

## Steam Cultivation.

We heard a gentleman connected with the Sacramento River Sugar company remark the other day that the company lost one hundred and fifty acres of beet sugar this season, in consequence of not having facilities for cultivating the soil. He said that he had seen the result of the soil dried up so rapidly after it was in condition to work, that before the last one hundred and fifty acres were planted it became too dry to grow the crop, and hence the loss. To prevent a similar loss in the future, he determined to import this year one of Fowler's patent steam plows. One of the company intends purchasing and shipping the machinery in time for work in putting in next year's crop.

We regard this as a most important movement agriculturally, and the beginning of a revolution in the cultivation of the soil in this State that will lead to many very important improvements. First among these improvements we anticipate the adoption more generally of the summer fallow system and deep plowing. We have seen the loss of the soil of the steam plow will lead to this, for the reason that the expense of cultivation will be reduced, and the facilities for doing the work rapidly being increased, farmers will give more attention to a better system. If all those farmers who have been deterred from the practice of the steam plow by the expense of the machinery, and the difficulty of the future by preparing the facilities for more rapid and better work, the State would soon be compensated for the failure of the crops this season. Realizing the necessity of this improvement, and the peculiar adaptability of our wheat lands to steam cultivation, many of our enterprising farmers and mechanics have been experimenting with direct traction steam plows for years past, but it is generally to be regretted that they have had so little success and so little encouragement for the wealth of brains and means expended. While some people have been spending their time and money on the traction system without success, the mechanics of England, by directing their genius and muscles in the direction of stationary machinery, have been successful beyond their brightest anticipations. In speaking of the difficulties of the direct traction system, A. Campbell, an agricultural engineer of considerable experience, says:

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H. B. CLAWSON, Supt.

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