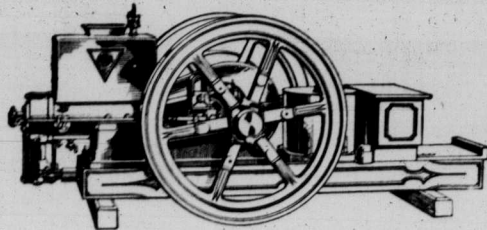


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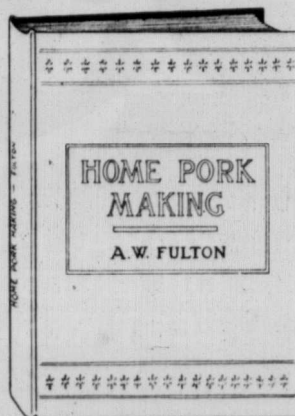


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The Mail Bag

Continued from Page 9

yet when he has a larger area and is owner, or can secure the services, of a machine that is operating on a circuit that under normal conditions will take no longer to thresh than it would take the individuals comprising the group to stack their grain, then in my experience by far the most profitable system to follow is that of "stook" threshing.

Our seasons are so short that with the large acreage seeded by individual farmers it is quite impracticable to stack all the grain and thresh it out of the stack before intensely cold weather sets in, and only those who have experienced the inconvenience and discomfort, to say nothing of possible actual suffering at times, can fully appreciate the necessity of getting the work out of the way at the earliest possible moment even at the risk of loss of a grade and the possible waste of a bushel or so an acre from sprouted grain.

Whether or not such large areas should be seeded, taking into consideration the limited labor factor, is another consideration and will also be decided by the farmers themselves; but it must not be forgotten that these same Wise Men, aided by the over officious Dominion department of agriculture, less than a year ago were urging the Canadian farmer to plant every available acre with wheat.

The folly of these suggestions was evident to many at the time, and Mr. Hopkins in his address at the Saskatchewan convention in February last hit the mark when he stated that with wheat at \$1.50 per bushel it would be impossible to prevent the planting of it with the aid of a club. Efforts to restrain seeding except on properly prepared land would have been more appropriate from such authorities.

The threshing of our crops is the most costly, and one of the most important, of the operations of the year's work and I think that in the near future considerable change will be brought about, for the day of the custom thresher seems to me to be drawing to a close, the short season (averaging not over 25 or 30 days) makes the undertaking a most unprofitable investment as interest and capital charges for the whole year have to be charged up against a few days' work.

The solution of the problem will, it seems to me, be found in the smaller outfit, say 24 inch or 26 inch separator driven by a 20 to 30 brake H.P. gasoline tractor, owned by groups of farmers whose combined crop area will lie around 500 or 600 acres. With such an outfit the threshing of the group can be completed in the same length of time that it would take to stack the grain with their regular force, with perhaps the addition of a boy or two on the grain wagons or in the granary to shovel back.

Then, another great advantage, the tractor can be used in the heat of summer to help out the horses in summerfallowing and breaking, as but few can afford to keep sufficient equipment to get this work done at the right time.

Many farmers appear to be under the impression that it is the duty of some philanthropic neighbor to provide the necessary machinery for threshing their crops, but it seems to me that under prevailing conditions as outlined above it would be just as reasonable to expect some outside agency to provide the binders for harvesting it.

F. J. COLLYER.

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

Editor, Guide:—Apropos of the article on "Proportional Representation" in The Guide of September 29, I would like to emphasize two important points, viz., (1) that the proposed multiple constituencies coupled with the one-man one-vote principle, would effectively weaken the power of money in elections, likewise the power of party organizations or machines; (2) these proposed large constituencies would insure the election of popular, well tried men, who today find themselves more bitterly assailed by their opposite party at election, solely because their influence is feared. Such men would no longer require to pander to the wishes of any unscrupulous group of heelers or supporters who, by deserting to the opposition, could endanger the election of the candidate in question.

These are two points that will most interest the public today who are heart-sick and well-nigh discouraged by the graft and corruption now proven to be rampant in Canadian politics. Estevan, Sask. T. M. BRYCE.

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