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## An Experience Worth Reading

Glendale, Man.,  
January 4th, 1917.

Dear Sir—In the summer of 1908 I purchased my first threshing machine which was a 15 H.P. "Case" steam engine and a 32x52 separator. I was successful in operating this machine for threshing only for four years and found it a profitable investment.

In the spring of 1912 I traded my steam outfit for a 30x60 Hart Parr tractor with an 8 bottom Cockshutt plow and a 40x62 Case Steel Separator. This new outfit with kerosene tanks, wagons, etc., cost me \$5,500.00 and if it was to prove a profitable investment I considered it would have to pay for itself in three years as those were the terms on which the purchase was made.

For the first year I hired my brother (who had had some experience with gasoline engines) to run the engine and another man to run the plows at a wage of \$60 and \$35 per month, respectively.

During the spring and summer we plowed 1000 acres of stubble and broke 800 acres of prairie sod. For the plowing we received \$2.00 per acre and \$5.00 per acre for the breaking. It would be impossible for me to give you at the present time all the details of expenses, etc., but after the plowing season was over, we made a close inventory of all the expenses and struck a balance which showed a net profit of \$800.00 which we considered fairly satisfactory for beginners.

In plowing, our engine used 2½ to 3 gals. of kerosene per acre and two gals. of gas engine cylinder oil per day, or about five cents worth per acre.

Our daily expense would run about as follows:

Cylinder oil, 2 gals., at 50c...	\$ 1.00
Kerosene, 50 gals. per day at 18 cents.....	9.00
Gasoline, 5 gals. per day at 25 cents.....	1.25
Grease, 2 lbs. per day at 12½ cents.....	25
Sharpening shares, per day about.....	1.00
Labor, per day.....	4.50
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$17.00</b>

## TRACTOR EXPERIENCE

*In response to our request, we have received a large number of letters detailing the actual experience of the writers with different types of tractors. All of these are good, some of them containing a wealth of counsel in hard earned experience that money couldn't buy. As they mean far more than the best an "expert theorist" can offer, we are satisfied that we cannot render our readers better service than in reproducing them in their own simple language.—Ed.*

Average amount plowed, 20 acres at \$2.00 per acre = \$40.00, leaving a profit of \$24.00 per day to cover wear and tear and repairs, etc.

In breaking we did much better. The expense was about the same and we could average 12 to 15 acres per day, showing a profit of from \$45.00 to \$50.00 per day, which was a fair good profit. I considered the plowing business

double this amount. The first year we threshed for 44 days and made a net profit of \$1800.00, so at the end of the first season we had made our outfit earn \$2600.00 or nearly half the purchase price.

For the next two years which I owned the outfit we confined our work to an occasional breaking contract, some fall-plowing, breaking timothy sod and threshing.



Maple Grove Stock Farm.

A Fine Farm and a Spanking Outfit

was not a profitable one with the big tractor so did not take any more plowing contracts after the first season, but stayed with the breaking and threshing.

The threshing business proved the most profitable side of the business as we could average from fifteen hundred to two-hundred thousand bushels of wheat per day at 8c per bushel. The expense was \$80.00 per day, making a profit of from fifty to eighty dollars per day. In good oats at 6c per bushel we could nearly

I found the engine too heavy for spring plowing as it packed the ground so hard that it baked and spoiled the crop. It was very satisfactory for breaking timothy sod and I figured that it was cheaper than horse power.

At the end of three years I had succeeded in completing my payments and was in a position to come to a definite conclusion in regard to the farm tractor problem and will try and give it in as short a space as possible.

I own one section of land and

am convinced that no farm of this size should be without a power outfit and thresher. To me the big outfit fell down in several ways. The first cost was so great that the average farm could not pay for it without doing outside work and this took me away from my farm too much. Second, it was too heavy and too cumbersome for the average farm work. The only place to my notion where the big tractor really pays well is in breaking and custom threshing. With this experience before me I set out for a new deal and finally succeeded in trading my big rig off for a 12-25 Case gasoline tractor with a 28x42 Case steel separator and a four furrowed automatic lift Case plow. I might say that I was successful in making a fair good bargain on my old rig and got out without making too great a sacrifice. I am so well satisfied with the new one that if I was putting the deal through again I am afraid, I would be in such a hurry to make it, that I would almost give the old one away!

The first work I did with the small tractor was to break sixty acres of timothy sod, which I did, pulling four 14 in. plows on slow speed, and at a fuel cost of about 90 cents to \$1.00 per acre. In the fall I threshed for 34 days and threshed nearly 36000 bushels of grain which is an average of a little better than 1000 bushels per day. We did this with three stook teams and two pitchers and one man to haul away the grain, while I was able to take care of both engine and separator, with less hard work than it took to look after one end of the big machine.

In wet spells during the threshing season I would hitch on the plow and by the end of threshing between the engine and the teams we had nearly two hundred and fifty acres of the land plowed. I can easily operate both engine and plows myself and can plow about one acre per hour or a shade better on long furrows. I find that in plowing stubble it takes two gals. per acre and two gals. per day of cylinder oil. I do not use much hard oil as the gears