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A Three-Wheel Tractor in Operation at the Demonstration.

The Tractor Demonstration at North Toronto

Almost Fifty Tractors in Operation with Twenty-Three Companies Represented.
The Most of Them do Good Work. Attendance Comparatively Small. By F. E. Ellis

THE civic jail farm, north of Toronto, was the scene, from Tuesday to Friday of last week, of the greatest tractor demonstration yet held in Canada. Altogether 50 tractors were seen in operation, representing the tractor products of 23 different manufacturers. A couple were made in Canada; the rest came from the United States. The weather was favorable, but the attendance was not such as the importance of the event merited. On Wednesday there were over 1,000 visitors on the grounds, but on other days attendance was small. The crowd was, however, representative of a large section of the country. Almost all of the good agricultural counties of Ontario were represented, and visitors were noticed from a couple of other provinces as well. Most of the visitors, however, came in automobiles. "Just the class of people we want," remarked one salesman. "The men who can afford a car can better afford a tractor."

And it was an interested crowd. "I am not sure," said a well known York County farmer, "that the tractor will plow more cheaply than a four-horse team, but it would probably plow faster and help me to get my work done at the right time." Others expressed similar sentiments and all united in denouncing a tariff duty that made every machine on exhibition cost several hundred dollars more in Canada than the same machine sells for in the United States. Representatives of several big tractor firms stated that the tariff alone stood in the way of a big development of the business in Canada.

Small Tractors Popular.

The tendency toward the small tractor was noticeable. Three years ago, at the first demonstration of the kind in Ontario, the largest machine was pulling a twelve bottom plow; and 14-inch bottoms at that. The largest

tractor operating at Toronto last week pulled only four plows and they were 12-inch bottoms, the majority had a capacity of only two or three plows. "I am not sure but that we are getting to the other extreme," said Prof. W. H. Day. "I myself believe that we will ultimately come to favor a medium sized tractor, say one that pulls a four gang plow." The greatest interest was shown, however, in the 8-16 or 10-20 tractors. A tractor of this size will pull two plows under all conditions, three plows under favorable conditions and do all of the belt work ever needed on a farm. Emphasis must be placed on the belt power; no tractor will ever be in great demand that cannot be used as an all round farm power. There is a growing belief, too, that the 12-inch bottoms are too wide for soil conditions in Eastern Canada, and many 10-inch bottoms were seen for the first time at this year's demonstration.

Standardization Needed.

A feature that proved confusing to all prospective tractor purchasers was the great variety of types. Tractors have yet to be standardized. It reminded us of the early days of the automobile when every different make of car had a style of its own. Now the auto has been standardized and all cars have their outstanding characteristics in common. Not so the farm tractor. There were tractors with two wheels, three wheels, four wheels, caterpillars with no wheels and one a combination of caterpillar and wheel tread. There were engines in these tractors with upright and horizontal cylinders and anywhere from one to eight cylinders in the power plant. Some had a chain drive; others a direct connection with the inside rim of the wheels. Two or three had friction clutches; the rest were positive. The oiling and cooling systems pre-

(Continued on page 18.)

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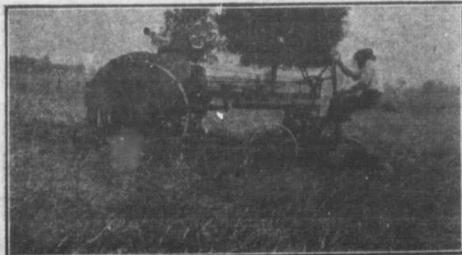
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