soil of this particular farm is mostly clay loam.

The principal crops grown are clover, oats and potatoes and garden crops. The clover plant is practically a weed in this district. It is doubtful if there is any section in Ontario that can parallel the Slate River Valley for growing clover; the illustration on this page, will give some idea of its luxuriant growth. It would appear that clover seed could be grown here to perfection as there is no trouble with insects, and as shown in the illustration, the plants are practically covered with blossoms. Potatoes and all garden crops grow well.

All produce, without any exception, finds a ready market in the cities of Fort William and Port Arthur. Owing to the rapidly increasing population of these cities a very large percentage of their farm produce is imported. The development of the cities is far more rapid than that of the country. Butter seldom falls below 35 cents a lb., while milk is never less than 10 cents a quart.

DAIRYING A SPECIALTY.

Dairying is becoming a specialty with some farmers and as just indicated the outlook is bright. Mr. Hutchison intends to make dairying the chief branch of his farming operations. At present he has a herd of only 12 grade cows—Holsteins. He has recently secured an exceptionally well bred Holstein bull from Mr. G. A. Brethen, of Norwood, Ont. The clover previously mentioned, in addition to oat hay is relied upon for fodder. Very little corn has as yet been grown, though it would do well in most seasons. Buildings on the farm at present consist of house, and a large hay barn, with a one story stable attached—capacity for 60 cows.

The Slate River Valley in general affords an excellent field to any energetic young man to engage in any one of the following lines of farming: Dairying, market gardening, growing of small fruits, poultry raising, swine raising, agriculture. Markets in Port William right at one's door, as previously indicated, are not to be surpassed in Canada. The amount of farming land that has been developed is insufficient to supply more than a mere fraction of the needs of the twin cities, hence the excellent prices for perishable goods. The greater part of the produce for the twin cities is shipped in from outside points such as Owen Sound and Duluth. There is not the slightest danger of there being an over-production of farm products in this vicinity as the cities are making such rapid progress.

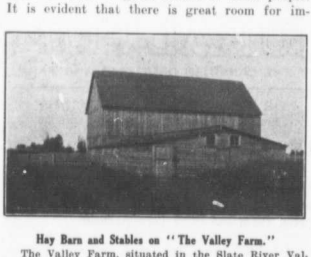
TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES.

An important factor in any farming community is the facilities for transportation and the marketing of the soil products. Slate River Valley, in the more settled parts, is particularly well favored with good roads. Nature has favored this section with excellent road making material, which is at hand in the nearby hills. The enterprise and the unceasing efforts of the municipal councils have put at least the main roads in such a state that it is doubtful if any section in Ontario, either Eastern or Western, can boast of as fine roads as are to be found in the Slate River Valley. The Valley is also connected with the cities by the main lines of the Canadian Pacific, the Canadian Northern and the Port Arthur and Duluth lines of railways. An electric road, to connect Fort William and Kababeka Falls, passing through the Valley, is under construction. Three miles of the road have already been built. Farmers are expecting that this electric road will lend a great boom to agriculture locally.

A number of farmers have formed a company and have constructed a telephone system, which gives residents in the Valley telephone connection with Fort William and Port Arthur and with other outside points. The company has taken every precaution to have an up-to-date system. They have a local exchange. The system locally has over 50 miles of wire besides the trunk line extensions.

NEED EXPERIMENT STATION.

A percentage of the farming community in the Slate River Valley is made up of persons who have previously been engaged in some occupation other than farming. An experimental station could be made of great benefit to these people. It is evident that there is great room for improvement in the way of using better varieties of grains, etc.

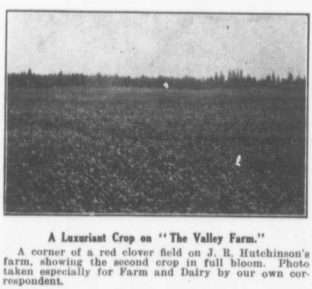


Hay Barn and Stables on "The Valley Farm."

The Valley Farm, situated in the Slate River Valley, near Fort William, Ont., and which receives mention in the article on page 3, is admirably adapted for dairying, and has been fitted up with a view to that industry.

Climatic conditions in the Valley seem to be somewhat different than in most other sections. The climate is nearly ideal with the exception of there being rather long winters. The roads to the cities, however, are nearly always good and are never blocked with snow. The winter weather is cold and steady, with plenty of sunshine. The summer climate is delightful. Growth is very rapid owing to the warm bright days.

The Slate River Valley, located as it is close to the two growing cities of Port Arthur and Fort William, and with all its natural beauty, present developments and bright prospects, is



A Luxuriant Crop on "The Valley Farm."

A corner of a red clover field on J. R. Hutchinson's farm, showing the second crop in full bloom. Photo taken especially for Farm and Dairy by our own correspondent.

not only a fine place in which to reside, but it affords an excellent opportunity for ambitious young men and their sweethearts. The future prosperity of the Slate River Valley is assured. —M. E. N.

A Concrete Cistern for Rainwater*

Peter De Linde, Zion City, Ill.

There should be a good cistern near the kitchen door of every dwelling house in the land, as good water from the clouds is indispensable in every household. The materials for a good concrete cistern cost very little, and any workman can construct it; when once constructed it will do good service for many generations.

The disease-breeding rainwater barrels at the house corners, half full of stinking water, are a nuisance which should be prohibited. Another nuisance is a cistern consisting of a round hole dug in the ground and covered with an old door, the sides of the hole may have been plastered once, but if inspected, we find most of the plaster lying in the bottom of the hole and the remains of dead mice, rats and frogs can also be found in it. Instead of rain water, which it was intended for, it is nothing but poisonous surface water. Such cisterns or pestholes should be prohibited by law.

A 75 BBL. CISTERN.

The size of the cistern should depend somewhat on the size of the family. I will here describe a cistern that will hold about 75 barrels of water. Dig a hole seven feet wide, seven feet long and 10 feet six inches deep. If the soil is loose, the sides must be curbed up with boards. If it is clay or hard ground, the boards will not be needed. For floor put in a layer of mortar six inches in thickness, stamping it firmly together. Then put up 2-inch planks all round for boxing. Carefully sweep and remove any earth that may have fallen down from the sides. Put a layer of mortar into the box eight inches in thickness, stamping it firmly together with a square wood block. Continue to fill in mortar, layer after layer stamping it firmly together. The walls should be 11 feet high, that will be one foot above the surface of the ground.

BUILDING THE ARCH.

Now make a strong arch-shaped floor from planks, on which to build the arch. Be sure to have it strongly braced below and make a hole two feet square in the center of the arch shaped floor. Place a strong frame two feet square over the hole; make a strong door two feet square fastened into the frame with hinges. Take a round block four inches in diameter and place it into the side of the cistern next to the house for the inflow pipe. Now cover the arch-shaped floor with a layer of paper, then put on a layer of mortar one inch in thickness. Take two pieces of iron lengthwise on the arch, one piece on each side of the frame or door. Then take two more pieces of iron eight feet long, one inch wide, one-half inch thick and place them crosswise over the arch, one piece on each side of the frame or door. Then put on another layer of mortar one inch in thickness and place wire netting on it. Then put on another layer of mortar two inches in thickness. Stamp it firmly together and finish it nicely on top with a trowel. Such a six foot arch need only be one foot high. Now leave it for a week or ten days, then open the square door on top and remove the arch-shaped plank floor and remove all the boxing. Then put on a finishing coat of mortar made from one part Portland cement to two parts of fine sand. Finish the cistern inside as smooth as if it was a parlor.

OTHER DETAILS.

The mortar for the arch should be made from one part Portland cement to three parts clean, coarse sand. The mortar for the floors and walls should be one part cement, three parts sand and three parts gravel. It takes about eight barrels of cement and four yards of sand and four yards of crushed stones or gravel to construct such a cistern. After all is ready, remove that round wood block and put in the water pipe and the cistern is ready for use. The water pipe should be arranged in such a way that the water can be turned off, as it is sometimes not desirable to have the water run into the cistern. For instance when it has not rained for some time, the roof of the house is more or less dirty; when it has been raining for an hour or so, when the roof has been washed clean, and not until then, should the water be turned into the cistern.

*Reproduced from "Cement," by permission of the author.

I am only keeping eight cows this summer. I would rather have them than the 23 that I kept in former seasons. Many cows are kept on the average farm that return no profit. By selecting the best ones and keeping them only, much labor is saved and the returns are approximately as large.—G. Fowler, Peterboro Co., Ont