

Entertainment for All at the In-Plenty Tractor Show

One of the good reasons for making the date of the tractor show August 7-11 was to get into the watermelon season as early as possible. For there will be lots of fun as well as a good deal of work connected with the big show. And some of the fun will come from eating the luscious melons that grow in the outskirts of Fremont.

Last year a barbecued ox was also on the program. While details are not yet arranged there is no reason to believe the preparations will be on a less elaborate scale than in previous years.

One thing is almost certain. There will be more room than last year. The grounds comprise 640 acres, but last year there was rain almost every day and there was nothing doing on a large section of that space unless one wanted to use high rubber boots. If coming events cast their shadow before the ox for the barbecue will come, as last year, from the South Omaha stock yards, and coffee will be served by the German-American Coffee company.

There will be experts on every hand to explain to greenhorns all about the big machines. All kinds of questions may be expected to be asked, from whether or not the tractors are the same kind as are used in the European war, to whether it will take two or four horses to draw them.

These tractor shows are like picnic parties in many respects, and after the day's work is done there will be lots of opportunity for good times and recreation.

Last year there was a summer school one hour in the forenoon. The lecturer told just what the big machines would do and what they could not do. He showed how the tractor should be operated. Then when he had talked himself out, or the crowd thought he had, permission was given to ask questions. That would give one a chance to see that the lecturer had not run down at all, but could keep on talking all day and night if necessary. Women were almost persuaded that they could not plant a flower garden without a tractor, and the small children stopped playing horse and automobile and imitated their elders with some improvised toys that looked like the big machines their daddies had come to buy if they could find the cash or credit.

There was a time when these demonstrations were contests. But that way of conducting them was a dead failure. Contests are all right in old-fashioned fire engine company meets, when the ambition of each contending party is to play the biggest stream, but in tractor shows the object is not to beat the other fellow in speed or endurance so much as to sell machines. Of course no one wanted to buy old fire engines, but there are hundreds of farmers at the shows to buy tractors as soon as their "ship comes in," if not before.

For it is not always the fastest or the most enduring machine that a man wants. There are tractors for every kind and condition of man. One wants a machine that will last a lifetime and he wants a big one. His neighbor wants a cheap affair that will last him until he gets enough money to get a better one. One farmer has a big farm that can accommodate all kinds of big equipment—the bigger the better; another has only a small farm and is going to Manitoba, or somewhere, next year, and wants a machine that he can send by freight for not more than it cost in the beginning. Oh, yes, there are plenty of good reasons why the demonstration plan is superior to the contest plan.

Every day there are dynamite exhibitions. In these the lecturer shows how to plant trees by dynamite. The idea is that in this way the ground is not tramped down as hard as in the case when the hole is dug, for there is not so hard a wall for the tender rootlets to break through. Ditches are also dug by dynamite and all such suggestions as these go with the tractor demonstrations.

There is always a parade one day. The "animals" are all out in their cages, or well guarded. One day is devoted to Nebraska alone, another to Iowa and Kansas, or perhaps to the two states together, and there are other days for representatives of such states as may show interest. The implement dealers, of course, have a day of their own, and the Ak-Sar-Ben men have a day to themselves in making things hum. Last year the school children were drilled in a singing fest, and there was a sort of pantomime of the civil war and intervening history in which the veterans of '61 to '65 figured. The Redpath chautauque was there, too, with a force of speakers, and there was plenty of good music by the bands and various orchestras. The Fourth regiment Nebraska National guard had an encampment near the grounds last year and there were other side shows too numerous to mention.

The hot tamale sellers, the peanut vendors, the newspaper youngsters and the politicians will all be there, for it is presidential year this year, and besides preparedness upon the farm there will be appeals to be prepared to fight the combined hosts of Europe after they get done slaughtering each other.

The first tractor show on record was held in Nebraska. It was held in Omaha during the big land show of 1911. The credit for the original idea of demonstrating the tractor, then almost unknown in its application to farming, belongs to E. A. Hildebrand, who with the late R. H. Woodruff, advertising manager of the Twentieth Century Farmer, and H. E. Dimond managed and directed that part of the show.

The next year there was much talk of a tractor show in Omaha, but there did not seem to be any ground available and the event was postponed.

Then in 1913 permission to use the Coad ranch near Fremont was obtained. George Wols, at that time mayor of Fremont, became deeply interested in the enterprise and it was decided to hold the enterprise under the joint auspices of the Fremont Commercial club and the Twentieth Century Farmer.

The slogan at that time was "Let the buyer be better posted." Twenty-three manufacturers entered in that exhibition, with thirty-nine tractors. There was great enthusiasm and it was decided to make the demonstration an annual affair. The next year the show was held with twenty-seven manufacturers present and forty-nine



ALL SORTS OF POWER FOR TRACTION.

tractors. The grounds were at that time enlarged by taking three other farms.

The farmer gets a demonstration of what the tractor can do in such a locality as the one in which he lives. Of course, an expert can run a machine where a green farmer would make a failure of it. The farmer is allowed to see for himself just what can be done with the expert out of the way.

There are certain rules that are adhered to in the demonstrations. For instance, in the public demonstrations only one machine of any one make is allowed on the ground at one time. This rule is rigidly enforced to prevent crowding. However, if a manufacturer has several machines he can exhibit one one day, another the next and so on.

With the widespread use of tractors the time may come in a few years when demonstrations like this will be superfluous, except for the pleasure enjoyed at such outings. But for



some time yet there will be good shows at Fremont and the one next year will in all probability be bigger and better than the one of 1916. Those who don't take in the Fremont demonstration will surely regret it, especially if they are interested in the use of tractors.



WHEN THE LADY DRIVES.

time the price of gasoline is a great source of worry because of the vast quantities consumed by motors. The farmer who wishes power for his tractor is not worried, because there is now a complete line of farm engines and tractors that are guaranteed to burn kerosene as successfully as any gasoline engine will burn gasoline.

It is claimed, however, that the kerosene engine to be practical is built on the horizontal order, because they do not depend on the splash system of oiling, but are lubricated by mechanical oilers. It is said that upright engines cannot burn kerosene on account of their splash system of oiling. When

a charge of kerosene is taken into the cylinder and is exploded there is a small portion that does not explode but which falls down into the oil chamber. This kerosene soon dissolves the lubricating qualities of the oil and the upright motor is without lubrication. On the horizontal motor the lubrication comes from a mechanical oiler which is operated from the cam shaft, insuring a constant flow of oil to all parts of the motor as long as the engine is in operation. One of the largest manufacturers of this class of equipment is now offering a complete line of farm engines and tractors operated by kerosene.

Kerosene Engine Finds Favor

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will show you how to make your farm turn in the profits to which you are entitled. You will there gain many practical hints on agriculture from the thousands of other farmers that will attend. Demonstrations of power farming held each day of the show. Arrange to attend, and when you go, remember that

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