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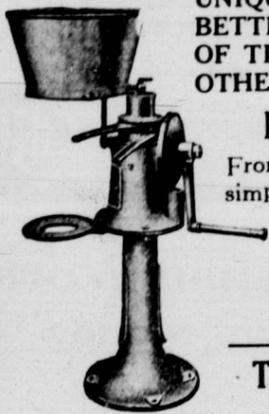
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tion farmer to be without one, provided his farm is arranged in big, long fields.

No definite advice can be given as to whether or not it is advisable to use a tractor on the farm. The decision rests entirely with the individual farmer's conditions. The tractor undoubtedly has its place among agricultural machinery, and can be put to profitable use, providing the requirements are right. Horses must always be used on the farm as one means of motive power, and horses have the advantage, unlike tractors, of being able to be so handled as to increase in value as an investment. But the man who has a farm large enough to keep a tractor busy all the season thru can, with proper management, use one to good advantage.

### CARE AND ABUSE OF FARM MACHINERY

Recent investigations by the Conservation Commission reveal some very interesting facts regarding the effect of care, or neglect, as the case may be, upon the life of machinery on the farm. Between 90 and 95 farms, divided into three districts, were visited in each of the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

In Saskatchewan, out of 94 farmers visited by the Commission's representative, 76 leave all of their implements out of doors. On 73 of the farms, there were no implement sheds of any description. On 21 of the farms, sheds large enough to cover a part of the implements were found, in most cases this being only a buggy or a democrat, but not on one single farm was the machinery all housed. Not one farmer was found who painted his implements to protect them from the weather.

In Manitoba only 14 out of 94 keep their machinery under cover during winter, while 44 claim to keep a part of it inside. On 34 of the Manitoba farms no provision whatever is made for protecting implements, and only four claim to have done any painting.

In the three districts visited in Alberta, mixed farming is carried on quite extensively, making more barn room available, so that implements are more likely to be protected; but even here, 37 out of the 92 visited leave all machinery out of doors.

In one district in Ontario where 40 farmers were visited, every man housed his implements during winter, altho none of these men do any painting. In the Ontario district visited where the implements are housed, the average life of the binder was found to be between 16 and 17 years. Many binders were seen which were in good running order after cutting 20 seasons' crops.

### Western Experience

In Saskatchewan and Manitoba, where so much of the machinery is left out of doors, the average life of the binder is given by the farmers as about 7 years, which is less than half that of the binder protected from the weather. Many binders did not last as long as seven years. One farmer near Moosomin, Saskatchewan, who, after 12 years, was retiring from the farm, held an auction sale. His binder, after cutting 12 crops, sold for \$80, or 50% of the original cost, and his other machinery at proportionately high prices. It had all been well housed and the necessary painting and repairing had been done to keep it in good order. On a neighboring farm a binder, which had cut only three crops, but which had been neglected and had stood out of doors, was being relegated to the scrap heap and a new one was being purchased.

An implement shed costs money, but if its use will double or treble the length of time the machinery will last, it is a good investment. Farmers often say that they cannot afford to build a shed. The truth is, they really cannot afford to be without one. Apart from the additional power necessary for operation, the depreciation on unhoused machinery on the average sized farm is so great as to amount to much more than the cost and upkeep of an implement shed. The binder works for only a short time during the year, while machinery in a shop works the whole year thru and lasts proportionately many times longer. It is simply a matter of care. The life of a machine extends in direct ratio to the care it receives, and abuse and neglect will shorten the life of any mechanism. The manufacturer is not responsible for the care of the machinery after it is sold. This rests entirely with the farmer.

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