

News And Views Of And For Canadian Farmers

The Fitting of Tractors To Farm Service

Some Observations on the Present Situation.
By A. H. SNYDER.

The right tractor on the right farm in the hands of the right man is undoubtedly practicable and profitable, is the terse way in which Professor L. W. Dickerson of the University of Illinois sizes up the farm tractor situation. The meaning of such a statement is vastly at the present time from what it was five or more years ago. At that time tractors were confined to large machines and, unless a man practised farming upon a large scale, or some type of specialized farming, he could not consider the use of mechanical power as an economy in performing his field operations.

Within the past two years, manufacturers have taken cognisance of this situation and have devoted a considerable portion of their efforts to the development of tractors adapted to various sized farms and conditions of soils, and to various types of farming. As a result, there are on the market to-day tractors of many designs, varying in size from the original large machines of thirty to sixty horse power down to machines which draw two plows and furnish the power for work ordinarily done by three or four horses. Companies which formerly made but one or possibly two sizes of tractors are now making as many as five different sizes. Hence, it is possible for the farmer on an average sized farm who is practising a general and common type of farming to find a machine adapted to his need. Thus has the problem of getting "the right tractor for the right farm" been greatly simplified.

Furthermore, it is by no means as difficult to find men who are capable of handling tractors as it was a few years ago. We can all remember when the engineer of a threshing outfit was looked upon with a certain degree of respect amounting almost to awe, because he knew how to develop and control the power of a mighty engine. Later, as gas engines came into general use, the farmer became more or less of an engineer and, partially by study, but largely by experience, he familiarized himself with the operation of mechanical power.

Automobile Paved The Way

The greatest forerunner of the tractor, however, the factor which has been by far the most potent in educating people in general along the line of mechanical power, has been the automobile. Five years ago an exceedingly small percentage of farmers could name and recognize the most simple and fundamental parts of a tractor. The thousands of farmers of to-day who have operated automobiles, and stationary gas engines are as familiar with the make-up of an engine as they are with the points of a horse. If one doubts the above statement, let him attend some of the many tractor demonstrations, one or more of which have been held in almost every middle west state. Here you will find thousands of farmers going over every detail in the make up of the machines and discussing carburetors,

Get A Surplus Of Power.

A mistake which many are likely

to make and which is to be avoided, is the purchase of too light a machine for the work that it is intended to perform. The fact that steam engines and gas engines are rated in a different manner and that the whole matter of rating power machinery is quite confusing to those who have not made a special study of the subject, makes it difficult to determine the size of tractor which will most economically perform various farm operations.

One reason why there is danger of selecting a machine which does not possess sufficient power lies in the fact that, in comparing tractors with horses many fail to give due consideration to the surplus horse power which they have been employing in their farm operations. It is common practice to use at least four horses to draw two fourteen inch plows. The power required to draw them through ordinary soil is sufficient to make a good day's work for four horses. It is true, however, that four good horses are capable of developing, for a comparatively short time, several times the amount of power necessary to pull two plows through ordinary soil. This surplus power is readily available in case it is necessary to plow over a steep grade; or if a spot is encountered which for various reasons may be more difficult to plow.

A surplus of power over and above that required under ordinary circumstances is just as desirable and economical, if not more so, in the case of many other farm operations as it is in plowing. The man who does not take into consideration the many advantages of ample power when purchasing his tractor will find himself seriously handicapped and will likely not be able to obtain its full efficiency.

Furthermore, the use of mechanical power will make it advisable in many cases to combine into one operation what has previously been accomplished by two or more separate operations. This will be done in order to effect a saving of man labor. The attachment of discs and harrows behind the plows, and pulling the entire outfit with a tractor is an example of the combining of farm operations.

The problem of obtaining the most efficient service from a given size of tractor is by no means completely worked out. With the exception of the very large types, not a large enough number have been in actual service for a sufficient time to fully determine their possibilities. Much has been accomplished by adjusting the tractor to the farm but to obtain the greatest efficiency it will be necessary to do some adjusting from the other end of the line. It is only naturally that the purchasers of tractors should first attempt to follow with their machines the same methods that they used when horse power was employed. The fact that tractors have proved as satisfactory as they have under these conditions gives great promise for what may be expected when farming methods become adjusted to the use of mechanical power.

The question of whether or not a tractor is a profitable investment for a given farm should be decided from the standpoint of that particular farm and there are a number of things which should be considered in making the decision. It is true, however, that the man who is not keeping in close touch with the remarkable developments along the

fever be very high, ten-drop doses of tincture of aconite, along with the fever drink, is beneficial. Hot bran poultices should be applied to the feet, and renewed frequently, not sloppily, but made in such a manner as will retain the heat. A plentiful supply of salt litter should cover the flooring. Care should be taken to turn him at least twice a day, and the bedding should be kept dry and clean, to prevent chafing of the skin or bedsores. After the acute treatment has terminated, shoes with plenty of cover for the sole—that is, the ground surface of the shoe should be thick and broad, gradually tapering off thin at the heels and at the toe—should be applied. With this class of shoe the horse moves over the ground with less concussion. Give him gentle exercise two or three times daily until he moves freely.

In parts of Devon farmers have decided not to harvest their cider apples, of which there is a big crop, and are turning their pigs into the orchards to eat the fruit that has already fallen. It is said that with labor so short the sale of the apples at the current price of 21 a ton is unprofitable. English Exchange.

Rye.—No. 2 nominal; No. 3, 94c. Barley—59c to 71c. Timothy—\$5 to \$7.75. Clover—\$10 to \$19, mostly \$16.50 to \$17.50. Pork—\$16.35. Lard—\$9.37. Kibbs—\$19.62.

GENERAL TRADE.

Hay.

Hay sold as follows: Berlin, baled, \$15 to \$16 per ton, loose, \$14 to \$15 per ton; Guelph, baled, \$20 to \$21, loose, \$16 to \$18; Harriston, baled, \$14, loose, \$12, to \$14; Owen Sound, baled, \$17, loose, \$13.50 to \$14; Peterboro, baled, \$18 to \$20, loose, \$18 to \$20; Port Hope, \$18 to \$21, loose, \$18 to \$19; St. Thomas, \$18 to \$20, loose, \$15 to \$17.

Coarse Grains.

Oats sold as follows on local farmers' markets throughout the province: Belleville, 35c per bushel; Berlin, 37c; Chatham, 35c; Guelph, 41c; Harriston, 32c; London, 64c to 66c; Owen Sound, 37c to 38c; Peterboro, 30c to 34c; Port Hope, 35c to 38c; St. Thomas, 36c; Stratford, 35c per bushel.

Barley: Belleville, 45c to 50c per bushel; Berlin, 50c; Chatham, 50c to \$1; Guelph, 48c to 55c; Harriston, 50c; Owen Sound, 48c to 52c; Peterboro, 50c; Port Hope, 48c to 55c; St. Thomas, 58c; and Stratford, 40c to 45c per bushel.

Poultry.

Rolled oats: Car lots, per bag of 90 lbs., \$2.35; in smaller lots, \$2.40 to \$2.50. Windor, Montreal. Linseed oil cake meal—Linsseed meal, No. 1, \$4.25 per cwt.; No. 2, \$3.75 to 4.00 per cwt. Oil cake meal, \$3.75 per ton, f.o.b. mills, Toronto. Gluten feed, \$2.80 per cwt. Cornmeal—Yellow, 93-lb. sacks in car lot, \$2.10; small lots, \$2.20 to \$2.30.

Poultry At New York.

Winnipeg, Dec. 3.—After an active morning, Winnipeg future market closed with Dec. at \$1.05, or 2c to 2½c up, and May \$1.07, or 3½c higher. Dec. at 40½c, and May oats at 42½c, or 3½c higher. Dec. flax 2½c up and May 1½c higher.

Chicago.

Chicago, Dec. 3.—Cattle: Receipts 6,000. Market steady; native beef steers, \$5.60 to \$10.55; Texas steers, \$6.20 to \$8.25; cows and heifers, \$2.65 to \$8.25; calves, \$6.50 to \$10.50.

Hogs: Receipts 7,000. Market weak, light, \$5.55 to \$6.50; mixed, \$5.90 to \$6.75; heavy, \$6.20 to \$6.75; rough, \$6.20 to \$6.35; pigs, \$3.75 to \$5.35; bulk of sales, \$6 to \$6.60.

Sheep: Receipts 12,000. Market firm. Wethers, \$6 to \$6.50; lambs, native, \$7 to \$9.05.

GRAIN QUOTATIONS.

Toronto, Dec. 3—Board of Trade quotations:

Manitoba wheat—Track, lake ports, immediate shipment, No. 1 white, \$1.15; do No. 2, \$1.13; Oats—No. 3 white, 41½c to 43c; standard, 44½c to 44½c.

Eggs ranged in price from 30c to 50c to 71c; new No. 3, 75c. Rye—No. 2 yellow, old, 71½c to 72c; No. 4 yellow, new, 64½c; No. 4 white, 64½c to 65c.

Oats—No. 3 white, 41½c to 43c;

standard, 44½c to 44½c.

Corn—No. 2 yellow, old, 71½c to

72c; No. 4 yellow, new, 64½c; No. 4 white, 64½c to 65c.

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