

Automatic Device to Ensure Permanently Open Mole Drain Outlets

A MOST ingenious but simple device to ensure permanently open outfalls in mole drain outlets has been invented by Mr. O. L. Sykes, of Westmere, and Mr. H. A. Harcombe, of Masterton, which promises to find wide favour among mole drainers.

Briefly, it consists of a device attached to the end of an ordinary mole plug, whereby a field tile may be drawn into the end of the mole drain. When the tile is pulled in to its full depth

a simple automatic release permits the mole plough to continue up the paddock while the tile remains firmly fixed in the outlet.

There is no need to emphasise to experienced mole drainers the vital importance of maintaining a clear and open outlet for each mole drain. Indeed, other things being equal, the life of a mole drain depends on the care which is devoted to the regular clearing of unprotected outlets. In fact,

most will agree that it is practically essential to insert a tile in the end of a mole in order to ensure the free escape of water, and while the usual practice of digging back along the length of the mole and setting in a tile is fairly satisfactory, it cannot be compared with the device invented by Messrs. Sykes and Harcombe. Not only is this simple to handle—it takes only a few seconds to attach—but it eliminates the time and labour of digging and provides an absolutely solid job, leaving no possibility of the tile being displaced by seepage of water, as may result where the soil is disturbed by digging.

The potentialities of this device will be readily appreciated by exponents

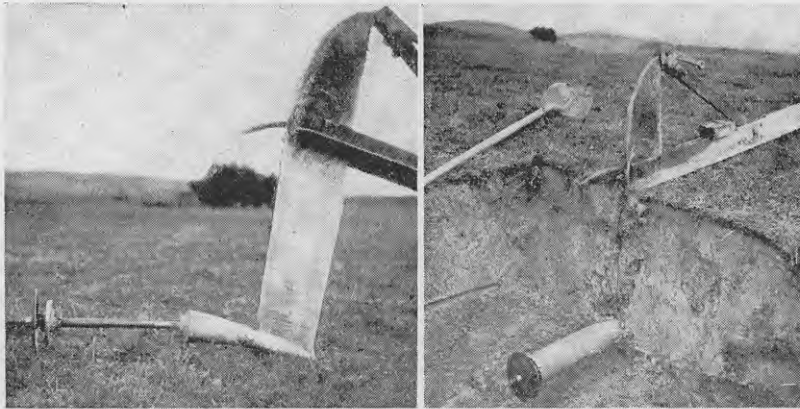


Fig. 1.—The device attached to a mole plug, without a pipe in position.


Fig. 2.—The pipe is firmly held in position preparatory to entering the bank. This pipe is slightly pointed, but this is not strictly necessary.



Fig. 3.—Although this bank was rather dry, a 2½ in. pipe (outside about 4 in.) is pulled in quite readily behind a 3 in. plug.



Fig. 4.—When the back plate strikes the bank the pipe is automatically released from the mole plug.



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