PLOW ATTACHMENT FOR MARSHES.

JAMES GAYNOR.*

I wish to present to the Wisconsin State Drainage Association a simple device for turning over grassy marsh land with a plow so that the grass will be well covered. Too often grass projects out between the furrow slices after they are turned. Such grass keeps on growing and it is hard to kill it by subsequent cultivation. If it is well covered, the wild marsh grass is easily killed.

We usually like to have the turned furrows lap one on the other so that the harrow can get a better hold of them. Even with a jointer you can not cover all the grass in this way on a tough sod. The furrow must be turned over flat and each must butt up close to the other. The flat surface is harder to cultivate effectively, but the grass is effectively covered.

![Diagram](image)

**FIGURE 21.—COVERING ALL THE GRASS.**

By sliding the furrow the grass is tucked beneath it. This attachment is pulled behind the plow by the chain, or it may be bolted to the landside of the plow.

I believe in plowing marsh lands deep—10 inches or more. This gets the grass down where it is out of the way and leaves a mellow layer on top.

The attachment to the plow is shown diagramatically in the cut. F is an 8”x10” with an iron shoe projecting to tuck un-

* See page 175.
nder the grass on that side of the furrow as the device is dragged in the furrow behind the plow, to which the chain A is attached. The device is wide enough to slide the furrow slice over about 4 inches. This tucks the grass under the other side of it and pushes it firmly against the last furrow slice. It leaves the furrow about 4 inches wider than the next furrow slice to leave room for that to be pushed up against the last one.

B is the furrow before it has been pushed over. C shows the projecting grass. At D none of the grass is visible. It is not even between the furrow slices. It is well tucked in beneath them.

This device is not patented. It is yours to make use of. If any member of this association finds it as successful as I have, I shall be very glad.

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THE COMMON LAW OF DRAINAGE.

JUDGE JOHN ALEXANDER GAYNOR*.

"The common law had grown up and become fixed and settled long before there was any legislation affecting it. It is the outgrowth of the customs of the times. The underlying principle of common law is, or should be, very similar to that underlying the Bill of Rights in our Federal Constitution—namely, that equal privileges should be granted to all and special privileges to none. This principle has perhaps been carried too far, since the common law gives the landowner almost exclusive right and sovereignty over his own land, to the disadvantage of his neighbor.

A good way to get at what the common law in regard to drainage is, is to put one’s self alternately in the places of the parties concerned. It is easy to see that a neighbor, or corporation, has no right to obstruct a natural waterway to the detriment of the landowner above. It is also very easy to see that if the landowner collects superfluous water in tile drains, or otherwise, and discharges it at a place on his neighbor’s land, the neighbor can recover damages unless it empties into a waterway or stream.

* See page 176.