

The Largest Farm in the World.

A correspondent of the Cincinnati *Inquirer* writes as follows:

"I observe a note in your last issue of an 8,000 acre farm in Bureau County, Ill., which will pass for a fair sized farm. But the farm which is, no doubt, the largest cultivated farm in the world, and, I believe, the best, is owned and cultivated by M. L. SULLIVANT, Esq., formerly from the vicinity of Columbus, Ohio, now of Champaign County, Ill. He owns and presides over 70,000 acres of the best land on the hemisphere, 23,000 of which is under fence and in actual improvement and cultivation; the balance is used for herding.

I will venture the opinion that there cannot be found five acres of unserviceable land on Mr. S.'s entire 70,000 acres. Their productiveness is unsurpassed. Almost all of Mr. S.'s farming is conducted by labor-saving machinery, so that it is estimated that throughout, one man will perform the average labor of four or five, as conducted on small farms. He drives his posts by horse power; breaks his ground by Comstock's "spades;" mows, rakes, loads, unloads and stacks his hay by horse power; cultivates his corn by improved machinery; ditches any low ground by machinery, so that all his laborers can ride and perform their tasks as easy as riding in a buggy. I had the pleasure of being present when he harvested a thousand acres of his wheat; this was done with ——'s "Headers"—about ten or twenty men and twenty horses cut and safely stacked away about 200 acres per day, and performed the work better than I ever saw it by the old modes. To give all the improved modes of farming employed by this king of agriculture, would require more space than you would like to spare. Notwithstanding all this labor-saving machinery, Mr. S. employs from one to two hundred laborers, some two hundred horses and mules, and a large herd of working oxen. Not having the exact date before me, I will not venture to give the enormous returns, in bushels or tons, of the products of this great farm. Some estimate may be made from the magnitude of the farm, taken in connection with the fact that the quality of the soil is unequalled by the very best Sciota bottoms."

The New York Times

Published: August 26, 1866

Copyright © The New York Times