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Apparently not, because if direct current is used it cannot be economically employed for many reasons that are obvious to the electrical engineer. It cannot be transmitted for any distance for one thing. Thirty volt motors are much more expensive than those of higher potential, for another.

Without going into a detailed discussion on the subject, it appears to the writer that alternating current is best adapted to power applications. It is much more flexible than direct current; it can be transmitted economically to almost any distance desirable; and it has this one great advantage—if the farmer installs his own plant, and later on a public service corporation extends its lines to his vicinity, he can switch over from his isolated plant and benefit through the lower cost of power so obtainable without discarding his motors.

The isolated plant has its very real uses as a pioneer, but its usefulness is past from an economical standpoint with the advent of power from a concentrated source.

Again, refer to the bulletin above mentioned. Man power is estimated to cost approximately 11c. per hour. Animal horse power is estimated to cost approximately 8c. per hour.

An isolated plant can be operated at less than 8c. per horse power, and the depreciation is less.

Central station power is being furnished in our cities at one-third of these costs, and lack of demand is all that prevents these lower costs prevailing in the country.

Another problem: There is a well-recognized tendency for the farmer to purchase a portable gasoline engine, moving it from place to place.


Later he adds another unit, and keeps it up until he has from six to one dozen such equipments. Can he operate such an outfit as economically as he can central power plant furnishing currents for motors located in the places he needs them? If he can, then he is doing something that our manufacturers find it impossible to do except at a loss.

Another problem: Which is the more economical? A central stationary power plant or a portable plant, such as is available in the tractor?

Perhaps both are necessary. We might go on indefinitely, but it would be too much of a tax on your patience, so just one word in conclusion.

All of the possibilities above mentioned are sufficiently practical to warrant immediate study, but beyond these there are possibilities which hold out much promise.

Reference is made to the stimulation of plant life by electricity and the conversion of the air nitrogen into fertilizer. Investigation of the first possibility is still in its infancy, but when men like Sir Oliver Lodge, Prof. Daniel Berthelot, Prof. Lem-



"A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush"

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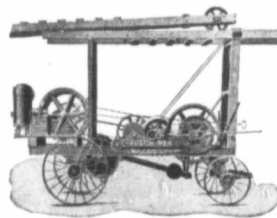
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