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### Tractioning the Soil

Continued from page 11

warrants. In this connection one writer says, "The beauty of an engine is that one can plow, disc and harrow all at once. In this way the ground is pulverized thoroughly when it is fresh turned. In this way the ground does not clod up. If you are doing spring plowing when the ground is especially apt to clod up, it is much nicer to plow, disc and harrow a good wide strip all at once when your power is on the uniform footing of unplowed ground than it is to plow from three to five acres a day with your gang plows, then make your horses plod over that soft ground to disc, then plod over it a second time to harrow it. This is the work that kills horses. In the spring they are soft and tender and short winded. To make them do the very heaviest and hardest work on the farm when they are in the poorest condition is little short of absolute cruelty.

But there is still another side to this point. You are putting in spring grain. If you are a good farmer you want to disc your ground at least once before you seed it, whether with a drill or with a broadcast seeder. If you are using horses you go out and disc that ground as soon as you can. Very often that spell of good weather lasts just long enough for you to get your discing done, then comes a bad spell for a week or so. Your ground is ready but your seed is still in the bins. If it were in the ground it would be growing just as those weeds are, or faster. Had you had an engine you could have seeded at the same time you were discing. When that bad spell came you would have had every acre seeded that was disced and your seed would be in the ground doing business instead of in the bins doing nothing.

Being able to do it in this way will add five or ten bushels an acre to your crop, and having it in early will let you harvest it before the frost or rust gets hold of it. Even more, it often means getting in a crop or not getting it in. Remember last spring and tell yourself whether this is not true. Many small grain fields were unseeded because they were not seeded before that rainy, snowy spell came. What is more, you cannot only do the work when it will do the most good to do it, but you can do it in the shortest time with the least help; or putting it in another way, you can do more of it in the same time with less help.

When the first good weather comes in the spring you can go out and work day and night. You can get in at least twenty hours a day in the fields without stopping even a half hour or hour to

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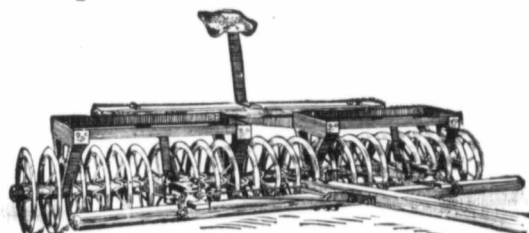
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