

horse and buggy to go after these supplies and to go to town for repairs, etc.

I keep a night watch, who sets up tent, cuts wood for cook, fills lanterns with oil, and who gets his supper early and is at engine when shutting down for night. He then sees that no fire is about and when the steam is down cleans out flues and firebox and examines flues for leaks, caulking them if necessary and then filling hard oil cups, cleans up engine, and oils up. He puts belts on separator in the morning, gets steam up in the morning and has everything ready for operation as soon as men get out. We have breakfast about 4.40 a.m. and start work in field at 5.30 a.m., dinner at 11 a.m., lunch at 4 p.m., supper at 8 p.m. The meat is supplied by a local butcher who calls twice a week.

I will relate one or two experiences which I had last fall. One day one of the iron deck hangers broke and instead of losing time of going to the blacksmith to have it repaired we secured a piece of hard wood and bored holes for axles to fit in and placed on deck and it worked all season fine.

One afternoon the crank shaft on the feeder broke and the gang expected to be laid off till it could be welded at the shop or replaced by one from Winnipeg. We got the gang busy, however, taking off the band cutting knives and took out shaft and my engineer rigged a sickle on a long wooden handle and got a man to sit on top of feeder to cut bands and run the feeder carriers without the bandcutting knives at all, and it went first rate. I sent the crank shaft to the shop and had it welded and replaced it at night when the rig was shut down.

Our fire brick arch plates got all pretty badly burnt out towards the last of the season and I sent to Winnipeg for more, but the company was out of them, and it was too late to send East for more of them. So we ran along a couple of more days when one afternoon the bricks gave out completely; so as I had no old flues on hand I drove to town, but could get no flues there either. So I bought a long length of 1½ inch gal. iron pipe and cut this into width of firebox and put in place of bricks, by laying across arch plate supports and it worked O.K. to the end of the season.

I find that it pays to hire the best men possible, particularly a good engineer and separator man. I was particularly fortunate in getting a good engineer, who took a great interest in the business and who lost no time and who was a genius for repairing. A man like this can greatly assist the owner of a rig in his business.

We had considerable trouble last fall in getting the straw through the blower. Whenever it was a little damp the straw seemed to stay in large chunks and fell over hole above fans and lay there until we shoved it down

was only four days we had a full compliment of stook teams. Men and teams were scarce here last season and wages run up to \$3.50 per day. Our separator man was young and inexperienced and instead of using judgment and diplomacy in handling the crew, he jangled and cussed from morning till night with the result that someone was quitting every little while.

I did not blame them much for leaving, for most of them were good men and had a job waiting for them on some neighboring outfit with wages as good or per-

I have this to say about stook threshing. It is a poor proposition to the thresher unless the jobs are close and from 1000 bushels up for small jobs and long runs will eat up nearly all the earnings and men nowadays will not stand docking much time spent on the road.

All the farm journals of the day are advocating better farming and more care as to keeping the land free from foul seeds. The law regarding threshers is strict concerning cleaning the grain and sweeping the separator, etc., at each setting, but does not concern

itself with regard to the half a dozen or more stook teams which drive all over the farm and carry foul seeds from the old land, which is generally more or less dirty, all over the newer land. I claim that six stook teams will distribute more seeds over more acres in one day than the machine will in ten.

Besides if a farmer considers the extra loss by

rough handling, extra price of threshing, and the advantage of knowing that when the machine comes you are ready and if a wet spell should come you can go ahead as soon as it is over and not have a big gang around perhaps a day or two waiting for it to dry the shocks, I think he would decide that it pays to stack his grain and have it dry and safe. And when he stacks, if he is interested in keeping his farm as free from weeds as possible he will stack the grain from the old ground, which generally contains more or less weed seeds, by

itself and clean his wagons thoroughly before driving to any other part of the farm, thereby reducing in a great measure the chance of spreading the pest on the new clean land.

For my part, I use a canvas spread on the bottom of my racks and fastened to the sides and when I finish a field where foul seed exists I drive to the barn and roll up the canvass and empty on some hay or straw. This is a little out of line when it comes to threshing experience, but I believe it concerns the thresher as much as the farmer, as he wants a clean field of grain to thresh and not a pile of weed seeds under his separator at each setting, that would fill a wagon box.

Now, for a little adventure which we had at my place last fall. I had arranged with the fire-



An American-Abell Outfit making No. 1 Hard.

with a fork. I would like to hear the experience of others with different makes of blowers.

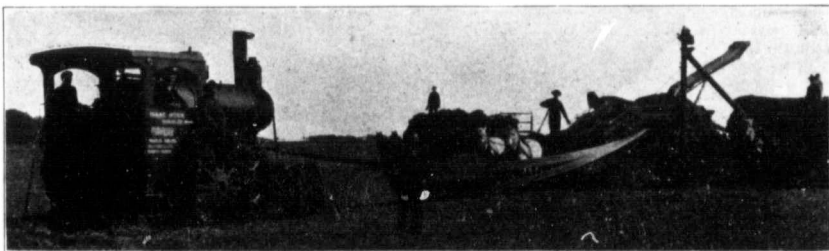
I will say for the benefit of any one thinking of going into the threshing business to consider well before doing so. The cost of the rig is a lot and the cost of running it is high and then you have to run so many risks of breakdowns, etc.

Again hoping to benefit some brother thresherman and wishing them all success and with best wishes to The Canadian Thresherman.

haps better, than we paid. We paid \$3.00 a day and some others paid 25c. to 50c. per day more.

I tried to explain to the separator man that the days of slave driving and abusing men were past and advised him to be more congenial with the boys, but to no avail. So I let him run his end and I ran mine. We held our pitchers a little better in stack threshing, but one day had only one, so all hands pitched in to keep the rig running.

The crops were good around here, but lots of small jobs and long moves cut down our average.



Avery Outfit of Isaac Dyck, Winkler, Man.

### Second Prize Experience.

By Ed. Harris, Curlew, Alta.

My season's run commenced on September 20th with a 25 h.p. Sawyer & Massey engine and a 34-inch cylinder Great-West separator which makes a very complete and smooth running combination.

We had very little trouble with our outfit in so far as the machinery was concerned, but lost a good deal of time (which is money to the thresher) through lack of men. We stook threshed for 12 days out of which there

We threshed altogether 73,000 bushels and were out 48 days out of which we lost 1½ days in stook threshing through rain and 3 days through a snowstorm near the finish of the season. Our prices were, for stook threshing wheat 5½c., barley 4½c. and oats 4¼c. and for stack threshing one cent per bushel less all round, while for stacked flax we charged 10c. per bushel. Oats pay the best to the thresher and this is also the bulk of the grain grown in this district, as it is newly settled for the greater part of wheat is only in the experimental stage here yet.