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flax, barley, etc?" One manu facturer voiced phrase "Kerothe that sene would reduce the cost of rais-

ing bushel wheat ten a cents," and the world said "Is it possible?" Such a thing as "cost of crop production" had not affected the farmer seriously. It couldn't very well, because there was really no basis upon which to calculate. The farmer raised his own stock of "power" horses, but for the life of him he couldn't tell what it really cost him to plow an acre of sod or old ground. Such a term as "horse power hour" was unknown, except to a few. It was a case of feed as much of the grain crop as necessary in order to fatten or keep in condition his live stock, and sell the rest. It looked easy to dip the half bushel measure into the well filled out bin and the maintenance of horse flesh was an item that seemed scarcely worthy of consideration.

Today, however, we speak of the cost of operating a tractor per "horse power hour," or, in other words, what is the charge made against the engine for every horse power delivered for a period of one hour, such items as interest, or investment, depreciation, repairs, fuel, operating help, lubricants, etc., being taken into consideration. It is a simple matter. There are just two main items that enter into the proposition. First: work done and second, cost of operation. This is all very well, in so far as it can be placed upon paper, but back of it all lies the real problems, the ability to master distinguishing the real "power farmer" from the unsuccessful makeshift.

In Western Canada today there are approximately 4,000 outfits that did traction plowing during the past season. These outfits will average easily 20 horse power at the draw bar, making the equivalent of 80,000 horses. Assuming that each horse power is good for one acre per day it means that 80,-000 acres are being turned over every day that they work. Let us further assume that each acre is capable of producing 20 bus. of wheat, and it is but a simple matter of arithmetic to show that each day's work means



1,600,000 bus added to the wheat crop of Western Canada. Put it in figures, and it can be seen that the proposition is

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not only a big one, but a vital one. Let us assume that it takes one man for every three horse team, and our 80,000 horses will require 26,500 men. With the engines representing the above horse power and allowing three men to each outfit, it will take only about 12,000 men to produce the same results in work done. The labor probelm in Western Canada is a vital one,

the past by horses is pure drudgery. In the hurry and rush of spring work the horse must be pushed to the limit, with the result that a large amount of good horse flesh is soon relegated to the scrub class. Furthermore, on the large farm the number of horses required makes it necessary that a greater or less percentage of them be anything but standard bred, because of

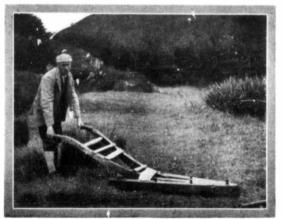


The old Highland 12 feet Wooden Plow

and anything that will help to price and an insufficient supply. In solve it is worthy of serious consideration.

The importance of the tractor in Western Canada's future development cannot be estimated. With practically 200,000,000 acres of the best virgin prairie upon which the sun has ever shone shone yet to be broken, it will take something stronger and more speedy than horse flesh to handle the proposition. This is

other words there is as yet a place for the scrub horse, which tends to lower the tone of horse flesh in general. It is a question whether the time will ever come when the tractor will entirely supplant the horse for farm work. I, myself, do not believe it will ever come, and at least, hope it never will. I do, however, believe that the tractor will, before many years, take



The Highland Cliath Clais

no criticism upon the horse. He is just as important and demands a higher price today than he ever did, and may that day be far distant that would see him lose admiration and respect in the eyes of the farmer.

Right here lies a nice little subject for discussion that I can only touch upon in passing.

A large share of the work on the farm that has been done in away from the horse the burden of the heavy farm work and that fewer but better farm horses will be kept by the average farmer. He will have only one or two teams, but they will be standard bred, sleek, fat horses, that any one would be proud to draw a rein over. Instead of having to care for a whole army of horses during the winter, only a team or two will demand his

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attention. I was recently talking with a Saskatchewan farmer who farms



can't wheat and fertility on the same field in the same year.'

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