

GASOLINE TRACTION ENGINES

A DEPARTMENT FOR THE USER

We want every owner of a gas tractor in Western Canada to give us his experience. The owners of gas tractors to-day are in a sense pioneers. They are working out the data and compiling a record of work done that both manufacturer and farmer alike the world over are watching with intense interest. Don't keep what you know under your hat, but let us have a story of your gas tractor work. We will reward every such story with a copy of "Plain Gas Engine Sense," one of the best handbooks we know of on the gasoline engine. Don't neglect this matter but let us have your experience at once.—(Editor.)

Not the Machine but the Man Behind it

Is tractor farming a failure? Yes and No might both answer this question.

There are about thirteen tractors as well as several steam engines in this district, but the trouble seems to lie in the men who handle the outfits.

It has been my experience that where men understand their business (that is, understand the engine) I must say tractor farming is a success.

I bought a 22-45 Hart-Parr tractor in October, 1911, and knowing nothing whatever about a tractor, determined to learn. I had an expert furnished by the company for three days. After that I had to depend upon myself to run this engine.

I had trouble, and lots of it, namely, getting engine started, regulating fuel and water, and keeping engine in running order.

Now this was my great mistake. Had I hired an engineer who understood his business as I do now, I would have had far better success.

I use from 40 to 50 gallons of oil per day, and from two to three gallons of gasoline, and about two gallons of cylinder oil. This is counting a day as 12 hours, and working the engine to its capacity. I use 20 to 40 gallons of water per day, the amount depending on the temperature and the kind of load I am pulling.

While seeding in the spring time I use ten horses and four men. I keep eight horses drilling all the time, while I prepare the ground for seeding with the engine.

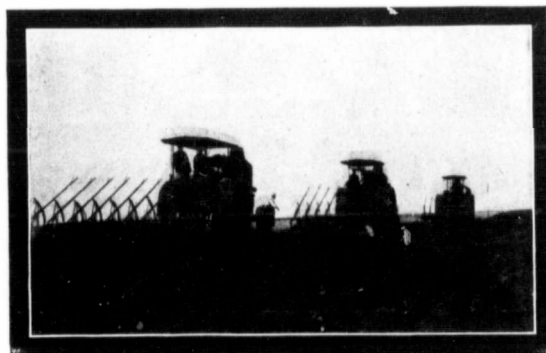
It costs me about \$1.25 per acre for plowing sod, pulling six plows, and about 75c to 90c for stubble plowing, pulling eight plows. When discing, I pull six discs, two drags or floats, then a harrow behind the drags. Thus working the ground four times, costing from 20c to 30c per acre. Now from the above costs you can see that tractor farming pays when this work is done at the above figures. I charge \$4.00 per acre for plowing sod, \$2.75 for stubble, and \$1.00 for discing when doing work for other people.

My seeding costs me about 25c

per acre to do it with horses and men. Were it not for having to use the horse to thresh with in the fall, and to haul off grain, I would sell them, and do my seeding with the engine, pulling five drills, costing about 10c per acre to seed my ground. But the way I am fixed I need these horses, and would have to have another engine if I did not have them because of cropping about 750 acres of land each year, and summer fallowing a third.

I do not consider a tractor detrimental to plowed land, be-

cause we started it on August 1st, plowing timothy sod. As I had never had any experience with gasoline engines of any kind, most of the time was spent in studying the machine, but we got the field of sixty-five acres done in less than a week. One half day in which we kept tally of the oil, we plowed eleven acres, using 2 1/4 gallons of kerosene, three gallons of water, and about one-sixth gallon of oil per acre. Our kerosene costs us 15 1/2c, and our oil 42c, making our fuel and oil expense 42c per acre.



Line Ahead on Stiff Gumbo

cause it is not near so heavy as a steam engine, and does not pack the ground so hard. Then my engine has the wage lug on the wheels, and does not mesh into the plowed land so hard in one place. You cannot tell where the engine has run after discing or plowing is done. It has been my experience that farming can be done cheaper with a tractor than with either horses or steam. But the one drawback to all tractors where experienced men are used is that they are not built strong enough to stand the hard usage.

Edgar F. Thurston,
Aberdeen, Sask.



They Will Succeed

Although we bought our engine primarily for threshing, we decided to get one that would be useful and convenient for traction work also. After about four months' investigation, we started on a Hart-Parr 40-60 oil tractor.

We prefer having two men which saves stopping the machine, and leaves one man free to operate it. At the rate we paid this summer two men cost us \$3.50 per day, or 10c per acre. Our total cost, then, was 58c. Good water was so close to the engine that we carried it in 10 gallon cans.

More expert operation will probably reduce the amount of fuel and water used, and use has already reduced the amount of lubricating oil needed.

We also plowed 50 acres of summer fallow the second time. We would have been unable to cultivate our summer fallow at all without the engine on account of the wet weather. The work was just as expensive as in the sod on account of the very soft footing. The engine did not pack the soil to an injurious extent. We have three-foot drivers and the engine is light, weighing 9 1/2 tons. The dirt blowing was hard on the moving parts of the engine.

We drove a 36-54 Avery in the

fall, using an average of 50 gallons of kerosene, 50 gallons of water, and 10 gallons of gasoline per day. Under favorable circumstances we could thresh 1,400 to 1,500 bushels of wheat per day. The large quantity of gasoline used was on account of running the engine idle while jacking her or the separator out of mud-holes. The extremely wet weather—our land was practically flooded—prevented us from doing any fall work.

Although we fell through a bridge, our total repair account was limited to soldering a connection in the gasoline pipe, a 3/8 inch carriage bolt, and two section screws, 40c altogether. We do not expect to do much traction work besides plowing and cultivating and seeding behind the plow. I am sorry I cannot give any more valuable information, but I will write again when I learn more.

Elliot & Muir,
Roland, Man.



Gasoline Engine "No Failure"

Dear Sirs:

Your letter received, and will try to give you my experience in handling a gasoline outfit.

I am using a 25 h.p. International engine and Cockshutt gang plow, and like it fine. Last summer I broke 180 acres in eight days. I used about 45 gallons of gasoline per day, and about 35 gallons of water.

We ran about fifteen hours per day, and the cost per acre for breaking was \$2.75.

I keep one man and team with myself to run the outfit. I have never had any experience in seeding or discing with engine. I do not consider a tractor harmful to plowed land.

For plowing stubble, I find that it takes about 1 1/2 gallons of gasoline and one gallon of water per acre.

I use a Buffalo Pitts separator for threshing. This also does good work.

The gasoline engine on a farm is no failure, of that I am sure.

R. S. Reid,
Roland, Man.