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### Cattle-working yards

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*Department of Agriculture*

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# CATTLE-WORKING YARDS

## *A Compact and Effective Lay-out*

By GRANT A. SMITH, Cattle Adviser

**T**HE diagram accompanying this article shows a set of yards with an overall size of 50 yds. x 40 yds. through which about 300 cattle may be worked with a minimum of effort. It will be noted that corners have been eliminated wherever possible, and cattle may be worked right round the outer fences with all gates closing behind them as block gates irrespective of whether they are worked in a clockwise or anti-clockwise direction.

**Receiving Yards.**—No wings are shown as these will vary according to the location of the yards. If necessary, cattle may be admitted to only one yard by coupling the division gate to one of the outside gates.

**Round Yard.**—This almost circular yard with a diameter of about 20 ft. may be used for horse-breaking.

**Killing Yard.**—The gallows and gates can be placed where most convenient.

**Branding Pen.**—If it should be necessary at any time to get a branded beast out of the pen, the exit gate may be opened inward to form a wing which leaves the beast looking directly through the gate as it gets to its feet.

**Crush.**—It is surprising how many cattle crushes one sees which are built just too narrow to work elephants through them. Bullocks, cows and weaners are often found half turned or jammed in pairs along such crushes.

Some cattlemen may consider my idea of a crush too narrow for general work. For cows in calf and well-grown fat bullocks it may be—but how often is it necessary to put these classes of cattle through a crush?

It will be found that bulls and "hornies" can pass through a crush of this size quite safely. There is always a chance of cattle getting their feet

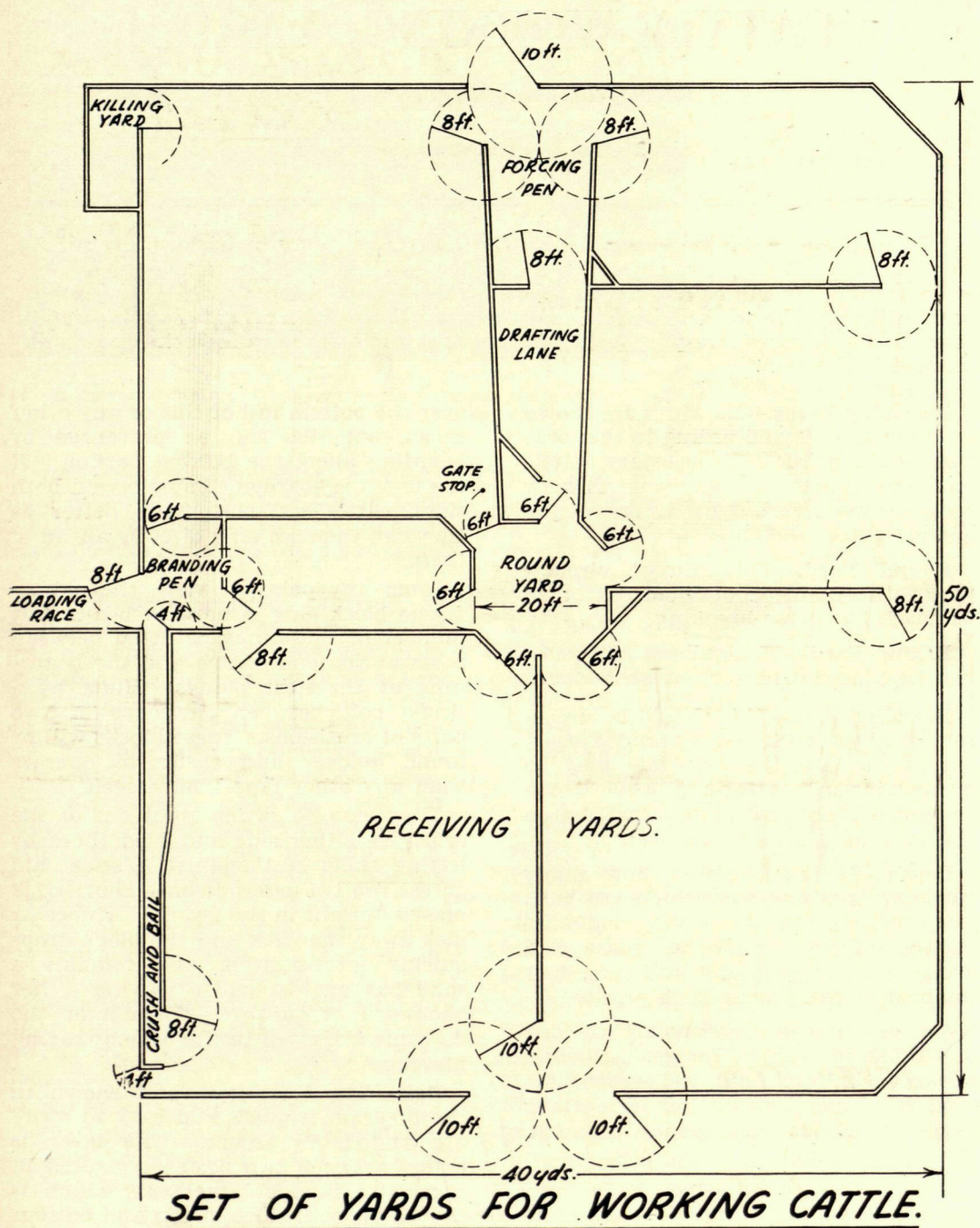
over the bottom rail of this or any other crush, but this can be prevented by boarding along the bottom portion. If the crush is boarded completely on both sides, cattle will run much better as they can then see only directly ahead of them.

From any point of view, the old A-frame block gate is hard to beat. Any number of these may be fitted between posts at the end of one and the beginning of the next panels. Hung by a single bolt between the caps of two pairs of crush posts, these blocks will be found quicker and easier to operate than any other type I have seen.

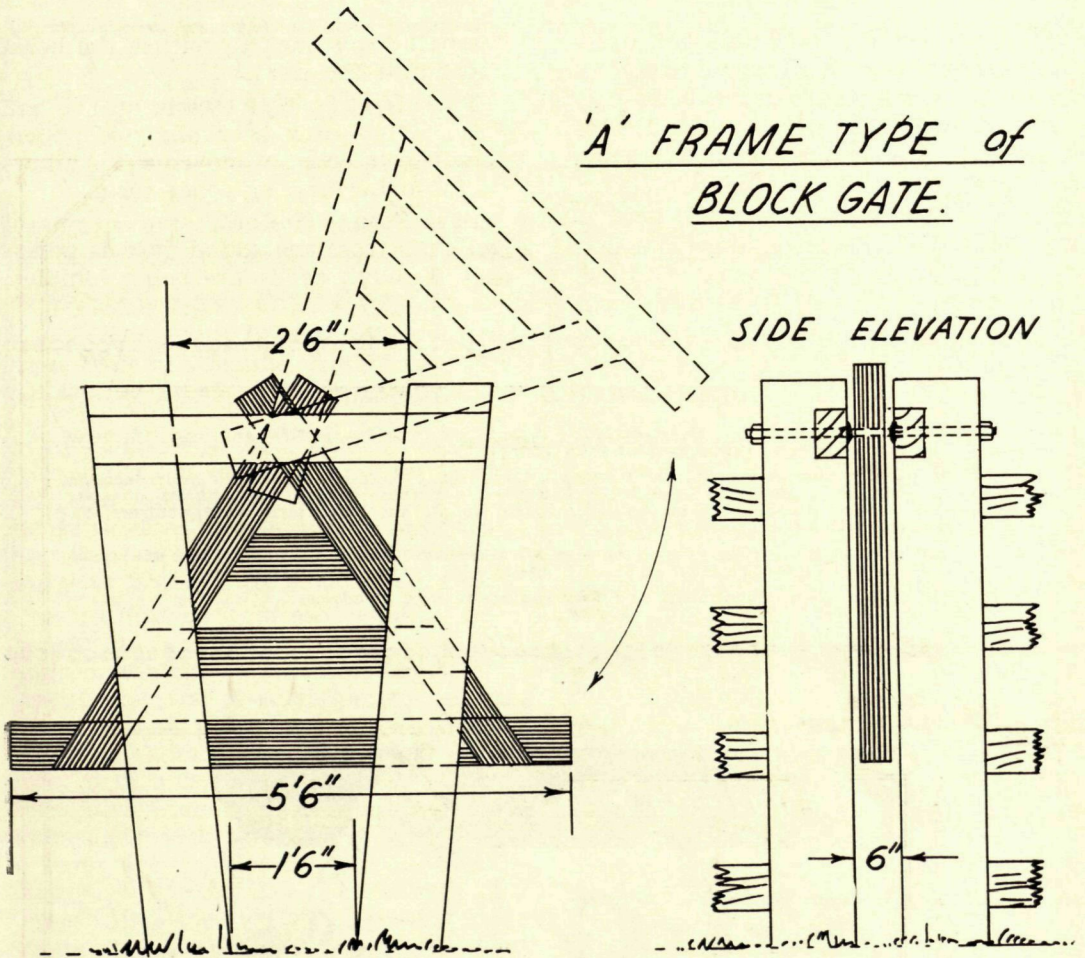
They may be swung right out of the crush on either side and held there by letting them rest against a stick laid across the two posts or on a short stick placed upright in the ground. Knock or kick away the stick and the block drops quickly into position and remains a solid bar against cattle moving either backward or forward. Details of the A-frame are given in the accompanying diagrams.

**Bail.**—The lever-type bail shown in the diagram is quick and easy to operate and 100% secure. The lever is bolted between two posts or pivoted in a mortise in one large post, which is capped on both sides at top and bottom to its corresponding post on the other side of the bail.

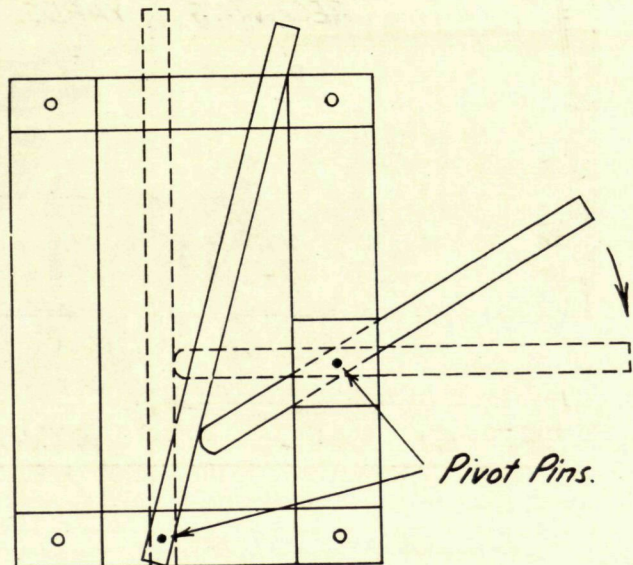




# 'A' FRAME TYPE of BLOCK GATE.



## LEVER TYPE BAIL.





The bail bar is pivoted on a bolt passing through the two bottom cappings. Extra holes may be bored if necessary to make the bail narrow enough for weaners or wide enough for bulls. When the lever is depressed, the bar shoots across and the beast is securely held as the weight of the lever keeps the bar in position. When the lever is raised,

the bail drops back to release the beast and admit the next.

Note the 4 ft. gate swung on the bail post. When this is swung wide open, complete freedom of movement is allowed for dehorning or other tasks.

**Gate Stop.**—The gate stop on one of the exits from the round yard is advisable if rough cattle are being handled.

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