

# TRACTION PLOWING

## AS TOLD BY THE MEN WHO DO IT

### Care Essential

I have been a subscriber to your valuable paper for the past two years, so I think it is "up to me" to let you know how much I appreciate it. I consider it the best journal published for a power farmer.

My experience with power farming dates from the fall of 1910. Late that year I saw at the Lethbridge Experimental Farm a 30-60 Aultman & Taylor Co. gas tractor, the first of the make shipped to Canada. I was so much pleased with its appearance that I bought it, even though it was too late for any work that year.

I only use the engine for plowing and threshing, as I have enough teams to do the discing, harrowing and seeding.

As everyone who has farmed in this district knows, the prairie is very hard to break. It takes at least five good horses to pull a sulky plow right along. I have seen 32 h.p. steam plowing engines have difficulty pulling 8-bottoms in breaking on a level field. Breaking is worth \$5.00 per acre here.

On our outfit there is only one engineer and one plowman, and we have a car right with us and generally have a boy to cook. I figure our daily expenses at \$50. This includes everything oil, gasoline, wages, board, sharpening of shares and allows 10 per cent. interest on capital invested and 20 per cent. for depreciation. This may seem a big expense bill, but I like to figure it on the right side.

We average about 16 acres per day, breaking with six plows. As our farm is on rolling ground, we sometimes have to pull up hill with only four plows, but we can pull eight coming down the hill. A tank of water lasts us three days.

We generally pull a disc behind the plows. In stubble work we pull eight plows and two drags, or a disc and a drag. In my opinion stubble plowing is harder on an engine than breaking on account of the dust.

Our engine does not injuriously pack plowed land, as the drive wheels are 7½ feet high, and proportionately wide, so they have a big tread. I think high drivers are a good point in a tractor, as I know from experience that our engine can move on wet ground where others with lower wheels are helpless.

We run a 36 x 64-inch Aultman & Taylor separator, and our engine handles it fine. We use about 35 gallons of gasoline per day threshing. Our engine never

a steam boiler engine is carefully washed out every week, and in some cases oftener, whilst as a rule very little attention is given to washing out the cooling sys-

I have had my outfit for about a year and a half so that I have not had much experience compared with my fellow farmers.

My engine is an International 45 h.p. opposed, one of the 1911 type. Just here I might state that I am very well pleased with my engine considering the power it develops on the various kinds of work, and fuel required for same.

As to the amount of fuel, oil or gasoline required per day, it all depends on the kind of work being done, and for breaking it depends a great deal on the quality of the soil. In this district where the soil is very heavy, I find that six plows with a packer hitched behind is a good load for my engine.

I know that the same power will haul 10 plows in some districts where the soil is much lighter than the Rosetown soil. I find that it requires about 2¾ gallons of gasoline per acre for breaking and packing as described above. The amount of water also varies by the work being done. Plowing requires at least three barrels of water and lighter work such as seeding with three drills or cutting grain with four or five binders it requires only one barrel. I use one team of horses on the outfit for hauling water, gasoline, seed grain, etc., and with two men and myself we can keep the outfit running nicely from early in the morning until dark at night. By changing off with one another during the day it is not hard work. I figure that breaking and packing directly behind the plow, costs me about \$2.00 per acre. That is putting it plenty high enough. I do my discing with six discs and floats hitched behind. The discs are composed of three inthrows followed by three outhrows and are fastened by a hitch built of 6 x 6, 22 feet long and set on a pair of old mower wheels. A loose tongue is fastened in centre of hitch and slips through draw bar of engine. This is to hold hitch from tilting. It is held by two chains angled back from both sides of draw-bar. I use this hitch for my drills and find it a very good rig. Discing and floating cost me about 35c per acre and sowing grain with harrows behind drills costs about 25c per acre.

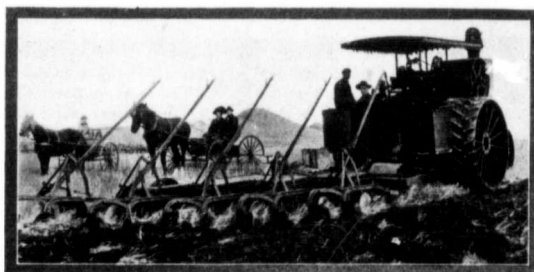
Last spring I disced, floated and sowed my stubble land in the above described way and I find that the ground can be covered very fast with this outfit. We



Nichols-Shepard and Oliver

gives us any trouble in starting. All who have seen our outfit at work declare that it is the best running outfit they have seen.

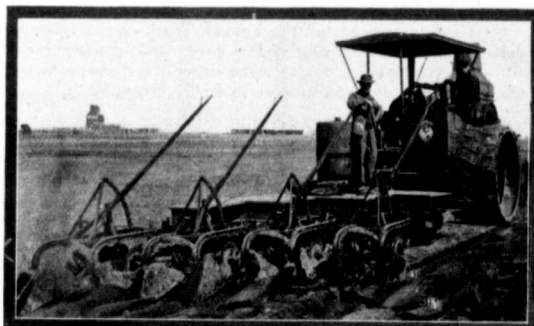
tem, or removing carbon from the pistons, rings and cylinder heads in gas engines. They run them till they stop.



Gaar-Scott and Deere

I will conclude these few remarks by stating that in my opinion, gas excels steam power. Less help is required, and no time

Wishing your journal and its readers a prosperous year, I am,  
Yours truly,  
R. Henderson.



Oil Pull and Deere

is lost steaming up after a stop, or wet day. The gasoline is always ready. I think that as a rule, gas engines don't get the care they deserve. For instance,

### A Tractor District

In answer to your circular letter which I received a few days ago, I will try to answer the questions contained in same.