

SOUR SILAGE.

I built a silo last summer and have it filled the first time with corn that was sown in drills three feet apart, a little thick, but had lots of ears, that got nearly ripe before cutting. The ensilage seems to be good, the cattle are very fond of it, but it is very different to any that I have seen. It is cold, and nearly as sour as vinegar. I would like to know if such silage would be hurtful to cattle in any way. When we first opened it there were mouldy spots through it for about one foot and a half down, but after that it is good to the very outside. H. D. Huron Co., Ont.

Ans.—Your corn was evidently too green and full of sap when put in silo to make the best quality of ensilage. It would have been better to have given it more time to ripen even if the leaves got frozen some, and better to have left it to wilt for a few days after cutting before putting in silo. The excess of sap produces an excess of acid, which discounts the quality of silage. It is not likely to be hurtful to cattle if fed in moderation and mixed with cut hay or straw, or if cattle are fed hay or straw uncut as a considerable part of their rations, but if fed heavily, with little other food, there might and probably would be evil effects. We would not advise feeding more than 25 lbs. per day of such silage to mature cows, and proportionately less to younger cattle.

GRAY TURKEYS WANTED.

Would you please inform me of anyone keeping the English gray turkeys, as I would like very much to get some? H. T. PETERSEN. Vancouver District, B. C.

Ans.—Some person having this class of birds should advertise them in the "Farmer's Advocate."

MARKETS.

FARM GOSSIP.

At the Ottawa Experimental Farm.

A visit to the Central Experimental Farm at this season of the year finds the officials and employees exceedingly busy; in fact, they are generally busy the year round, but just at present the work is mostly being done in the buildings. The Director, Dr. Saunders, is completing his annual report, which comprises over 1,200 pages of manuscript. Prof. Grisdale and Mr. Frank C. Hare, of the Department of Agriculture, who has charge of the Government poultry-fattening stations throughout the Dominion, have gone to Nova Scotia to address the Farmers' Institute meetings. Mr. Hare will remain in the Maritime Provinces until the end of the month. Mr. A. G. Gilbert, of the Poultry Department, is also in the Maritime Provinces, addressing meetings of various kinds.

BANNER OATS POPULAR.

Three carloads of seed grain are arriving from the Western Experimental Farms, two from Indian Head and one from Brandon. There is an increasing demand for Banner oats, and as a result a considerable proportion of the shipment is made up of that kind. Dr. Saunders says that the Banner oat seed that is being sent down from the Western Farms was selected from grain that yielded as much as 120 bushels to the acre during the past summer. He further states that the yield of Banner oats on the Central Farm for the past seven years has been in the neighborhood of 60 bushels to the acre. The yield for the past season was a trifle under 50 bushels to the acre, owing to the unfavorable weather and the intense heat when the oats were forming. He is of the opinion they are the best oats for the average farmer. Owing to the rush of work, the Farm officials have found it impossible to start the distribution of seed grain as early as they did last year, when they commenced about the 3rd of January. The work is under the supervision of Mr. Fixter, the Farm foreman. The quantity is limited, and attention will be paid to applications as they arrive.

FEEDING FOR MILK.

On Feb. 1st the Farm officials intend to start an experiment with the milk cows, with a view of finding out which ration produces the most, and milk of the best quality. They have twenty-seven milk cows, but only eight will be experimented with, as only that number will be fresh milkers then. Four of the cows will be fed mash, dry hay, ensilage and roots, while the other lot will be fed dry provender, ensilage, roots, and hay.

FATTENING STEERS LOOSE OR TIED.

A feeding experiment, that is being watched by farmers in this part of the Province with considerable interest, is being carried on at the Experimental Farm this winter. Prof. Grisdale, last fall, on his return from England, purchased twenty-seven three-year-old steers throughout the Ottawa Valley and district for the purpose of carrying on an experiment to find out whether it was more profitable to feed animals for beef chained up or to let them run loose in a box stall, and if loose, the amount of room required. They were put in the barn on the 23rd of November, and divided into three lots, with nine steers of the same age to the lot. Nine were chained up in stalls, another nine were turned loose in a box stall, and the third nine were turned loose in another stall with about two-thirds the room allotted the second lot. When they were placed in the stable they weighed on an average 1,200 pounds each. Up to the present writing they have been fed two-thirds ensilage and one-third roots pulped, amounting to fifty pounds per day per steer. When weighed on the 8th inst., the average weight of the three lots was 1,400 pounds, showing a gain of 120 pounds in about six weeks. Each lot is making about the same gain, and as each lot is being fed on the same ration, it will be interesting to know just the final result of the experiment about May 1st. The experience of most practical feeders who have tried loose feeding is decidedly favorable to that plan. The ration will be changed on the 13th inst., when gluten meal will be added and the amount will be gradually increased as the steers require it.

The above experiment is being carried on with the same number of two-year-old and yearling steers. The

two-year-old steers were put in the stable on the same day as the three-year-olds, and weighed 1,072 pounds. Their average weight last week was 1,147 pounds. The yearlings weighed 953 pounds when put in the stalls, and when weighed last Wednesday they averaged 1,075 pounds, showing a gain of 122 pounds in six weeks. The three-year-old steers that are in this experiment are all dehorned except the nine that are chained in the stable.

"FATTENING" VS. "LIMITED RATIONS."

At the request of a number of farmers, last winter, Prof. Grisdale started an experiment with ten calves (steers), to find out whether it is more profitable to rush calves intended for beef from the very start or to feed them as the average farmer feeds. The steers will be two years old in April. At the commencement of the experiment, five of them were placed in a box stall and fed on the "fattening ration," while the second, comprising the same number, were placed in another stall and fed on the "limited ration." The lot that is being fed on the "fattening ration" have been fed all they would eat for the past fourteen months. At present they are getting eight pounds of gluten meal, together with some ensilage, and they are making a daily gain of three pounds. When weighed last week they averaged 1,150 pounds. The other lot that are being fed on the "limited ration" are not doing so well. They are being fed forty pounds of ensilage and roots per day (two-thirds roots and one-third ensilage), and when weighed at the same time as the former lot, averaged 815 pounds. They are of the same age as the lot that are being fed on the "fattening ration." The former lot have cost \$3.25 per hundred pounds of beef, and the latter \$4.00. The experiment will be finished about Easter.

Note.—The cattle in the above experiments are being weighed every two weeks. VISITOR.

An Independent Journal.

The useful work a publication such as the "Farmer's Advocate" can accomplish when publishers and editor are above being influenced by considerations of advertising patronage or official emolument is exemplified by the changes wrought in the Province of Nova Scotia by a few words of much-needed criticism made by your representative when reporting the Provincial Exhibition in Halifax in the fall of 1900. Your just denunciation of the antiquated facilities afforded the market people who supply the city with farm products has had the effect of awakening the "city fathers" to the enormity of their offence, not only against the farmers who cater to the wants of Halifax citizens, but the community of farmers in general. You also pointed out the hardship imposed on exhibitors at so comparatively small a show by compelling them to remain with their exhibits ten whole days. Your remonstrance in connection with this feature was also effective, our last season's exhibition programme lasting only seven days. There is good reason for the belief that had it not been for the "Advocate's" vigorous exposures, much more obnoxious obstructions would have been imposed on cattle importers and owners by the authorities and officials who run the quarantine and tuberculin-test business, Dominion Experimental Farms and other Government enterprises, many of which have evidently been conducted more in the interests of officials and employees than in assisting the farmer to adopt more profitable methods, are also much in need of your impartial scrutiny. MARITIME FARMER.

Clover Threshing Machinery.

As an illustration of improved methods of modern machinery in the one branch of clover threshing Warren Lord, of Hyde Park, County of Middlesex, with a fourteen-horse power White (London) portable engine, and Oshawa (1901) Model improved huller, threshed on the farm of R. M. Edwards, lot 13, concession 3, Township of Lobo, in five hours, forty-six bushels and a half, and left the seed in perfect condition for market, the clover being the property of Messrs. Stronhoff and Edwards, and the product of around fifteen acres. This is very fast work, in your correspondent's estimation, who has often, with the old-style machine, considered himself fortunate if 8 to 10 bushels were produced in an uncleaned state. On being complimented on the speedy manner in which the work was performed, Mr. Lord very unassumingly stated that he had done far more speedy work than the above. One thing in connection with it is that the onerous job of clover-threshing has lost its terrors, and the workmanlike facilities of modern machinery is truly a marvel. JOHN C. WALLIS.

Middlesex Co., Ont.

Artistic Features Appreciated.

Allow me to congratulate you on the Christmas number of the "Farmer's Advocate." Its artistic appearance, clean letterpress, the variety and value of its contents, are at once noticeable. To the general reader your reproduction of special paintings by Canadian artists is a very interesting feature. The photogravures and brief biographical sketches in connection therewith will be generally appreciated. You have put our farm homes, on which so much for the weal or woe of the country depends, under obligation. Personally, I have a high appreciation of these homes, but if in any of them there is lack of intelligence, or interest in agricultural pursuits, the blame certainly does not attach to the editors and proprietors of the "Advocate." We shall leave one copy of the "Advocate" on the library table along with other good things. Yours sincerely, J. J. BAKER, Principal.

Harding Hall Girls' School.

Beet Sugar in Colorado.

The sugar-beet industry in Colorado is making wonderful gains. Farmers who understand more about it are taking to the business more kindly, and they find that where they have proper facilities for irrigation it is about as profitable as anything else they can raise. During the past year the farmers of Colorado have been paid \$2,000,000 for the beets they have raised. It is estimated that \$20,000,000 worth of sugar beets were raised in the United States last year.

Montreal Markets.

Montreal, Jan. 13.—About 700 head of butchers' cattle, 6 calves and 150 sheep and lambs offered today, and trade was good, with somewhat lower prices for all kinds of cattle, excepting the very best heaves. Prime heaves were rather scarce, and sold at from 3 1/2c. to 5c. per lb.; pretty good animals sold at from 3 1/2c. to nearly 4c., and the common stock at from 2 1/2c. to 3 1/2c. per lb. The two best veal calves on the market were sold for \$20, over 5c. per lb.; the others brought from 3c. to 4c. per lb. Sheep sold at from 3c. per lb., and the lambs at from 4c. to 4 1/2c. per lb. Fat hogs sold at from 6 1/2c. to 7 1/2c. per lb., with beef off the cuts.

Toronto Markets.

In years past it has been customary on the Toronto Cattle Market to have a dull time during the holiday season, with light deliveries of all kinds of live stock. This season, however, has been exceptionally good. Deliveries in all the different classes have been fairly large, with a brisk trade and good prices. The prices paid in the different classes of live stock have ranged as follows during the past two weeks:

Export cattle, choice.....	\$ 4 70 to \$ 5 35
" " medium.....	4 40 4 60
" " cows.....	3 50 4 00
" " bulls, heavy.....	4 00 4 50
" " " light.....	3 50 3 80
Butchers' cattle, choice.....	4 25 4 50
" " " loads of good.....	3 85 4 12 1/2
" " " medium.....	3 40 3 65
" " " common.....	3 00 3 25
Feeders, heavy.....	3 75 4 00
Stockers.....	2 50 3 50
Milk cows.....	30 00 55 00
Sheep (per cwt.).....	3 25 3 50
Lambs (per cwt.).....	4 00 4 50
Hogs, select.....	6 75
" " fats.....	6 50
" " lights.....	6 50

GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

Wheat steady, at 67 1/2c.; offerings light. Barley.—Two hundred bushels sold at 56 1/2c. to 60 1/2c. Oats.—One hundred bushels sold at 47 1/2c. Rye.—Selling at 57 1/2c. Hay.—Steady, at \$10.50 to \$12 per ton for timothy; \$7.50 to \$9 for clover. Straw.—\$9 per load. Butter.—Pound rolls, 16c. to 19c.; crock 15c. to 18c. Eggs.—New laid, 25c. to 35c. Poultry.—Chickens, per pair, dressed, 45c. to 70c.; ducks, 75c. to \$1; geese, 8c. to 9c. per lb.; turkeys, 8c. to 10c. per lb. Dressed Hogs.—\$8 to \$8.50. Beef.—Per quarter, \$4 to \$8 per cwt.

A PROSPEROUS YEAR.

The year just closed has been the most prosperous of any in the history of the Toronto Cattle Market. The prices for privileges of collecting fees and selling fodder during previous years have been:

	Fees.	Fodder.
1898.....	\$16,000	\$ 9,000
1899.....	16,250	9,150
1900.....	17,250	9,700
1901.....	19,350	12,450
1902.....	19,962	12,612

By the above figures it will be seen that the privileges for the present year have been sold at an advance of \$774 over last year, in the face of a rival market being established in close proximity at Toronto Junction.

Many improvements are being made, in regard to pens and stables as well as shipping facilities, and the outlook for a prosperous year on the Toronto Cattle Market is exceedingly bright at present.

The receipts of stock have been as follows, omitting calves:

	Cattle.	Sheep.	Hogs.
1887.....	70,075	58,849	34,932
1888.....	75,320	62,844	36,209
1889.....	93,525	92,346	56,570
1890.....	102,371	54,051	53,780
1891.....	100,904	49,525	50,757
1892.....	102,571	49,382	74,116
1893.....	86,710	49,883	74,557
1894.....	93,481	119,710	139,862
1895.....	99,233	125,732	154,382
1896.....	104,887	95,675	194,104
1897.....	138,155	88,460	217,765
1898.....	147,256	86,443	301,942
1899.....	140,154	112,436	245,271
1900.....	133,210	118,474	197,607
1901.....	174,860	141,277	153,306

It will be seen that there has been an increase of 21,610 cattle and 22,803 sheep and a decrease of 44,301 hogs in receipts, compared with those of last year. The decrease in hogs delivered on the market can readily be accounted for in the fact that many of the drovers ship direct to the Davies and the Park Blackwell packing houses.

Buffalo Markets.

East Buffalo, Jan. 14.—Cattle—Receipts, 250 head; dull and 10c. to 15c. lower; choice to extra cows, \$45 to \$55 per head; fair to choice, \$25 to \$40; veals, choice, \$8.25 to \$8.75; common to good, \$5.50 to \$8. Hogs.—Receipts, 9,500 head; Yorkers, \$6.15 to \$6.25; light Yorkers, \$6 to \$6.10; mixed packers', \$6.35 to \$6.45; choice heavy, \$6.50 to \$6.60; pigs, \$5.75 to \$5.85; roughs, \$5.40 to \$5.70; stags, \$4 to \$4.50. Sheep and Lambs.—Receipts, 8,000 head; steady; choice lambs, \$6.15 to \$6.25; good to choice, \$6 to \$6.10; culls to fair, \$4.85 to \$5.90; sheep, choice handy wethers, \$4.75 to \$5; common to extra mixed, \$3.90 to \$4.50.

Chicago Markets.

Chicago, Jan. 14.—Cattle—Receipts, 6,500; steady; good to prime, nominal, \$6.60 to \$7.35; poor to medium, \$4 to \$6.25; stockers and feeders, \$2.25 to \$4.50; cows, \$1.25 to \$4.75; heifers, \$2 to \$3; canners, \$1.25 to \$2.30; bulls, \$1.75 to \$4.50; calves, \$3 to \$6.50; Texas steers, \$3.25 to \$5.60. Hogs.—Receipts, 25,000; about 10c. higher; mixed and butchers', \$5.90 to \$6.15; good to choice heavy, \$6.30 to \$6.55; rough heavy, \$5.95 to \$6.25; light, \$5.50 to \$5.95; bulk of sales at \$5.90 to \$6.30. Sheep.—Receipts, 14,000; sheep steady, lambs 10c. to 15c. lower than early Monday; good to choice wethers, \$4.25 to \$5; western sheep, \$4 to \$4.75; native lambs, \$3.50 to \$5.90; western lambs, fed, \$5 to \$5.95.

British Cattle Markets.

London, Jan. 13.—American cattle, 6 1/2d.; sheep, 5 1/2d. to 5 3/4d. Liverpool, Jan. 13.—Canadian cattle, 6 1/2d.; sheep, 5 1/2d. Cattle trade fair; sheep firm.

Our Hog Market Report Paid Him.

Dear Sir,—In renewing my subscription for the "Farmer's Advocate," I beg leave to say that it is read many times by the benefits I have derived from it, even in the hog market alone. The Christmas number was a very beautiful one. Wishing you success. HURON CO. JOHN CAMPBELL.