

### The Thresher Question.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

I noticed in the Farmer's Advocate of February 7th your article on "Gang Threshing." I feel convinced that in sections of Ontario where farms are large, roads good and labor hard to secure it would be the very best way to have threshing done. I feel sure it would have a tendency to make the thresherman keep his outfit in good repair, and keep the work going. I have been at some farms threshing when the thresherman seemed to be making the job last as long as possible. I think, however, in places where farms are not large and far apart it could not be carried on very well as it would not pay either party. It would be necessary to make a higher charge to cover the cost of moving. I think where farms are a fair size and perhaps not very close together it would always pay the farmer to have his own small threshing outfit. These machines can be successfully run with a 5-H. P. gasoline engine, and when a wet day comes the farmer can usually get some help from the neighbors and put through a good bit of the threshing without loss of time. It very often happens that weather is a great drawback to a threshing gang and causes loss of time, whereas if the farmer has his own outfit he can pick a suitable time for the work, and moreover the amount paid for threshing would, in about three or four years, buy a small machine and almost every farmer has a good gasoline engine. I think we might divide it into two classes and say the large farmer would benefit by gang threshing and the smaller one would be better served to have his own small machine.

Muskoka District, Ont.

TOM PAIN.

### Miss Overalls on the Farm.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

Last spring our hired man left the farm after having spent three years with us. My brother was sixteen and I was seventeen so we knew right well we were in for it. But I got off light in the spring seeding only having to drive the team on the harrows one day and the horses would persist in stopping every time they got to the centre of the field to say nothing of taking five minutes off duty every time at each end into the bargain. Next came laying at which I had only one day, for we had not nearly so much land in hay as we had other years, having almost all the farm in fall wheat and spring sowing.

Berry picking came on and how I liked to pick those large, red, berries that were so plentiful last year! But I only had two forenoons at it for harvest was ready and I was told off to make the poorest half of the hired man, my brother being considered the better by a long shot. Shocking wheat with a tight skirt, a long-wristed pair of shocking gloves and an umbrella hat is not just what it's cracked up to be. Overalls are better. Anyway I did not find it awfully hard only my brother would consider it his duty to give every blessed shock I set up an extra squeeze or whatever you wish to term it before I was allowed to put the "cap" sheaf on. This would not do around where I was and I told him so in a very few words with the result that I was left to do my own squeezing and setting up too. However, the wheat got out and shocked and next came barley, and with it, all that "Overall Sis" was going to do in the barley field. Don't pay any attention to the fact that I was a little uneasy myself as to just how I was going to manage Mr. Barley, but once at it I soon got used to it and did not notice it much different from the wheat, until one day we struck a field and if you ever heard of this-they barley that's the kind grew there; and I do believe if it had not been for the aeroplanes which flew over every hour or so I should have said "Good-bye Luke" and "beat it."

Next came the oats. Oats are the best little chaps of all. They just go up in a shock like real good ones, so you may know we were soon finished with the cutting and shocking. I was by this time beginning to think I was a pretty important part of the hired man and was doing a little at saying so too. Never squeal until you have accomplished mowing. It is a sticker. I am thinking it was a happy idea of the pater's to keep "mum" on the mowing or I am afraid Miss Overalls would have been greatly taken up on some other work just about that time had she but known. However, with the help of a brother nine years old and saying some words, I got through it and am still living, although I had some pretty strong convictions I might melt one of those hot days and be no more.

Now for the paying end of the business. For my part I was to go to High School when the fall term opened but Fate must have poked her head in the way as usual and instead I had to keep house for a few weeks. However, the pater came along with ample rewarding, financially, so I am with it for another year.

### Would Like to See Gang Threshing.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

In your valuable paper of February 7th, I was pleased to see the question raised as to the expediency of threshing gangs. In my opinion it would be an excellent plan, as it would relieve the over-worked farmer, and assist him very much in the production of food. It would enable farmers to complete their work much earlier or more thoroughly than by present conditions.

The writer knows something of farming in the counties of Kent and Essex, where many follow the four-year rotation, which because of soil conditions seems to work well—hay, corn, oats, wheat, followed by seeding to hay and as the oat ground on most farms is put into wheat the manure hauling is delayed till the oats are harvested. Many farmers want to thresh at once, which, along with plowing and manure hauling, seeding, and sometimes corn cutting at the same time causes one or more jobs to be very much neglected. The wheat is put in too late or the corn is badly frozen, and often a part of the crop is left unhusked all winter to be wasted by crows and mice, together with frozen fodder causing much loss and waste to the farmer, with some unfinished fall work to be done in the spring. So, viewing the questions carefully, I think most farmers should favor the threshing gangs.

If the Government, or a syndicate of farmers, or even a private man, would secure a good machine and even eight or nine men and a small cabin on four wheels for the men to sleep in, and carry a little extra clothing for emergencies it would add to their comfort, and also relieve the farmer's wife very much, as she would only have to provide the board for them. I think the plan would work well in general. Last year in West Kent much of the threshing was done by men from fifty to sixty years of age, and many of them had cleared their farms at that, and when men of that age have to chore morning and night and thresh all day, it means drudgery, therefore I would like to have a few hundred men express themselves in favor of threshing gangs.

Kent Co., Ont.

OBSERVER.

### Likes the Practical Advice.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

Enclosed is \$1.50 for my renewal for your valuable paper. We would be lost without its practical advice, and also different people's opinions on different subjects pertaining to agricultural pursuits.

Durham Co., Ont.

E. N. PASCOE.

### Get Together.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

Evidently there is some concerted action to work up an agitation against the farmers by the city press, and thus cause antagonism at a time when we should be united. It is hard to have sufficient charity to believe that ignorance of farm conditions would account for all the fairy tales we read. One influential Toronto weekly says: "We must see that taxes are placed where they belong—that is, on the farmer." Another note reads: "The farmers are the greatest profiteers of the country." A Toronto daily with a wide circulation, in an editorial on hog production exhorts the farmer to produce pigs even if it is not financially remunerative, and has a good word for the bankers who lend money for the purpose, but I never knew a banker to take any risk. He wants gilt-edged paper and an endorser, so his money is sure, and if there is a loss the farmer stands it. It is patriotic for a financier to buy victory bonds at 5½ per cent., but treason for a farmer to ask if he will come out even. All the farmer wants is a fair deal. He does not ask that either his sons or his help be exempted because he is a farmer; if they can best serve their country in that way, he is satisfied, but he cannot send his sons and experienced help to the front and increase production at the same time.

If the farmers are making over 5½ per cent., I, for one, say that the Government should confiscate all over that amount, and I am satisfied that 99 per cent. of the farmers will agree with me.

One Farmers' Institute lecturer told us that he was making 80 per cent. when I promptly told him that the Government should take 75 per cent. of it. In proof of this, I have only to refer to the offer of the Canadian Wool Growers, who offered their wool to the Government on the basis of last year's co-operative prices.

I am meeting every day school teachers, doctors, lawyers, travellers, mechanics, and even laboring men, who own farms of from 80 to 200 acres, and who complain that they are not making interest, but though the most of these men are practical farmers and would have little or no trouble in stocking the farms—in fact, most of them are already well equipped with live stock and implements—still they stick to their work in the towns and cities instead of going farming, which, according to the city papers, is a sure get-rich scheme.

All this gratuitous advice and criticism would be amusing if it were not such a serious matter and is stirring up ill feeling when we should all work together for our country's best interests, either in the trenches or in productive industry.

Grey Co., Ont.

G. T. MARSH.

### Endorses Wider Sleigh Idea.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

I heartily endorse the idea put forward by the subscriber from Wentworth County, Ontario, re wider sleighs. It is something that should have been made law long ago. The roads in the winter are not wide enough for horses to travel without breaking off, and soon they begin to crowd. My team was out recently on the snow plow with another team. They kept breaking off and at last they began to crowd and they had to be changed to the opposite sides before they could do anything with them, and it spoiled them for the rest of the winter. When spring comes it is bad, for some places when the buggies are running there is that much snow outside the roadbed it makes it very bad going. If the roadbed was as wide as the buggy, it would make it a great deal better for everything. I think it is the duty of every reader of "The Farmer's Advocate" to get after it.

Algoma District, Ont.

W. B. SNOWE



The Men of the First Short Course in Farm Power at the O. A. C., Guelph.