

THE
PERRY MOWER.

Patented in the United States of America, England, France and Belgium.

MANUFACTURED AND SOLD

BY

AMES PLOW COMPANY,

SUCCESSORS TO

RUGGLES, NOURSE, MASON & COMPANY.

MANUFACTORIES AT

GROTON JUNCTION AND WORCESTER, MASS.

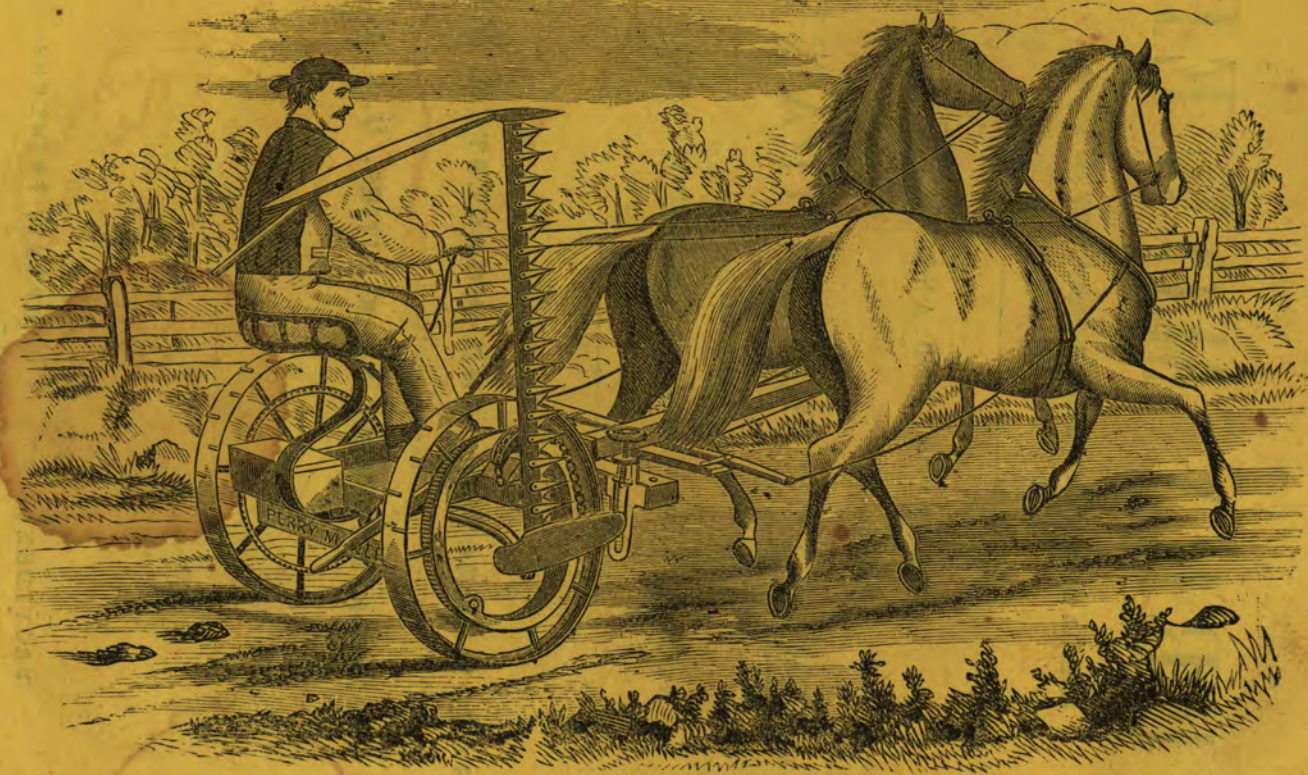
AND WAREHOUSES AT

BOSTON AND NEW YORK CITIES, U. S. A.

PROVIDENCE:

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1867.



THE PERRY MOWER ON THE ROAD.

THE PERRY MOWER.

The novelty, simplicity, compactness, perfect mechanical arrangement, and success of this new Machine in the field, have gained for it an unprecedented popularity. To it has been awarded the Highest Prizes, wherever it has been exhibited, against all the other best machines, and the strongest competition. It was awarded

THE FIRST PRIZE at the Agricultural exhibition at Taunton, Mass., U. S. A., in October, 1866.

THE FIRST PRIZE at the New England and Vermont State Fairs, held together, in Brattleboro', Vermont, U. S. A., in September, 1866.

THE FIRST PRIZE, A SILVER MEDAL, at the Mechanics Fair, at Worcester, Mass., U. S. A., in September, 1866.

A SPECIAL GOLD MEDAL, by the Rhode Island Society for the Encouragement of Domestic Industry, in Rhode Island, U. S. A., November, 1866, after a thorough trial in the field with other machines.

The following are fac similes of Medals awarded this Machine :

GOLD.



GOLD.

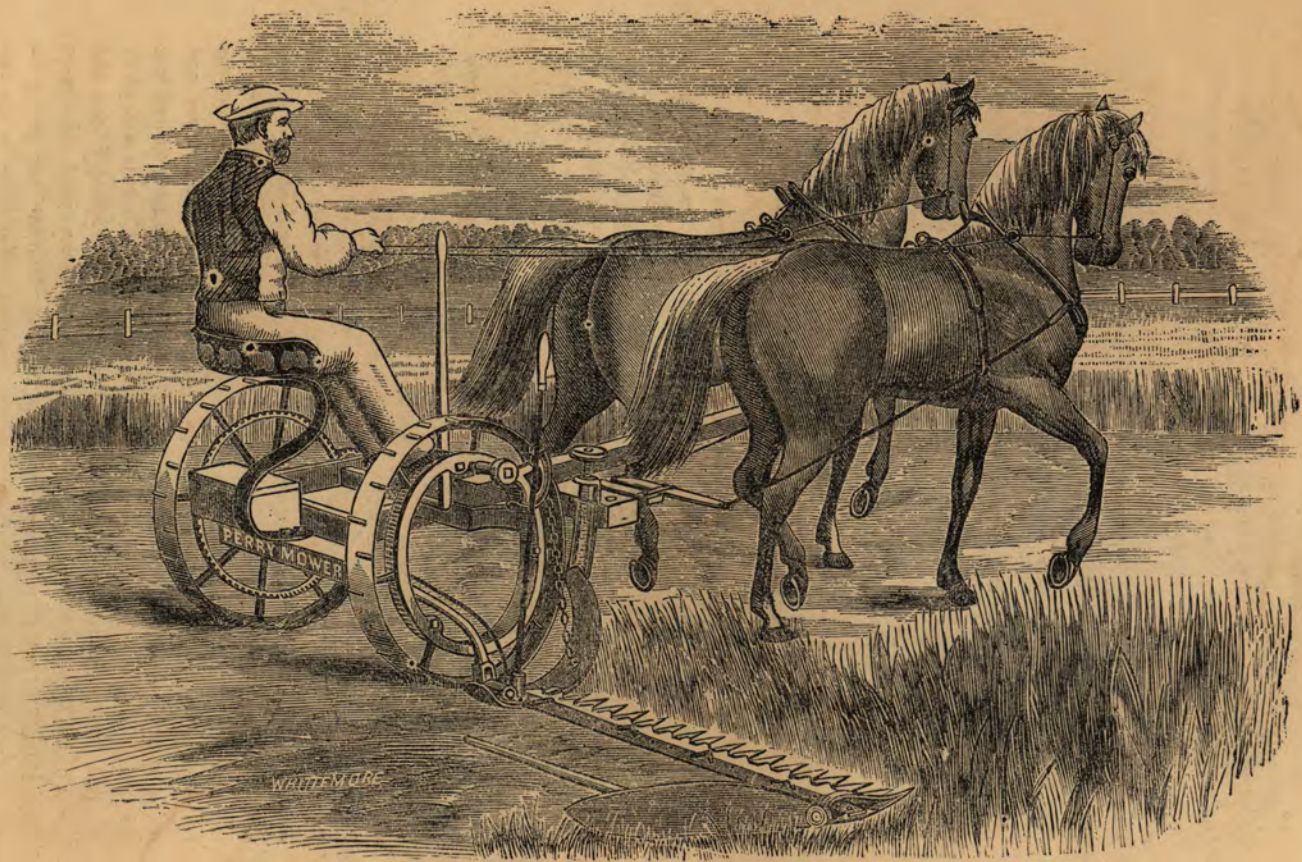


SILVER.



SILVER.





THE PERRY MOWER IN THE FIELD.

This new Mower was invented and patented by John G. Perry, of Kingston, Rhode Island, U. S. A., and has peculiarities which render it a superior Machine. It is got up and arranged with reference to true mechanical principles and genius combined, using only so much machinery as is necessary for a perfect Mower, with every piece in its proper place, and compact, so as to perform the same work better, and with less machinery.—without which feature and aim at perfection, no device can be justly called an invention or improvement.

This new Machine is mounted upon two main wheels, both of which are drivers; and the driving motion is conveyed from the wheels through a hollow or opening through the axle and wheel, to the cutter-bar, which is placed on a line with the axle, so as to rise and fall with the wheels, and thus better adapt it to uneven surfaces, and thereby secure the drawing principle claimed as so valuable in that class of other machines having the cutting apparatus back of the wheels, so as to draw or lead the cutting apparatus, instead of driving or pushing it along, and thus saving the draft connections and castor wheels, used in other machines, and avoid the unsteady working, straining, friction and breakage produced in that class of machines having the cutting apparatus in front of the wheels, and at the same time have the cutting apparatus sufficiently in front of the driver in this new machine, which is claimed as so necessary in that class of machines having the cutters in front of the wheels, for the safety of the driver, and avoiding obstacles, and thus between the two extreme front and rear points, placing the cutting apparatus on a line with the axle, with the connecting machinery all within the compass of the wheel compact, avoid all objections, and preserve and combine in the most simple manner in this new machine every desirable feature of the old ones, with many new and extra advantages.

The machinery is very simple and compact, having but a very few pieces, and so placed as to leave a clear, open space below the axle and frame, so that obstacles are passed over freely by this machine. Another advantage of placing the cutter-bar on a line with the axle is, that when the cutting apparatus is raised, its weight rests upon the axle, and not upon the team; and it will mow around the corners of the grass, without stopping the team or having to back to start anew at every stop. There is also a device, easily worked, which raises and lowers the forward ends of the fingers and cutters, thus adapting them to the height of the team, and the particular sort of grass; this device, and the lever for raising the cutting apparatus, are within easy reach of the driver, and are worked by the hand, while the lever by which the machine is thrown into and out of gear, is conveniently placed in front of the driver, and is worked by the foot. By a contrivance peculiar to this invention, the ratchet wheels and pawls are so fixed as to work silently, thus avoiding the noise, which has always been a frightful and disagreeable feature in Mowing Machines, and saving the use of pawl springs and casings around the ratchets. The thills for the one-horse machines are also a new feature. They are so contrived, that by the

removal of three small bolts, they can be changed to a pole, and vice versa for one or two horses at pleasure; and this is done without any loss of strength, or any liability to get out of order, such is the simplicity of the arrangement. This machine has no side draft whatever, and is so balanced as to be clear from weight upon the team, at all times; while the S shaped spring seat will be found the most perfect for the comfort of the driver.

This Mowing Machine has been thoroughly tested in the field the past two years, and succeeded to the satisfaction of all. It has been tried with the Dynamometer applied, and found to be of the very lightest draft. Other attempts have been made to use the cutting apparatus on a line with the axle, in various other ways, with two wheels, without the desired result, but the novelty, simplicity and perfect arrangement of the Perry Mower have made it a complete success. The advantage of mowing around the corners of the grass without stopping the team, and then not having to back to start anew at every stop, the light draft, the clear open space below the axle and frame to pass obstructions, the simplicity and compactness of the machinery, the adaptation to the various surfaces, the freedom from side draft, the noiseless ratchets, the perfect balance at all times on the team, and the convertible pole and thills for one or two horses, and the perfect spring seat for the comfort of the driver, will prove good recommendations to farmers, and make the Perry Mower the leading machine.

For traveling on the road, or moving from one field to another, the cutting apparatus can be easily folded up vertically, by its yielding connections, to the side of the machine, as seen by the cuts on the cover, which is the best position it can be placed in to receive the free circulation of the air on all sides for drying it when wet, and preserving it in good order, while those which fold over on the frame, with the face of the cutting apparatus down, are more liable to wet and rust.

N. B. The following are some of the points of excellence, in addition to those mentioned in the following reports and testimonials, of the Perry Mower over other machines. The old one-wheel machines are now universally acknowledged to be imperfect. The other attempts to use the cutter on a line with the axle, in other ways, with two wheels, have been imperfect or complicated, and therefore unsuccessful. The old two-wheel machines having the cutting apparatus located either in front or back of the wheels, are subject to side draft, and the weight of the cutting apparatus on the team when it is raised from the ground, and many other objections.

The Perry Mower has two driving wheels, with the cutting apparatus located on a line with the axle, between the two extreme front and rear points, in a compact, simple and complete manner, overcoming all these difficulties in this new and superior way. The weight of the driver is thrown upon the wheels and used for power, so that a lighter machine on this new plan will do the same work of a heavier machine on either of the old plans. It will run slow or

quick, and do the work well. It is thrown in and out of gear by the foot, by a lever in front of the driver, with the greatest ease and convenience.

The gearing on the main wheels is external, and therefore less liable to break should anything come between that and the spur gears meshing into it, as the action is on the principle of an arch.

The cutting apparatus is in the right place for a Reaper as well as a Mower, and it can be easily changed from one to the other, and is easily managed and taken care of. With main wheels thirty inches in diameter, it will work fifteen inches high horizontally, for topping, &c. In case the inner wheel rises over an obstruction, the cutting apparatus is raised over with it and by it, instead of having to lift it over by hand, as in other machines. It will cut out circles and mow around trees and corners. It has beat the leading champions of the great Auburn trial in the field, and it is justly claimed that the Perry Mower possesses more novel and important features than all other inventions on mowers for the last ten years. The frame is made of wood, which is considered by the best judges to be the best material for holding the iron parts. The finger bar is of steel or cold rolled iron; the cutter bar is of the best of iron; the fingers are of tried malleable iron, faced with steel; the pitman is of steel, and every part is made of the best material and in the best manner.

The great success of Mr. Perry's other inventions, 60,000 of the machines being now sold annually, is sufficient to establish the character of them for simplicity and perfect adaptation to their several objects, and affords of itself assurance of the success of his mower, as it combines qualities of the same character which have made his other inventions so useful and popular.

Prizes have also been awarded to the other inventions of Mr. Perry at the Crystal Palace World's Fair in London, in 1851, at the Crystal Palace World's Fair in New York, U. S. A., in 1853, at the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanics Association, and the Rhode Island Agricultural Society, U. S. A., in 1865, and at the New England and Vermont State Fairs, U. S. A., in 1866.

The following are fac similes of some of these prizes:

SILVER MEDAL.



BRONZE MEDALS.



TESTIMONIALS

Among the many testimonials received by the inventor in the United States, in favor of this mowing machine, are the following, which will be sufficient for all acquainted with the gentlemen signing the same, they being practical farmers, mechanics and gentlemen, who are good judges of such machines:

KINGSTON, R. I., Aug. 10, 1866.

Mr. J. G. PERRY—Dear Sir: Having used your new Mowing Machine, I have no hesitation in saying, that, in my opinion, it is the best machine yet invented. It works well in all kinds of grass, and on uneven surfaces. It has no side draft, so objectionable in other machines, and makes but very little noise. In passing obstructions it surpasses everything I ever saw. Its draft is light compared to other machines of the same size. I have used several of the other best mowers this year and last, and have seen various others in operation.

Yours, truly,

JOS. C. CLARKE.

KINGSTON, R. I., July 27, 1866.

Mr. J. G. PERRY—Dear Sir: I have tried your new Mowing Machine in very heavy and tangled clover, and in very heavy and lodged grass, and also in light grass, and on various sorts of ground, and have given it a fair test. I have also owned and used the best of the other mowing machines for several years, and find that your mower is a lighter draft machine than any other I have worked or seen worked. It has no side draft, and is well adapted to the various surfaces, runs quiet, and has many other important advantages. I now own one of the best of the other mowers, and have practised mowing about the town for several years, and think this statement of my experience justly due to you and the public.

CHARLES W. WILCOX.

We have witnessed the operation of Mr. Perry's new Mowing Machine in the field, and fully concur in the opinion expressed by Mr. Wilcox in the above.

E. R. POTTER,
JOB GREENMAN,
ELISHA WATSON,
ELISHA C. CLARKE,
EDMUND S. BABCOCK.

EXTRACTS FROM THE PRESS.

A NEW MOWING MACHINE.—Since mowing machines were first introduced, there has been presented to inventors a problem, the solution of which was necessary before a perfect machine could be realized. A new machine, recently invented by Mr. J. G. Perry, of Kingston, R. I., and which has been on trial within the limits of this city for the past week, presents the desired solution in an arrangement and combination of parts in a simple, compact and practical manner. The machine, which has recently been tried here, was built for the inventor by Mr. Alzirus Brown, and the manner in which it has sustained the severe tests to which it was subjected, is an emphatic endorsement of its principle and arrangement, and of its mechanical workmanship.

The several tests were conducted on ground unfavorable for the machine, and were made in the presence of the heads of the several departments of the Ames Plow Co.'s works, and the works of the Union Mowing Machine Co., and other persons familiar with the operation of mowing machines; all of whom expressed themselves satisfied of the merit of the new machine, and of the manner in which it stood the tests applied to it. The fact that the Ames Plow Co. have undertaken the manufacture of the machine, and intend to introduce it in the market, is an emphatic endorsement of its merits.—*Worcester Spy*.

PERRY'S MOWING MACHINE.—On the 8th inst. we gave an account of the trial of this new mower in this place, Since then further tests have been made with it here. One in the presence of the members of the company which manufacture the celebrated Buckeye Machine in this place, and other gentlemen, and another, in the presence of Wm. E. Barrett, Esq., of Providence, dealer in mowing machines and agricultural implements generally in that place, and other good judges. At this trial the dynamometer was applied, and although this trial was in very heavy, wet and lodged grass, and during a heavy rain, yet under such unfavorable circumstances the machine was found to be of the very lightest draft, and all that could be desired by any one.—*Worcester Spy*.

REPORT OF THE JUDGES ON MOWING MACHINES AT THE NEW ENGLAND AND VERMONT STATE FAIRS.

The following is the report of the Committee on Mowing Machines at the late New England and Vermont State Fairs, U. S. A., in 1866:

"In the department of Mowing Machines, your Committee are pleased to mention the entry of eleven different machines, some of which have been well and favorably known for several years, and whose merits are well attested by their extensive sales. There are others comparatively new, and still others exhibited for the first time. Of the first named class your Committee take pleasure in mentioning the "Buckeye," which is of excellent workmanship, and is well known as an excellent machine. A change has been made by substituting an iron frame and a different arrangement of the gears, which is claimed to be an improvement. Of those comparatively new is the "Granite State," by Newhall & Stebbins, of Hinsdale, N. H., which is also of thorough workmanship, is very compact, and has a light draft, and is fast working its way to public favor. The "Clipper" has some new and peculiar features, which commend themselves to your Committee. The same is also true of the "Kniffin" machine, which is of light draft and works admirably well.

Of those entirely new to your Committee is the "PERRY MOWER," by John G. Perry, Kingston, R. I., which, in the opinion of your Committee, possesses some advantages over all others in operating the cutter, as well as the position of it. It is also composed of less pieces and is more simple in construction, consequently can be and is afforded at a less price. The draft is central and light, and the working is satisfactory, therefore your Committee are unanimous in awarding the first premium to the Perry Mower."

FREDERICK SMYTH,	} Judges.
A. D. SMITH,	
D. H. GOODELL,	
J. B. DINSMORE,	
T. H. ABBE,	
WM. E. BARRETT,	
J. F. ANDERSON,	

REPORT.

Report and proceedings of the Society for the Encouragement of Domestic Industry, in the State of Rhode Island, U. S. A., in relation to the Perry Mowing Machine:

"At the stated meeting, in August, 1866, of the Rhode Island Society for the Encouragement of Domestic Industry, John G. Perry, of South Kingstown, called the attention of the Board to a model of a new mowing machine invented by him. He pointed out the peculiarities of his machine, and the advantages which it possessed over others, and stated that he had a machine in working order which he desired should be tested by the Board. Thereupon, Allen C. Mathewson, of Barrington, George F. Wilson, of East Providence, Alfred B. Chadsey, of Wickford, Elisha A. Lawton, of Cranston, James DeWolf Perry, of Bristol, and Obediah Brown, of North Providence, were appointed a Committee to examine and test the same.

At an adjourned meeting, holden November 8, 1866, present twelve members, this Committee presented the following report :

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Oct. 25, 1866.

To the Standing Committee of the Rhode Island Society for the Encouragement of Domestic Industry :

Gentlemen : — The special Committee appointed to examine and report upon a mowing machine invented and patented by Mr. John G. Perry, of South Kingstown, respectfully report that they met, on the morning of the 11th instant, at the farm of A. C. Mathewson, in Barrington, and carefully and attentively examined the machine, and saw it cut about two acres of heavy aftermath.

By the employment of a peculiar device, Mr. Perry has secured many advantages not heretofore satisfactorily attained in a mowing machine. This device substantially consists in a hollow axle nearest the cutter. Through this axle passes the rod which communicates motion from the crank shaft to the cutting knives. By this simple arrangement Mr. Perry evidently has attained the following advantages :

1. A direct and true centre-draft.
2. The cutter is on a line with the points of contact of the wheels with the ground, and therefore works easily to uneven surfaces.
3. The whole weight of the machine and of the driver is perpendicular to the centre of motion of the wheels.
4. The gearing and journals through which the motion of the cutter is obtained are quite high from the ground, and they are, therefore, less liable to be injured by the dust, and the machine readily passes over ordinary obstructions.
5. The machine is of less weight, and is composed of a smaller number of pieces than any other within our knowledge.
6. The parts subjected to much wear and tear are few in number, cheap, and easily replaced.
7. The driver's seat is most admirably constructed to secure comfort and safety.
8. The ratchets and pawls are so constructed that the machine works with comparatively no noise.
9. The machine is easily, quickly and cheaply converted from a one to a two-horse mower.
10. Apparently every valuable feature in the older machines is retained in this.

Mr. Perry has made an important invention. He has reduced it to practice. He has constructed a mowing machine of superior excellence. It will be of great value and benefit to the whole country, and especially to the agricultural portion of it.

Therefore, we recommend the award of a gold medal, suitably inscribed, to Mr. Perry, for his mowing machine.

(Signed)

ALLEN C. MATHEWSON,
GEORGE F. WILSON,
ELISHA A. LAWTON,
A. B. CHADSEY,
JAMES DEW. PERRY,
OBEDIAH BROWN.

"Which report was received, and the recommendation adopted ; and the same committee was authorized and directed to procure and present the medal as proposed."

Witness :

WM. R. STAPLES, Sec'y.

REPORT.

The following extracts are made from the report of the Judges on Agricultural Implements, &c., at the fifth exhibition of the Worcester County Association, held at Mechanics' Hall, in the city of Worcester, Mass., U. S. A., in 1866, with reference to Mowers and Reapers :

"If any contributor should feel that his contributions were not sufficiently noticed by the Committee, they can only say that in their opinion the merits of the new machines should be clearly and decidedly in advance of all previously existing machines for performing the same work.

"The awards of the Committee are the results of a careful examination and an unbiassed judgment.

"The desires of the contributors for an indulgent Committee to bestow more and larger awards, is met on the other hand by the value of those awards when critically and perhaps more rarely bestowed.

"With the high standard before us which the Association has heretofore sustained in its desire to encourage the inventors and artisans in this county and vicinity, your committee may have acted with greater caution than others more sanguine, but their desire not to cheapen the quality of the award must be their answer."

"63. *One Mowing Machine*, contributed by the Ohio Mowing Machine Co., with four feet cutting bar, neatly made, and claimed to go over rougher ground and cut easier than any other mower in market."

"65. *Union Mowing Machine*, contributed by Alzirus Brown, Worcester. *For the superior workmanship* of this well and favorably known mower, the committee award the first premium, a Bronze Medal."

"330. *Buckeye Mowing Machine*, by Buckeye Mowing Machine Co., Worcester. Well and thoroughly made. Diploma."

"505. *Little Giant Mower and Reeper, with Self-Operating Raker*, by Ames Plow Co. Simple in its mechanical arrangement, yet performing all that a person reaping, and another raking into piles for binding could do. Diploma."

"592. *One Model Kniffin Mowing Machine*, showing its adaptation to the rough and uneven surfaces of the ground; contributed by L. G. Kniffin, Worcester."

"593. *Two Mowing Machines*—a one-horse, weighing 455 pounds; a two-horse, 600 pounds; contributed by Kniffin Mowing Machine Co., Worcester, Mass. Diploma."

"504. *Perry's Patent Mowing Machine*, by Ames Plow Co., Worcester. This was tested after the Fair, in the field before the committee, and worked with but little friction, the working gears being on a line with the axle and cutting bar. As a new invention on the mowing machine, the committee are unanimous in awarding the Association's first premium, a Silver Medal."

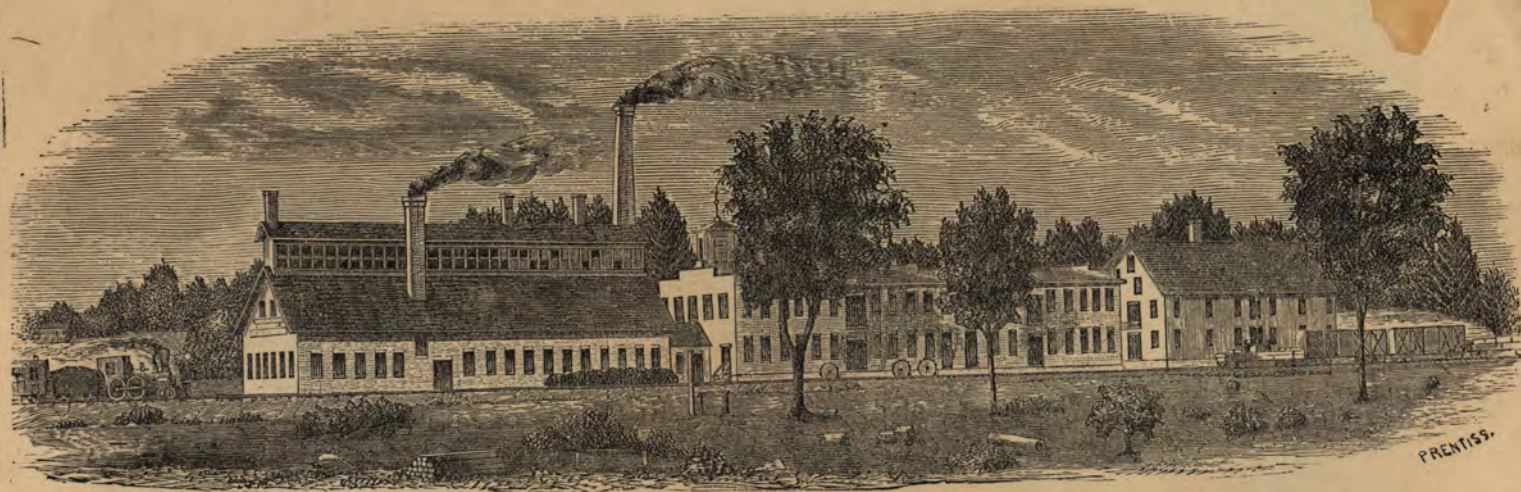
J. M. C. ARMSBY, SAMUEL A. KNOX, T. W. WELLINGTON, CHARLES EAGER, B. E. HUTCHINSON, JOHN BROOKS,	}	Judges.
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In the instructions given to the Judges at this Fair was the following :

"Silver Medals will be awarded *only* to *new* and meritorious machines and articles of manufacture of real and intrinsic value to the community.

"Bronze Medals, to machines and articles of manufacture *not new*, but of *superior workmanship*.

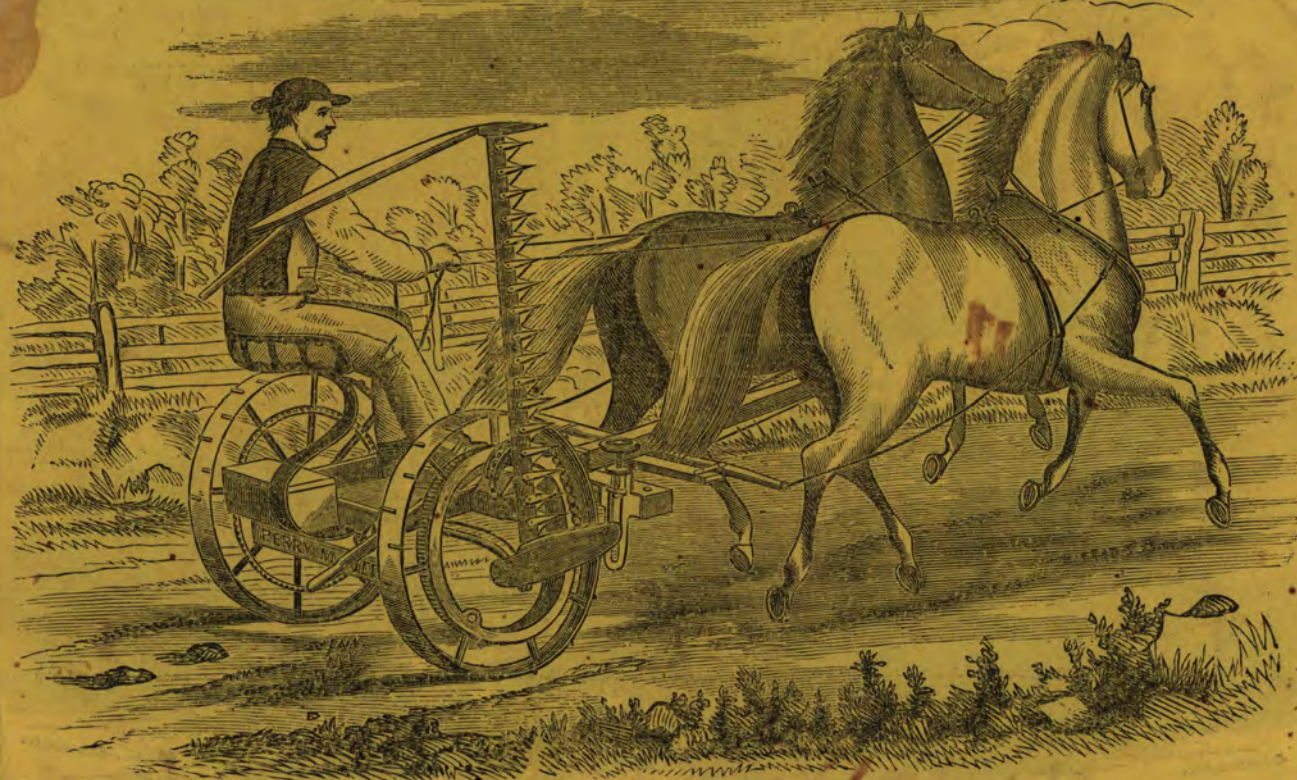
"Diplomas, at the discretion of the Committee."



Ames Plow Company Manufactory, at Groton Junction, Mass., U. S. A.



Quincy Hall Wholesale and Retail Agricultural Warehouse, Boston, Mass., U. S. A.



THE PERRY MOWER ON THE ROAD.