



or eight weeks.

In the Province of Saskatchewan today is to be seen the most gigantic and remorseless carnival of soil robbery of modern times. The next generation will curse the farmers of to-day for the abject idiocies being perpetrated in the name of farming. It seems that every nation and every age must have its day of profligate waste that is only checked when dire want stares the people in the face. In Saskatchewan a warning voice is hooted and jeered. The waning yields of all America's wheat fields has no terrors for the "big-field" and "wheat-wheat" craze.

The bad state of the beef market and the atrocious handling of cattle by the railways in transit and at terminal points has done much to aggravate matters; but beef prices must improve for the agitation against these abuses has aroused an agitation that will enforce radical changes for the better. Pork and mutton are high, the former far passing all records. This year the best wheat, oats, barley and flax will be sold for more money in the stockyards than at the elevator and the land benefited thereby.

Denmark buys grain in the markets where ours is sold and Denmark is a country of very small farms, yet Danish butter passes our doors and reaches markets beyond, where it outclasses ours. Can it be possible that there is not something radically wrong?

TRACTION CULTIVATION

This subject is engrossing the attention of the progressive farmer to-day; for the great strides in effective implements and motive power compel the admiration of all who can comprehend their magnitude, and the influence they will have on agriculture.

Four short years ago the whole business was a gamble and regarded as a fad by many. The engines were cumbersome and shook them-

selves towards the scrap heap while drawing half a load. The hitches were home-made makeshifts, many of them marvels of ingenuity but impossible of general application. The implements followed in skirmishing order and the officer in command was compelled to "halt" and "dress" them with great frequency to keep them all facing "front".

To-day engines are lighter, stronger, more durable, faster and



An Avery undermounted Steam Tractor and a Cockshutt Engine Gang on Stubble.

more economical. They turn more quickly and are far handier. The plows are in a frame that is a marvel of rigidity on the forward movement and the individual is under marvellous control of the operator.

The following statement of cost of breaking two thousand acres of land, cropping with flax, threshing and hauling to elevator, she shows what can be done under good management and favorable conditions. Possibly not every one could do as well, serve as a guide as to possibilities in this direction:

Cost of Breaking.	
Labor	\$1,443.00
Oil	1,298.00
Board	333.00
Sharpening plows	233.00
	\$ 3,307.00
Cost of Seeding.	
Seed	\$1,750.00
Oil	182.00
Labor	130.00
Board	30.00
	\$ 2,092.00

Lubricating
Oils for the
entire work
360.00
Incidentals ..
500.00

Total

\$11,085.00
The same outfit broke one thousand acres more the same season. The cost of this work is not included in the statement. The total yield was 32,000 bu. of flax, which brought \$48,000 at the elevator. Kerosene cost 13c. per gallon and gasoline 17c. These prices are below the price of oil and gasoline in this country but the oil is a low grade on which some engines, it is claimed, do excellent work.

With such facilities for doing cultivation and all work in handling a crop at such a price, surely no excuse remains for insufficient tillage or sloppy work in raising flax or wheat.

Co-operation in an outfit, as for threshing, would be most advantageous in the way of getting work done economically; and the horse, which is not superseded, by any means, yet, will be less frequently called upon, minus hide and hair, to bleach his devoted slats on our gently undulating landscape. His lot has often been a hard one, when big crop returns enabled his owner to replace him without financial jolt when he died. Relieved of the worst of the work, his usefulness will be rather enhanced. In grateful remembrance of his more unfortunate brothers, who have passed into oblivion by the sacrificial route, may his present master make his lot a little easier and give the respect past devotion has richly earned.

This co-operation scheme has been successfully carried out in Texas and elsewhere. Experienced engineers are employed, first-class blacksmith's camp with the outfit to repair machinery and sharpen shares; and every department is handled on the most up-to-date business methods.

Cost of Cutting.	
Labor	\$ 528.00
Oil	229.00
Board	144.00
	\$ 901.00
Cost of Threshing.	
Labor and Team Work	\$2,545.00
Oil	367.00
Board	473.00
Horse Feed ..	110.00
	\$ 3,495.00
Cost of Hauling.	
Labor	\$ 284.00
Oil	146.00
	\$ 430.00

Concrete Fence Posts

By K. J. T. EKBLAW

It has been estimated that the number of fence posts used each year is well above five hundred millions. This means that in ten years five billion new posts will be required to replace those now in service. Assuming that each post costs the low price of fifteen cents, the farmers of the country are going to spend seventy-five million dollars the next ten years for wooden posts, which in a few years will be practically worthless. In fact, the greater part of the number of posts used cost more than fifteen cents each,



so the aggregate cost will be well over a hundred million dollars. Most of these posts are cut

young trees, which if left to attain their full growth, would be a source of supply tending to alleviate the lumber famine which obviously will soon be upon us.

With these considerations in mind, the economy of concrete fence posts is evident; their first cost may be slightly higher than that of wood posts, and in most cases this is true; however, the life of a well-made concrete post is practically endless, so that a young farmer who puts in concrete posts on his farm, makes an investment which yields dividends of approximately ten per cent. each year, and which requires practically no maintenance charge.

The requirements for a satisfactory post are low cost, reasonable strength and durability. The cost

of concrete posts varies greatly under different conditions, considering labor, kind and accessibility of material, and size of posts as the determining factors. When a farmer makes his own posts during slack times and on rainy days, the labor item is very small. When there is a gravel bed or stone crushing plant easily accessible, the cost of material is greatly reduced. The size of posts enters to a certain extent in the figuring of cost, as a square post will require approximately twice as much material as a triangular one of the same length, width and thickness.

Selection of first class material is absolutely essential in the manufacture of concrete posts. Poor material and careless workmanship are responsible for the objection to con-

crete work in numerous localities. If good materials are selected in the first place, and are properly mixed and placed, the resulting concrete will prove satisfactory in every case. In the matter of cement, only Portland cement should be used, for it has been proved to be eminently superior to other kinds in every sort of concrete construction; it is mixed in chemically correct proportions, and gives a uniformly strong mixture, which is not true of natural cement. Since the maximum strength and lightness are desirable in concrete posts it is economical to use only

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