

Apples

Direct from the Growers
in Ontario to the Grain
Growers in the West

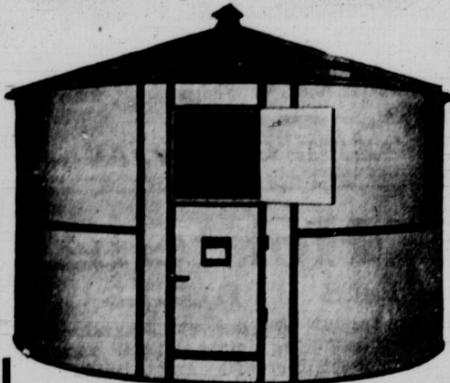


Several of the Grain Growers' Associations last year purchased Norfolk Apples. Our system of inspection enables us to pack uniform and give the consumer an honest packed barrel of apples.

At present our apples in Norfolk County never looked better. The growers are giving their orchards excellent care. Write us for prices and secure Norfolk Apples which are second to none for Quality and Color.

Co-operation is the
Key to Freedom!—
"Each for All and
All for Each"

Norfolk Fruit Growers' Association, Simcoe, Ont.



The Last Word in Granary Construction

Angle iron framework. Every galvanized iron sheet is heavily braced with angle iron on each side. Angle irons BOLT together. This Granary cannot collapse with any weight of grain. Anything short of a cyclone cannot blow it down. Simple to erect, as angle iron bolts together. There is not a bolt in the sheet metal. Write for our illustrated circular

Winnipeg Steel Granary and Culvert Co., Limited
P. O. Box 3054 G WINNIPEG, MAN.

90 % of gas engine trouble has always been due to faults of ignition

The "Alpha" Engine

"The gas engine without batteries"

Stops ignition trouble

THE ALPHA IGNITION EQUIPMENT consists of a gear-driven, positively timed, built-in magneto, which we guarantee will last as long as the engine, and a simple, well built and positive igniter. A hot, fat spark is developed which quickly ignites the whole mixture in the cylinder and enables the production of maximum power from the minimum amount of fuel.

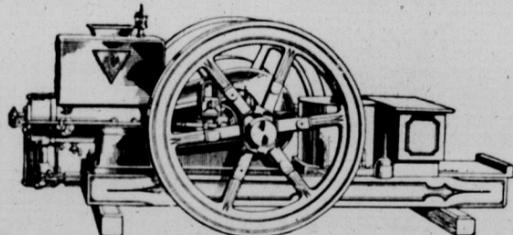
ALL ALPHA ENGINES NOT only operate but start on this magneto. It is hard to believe it until you see it done. In starting even the largest size Alpha Engine, only a partial turn of the fly-wheel is required and the engine goes right to work. No fussing or stewing over batteries, coils and spark plugs with which other engines are equipped.

THE ALPHA ENGINE IGNITION system is so much simpler that once you see it done you can do it yourself. No trick about it. If you have had any ex-

perience with gas engines you will readily appreciate the great advantage of the Alpha in this respect, and even if you don't know gas engines, an inspection of the Alpha Engine will certainly convince you of its simplicity of construction and the excellence of its material and workmanship.

THERE ARE A DOZEN OTHER points of superiority of the Alpha that are just as important as the advantages of its ignition system, and these the nearest Alpha agent will be glad to explain to you. If you don't know the name of the Alpha Engine agent in your locality, we will be glad to put you in touch with him, or if there is no Alpha agent in your neighborhood we will send one of our own representatives to see you, upon request.

IN ANY CASE, WE SHALL BE glad to send you the finest gas engine catalogue ever printed in Canada.



2 to 28 H. P. Portable or Semi-Portable, Water Cooled or Hopper Cooled

DE LAVAL DAIRY SUPPLY CO., Ltd.

LARGEST MANUFACTURERS OF DAIRY SUPPLIES IN CANADA

MONTREAL PETERBORO WINNIPEG VANCOUVER

Western Agricultural Problems

Continued from Page 7

our grain, one of the greatest drawbacks to any kind of farming with the exception of grain farming is the lack of water. You may not know that on many of our wheat plains the farmer must depend for his water on what he can collect in a pit. Did you ever hear of a man going in for dairying under those conditions? Or did you ever try melting snow in the winter so that your animals might get enough to drink? I have seen it done. I have seen a farmer melting enough snow to water his team of horses that he was going to bring me to town with, and the milk cow would wait behind the corner of the building and as soon as she saw him go for the horses she wanted that water, and being snow water she wanted quite a lot more of it than under any other condition. Those are difficulties which render mixed farming a very difficult thing on a large part of the land which is now producing our finest wheat. The hope of those districts is not mixed farming, as generally understood. It is diversified farming in respect to grain crops, cereal crops and grass crops, and we are doing the best we can to help those people along that line. But we must not lose sight of the fact that wheat will be for years to come their staple product. In other words, we must not lose sight of the importance of placing the wheat business as such on a profitable basis if at all possible.

Another reason why farmers do not go in more for mixed farming was mentioned in one of your reports which I was very much interested in listening to, the fact of the homestead regulations necessitating more cultivation. There is hope, I understand, that this bar will be removed.

Buy Too Many Implements

Another handicap lies in the fact that many of our settlers coming into the country, inexperienced, going on a homestead with very little capital, are approached during the early period of their occupancy by men anxious to sell them implements—cream separators—by those anxious to sell them even pianos in some cases—expert salesmen whose business it is to push the sale of their product, men who are willing to extend on behalf of their companies unlimited credit. The homesteader in many cases has come from a country where he never got any credit. When he comes out here, because he is set down on 160 acres of land, everybody wants to sell him goods and give him all kinds of time to pay for them. This has a demoralizing influence. At the same time let me be perfectly fair to the implement people that are selling the farm implements of cultivation and reaping and allowing them time to pay. They have assisted very materially in the rapid development of Western Canada. But expert salesmanship has produced a deplorable condition. It has loaded the farmer up with more machinery than he can promptly employ. What did we find? We got information and made a very careful and conservative estimate that the farmers of Saskatchewan alone owe the implement companies the enormous sum of thirty-five millions of dollars at least for implements. It is true the farmer is to blame. You can't protect a man against himself. If he is foolish enough to buy it is pretty hard to draft laws to protect him, but at the same time you implement manufacturers have some responsibility to take in connection with selling to inexperienced men machinery which it will take him ten years to pay for in many cases. I have seen men on quarter sections loaded up with traction engines which have afterwards had to be taken back. While it is true that the farmer himself must bear the greatest responsibility for this indiscriminate credit, there is a responsibility which comes back to the man who extends it.

How It Bears On Mixed Farming

What relation does that bear to the question of mixed farming? Let me tell you. A man buys implements which are designed to cultivate quite a lot of land. He gets credit for them. The

fact of owning those implements means he must get the power to work them. He goes into other debt for horses or oxen. Generally oxen are too slow for him. I used to think they were all right, and started with them. If every homesteader would begin the same way I think they would get on a lot better with oxen than with horses. He buys these horses very frequently on time, or uses his little bit of capital. The first year on a prairie farm is fraught with very grave danger so far as getting a return is concerned, for much of our prairie land needs years of cultivation before it is capable of retaining enough moisture to raise a crop in case rain does not happen to come at the proper time. In my own part of the country the land is so excessively fertile the tendency of the crop is to keep on growing and get frozen, so that during the first few years on any farm, in spite of the glowing pictures painted by implement salesmen of the number of bushels they are going to get from that or this particular crop, very frequently those roseate dreams are not realized and the man is in debt. He may have acquired from some source a milk cow. What happens? Along comes an individual very different from the expert salesman. Some have described them as expert bloodsuckers. Their business is to collect debts. Every man who has to collect debts has an unpleasant business and, generally speaking, has my sympathy, but I have very little sympathy for the collector of the implement company because he is not collecting his own debt. He comes to the man who has gathered around him a few horses, a lot of machinery which is not paid for, a hog or two, a cow or two, and this farmer by reason of some of the circumstances I have referred to is unable to meet the note. What happens? They must have security, and that person takes a chattel mortgage on the horses and cattle and everything in sight. That is not the trouble. Once a debt has been incurred it should be paid. But, we should start back at the beginning and we should try to prevent the extension of this indiscriminate credit. We can minimize it and by minimizing it we will be promoting the success of mixed farming in the West.

Low Prices for Farm Produce

There is another reason why we don't go in for mixed farming in the West, why we prefer to grow wheat principally. Experience has shown us that it is the one thing that we produce for which we can depend on getting a fairly stable price. It is a world commodity. We can always forecast months ahead freight rates and incidental conditions affecting the marketing of our wheat. Now, what is the case with respect to mixed farm products? The women folk around the farm have made butter and taken it to town and traded it with the storekeeper for sugar in the homestead days at eight cents a pound. I have sold and my neighbors have sold beef cattle on the hoof for two cents and hogs for three cents a pound. What is the reason? The reason is that the home market right at home is small. During the absence of any of these articles I have mentioned in the home market prices go away up and immediately farmers will start raising this particular class of product and down they will go. You will see a variation in the price of butter in Saskatchewan at country points in the summer from eight cents, in the winter as high as forty-one cents, thus discouraging the man thinking of going in for mixed farming. The reason again is our geographical situation with respect to other markets. It costs an awful lot to bring the product of the mixed farm to any other market.

Speaking of what the people of Saskatchewan were themselves doing to improve conditions Mr. Dunning briefly described the organization and progress of the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Co., the provincial system of co-operative creameries, the intermunicipal hail insurance system, and the work of the Grain Growers' association in con-

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