GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

"KNOTTER TROUBLES"

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Binders ought to be overhauled now if they have not already been thoroughly gone over. While it is impossible to tell a man on paper how to operate his binder, yet there are some points which may be of assistance to him so that we will be practical and not deal on the advantages of the self-binder or some such topic. Through the courtesy of the International Harvester Company, of Saskatoon, we are able to publish some cuts showing the appearance of bands resulting from the most common knotter troubles. Too many men grab a monkey wrench and go at the knotter as if it were a stump puller or a stone boat, never stopping to think that there must be a reason, and a little careful study of these diagrams ought to prove of valuable assistance.

When a new binder is purchased, see that the paint on the bearings is cut by kerosene, and run the binder round the yard a few times till it is well oiled and in good condition for work in the field. All binders are carefully adjusted and tested at the factory before being sent out, and operators should not mutilate the knotter by the use of cold chisels, punches and hammers. A wrench, a little oil and a little good commonsense being all that is required.

There are three important adjustments: (1) the twine tension. A pull of 8-12 pounds should be enough to pull the twine from the box, and under no condition should the tension be increased in an endeavor to get tighter bundles. (2) disk. A pull of 35-40 pounds should be sufficient to pull the twine from its disk. (3) A pressure of 12-24 pounds should trip the binder and let the sheaf be tied.

If the bundle is thrown out not tied, find the reason in the following three causes: (1) Cord holder may be too loose, which allows the twine to slip out while the knotter hook is making a revolution. (2) Cord holder may be so tight that the twine cannot be pulled through the disk, and it will break. (3) The needle may not come down far enough to place the upper twine in disk. If the bundle is thrown out not tied with the twine straight, and not in it, the knotter spring is too loose and may be adjusted. Make any adjustment carefully, and give the screw a quarter of a turn each time a change is made.

If a binder misses enough bundles to give positive assurance that the knotter head or needle is out of adjustment, stop the machine as soon as the