

American Commercial Affairs

Ack'd.

Rec'd. JAN 6 - 1920

Ans.

Subject

Practical Demonstration of

A "SINO-AMERICAN" PLOW

Successfully adapted to Chinese Conditions

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Tillage

The success of our practical demonstration of a one-handed American plow, pictures of which are shown herewith, suggests great possibilities of similar demonstrations by interested missionaries in other parts of China. The very keen interest of the Chinese in the plow was very evident. Although the weather was inclement, about 200 were present, including the Commissioner of Police, the Commissioner of Industry, a personal representative of the Tuchun, and representatives from the Civil Governor and others on down. Gentry, students, and farmers were also present.

The general verdict was strongly in favor of the foreign plow. It was a better constructed, more useable, and efficient product than the native plow.

Two types of plows were used, the first with a wooden handle and beam, and the second of iron and steel construction throughout. The former weighed 27 catties and the latter 39 catties, as against 37 and 45 catties for the two Chinese plows used in the demonstration. The two plows were donated to the College of Agriculture and Forestry by the Eastern International Corporation and the American Trading Company, of Shanghai. They are modern plows in every respect. The one-handled feature gives them the appearance of the Chinese plow and makes the Chinese feel at home with them. They plough deeper, and with a lighter pull, and are easier to manipulate than the heavy Chinese plow. The plows are in every way adapted to Chinese farming conditions, and their general introduction could not be considered other than an improvement in Chinese agriculture.

The putting on of such a demonstration by any one interested will not only provide a very easily established as well as sustained point of contact, but will certainly be pointing the way to something better in the every-day affairs of the people. To those who do considerable itinerating in the country, the plow would attract as much attention as stereopticons, moving pictures, and the like, and be very much closer to the people's own interests. Ploughing demonstrations



PLATE II.



PLATE III.

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could be made as often as desired, and you can assure yourselves of an inquiring crowd.

The light weight of the plow would be no considerable burden in traveling. After all the demonstrations had been made that were desired, there ought not to be any difficulty in disposing of the plow at cost price to some of the landowners or farmers. The instrument is small, and results are assured.

Arrangements have been made to secure these plows for use as suggested above, at cost price. The American Trading Company, Szechuen Road, Shanghai, will sell the "Mow Sung" plow of 39 catties' weight, of iron and steel construction throughout, complete with extra plough point, painted red, with Chinese characters in black, for Mexican \$8.00, plus transportation to interior points. The Eastern International Corporation, 38 Kiangse Road, Shanghai, will sell their "Kentucky Pony" plow, of 27 catties' weight with wooden handle and beam, natural wood finish, extra plough point, for gold \$6.50, plus transportation charges to interior points. These are not retail prices and the above companies will quote such prices upon application. The two types of plow will be seen in Plate I.

Directions and suggestions for making the demonstration a success will be gladly furnished either by the College of Agriculture and Forestry or the two above-named companies. It should be clearly understood that we have no interest in this matter, except from the standpoint of the missionary and the improvement of Chinese agriculture, and that we are under equal obligation to both these companies in co-operating with us in the matter.

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PLATE I. This picture shows the four plows used in our recent demonstration. From left to right, the first plow is the wooden beam and handle "Kentucky Pony" plow, 27 catties in weight; the second is a Chinese plow, 37 catties in weight; the third is the "Mow Sung" plow of iron and steel construction throughout, weight 39 catties; the fourth is a Chinese plow, 45 catties in weight. See also under description.

PLATE II. This picture shows the demonstrator lecturing about the plow, just before the actual ploughing was done.

PLATE III. This picture shows both plows at work. At this particular time the Chinese plow was ploughing about five inches as against eight for the American plow.



~~China~~
American Plans in China

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