

If single boarding were used, 1,200 feet of T. & G. lumber, dressed on one side, at \$20, would cost \$24, or a saving of \$9.80 over the double boarding and tar paper, besides requiring less labor and nails, which would more than pay for the tar required for filling the grooves. If the silo is constructed as a building by itself, the additional expense incurred will be for the outside sheeting and roof. The outside sheeting would cost about the same as for the inside; it may be either single or double, as preferred. The single boarding of T. & G. lumber will be found cheaper and equally satisfactory. Whether single or double, the inside boards must be sound, free from knot-holes and be dressed. Wide lumber is not desirable. It is a good plan to put on the inside boards vertically. If the silo is circular in form, rather less lumber will be required.

### The Silo, as Adapted to Manitoba.

BY S. A. BEDFORD, BRANDON EXPERIMENTAL FARM.

Even the most enthusiastic advocates of the silo do not claim that the silo adds anything to the value of green corn, and if it were possible to stack the corn the same as we do our native hay, the advantages of the silo would hardly compensate for the extra work connected with its management. But, owing to the large amount of sweet sap contained even in well-cured corn, it is impossible to stack it as we do hay.

We contend that the use of the silo has the following advantages: It enables us to grow and preserve one of the most productive of all fodder crops. For ensilage purposes the crop can be stored in any kind of weather, enabling us to utilize odd days during wheat harvest.

A silo, properly built, preserves the green corn with nearly all its feeding qualities uninjured. Out ensilage is in the best possible condition for mixing with other fodder. The corn is stored in a very compact form, occupying little space, an important consideration where building is costly.

The building of a silo in connection with a bank barn is a very simple affair; the two constructed on the Brandon Experimental Farm are each 9x9 feet and 22 feet deep, the sills are 6x6, tamarac; on these rest the 2x8 studs, placed perpendicularly, 18 inches apart, capped with a 2x12 plate. On this frame-work a double thickness of boards are nailed horizontally, both inside and out, and with tar paper between each layer of boards, care being taken that the tar paper is well lapped around the corners. In other words, the silos are two large, air-tight packing boxes, 9 feet square and 22 feet deep.

Well-tramped clay is used for the floor, and appears to answer every purpose. As they are inside the barn, no roof is required.

The probable cost of a silo inside of a bank barn is about \$1 per ton of capacity.

The silos are filled by running the fodder (which, with us, is generally Indian corn) through a cutting box; a carrier attached elevates the cut fodder and drops it in the centre of the silo at the rate of a ton in ten minutes; after each load, this cut fodder is spread over the silo so as to intermix the butts and leaves and insure even settling.

To allow time for settling, the silos are filled on alternate days; the last two feet of the top is filled with cut straw, and when very cold weather sets in, a movable cover of boards, tar paper and chaff is placed loosely over each silo.

Before the silo is half filled, fermentation sets in, and this heat is maintained well into the new year.

The ensilage is ready for feeding in three or four weeks; it is then of a greenish-brown color, and has a decided malty odor and a slightly acid taste, but with ensilage made of immature or un-wilted corn, the odor is disagreeable, strong, and the acidity greatly increased.

The ensilage is fed from the top by means of small doors in the front, which must, of course, be tightly closed before the silo is filled.

All stock readily eat the ensilage, and its effect is somewhat similar to good pasture, insuring a heavy flow of milk even in midwinter.

The amount fed varies from 15 to 35 lbs. per cow, and is always mixed with a proportion of dry fodder and meal.

In conclusion, we find that ensilage from early ripening corn can be profitably made in this Province, and it is the very thing required to keep the system of our cattle in good shape during the long and sometimes severe winter.

### A Bug Trap.

The following, which I have found excellent for keeping borers from quince and apple trees, may benefit some reader, and it is better than printers' ink to prevent canker worms from crawling up trees:—One quart bright, not white, varnish, one-half gill sulphuric acid, one gill lard oil; mix the acid and varnish first—it makes a thick paste, and the addition of the lard oil thins it. Apply it thoroughly from one foot above to two inches below the surface of the soil around a tree. I believe it is a sure preventative. I apply it higher for worms. It takes about six to eight months to dry, and it never lets up on a victim. I have used it three years and never knew it to fail. [F. H. Thatford, in Rural New-Yorker.]

## STOCK.

### Our Scottish Letter.

Since I last wrote, Mr. Gardner, the Minister of Agriculture, has given his verdict on the opening of the ports to Canadian cattle. He says: "No; but if I am satisfied, by an examination of lungs for some little time further, that there is no risk of disease from Canada, then the ports will be opened in the end of July." This reply, which is not in the words actually used by Mr. Gardner, has been variously interpreted. To the great body of farmers in Great Britain and Ireland, it has given satisfaction; but it has by no means pleased the minority in the north-east of Scotland and Norfolk, whose experience with Canadians led them to form a high opinion of their merits as feeders. No doubt the lot of the feeder in this country is at present not a happy one. The gradual increase in the number of foreign stores, imported up to the date of the outbreak of pleuro-pneumonia, caused many in this country to cease breeding cattle, or to breed them in less numbers than formerly, and the quantity of dead meat which is coming in is lowering the feeder's revenue, so that he is between two fires. Stores are rising in price, and fat are tumbling, with the result that he is unable to see how ends are to be made to meet. But even at current prices, farmers are not obtaining remuneration for their home-bred cattle, and consequently there may soon be another cry than that which we have heard. Altogether, the situation is difficult, and the future will inevitably see changes of one kind or other. Meantime the question simply is, whether the minority of cattle feeders, who clamor for the opening of the ports, are to dictate the National Policy against the interests of the overwhelming majority of their countrymen who take another view? It is hardly right that such should be the case.

We are now in the height of the Ayr and Glasgow show season. It is in the west of Scotland that cattle shows are seen to the best advantage, and there is a general feeling that we have too many of them. At Ayr, Maryhill and Glasgow three great shows have been held within a fortnight. The first is the favorite meeting place for Ayrshire cattle, the second is an intermediate kind of gathering, at which a good show of horses can generally be seen, and the third is the great Clydesdale show of the season. In regard to Ayrshires, some have long been fighting against the fancy ideas which prevail in their judging, and it is a gratifying feature that at last there appears to be some hope of getting the great dairy breed judged with an eye to the production of milk. It is a great misfortune when a useful breed is made the sport of a fancy, and this too long was the fate of Ayrshire cattle. If one thing should have been more strenuously resisted than another, it was the abuse of the milking powers of a dairy breed. All that judges looked at, for a number of years, was a tight, long, shallow vessel, and a short thin teat. If a cow had these she could win a prize, although they are the very points which dairymaids detest. It would almost seem as if a form of insanity had taken possession of breeders and judges, when animals with such properties were preferred to place and prize. Now, as I have said, the tide has turned, and dairy purposes are not forgotten when Ayrshires are being judged. Some grand, milky-looking stock were shown at Ayr by Mr. Alexander Cross, of Knockdon; Mr. Abram Kerr, Castlehill, Durrissdeer; Mr. Hugh Drummond, Craighead, Mauchline, and Mr. Robert Montgomerie, Lessnessock, Ochiltree. Sir Mark J. Stewart, Bart., has a grand milking herd at Southwick, Dumfries, and Mr. William Hunter, Fulton Mains, Prestwick, has Ayrshires which proved victorious in the milking test at the recent show.

Clydesdales, at Glasgow, were one of the grandest exhibitions of the breed seen for many years. The family group prize for the best five yearlings after one sire was won by the well-known veteran, Macgregor 1487, now the oldest Clydesdale breeding horse of repute. No other horse has so often won in these competitions as Mr. Andrew Montgomery's old champion. His daughter, Royal Rose, bred by Mr. And. Montgomery, and owned by Mr. Wm. Graham, of Edengrove, Penrith, won the cup as the best mare under four years old. Mr. James Lochart showed his splendid Darnley mare, Pandora, and won easily in a strong class of brood mares. She is out of an English dam, and is, perhaps, the best animal ever produced by the cross of a Clydesdale sire on a Shire dam. In the yield mare class, Mr. John Gilmour, of Montrave, won with the Ayr champion mare, Montrave Maud, the daughter of Prince of Wales 673, and the world-famed Moss Rose. It was unfortunate that there was no competition between Pandora and Montrave Maud for a special premium—none being offered. Pandora's son, Mains of Airdies, stood second to Macgregor in the family competition, and Mr. Wm. Hewick's Prince Alexander 8800, won for the group of five two-year-olds, with five out of seven foals left by him when a two-year-old colt. The foals left by him when a two-year-old colt, Royal by Mr. William Clark's two-year-old colt, Royal Garty, which has not yet been beaten in his class, Garty, which well. He beat Prince of Millfield. Mr. Walter S. Park won the special for mare with two of her progeny, with the nice mare, Hatton Beauty, and her son, Prince of Erskine, and daughter, a two-year-old filly by Prince Alexander.

SCOTLAND YET.

### Chatty Stock Letter from the States.

FROM OUR CHICAGO CORRESPONDENT.

Top cattle prices, \$4.40, being 35c. lower than a fortnight ago, and \$1.60 lower than a year ago, when best corn-fed steers sold at \$6.00; "stillers," \$5.40, and heifers, \$4.80. Top hogs, \$5.00, being 35c. lower than half a month ago, and \$2.70 lower than twelve months ago. Top sheep (shorn), averaging 162 lbs., \$4.85, being 10c. higher than a fortnight since, and about 40c. lower than at the corresponding time last year. Top lambs, \$5.00, against \$7.35 a year ago. Best draught horses, \$200, being \$35 lower than a year ago. Street car horses, \$60 to \$85 per head, against \$65 to \$110 a year ago. Wheat, 57½c., against 73½c. a year ago. Corn, 38½c., against 41½c. a year ago. Mess pork, \$11.85, against \$20.75 a year ago. Lard, \$6.87½, against \$10.45 during the boom twelve months since.

The beef cattle market is working along very unsatisfactorily to owners of thoroughly ripe heaves. The 1,600 lb. and 1,100 lb. steers are selling at about the same notch—\$4.00. The distillery cattle feeders are still holding back all the cattle that are not forced to market, and that indicates a belief that better markets are in prospect. Recently large shipments of beef steers and bulls have been made from here to Antwerp, by N. Morris and Reemer & B. The cattle exporters are complaining quite bitterly about the low prices abroad, and say they are losing some good money. The dressed beef business is steadily crowding out the live stock shippers.

Dave Waixel, son of Isaac Waixel, has quit the cattle trade and gone into the lively business. Louis Regenstein, formerly of the old firm of cattle shippers, Myers & R., has dropped out and gone into the engraving business with some nephews.

The United Dressed Beef Co., of New York, has consolidated the interests of a number of former live cattle dealers and butchers.

In the hog situation there is no remarkable change from a fortnight ago. Hog buyers are somewhat perplexed to know what to look for. They thought for a while that they had prices well on the road to \$4.00, but latterly the supplies have been running short and the demand has improved. The farmers were never so saving of their pigs as they are this spring, but for all that, there does not seem to be a very large surplus anywhere in the country. A well-informed dealer declared that if it were not for the general business depression, hogs would now have been selling for \$6.00 @ \$7.00.

Sheep receipts are on the decrease, and the market is consequently in healthier tone. The market, however, does not regain the boom-like buoyancy of six weeks ago. The great bulk of the "crop" of fed Western sheep is in, and the runs of Texas and other range sheep are belated on account of a scarcity of grass. Latest reports, however, point to good rains and fine grass nearly everywhere, and sheep will soon begin to gain in flesh. The writer has spent more than half his life, or 17 years, on this market, and this year (A.D. 1894) is the first in which he ever saw shorn sheep actually outsell woolled sheep of the same mutton quality. It indicates a queer state of affairs when good wool is not considered worth the cutting and caring for. The time must come, and soon, when this will change. Texas was literally flooding the market a year ago this time with 70 to 95 lb. sheep, selling at \$3.25 @ \$4.40. So far this year she has sent forward almost no grass sheep, but will have a host of them a little later.

Joseph Gould, of J. A. Hathaway & Co., was here, having returned from the Eastern seaboard, where he went to see some of his sheep safely off. He shipped some from Montreal. The ocean freight on sheep is about \$1.50 per head. He made contracts at Montreal because the opening of navigation brought a lot more boats to that port than could get loads, so they were willing to cut rates a little.

Mr. Gould is shipping 120 to 130 lb. fed and shorn Western wethers, which he contracted at the Mississippi River during the high prices, at \$4.75 per 100 lbs.

The coal strike indirectly affects the meat industry by decreasing the number of general factories in operation. The late trade depression has demonstrated that it is the working man who must be depended upon to eat the meat.

The horse market is improving, though the plugs are being sold at very low figures. The Chicago Union Stock Yard Co. is putting up additional barns and office buildings to accommodate the growing horse business. Electric light sales of Coach and Hackney horses have proven satisfactory.

### The Situation as to Home-Breeding.

BY "A BREEDER."

Before giving up the breeding of horses and declaring the business dead, will it not be well to take a candid, practical view of the case; and, before throwing away advantages already gained, consider well what has brought on present conditions; whether the causes are likely to continue indefinitely, and if not, how best to prepare ourselves to take advantage of the change when it comes?

Many breeders attribute the present condition of the home market to an overproduction and the introduction of electricity. The overproduction has been entirely of the cheaper grades, and this is the class being displaced by electricity. Electricity can never take the place of the Heavy Draught or fine Coach Horse. General business depression has had more to do with the fall in the home market than