

### FOR BEST WORK GIVE TRACTOR GOOD CARE

First Consideration is to See that Machinery is Well Housed and Not Exposed.

The man who buys a tractor with the idea that it will do his work and be able to take care of itself will be sadly disappointed, but the man who buys expecting to give the tractor good care, keeping it well housed, as clean as possible, finding loose, broken and wornout parts as soon as they need repair, will find the tractor will more than pay him back.

The first consideration in taking care of a tractor is to see that it is properly housed. The man who buys a tractor without a good, dry place to keep it starts to lose money as soon as he gets the machine. Weather, with its rust and dirt, will start to work on an exposed new tractor at once and it is too costly a piece of machinery to treat that way.

A good tractor shed which will be adequate weather protection will not cost very much and it can be set in some convenient place away from the major farm buildings. Thus the danger from fire which might possibly be caused by the gasoline and oils which must necessarily be kept about the tractor will be lessened.

It is of the utmost importance that the tractor shed be weather-proof. If it were not, the depreciation on the tractor would be enormous, due to needless rust and corrosion. Since the tractor is a finished machine and also a costly piece of machinery, it stands one in hand to take care of it after he has purchased it. A single wall is all that is necessary, providing it has no cracks or knot holes for the rain and snow to beat through. The roof should be tight and should be made either of shingle or some good prepared roofing.

#### Small Shed Will Do.

It is not necessary to have a very large building for the tractor shed, but it is very desirable to have it large enough to include a work shop. No matter how good a tractor a man may have, there is always more or less work necessary to keep it properly tuned up and in good running condition. If the work shop and the tractor shed are combined in one building, it is very easy to do this necessary tinkering. There is always considerable repair work to be done on the various machines about any farm, so that the repair shop will be a great advantage for them as well. The floor of the tractor shed should be compact and should not be allowed to get dusty. Unless the tractor which one has is a very light one a concrete floor might not prove as desirable as one of well tramped earth or cinders. The lugs on the drive wheels of a tractor would not get much traction on a concrete floor unless the concrete was of exceptionally good quality they would soon chew the surface up till it was quite rough. A number of farmers have put plank floors in their tractor sheds and like them very well. Where the tractor shed and the repair shop are in one room it is a good plan to make one-half of the floor of concrete for the shop and leave the rest of the floor as it is to keep the tractor on.

#### Stay in at Night.

A tractor belonging to a careful farmer will spend very few nights outside the tractor shed. During the harvest season or any other rush season when the tractor is being used almost continuously it will not hurt to leave it outside over night. It is advisable, however, even then, to cover up the main part of the tractor with some sort of a canvas.

Some farmers have the mistaken impression that when they buy a tractor and sell their horses they will have no more chores to do. They might find this true for a while, but sooner or later they will discover that it takes constant watchfulness and care to keep a tractor or any other machine in service. A tractor should be groomed every morning that it is to be used just the same as one would curry and feed the horses. This work involves wiping off the various parts of the engine, oiling the bearings which must be oiled by hand, filling all the grease cups and the lubricator or oil reservoir, seeing that the radiator is filled with water and that the gasoline tank is filled. If this is done each time before the tractor is taken out it will not take very long and will save considerable time. The best thing about a tractor is that this work is not necessary if the tractor is not in use.

#### Work Systematically.

The writer has found that the best way to do the chores on a tractor is to do them in a regular order. For instance, each morning first fill all the grease cups, then oil all places needing oil from a hand oiler, then fill the oil reservoir, next fill the radiator, then fill the gasoline tank; afterwards one can wipe off the machine and then he will be ready for a day's work. While one is doing this work, he will naturally be watching the various parts of the machine and if anything is wrong or any part is broken, the chances are he will notice it and repair it before any serious damage is done.

Too much cannot be said to emphasize the need for continual watchfulness for things that are not right with the engine. The tractor owner who can operate his machine year after year with the least expense is

the man who is continually on the lookout for strange noises and peculiar actions in any part of the engine. Then he is very seldom surprised by finding anything wrong which will require a great deal of work and the replacement of a number of parts. Just as soon as a repair or adjustment is necessary, he will notice it and will attend to the matter before it becomes serious.

#### Use Good Oil.

Another matter which will receive considerable attention on the part of a careful tractor owner will be the kind of oil to use and the way to use it. The life of a tractor depends very largely upon this one feature. A tractor which is kept supplied with a good quality of oil of the right consistency will last much longer, will do a great deal more work and at the same time use less fuel than will a tractor which is given poor oil which is too thin or too thick and which is given to it at irregular intervals.

The man who takes care of his tractor and who looks it over every time before he puts it into service will find that he will get better service from it. He will have fewer breakdowns. His repair expense will be much less, and yet at the same time his tractor will last longer than will the one belonging to his neighbor who will not look it over as long as the thing will run—Twentieth Century Farmer.

### True Tractor Tales

I purchased my tractor a year ago last fall. It pulled the three bottoms fourteen inches to our desired depth, and owing to the wet weather last fall the soil was left in such condition that it was almost impossible to plow very much of it with mules.

We even tried to use our four mules on a sixteen-inch sulky, and the draft was so great that they couldn't stand up under the work. The soil was wet and soft in some places and dry and hard in others; in fact, we had all the variations one could think of.

In spite of these unfavorable soil conditions we plowed this ground with this tractor to a depth of four to six inches, and did the work without any trouble. In places the engine went into the mud six to eight inches and in other places the ground was so hard that it scarcely made a track. Of course, it took a greater amount of power to plow under those conditions, about three gallons per acre. We plowed from six to eight acres per day.

Last spring we broke some old alfalfa sod. Here we compared its work with a four-horse gang plow for one day. The horses' gang cut twenty-four inches, the engine cut forty-six. In the day's work the horses' gang gained about two rounds, but the engine plowed practically twice as much ground by measurement. The soil was in good condition and the engine consumed about one and one-half gallons of gasoline per acre in plowing. The gas cost 18 cents per gallon; thus the cost per day, including gas and oil, was 31 cents an acre. The cost of feed for the horses that pulled the gang plow amounted to 50 cents an acre; these figures, of course, do not include the labor incident to take care of the tractor, but was certainly not in favor of horses.

We have used our engine for discing and harrowing this spring, pulled a double sixteen-sixteen, disc, with harrow attached, and we found that the cost of discing and harrowing is about the same as plowing. In the fall we use the tractor for cutting our wheat and oats and for such belt work as is usually done on the farm.

For heavy work I am a strong believer in the tractor, as it can be used night and day, provided you have a good headlight at night; still, I like the moonlight much better.—Charles E. Dawson, Ray County, Missouri.

I have used my tractor, pulling three fourteen-inch plows eight inches deep and turning under from eight to ten acres per day. It costs me about \$3.50 per day to plow this amount of ground, using kerosene, which costs 8 1/4 cents per gallon, and lubricating oil, which costs 28 cents.

One thing I like about the machine is that it can do the work when it should be done. I have used it also pulling two eight-foot discs heavily weighted. I can disc from thirty to forty acres per day at a cost of about \$3.50, or approximately 10 cents per acre, and I feel I can do a better job than I can with horses. Since buying this tractor I have gotten along with one team and one man less, and our work is up in better shape.

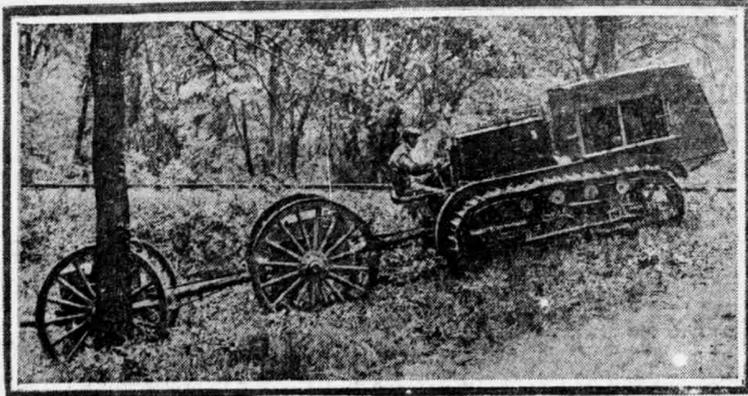
I have also used the tractor for baling hay, grinding corn, running ensilage cutter, and the facts are I can use it for most anything when anything is needed.—R. J. Mehaffey, Dodge County, Nebraska.

We purchased a tractor the last of April, 1916, and have used it for plowing, discing and harrowing in the field. Have done considerable heavy work around the barnyard, such as pulling over an old silo, hauling out a dead steer, pulling stumps, etc.

We have pulled a cylinder sheller with a drag feed for a neighbor to do considerable shelling and have found that we can shell about ten loads of corn an hour.

We expect to fill four silos this fall besides our own, and have already done enough outside work to earn the interest on the tractor for a year besides our own use. We will use it to pull our hay loader for our coming haying and could hardly do without it since we have become used to using it. We have been to no expense on the tractor, and so far as we can see it is not hurt a particle.

## When the Tractor Becomes an Engine of War



NEW ARMY TRACTOR.

—A. L. Mason & Son, Sac County, Iowa.

Mr. J. Hoebner of Dodge county, Nebraska, states that he is very enthusiastic over the tractor. The machine has been in use on their 200-acre farm for three years. It is a 20-35 machine and is used for plowing, seeding, threshing and all odd jobs about the farm.

Mr. Hoebner gives credit to the tractor for keeping his son on the farm. The boy had been raised near town and was acquainted with the ways of the city, which made the farm work very unattractive, and he decided to go to the city. He secured work in the factory where their tractor is made, in Illinois, and became much interested in the tractor.

After spending the winter in the plant he proposed to his father that if he would get a tractor he would stay on the farm. While his father did not care to buy a tractor, yet he did so under this condition.

After trying out the machine for three years they say they would not think of farming the old way.

I am using a tractor I purchased in August, 1916, size 10-20. I find this size very satisfactory for my needs and I believe if I were buying another I would get the same sized machine.

Since getting this tractor I have plowed with three fourteen-inch plows, pulling a six-foot harrow behind, thereby harrowing the ground thoroughly and as quickly as it is

plowed. I have also used it on a four-roll shredder, a ten-inch ensilage cutter, and pulled all these machines on the belt and on the road easily.

I think a tractor is all right as an investment. They are especially valuable where there are long rows, from 160 to 320 rods. We plow from eight to ten acres per day and use from twenty-five to thirty gallons of kerosene. This makes it much cheaper than horses, considering the amount of work done. So far we have had no trouble worth mentioning.—William Garnick, Valley County, Nebraska.

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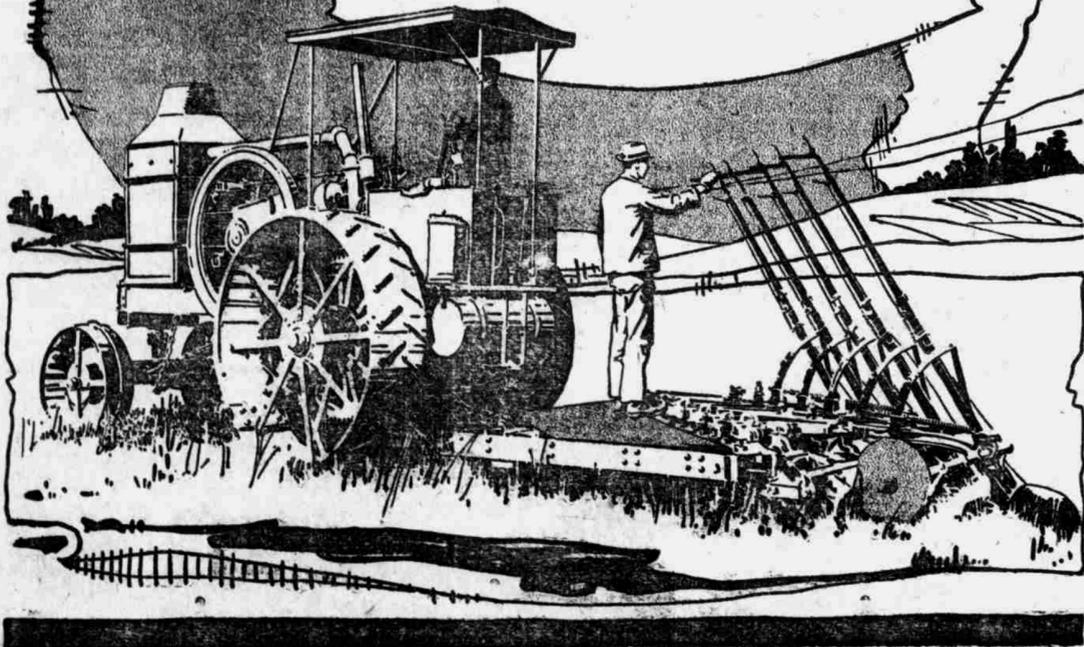
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