowen, the oldest living pioneer, who came to Savanna in 1836, is due the credit of preserving the big elm in later years. Curiously enough, there is no scar or mark upon this tree to show that it has ever been struck by lightning, although trees all around it have been shivered repeatedly.

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