



We Welcome Practical Progressive Ideas

Trade increases the wealth and glory of a country; but its real strength and stamina are to be looked for among the cultivators of the land.—Lord Chatham

Vol. XXXII.

FOR WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 25, 1913

No. 52

THIRTY-TWO YEARS' EXPERIENCE WITH THE SILO

Thos. B. Scott, Middlesex Co., Ont.

A Letter from the Builder of the First Silo in Canada—Some Early Mistakes—A Commentary on the Silo and Silo Apparatus of Today

IN 1880 I saw Dr. Bailey's book on Ensilage, advertised in "The Country Gentleman." It looked good. We knew a cow would give a full mess of milk on fresh grass, but she would not on dry hay. In 1881 I built the first silo in Canada. It was 32 feet long, 12 feet wide, and only 12 feet deep. With our present knowledge we can easily afford to laugh at our first silo. This was a case of the blind leading the blind.

The silo was boarded outside and in with matched boards, and the space between filled with sawdust. A timber was sunk level with the floor. Five iron rods (1½ inches) extended to the top of the silo. The rods cost \$21. The cutting box was elevated to the height of the wagon. The team was hooked from wagon to horse-power. The corn went rapidly through the cutting box and was elevated with a big cup shovel.

In four days we had our silo plumb full. We covered the top with 12 feet boards in a double layer, cut to slip inside as the corn settled. We put heavy scantling on the rods and screwed it down solid. We had forces enough on the rods to raise a barn. First thing next morning—disappointment. The ensilage had settled and left the screws; \$21 gone; no good. It must be a continuous pressure. We had the remedy at

hand. We loaded the ensilage three feet thick with cord wood. This made everything solid.

No one in our country had seen ensilage before, but we were beginning to smell it. The corn was green, and of course developed a good deal of acid. Still the odor was pleasant. Doubting, anxiously we opened our first silo. The

To Each and Every One of Our Folks

Farm and Dairy extends its Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

news spread—T. B. Scott has opened his silo! We fed about three feet across the end. Our surface was small, but the labor of handling boards and wood was large. However, it pleased the stock if it did get much ridicule from critics, who "smelled sour crout." Prosperous farmers suggested many improvements.

The elevator was not a success. Cobs jumped off the carrier and the wind blew the leaves all over the yard. The blow saws all this waste. A very important improvement is the tube of moveable pipe attached to the mouth of the

blower, reaching within a few feet of the bottom of the silo. The sections can be detached as required. This device completely prevents the separation of lighter and heavier parts of corn and one man can distribute the corn evenly over the whole silo.

We have fed silage continuously for 32 years and with the present improvements we find silage to be the cheapest feed both in winter and summer, and the cheapest to store of any other forage crop. Many new forms of silos have been built since we made our first experiment. One of the best of these is the tub silo hooped with iron. When well built and enclosed, it is a good silo, but open, it is not a success. Enclosed, it will cost as much as a cement silo, and is not so satisfactory or durable. A cement silo properly built is a permanent improvement on a farm.

There have been, in the last 25 or 30 years, very many valuable improvements in agriculture, but of all these, the cement silo holds first place. If the stock farmer is justified in borrowing money to improve his conditions (and he is) then the silo has first claim.

The three most important stock crops are corn, roots, and alfalfa. Grow these largely, not to the exclusion of other crops. If your land is not in condition for these crops, make it so, and grow them. No country in the world will give quicker or better returns for enterprise and energy than Western Ontario. Cast thy bread upon the waters, and thou wilt receive it again—in not very many days.



The Men, Representing the United Farmers Associations of Canada, who waited on the Dominion Government in Ottawa Last Week

The illustration shows the following members of the delegation: Front row, left to right: F. W. Green, Secretary, Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association; J. A. Maharg, President, S.G.G.A.; R. C. Henders, President, Manitoba Grain Growers' Association, and of the Canadian Council of Agriculture; W. C. Good, B.S.A., Paris, Ont. Master, Dominion Grange; Jas. McEwing, ex-M.L.A., Drayton, Ont., member Dominion Grange. Back row: Rice Sheppard, Vice-President, United Farmers of Alberta; J. B. Wood, Vice-President, M.G.G.A.; E. C. Drury, B.S.A., Barrie, Ont., member Dominion Grange; C. E. Platt, Tantalion, Sask., director, S.G.G.A.; R. McKenzie, Secretary, M.G.G.A.; E. Carwell, Red Deer, Alberta, Vice-President, U.F.A.