

## Plows and Plowing

Continued from Page 8

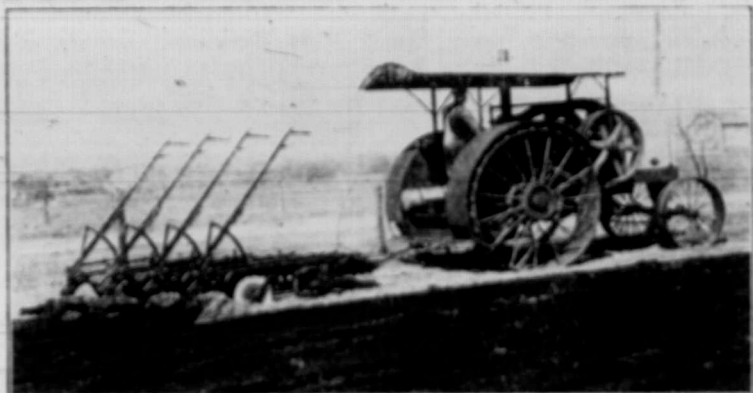
manner because the man on the seat cannot be bothered to adjust it. I saw a plow cutting 38 inches instead of 28 inches and the front furrow was cutting 25 inches. Was that the fault of the implement? The weeds were 4 1/2 feet high and it was a case of cut and cover but not plowing. Just a waste of time.

### Adjustments of the Plow

The original set of a plow, or the proper adjustment of its point, share and beam is given by the maker. Each time the plow is sharpened the blacksmith is depended upon to return this set to the plow. The suction of a plow is usually measured as the width of opening between the landside and a straightedge laid upon it when the plow is bottom side up. It is usually 1-5th of an inch, but may vary slightly. It may also be described as the amount the point is turned down to secure

one horse on the plowing. The remedy lies in plowing tandem, it is easier for the horses and gives good results. (4) Bail support. This seems a small matter, but experts often go on long trips (which the farmer must eventually pay for) just to move a bail support a few inches. It may have slipped on the frame, and if so, it allows one plow to go too deep or too shallow, depending whether it has moved forward or back. (5) Sprung beam will also cause trouble. By setting the plow to "float" in stony ground it may be prevented. The set screw on the foot lift attachment is where this adjustment is made.

After reading this probably a great many farmers will say, "We know all these things." Perhaps you do, but do you take the trouble to adjust your plow properly so that it will do the very best plowing, for no other kind is good enough if results are looked for? In closing, a word about striking out a land or "feeling." We often see a man sitting a gang plow, just drive in and open up the field in a slipshod manner, and



Fairbanks Morse 15-30 Oil Tractor plowing soil.

penetration. Some bearing must be given at the wing of the share in walking plows to carry the downward pressure of the furrow. It is usually 1 to 1 1/2 inches, more being required for soft mellow soils than for hard firm soils. A gang plow has practically no bearing as the plow is supported from above. There is a great difference of opinion as to where a coulter should be set. It varies with conditions. It is generally set to clear the shin of the plow and outside the landside 1 to 2 of an inch. When manure or rubbish has to be plowed under it should be set well ahead to give clearance. In stony ground it is well to set it ahead and down almost to the bottom of the furrow so that if it strikes a stone the plow will rise, thus saving the point of the share.

Some plows can only be made to scour with difficulty. When the plow is at fault poor scouring may be due to one of several things:—(1) Poor temper, which means that the share and moldboard are not hard enough to take a good polish. They should be so hard that a file won't scratch them. (2) Poor grinding. Sometimes hollows have been ground in the moldboard, over which the furrow slice passes so lightly that there is not enough pressure to cause it to scour. This may be tested when buying the plow by carrying the tips of the fingers up the moldboard quickly in the direction that the soil moves. (3) Poor fitting. When the joint between the share and the moldboard is not smooth the share can easily be shimmed up. (4) The edge of the share may not be level, making a low spot back of the cutting edge. This is usually caused by a warped share. (5) Or finally, the trouble may be poor setting of the plow, which has already been referred to.

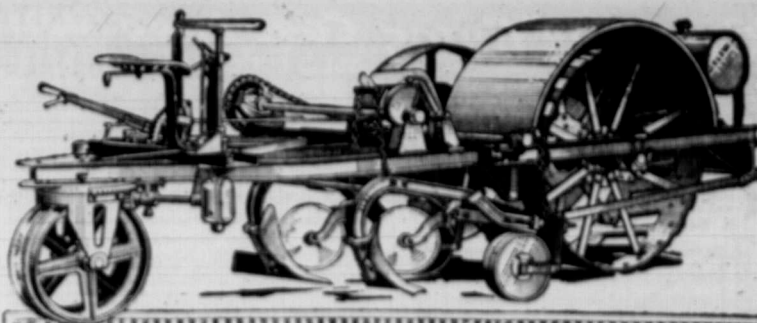
Very often unmatched furrows are seen in plowed fields. This may be due to the following causes: (1) Front plow may be cutting too wide. This can be remedied by giving the front furrow wheel more or less "lead" as desired, or the coulter may require adjusting. (2) Plows not cutting the same depth. This can be easily remedied by the levers unless one plow has more suction than another or is otherwise out of adjustment. (3) Side Draft. If the plow is being pulled at an angle one furrow will be thrown too far. It is practically impossible to plow with 4 horses abreast and not have side draft without putting

later on we see this same man spending half a day finishing up the end. Again we see a fine long row of weeds where the ground has been left unplowed. We must begin right so that all the land will be turned over. Suppose we want to plow 5 inches deep. Set the plow to cut 3 inches, and having set up poles drive straight up the field throwing out two furrows. Then "haw" round and throw out another two, leaving as little unplowed as possible. Now turn round and throw back these furrows by "geeing" round at the same time plowing 2 inches deeper. All the ground now is plowed 5 inches deep, the weeds are all cut and the crown is level. Let us take a greater interest and pride in plowing, and whenever possible establish a plowing match in your district. Make it a live affair, not to find out the best plowman in your district but to interest the boys, improve the plowing, and consequently the crops, and help along yourselves and the cause of better agriculture.

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