

TRACTION PLOWING

AS TOLD BY THE MEN WHO DO IT

Horses Good but too Slow

Dear Sirs: In reply to your letter regarding my experience. I have a 25 horse power Case steam tractor and use about a ton of coal to twelve acres and about 1,500 gallons of water per day. We had only one man to haul water besides myself when plowing. We used two horses with the outfit, they hauled the water and coal to the engine once a day; the coal we hauled on a pile before we started to plow. We can plow for \$1.50 per acre. I can disc harrow and seed at 50c. per acre, that is double discing and seeding with one machine, and pull the drag at back of disc and seeder. I do not think a tractor is detrimental to plowed land. But we all know that the most of the plowing and breaking done in the spring is to be cropped the same year, and it is done too fast and consequently not as well done as if they were not going to crop it. We all know there is no power as good as horses when it comes to good plowing. The biggest trouble is that the horses are too slow and one would have to have so many of them and more men to do the same work that the engine and a few men can do.

Yours truly,
L. O. Valkers.
Lathom, Alta.

More Profitable than Horses

Dear Sirs: I have a 26 horse power American Abel steam engine and a 7-bottom Cockshutt gang, which I have been breaking with for the past two summers. In 1911 I broke about 100 acres and in 1912 about 300 acres. I averaged 10 acres per day. I employed two men and a team of horses; one of the men fired and the other drew coal and water. We used about 150 gallons of water and about 200 pounds of coal per acre. It costs us about \$1.50 per acre.

I think that plowing by steam is more profitable than with horses.

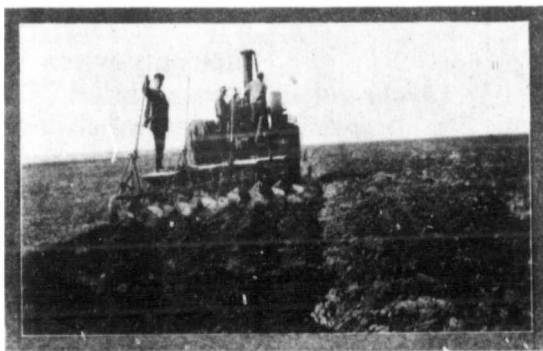
As I have not had any experience seeding with my engine, I would like to hear others' experience.

Yours truly,
R. Venn.
Creelman, Sask.

Gasoline the Coming Power

Dear Sirs:

I am glad to give you my experience and answer your question about the use of gas power on my farm. My engine is an International 25 H.P. type C. The engine gives lots of power when threshing and breaking. My separator is a Rumely 28 x 44. I threshed for 58 days and put through about 67,000 bushels of grain, mostly oats. I use between 25 and 30 gallons of gasoline and 60 gallons of water per day in threshing or plowing. My plows are the Vanslyke Brush Breaker with rods. My land is very rough and covered with brush and willows. On level



"Plowing the deep under all canvas."

ground I can pull three 22-inch plows but on rough ground I pull two. I can break plow from six to nine acres per day, and it takes about 3½ gallons of gasoline per acre. It was so wet last year that I did not get a chance to use it for plowing. It takes two men to operate the outfit, one on the engine and the other to tend the plows. I have one team to draw water and gasoline. I consider gasoline to be the coming power on the farm. I have never tried seeding with my engine, but have disced and harrowed. I can start my engine in very cold weather with very little trouble. I put gasoline in tin cans and hang one under the igniter, one under the cylinder and one at the water pump.

I trust my experience may be of some use to you.

Yours truly,
A. Goldstrom,
Hill End, Alta.

Too High Priced

Gentlemen:

On your request, I will give you my experience with my traction engine, but I will first answer your questions.

I use a 45-22 Hart-Parr gasoline tractor, and use on an average of 65 gallons of gasoline per day of ten hours, and 45 gallons of water.

For plowing, I have one engineer and one man to handle the plows, and for threshing, seven bundle teams, one extra team, one engineer, a separator boss, one spike pitcher, two to three field pitchers, and one cook. Prairie breaking costs me on an average of \$1.80 per acre. Seed-

tors is that they are entirely too high priced. I paid \$2,750 cash for mine, of which sum the selling agent got a commission of 40 per cent, or 1,000, which the farmer has to pay. Besides, it is not dust proof enough to make the gears last. On this account I did not use the machine for discing and seeding. Without doubt these faults will be in time eliminated, and then, when that is accomplished, the tractor may be called a modern farm horse.

When I made my report to the government of my threshing operations this fall, I had as a reward my choice of several Canadian farm papers, so I chose The Canadian Thresherman and Farmer to start March 1st. I would therefore appreciate your speed indicator.

Yours truly,
Robert Hansen,
Castor, Alta.

Advocates Extension Rims on Drivers

Dear Sirs:

I bought a 15-30 Rumely in the spring of 1912 to work on the farm. I have a farm of three quarter sections. I used the engine for seeding (this engine having two speeds will pull two drills at 3 miles per hour). I did not keep track of the oil used on each job. There are less stops with the engine than with horses as the grain can be piled on the drill and emptied while running. I had one man on the engine and one on the drills.

I broke 100 acres in eight days of 12 to 15 hours each. I used 8 barrels of oil breaking and moving 15 miles and return. We also used about one barrel of water per day. I used four furrow Cockshutt gang.

In summerfallowing I used 6 discs, John Deere engine gang. The engine pulled this and two sections of drags and made barely two miles per hour, low speed.

We used about the same amount of oil at this job as breaking and plowed about the same amount. The plow is wider but makes less speed on the soft ground. The summer fallow is very dirty on the engine. I have two horses with the outfit when working away from home, but when at home only have them

ing and discing we do with horses.

For threshing, we used a Case 32 x 54 separator, which gave good satisfaction.

The first season we broke 700 acres, but by this time, the machine needed costly repairs, as nearly all the gears were worn out, because it was not made to protect the gears from dust, also the drive wheels were not made strong enough, the spokes breaking often, so I decided to use the machine little for traction work, but for belt work on a grain separator. For that purpose it did well, although on cold mornings we had trouble in getting it started. We overcame this difficulty by starting a fire under the machine, and using a blow torch.

Though the machine is made for oil-cooling, we used water, as that lessened the heat of the cylinder.

Now, my opinion about trac-