

MISCELLANEOUS

LOADING LOGS

WHAT characteristic of the tractor which must have made the most lasting impression upon the mind of him who has had most to do with one is its versatility. Being able, because of draw bar and pulley, to transmit power in two directions, direct and rotary, the tractor may be applied to so many of the jobs common to the farm that in effect it is the most universal and efficient source of power ever offered to the farmer. Those who still maintain that no mechanical power unit ever can compete in flexibility with the power offered by the horse are right, but only to a limited and qualified extent. No one presumes to doubt the flexibility of animal power and the ability of horses to rise to an emergency of exertion. But even so, while admitting that gasoline or oil power has no elasticity it must be admitted that it can be applied to the task in a more direct way than is possible with horse power.

This it is in large part which commends the tractor to the farmer who diversifies. Its capacity for work to the utmost of its power, its ability to maintain its maximum efficiency for an indefinite period, its ease of application to almost any mechanical combination which the farmer may devise, all these give it an advantage over the horse as a power unit which only the farmer who has become familiar with the operation of both really and truly can appreciate. It will be noted that no advantage is claimed here for the unwearied qualities of iron and steel as compared with muscle, nor for the mechanical accuracy of the engine over the instinctive vagaries of the horse. Nor is any reference made to the difference in the care and feed demanded by the horse of flesh and blood and the horse of steel and gasoline. The respective limitations are not all comparable and never should they be considered in apposition save from the economical point of view.

It is when the farmer gets outside the ordinary farm operations and applies his tractor to tasks which ordinarily are not considered as being within its province that he begins to realize and appreciate what a really wonderful piece of mechanism he has had committed to his care and which he can summon at will to his aid. There are demands upon many farms for power which are not strictly agricultural, but that seems to make no difference to the tractor. Whatever demands may be made upon it will be met to the limit of its power capacity.

In such sections of the country as there still is timber, logging operations to some extent, must be provided for. This takes

power. With the tractor logs may be dragged, loaded or handled easily and quickly. In sections where stones abound there always is use for crushed stone. The tractor will haul stones from the field to the crusher, will furnish the power for crushing and will haul the product back to road or fill. In sections where the life giving qualities of water are required for the success of agricultural operations, the tractor will furnish the power to pump it in unlimited quantities. The man who spreads manure knows no more heavy burden can be laid upon his horses than the hauling of the spreader. However this is light work for the powerful and tireless tractor. The hoisting of hay into the mow—all these things mean nothing of specialization to the tractor the sole function of which is to deliver the power at draw bar or belt, leaving it to the directing intelligence of the farmer to apply that power whithersoever he will and to whatsoever purpose he will.

And this introduces naturally still another quality of the tractor, which, in diversifying its application, is well worthy of serious consideration. This is that always it is easier and more economical to bring the power to the job than to take the job to the power. Self propelling, as is the tractor, this condition is fully met. No matter where or what the job may be, the tractor can get to it. Likewise, when necessary, it can haul the necessary equipment to the place where it may be needed and can there operate it most advantageously.

The fact is, the utility of the tractor is so multifarious and so dependable that hardly any farmer as yet has realized a tithe of its possibilities. It likewise is true that these possibilities seem to grow with the use of the tractor. It has been that way with the gasoline engine, and it is destined to be that way with the tractor. As one becomes familiar with it, one begins to devise ways and means for increasing its usefulness. On the draw bar it is likely that about all of the possibilities of the tractors have been imagined, but on the belt there is an infinity of things that yet are to be thought of. It is but natural, perhaps, that the man who is new to tractor operation will regard his machine as more or less unwieldy. He hardly will realize, until he has become thoroughly accustomed to handling it, how easily it is manipulated and moved from place to place and what a flexibility of usefulness it has. The man who becomes an expert operator will do things with a tractor which will rival the most expert performance of horses.

SPRAYING



CRUSHING STONE



IRRIGATING



ELEVATING CORN



MANURE SPREADING

