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Opposed disc plough

furrows hard

Kimberley soils

The work of reclaiming the eroded areas of the Ord River catchment has posed special problems for field staff of the Department of Agriculture engaged on this large scale project. Thousands of miles of furrows must be contour-ploughed and seeded in extremely hard ground over big areas of eroded country.

Officers of the Department’s North-West Division and Soil Conservation Service have devised special techniques and developed special implements to overcome the problems of large-scale operation under difficult conditions.

One of the implements is a mounted opposed disc plough with a centrally-placed, single-pronged ripper.

The plough uses opposed 26 in. discs—as illustrated—to give maximum penetration on hard soils. Because the discs work against each other the drag on each side is balanced and the discs bite in better.

The opposed discs produce two watering furrows in the one operation, together with a substantially wider and higher bank than can be produced in one operation with a conventional two-furrow disc plough.

The centrally-placed ripper point shatters the ground below the bank and between the furrows, thus markedly increasing water penetration. Also, a bank constructed on broken ground is more stable than where loose soil is heaped on solid ground.

In operation, the mounted opposed disc plough can be raised or lowered at will on the hydraulics to produce either continuous or discontinuous banks.

Seed boxes can be mounted either on or above the plough and, with appropriate delivery tubes, seed can be placed wherever desired in relation to the bank or furrows.

Apart from use on regeneration areas this versatile implement can be used for the construction of pasture banks or border-check banks in irrigation schemes. For this purpose the ripper should be removed.

Even on the hardest of grounds this unit has proved relatively trouble-free provided the ripper point is kept in good order.