

TRACTION PLOWING

AS TOLD BY THE MEN WHO DO IT

Prefers Steam to Lump Coal.

In reply to your request for my experience concerning traction plowing, I can say that what I have done so far has been to my entire satisfaction.

I got my rig in time for the fall plowing, 1909. My engine is a 32 h.p. cross compound Reeves. My plow is a 12 bottom, 14 inch steam-lift Reeves.

I plowed 565 acres of stubble in 23 days and, considering the fact that I started up with a new rig, I am well satisfied with the amount of work done for short days.

I used five tanks of 13 barrels of water each day. When I drew water one mile, one tank rig did it, but for two and two and a half miles, it took two rigs. On the en-

with horse power. I will also use twenty head of work horses.

The work I have given the engine so far has not taxed it in the least.

Of what I have seen of steam plowing and threshing, I consider plowing the harder on the engine, as every part is in use and exposed to more dust and grit, to say nothing of using about two tanks of water and from 1,200 to 1,500 pounds of coal a day more than for threshing, which is certainly harder on the engine.

My advice to any wishing power on a large farm is to invest in a steam outfit, and don't be tight when you hire your engineer if he does come high. Yours respectfully,

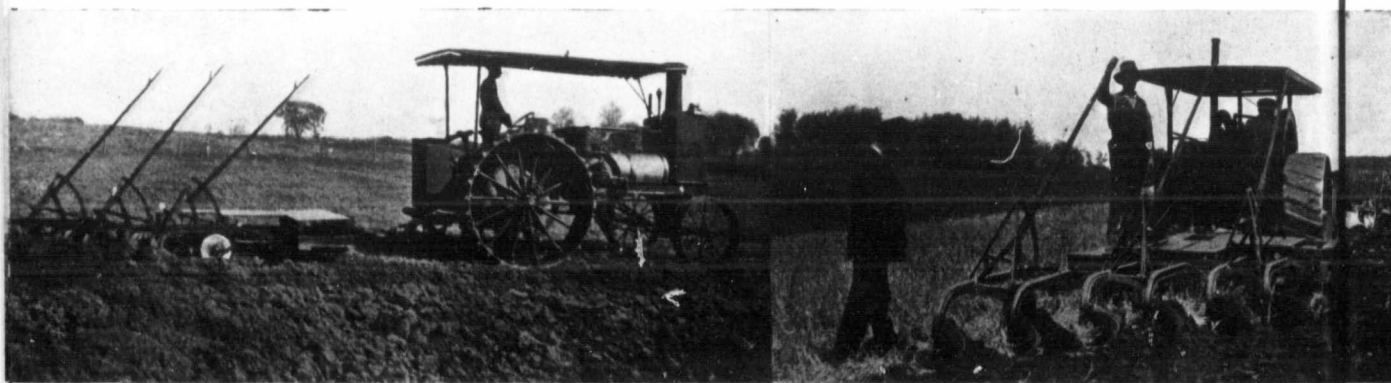
E. G. Hoppes,
Dundurn, Sask.

averaged about 200 pounds per acre including moving and what was used in the cook car. We have a new 40 h.p. Avery under-mounted engine and new John Deere 12 bottom plows and they make a fine outfit together. We employed five men and four horses, and used from 60 to 100 barrels of water per day of 12 hours, and we plowed as high as 40 acres per day, but not on an average, for we had pretty wet plowing in the early part of the season.

Speaking of which is the harder on the engine, I believe, of course, that plowing is, but there are days when you are plowing that you think threshing is the hardest, but then you find days and the condition of the soil such that one day's plowing is harder than a

he wants to save gasoline. The valves all need to be working. One wants to learn by the sound of the engine just how it is working. I believe the ear is of more importance than the eye, but one wants to keep them both very much on the alert. Regarding the amount of gasoline used per acre, I might say, although three gallons per acre was what I paid for, this amount was not actually used. When opened, some of the barrels were almost half empty and there was some gasoline taken out of every one. I did not keep track of the gasoline any other way excepting by the barrel, so that three gallons per acre is not really accurate as I did not use nearly that much.

I operated with my engine a 5 furrow Cockshutt engine gang



A Geiser Gas Tractor Pulling a 6 Bottom 14 in. John Deere Engine Gang.

An International 15 h.p. Gas Tractor Introducing Traction Cultivation into the Shoal Lake, Man., District, John Deere Plows Doing the Work.

gine I had two men, engineer and steersman. The plow, being steam lift, is handled by the engineer.

The most satisfactory coal I used was the Hillcrest steam coal, of which I used on an average 2,500 pounds a day. When I could not procure this kind I used lump coal, which was much more expensive and required more than two tons a day. When using steam coal the engine could go continuously, but when using lump coal the grates had to be cleaned every two miles. When using steam coal we plowed from 30 to 35 acres a day.

I also have breaker bottoms for the plow and expect to break better than a section next June. I expect to use the engine to help put in my crop of 1,700 acres of wheat besides 300 acres of oats, barley and speltz this year, and if I am successful in getting the engine hitch, which



is manufactured by the Gas Traction Co., Winnipeg, I will pull five binders. Besides the binders I will operate

A Speed for Plowing.

In regard to steam plowing, while I have run steam plows for three seasons, I don't claim to know very much about the business. Steam plowing is a business that few understand and can make a paying proposition of. I have heard men say things in regard to handling an outfit, and who claimed to be engineers and plowmen, that the average school boy would laugh at. We hear of them taking off the governor belt and travelling them a mile in fifteen to eighteen minutes with a big load of water and coal, and the plows behind all this.

There is but one speed for plowing that your engine will give good satisfaction at without cutting, heating and pounding, and the possible danger of your boiler's priming and doing damage to your cylinders, and that speed has to be found out in running the engine or by the engineer. A good engineer can prolong the life of an engine several years by finding that speed.

The quantity of coal used per day is determined by the quality and the fireman. Last year we

month of threshing, but the average man will tell you that steam plowing is no snap for the engineer or engine.

We plowed about 1300 acres from June to August and were laid up several days for wet ground and water holes, but we had no loss from breakdowns.

Yours truly,
Walter Phillips,
Magrath, Alta.

Must Understand Engine Thoroughly.

In May, 1909, I purchased an International 20 h.p. gasoline traction engine with which I had very good success, although the season was pretty wet.

I plowed 110 acres of summer fallow, broke up 275 acres and plowed 70 acres of hay land that had been in hay for two years with very little trouble, taking about 3 gallons of gasoline per acre. I might say that it was naphtha which I used, and I think it took more than it would gasoline.

It is necessary for a man to understand his engine thoroughly if

which gave very good satisfaction both in breaking and stubble, using rolling coulters for both purposes.

After harvest I went threshing with my 30 x 54 Buffalo Pitts separator, feeder and blower, threshing in 2934 bushels per day in 22 days with about 25 gallons of gasoline per day.

My separator worked very well, giving no trouble at all and when we got it loosened up, the engine could handle it fine.

I think gasoline engines are just all right and have done all I expected they would do and more.

Yours truly,
Alex. Ferguson,
Dominion City, Man.

Plowing No Harder than Threshing.

We have not as yet had much experience in traction cultivation. In 1909 we bought a 400 acre farm of which only 120 acres was broken. As we had so many more acres to break, and not having enough horses, we decided to purchase an engine gang plow for our 20 h.p.