

steins

1920



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Cattle

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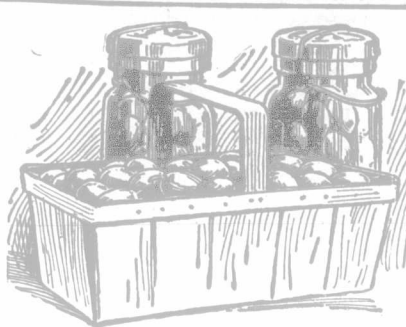
Machinery For Food Production.

During the war the authorities in
Great Britain bent every effort to make
the country as near self-sustaining as
possible. Much pasture land was broken
up, and to assist force production an
immense amount of supplies were pro-
vided. The following paragraphs, pub-
lished in the Journal of the Board of
Agriculture, gives some idea of the
amount of machinery and accessories
supplied:

"During the winter of 1916-1917, when
the Government decided that the greatest
possible area of land must be brought
under cultivation, the Food Production
Department was organized to carry out
the policy. It soon became apparent that
to undertake the work properly, farmers
would require great assistance in the shape
of machinery, horses and implements, as
the farming machinery and implements
available were insufficient, and the war
had made a tremendous call on men and
draft horses. The only alternative was to
concentrate for the greater part on
mechanical cultivation. Very few trac-
tors were to be found in this country,
and these were mostly experimental, but
a start was made by hiring available
machines, and by obtaining the loan of
heavy caterpillar tractors from the
Russian Government, until such time as
large numbers of up-to-date tractors
could be procured. In all, 666 machines
were thus obtained. At the same time,
arrangements were made to purchase
sufficient machines to supply other
Government Departments, and private
owners who could make full use of them.
In all, 5,180 tractors were used for the
Department's Scheme, while other users
were supplied with 5,628. Though the
Food Production Department desired to
foster the trade in this country, it was
found that agricultural engineering firms
were fully employed on munition work,
and that this country could undertake
the manufacture of only 645 tractors and
a limited number of implements. This
left no alternative but to turn to the
United States of America for the bulk of
the required equipment. Trials had
already proved the need of a lighter ma-
chine, and accordingly 6,000 Fordson
tractors, 2,600 Titan tractors, and other
tractors of American make, were ordered.
The wisdom of this policy has been proved
by the demands made for these tractors,
which are still in steady request. In all,
three English and thirty imported types
of tractors were tried by the Department.
With a view to standardization of spare
parts, attention was concentrated on four
makes, Clayton and Shuttleworth, Sand-
erson (English makes), and Fordson and
Titan (U. S. A.). Certain discarded ma-
chines had proved useful, but the types
named had preponderating merits. It is
noteworthy, as confirmation of the De-
partment's choice, that very few of the
discarded types were represented in last
year's trials at Lincoln.

The supply of implements was difficult
owing to the many different soils and to
local prejudice. For use in connection
with the Fordson tractor, the Oliver Plow
Company designed a special plow, giving
every satisfaction when the width of
furrow and form of breast had been
adapted to English condition. Twenty-
five other types of plow were tried with
tractors other than Fordson's. Of the
English makes, Ransomes', Howard's and
Saunderson's did very well. Of imported
implements used by the Department,
Cockshutt's and Hamilton's found most
favor. Before the war the few English
tractor plows in use were of the old rigid
type, and the British manufacturer did not
quickly realize that the future lay with
the self-lift plow. Other implements used
with tractors were cultivators, disc har-
rows, furrow pressers, trailer boxes and
small vans. Useful auxiliaries of the
supply were lubricants and spare parts.

On heavier land the steam plow was
used. Of these there were in England
about 500 sets, not employed to the
greatest advantage. Steam plowing was
quickly organized so that the sets should
be fully employed, especially for breaking
up grass land. As there was ample scope
for other sets, a contract for 65 steam
plows was placed, and these were sold to
the contractors best able to secure the
full employment of the machines. For
small fields and hilly land, and to assist



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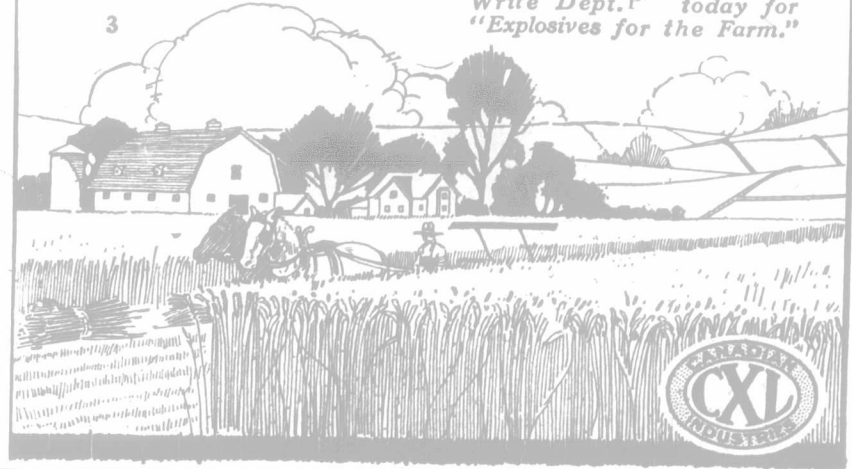


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