



# FARM AND DAIRY



## & RURAL HOME

The Recognized Exponent of Dairying in Canada

We Welcome Practical Progressive Ideas

Trade increases the wealth and glory of a country; but its real strength and stamina are to be looked for among the cultivators of the land.—Lord Chatham

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## Is the Tractor Ushering In a New Era in Agriculture?

### The Demonstration at Meadowbrook Farm a Revelation As To the Development of the Farm Tractor

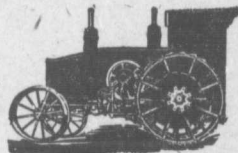
**M**OST, if not all, of those who attended the provincial plowing match and tractor demonstration, held at Whitby, Ont., last week, came away with the conviction that agricultural methods in Ontario are on the verge of another revolution even more important in its scope and possibilities than the one which followed in the wake of the demonstration given many years ago, of the first effective mowers and binders. These early demonstrations are still remembered and talked about by some of our older farmers as having been epoch-making events. The work accomplished last week by the tractors, while by no means perfect, was so remarkable as compared with present-day methods, plowing as some of them did an acre in less than an hour, that as one realized something of its significance he stood aghast at the thought of the changes that may be coming within a few years.

The difference between this demonstration and all past innovations of improved farm machinery is that it is primary in character, inasmuch as it starts with the cultivation of the soil. As long as there have been limitations on the number of acres of land that could be brought under cultivation each season the full benefits of our modern binders, reapers, hay loaders, etc., could not be realized. If, however, within a few years it becomes possible for scores of thousands of farmers to double, treble or quadruple their crop bearing areas, what should it mean to humanity, and what may we expect its influence to be on the future of agriculture and on farmers in particular?

Picture the scene. It was practically a perfect day for the purpose. On the splendid farm of Mr. R. J. Fleming were gathered many thousands of farmers—some placed the number at 10,000 and others still higher—from all parts of old Ontario to judge for themselves what this new movement in agriculture might mean. They were there from Glengarry county in the east to distant parts of western Ontario. Gathered there also were the managers and representatives of firms known for years all over the continent—in fact, all over the world—as manufacturers of agricultural machinery. These firms have expended millions of dollars inventing and testing out all forms of modern labor saving farm machinery, and are constantly trying out more. So new were the tractors and motors being tried out by some of these firms they as yet are not considered perfected, and so they have not been placed on the market, nor has the price at which they will be sold been determined. Because it will mean enormous sums to these men if public tests, such as that made last week, prove their machines to be the best, it was intensely interesting to those who know them to see them rushing back

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and forth among their own machines and watching those of their competitors as the tests progressed, and the crowds surged here and there



#### The Demonstration

**T**HE farmers who watched the Tractor Farming Demonstration were evidently impressed with the possibilities of the latest addition to the category of farm machines. With the necessity of supplementing the decreasing supply of farm labor by larger and more efficient machines they are naturally interested in one that promises so much as the tractor in the saving of time and labor. Their object in attending the demonstration was to gain a more intimate knowledge of the tractor and to judge of its merits as a business proposition. To most of them the demonstration was a revelation. To see several of the tractors in one field, all under perfect control, and leaving straight and even work behind them at the rate of from five to ten acres a day was enough to stir the enthusiasm of the most conservative regarding the possibilities of the tractor, especially in facilitating what has always been the slowest of farm operations.

But that enthusiasm was tempered with caution. On not all Ontario farms are conditions so favorable for tractor farming as on Meadowbrook Farm, and not always would the tractors be under such skilled management as they were at the demonstration. These and other facts were carefully taken into consideration by those in attendance. All were agreed, however, that under favorable soil conditions, such as prevail in large districts in every county of Ontario, the farm tractor will occupy an important place in the future agriculture of the province.

watching, criticizing and comparing the work of one with another, and also of all with that of the old team at home. Nested breeders of heavy horses were on hand also, who wondered perchance what the effect of these wonder working machines might be on the future of the heavy horse industry, and if it might not in time be affected in some such way as the demand for light horses has been by the advent of the automobile. Government officials, politicians and aspiring politicians and large numbers of city people were everywhere in evidence, the latter much impressed by the practical evidence they had before them that the modern farmer is no longer little more than a laboring man, but a capitalist and manufacturer as well. Even more important was the presence of large numbers of farmers' boys, their eyes full of wonder and their heads full of visions of the great future that was opening out before them, and of what it might mean. "Dad," said one of them, as his father and he raced back and forth from one point of interest to another, much like two children turned loose from school, "if you want me to farm you must buy me one of these machines." What could his dad say to that?

#### What the Machines Did.

And now as to the machines themselves. What were they like and what did they do? There were some sixteen in all, and the time was all too short for most of those present to much more than begin to size up their many points of difference, their merits and demerits. One wanted to talk and talk to those gathered all around to see what new information they might add to his own meagre supply, so "origin were these machines to any you had ever worked yourself or seen worked, no matter how wide your experience in farming may have been.

As to the various machines, there seemed to be supporters for about every make on exhibition. There was the giant tractor that turned over five furrows at once as well as a harrow cultivator and roller, and which because of its weight and the load it was drawing moved somewhat slowly. Against this and in striking contrast to it was a small four-cylinder machine that looked like a baby elephant compared with the other, and which fairly raced ahead, turning over two furrows at a time, but which because of its speed, said to be 2½ miles an hour, accomplished even more work than some of its larger rivals. Its record during the demonstration was an acre in 55 minutes. Between these two in size and strength were many pulling two, three and four bottoms, and each doing consistent, satisfactory work, showing that under the conditions that prevailed the practicability of tractor farming is no longer in question. Both kerosene and gaso-

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