

## **OVER 200 ATTEND "FLYING SAUCER" FIELD DEMONSTRATION**

A field demonstration of the recently introduced Arthur Rotary Slasher (already popularly known as the "Flying Saucer") attracted a crowd of over 200 to Mount Compass on Wednesday afternoon, 3rd June. The demonstration was arranged by the manufacturers, J. Todd & Son Limited.

Undaunted by cold, showery conditions, the large attendance of farmers and representatives of stock and tractor firms saw the machines' inventor, Mr. I. R. Arthur, put the "Flying Saucer" through its paces in bracken and scrub country in the vicinity of the Mount Compass oval.

The machine consists basically of a square steel plate saucered in the centre. To the four extremities of the plate are attached heavy-duty chains, three feet long. The disc is drawn by tractor and rides on the ground, conforming at all times with the contours. It is geared to the power take-off and revolves at high speed. It can be towed by any tractor with a P.T.O. Vegetation in the path of the whirling chains is pulped.

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The manufacturers had claimed that the machine was the answer to bracken infestation, and would clear it at the rate of seven acres per hour.

During the first phase of the demonstration, thick bracken, heavy with rain, was cleared effortlessly, leaving only torn stalks, 2 to 3 inches high. Light scrub consisting of bushes, honeysuckle and light saplings, was then tackled and effectively cleared. Saplings up to two inches in diameter were cut without retarding progress. To prove that mallee stumps would not constitute any obstacle, the machine then passed through several heaps, scattering and breaking them without loss of speed.

Ladies of the Mount Compass district turned out to serve afternoon tea, which was provided by the manufacturers.