

## TRACTORS WILL PLAY BIG PART IN FUTURE FARMING

By O. F. Rinderle

IT no longer requires an idealist, manufacturer or salesman of tractors to visualize the part that this instrument of utility will play (or work) in farming operations. This is true, because we have at our finger tips thousands of concrete instances as to what these machines are doing to-day.

A few years ago, when the manufacture and sale of tractors began to assume real business proportions, few manufacturers themselves seemed to realize the many and varied uses to which purchasers would put their machines. We all seemed to think, down deep in our hearts, that plowing constituted the all important job to be done by a tractor.

This thought still holds true in some localities, but the farmer himself has educated the manufacturer in many instances to the point where it is now universally conceded that the successful farm tractor must be a general utility machine.

The tractor in which the farmer of to-day is interested must be capable not only of plowing, but—as one user described the versatility of his machine—"do everything except milk the cows"—and even that is possible.

In an address before the Society of Automotive Engineers, during the Fremont (Neb.) tractor demonstration, Mr. Yerkes, chief of the bureau of farm management, United States department of agriculture, pointed out that through an investigation covering some 34,000 actual tractor or users in the United States, it was determined that more than 50 per cent of a tractor's work on the average farm was in furnishing belt power.

This covers a big field in itself and permits of all-the-year-round work for the machine. Principal among the many belt power operations to which a machine is well suited are threshing, either summer or winter, silo filling, corn husking and shredding, feed grinding, hay and straw baling, sawing wood, pumping water in irrigated districts, and many others.

Thousands of farmers are to-day fully cognizant of the long chances they are taking in relying upon horse and mule power for plowing and preparation of the seed bed. In the spring the periods of suitable plowing conditions are short and uncertain. But many tractors now on the market can plow, disc, harrow and plant where and when it is not practicable to use horses.

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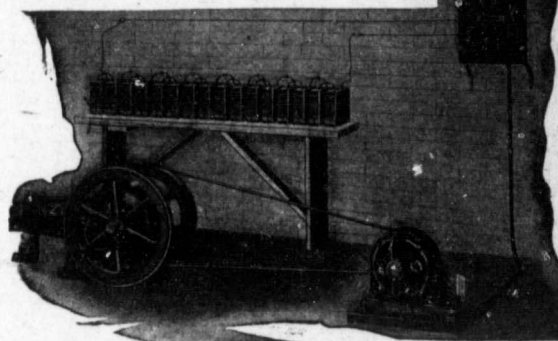
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Horses simply cannot be "pushed" in the spring when "green" from their long winter rest. This is also true in hot summer and fall work during the heavy or peak-load periods. The tractor, on the other hand, can be operated day and night without mercy or pity, so long as it is given proper care.

Right here, of course, we face the problem of the tractor's dependability. So much talk is prevailing concerning the tractor industry's still being in an experimental stage that this causes some farmers and dealers to assume the attitude of "let the other fellow try it first."

The other fellow is trying it and, in most instances, would not consider going back to the old methods. It is, of course, true that many so-called "tractors" will soon be relegated to the scrap heap. This by no means indicates, however, that the brains and capital back of the design, manufacture and sale of many tractors now on the market are misapplied.

While no manufacturer is likely to say he has a perfect tractor, incapable of improvement or refinement, yet, on the other hand, we do know that several makes, backed by reputable manufacturers, are to-day a perfectly safe and profitable investment.

There can be no question as to the economies that can be effected in the use of a good tractor. Conservative government statistics prove that the cost for fuel and oil is more than offset by the crops or their equivalent required to maintain the number of horses which the machine supplants.

Concretely, there is no question but that the tractor is rapidly becoming the pivot around which practically all agricultural activities will revolve.

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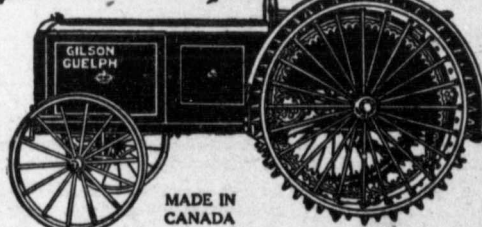
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