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Motor Types.

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Two-Plow

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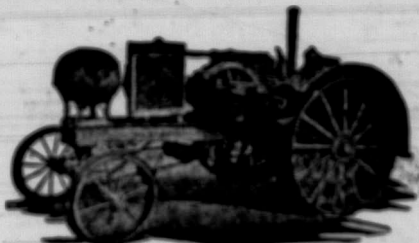
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furrows. I am inclined to the opinion that high speed plows would require a much greater draft in order to turn the furrows cleanly.

Another fault with the two-plow tractor is, it has not power enough to do the ordinary farm belt work at the necessary speed.

The new machines fall into two classes, those with round wheels and those with crawlers. In the round wheel class all of them at Fremont had two rear drivers. The day of the single driver has passed. It was a mistake in the first place because one wheel does not afford as much traction as two and few tractors even with two wheels have any too much for the work expected of them. There were a few new machines with only a single wheel in front, but the general tendency is toward four wheels. The single front wheel possesses one advantage; namely, it has a very short turning radius, which makes it adaptable for small fields and cramped quarters, but it does not make as efficient a machine for travel on the road. This perhaps is of little consequence since tractors as a rule are not used much for haulage work.

Crawler and Round Wheels

At this stage in the development of tractors one is taking chances with his professional reputation to discuss the comparative merits of the crawler and the round type of wheels. The crawlers certainly gave a good account of themselves at the show and there is no question that on many kinds of soil they are superior, but I always have felt that where the round-wheel tractor could operate satisfactory it is preferable because simpler. There are not so many joints, the machine is up a little farther out of the dust and the wheels will last for many years. There is a very large area of farming land in this country that is eminently suited for the round wheel machines and a smaller area where the crawlers are superior. There is a well defined place for the crawlers, but I am not one of those who are influenced by the requirements of army ordnance service or caught by the glamor of the "tanks." Farming is different from hauling field guns and I would not recommend the crawler type of machine for every kind of service. It has its place in agriculture and so has the round wheel machine. Both types should develop side by side.

It is not my purpose to disparage the little tractor. I fully realize its value to agriculture. There seems to be a decided tendency among farmers that on the larger farms a three or four-plow outfit should be more economical.

The general activity in tractors, together with a slackening in production of passenger cars, has turned the attention of automobile parts manufacturers strongly toward the tractor industry. They realize its vast possibilities and want to get a share of the business. Unfortunately the tractor industry is not organized in such a way that they can enter immediately and with profit. There is no standardization or even agreement as to type among tractor manufacturers. The industry is not in a position to take advantage of the facilities of the parts manufacturers to increase their output. The inevitable result of such a condition is that new companies are being formed in large numbers, to make assembled machines. Next year I expect to see hundreds of such machines thrown on the market, and I fear for the result because the most of them will be hastily designed, and by men who are not thoroughly conversant with tractor service. The parts in many instances will be very excellent truck parts but the resulting machines I am afraid will after all be only make-shifts. In time the parts manufacturers will be able to meet the requirements of the tractor service and I can foresee a time when it will be possible to assemble a tractor that will be just as serviceable as any assembled automobile, but I hardly look for even an approach to perfection within two or three years. A tractor is a machine that must have every part designed for the special service into which it will enter.

Quite a considerable number of new machines have been brought out during the last year and many more are under construction. Those shown at Pre-

Continued on Page 18



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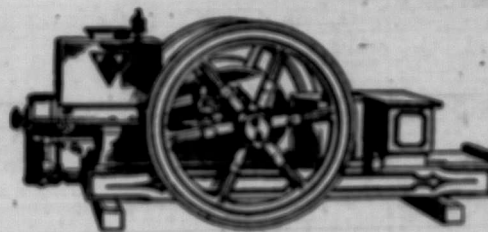
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