

Field and Farm Management

By S. A. BENTON

FARM management bears much the same relation to the business of farming as "scientific" management bears to factory management in the industrial world. However, in the industrial world the value of concrete data has long been recognized. In both fields of activity the necessity of efficient use of labor, of capital, and of natural resources is becoming more and more clearly recognized. Scientific management, that is management based on facts the result of study and investigations, is the latest phase in our agricultural, commercial and industrial development. Agriculture has been the last to recognize the value of accurate facts relating to the business side of its operation.

Rural economics is the science dealing with our wealth-getting and our wealth-using activities of rural people. It therefore deals with the general problems of international trade, of transportations, of value and prices, of land tenure, of taxation and similar subjects affecting the general property and living conditions of the farmer.

The farmers individually are primarily interested in their own farms and the system of farming that will be profitable; not profitable only in favorable years, but in the unfavorable ones. Much has been done by the State, and rightly so, in encouraging production and in getting larger yields, and much more remains to be done in finding out what kind of crops to grow, how much of each kind, and how to most profitably dispose of them after being produced. Shall they be sold or fed to stock? If fed to stock, what kind will be most profitable—hogs, sheep, dairy cattle, beef cattle, and what combinations of them? What system of farm management should be followed if stock are kept? If they are not kept, what policy should be pursued? These are all questions of vital interest to the farmer and to the province. A purely agricultural province should not neglect to develop continuously prosperous systems of farming.

Farm management systems and the methods of successful operators can be secured only from actual farmers living on their own farms and getting a livelihood by their own work. Information gained from them, then, is based on fact, not theory. Their experience is of immeasurable value to others. Little or no concrete data of this character is now available. This phase of farm development

cannot come altogether from experiment or demonstration farms, but the practices of successful farmers must be given the greatest weight.

Such information can be secured and given to the public. The Farm Management Departments of the leading agricultural States across the border are now recognized as most important. Through careful investigations among actual farmers, facts, and not opinions, are made available. Several lines of investigation are being pursued:

1. The Farm Management Survey—All the farmers in a selected area, typical of a large farming district of similar agricultural conditions, are interviewed by trained men in regard to their methods of farming, the amount of livestock kept, the crops raised, yields secured and amounts sold, the amount of labor used, etc. Among a number of farmers some will be successful, some will be partly so, and some will be unsuccessful. By finding out what the successful farmers do and what the unsuccessful do or do not do, facts, not opinions, are available on which to advise the unsuccessful ones. Few farmers keep accounts, but data along the line suggested can be secured with surprising accuracy. Some figures may be too high; others may be too low, but the average is very near the truth.

Whether the year is favorable or unfavorable, all farmers have the same opportunity. Data secured in an average year is perhaps more profitable than in a particularly profitable year, for to succeed in spite of adversity is real success and carries a lesson for others. Ontario began work of this nature last year, and this year is extending it. Investigations of this character will be of immeasurable value:

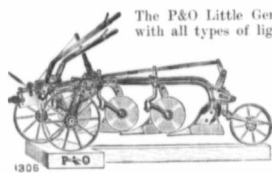
- (a) Determining the most profitable size of farm.
- (b) Determining the amount of horse and man labor required on farms of various sizes.
- (c) Determining the most profitable systems of farming.
- (d) Determining the amount of machinery needed.
- (e) Determining the factors giving profitable farming under existing conditions.

2. Cost of Production Data—Accurate knowledge as to the cost of production of farm products is essential in making progress in farming systems. The profit in the old pioneer grain farming system in Southern Manitoba is decreasing. High prices,

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The P&O Little Genius Tractor Plow is built for use with all types of light tractors. It is made in 2 and 3 furrow, with 12 or 14 inch bottoms, and 4 furrow with 14 inch bottoms. The power lift is instant and positive in action, raising the plow on all three wheels, giving a high, level lift. A single trip rope gives the tractor perfect control from his position at the steering wheel. Pin-break hitch.

IXL Bottoms (Stubble or Scotch Clipper) with Quick Detachable Shares. Can also furnish Blackland and Breaker Bottoms. Fully equipped for efficient work under all plowing conditions. A sturdy, steady plow that will give you 100 per cent efficiency and add to the life of your tractor by making its work easier.

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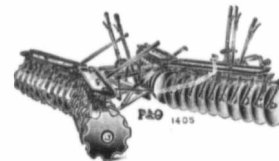
The P&O Moguls are made in 4, 5, 6, 8 and 10 furrow sizes with 14 inch bottoms. Power Lift with independent lever lift. This is the ideal plow for use on large acreages. IXL Bottoms (Stubble or Scotch Clipper) with Quick Detachable Shares. Can also furnish Blackland or Breaker Bottoms.

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The P&O Power Lift Tractor Disc Plow has the same dependable lift device as our famous Little Genius. The discs are 24 or 26 inch. Made in 3 or 4 furrow. The discs revolve on chilled bearings, with hard-oil lubrication. Can be set to cut 7 to 9 inches. Will plow 10 inches deep. This is a dandy tractor disc plow and one which you should investigate if your conditions call for disc plows.



P&O Tractor Tandem Harrows



P&O Tractor Disc Harrows are made in 8 and 10 foot sizes, with 16 or 18 inch discs. The hitch is adaptable to any tractor. The flexible connection between the front and rear sets of gangs insures efficient work in uneven ground. Once over with this harrow gives better results than twice over with a single disc because the ground is packed less and is more thoroughly stirred. Improved scraper control. Hard-oil lubrication. Riveted steel frames. Third lever attachment when wanted.

P&O Tractor Grub Breaker

The P&O Tractor Grub Breaker is a big plow for extraordinary work. It cuts a 24 inch furrow 12 inches deep. It will turn and cover any scrub, mosquito or underbrush that will permit the passage of a tractor. The plow weighs a ton and is built to hang together under all strain.

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