

MEN WHO MAKE No. 1 HARD

Being first hand experiences of the men who own and operate threshing outfits in Western Canada

An English Thresher.

I have read with interest the experiences of threshers in the West in your paper and I think it a splendid idea as there are lots of little things, and big ones, too, which come in useful to old threshermen. Some men may think they have got it all pat, but, in my experience, there is always something new to learn every season and there always will be.

Now, I will try and give you my experiences in Canada. I was born in Yorkshire and volunteered for the South Africa War from England. When I came back I could not settle in England, so came to Canada the next spring in 1903. I might say I was not very much impressed with Canada for a while, but it is all right now.

My threshing experiences started that fall. I might state that I was mechanically inclined from boyhood and had considerable experience with several kinds of machinery and engines before coming here. My father was a thresher in England and I got most of my threshing experiences from him.

Well, the first fall, 1903 I was walking down the street in Brandon, when I met a well-known thresher and farmer. He told me that he was looking for a separator man and I said that I would go and run his separator; so he engaged me to go with him as he ran the engine himself. We got on very well together.

I went out with him on Saturday, and had all Sunday to look the machine over. When I went out to the shed where the outfit was I found that it was very much different to the English machines, but did not give up. I had an idea where the threshing had to be done, so starting at the cylinder I followed the straw to the blower and the grain to the cleaner and bagger. Then I studied the feeder and got it pretty well fixed before I stopped. I went out on Monday morning and belted the machine and we started threshing and went off very well. In a week I had got to know the machine very well.

I ran for the same man four seasons. At the end of three years I took a trip to the Old Country. For two years' previous I had been sending the folk at home The Canadian Thresherman and Farmer which they liked very much. About that time farming in England was very bad, and after a lengthy discussion they all decided to sell up and come to Canada, there being fourteen in the family, nine boys and five girls. Seven of the boys and three of the girls came with

father and mother. We are now farming two sections of land and have a hundred head of cattle and horses, and a threshing rig, which I will tell you all about.

In 1906 I came back to Canada and the family came in 1907 and we hit for Lloydminster and located north of the Big Gully. So the boys got to work to haul lumber for the house and a fine time we had. There was about one foot of snow left and we had oxen and wagon and not one of us had driven oxen before. I think the oxen knew their business better than we did at that time, but we know more about them now and I think they are the poor man's friend, for we have got a quantity of stone and we shall continue to keep them while we have land to break. The land here is very rolling with considerable stone.

In the fall of 1908 I ran an engine for a thresher up in this country in order to see what size machine was best suited for the country and came to the conclusion that the big rig was not a good paying investment, as farms were too few and far between, and when you arrived at the farm they only had a day's work for a big rig and sometimes less. I have threshed as many as five farmers a day with our rig with one half mile moves between.

Well, we decided to get a 12 h. p. Case simple traction engine and 24 by 42 separator. I and my brother ran the engine and separator, my brother on the engine also acting as fireman when we were set and I was separator man. So when we were threshing it left me to the machine which kept me very busy as we had only carriers on and I had to buck the straw myself, but got a Case Gearless Wind stacker for the next season, and I have been very pleased with it, as it left me with a free hand.

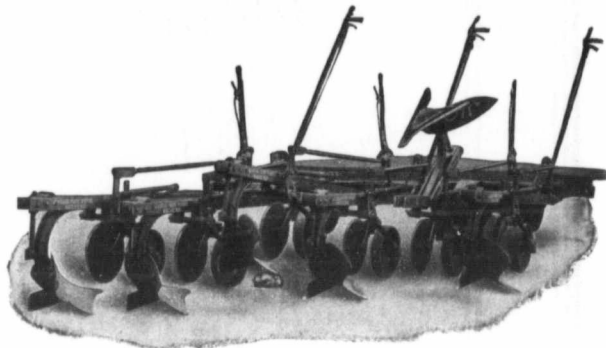
We threshed 42,000 bushels in 1909, chiefly oats. We threshed very steady that fall, with only one hour's stop, and that was my fault. I was under the carriers pitching straw and stayed there too long. The consequence was a burnt box. We threshed for three cents for oats, barley, four cents, wheat five cents, in 1909, and were well satisfied with our first year's work.

1910 we had a clear field as our neighbor, who had an outfit, sold his rig, so we threshed him this season. First, we threshed our own crop, which amounted to 3,500 bushels of wheat, 1,500 of oats, and 500 of barley. The crops were not very heavy around this dis-

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