from 25 to 30 acres per day. Our best run last season was 94 acres in three days.

We figure it costs us about $1.25 per acre to break ground. We broke and plowed about 1200 acres last summer.

We use about 3000 pounds of coal per day and about 50 barrels of water. We employ five men and two teams for the outfit. Two men are on the engine, one tends the plow and does the blacksmithing, one hauls the water and one the coal.

We consider it a little harder on an engine to plow than thresh as the strain is more uneven and the engine gets far more dust, causing greater wear.

Yours truly,
Fairbairn Bros.,
J. L. Fairbairn,
Clavet, Sask.

Constant Vigilance Necessary.

I own and operate a 25 h.p. Case engine and an eight-furrow 14-in. Cockshutt engine gang. Our crew consists of four men—engineer, fireman and tankman, and also an all round blacksmith and general repair man. This does not include the cook. We usually have our coal hauled to the ground during the winter or early spring before the frost is out of the ground, as the roads are in much better condition then than later on when the frost is out and spring rains soften the ground. Labor is also cheap and horses not in use for farm work. We find it necessary to use four horses on the water tank on account of hilly road to water supply. We have two tanks, one being in the field while the other is being filled. 65 barrels of water will run the engine for 10 hours if the boiler is clean and conditions favorable. Sometimes 75 or 80 barrels are consumed.

Coal costs about $4.50 per ton, and we use about 3500 or 4000 pounds in ten hours. The amount varies according to the quality of the coal.

I consider plowing much harder on the engine than threshing. In fact, there is no comparison, in my mind. The driving gear wears very fast on account of dust, grit and dirt accumulating unless kept perfectly oiled at all times. Also the unequal strain to which the engine and boiler are subjected to while plowing on rocky or uneven ground, makes constant vigilance on the part of the operator necessary.

In my opinion, the best men that can be had to run a steam outfit are the cheapest men, and I agree with my brother plowmen who say that a man who owns a plowing outfit should thoroughly understand every detail of it himself. He should be an engineer and blacksmith, also something of a machinist. I think the blacksmithing should be done at least on the same quarter section where the rig is working, as much valuable time is lost travelling long distances with repair work, and plow shares, to say nothing of the time spent waiting at the shop when the blacksmith is rushed with work. Sometimes five or ten minutes work at home will do the repairing, when as many hours will be spent in town getting a job done.

I have estimated that it costs me $1.50 per acre for sod plowing and $1.25 per acre for stubble. We usually burn straw while plowing stubble, and I find it a very economical fuel, as it saves the first cost of coal and the hauling is about even. For threshing I like straw better for it is always on hand.

I consider traction plowing cheaper than horse plowing when taking into consideration the present high price of horses and scarcity of labor in the busy season.

Yours sincerely,
D. J. Bey,
High River, Alta.

Steam Plowing a Labor and Time Saver.

In August, 1909, my brother and I bought a 25 h.p. Case engine and a 36 x 58 Case separator. We threshed 37 days that fall and had a very successful fall, having been able to cover all expenses and have a little surplus on hand.

The following spring we purchased a 15 disc Emerson engine gang, the first one sold in these parts. We backset 763 acres for spring crop and afterwards plowed 100 acres of summer fallow.

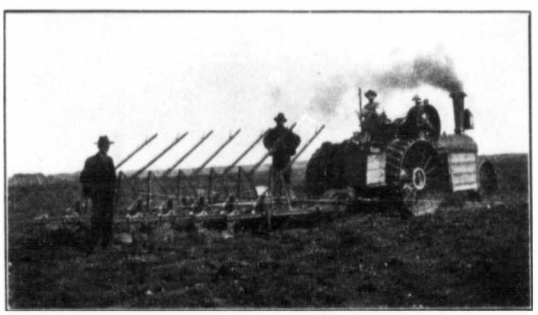
We had an engineer who did the firing, a steersman, a plowman, and tankman who also drew the straw, as we did all our firing with flax straw. After finishing up our summer fallowing we totalled up our expenses and found our plowing cost us 63⅗c. per acre. We plowed an average of 25 acres per 12 hour day and might as well say we were well satisfied with the speed of plowing as well as with the job done. We found the engine quite capable of hauling the 15-disc plow, except when the ground was soft and slippery.

During the fall of 1909 we commenced threshing and threshed 65 days. We also did considerable plowing at night, having had an extra engineer, steersman, plowman and tankman, who were on the job where we were threshing and as soon as we dropped the belt at night they pulled off with the engine and hitched to the plow. At 5 o'clock in the morning our day engineer and fireman brought the engine back and hitched to the separator again ready for the day's threshing.

A Hart Parr 22 h.p. Gas Tractor pulling two drills. Outfit of A. H. Powell, Caron, Sask.

Owing to the dryness of the ground last fall it was difficult to make much time and do a good job, but we managed to plow in the neighborhood of 400 acres.

With regard to the difficulties met with in steam plowing, would say that they are almost entirely due to the inefficiency and inexperience of the crew who are handling the outfit. If a capable crew are on the outfit under the directorship of the owner, I see no reason why steam plowing cannot be a success as well as a great labor and time saver.



A Case 25 H.P. Steam Tractor pulling a 7 bottom 14 inch Cockshutt Engine Gang, Outfit F. F. W. Hunter, Stonewall, Man.

Thanking you for the space we have occupied in your paper and wishing you every success, I am,

Yours very truly,
John Cook,
Milestone, Sask.

How about It?

My experience in traction plowing is very limited, last season being my first. I believe traction plowing a practical proposition for working a large piece of land, as three men with an outfit can do a lot of work.

My engine is a J. I. Case 25 h.p. and pulled a six gang John Deere plow with my engine. I averaged 12 acres per day breaking. The land in my section of the country is very heavy and six plows is all my engine could handle.

My crew for this work consisted of three, as follows: one man and team for hauling water, and two men on the engine. I used the ordinary steam coal, and my engine consumed on an average of about 2,500 pounds per day. We used close to 100 barrels of water per day.

I consider traction plowing much harder on an engine than threshing. There is constantly dirt flying into the gears and this cuts them out much faster than threshing. I believe there should be some way figured out whereby these gears could run in dust-proof casings, thus eliminating a large per cent. of the cutting out.

Yours truly,
W. C. Edwards,
Langdon, Alta.

Plowing Harder Than Threshing.

Last spring my brothers and I purchased a J. I. Case 25 h.p. engine and a seven-bottom fourteen-inch Cockshutt engine gang, which we consider makes a very good rig.

We broke 25 acres per day on the ground and did not burn more than 2500 pounds of Western steam coal, which cost us $6.50 per ton. Our expenses were as follows:

Plowing 1,016 acres in 60 days at $3.00 per acre.

I waterman and team, $3.00 per day.

I coal man and team, $3.00 per day.

In 60 days we consumed 65 tons of coal and used, per day, 50 barrels of water.

I consider plowing a little harder on an engine than threshing,

Yours truly,
Blanchette, Bros.,
St. Anne de Chenes,
Man.

Engine Plow Beats Horse Gangs.

I have not done much traction plowing as yet. I have no plow of my own, but I had a neighbor's ten-furrow John Deere engine gang for a week last fall.

The plow did excellent work, far better than could have been done with horse gangs, as the plows were heavier. My engine is a 25 h.p. Case. I just had the small water tender, so placed two barrels on the platform of the plow and box to carry coal.

We used about one ton of coal per day and between five and