

The extreme of absurdity is the advocacy by some of one plow tractors. The average cost per unit of tractor work accomplished for such a machine is four to five times that of a good 60 horse power tractor.

It is clearly seen by the above two tables that if a man is determined to invest in a little tractor he had better not look for the cheapest. He should invest enough to get the very best that can be purchased, as the tables clearly set forth the fact that such a tractor, when cost and everything is included, will do the work far cheaper than a cheap tractor.

Under the above showing it is clearly evident that there is little or no justification for the production of little tractors.

However badly a farmer may wish a tractor, unless he can purchase one of sufficient size for efficiency, he should not purchase at all. The mere fact that the little farmer wishes a tractor, and that all wish he could have one, is no reason why he should be blinded in his judgment and advised to buy something that is less efficient than his present method. Those who so advise assume a heavy responsibility. There is probably no one who more firmly believes than the writer that some day practically all agricultural work will be done with motors. Nevertheless, he wishes to see the development on true lines. Success with little tractors on any present lines is impossible.

As a solution to this problem it is more than likely a large tractor must cover the motor work of several small farms. The threshing and belt power work for many years has been in the hands of those men of each community who seem to be mechanically inclined and best fitted to accomplish such work. While at one time they were rather an improvident class, in more recent years some of the most substantial men are performing such service for their neighbors. A few years ago the state of education concerning motors was very meager. Even today in passing from farm to farm, very likely not one out of four farmers is capable of operating machinery of very extensive character. Education in motor construction and operation is growing with great rapidity. No doubt the coming generation will be better versed in motor management than the past generation was in horse management. Then even small tractors may be more efficient than horses. Large ones will be so much more efficient that when well understood all heavy farm work will be accomplished by them.

The farmer's regular work is a veritable gamble. He must stake his all in a bet upon the weather. Shortage of ample help and power for a few days' duration many

times loses a valuable crop. It is clear that no farmer can have at his disposal several times the valuable horses or number of hired men required for his average every day work. Yet, just such provision would often get his crop nicely in in the few dry days during a wet spring, rush the harvest, at just the right time, to completion, or get the fall plowing done before a freeze up. The little tractor does not help this situation. It is clear that the large tractor, eating nothing and requiring no wages when not at work, practically solves the farmer's problem of great reserve power and help just when they may be needed. The gambling feature of farming will, then, be reduced to a minimum and abundant results made more certain.

It is innate in human nature to be ambitious to do large things. Accordingly, just as soon as the tractor becomes a little more stabilized and its nature better understood, larger and larger machines will be commonly used, especially when the large machines have such a tremendous advantage in efficiency. We knew a day not so very long ago when an eight horse power automobile was considered quite an achievement. If a man were to exhibit preference for that horse power for an automobile at the present time he would be considered foolish. A few years from now 100 horse power in a tractor will not be considered unusual, and everybody will ridicule a tractor with much less than 50 horse power. It will be found that such horse power worked upon a 40 acre farm will be efficient and profitable. The greatest stride of the age will be made when we learn how to apply great power to each acre. By such means, more than any other, will we gain great production.

G. W. HART.

To Harden Cast Iron

Many times it is convenient to make an article of cast iron that needs to be finished, and which should be very hard. Cast iron can be hardened as easily as steel, and to such a degree that a file will not touch it. Take one-half point of vitriol, one peck of common salt, one-half pound of salt-petre, two pounds of alum, one-quarter pound prussic potash, one-quarter pound of cyanide of potash, all to be dissolved in 10 gallons of soft water. Heat the iron to a cherry red and dip it into the solution. If the article needs to be very hard, heat and dip the second or even the third time.

BRAVE BOY

Johnny's mamma found him rummaging in the pantry one day. "Oh, it's you, you naughty boy," she exclaimed. "I thought it was burglars." "So did I," answered the little fellow, "and I was lookin' for 'em."

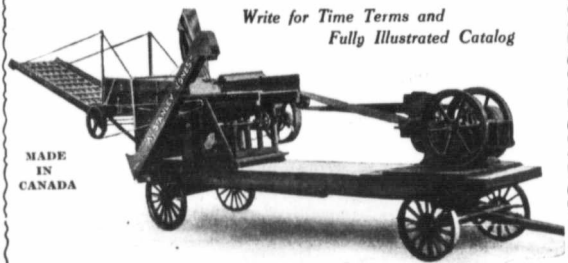
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