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## THE 1913 MOTOR CONTEST

By E. W. HAMILTON

THE sixth motor competition. It has now become a matter of record. A record that adds another chapter to tractor history. This is my sixth report of this unique event, and I can assure my readers that it is a bigger task each year to describe this world's tractor trials, and find something new.

Speaking in a general way of the event itself, I cannot describe it better than it has been described by T. W. Ellis in "Power and the Place." As an introduction to my story, I am going to quote:

"Clouds of smoke and hissing steam; a broad prairie stretching for miles without a break, save for the distant mirage; here and there a tiny prairie fire held in leash by bands of blackened earth; dust and heat; throngs of eager spectators; the song of vibrant steel and the cracking roots of age-old sod—imagine all this, add to it the sight of a score of monster engines pulling leviathan plows,

and you have a faint picture of the Winnipeg plowing contest. Shining prowls of steel,

cleaving the waves of a sea of prairie grass; long furrows lost in a haze; lines of fluttering flags to guide the engineer on a straight course; huge twenty-ton engines mere dots on the landscape, and distance. Refreshment tents, excursion trains, busy autos running errands for the slow-moving tractors, or

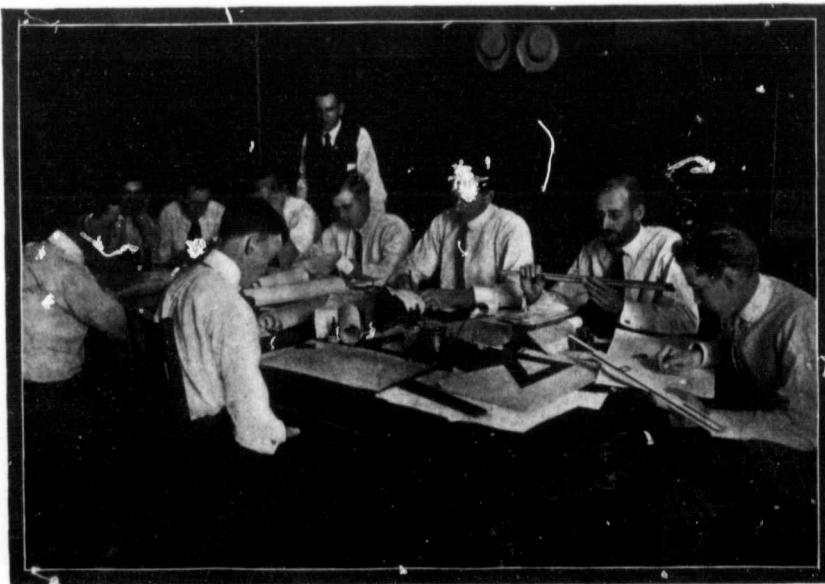


Prof. C. F. Chase

in the twilight mild-eyed cattle meandering slowly over the upturned field, wondering, Rip Van Winkle like, at the transformation, and you sense a tragedy, for the pasture of the ox and buffalo from time immemorial is lost for ever to advancing civilization. In the night, when the camps have vanished,

What is this affair? It is an annual contest, a feature of the Canadian Industrial Exhibition, open to the world for either steam or internal combustion tractors of any size or weight. The contest of 1908, first of its kind on the American continent, was received with scepticism, admixed with wonder, but the world-wide interests in the results proved the timeliness of such a demonstration of the utility of mechanical power on the farm. With succeeding competitions this interest has in nowise abated, and the scene about to take place will be the crowning event of them all.

Invitations have been sent to every manufacturer, regulations drawn and published, testing apparatus put in readiness, and all preparations made to determine, from at least one standpoint, the best agricultural motor for Western Canada. For weeks before the trials, engines have been arriving in Winnipeg, and many a neighboring farmer has had a sizable field plowed gratis while these modern farm horses tried out their paces.



The judges in the board room of the Winnipeg Motor Competition, putting the final touches to the Motor Contest figures.

whisking the manufacturer's crew back and forth, and you feel the spirit of a modern festival. Then

one might even fancy Indian spirits floating miserably over the happy hunting ground.

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