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Power Farming—What It Is

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This is merely a general discussion and not a mass of figures. Figures are supposed to be facts, but in the case of "power farming" the basis for the figures changes with such rapidity that correct figures today are evidently wrong to-morrow.

"Power Farming" is a child born of necessity. It is an evolution, a development in agricultural procedure that is destined to work wonders. Designed at first for the purpose of cultivating lands that were too soft and wet for horse flesh, it has grown and developed into what promises to be a general method of soil tillage.

The "power farmer" is the real beginning of a new class of agriculturists. He will put farming upon a business basis. He must, otherwise his system becomes the occasion of considerable loss. "The man with the hoe" dealt with few economic problems. His was a problem of "toiling" and the "tilling" of the soil, as we know it today, was an unknown quantity. The "power farmer" deals in problems that require brains and

sound business judgment, and today in looking over the traction cultivation cesses and failures we must of necessity arrive at but one conclusion, and that is, that the man who operates his power equipment with a full knowledge of what he is about is against the man who plunges headlong into the game is the man who makes for success.

The world must be fed and so tremendous is the increase in population that it requires all the powers of production to keep pace with that vast "maw" that is clamoring for bread. If one

were to compare the world's wheat statistics of thirty years ago with those of 1911 it would almost seem necessary that the price of wheat should have suffered a gradual decline during all the years. Such, however, is not the case, and it is almost a certainty that the trend of prices will be upward rather than downward.

There is an ever increasing demand and to satisfy it there must be an ever increasing supply. To produce this supply in the old way by turning over from $1\frac{1}{4}$ to 2 acres per day for each man's labor, was not only an impossibility but was far too

expensive, with the result that the tractor was pressed into service, producing results in the aggregate that are surpassing.

WHAT IS A POWER FARMER?

The definition is simple. He is simply one who uses as much mechanical power on his farm as it is possible and practicable for him to use. It is, however, in the application of the definition where the trouble comes in.

Speaking for the North American Continent up to twelve or at the most fifteen years ago, such a thing as traction cultivation was not even thought of. Traction power on the farm had not yet found a means of application: field power being the only thing sought after. In reality it is only within the past five or six years that traction cultivation has received any studious attention on the part of the farmer, and so studious has it been during the past three years that the entire industrial world is sitting up and taking notice. At first it was "How many acres can I plow in a day?" Now, it is, "How much can I reduce the cost of raising a bushel of wheat, corn, oats,



A "Cultivator" still used in the Scottish Highlands.

