

er who owes the introduction to his farm of wild oats or other noxious weeds to the stook wagon, and even reasonable care in this respect (which is rarely exercised) can scarcely entirely overcome this danger.

Next, comes the risk of damage by the weather. This risk might be materially reduced if the farmer would plan to go on stacking until the thresher comes and so each day ensure the safety of a part of his crop, instead of putting in time, as is so often done, waiting for the thresher. In February of this year I saw hundreds of acres of stooks still standing in the fields that might have been in stack but for this unfortunate desire to let the thresher and his men do the work. It so happened there was more wheat than the available machine could dispose of before the winter and somebody had to get left.

We had frequent complaints of the deterioration of our wheat. It does not grade so well as it did some years ago and many reasons are advanced to account for it. Some claim the land is wearing out or the seed is not up to the old standard owing to the practice of cutting too green, etc., but I believe stook threshing has more to do with it than any other one thing.

Before stook threshing began, the thresher would not start until the stacks had stood long enough for the grain to sweat, the result being a bright plump berry that would grade to the top. Instead of this, the wheat is now left in the stook, a large percentage of it exposed to the weather for weeks, wet and dried out perhaps many times, then hurried to the market in a bleached and wrinkled condition that must inevitably reduce the grade.

The consequent loss in price, and reputation as producers of fancy wheat is a part of the premium we pay for stook threshing or for the privilege of growing a maximum of wheat with a minimum of labor.

While present conditions continue and wheat growing is the sole object of the farmer, stook threshing will be, more or less, a necessity, but when mixed or a more intensive system of farming is adopted, as it will be sooner perhaps than many think, the advantage of stacking will be recognized and utilized.

Yours sincerely,
George L. Smith,
Saskatoon, Sask.

Stacking by Far the Best.

The question you ask my opinion on is an important one, and calls for the most thoughtful consideration on the part of the farmer in harvest time.

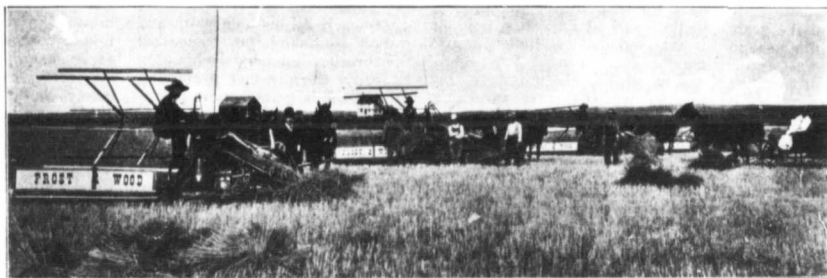
As we all know, stacking the grain on a large farm consisting of a section or more is a long, tedious job, so much so that many of those farmers invest in threshing outfits and do their own work, and some of their neighbors. No doubt, they are wise in doing so, provided they can successfully operate the machine and secure sufficient hands to run it. Often three or four

his neighbors and get the threshing done at stack prices. By all means try to avoid the thresherman who goes around with a big array of stook teams, cook car, etc. and charges from eight to twelve cents per bushel, thereby eating up most of the year's profit.

Yours truly,
J. J. Ring,
Crystal City, Man.

Favors Stook Threshing.

Re stacking grain in preference to stook threshing. Personally, I favor the stook threshing for the following reasons.



A Frost and Wood quartette doing some excellent work.

farmers work together and get their threshing done from the stook at the same price as stack threshing and thus avoid a lot of hard labor and extra handling of the sheaves. When the neighbors are close together and live near market this is a very satisfactory method as they often catch the high prices by getting their grain marketed early.

In my experience, however, as a thresherman for quite a number of years, I have noticed that the half section farmer who stacks his grain and gets his fall plowing done early and threshes later in the season, in nearly

1st.—Because we get the land cleared to plow earlier.

2nd.—We get from one to three cents per bushel more when we thresh early.

3rd.—When threshed from the stook it has to be handled twice, but with the stook, this is not necessary.

4th.—The straw goes in larger stacks as a rule.

The above are my reasons for being in favor of stook threshing. Some people say that the grain is a brighter color by stacking, but as far as my experience goes, I think the grain would

Always Stacks His Grain.

In answer to yours of recent date asking me for my views on the matter of stacking of grain versus threshing from the stook, I beg to say that I always stack my grain, believing it to be much the best course to pursue. I can only judge of course, by results, obtained by some others that thresh from the stook. I have seen much trouble caused after threshing, by grain heating in the bins of the granary and elevator. Only last season I know of cases where wheat was ruined in this way, and also large quantities of oats. I have never in my thirteen years' experience in the West, had trouble of that kind.

Apart from that I feel sure that a much better quality of grain is obtained by giving the grain time in the stack to go through the sweat. I have noticed that wheat I have stacked, that has been of poor color before stacking, has much improved after going through the sweat in the stack. No doubt, much less grain would be threshed from the stook could we solve the labor problem. My opinion is that satisfactory results from stook threshing can only be obtained in ideal seasons.

I am inclined also to think that a farmer can get through his threshing much more quickly and at less expense when stacked, and also save the housewife a lot of work in providing meals for the larger outfit.

Many other reasons can be given I think in favor of stacking, such as delays caused by even light showers of rain in the night, and often on account of a team or two not turning up to help. For my part I prefer the extra work in stacking to the risk of extra trouble caused by stook threshing.

Yours truly,
Rice Sheppard,
Strathcona, Alta.

Lack of Help Prevents Stacking.

In reply to your inquiry re stook and stack threshing, I beg to say that in this district nearly all the farmers thresh from the stook. The main reason, I believe, why this is done is because it is almost impossible to get help enough to stack the grain. The development has been very rapid in this district and the farm help problem has not yet adjusted itself.

I feel quite satisfied from my own experience and observation that we would get grain of a better color and quality by stacking it, but as I have said above, we have more than we can get stack-



Frost and Wood Binders at work near McLeod and the Broad Indian Reserve.

every case is the best off. He has a cleaner farm, as only his own wagons are over the fields. The grain is a better sample as it has escaped the bleaching from long standing in the stook exposed to wind and rain. The threshing is done at considerably less per bushel and not nearly so many men are required to operate the machine; thus cutting down the board bill and the work in the home.

In conclusion I would advise the small farmer to stack his grain, and the large farmer to make some arrangement where-by he can exchange work with

just color as well in the granary after it is threshed. Those who stack the grain run chances of getting it threshed last. The days then are very often shorter and cold and one does not get the same amount done in a day, so that you can count on at least two meals extra for about 20 men. When the weather is cold steam is much harder to keep up and the consequence is the man who threshes late in the season pays more all round.

Yours truly,
Wm. H. Anderson,
Arcola, Sask.