

40 acres for buildings and pasture.

About the 10th day of May, I will start the four horses drilling flax with a 20 or 22 double disc drill, drilling the seed about one-half inch into the sod. Some authorities claim that a shallow discing helps toward a seed bed, but my experience has been that



It is still done this way

on account of the tough nature of the sod, but little benefit is derived from discing. Also that if the discs are set the least bit too deep the sods are liable to turn turtle which is worse than ever. My experience is that as good a crop of flax may be obtained on spring breaking by not discing at all as by discing.

Now comes a very important part of our business that must not be overlooked on any account. That is the matter of seed selection. The greatest care must be taken not to sow any seed having noxious weeds therein. The farmer who neglects this will regret it as long as he owns his farm.

Now I get the inquiry—"Why not do your drilling with the engine?" This is easily seen. It is necessary in the first place to have some horses for hauling gasoline, etc., and in order to profit by these horses you must keep them employed. Again, in order to use your engine economically and profitably you must utilize the bulk of its power while operating, and this would mean the purchase of about five seed drills. It is probably not necessary to remind the reader that machinery, especially in these quantities, is very expensive. Again, by attaching a drill behind the packer while plowing, the chances are you would have more load than the engine could carry, and would have to knock a plow off, so nothing would be gained. Also you would have a longer string of machinery behind the engine, which becomes more unwieldy as it becomes longer. Try always to utilize your power to the fullest advantage with the least expense.

By the 10th of May I could have this land broken. If, on account of an accident I found I was getting behind with my work, I would put on a night shift, so as to get the required amount broken by the above date.

Assuming this was accomplished, I would start the team in drill-

ing, which operation should be completed by the 25th of May, which would be nice time. I would not drill any flax after the 1st of June, as I consider it too late, and too much of a gamble. Do not gamble. Get your seed in to time, and Nature will likely be kind to you. Anyway, we would not hear so frequently the oft repeated cry, "If I had only got my grain in by so-and-so time."

This would complete my spring work for the first year, and I would take my engine and go custom breaking. My horses I would give a few hours of light work, such as hauling each day, turning them on to the grass for the balance of the day, which they would greatly appreciate, and at the same time keep in prime condition.

By the 1st of July I would start the horses in haying. By this time it would probably be too dry to break any more, so I would run my engine into the shed that I had previously built for this purpose, and make any repairs or adjustments that were necessary.



A Poor Seed Bed. The Crop will be a Hit and Miss One

Here, again, is where my engine shines. After breaking several hundred acres of land, I simply run it into a shed that would hold no more than four horses and my expense stops. Surely an economical power. No feed necessary, and no crew to board over till harvest time.

I would now give a hand with the haying. Just hay for horses. This would be a small job. When the hay was up, we would turn our attention toward improving the farm, building, well digging, etc. This would keep my man and I employed till harvest time, for there is one thing that I have never experienced since I have been farming, that is, the want of a job in the summer time.

We now have the harvest at hand. I will purchase two 8 foot binders, one binder hitch for engine haulage, and two sets of 8 foot disc harrows. Now we come to the question: What kind of disc harrows? I mentioned in an early paragraph that new inventions in the way of farm machinery were continually coming

to the front. There has recently been placed on the market a new style of double action disc harrow. This implement to my mind supplies a long felt want. It consists of two sets of harrows one set an outthrow, the other an inthrow, and mounted on the same frame. This implement should make a very good job of creating a suitable surface mulch, so necessary for the conservation of the moisture.

Now just as soon as the crop was ready to harvest I would hitch my two binders to the engine, and attach my two disc harrows behind the binders, one to each binder. This is where I begin to adapt the Campbell system. Why would I haul the disc harrows behind the binders? This is very easily seen by any casual observer who will think a little. Just as long as the crop is standing, the ground remains sheltered from the direct rays of the sun. Now when you cut this crop off, the ground becomes absolutely bare to the full glare of the sun, which is usually very strong at this time of the year. Does it not ap-

engine, binders, and harrows are in position. We will set the harrows, so as to cut about two inches into the sod, but not deep enough to turn any sods over. Nature and the rains will have rotted the sod to a considerable extent, the flax also has a large tendency to rot the sod, and we should have no difficulty in obtaining a fairly good mulch. About this time I may get the question: will the engine not haul more than two binders and two discs? Well, it might, and it might not. If it would there would probably be considerable side draft with three harrows hanging behind. Also the two binders and harrows would pull heavy enough over the rough sod and it would not take much more than a week to cut the crop running day shift, and less than a week running day and night. Also by running two binders and harrows only, it would save the purchase of a third binder and harrow. Here is another chance to keep down expenses. Never have any machinery laying around idle the most of the year that it is possible to do without. Remember that economy means increased profits. Don't overlook these things. Make it a part of your business to study them.

Having cut the grain and just as soon as it is ready to thresh, I will hook on to the threshing machine, and thresh it out. Having this done I will haul away any of the straw I may need for stable use, and burn the rest. I will now immediately hook on to my plows, and proceed to backset. I will backset to a depth of 4 inches, thereby turning up one inch of subsoil. Now we begin to receive the benefit of our discing. The loose soil goes to the bottom of the furrow slice, making a good connection with the subsoil, and few air spaces. The land, having been double disced in the right time, retains its moisture, the soil is not baked, but moist and friable, and the furrows turn over nicely.

Behind the plows I will hitch the Campbell packer, and 8 feet of drag harrows. As the plows turn the soil over, the packer



A Fine Tilth that Preserves Moisture

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