

consciousness that he has done anything, even if he has actually meant the salvation of a whole ship's company of two thousand souls.

After the usual courtesies and dipping of colors, each vessel struck out on her own track and in due course arrived safely at their own ports of destination.

#### A Unique Tillage Machine

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time being for a growing crop of flax. But suppose the land has not been thoroughly well rolled after breaking, to press the furrow slices home, which is usually the case, and many sods lay strewn about loosely on the surface; many seeds will fall in unfavorable places, where it is more than likely that little, if any, of their roots reach very solid, moist earth below.

Now it is well-known that flax does not thrive in a loose-textured soil. The seed-bed should be decidedly compact, except a slight blanket on the surface to act as mulch to prevent baking and loss of moisture in times of drouth. Let us suppose the breaking has been done with engine gang plows, and fairly deep, but not so deep but that the back-setting may be readily accomplished a couple of inches deeper. Then if this motor tilling machine be used to prepare the seed-bed, the conditions and results that may be expected to be brought about are as follows: The furrow slices of the breaking plows will be rolled out as flat as a board walk, — a work which no kind of roller drawn by horses can accomplish. No cavities of any considerable size can now exist beneath the furrow slices, which are so firmly pressed to the solid subsoil as to establish capillarity therewith at once.

The cutting spiral should be set to work about an inch deep. This will effectually loosen enough dirt from the grass roots to fill the spaces between the furrow slices and furnish cover for the seed. The seeder being attached to the draw-bar of the machine, the work is accomplished in a single operation, the seed being placed in a moist, firm, deep seed-bed. The conditions are now ideal for uniform covering and quick and even germination of the seed, making the most of the available moisture in the soil, and the even maturity of the crop before early frost.

One of the admirable features of this machine is the great uniformity of results under all conditions. The cutting spiral cannot turn up great chunks of sod, for the weight resting on the shoes immediately preceding is about 250 pounds per lineal foot, and effectually holds them down while the cutting is taking place. When harvest time comes, the ground is exceedingly smooth to cut over; and the next plowing or backsetting of new land is not nearly such a task as it usually is, because the land has been

thoroughly subdued and is quite like that which has been under cultivation for some years.

The average cost to the farmer in the northwest to produce a crop of wheat is \$7.50 per acre, and the average yield the past ten years has been less than fourteen bushels per acre. At the average price which has prevailed, it has required about nine bushels per acre to meet the cost of production, leaving less than five bushels as a margin of profit. The average number of bushels of wheat per acre produced in various countries during the past ten years is as follows: Great Britain, 32.2, Germany 28, France 19.8, United States 13.8. The soil of Great Britain has been tilled for a thousand years, and up until a hundred years ago had a record of producing no more than ours does at the present time. But a Royal Commission was appointed and a campaign for better methods begun, with the result that to-day, in spite of having a soil inferior to ours and an excessively humid climate which is unfavorable to the wheat grower, the production per acre is higher than that of any other country.

During the past quarter of a century, the home demand for wheat has increased nearly twice as fast as the supply, with the result that, unless better tillage methods soon come into vogue, the supply will not be equal to the demand, and we shall have to import many millions of bushels annually. However, the comparatively recent introduction and success of traction plowing is rapidly bringing under cultivation vast areas of virgin prairie lands that have formerly been open ranges for stock, or have produced nothing whatsoever. This will have the effect of augmenting the supply for some time but the time will soon come when the demand will exceed the supply and we must of necessity apply better tillage methods.

With our bounteous sunshine and new, rich soil, if proper tillage methods, having due regard for the conserving of moisture, be put into practice, the north-western farmer ought to be ashamed of himself not to raise twenty bushels of wheat per acre. This traction tillage machine is designed to give such results. A large acreage can be thoroughly cultivated at less cost per acre than heretofore. An increase in yield from fourteen bushels per acre, the average the past ten years, to twenty bushels at \$1 per bushel means an increased profit of at least \$6 per acre. One crop of twenty bushels per acre is worth considerably more than two of fourteen bushels per acre, when the cost of production is taken into account. As is often the case, the farmer will get only nine or ten bushels per acre, by the ordinary methods employed, which means that he has lived, but his year's toil goes for naught. If a machine costing approximately \$2000 will enable the farmer to conduct operations

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