



The Results of the Chase.

in its capacity for combining characters of economic value there must be a limit set, beyond which it cannot go. For the characters which an animal carries in a state of nature are those which are useful to itself, and only in certain instances are these also useful to man. The history of the domestic animals has shown that the points to which man attaches value can often be improved and modified, and in certain cases can be united together in fresh combinations so as to give rise to better types. Future research must show whether other and newer combinations which the breeder desires to bring about are incompatible with the wellbeing of the organism, for if this is so, the task becomes a hopeless one, and we are brought reluctantly to realize once more that in this the requirements of men must even be subservient to those of the animal which man has sought to model."

THE FARM.

What Practical Farmers Think of Government Tractors.

Considerable interest has been manifested in the tractor demonstrations this fall as well as in the work done by the Provincial Government tractors scattered over the various Counties in this Province. In order to give our readers some idea of the kind of work done by these Government tractors and the method of operation, we have written a number of those who have employed them and publish some of the letters herewith, without comment. We hope to be able to publish from time to time more letters and invite those who have had experience with Government tractors to give us their own version of the work done and method of operation employed. Following are some of the letters:

Not Satisfactory.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

Regarding tractor plowing, I may say that the work done here was anything but satisfactory, but I firmly believe that the operator was more to blame than the tractor, as the same tractor has been giving satisfaction since with a different operator. He plowed for me nearly five acres and was here four days. In the four days he only had the plow in operation fifteen hours, at 45 cents an hour, a total of \$6.75. He used 25 gallons of kerosene at 22 cents a gallon, and 80 cents' worth of lubricating oil. In the four days he twisted his plow twice and I had to send the rig three and a half miles to a blacksmith's shop to get it straightened, which I consider was worth \$2 in a busy season. Counting the board of the operator at 75 cents a day, the total cost of plowing the five acres was \$17.20 or \$3.44 an acre. If it had been well plowed I wouldn't have minded the price, but there are patches all over the field that the plow never touched and it will all have to be plowed again. The ground wasn't hard, as it plowed nice with a team of horses on a single-furrow walking plow. The day the tractor left the team of horses plowed over an acre with the single-furrow, which was more than the 10-20 engine and the three-furrow plow had been doing. The engine had plenty of power but the operator did not understand how to get the plow in the ground. I should think a tractor with a three-bottom plow should plow five acres a day at least. My own opinion is the tractors are too expensive for a man with 100 acres to purchase alone, but I think the Government tractors would give good service with competent men to operate them.

York Co., Ont.

C. R. JAMES.

A Great Help.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

Regarding tractor plowing, I must say that I found it a very great help. I had 13 acres of very stiff pasture sod plowed in July and double disked twice which made a very fine seed bed. At that time the team

of horses could not plow more than one-half acre a day, while the tractor plowed the 13 acres in 16 hours and disked it twice in about the same time. The operator used 48 gallons of kerosene, and about 7 gallons of gasoline. The motor was not working right and it used about 12 gallons of cylinder oil. The plowing and disked twice with double disk, cost about \$36.

If I had not been able to secure the tractor I could not have put this field in at all, as I had not enough horses or help to do it, but I got it worked down and seeded to wheat in splendid condition.

I had the tractor again in September to plow 18 acres of fall plowing, which was accomplished in a hurry. They came here on a Thursday afternoon about four o'clock, plowed until night and all that night. The next forenoon they had to take the magneto down and clean it so did not get much done, but that afternoon they finished the 18 acres. They made a good job all through, night as well as day. It cost about \$23 for the 18 acres plowed and certainly helped to get the plowing done. Where one is alone on 100 acres it is difficult to get the plowing done at the right time.

Middlesex Co., Ont.

W. B. FERGUSON.

Helped Get Wheat in.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

I had 21 acres plowed with a Government tractor the latter part of August. It was a 10-18 machine drawing three bottoms, plowing six inches deep and the soil was a clay loam. The ground plowed was part timothy and part aslike sod in fair condition for plowing. It took 40½ hours with 33½ hours actual working time, 7 hours being lost with engine trouble. The land was sloping but not hilly. I consider that the plow would stay in the ground as well as a horse-drawn plow where the land was very hard. The nature of the work done while not as good as a first-class man with a team would do was satisfactory. The main consideration was that this work was done at a time when it would have been



Soldiers of the Soil.

almost impossible to have accomplished it in any other way. I was therefore able to put in 20 acres of fall wheat at the proper time. The actual cost to me for the plowing was \$1.66 per acre, divided as follows: gasoline 3 gallons, \$1.14; coal oil 73 gallons, \$13.14; grease one pound, 16 cents; lubricating oil 2 gallons, \$1.14; operator at 45 cents per hour, \$15.08; board of operator, four days at \$1 per day, \$4; total, \$34.66.

It would have cost me at least \$4 per acre to hire this work done by a man and team, if it had been possible to get it done at all that way at that time. I would consider that four acres per day for an engine pulling two plows, or six for one pulling three plows, would be a good day's work. Of course an operator could not expect to average this much. I believe there is a place for the farm tractor on farms in Ontario such as my own, not hilly and fairly well underdrained. I consider the method of operation of the Government tractor satisfactory and successful in my own locality. Possibly if part of the labor expense were charged for by a rate per acre it would be even more satisfactory.

York Co., Ont.

H. C. HAMILL.

Tractor Would be Costly for Small Farmer.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

I may say that I had 11 acres plowed with a Government tractor. It took 21 hours to do the work and the machine pulled a three-bottom plow. It was 12 hours idle. I could not say whether or not it would work well on wet ground, but with the exception of starting in at the headland it pulled the plows at a sufficient depth where the ground was quite hard. I believe it would be advisable to have a man on the plow where the land is very hard. Some time is lost in getting repairs. The machine was idle five hours at our place waiting for repairs. Under the system followed it cost me about \$1.75 per acre, or a little more, to do the plowing. I believe the tractor would cost too much for the small farmer, and it takes up too much space turning at the headlands.

York Co., Ont.

T. OLIVER.

No Serious Complaint.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

We have no serious criticism of the work of the Government tractor. While we had the first experience in this locality in its use, and expected the few possible difficulties which starting new machinery entails, we had little complaint to make in this respect, and the operator in charge while on this job was under instruction from the representatives of the manufacturing firm, subsequently proved himself thoroughly capable in the management of the machine and plow. The conditions under which our work was done were almost ideal, the field being a six-year sod, high, dry, sand loam and free of obstructions. We found it necessary to strike out and finish lands, and our brief experience led us to conclude that a second man should be present on the job, unless the tractor operator can ride the plow. I do not know how the subsequent experience of the operator coincided with this conclusion. There are conditions quite common under which this tractor was unsatisfactory. The machine—a 10-20—did not seem to have sufficient power to operate three plows in certain soils, and was very likely to rest on the frame in wet places in the field. They are not made to suit exceptional conditions, and experience the same difficulties as horses when soil is too wet or too dry. Their advantage lies in their speed, particularly in warm weather. I conclude a serious disadvantage is present in our locality on