

thing, these men, no less from humanitarian feeling than from the enhanced money value in the case, are to give the draft horse

One reason for this belief is that when he steps out again into civil life, he is more than likely to find that a very great

Well, this is all changed, and what has been accomplished in the brief interval in producing tractors that are not "white elephants" but really money-making propositions, is scarcely less wonderful than any of the very extraordinary things that have been achieved in the four years of war, by the incidence of war.

Big Surplus of Skilled Operators

In contrast to the scarcity of skilled mechanics five or six years ago and right through the war period, might we venture the opinion that when demobilization has progressed, as the military authorities lead us to hope at the date of writing, the supply of thoroughly efficient gas engineers will exceed the number of tractors "waiting the human touch."

Let it also be borne in mind that during the last two years of the war, especially, a very large number of young people, mere boys and girls some of them, have graduated from the courses in gas engineering held at many points throughout the West. Others have taken the job "like ducks to water," and having been well drilled by the old man on the



Grant Closson, Kenaston, Sask., with three plows at six inches deep.

gine of any sort on the farm, it is proving one of the most powerful magnets in drawing and "holding the boy to the farm."

Not only the boy, but the girl of the farm, is finding an incentive to remain on the farm in the ever-widening scope she sees for her activities out of doors. This has been brought home in the most remarkable manner—especially during the last two winters—through the operations of the local "short courses" carried out

a place in their farm economy somewhat different from that which it has held in the past.

So also will they approach the tractor and mechanical power supply, generally, as a factor in the business end of farming that they had never really exploited or even granted the favor of a fair hearing.

Sees Things He Hadn't Seen

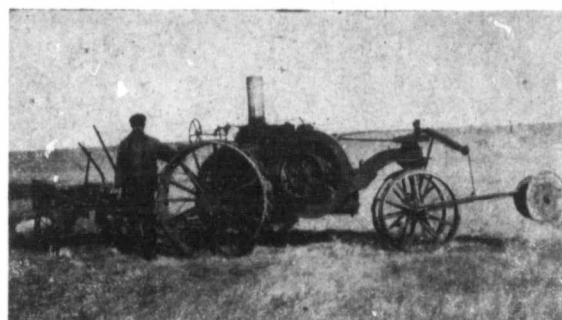
Whether he has actually been engaged in handling mechanical transport or merely a common soldier of the line who has seen and participated in those wonderful troop movements effected by thousands of motor vehicles, the returned soldier has got a vision that is still denied to the longshoreman or those whose part it has been to stay at home and do the chores.

For purposes of heavy traction, for humane, efficient and rapid transport, his concept of the horse has dropped to a very low point while his estimate of the internal combustion engine has correspondingly taken a jump upwards. Without losing a particle of his old-time regard for the

progressive stride has been made towards mechanical perfection, and in the adaptability of the tractor to every requirement on the Western farm during the period of his absence, and that his old neighbors have become scarcely less enthusiastic tractioneers than he is himself.

There can be no doubt that the ancient prejudice against the tractor is fast dying out, if it has not entirely disappeared. That prejudice had everything to feed upon a few years ago when there was nothing in sight but the "jumbo" type of engine that packed the land and generally misconducted itself when it was taken out for an airing, and when the men who had the brains and experience to handle them properly were as scarce as "snowballs in Hades."

That was the day when every second man one met who had bought a tractor was cursing the day he committed the foolish act; when college professors, leading farmers, bankers, merchants and the wives of the victims declared with one voice that the



Fred Cashmore, Maple Creek, Alta.

farm, have made splendid records in plowing and in belt work. In fact, the "fashion" has set in so strong—"everybody's doing it."

Throughout the summer—of 1918 one could not visit a plowing match or harvesting outfit at work without being struck with the number of young people taking part and handling their machines with the assurance and no less skill than many of the old hands who had been operating for years. One or two incidents of this kind are reproduced in connection with this article.

These are multiplying all the time and will continue to multiply. Wherever you see a boy excited and making good at anything of the kind, the gang is quickly infected.

There are few things around the farm homes to-day that are exciting greater interest among the young folks—girls no less than boys—than the gas tractor. Wherever there is one, or an en-

by the Agricultural College Extension Department, as well as the various schools promulgated by the tractor manufacturers, etc.

We have been told by more than one of the men who went through Manitoba lecturing and demonstrating on the farm tractor that at several points the most keenly interested and apt pupils were the girls and the young women.

On the opposite page are three pictures to which the reader's attention is particularly directed. On top right-hand corner are the portraits of two young Manitobans, Miss Brenda E. Quelch and Miss Anita E. Weineke.

Miss Weineke is the daughter of one of the most respected farm homes in the province, that of the celebrated breeder of Poland Chinas in Rockwood Municipality, near Stoney Mountain, and Miss Quelch has spent several of the best years of her life as a



R. P. Bradshaw, Roland, Man.

horse, he regards the gas engine with feelings of marked enthusiasm which to all appearance is likely to be maintained.

gas tractor manufacturers and dealers were the worst robbers the Western farmer ever had to deal with!