Two Men Handle Outfit

Our experience in steam plowing has not been very extensive Most of the plowing has been done on our own place. We have a lot of land that is very heavy and requires six horses to handle a two furrow plow. This is what first put me in the notion of traction plowing.

The first start we made was in 1905 with our threshing engine on summer fallow with a two furrow plow. We, however, went at it the following summer, plowing for barley and got on very good. We plowed forty acres in one day, pulling six two furrow plows. I might say just here that in barley seeding the traction plow shines. Where there is a large amount of barley to put in and if it is skinned in the fall, it can be left several days longer. We have the horses to follow with the packer, seeders and harrows, and what would take two or three weeks to do is done in a few days. Our barley land, about 200 acres, was all we plowed until after threshing when we only had time to plow 100 acres before it froze up, but that 100 acres just cost us $85.00 to plow six inches deep.

Well, we worked along with this outfit plowing for barley and summer fallow and all we could do in the fall after threshing, at a cost of from 90c. to $1.00 per acre. Last spring, as we were offered some breaking to do I made up my mind to get a larger engine and an engine gang.

We bought a 32 h.p. J. I. Case engine and a ten furrow Cockshutt plow and both have given satisfaction. We broke 500 acres, 300 of which we backset; besides which we plowed 600 acres of old land.

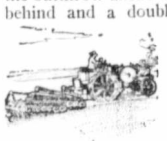
Our crew consists of three men and a team. Two men can handle the engine and plows without any trouble. We used about 100 pounds of coal per acre in ordinary plowing and two pounds of water. We get our coal by the car load at a cost of $7.50 per ton.

Yours truly,
W. A. Morris,
Portage la Prairie,
Man.

Does Not Find Discing Profitable.

I have a Reeves 32 C. C. engine and a Cockshutt 12 furrow engine gang. Last spring I started out to work as early as possible as the land was fit to work with an engine.

The first work I did was discing and harrowing. I used six eight-foot discs, four Cockshutt outthrow and two Bissel inthrow. I had the outthrow ahead and the inthrow behind and a double set of harrows behind the disc, making a swath of 32 feet, double disc and double harrow, at the rate of 80 acres per day at $1.50 per acre.



I only disced about 160 acres as I did not consider it very profitable on account of the dust on my engine. I then started to seed. I only used ten of the plows, a dry land packer behind the plows, a Massey-Harris 23 shoe drill and a three section harrow behind the drill. I plowed, packed, sowed and harrowed at the rate of 33 acres per day. I put in 290 acres of wheat in this way and did splendid work.

I had an engineer beside myself. We took turn about to fire. I also employed two teams for drawing water and coal. As to the amount of coal that we used, I cannot say to the exact pound. We used somewhere between 4000 to 4500 pounds and about 132 barrels of water. The coal cost us from $6.50 to $7.25 per ton.

We employ five men including the cook who helps to coal up the engine. Besides the first discing and seeding which I did I plowed and harrowed 80 acres for oats, broke 380 acres, summer fallowed 400 acres, triple disced and double harrowed 640 acres.

I am well pleased with my engine. It is an easy steamer and a great puller.

Yours respectfully,
Henry Moen,
Hanley, Sask.

Use 40 Gallons of Fuel Oil in Ten Hours.

I have a 22 h.p. Hart-Parr engine and a six furrow fourteen-inch Cockshutt stubble bottom plow, with rolling colters.

When plowing I use two men, one engineer and one steersman. We use a team once or twice a week when we haul six barrels of oil from town and a barrel of water runs us a day. I usually keep one old plug and a stone-boat with the outfit.

A Russell Steam Tractor doing a breaking stunt.

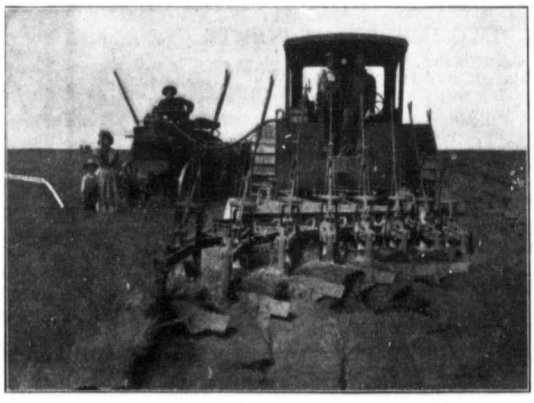
In ordinary work we use about 40 to 42 gallons of kerosene at a cost of 20c. per gallon for a ten hour day service.

We turned over some five or six hundred acres this season and consider it just as well done and a great deal less expensive than could be done with horses.

The advantage of traction plowing is the speed at which it is done in a country of this kind where the seasons are short. It is very essential that the work should be done quickly and at the same time well. It has been proven beyond a question that traction plowing done right is just as good as is done by horses. Such being admitted, then why not resort to traction plowing?

One thing about traction plowing is that in a short season with a large quantity of work it can be crowded to its limit both day and night. A traction engine never gets tired.

Yours truly,
J. E. White,
Yellow Grass,
Sask.



An Avery undermounted Steam Tractor pulling an 8 bottom 14 inch Cockshutt Engine Gang Outfit of W. D. Stroud and Son, Crossfield, Alta.

Can Turn Stones Very Easy.

We have a traction plowing outfit consisting of a 25 h.p. J. I. Case engine and a six-bottom John Deere engine gang.

On account of the very stony ground here our plows were used very roughly. So we went to work and made plows ourselves, four in number, and they work very well. We can turn up stones very easily.

We worked 40 days and broke 200 acres. We got from $6.50 to $9.50 per acre. We use wood for fuel and it takes about two cords per day. As to water, we use from 25 to 30 barrels per day. We employ four men and a team.

I do think plowing is harder on the engine than threshing in this country on account of the great number of stones.

We are thinking of buying a separator this fall and would like if anybody would advise us what kind and size to get for a 25 h.p. J.I. Case engine.

Yours truly,
Louis Ulstad,
Inwood, Man.

Traction Plowing Satisfactory.

My experience with traction plowing has been satisfactory. I have a 32 h.p. J. I. Case engine and a 10 bottom Cockshutt engine gang. I require for my outfit five men and four horses.

I use about two and a quarter tons of soft coal or two tons of steam coal per day. I find that the steam coal gives the best satisfaction. I broke 1275 acres last season and threshed 35 days.

I consider plowing far harder on an engine than threshing, but am well satisfied with my whole outfit for both jobs.

Yours truly,
A. W. Sunderman,
Warner, Alta.

Uses Fernie Steam Coal

I worked for four years for one man who owned a steam outfit, and the fall of 1909 I purchased his engine and plows and bought a new separator. I threshed that fall and did well. But as to plowing, I think it is far too expensive. Coal here cost $7.00 per ton at the car. One team to haul the coal cost $4.50 and one team to haul water $4.50; $5.50 per day to engineer and it took five men to run the outfit.

I think anyone getting an outfit should understand machinery and have a good engineer and the engine should not be run when the ground is