

## **Flying Saucer Fern Slasher**

Last week, Mr. I. K. Arthur, of Mount Compass, demonstrated his flying saucer bracken fern slasher to Mr. H. E. Orchard, of the weed control section of the Department of Agriculture.

This slasher attachment consists of a trailing machine with rotating chains driven from the power take-off of a tractor.

The four chains mounted on a plough disc rotate at approximately 130 revolutions per minute. This has a tearing action on the fern stalks, allowing them to bleed, which is a decided advantage over the mower, which makes a clean cut.

The machine cuts a strip of bracken 10 ft. wide at six miles per hour and follows the contour of the ground.

During the demonstration the machine was put through a patch of ground consisting of blackberries, bracken fern, rushes and small trees and did everything that was asked of it. The test was a most grueling one and all present predicted a great future for the machine. It can be used either forwards or backwards, the latter movement being particularly handy for corners or along fences.

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Mr. Arthur has applied for a patent.