

disc from 50 to 60 acres per day and sow 80 to 100 acres per day. Land that is made ready for the drill the fall before is soon sown and done away with. As yet, I do not consider a tractor detrimental to plowed land.

There is a great deal of tractor farming done in this part of the country and I believe it to be the best and most economical way for a man who has a section or more of land, but I would not advise farming this way on a quarter or half section. It can be seen at a glance that it would not pay to run up and down a field with one drill on an engine or with one or two binders or a couple of discs. And it would never pay a farmer to buy three large drills, four binders and hitches, six discs, etc., besides his engine, to do the small amount of work on such a small farm.

As this is the first letter I have ever written of this kind, I hope you will overlook all blunders and mistakes. Trusting it may be of some use to you, I am,

Yours truly,

A. L. King,
Rosetown, Sask.



No Breaks or Delays

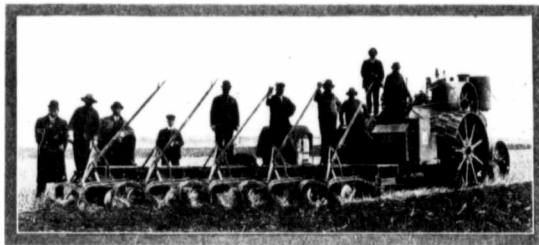
We have a 45-22 Hart-Parr engine which has been used for four years. We commenced seeding April 15th, sowing 500 acres of wheat, pulling three eleven-foot drills, followed by tooth harrows and plank clod masher. Had some trouble miring the engine as the ground was very wet. We then sowed 300 acres of flax the same way, after which we plowed and sowed 170 acres more to flax, finishing May 23rd, as we then run up against our rule that 24th of May, the Queen's birthday, is the proper time to quit seeding. Believe that land by this time is getting too dry to germinate seed, and that the chances for rain from June 1st to 20th coming too late for any reasonable assurances of maturing a crop, and that it is by far better to prepare any remaining land for cropping by summer plowing and conserving moisture for the following spring, thereby having your ground in the pink of condition, growing perhaps as much grain in one season as you would in two by continuous seeding.

We then made a run for the States for two months exploiting the virtues of "Sunny Saskatchewan" and to which we returned August 10th.

Looking over our old Hart-Parr, we pronounced him O.K. aside from a little dirt and grease that had accumulated, which was promptly removed, and a string of new binders attached which happened to be a useless job as the rain set in and kept the ground too soft for engine cut-

ting. However, our prosperous looks enabled us to hire teams and we got cutting all done in good season for 80c per acre.

I will say that we have no horses on this ranch and depend entirely upon the engines for all the power upon this tract. A new

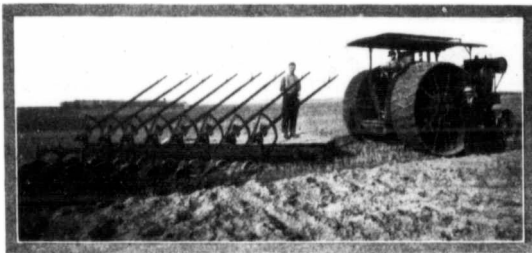


Nichols-Shepard and Deere

engine must be bought this season as it is absolutely necessary that you have at least two in the fall, one for threshing and one for land cultivation. As to the engine packing land in this district, our only wish is that the engine had wheels wide enough to cover all the ground as the grain sown

whoop whether we had one or a dozen turkeys, will say that the two months of threshing was free from any break or delay of any kind. Aside from a few wet days, was a continuous run and many days we ran until eleven o'clock at night. We fired the straw piles

at night, another thing good business men do not do. We did, however. Paid 35c per hour for help, had plenty to eat and worked early and late, a bully good bunch of threshers. The rig ran another seven weeks following this, and was left in charge of the engineer, a green Mis-

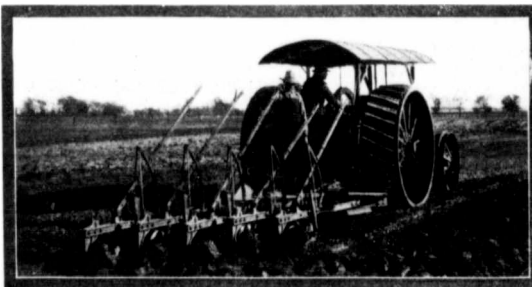


Minneapolis and P. and O.

in those tracts comes up quicker, does not grow so strangely and ripens early, a distinctly favorable condition in our judgment.

The binder arrangement being a failure, we replaced those by attaching a new 32-56 double belted Avery separator and commenced threshing September 23rd,

sourian, whom we imported and educated as a gas engine expert. While it may be needless to say we have adopted him, his income amounting to 50c per running hour. He burns a barrel of kerosene, a gallon of gas, and two gallons of lubricating oil per day



Gould, Shapley & Muir and Corkshutt

a job that we continued until November 23rd. The 24th being a kind of anniversary of May 24th, we promptly left the job and sailed for Yanketoon.

Also our thanksgiving turkey was to be served November 28th. As you probably may not give a

of ten hours. With no repair bills we consider him cheap.

Any inquiries or suggestions that may come this way we will be pleased to answer.

Yours very truly,

Raver & Mead,
Luseland, Sask.

Tractor Does Not Injure the Soil

Replying to your enquiry as to our experiences in the use of tractors. We use a Rumely 25-50 gas tractor weighing about 35,000 pounds. We find it takes about three gallons of kerosene fuel per acre to plow good stiff summer fallow six inches deep. We cannot see how land can be plowed with less fuel, as our engine runs as smooth and with as little trouble as any engine could be expected to do. We use about three-fourths as much water as fuel oil, but we have found that soft water is much better for the engine than the harder or more alkali water. The harder water seems to coat the valve stems, causing them to corrode, and stick in the guides.

As to the cost of plowing, we estimate it costs \$2.00 per acre, not less than that. This includes fuel oil, lubricating oil, labor and wear and depreciation.

As to seeding with engine, we cannot use our engine on our kind of soil, for the reason that we have too many low, soft spots, where the water lies too long in the spring. If we waited for these spots to dry, it would make the seeding too late, so we cannot use the engine for that purpose, as it will either sink or slip its drivers, and is unable to pull even itself.

As to discing and harrowing, we have not done much of that kind of work, owing to the trouble of hitching together enough of the common disc harrows to make a load, even if we owned enough or could hire enough to make a load for an engine of our size, and if one has to purchase enough of the double engine gang discs, there would be another \$1,000 of capital tied up.

It is the same with harvesters. To make it profitable to use an engine of large power, we should not have less than four binders and five would be better, again tying up more capital than would be profitable on a 640 acre farm, which is the size of ours.

On the whole we do not consider it a wise investment to buy a heavy tractor for a farm of less than two sections, unless you can make use of such an engine for threshing, or can get enough outside work to make it profitable to invest in so much costly machinery.

As it is with us, we have to keep about as many horses as we would if we did not own an engine. We must have them to do our seeding and harvesting. Owning a separator, we can use them as bundle teams, which helps some.

Perhaps it might be profitable for a farmer owning only one section of land to purchase a smaller engine, say of 15 h.p., weighing about 10,000 pounds,