

The Dairy.

Soiling Cows on Dairy Farms.

THE feeding of milch cattle in a way to save all their manure, and to enable them to make the most economical use of all that grows upon the land devoted to fodder crops, is accomplished by what is termed "soiling." This is seldom practised in this country, not from any lack of minute explanation of the system and of its advantages by the agricultural press, and not by reason of there existing any reasonable doubts whether it would succeed in this country. It has been successfully practised by farmers in many

ous facts, or any one may prove them such after having had sufficient trial to learn how to manage with reasonable economy. The question is, How to do this: at least, How to BEGIN. Knowing that Mr. Donald G. Mitchell—the author of that very delightful and instructive book, "My Farm of Edgewood," which we have taken occasion more than once to commend to our readers—had given much thought to this subject, we wrote him for permission to publish his plan for beginning a system of soiling on an old farm, which is detailed in the book above referred to. Instead of this, Mr. Mitchell writes:

"I send you a rough draft of the shed I had proposed to build, which would have been a cheap but substantial affair, and which, as a manufactory of

would count for its true value; the cattle would be protected from the sun, and with a sufficient head of water at command, and a few feet of hose, the utmost cleanliness might be secured, and the temperature moderated at will. For success in soiling, particularly with corn-fodder, heavy manuring is essential; and the more rank and ammoniacal the dressing, the greater will be the succulence; and as the crop matures no seed, a reserve of mineral food will be left on deposit in the land for subsequent cereal crops. I do not think you can urge soiling too strongly; and I am satisfied that in ten years' time no good dairyman upon smooth lands within close neighbourhood of towns, will ever turn his cows to pasture."—*American Agriculturist*.

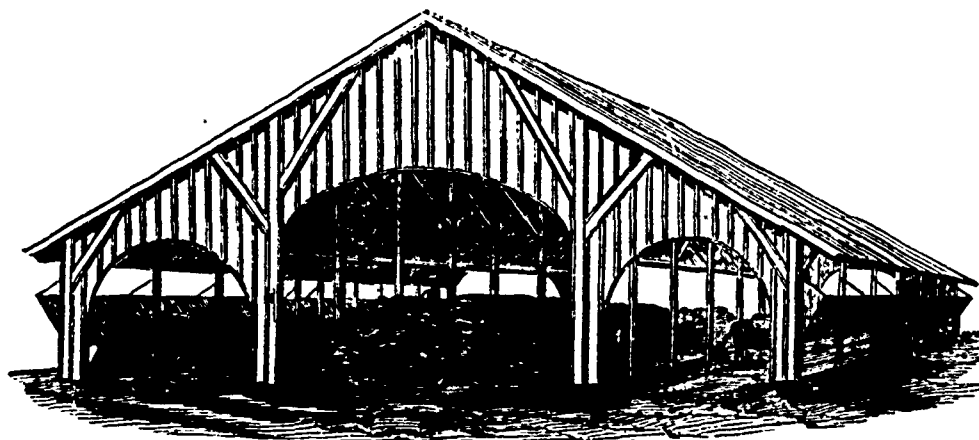


FIG. 1.—ELEVATION OF SUMMER FEEDING SHED—FOR DAIRY OF FIFTY COWS.

different localities. Nevertheless, few farmers can be brought to believe that the benefits are so great as they really are, and they seem to feel as if they could not spare the labour required to take care of the stock in stables. Besides, few farmers have buildings adapted to the purpose, and so centrally situated that the labor of hauling the fodder from the fields to the cattle is not a great bugbear. Soiling cows will pay, and may easily be done on many dairy farms. The advantages may be briefly enumerated, viz.:

1. The cows are kept in better condition, give more milk, are kinder, more docile, and hold out in milk longer, than if allowed to roam.

manure alone, would, I think, have paid for itself in three seasons. Were I to erect all buildings *de novo*. I would so arrange them as to make one feeding place serve for both seasons. But my old winter stables were neither centrally situated, nor were they so disposed as to admit of an economic handling of the corn fodder, or other green food which might be supplied. And this last is a capital point, when reckoning upon the advantages of feeding a herd of twenty to fifty animals, two or three times a day, throughout the busy season. Green corn-fodder is bulky and heavy; every half mile of transport counts largely; and if the fodder be handled over two or

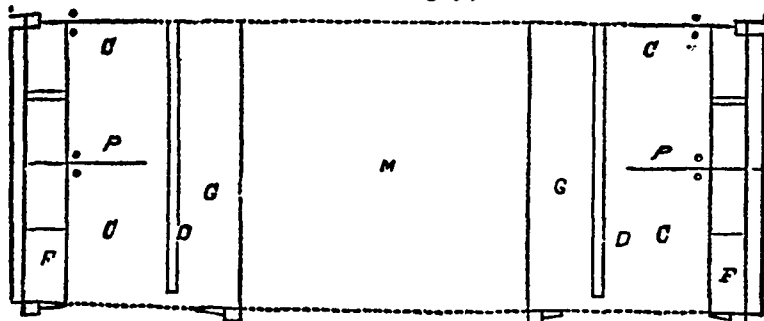


FIG. 2.—GROUND PLAN OF 16 FEET IN LENGTH OF THE FEEDING SHED.

REFERENCES.—C. C. Cattle Floors; D. D. Drains for liquid manure; F. F. Feeding troughs; G. G. Gangways in rear of cattle; M. Manure heap; P. P. Two of the partitions between pairs of stalls.

2. The interior fences of a farm may be entirely dispensed with; a large yard being provided for the cows to take exercise in for an hour or two in a cool part of each day.

3. The entire product of the land is secured and fed to the cows. None of the crop is spoiled by the droppings of animals, nor hurt by their tread, nor by being lain upon; nor is it stunted in its growth by close cropping during the heat of summer when it can least endure this.

4. Both the solid and liquid excrements of the animals are saved without loss, to be applied to the soil at the best season, and in the best form, according to the judgment of the farmer—an advantage which outweighs all the others.

We do not propose to argue the above question of expediency. The advantages above stated are obvi-

three times for bestowal along the mangers of interior stabling, a great deal of labor is needlessly sacrificed. Again, my proposed summer-shed was not only central but within easy 'hauling' distance of the muck bed, from which I counted upon a weekly supply for the accumulating manure heap. And yet again, this manure heap would be within easy carting distance of the fields to be tilled the following spring. A shelter for the manure, under the conditions supposed, I should consider quite as important as a shelter for cattle. It is the habit with many who grow corn fodder to help out the August pasture, to scatter the newly cut stalks over the parched fields. Under these conditions, with a fiery sun, and a scorched turf, I believe that the loss of fertilizing qualities in the manure is enormous. With the feeding shed, every particle of manure

TO KEEP BUTTER SWEET IN A CASK.—A compound of one part sugar, one part nitre, and two parts of the best Spanish salt, beaten together into a fine powder, and mixed thoroughly with the butter in the proportion of one ounce to the pound, has been found to keep the butter in every respect sweet and sound during two years that it was in cask. It is also said to impart a rich marrowy flavour that no other butter ever acquires, and tastes very little of the salt.—*Irish Farmers' Gazette*.

CHEESE FACTORY IN ILLINOIS.—The *Prairie Farmer* says, we are informed that a cheese factory, on a small scale, we presume, is to be established in the vicinity of Hainesville, Lake Co., Ill., the present season. This we believe, will be the first effort of the kind in the West. The factory system has been found so satisfactory at the East that we have no doubt of its success here. We hope to hear of more efforts in the same direction. Dairying is already a profitable business here and may be made much more so. Success to the first cheese factory in Illinois.

It is rather flattering to our vanity, to find that Canada is ahead of Illinois in the matter of cheese factories: we had two or three in operation last season.

Sheep Husbandry.

SHEEP IMPOSTURE.—The *Ohio Farmer* says, it is informed that certain parties residing in Michigan are procuring sheep and colouring them with a composition of lampblack and tallow, and driving them into Ohio, and selling them at almost fabulous prices, and that a large sum has already been realized by this outrageous swindle.

TO MAKE EWES OWN STRANGE LAMBS.—A correspondent of the *Prairie Farmer* proposes the following artifice:—"Take a ewe which has lately lost her lamb, and start the blood a very little in the lower part of the nostril. Put the strange lamb to sucking her, and let her smell it. She smells her own blood, of course, and, in most cases, will own the lamb."

FATAL FIGHT BETWEEN TWO SHEEP.—As two rams belonging to H. Cleave, Esq., of Cholesey, were grazing together on the 23rd ult., in a meadow near his house, they were observed to retire a short distance so that the space between them was about fifteen yards, and after facing each other for some time, they suddenly rushed at each other, their foreheads meeting with a crash. Immediately after, one was observed to fall, and on examination it was found that the force of the collision had broken its neck.—*Wiltshire Mirror*.

SHEEP SHEARS.—Few people have any correct idea of the difference in saving by the use of good shears. It is profitable to get the very best that can be had. They should be of the best steel—and of medium length—the points not too sharp. The spring should not be too stiff—as the hand soon becomes weary. Experienced shearers will always select those having long blades. Those who pay no attention to the kind of shears they use, frequently mutilate the sheep and besides this, they leave enough wool on their backs to pay for a good pair of shears in one season. It is good economy to select the best shears, and see to it that they are kept sharp.—*Rural World*.

PASTURING ORCHARDS WITH SHEEP.—Allow me to give what I consider the best way to treat an orchard after it has been seeded to grass; that is to pasture it with sheep. They seem just fitted for the purpose, as they remove very little from the soil that is not returned; they eat what apples drop early because of worms, together with the pests themselves, and keep the grass down short, making it good picking up the fruit. I know by my own experience and the testi-