

Labor Shortage Is Driving Farmers to Adopt Many Labor Saving Devices

DEVICES TO SAVE LABOR BIG HELP IN FARM CRISIS

By R. C. Stewart

Labor saving devices are receiving more attention on the farm today than they ever have before. This is due primarily to the realization on the farm owner's part that to keep his wife and children satisfied he must have modern conveniences that will shorten the working hours, giving more time for recreation and special work in which the individual is interested.

The scarcity of men in the past few years and their unwillingness to work on the farm with its rush seasons and its distance from pool halls, has led some men to give up farming and most of the others to the adoption of outfits that will cover the ground quicker with less labor. This change has been very successful in most cases, and many are now farming alone the same ground which at one time required the services of two or three men.

EXCHANGE HARVEST WORK

Rush seasons still require the employment of extra men, but this is overcome partly by communities clubbing together and exchanging work. The hay harvesting problem is being overcome by using side delivery rakes and hay loaders. This eliminates the hand work of putting the hay in cocks and requires only one man in loading. In fact a man and boy can very successfully operate a loader. The hay slip or drag, as it is sometimes called, works very well where the haul is short and saves considerable time.

Many are resorting to the hay chopper and blower to put the hay in the mow. Needless to say this method requires a fairly tight mow. The expense of engine operation is made up for in the elimination of waste in feeding. Requiring little or no mowing and no horse man for the derrick, this method saves considerable labor, and if properly handled is faster than the old method, at the same time storing the hay in a much more accessible form for feeding. Less progress has been made in labor saving in the grain harvesting operation, but from time to time new methods take the place of old. The combined harvester and thresher has proven very valuable in the dry regions where the fields are so small. The adoption of bulk handling would save considerable labor and the expense of sacks and twine. This would necessitate the use of tight hauling boxes and storage bins as well as bulk handling facilities at the elevators. This extra expense would soon be overcome by the many savings and the elimination of waste due to mice and rats.

DAIRMEN HIT HARD

The dairymen have been about the hardest hit by labor shortage. The need for steady men the entire year and of extra help during the rush season has been hard to fill. This has led many to reduce their herds to a one man outfit. Others installed milking outfits and other labor saving systems that enabled them to carry their herd alone by depending on neighbors or hired help to put up the crops. The use of modern machinery places the hay in the barn quicker with less help and the use of corn planters, cultivators and binders has greatly reduced the amount of labor necessary to grow and harvest the ensilage crop.

The use of better stock and the intelligent feeding has increased profits even with the herd somewhat reduced to eliminate the need of hiring outside labor. The tendency at present is to reduce the size of the ranch or herd so that it can be taken care of by the family without outside help, the installing of devices and the using of better paying devices, and the using of better paying crops that require less work to grow and harvest. Take it through and through this will mean better satisfied and better paid farmers without the aggravation of having a hired man quitting at the busiest season or asking for more wages when he is not earning what he is getting.

The inefficient hired man is rapidly being replaced by the dependable and rapid machinery of modern agriculture.

Cattlemen Demand Law Regarding Bulls Be Enforced

Baker, April 17.—In view of reports from the forest service that many cattle breeders are violating the state law that requires range users east of the Cascade mountains to turn out one bull of a recognized standard beef breed for each 15 female cattle or fraction of that number, a rigid enforcement of the law probably will be demanded by stock raisers attending the annual meeting of the Cattle and Horse Growers' association to be held at Burns, May 24 and 25, according to S. O. Correll, secretary of the association. Correll has mailed letters to that effect to each member of the organization, urging that infringements of the law be reported to him, and to district attorneys. "No one can afford to have scrub bulls upon the range," Correll says, "and to furnish information regarding law breakers is the duty of every stockman in Eastern Oregon." George C. McMullen of Kansas City and O. M. Plummer, general manager of the Pacific International Livestock Exhibition, will attend the Burns meeting.

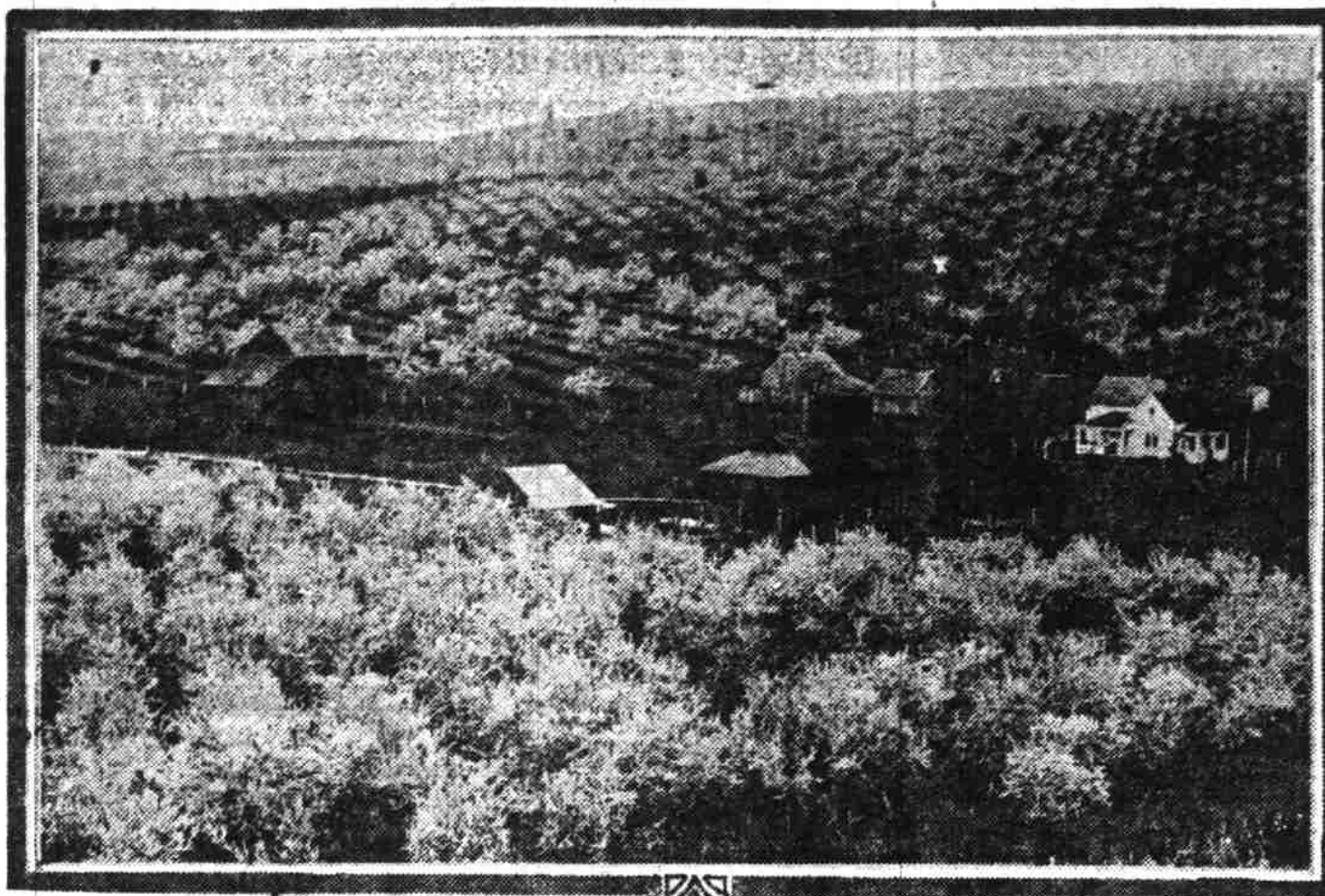
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CHOPPED ALFALFA HAY INCREASES ITS VALUE FOR FATTENING STEERS

Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis, April 17.—(Special.)—Chopping alfalfa hay for fattening steers increased its value 23 per cent in 10 feeding tests conducted at the Eastern Oregon branch station, as reported by E. L. Potter, head of animal husbandry, at the Agricultural college. "Part of the increase was due to saving in waste and part to better gains made by the cattle," Professor Potter said. "The hay was of good quality and the cattle were encouraged to eat as much as possible. This waste was reduced from five to one and a seventh pounds per animal per day."

This report and others dealing with cattle feeding were presented at the first annual meeting of the Eastern Oregon Livestock Feeders' convention at La Grande, March 25-26. It was voted to make the convention an annual affair and leave the time and place of the next meeting to the animal husbandry department of the college. The convention went on record as commending the work of Robert Withycombe, superintendent of the Eastern Oregon branch station, and Professor Potter. A resolution in favor of the college, university and normal mileage measure was adopted by a unanimous vote.

Reclaimable Lands Extensive in Oregon

Most of the more than 500,000 acres of wild meadow and tule lands in Oregon can be reclaimed by drainage and irrigation and made to double their productiveness by plantings of domesticated grasses, says the new bulletin, "The Improvement and Water Requirements of Wild Meadow and Tule Lands," just off the O. A. C. press. The bulletin was written by W. L. Powers, head of the soils department, under whose direction vast areas have been reclaimed or made more productive by water control. Farmers and others interested may get free copies by writing the state college at Corvallis. Two other reclamation bulletins, "The Small Irrigation Pumping Plant," and "The Duty of Water in Irrigation," are also ready for free distribution.

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Going to Farmers' Convention
Spokane, Wash., April 17.—Three wheat growers, representing the Inland Empire, will attend a mass meeting of farmers to be held in Kansas City, April 22, according to a declaration of a farmers' meeting at the Chamber of Commerce this afternoon.



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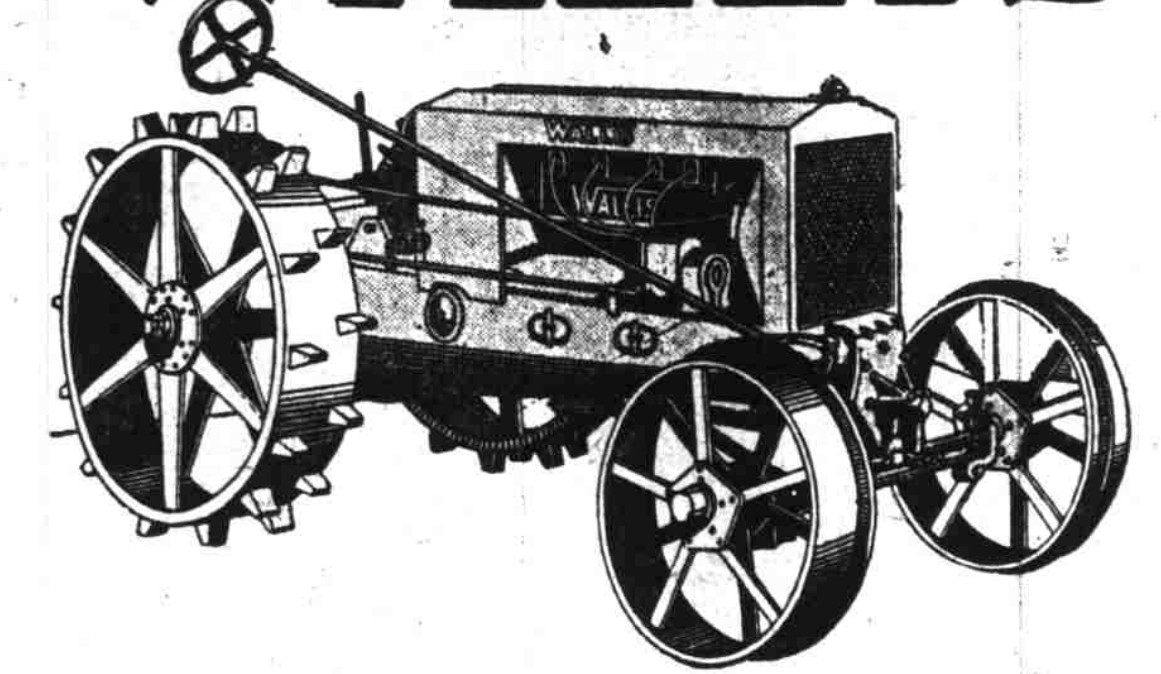
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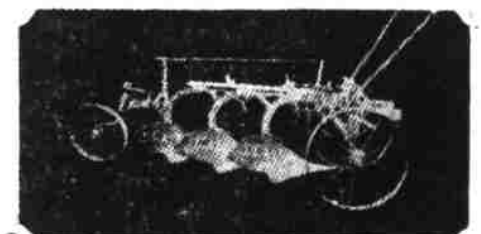
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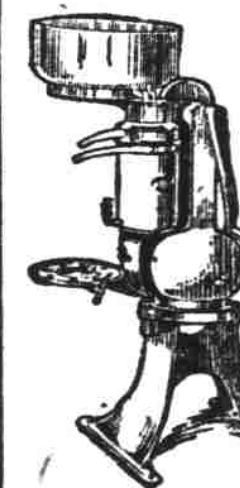


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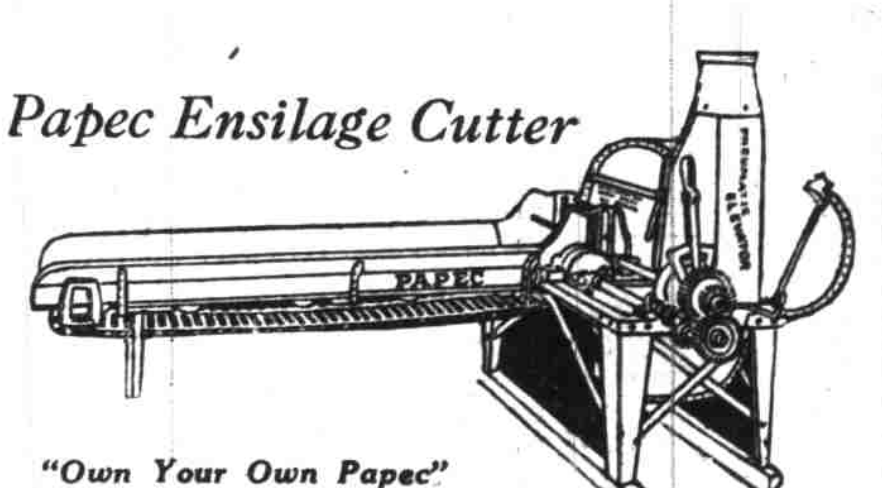
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