

GASOLINE TRACTION ENGINES

A DEPARTMENT FOR THE USER

We want every owner of a gas tractor in Western Canada to give us his experience. The owners of gas tractors to-day are in a sense pioneers. They are working out the data and compiling a record of work done that both manufacturer and farmer alike the world over are watching with intense interest. Don't keep what you know under your hat, but let us have a story of your gas tractor work. We will reward every such story with a copy of "Plain Gas Engine Sense," one of the best handbooks we know of on the gasoline engine. Don't neglect this matter but let us have your experience at once.—(Editor.)

Traction Cultivation in Earnest.

We purchased a Hart-Parr gasoline engine in the spring of 1909 principally for breaking purposes. In the same year we broke 1200 acres and plowed about 340 acres of stubble, 320 acres of this being breaking on our own premises. We received \$4.00 per acre for breaking. While there is some profit in this work, I don't think there is as much as one might imagine as there is considerable expense attached to it.

I had four men hired with which we ran the engine day and night, one man doing the cooking, drawing the oil, water, etc., and two of the men running one shift of twelve hours and another man and I taking the other shift, changing about each week.

Our engine is rated at 22 tractive horse power and 45 brake and we handle with it a six bottom Cockshutt breaker. When the soil is in perfect condition for breaking we can handle the six, but as a rule we only draw five and occasionally this past summer when it was very dry we only pulled four, which, when considering the nature of the soil in this district, is very fine, as I think the engine is doing the work of 22 horses as per the rating. By running the engine day and night we were able to plow from 15 to 25 acres on an average of about 20 acres per day.

This year, having purchased another section of land, making in all two sections, we did no outside work.

In the spring we disced and harrowed 320 acres with the engine, using five discs and a set of harrows. We weighted these discs with two sacks of earth, and set them in full depth, having the discs set so that they overlapped each other; thus double discing the ground and leaving it in a perfectly level condition ready for the drills. We had two four-horse teams and two drills following this sowing oats and in this way prepared and seeded 40 acres a day.

We have all inthrow Bissell discs. We put a 4 inch x 6 inch timber on draw bar of engine, supporting it on each outside of platform, cut tongue off of disc No. 1 and fastened with clevis as

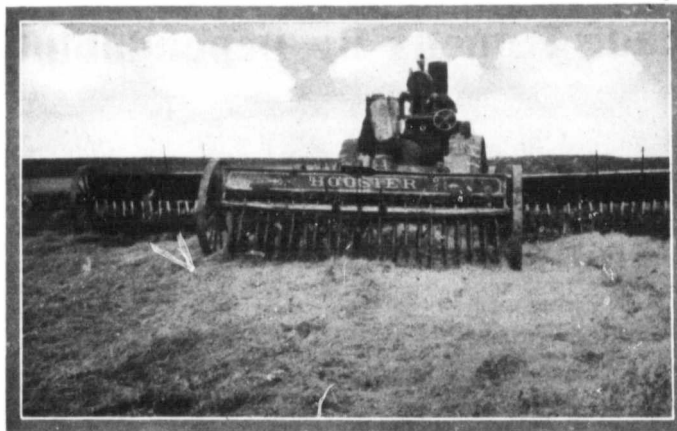
close to engine as possible. Then fastened disc No. 2 about four feet to the left of disc No. 1 so that its center will be about the outside of No. 1 and about 1/2 tongue's length from double tree. Fasten No. 3 same as 2 only to the right of No. 1 and full length of tongue from double tree. No. 4 to be placed same position relative to No. 2 as No. 2 is to No. 1 and a little longer hitch than No. 3. No. 5 to have the same position relative to No. 3 as No. 3 has to No. 1 and a little longer hitch than No. 4. Harrows to be drawn as close to rear disc as possible fastened with two chains reaching back from engine. This gives the discs ample room between each other to keep them from interfering when turning. Our engine handles this load with perfect ease. In fact this

full power of the engine. This was much easier on the engine than plowing, as only about half the engine is in operation and the parts with the most wear are not being used.

When breaking we use about 80 gallons of engine kerosene, about 4 gallons of gasoline and 20 gallons of water per twenty-four hours. When threshing we use considerably less per hour than plowing.

We consider this mode of farming much more economical than with horse power as it would take a great number of horses to do the work of an engine, especially in the rush of seeding when by hiring two extra men the engine can be operated 24 hours per day.

J. H. McNally,
Regina, Sask.



Hart-Parr and a trio of Hoosiers doing a seeding stunt.

spring we intend putting on six discs.

We then put the engine to breaking, running day and night, following with one four-horse team on a scrubber and another four-horse team on a drill sowing flax. The flax put in in this way yielded us ten bushels per acre, for which we received \$2.50 per bu., bringing us more than the average crop of wheat and with much less expense. We put in as much flax in this way as time would allow and then broke the balance of the land which we intend to disc up in the spring and put in flax.

We did about 40 days' threshing this fall, running a 32-54 Case separator, which we consider too small as never under any condition did we come near using the

Uses 18 Gallons of Gasoline per Day.

I own and operate a 15 horse power International Harvester single cylinder gasoline engine. I only bought the engine a year ago, so cannot give you much information as I was a novice and had a good many things to learn.

I pulled three fourteen-inch furrows in prairie and four furrows and harrows in stubble. When I say this I mean on the level. Sometimes we only pulled two furrows in prairie because of hills. I pulled four in stubble right through, but had to throw off the harrows for some lands. I did not have the regular engine gang, but used the ordinary gang plows.

In breaking sod I employed one man beside myself to attend to

the plows. In stubble plowing I managed the outfit myself and put the man at work with the horses.

On an average I used about 18 gallons of gasoline a day. Gasoline here cost me 30c. a gallon, which brought my fuel bill to about \$2.40 a day. With a good day's run we could break about six acres a day and in stubble I could turn over twelve acres a day.

We used about two barrels of water a day in hot weather and about a barrel and a half a day in the fall.

Plowing is certainly a good deal harder on an engine than threshing. I wore one set of bull pinions out on my engine this season. The gears are all open and the dust has free access to them. That is all the repairs I had in one season and otherwise the engine is as good as new.

The cost of breaking amounts to about \$1.50 per acre and in stubble about 60c. an acre. I consider it much cheaper power for plowing than horses but it will not do all kinds of work. Crops were very heavy here and the engine will not travel fast enough to operate the binders properly.

Yours sincerely,
R. E. Johnstone,
Benito, Man.

A Good One.

We own a 40 h. p. Flour City plowing engine, purchased last spring. Although we didn't get as much work done with it during the summer as we would have liked, taken altogether I believe I could call the season's work satisfactory. I never saw a Flour City engine till ours arrived at the station, and I expected some trouble and had some too. The engine arrived about two weeks ahead of the expert and as we were anxious to get to work I put the engine together and run it home six miles. I rigged a hitch and attached five 16 x 16 discs and a 24 ft. drag behind and as there was no gasoline to be had, settled down to wait, as good naturedly as possible.

The expert arrived first. He said the engine must be a dandy to run with the magneto connected the way it was. I told him it had been running all right for me, but he could change it if