



Talk No. 4

I'M going to talk for a little while on a subject that I have hardly dared to even mention to my best friends for, while I can see the advantages of the idea, still I don't favor it the least bit; in fact, I am "dead against it."

We are terribly short of competent tractor operators. You wouldn't think so if you saw the number of men that want to operate tractors — at a fancy price, but they are not all competent operators, neither are some of the men who are now holding down jobs, and neither are some owner operators even passable tractioneers.

None of us like to think of women handling this work; it is heavy, dirty and, we must admit, fairly dangerous. Not that we kill many men on the job, but quite a bunch of fingers and hands manage to get lost, and, while these losses mean enough to a man, they generally mean a whole lot more to a woman.

However, to get back to the point, we have enough tractioneers to handle the tractors as they are being handled now, but, if we ever make up enough to get together and work the tractors as they should be worked, in order to overcome the shortage of labor and power, we'll need a lot more tractioneers and, as the women will persist in getting their hands dirty and poking around in the machinery to show us that they can do our work as well as their own, there is a good-sized opening for them in the tractor field.

However, if the nation's welfare was one of the first things in every man's mind we wouldn't need to put it up to the women. A whole bunch of our town clerks would be a lot healthier and be doing their country a lot of good if they would get out and handle tractors, binders and sheaves for a while. They can easily be spared from the towns and they are needed on the farms.

I don't suppose for a minute that field work is as easy as sitting in an office, but it is a whole lot more healthy and beneficial.

Talk No. 5

You have seen about seven million nine hundred and eighty-six thousand five hundred and forty-three (more or less) articles telling you that the tractor will have to be used to overcome the shortage of food. There isn't

a doubt in the world but what the tractor can do it, but the tractor isn't made with brains. It can't go out and do the work all by itself; it needs a hand to guide it, it needs a head to tell it what to do and it needs gas to eat.

Now, we'll suppose you have a tractor. Your own work is done, that is, you have finished as much of your work as you intend to do with the tractor, so you put it in the shed or out behind the bluff, and decide not to do any more than you have to until harvest time. You drive to town, and on the way you sympathize with your neighbor, who you see out in the dust trying to coax his horses to do a little more than a day's work when the weather is so hot that they shouldn't be working at all. Your tractor is in the shed and your neighbor is very behind with his work while you sit in the village store talking about people who haven't done their share towards helping with the war. Every minute that your tractor is standing idle, you are wasting the time and money of the nation and making a larger food shortage, for your tractor isn't earning anything while it is standing idle, and your neighbor who hasn't been able to buy a tractor has to let part of his work on the land go because his horses aren't able to do the work and every piece of work which should be done and isn't means another chunk added to the food shortage.

Get out and help your neighbor. Don't operate at a loss and don't try to make a fortune. Get out and help and keep your tractor rolling. That's one key to the present situation; keep everything moving. If all the tractors in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta were kept at work for twenty hours every day, this fall's work would be done before we knew we were nicely started.

Talk No. 6
Overheard at the Portage
Plowing Match

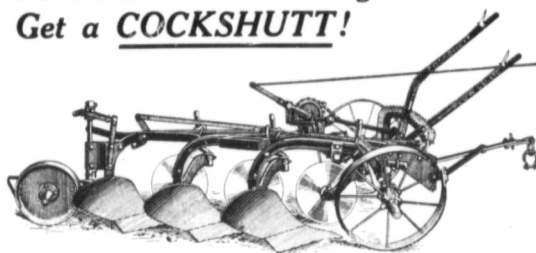
I was out at the plowing match at Portage la Prairie the other day and heard people talking about a lot of things besides plowing, for instance, I was standing at the end of a furrow watching a fellow making a nice straight black mark up the field when a little sawed off fellow about my size said: "Pretty nice job, ain't it?"

"Yes," said a great big fellow with Santa Claus whiskers and a

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