

## Benefits of Power Farming



THE power farming era has certainly arrived! The question as to whether or not it pays a farmer to introduce power to carry out his operations should no longer be considered. It is a proven fact that the tractor is as necessary to modern, successful farming as the up-to-date plow, reaper or binder. The farmer who is still waiting for someone to come to him and prove the advantages of power farming, when his neighbors for miles around are enjoying its benefits, is a Rip Van Winkle who will one day awaken to discover that things have been going on during his little nap through which he might have profited had he been awake.

Farming without a tractor nowadays is not unlike trying to operate a factory by means of the old horse-tread mill. It is slow, disheartening and tire-some work. Technically speaking, there is a very close affiliation between the farm and the factory. There is this difference: the farm produces the primary foods, the wheat, oats, barley, and the like; the factory produces the finished product, the flour, the oatmeal and other foods for the consumer. Both need power. The factory uses the cheapest means available to produce the goods in their salable form. By doing so the manufacturer keeps prices down and reaps a reasonable profit. If manufacturing costs do creep up a little the manufacturer adds those extra costs to the sale price and the consumer pays for it in the long run. This is not true with the farmer. The prices for his produce are fixed by market values and do not fluctuate readily; if they do it is often to his detriment. The farmer's salvation is to increase his production and area of planting; there will be a corresponding decrease in his operating costs.

### INCREASING PRODUCTION

The thing then that the farmer is interested in is a method of increasing his production and area of planting and the one that has been most successful is the introduction of power farming. The use of up-to-date machinery will enable the farmer to do as much work in one hour as he formerly did in two. The man who sticks to the old horse methods is the one who complains about the shortness of the seasons and the lack of time for intensive and extensive cultivation. As long as he adheres to ancient methods he will make the same complaints. He is not a progressive farmer, and his profits will be as limited as his vision.

When the tractor was first brought into use, an enormous engine was considered essential. The tractors were large, cumbersome and unwieldy, as it was thought that they were best able to do the work. The error soon became apparent and these early monsters have all been scrapped. The new tractor, the product of much experimental study, is small and compact, but powerful. There isn't a job on the farm to which it cannot be applied. It is power when and where you want it. Its earning ability is measured by the farmer's knowledge of its versatility; but every day he is becoming more familiar with it and is finding some new application for it.

### PLOWING WITH TRACTOR.

Plowing is the first and most important operation to which the tractor can be applied. Every farmer knows there are certain times when plowing can be best accomplished. They are always hoping that the season will last so that they will be able to get most of it done. With the aid of a tractor, a great amount of plowing can be concentrated into a short space of time. Over a week he can nearly double his acreage with its aid. Some farmers have been known to put daylight on their tractors and plow at night. If their yields were to be measured it would be found that they were far above the average. Much time and work has been put on the care of horses, and this must be continued through the winter months. Their food alone cuts into the profits. They are not unlike a machine that stands idle in a factory; interest, depreciation and overhead costs increase, while profits decrease. The tractor, on the other hand, eats nothing while it is not working, and during the winter months it can be put to innumerable uses like woodcutting and chaff separating. Time thus saved might be turned to mending fences, repairing sheds, arms, erecting new buildings and generally improving the farm. Improved means and methods of cultivation are inductive to improved bank accounts.

### KEEPING DOWN WEEDS.

Is there any excuse for weed-infested lands and crops? There is if a farmer has horses. If he keeps a tractor, weeds no longer worry him. Inactive cultivation will not only en-

able him to keep down the weeds, but will put his soil in a healthy condition for planting. This applies to the orchard as well as to field crops. Weed-infested orchards result in diseases to fruit and unhealthy trees, simply because the roots were given no assistance in securing the proper plant foods. Cultivation would have supplied that assistance, and in addition would have destroyed the grubs.

There is only one ideal time to plant in which the soil is at the right temperature for germination of the seed, and this makes the sowing season a short one. Many farmers have used the tractor in this operation and have obtained more than satisfactory results, getting a good average crop all through. Patchy crops can be ascribed to sowing at the wrong time and irregular planting. Lack of time is often the original reason, and the tractor supplies the necessary speed to avoid this. It is possible to use the combination drill and cultivator, which sow and cultivate in the one operation, with the Fordson. These conditions for sowing are ideal and lead to increased yields.

### VAGARIES OF WEATHER.

Rain is the hope of all farmers at certain times of the year and at others is their bane. Many of them have been caught by the rain with wheat and oats still in the stack. To give some idea of how this will depreciate their crops, here is a report from the Dominion Experimental Farms at Kentville, N. S., on July 30, 1925: "Heavy rains in the latter part of the month hampered haying greatly. Grain was lodged in every field." To avoid this, speed is essential in cutting the crops. The tractor and eight foot binder, with a special one man hitch, can increase the area covered from 50 to 75 per cent. When one considers the vagaries of the weather and the effect it can have upon the cut crops, these facilities are a wise precaution. If the farmer wishes to thresh from the stack, a 22"x36" thrasher, pulled and driven by a tractor forms a reliable method of doing the threshing in the shortest possible time, saving carting from the fields and taking advantage of the best hay-making weather. The tractor can be readily applied to potato crops. The farmer using a tractor can plow deeper and make a better all-round job than the one using horses. And then there is the potato digger, specially constructed to work with the tractor. It is infinitely superior to the old hand and fork grubbing method.

### DURING IDLE TIMES.

The tractor need never be idle between the operations of growing a crop. If there is no immediate belt work, the farmer can profitably increase his acreage of crops or can experiment with various methods of cultivation and types of grain that will increase his yield per acre. Many careless farmers sow the grain year after year, under any conditions, on the same soil. This results naturally in depleted yields. With the aid of the tractor the farmer is enabled to observe the proper system of crop rotation, growing fodder crops and the like, to keep the soil in the best possible condition for growing his staple crop. The farmer in possession of a tractor should experiment with new ways and methods of applying it. There are many operations to which it can be applied of which the farmer is more often than not unaware, and it has been agreed among successful users of the tractor that its possibilities as a worker in assisting the farmer to grow better crops are unlimited.

### VALUABLE FOR BELT WORK.

In regard to it as a unit for belt work it would be hard to find one more valuable. The old fashioned portable engine is a cumbersome and unwieldy affair in comparison. It is far easier and more practical to line up power to a machine than pulling, dragging and shifting with a horse. And the tractor can do a variety of belt work on Canadian farms. Here are just some of the commoner uses: Ensilage cutting, silo filling, threshing

## Cranberry Culture

Good Opportunity and Profitable Market

The following article was prepared especially for this number by The Ford Motor Company of Canada, and will be of interest to all farmers.

There are hundreds of acres of land in New Brunswick that are now lying waste, which might profitably be used in the culture of cranberries. The ideal condition for cranberry growth are—

- 1.—A black peaty soil, of not too great depth;
- 2.—A covering of sand;
- 3.—A small stream running through the bed.

The best conditions of soil and water may often be found naturally in conjunction, and in some cases the sand is found underlying a foot or two of such soil. Where it is not so found it will be necessary to supply it from elsewhere. Peat soil of more than 11.2 feet in depth is undesirable, although cranberries will grow on the surface. Such soil is generally too soft to work, and containing too much moisture.

The first step in preparing a cranberry bed is to remove any sod from the surface, as well as the roots of any shrubs. Then the bed should be made fairly level to enable covering it with water. If the land lies along a stream and is sloping, it is better to prepare it in level beds of different heights.

### COVERING OF SAND

The next step is to spread a covering of clean sand, to a depth of three or four inches. The surface may then be marked off for the rows. A sled-like frame can be easily made for this with runners 14 or 16 inches apart. An arm may stretch out from one side in order to keep the proper distance from the last row. Run this marker both ways, and the intersections of the lines will be the points at which the plants are to be started. The best method of propagation is by cuttings, and these may be obtained from cranberry growers, who sometimes make provision for selling such. They can generally be depended upon to supply a good variety, which is essential for the purpose. There is an objection that this method of picking causes some injury to the vines, but it is so much less costly than hand-picking that any injury to the bed is probably more than made up.

The bed once planted, will begin the first year to send out runners, much like strawberry, and in four years the vines should take full possession of the ground. Until this time weeds should be pulled every year, being sure that the crown of the plant comes out in pulling. By the fourth year the vines should be bearing fully, and a crop of 100 to 200 bushels to the acre may be expected.

### DRAINAGE NECESSARY

While cranberries like moisture, there should be a measure of drainage, so that the water stand will be 10 or 12 inches below the surface. Beds are sometimes made in a rather dry, sandy soil, without provision for overflowing. The owner of such beds looks for a loss of most of the crop, perhaps one year in three or four, but still figure that the bed is profitable.

### ADVICE TO BRIDES

Put your husband's love to the test occasionally. One little clever wife whom I know smashes her husband's

### OVERFLOWING BED

Where it is possible, provision should be made for overflowing the bed in winter. If there is a small stream, a dam should be built just below the bed, with a gate which may be readily shut or opened. This should be shut in the late fall, so that the bed remains covered during the winter, and the covering of water should be allowed to remain until the latter part of May to retard the blossoming of the plants, so that the late spring frosts will not injure them. In some cases it may also be necessary to overflow the bed in the fall before the berries are picked, to prevent injury from frost. The picking is done with rakes, made spec-

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