

A REMINISCENCE ABOUT SOME FARM MACHINERY PURCHASES

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Some Machines That One Can Get Along Without, But Which Afford Most Remunerative Investments—A Comparison, East and West

THE money one locks up in implements totals a very tidy sum. In fact, it almost startles an ordinary mortal to reflect upon this subject, and we go very cautiously, often far too cautiously, in adopting the new machinery that is becoming essential to the profitable working of our farms. I have in mind such implements as the



Clearing an Experimental Farm

The work of clearing The Experimental Farm at Monteth, in New Ontario, is being pushed vigorously. So far the timber has been cut on 102 acres, of which 16 are now under cultivation. When an editor of Farm and Dairy was at the farm recently, with the members of The Canadian Press Association, it was noticed that many of the stumps on the partly cleared land were being burned. The illustration shows one of them. Notice the character of the soil. One can travel for hundreds of miles in this section and see nothing but similar land. For the most part the soil is entirely free from stones.

manure spreader, the two-horse corn cultivator, the bundle carrier, and wide, fast working implements. Our experience with these things may prove of value in helping some Farm and Dairy readers to solve these problems, hence this reminiscence.

I well recall the day we got a manure spreader. We had talked of it for fully two years before, but could not make up our minds to invest \$135 in a machine that would be used only once in a while, and which we could get along without. The question of a manure spreader was a live one on all occasions when the neighbors got together. Some agreed that the manure spreader was a good investment, others thought that it would pay only on large farms.

LARGE RETURNS ON INVESTMENT.

We had upwards of 150 loads of manure a year to spread, and it did not take much figuring to convince us that by saving the disagreeable labor of spreading this manure; of having the manure spread as soon as taken to the field, rather than having it lying around in small piles awaiting a favorable opportunity to be spread; being enabled to apply the manure at any rate from three to 15 loads per acre—the manure spreader would be a good investment and would return dividends of at least 15 per cent and possibly a great deal more. So at last the manure spreader became a part of our farm, and we have never ceased to bless the day that we saw fit to make that purchase.

The machine took right from the start. It was popular with all, right from "the old man" to the hired man, who, by the way, took a keen interest in living when he had this machine with which to perform the unpopular but very necessary work of spreading the manure.

One of the most ingenious labor saving devices, which now has become quite common and which until a few years ago many were content to do without, is the bundle carrier—that attachment for the Linder, which means more work for the

driver but a great saving for the man who shocks the grain. Its other advantages are evident when it comes to hauling the grain, for the shocks where the carrier has been used are laid in windrows from which a load may be taken without driving over a considerable area otherwise necessary to get a load. In over-ripe grain, too, it is a great advantage, for it saves greatly from shelling, in that the falling of the sheaves is greatly reduced when the carrier is used.

WHY DID WE DO WITHOUT IT?

Considering its many advantages, it is a mystery why we did without this machine for so long a time and why so many even yet will do without it. After one has spent, say \$140 for a binder, the additional \$8 or so required to buy the carrier looks like a tidy sum, and since the carrier is one of those things which can be done without. Be it known, however, that this device on an ordinary 150-acre farm in an ordinary year will return 100 per cent on the investment; on any 100-acre farm in any year it is capable of returning dividends to several times the amount of bank interest.

Other machines in number might be touched upon in this reminiscent way. But the three as dealt with are the most outstanding. As yet



Buildings on the Experimental Farm

The buildings on The Experimental Farm at Monteth in New Ontario, are here shown. Monteth is about 400 miles north of Toronto in the clay belt. The farm comprises 540 acres of land similar to that here shown. There are still 538 acres uncultivated. This farm promises to be of great value to the settlers in New Ontario. It is a great country that needs to be better advertised.

the hay loader has not become a part of our equipment, though I verily believe it would pay and that we shall soon have it.

While on this strain, there is another matter that should not pass unnoticed. I refer to the introduction of fast working implements. The idea has been abroad since the early days that wide rapid working tools are suitable only for the West. Owing to the small fields, stumps and stones, it is often thought that wide implements and four-horse teams could not be worked to advantage. These conditions, however, should have no place upon the Ontario farm, for they need not be, and it is profitable to overcome them.

WIDE, RAPID WORKING IMPLEMENTS.

The implement of moderate width, and which three horses can comfortably haul, has for a number of years been growing in popularity. The man who can drive a three-horse machine, however, should be able to manage a four-horse team and a correspondingly wider machine. "Too much horsepower," I hear someone say, "and horses are high in price and expensive to keep." Yes, quite true, but on the average 100-acre farm and on all farms of larger size, at least four work horses are available. So why should not these

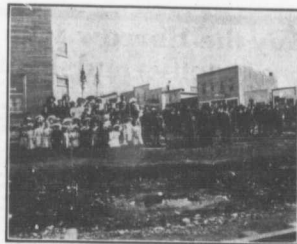
four work together and thereby save the time of one man? The four-horse team and the fast working implements are quite practical for the Ontario farm, as it is becoming to-day, and, in fact, the number of farms is increasing yearly where on four-horse teams and these rapid working implements have become even commonplace.

LAND VALUES AND MACHINERY.

While on the western prairies a few years ago, I was non-plussed to learn that farm land adjacent to the main line of the C. P. R. was selling for from \$40 to \$50 an acre. On expressing surprise that such high values should there exist, I was informed that the land was worth it, for a man could go out on it with his four-horse team, two-furrowed plows and wide implements, put in his grain with a minimum of labor and the harvest returns were such as to amply reimburse him for the investment made. I thought at the time why should these same conditions, as far as machinery and labor were concerned, not apply to the Ontario farm, for the products of which there is a much nearer market and better prices? I came back to Ontario fully convinced of the utility of all reasonable labor saving implements and farm machinery and have since been responsible for the adoption of much of the same on our Brant County farm.

We recognize the fact that these implements cannot be had without capital, and that many who would otherwise bring their establishments up-to-date in this particular lack this necessary capital. Countless others, however, have the capital and are eagerly seeking gilt-edged investments for it. To those I wish especially to direct these remarks. All told, if we farmers of Ontario are to keep in the race, we must adopt all reasonable labor saving machinery and fast working tools, and should we lack the necessary courage or capital to make these investments, we should set out forthwith to secure one or the other or both as needed.

Keeps Farmers Poor.—With care and attention—storing, oiling, painting and repairing—machinery can be maintained in good working condition three years for every one it lasts in less provident hands. The saving in money is apparent. How far neglect of farm machinery is responsible in keeping some farmers poor would be difficult to estimate. It is a significant fact, however, that almost invariably it is the poor farmer who countenances such neglect; his more



School Children in New Ontario

Some of the school children at Cochrane, in New Ontario at the junction of the Transcontinental and Northern Ontario Railroad, are here shown. A year and a half ago there was not a child or a school in Cochrane. About eighty children turned out to see the members of The Canadian Press Association at the time of their visit recently. Some of the children are here shown. Notice how well dressed they are. They were as fine and bright a lot of children as could be found in any school in Ontario.

thrifty neighbors fully realize that such practices would work their ruin.—Mac C. Cutting, Associate Editor, "The Farmer," St. Paul.