Clearing scrub regrowth
CLEARING SCRUB RE-GROWTH
Novel Use for An Old Circular Saw
Contributed by the Dairy Branch.

Pasture land that has been cleared, and then allowed to fall into disuse can present some difficult reclamation problems, especially in the karri country where high rainfall and mild summer weather soon lead to a dense re-growth of suckers and scrub.

On Mr. J. Wilson’s property at Karridale, a discarded 5ft. circular saw blade laid flat, weighted and dragged behind a tractor, was used to good effect in reclaiming old pasture land which carried a heavy re-growth including “swish bush” (*Viminaria demidata*), “prickly mimosa” (*Acacia pulchella*), “sharkstooth” (*Mirbelia dilatata*) as well as a number of suckers from jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*) and redgum (*E. calophylla*).

Some of the scrub growth was up to 8ft. in height with stems up to 2in. in diameter while most of the *Eucalyptus* suckers were about 4ft. in height and 1in. in diameter.

The saw was drilled in two places to take a mild steel bar which was bolted in position well off centre and hitched to the drawbar of a Farmall A tractor.

The saw blade was heavily weighted with a log, and later with a slab of concrete. It was found that the teeth of the saw dug into the stems of the scrub causing many of the plants to be uprooted. Those, not uprooted were broken and flattened leaving a dense layer which later dried out and carried an excellent fire.

Very little cleaning up was necessary in the wake of the saw, and the land—which was

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*Fig. 1.—A disused circular saw weighted with a log and used for clearing scrub regrowth.*

*Fig. 2.—A photograph showing the encroachment of dense scrub regrowth on clover pasture.*
badly reverted pasture country—is now covered with an excellent growth of subterranean clover, without any re-seeding having been carried out. There is little evidence of further regrowth of scrub.

Labour costs were not excessive as Mr. Wilson reports that, working the tractor in its lower gear range, about one acre an hour could be covered, using approximately a gallon of fuel to the acre.

Fig. 3.—The same pasture after the scrub has been cleared by use of the circular saw dragged behind a tractor.