



The above is a reproduction of a cup donated by the International Harvester Co. for the best corn grown in the United States of America.

## To the Threshermen of Canada.

TALK No. 3

During the past decade many changes have taken place in the threshing business. Within the life time of many now living there exists memories of the flail, of the old low down horse power, of the horse power mounted on wheels that finally developed into the portable engine, which at the time of its introduction was considered a wonder, but which to-day is entirely out of date.

At first the outfits were small. They were so of necessity because the amount of power that was provided to drive them was limited. With the introduction of the steam engine, power knew no limit comparatively speaking; consequently there was a considerable increase in the size of the separators. From the small twentv-four and twenty-eight inch machines there developed the thirty inch, thirty-two inch, thirty-six inch, thirty-eight inch, forty inch and forty-four inch machines, all of which we have with us to-day.

The idea has been to get as much work done as possible in a single day. It pleases the farmer and if properly run, it makes money for the thresherman. But like everything else, we reach a limit. To the man who has watched the threshing proposition carefully, there is evidence of a change. That change will not be towards larger outfits and while we can reasonably expect that the larger outfit will be manufactured and sold for a considerable time to come, nevertheless the small outfit owned by one, two or three farmers for their own individual use is rapidly becoming popular.

This change has been brought about by the advent of the gas tractor and the introduction of a system of power farming. The tendency at the present time is towards a power plant on every farm. At first the farmer saw in it something that would enable him to turn over a large tract of land in the shortest possible time. He soon, however, found that it was rather an expensive proposition to keep two outfits, viz., an outfit of power machinery and an outfit of horses. The result was that he began to devise ways and means whereby he could get rid of his horses and substitute mechanical power. The gas tractor has been able to do this probably more than any other single thing

and when you consider the fact that from the first of January until the first of April approximately one and three-quarter million dollars' worth of these machines have been sold in Western Canada, you can see that there is something to do.

Now, what does this mean in so far as the threshing proposition is concerned. It means simply this: that the man with the small gas tractor is not going to have power lying idle on his farm during the threshing season and wait for a threshing outfit to come and take care of his grain. He is going to buy a separator of his own. If he has sufficient work to do he will thresh only his own grain but if he has only a small amount of work he will doubtless take care of that of two or three or his neighbors, thus solving the help problem to some extent.

This change in condition, how-ever, need awaken no alarm among those who already own large threshing outfits. The number of gas tractors in Western Canada to-day in proportion to the number of farmers that are here is not one in twenty and the rapid increase in the number of farmers each year is much greater in proportion than the number of gas tractors that will be sold; or more strictly speaking, greater in pro-portion than the number of tractors that the various factories now in existence can turn out for the Canadian trade. The time may come when the supply will meet the demand, but that is a considerable time hence.

There is one thing, however, that these individual outfits will do in so far as the thresherman is concerned. They will give the farmer who owns and operates They will give the one some idea of what it costs to maintain a threshing outfit, and will, therefore, have a tendency to increase the price of threshing per bushel, rather than diminish it. It will also have a tendency to keep those out of the business who have no right to be in it viz., the man who has no idea of what it means to run a threshing outfit. In consequence, only the real thesherman will engage in the business, the man who knows how and can make money out of it, for threshing is a business if there ever was one. It is a manufacturing plant that takes sheaves and turns them into good, clean grain and the man who can do this at a minimum of cost and at the same time render a maximum of service with a good clean product can always get plenty of work to do and get his price for it. Don't let the advent of the gas tractor scare you. In fact, it will prove to be the greatest boom that has ever come to your business.



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