

HOME AND FARM.

THE GRANGE.

On June twentieth, one of the division granges met at Truro, Colchester County. During the afternoon, besides their regular business, they had some interesting discussions. They resolved among other things to hire a train and hold a pic-nic at the experimental farm at Nappan, in the early part of July.

In the evening, a very interesting programme was presented. Many who were not grangers being present and taking part in the discussions. Among those who took part were Mr. Tompson of Bass River, McGregor Archibald, J. C. Black and J. S. Miller of Truro; Col. Wm. Blair of the Experimental Farm, Nappan, and Prof. H. W. Smith of the School of Agriculture.

The liveliest discussion arose over the question how far farmers could combine for mutual protection and the control of the markets for the sale of their produce. Some maintained that their efforts should be expended in lowering the cost of the products, while others urged that they should form a combination to keep up the price of their products.

Excellent music was furnished by the Truro Musical Club, and members of the Grange.

Such meetings do good to those that attend. They awaken an interest in all matters relating to the farm. They induce the farmer to think. They give to the people a chance for social meetings under the best of influences. And to many a tired housewife, they mean a period of rest and recreation all too seldom obtained.

Like all organizations controlled by man, the Grange may have its faults. It is to be expected, but it has done, is doing, and bids fair to do a great amount of good.

ENSILAGE

PART IV.—ENSILAGE LITERATURE.

Ensilage literature affords an excellent exemplification of the maxim "Of the making of books there is no end." The amount that has been written upon this subject is simply enormous. Both the wise and the unwise have felt themselves bound to instruct the world on this subject. As a consequence, there is no theory too absurd nor practice too ridiculous not to have its advocates.

The great bulk of what has been written may be passed over in a few words. There is however, a certain and quite considerable portion that will command study and thought. The writers upon this subject may be classed under the following:

Those who know nothing of the subject. (Quite a class.)

Those who have had a silo but who have guessed at the results. (The largest class)

Those who have performed some half-hearted experiments. (This includes English and American experiments.)

Those who have performed accurate experiments. (Principally Germans.)

It is to Germany that we must turn to find rational experiments on this subject. Some excellent work has been done in a few cases in England and the United States, but these are rather the exception than the rule.

AN EXPERIMENT.

Space will not permit to give even the names of the articles of most value on this subject, let alone any review of them. It is proposed to give a simple experiment, not because it is especially typical, but because of the many lessons that can be drawn from it.

A silo was filled with green fodder corn. The corn was run through the cutter before being put in, and was well picked while filling. Two feet of straw was put on top, 57.27 tons of fodder were put in the silo. It became quite hot. After about three months it was fed out. There was of ensilage in the silo when ready to feed 36.96 tons. Of this 22.6 per cent was not fit to feed, and had to be thrown away. This was a layer about six inches deep on the bottom and sides and top. It amounted to 8.35 tons. The account stood thus:

Total fodder put in silo.....	57.27 tons.
Loss from fermentation.....	20.31 "
Loss from spoiling.....	8.35 "
Total loss.....	28.66 "

Ensilage remaining 28.61 tons.

In order not to perplex the reader with complicated mathematical operations, nothing was said of what particular constituents were more especially lost, but it suffices to say that nearly 48 per cent of the feeding value of the ensilage was destroyed, but what was left was in a more succulent and more palatable condition than if it had been dry, but not necessarily in a more digestible state. The presumption is that it was more digestible, although no experiments were performed to test this.

The loss is enormous and no improvement in digestibility or the desire to have green fodder to feed could possibly justify it. The only thing that does in any way excuse it is that probably as great a loss would have occurred if the fodder had been dried, although this was not tried, because it was thought impossible to cure this particular fodder by drying.

The ensilage was what is called sweet ensilage. It contained noticeable quantities of alcohol and acetic acid as well as some sugar. It was pleasant to the taste, had a bright green color, and a strong but not disagreeable odor. It was what is called good ensilage.

The loss by fermentation was about 35 per cent. How to reduce this is the question to be solved. As yet experiments do not indicate that it can be done, but the problem is a tempting one and happy will he be who solves it.

It should not be supposed that the loss in this case was unusual, for it was about an average case. The average of some sixteen authenticated cases the loss of nourishing material was about 35 per cent.

The loss around the sides was pretty high and a little difficult to account for. It was completely spoiled—rotten. This does not occur in all silos, but when it does occur, even if only an inch or so deep, it should be taken into consideration, as every inch on the outside of the silo means a great deal of ensilage. If the silo had leaked the loss would have been all the greater. With corn, if proper care is exercised, there is no occasion for having much greater loss than the above.

Any farmer can perform a similar experiment to this at no cost whatever. Let him weigh the fodder as it is put in the silo. He need not weigh every load, but weigh an occasional one if he has not the convenience to weigh all. He should then take an average sample of the fodder, about five or ten pounds accurately weighed, and dry it in an oven as quickly as possible without scorching. This tells him how much water and how much dry matter he has put into the silo. Suppose he put in 50 tons of fodder, and he had taken 10 pounds to dry, and found that when thoroughly dry it weighed 14 pounds, then at this rate the 50 tons which equal 100,000 pounds would contain 15,000 pounds dry substance. When he comes to open the silo he should weigh a cubic foot of the ensilage near the top of the silo, in the centre, and near the bottom. If he multiplies the average of these weights by the number of cubic feet of ensilage he will have the weight of ensilage in the silo. A sample should be weighed and dried as with the fodder in order to get at the dry matter. All loss of dry matter is loss of nourishing material. Experiments of this kind would be valuable to the farmer.

FARM ACCOUNTS.

In no other business do the conductors of it keep their accounts in such a slack way as farmers do. Scarcely can you find a farmer who can tell what any crop cost him to raise, and still less can he tell the cost of raising a colt or a calf. When he comes to sell his price is not fixed by the cost of the article but by the necessity of selling. If he wants money badly he sells at one price, if he does not need it, he may keep the animal another year before selling without regard to the cost of the year's feed.

Farm accounts are not easily kept. Very few lines of business require so many entries for the amount of the transactions. If it is desired to know the cost of a crop of grain all the work and expense put on the crop must be noted down, then at the end of the season, if the crop has had a fair chance and has not paid, the farmer is in a position to either resolve to improve his method of culture, or if he does not see how to do this he should try something else. He can then intelligently decide what to raise and what not to. There has been considerable said on the subject whether feeding for beef paid or not. One finds that it does and another that it does not. The circumstances of the two may differ, or one may understand his business better than another, but the one with whom it does not pay should know it, and either make it pay or take up some other line. Thousands of dollars annually are lost in those provinces directly, from not keeping accounts.

It is true that it is hard after doing a day's work to come in and settle down to writing. Practice or habit will make it much easier. In fact it will only come from habit. Do not undertake any complicated system but make each entry plain in a day book, then have a ledger in which each account appears by itself. After one gets interested in it, it becomes a pleasure rather than a drudgery.

The *Farm Journal* strongly recommends the wire picket fence, which may be seen at all points along the Railways, as the most convenient and durable fence now made. "It is easily put up," says the *Journal*, "stout stakes ten or fifteen feet apart are all that are needed for support, and two men can set half a mile of it in a day. It is light and portable and can be readily taken down, rolled up and removed. The pickets are only about three inches apart so that not even a hen can squeeze through. It is a durable fence, as once being set it will last a generation, while its cost is about fifty cents a rod. This fence is used along many portions of the Intercolonial Railway and gives eminent satisfaction both to railway officials and adjacent farmers, which is more than can be said regarding the barbed wire fence. Mr. Neil Fraser of Pictou is engaged in the manufacture of the wire picket fence, and finds a ready sale for all that he is able to make. There is no doubt that it will shortly supersede all other styles of fencing now in use."

PERSONALS.

Dr. Twitchell, editor of the *Maine State Farmer*, lectured in Sackville, N. S., June 19th. It was an interesting and able discourse.

The Minister of Agriculture and Dr. Saunders, Superintendent of the Dominion Experiment Station, are expected to visit the Maritime Provinces this summer.

The crop report for June, from the United States, is that wheat will exceed last year's yield by 100,000,000 bushels. Barley and oats about the same as last year, while the acreage of cotton is greatly increased.

ADVICE TO MOTHERS.—Are you disturbed at night and broken of your rest by a sick child suffering and crying with pain of Cutting Teeth? If so, send at once and get a bottle of "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup," for Children Teething. Its value is incalculable. It will relieve the poor little sufferer immediately. Depend upon it, mothers; there is no mistake about it. It cures Dysentery and Diarrhoea, regulates the Stomach and Bowels, cures Wind Colic, softens the Gums, reduces Inflammation, and gives rest and energy to the whole system. "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup" for children teething is pleasant to the taste, and is the prescription of one of the oldest and best female physicians and nurses in the United States, and is for sale by all druggists throughout the world. Price, 25 cents a bottle.