

Coming to the question of what to do this year—sell or hold—I am of the opinion that this is one of the years of exceptions; a year that the prices may or may not be; a year that the farmer has practically more to do with prices, rising and falling, a year extraordinary, an event the ordinary farmer never dreamt of in his wildest dreams. "Will they make or mar the rise?" is the question. To hold, in my opinion, is perfectly sure; but the bulk of farmers must co-operate. We cannot get away from the fact that the millers must have wheat. Their stocks are low, but if the market is flooded they can keep up an ordinary stock without pushing the price. On the other hand they must have wheat, which, if it goes out slowly to the markets, insufficient to supply the wants, is bound to cause a reaction. I am of the opinion they will be ready enough to raise the prices to keep up their stock should the occasion arise.

DRAG HARROW.

Idle Threshers at Chores

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE :

Regarding the boarding of the threshing crew, it is plain that it must be done by either the owner of the outfit, or the farmer. Some outfits have undertaken to have a boarding tent go with the machine, but the frequent moves, the trouble and expense of getting a competent cook for so short a period, as well as the necessary supplies, all of which must finally come out of the farmer's pocket, makes this plan very unsatisfactory to all concerned. The fact that it has not become more general proves the truth of this statement.

Now, the farmer, being the producer of most of the supplies, can certainly do it more cheaply than anyone else. Then the question is who should pay? While the machine is working properly I do not think the farmer has any objection to boarding the man, and during a breakdown I believe it is a general custom for the owner to pay. If it is not so in every district it should be—so that it only remains to decide what should be done on wet days and Sundays. Some little time ago, many letters appeared in THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE, from which we were led to believe that there was no fortune to be made from threshing. It would appear that we cannot squeeze anything out of the threshingman's profits, but that any further expense must really come out of the farmer.

I heartily sympathize with the farmer's wife, upon whom this burden mostly rests, but it seems to me to be unavoidable. Of course, if one or two farmers own their own outfit all this trouble is done away with, for then each farmer would board his own men. One suggestion I would like to make is that the farmer be given the right to employ the idle crew at any of the numerous chores that need doing at this time of year. This would compensate the farmer, take money out of no one's pocket, and give the crew better employment than the frequent wet-day visit to the bar-room of the nearest town.

Altogether, I cannot see what better we can do than to go on, as we have been doing, hoping the Furies will send the wet days and Sundays while the machine is at the other fellow's place.

Saskatchewan.

CHAS. N. LINTOTT.

Early Selling of Wheat

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE :

With regard to the marketing of wheat my experience has been that if anyone can get his grain threshed early in the season, and if he is situated near enough to the elevators or shipping point, the best plan is to haul the grain straight from the separator. The farmer, thereby, saves a second handling and also catches the early market. There is just one point in this method of marketing wheat that I don't like myself and that is, that the owner of the grain can't very well be at the elevator to see his grain weighed and also at the point of threshing, which I consider are two essential points connected with the threshing and marketing of grain. It is much more satisfactory to all concerned.

If it is impossible to catch the early market I think, in the majority of seasons, that it certainly does pay to hold grain until spring. Of course there is a large amount of speculation in holding wheat, and there is such a thing as overstepping the mark. I had a little taste of that myself some five or six years ago. I hauled two or three loads straight from the mill to the elevator, and was getting 82 cents per bushel, when I decided to place the rest in the granary. This wheat I held until the following March, when it reached the nice figure of 98 cents per bushel. Not being content to see a good thing when it was going I still held to the wheat until it began to take the downward road in price again, and I remember selling some of it for 78 cents, which certainly showed a decided loss on holding over from threshing.

This year I intend hauling straight from the mill and loading into a car through the elevator to see how that plan works.

Saskatchewan.

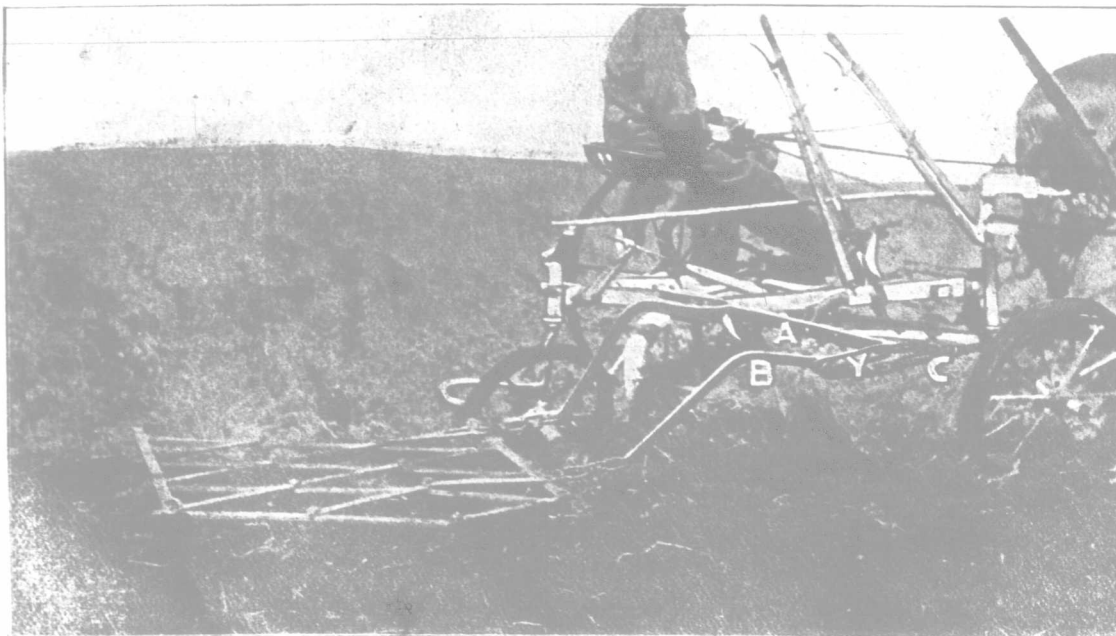
L. H. GRABHAM.

Harrow Attached to Plow

Recognizing the fact that it is good practice to harrow immediately after plowing many implement firms have made pulverizing attachments for plows of all sizes. A farmer in the Newdale district, of a somewhat inventive turn of mind, worked out an attachment for a section of an ordinary drag harrow whereby side draft is eliminated and the work of harrowing accomplished while the land is being turned over with very little extra expenditure of energy. The accompanying illustration is from a photograph taken by a representative of THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

The iron bar at the side of the harrow A is composed of two pieces held together by bolts so that this bar can be pushed out or lengthened according to the number of harrows you wish to draw. The harrow is always at a steady pull as the bar B moves back and forth along the cut in the bar at Y.

C shows chains running to the tongue. The driver can turn corners quite easily without being obliged to get off to throw the harrow around.



HARROW SECTION ATTACHED TO PLOW WITHOUT SIDE DRAFT

Threshing Gang Should Have Cook

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE :

If there is one thing more than another that is bothering the farmer's wife it is the boarding of the threshing gangs. The plan that has been in vogue in this part is for the farmer to furnish board, and get it served the best way he can. In a great many places there is not domestic help, except the good-wife and the arrival of a threshing gang of fifteen or twenty is a serious problem. Now, in some parts there is a cooking caboose brought along, and the thresher boards his men, and charges as much extra as will cover the expense.

In this locality we don't think that is practicable, as there are so many machines and the season's run so short that it would not pay to go to the expense of getting a boarding outfit. I would suggest that the next best move to help out the farmer's wife would be for the thresher to engage a very good cook to go with the machine from place to place, and let this person help in the house all the time the gang is there. The thresher could charge enough extra to cover the expense. It is next to impossible to get domestic help, even for long periods, and much more so just when the threshing gang is there. If there is any other plan that is more feasible, we would be glad to hear it.

Man.

W. SAUNDERSON & SON.

Prefers to Do the Cooking

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE :

My experience in boarding threshing gangs has been long and varied. For the first few years after I came to Western Canada there were not many threshing machines in this country. They were run by horse-power and owned by some of the farmers. It was a favor to get one to thresh for us, and there were times when we engaged a machine and also a number of neighbors, all at quite a distance from our farm, to come at a certain day, and when we were ready, even the table set and potatoes cooked, word would arrive that some casting had broken and we would have to wait till repairs had been brought from Winnipeg and the former job finished. Well, you see, besides the inconvenience to the men, our pies would be old before the next week, and our baking wasted. I presume many of our first settlers have had similar experiences, and wished there had been some other plan.

In these latter years we have not often been disappointed in the time set for the machine to arrive. We have now the large steam engines, with the latest improved separators, self-feeders and blowers. Our threshing is done in the fields, from the stooks. Very seldom do we stack our grain. Our threshing gangs are not made up of our nearest neighbors, but are hired by the owners of the machines and composed of divers sorts and conditions of men, from boys who never saw farms before, and who find it hard work to lift a sheaf of wheat, to strong hearty Doukhobors. It requires quantities of provisions, and a good deal of knowledge of ways and means, to prepare for a week, or two weeks, or a month's board, for from twenty to thirty of such men. If we do our own bread baking we must begin several days previous. Our beef must be ordered and we must have fruit and vegetables on hand. Then when the men arrive there must be tables and seats and dishes enough so as to have no unnecessary waiting one for another. All these things, to say nothing of carrying of water and dish washing, mean a large amount of labor, and this all done by the women of the house, for men are scarce and wages high.

In a family where there are no very small children and where there are two women who understand the business, this can be accomplished without more than tired backs and wearied minds. We have always done the whole work and no person has been the worse for it. Many years we have also found time and strength to assist less favored households. Even now when there might possibly be a chance to engage a gang with cooking caboose attached, we prefer the old way. We think as we would still have to provide for quite a number of men to draw away the grain, we would rather cook for the whole lot, and perhaps can make it more comfortable for the men. However, where there is but one woman, perhaps not very strong and with young children, we think that either there should be hired help for her, or the cooking caboose should be engaged, even if the cost is considerably greater.

Saskatchewan.

H. M. NEVILLE.