

Seed Grain.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—In response to your solicitation to the readers of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, in February 15 number, to give their experience and what may have come under their observation along the line of seed grain, I herewith submit the following: It is too true that a great many farmers do not seem to realize the importance that this question demands, of not only sowing clean and well-matured seed, but also sowing varieties that are adapted to their respective localities and surroundings, such as soil, etc. That the same variety of any grain does not give the same results in every locality and every

Best Varieties of Corn.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—Within recent years perhaps no subject connected with agriculture has received so much attention as the growing of corn. As a food factor it is now looked upon as one of the most valuable aids to the farmers, nearly all of whom now aim at growing a patch of corn. Enough has been said and written with regard to preparing the land, planting, cultivating, harvesting, silage, feeding, etc., to fill volumes, but, sir, to my mind, one very important phase has been left entirely in the background. That is the varieties of corn that will produce the best results in the different localities and on the different soils. Even our experimentalists keep shy of this phase of the

question. Seeds are distributed to the farmers, but there is no silage corn on the list—none even recommended. How is this? Silage corn will not mature sufficiently in many sections to warrant keeping it for seed, hence seed must be purchased each year.

Varieties in plenty, all highly recommended, of course, seem to come and go with the seasons. The farmer who gets the same variety of seed two years in succession, should he desire it, has to get up pretty early in the morning. During the season of '97 I had a very satisfactory crop (16 tons to the acre) from a variety which I purchased. The next season I could not obtain a pound of that seed for love or money. Now that

silage, as well as fodder corn, has proved to be one of the most useful as well as the cheapest foods a farmer can produce, the question of obtaining a variety of seed suited to the different sections is of the greatest importance, and would mean a great addition to the crop each season; in fact, in many instances it would mean the difference between a good crop and no crop at all. Let us, then, have more light on this phase of the corn question.

In the middle section, at least, some care should be exercised in selecting the corn patch. A field with a southern slope may mean considerable. If not underdrained, see that it has a good natural drainage. Do not plant where the patch may be shaded a part of the day from the sun by woods or hills. No matter how rich the land may be, it should have a stimulant before planting corn in the spring.

To prevent crows, as well as barnyard fowls, from destroying the seed, as well as the young plants, moisten the seed, immediately before planting, with coal oil. A two-ounce vial is sufficient for a bushel of seed. I have used this for nine years and never had it fail.

DONALD ROBERTSON.

Bruce Co., Ont.

[ED. NOTE.—Comparative tests of varieties of silage corn have been made on the Guelph College Farm and over the Province of Ontario in connection with the Experimental Union for many years, reports of which have appeared in the columns of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE. The report of last year's tests appeared in our Jan. 1st, 1900, issue, page 11, and reads as follows: "The tests that have been conducted by the Union the past year show Mammoth Cuban and Mastodon Dent to be best adapted for Southern Ontario, Wisconsin Earliest White Dent for central, and Salzer's North Dakota and King Philip for central and more northern districts."]

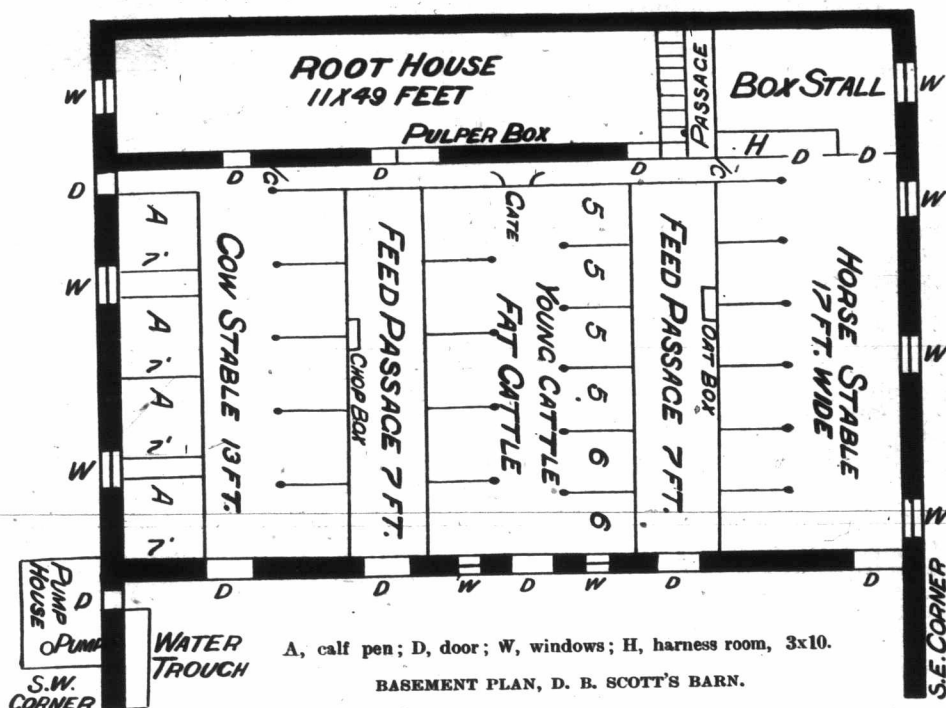
Engineer of Highways and Colonization.

Mr. A. W. Campbell, Ontario Provincial Road Instructor, has recently had the title of Provincial Engineer of Highways and Colonization Roads bestowed upon him by the Government, and in addition to his present duties he will henceforward have supervision of plans and specifications relating to colonization roads. His office has been attached to the Public Works Department.

A Good Barn for Beef Raising.

According to request, I send you the plan and description of my barn, which was erected last summer. It is intended for a 100-acre farm, all working land, and we consider it quite sufficient for even a larger farm. It is 76 by 64 feet, and is none too long for the stabling below. If it was two feet longer it would be better, as it would give more room behind the cows; that is the only fault we see about it below. The barn is built of good material, and stands on a stone wall 10 feet high. The timber is all sawed, which gives it a fine appearance inside. The outside posts are 18 feet long, main posts 26 feet long, timber posts and beams 10x10 inches. Main part of barn 36 feet, with 14 feet to back over root-house, and 14 feet in front for shed over stable doors. It is covered in with first-class pine lumber and cedar shingles on the roof. All the bays are double-boarded above the stabling, drive floors the same with plank and inch boards, which prevents steam from ascending and spoiling the hay or grain. The granary is 21 by 22 feet, finished with dressed lumber, and maple flooring in the passage, which is 7½ feet wide, which gives ample room for cleaning the grain beside the bins. The face boards of the bins are rounded on the ends, which makes them much easier to put in and take out. The mow beside the granary is scaffolded 8 feet high, also the 14-foot drive floor, to hold chaff below, which is very convenient. The rest of the front mow is used for storing straw. There are no divisions between drive floors and mows. All chutes or trapdoors are covered with caps, and the doors are hung at the top with hinges, so that when you open them they swing back from the bottom into the bay, where they are caught by a wooden spring. Their own weight keeps them shut, as they are hung four inches from the perpendicular inwards when closed, and can easily be opened and shut with a fork. This is a safe arrangement, as no one can fall through a trapdoor of this description. There is a slide on one of the chutes with a flap on hinges, that turns up or down like the double feed, so that you can either put straw into the passage or into the stable for bedding by the same chute. There are two chutes at each feed passage, so they can be used for different purposes, the one for hay, the other for straw or chaff. A spout from the granary conveys the oats to the bin below, also chop descends in the same way to the chop box.

The wall below is built so that there is the greatest amount of space possible for stabling. The front wall is all in the shed, with the exception of five inches, and the root-house wall is all in the root-house but five inches, leaving a space of 35 feet 2 inches inside for stabling. So the main posts of the barn stand partly on the wall and partly on the sleepers or joists. The height from floor to joists is 9 feet. The floors, as well as the bottoms of all the mangers, are cement, finished with one inch of Portland cement on top. Horse stalls are plank above the cement. The ventilation system consists of 3-inch drain tile passing through the top of



BASMENT PLAN, D. B. SCOTT'S BARN.

kind of soil has been shown conclusively by the published reports of tests carried on at the various Experimental Stations established in the Dominion; in fact, there is quite a difference in the results of those at Guelph and Ottawa. Also, farmers who live quite adjacent to me tell me that varieties that have proved a success with me have not proved as great a success with them; and herein is what I think to be the great value of the experimental stations to the farmers. At these stations more varieties can be tested, and with greater accuracy, than by individual farmers. I may say, in our locality the varieties of grain principally grown are fall wheat, peas, and oats, a few growing a little spring wheat, and most growing some barley and principally for feed for their own use.

Spring Wheat.—Of the little grown, it is mainly of the Colorado variety, Wild Goose, and some other varieties. With me, the Wild Goose did not prove the success it should have done. This season I intend to sow a small area of one of the varieties sent out by the Ottawa station—Wellman's Fyfe, I think, is the name—which proved a success with a friend near Clifford, Ont.

Peas.—About the only variety of peas grown is the Golden Vine or Multiplier. Some farmers report having 50 bushels per acre the last season, and so far the pea bug has done little or no damage to this crop.

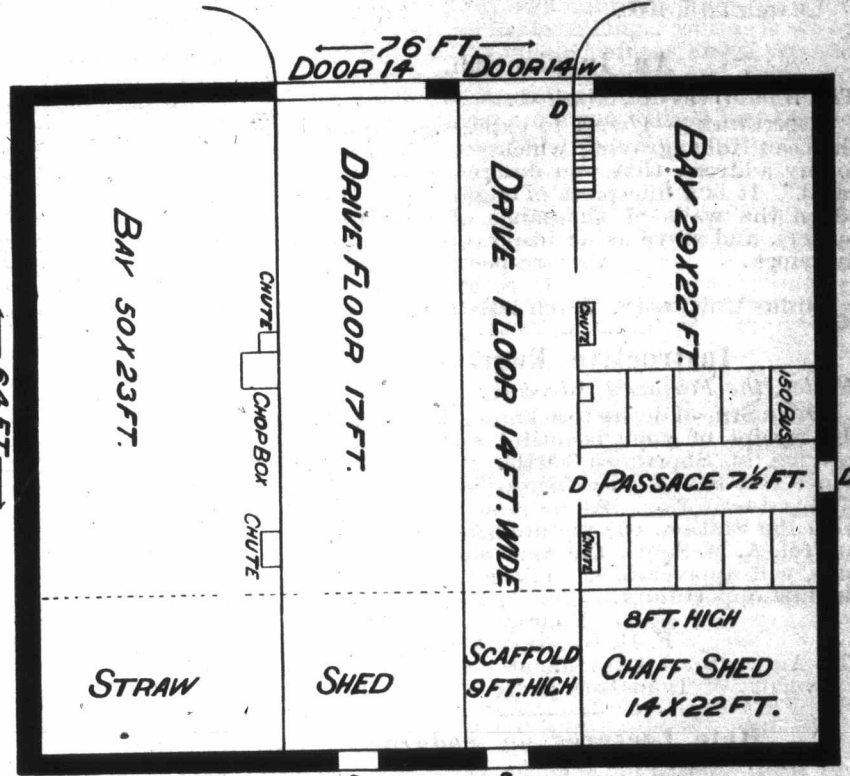
Oats.—Siberian and Banner are the principal varieties grown. My own experience has proven that the Siberian is the better of the two in the last two seasons. Some farmers complain that the Siberian is more subject to rust than the Banner.

Barley.—Mensury and the common Six-rowed are the varieties mainly grown, but rather more of the former, for the reason that this variety usually produces more straw and grain per acre. So far as I am aware, another Russian variety, known as the Mandscheuri, has not been tried to any extent in this section. I think that from the tests made at Guelph this is the better variety. It is not because barley cannot be grown successfully in this locality that so small an acreage is sown, but for the reason of the low prices of this cereal that has prevailed for some years in the past. I think more should be grown. Prices are advancing, and not for this reason only, but as a feed product I think it is profitable.

Cultivation and Seeding.—The soil in my own immediate vicinity is mostly a clay loam, with a porous clay gravel or gravel subsoil. The methods of cultivation mainly followed are twin- or gang-plowing in the early fall, followed by a good harrowing, followed later on by a single plowing. In the spring a seed-bed is made with a disk or spring-tooth harrow, levelled and made fine with the iron harrow, and seed sown with the seed drill. It is quite common to plow again in the spring with the twin or single plow, harrow with the iron harrows, and then sow with the seed drill, and roll.

Bruce Co., Ont.

JAS. TOLTON.



UPPER FLOOR, D. B. SCOTT'S BARN.

the walls at intervals. We are of the opinion that this is not sufficient when the stables are full of stock. We can obtain more ventilation by opening the chutes partly, but this plan has two objections, filling your barn with steam and also allowing the cold air to blow down, causing a draft below. We would prefer some system of ventilating by wooden pipes as a help to the tile, at least one at each end of the stabling, going up say 20 feet, and going out at the end of the barn, and protected in such a way that the rain would not descend in it, and it would also help it if it were larger at the bottom than the upper end. There is no place where a ventilator would be of more service than from the cap that covers the stair that ascends to the barn; this being