Subject: Beet Harvester

Great Western Sugar Beet Co.
Denver, Colo.

Gentlemen:

I am enclosing you a set of nine snap shots taken in field of the Beet Harvester.

TOPPER: The topping mechanism is perfect and I cannot see any improvements to be made on this part of the mechanism.

LIFTER: We have chrome nickel steel points to put on the lifter for the different kinds of soil that will be encountered in harvesting beets. These points can be readily attached.

CONVEYOR: The conveyor seems to be of the right principle as it allows the dirt to fall out between beets. The conveyor can be improved a little by setting it at more of an angle and leaving more room on top for beets to pass through, in other words, cross shafts are a little too close to run way of conveyor. This of course only requires a very small change to make it ideal.

HOPPER: We simply put on a sheet iron box at rear to catch beets, but this should be made with slats in the bottom to allow any fine dirt to fall through that jars off of beets. The operator as it is now made dumps by hand but this should be changed so it can be dumped by the operator with his foot as his time is occupied in watching the row in order to keep lifter on it. If he gets off the row he will lose some of the beets.
STEERING APPARATUS: This part of the mechanism works OK. It is based on the same principle that is used in the Avery Cultivator.

We consider this harvester as a whole a practical farm implement. All bearings on this machine are of the ball and socket type which allows perfect alignment in case frame should twist. In looking back of the machine at the farrow you can see that farrow is clean of beets and we believe that this is what you would want accomplished.

In one photograph you will note that there is still a beet on the ground before the lifter takes it. This beet is about 6" in diameter and was topped perfectly. The topping is generally better than is done by hand.

The machine is ready to demonstrate at any time up to the time that beets will be harvested and after that it will be in the beet fields around Milwaukee. If you care to see this machine I would like to have you here as soon as possible.

Yours very truly,

DAVIS & THOMPSON COMPANY

[Signature]

President
October 11, 1929

Davis & Thompson Company
57th Avenue and Mitchell Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Dear Sirs: Attention: Mr. F. M. Davis, President

Thank you for your letter of October 7, inviting us to witness a demonstration of your beet harvester, and we regret to advise that we will be unable to avail ourselves of this opportunity on account of the distance.

Thanking you again for your letter, and the pictures of your machine, we remain

Yours very truly

Geo. W. Rienks
Supervising Engineer
Great Western Sugar Beet Co.
Denver, Colo.

Gentlemen:

The beet harvester is working out very nicely and we will be able to work it out for next season.

We are satisfied that we have overcome all obstacles and are satisfied that we have a practical implement for the sugar beet industry.

Yours very truly,

DAVIS & THOMPSON COMPANY

FMD:H

Continuous—Rotary Drum Type Milling Machines
Pipe Threading Machines
"ROTOMATIC" Drilling and Reaming Machines for Pistons, Yokes, Connecting Rods, etc.
6 Spindle Lathe
12 Spindle Vertical Automatic Drilling Machines.
Nipple Cutting, Chamfering and Threading Machines
Patented Automatic Chain Clamping
Self Opening Die Heads

"HIGHEST PRODUCTION MACHINERY IN THE WORLD"
Great Western Sugar Beet Co.
Denver, Colo.

Attention: Geo. W. Rienke

I suppose you received my letter of October 7th together with snapshots of beet harvester.

We have had this beet harvester in different fields and have tried it out in different soils including light sandy and also clay loam. The machine has proved that it will operate in all fields satisfactorily and get all the beets. We will be prepared to furnish a few machines for next seasons requirements. These machines will sell at a price not to exceed $800.00. They will weigh about 2000 lbs. each. This machine we now have was an experimental machine and was designed to prove certain principles and was not designed along lines that would be satisfactory for manufacture. We are now redesigning this machine so that it will be cheaper to manufacture. We propose to make this machine so that it can be shipped knocked down so that the farmer can place it together the same as he now does with a reaper or harvester.

One farmer in whose field we operated stated that he gets less tear and better topping with this machine than he does with hand labor. This is more reliable for he can always be sure to get his beets out without relying on the human element. We have come through this fall's harvesting without any breakage of parts and the machine has always performed when required to do so to the satisfaction of farmer and sugar beet men in this territory.

We have moving pictures of this machine performing in the field. We would be pleased to send you this film and you could reproduce it to your satisfaction on an amateur projector which you no doubt have in your possession or could easily acquire for a short time. Of course we would like to have this film returned to us. If you are interested we will be glad to forward it to you on request.

Yours very truly,

Davis & Thompson Company

President

“HIGHEST PRODUCTION MACHINERY IN THE WORLD”
November 27, 1929

Davis & Thompson Company
57th Avenue and Mitchell Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Gentlemen: Attention: Mr. F. M. Davis, President

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of November 21 giving a report on the operation of your beet harvester, for which I thank you.

We would be glad to receive the film showing your machine in operation in the field, and to return it to you after viewing same.

Yours very truly

Geo. W. Rienks
Supervising Engineer
December 4, 1929

Attention: George W. Rienks

The Great Western Sugar Co.,
Denver, Colo.

Gentlemen:

In answer to your letter of the 27th we will soon be able to send you the films showing the beet harvester in operation.

While this film was taken the harvester was still in the experimental stage. Since then we have installed a carrier to take care of the leaves. We have also an improved method of getting rid of dirt which we tested out after the film was taken. All in all we have improved this machine considerably since this film was taken. The film itself will show you the topping and the operation of the machine in general. We have improved the conveying part of machine a little but I do not believe that we can improve on the topping.

The films are now being used by another party but we will secure them in a day or two and then will send them to you. We would like to have them back as soon as you have finished with it as the International Harvester Co. and another concern would like to see it.

This machine is for sale or we are also willing to sell it on a royalty basis. Our line is high production machinery and does not allow for the manufacture of this machine.

Yours very truly,

DAVIS & THOMPSON COMPANY

President
December 10, 1929

Davis & Thompson Company
57th Avenue and Mitchell Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Gentlemen: Attention: Mr. F. M. Davis, President

We have just finished viewing the film of your beet harvester, and we are today returning the film to you, in accordance with your request.

We note from your letter that the machine has been improved since this film was made. We are not interested in the purchase of the machine at this time; however, we are very glad to have had this opportunity to view it in operation.

Yours very truly

Geo. W. Rienks
Supervising Engineer

GWR: EMC