

IHC Mogul

8-16

Chicago, IL 1915



On August 12, 1902, International Harvester Company was formed by the merging of five large equipment manufacturers, including McCormick Harvesting Machine Company, Deering Harvester Company, Champion Line of Harvesting Machines, Milwaukee Harvester Company, and Piano Manufacturing Company. The new company had a 95 percent market share in harvesting implements. The voting power for the new company rested with the sons of two harvesting machine pioneers, Cyrus Hall McCormick Jr., and Charles Deering, plus George Perkins, partner of J.P. Morgan, who arranged and financed the consolidation.

They were primarily known for the production of harvesting equipment and only began experimenting with tractors around 1905. These tractors were huge, powerful, and clumsy, and although they were useful for large areas, they did not work well for the small-acreage farmer. Demand for big tractors to break up prairie land fell off in the mid-teens as the land boom in Western Canada collapsed. Manufacturers rushed to come up with two to three-plow lightweight tractors to replace horses on some smaller farms. IHC saw the need for innovation and worked to develop the new Mogul 8-16 in 1915, which was an instant hit.

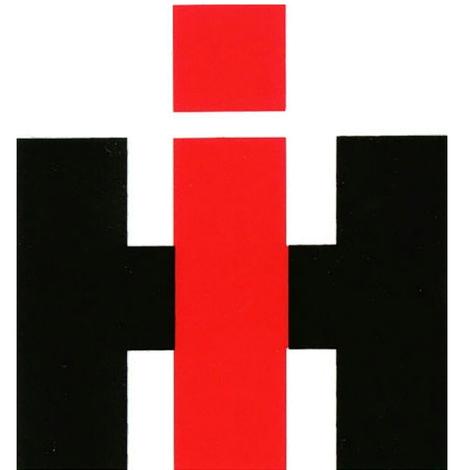
In 1918, as a result of an anti-trust action by the United States Justice Department, IHC consolidated its McCormick and Deering dealerships. After that, each sales territory would have only one IHC dealer and all the IHC tractors were to be called Internationals.

IHC saw no need to reinvent the wheel, and used a collaboration of the best minds to help revolutionize the market. They produced many tractors during their reign and were ranked as one of the largest manufacturers of farm tractors. In 1984, IHC was purchased by Tenneco and merged with the Case Corporation.

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The Mogul 8-16 was developed to meet the demand for a general-purpose farm tractor for the average-size farm. The 8-16 was intuitively designed to be only 56 inches wide, so it was well-adapted to run between rows of corn, pulling corn pickers, and corn binders. It is only 5 feet high and turns short, making it well-adapted for use in orchards. Also, the unique shape of the frame, curved up from the front wheels forming an arch, absorbs the greater part of the engine vibration, making this tractor very quiet and steady while in operation.

The Mogul 8-16 was one of the most popular small tractors of its time. During the three years McCormick (IHC) sold the Mogul (1914, 1915, and 1916) 14,065 were sold. In 1915, one-third of the 15,000 tractors sold in the United States were Moguls. This means the remaining two-thirds were divided among 57 other tractor manufacturers.



The IHC logo is not only meant to be a red i on top of a black H; it is supposed to look like a man riding a tractor from above. The black H makes the wheels and axle, the red the body and the dot on the i is the man's head or tractor's seat.