

From Start to Finish in Grain Growing

THE time has come when the people of Canada must seriously consider their source of food supply, and no sooner is the question of food supply brought up for consideration than the mind instantly forms a mental picture of the farm and the farmer. This is as it should be, and the war has done more to bring the farmer fairly before the people of the world than any move that has been made along the lines of formation of farmers' societies or publicity on the part of the government. In a time of need the dependent one comes to know intimately where his help is, and to turn anxiously and hopefully in that direction for some sign of a continuance of that help on which he has been depending; and so the people of Canada, and, in fact, of the world, are now turning anxiously, but hopefully, to the farmer for some sign of recognition of their needs and on which they can base their confidence for the present and future feeding of themselves and their armies. A great general has truly said: "An army travels on its stomach," and in order that our armies and the armies of our Allies may keep on travelling due attention must now be paid to the source of our food supply.

The speeding up of farm production is an all-important factor. True, we have the vacant lots idea well under way, and the work it is doing is important, too. The man with a backyard or vacant lot garden is assisting in no uncertain way to relieve some of the burden imposed on the farmer by the demands of a hungry army. He can grow sufficient vegetables to supply him through the later summer and last him through the winter. But the cry of the world is "give us bread!" And there is no one to hear that cry but the farmer. Therefore, our consideration must be directed toward the farm and its production.

Probably the greatest step that has been made looking toward efficiency of production on a maximum scale is the introduction of the tractor. The tractor is responsible for a larger acreage being put under cultivation. It is an "iron horse" that does not tire. Equipped with a proper traction it can be worked in weather that would kill a horse. Its greatest bid for popularity is that the farmer is no longer troubled over the fact of a shortage of labor. The accompanying photographs show conclusively that one tractor is of greater assistance to the farmer than many men and horses. The releasing of men which the em-

ployment of the tractor brings about is of two-fold importance: (1) More men are available for military duty and (2) More men are available to take up pieces of land for farming purposes and thus increase the production which is so sorely needed.

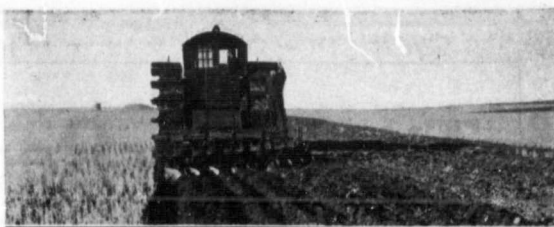
Another important step is the good roads movement. For a long time the humble "tiller of the soil" was under the impression that good roads were for the automobile, but a mature reflection, assisted by many object lessons, has dispelled the haze which obscured the outlook of the farmer, and he knows to-day that with good roads his wagons last longer, his horses are able to pull larger loads to the market or the elevator and he can make better time on the haulage than he could with uneven, wet, rutty and bad roads.

The farmer has also to thank the chemist for his efforts towards producing more and better crops. Patient experimenters have done much, more especially along the line of artificial fertilisers, bacteriology in the dairy and methods for detecting fertility in seeds.

The government has been glad, nay anxious, to co-operate with the farmer on every and all occasions. It has assisted him with money and advice; it has prepared and distributed bulletins, inaugurated experimental stations and farms, equipped exhibition trains, and endeavored by every method within its power to interest the farmer in proper methods and educate him to realise the necessity of good farming in his work. Agricultural colleges have assisted in somewhat the same manner, by experiments and instruction, to induce the farmer to use scientific methods on the farm.

And the list could be extended to include nearly all the professions and trades in the land; we have the tree surgeon, the veterinary surgeon, the architect, the carpenter, the dynamiter, and so on.

The pictures reproduced herewith show how farming is done in the great Northwest from the time the first plow bites its way into the virgin soil until the harvest is hauled to the elevator. It will be noticed the tractor plays an important part on this farm, and the many and varied uses to which it may be put are faithfully portrayed. And an ever-increasing number of farmers are going about farming in the same way, cutting out the old and expensive methods of working and installing the new and up-to-date machinery.



PLOWING



DISCING



SEEDING



HARVESTING



THE GOLDEN SHEAVES



THRESHING



EN ROUTE TO THE ELEVATOR