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Winnipeg, Regina, Saskatoon, Calgary,
Edmonton, Lethbridge and Vancouver.

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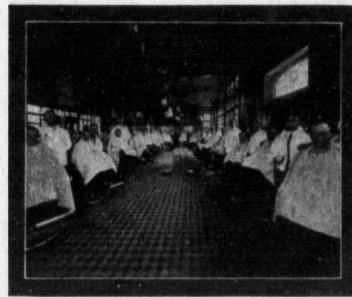
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EVOLUTION OF DIFFERENT SIZES OF THE FARM TRACTOR

Large Pioneer Types Gave Way to Smaller Machines Which Were More Attractive Manufacturing Propositions. Limits in Performance of Small Sizes is Now Reflected on Tendency Upward. Possibilities of Medium Types. What the Future Holds in Store.

From Chilton Tractor Journal

UNTIL a year or two ago the success of the tractor as a standard machine used on the farm, was very much doubted by the superficial observer. There was too little contact between the banker-economist, the manufacturer and the farmer, so that lacking thorough knowledge of each other's requirements and possibilities in that direction, a getting together of these people for tractor development has not occurred. The war, of course, has done very much toward developing and popularizing the tractor, but it has only accelerated the process, which in the minds of a few observers, would have come anyway, five or ten years later.

It cannot easily be realized how the war will further influence the

tractor development if it lasts a greater number of years. It is not impossible that in such a case, with the continually increasing drain of man and animal power from the fields, we might see the Government taking over the control of the farms and developing a quantity of mass farming business, which is, without doubt, more man and time saving, and therefore more efficient than the small or community farming proposition. With the increase in the farm units we might see the large 60 and 80 h.p. tractors revive; but this condition would end with the close of the war and the question now is to anticipate the tractor development after the war and to estimate the popular size of tractor, relying upon its past performance.

In the early years of the tractor development the machine of less than 50 h.p. was unknown, but the last years have seen the development of ever decreasing sizes, with the larger sizes slowly disappearing, until now, after having reached practically the smallest possible sizes, of two-plow tractor or with from 6 to 8 h.p. on the drawbar, the natural question that arises is, what next?

Reasons for Early Large Tractor

Let us analyze the causes that have determined this development in the past:

The heavy, powerful machine was received as a deliverer by the owners of large tracts of virgin land, west of the Mississippi. That land was too heavy to break up with the limited number of animals in the field, and the big tractor satisfied a real demand and has done a great deal toward developing the northwestern states. On the other hand, the success of these 10-ton tractors for 6-in. plowing, on lands that had already been plowed before and were not so hard, was rather limited.

The labor expense was also in favor of the large tractor, two men could handle the plow and tractor with ease whether it was a 10-bottom or a 4-bottom tractor and much easier than an equal or even a much less powerful outfit of horses and plows. The hiring and keeping of an expert engineer (for, indeed, it required an expert), for every single tractor, naturally induced the farmer under any conditions to buy a larger one in preference to two or three small tractors.

But these conditions have changed now; self-lift plows have been developed that can easily be handled by the same man who drives the tractor, and so far, the man handling the plows can be spared. Indeed, there are now in the field many one-man outfits

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