

the case, we sell a very large amount of hay to the markets of the world, and keep fairly large herds of cattle, and the manure easily maintains the fertility of our uplands. When these marshes are plowed, oats and barley are the only grains that will grow heavily. Roots or any other kind of crops will not grow. It is possible, with capital, say a company of \$50,000 or \$100,000, to cut canals into fresh-water lakes and moss lands, taking up the water from the Bay of Fundy, and filling these lakes with mud, that are often 36 feet deep. The muddy water rushes up, and before it can get back again into the bay, the mud settles to the bottom, and in a very short time these lakes are full of mud, which, when dyked, makes marsh worth \$150 per acre, that will grow for 200 years heavy crops of the best hay in the world without fertilizer.

It is possible, with capital, to turn these lakes and bogs (now worthless) into land like the above described, and the area is so large that enough could be made up to maintain 250 farmers with large families.

This situation is peculiar only to the Counties of Westmoreland and Albert, of New Brunswick, and Cumberland, Colchester and King's, of Nova Scotia.

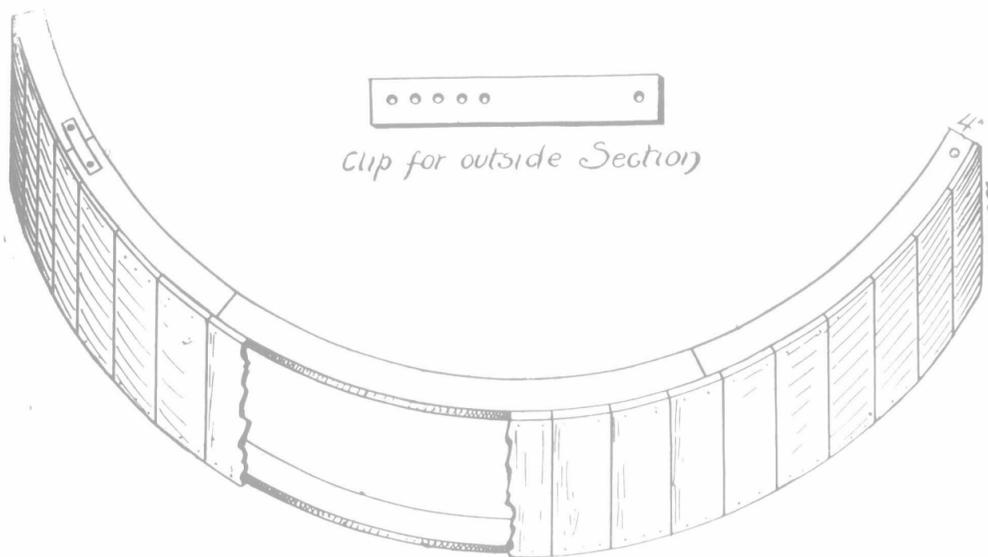
Now, the Salvation Army and the Federal Government are bringing out their thousands to this country, we hope someone will fit out a colony with brains and capital. Instead of going West to grow wheat, take steamer for Halifax, get off at Sackville, and in 25 years enough extra hay can be grown to enable several thousand persons to make thrifty farms, second to none in North America.

Now, Mr. Editor, I have departed somewhat from seeding, etc., and someone who reads this will wonder if this is all wind. I suppose it will read strange to persons who are not accustomed to the Tantramar Marshes, by the sea. Even a large portion of the population of the Maritime Provinces have no idea of this Land of Promise. I am not an agent, getting a commission to induce settlers into this part of the Province. At this age of the history of Canada, and the broad views endorsed by everybody, it has occurred to me that, by a little effort on the part of someone, our conditions in Canada can be made to develop faster than even the pace now started. The Canadian West can beat the world, certainly, in growing wheat; so can the Tantramar Marsh, with some more development, be made the greatest section for growing hay in the world. And when we have the fodder, so cheaply grown, live stock follows in the train; then we have the ideal agriculture, for without live stock, no farm can be a success.

BLISS M. FAWCETT.
Westmoreland Co., N. B.

WOODEN RINGS FOR CEMENT SILO CONSTRUCTION.

While I think the steel rings are the best for building round cement silos, still wooden rings answer very well, a majority of the silos in this section being built with wooden rings. I enclose a sketch of a section of wooden ring. The rings are made in three sections for convenience in handling, and are made by cutting circular sections (same diameter as silo, less thickness) out of inch board about four inches wide; double these, being careful to break joints, then to two of these rings nail dressed lumber, as in draft. The outside rings are similarly made, only boarding is put on inside of rings, which must be cut to a circle sufficiently large to allow for the thickness of the wall at the top of the silo and the boarding. The batter or additional thickness of the wall at the bottom is provided for by having a number of holes in the clips that hold sections together. In commencing to build these must be let out



Section of Inside Wooden Ring for Round Cement Silo Construction.

(and a narrow strip inserted) to get the desired thickness of wall, and gradually taken up towards the top. Basswood is probably the best material to use, being light, tough, and not liable to warp. The boarding should be narrow strips of half-inch material that will bend to circle.

HARRY SMITH.
Huron Co., Ont.

WOULD GALVANIZED IRON DO FOR SILO?

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I send you a plan and estimate of the cost of a galvanized iron silo—size, 25 ft. high, 40 ft. in circumference. Take scantling 4 x 4 in., 25 ft. long, placed upright in a circle 4 ft. apart. Every 5 ft. in height put a 3/8-in. iron bar through them, and under the rod put 2 x 4 scantling to keep the posts apart and tighten the rod up tight. Between every two pieces of 4 x 4 put two pieces of 2 x 4, equal distances apart, upright, and spiked to the horizontal pieces. This will form the frame of scantling, which will be about 18 inches apart. Now line the outside with 28-gauge English galvanized iron nailed to the frame, and the joints soldered, will make a perfectly air-tight silo. Cost: Eight hundred feet lumber, \$20 per M.; \$16; iron for hoops, \$8; ten squares galvanized iron, at \$8 per square, put on and soldered, \$80; labor building frame, \$4; total, \$108. Should the galvanized iron prove as durable in a silo as it has done on roofs, this would be a better silo than a stave one; and, in localities where gravel was hard to procure, would be a good deal cheaper than concrete; and should a man want to remodel his barn, this silo could be raised on skids and moved to suit. It could also be covered on outside of studding with inch lumber, which would help keep out frost. The only point I am doubtful on is the durability. I have been told by a man who has had a lot of experience with galvanized iron that if a pile of iron gets wet, and is left in the pile, it will rust through in a short time, while water tanks lined with it have been in use over twenty years and still appear as good as ever. Perhaps some of the Professors could tell us what effect the silage would have on the galvanized iron.

JOHN C. McINTYRE.
Renfrew Co., Ont.

[In my opinion, galvanized iron, as a lining material for siloes, would prove very undesirable on the score of economy, and possibly dangerous as regards its effect on the silage. The acids developed in the silo would readily attack and corrode it, so that, in respect to durability such a lining would be very short-lived. Further, the salts of zinc formed by the action of the silage acids on the galvanizing material (zinc) are more or less poisonous, and though I do not suppose a sufficient quantity would be formed to present a fatal dose in any one feed of the silage, their presence is by no means desirable.]

FRANK T. SHUTT.
Ottawa, Experimental Farms Chemist.

AGRICULTURE IN THE ORKNEY ISLANDS.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I derive much pleasure and benefit from a perusal of "The Farmer's Advocate." I think we have nothing to equal it here in Scotland—nothing which deals with so wide a sphere in such a comprehensive manner, at the same time maintaining such a high standard of excellence, originality and freshness.

The most interesting part of the paper to us farmers is certainly that pertaining to agricultural matters, for, although farming is carried on in Canada under very different circumstances from

what we have in Orkney, yet farmers here cannot help being largely benefited by reading such useful information as that afforded by your paper.

The Home Magazine is, in itself, worth more than the actual cost of the paper, and is interesting to everyone on the farm, old or young. Many of the articles which appear therein are unsurpassed by our leading British magazines, published at three times the cost. I may say that I have been much benefited by a careful perusal of such articles, and also helped in preparing papers on similar subjects.

Perhaps a few notes on farming here in Orkney might be of interest to your readers, as I have no doubt a few of them may have emigrated hence at one time. As I have already stated, we labor under very different circumstances from you. We are much farther north, being almost on the same latitude as Cape Chudleigh, on the Labrador coast. Our soil is not nearly so rich and fertile. Much of our cultivated land is mere "breck," with only an inch or two of soil; therefore, manuring comes to be a very important consideration, not only as how to apply the farmyard manure, but artificials are very extensively used, and how to judiciously apply these is an ever-present question for Orkney farmers. Many hundreds of pounds are spent yearly in this class of manures. Then, our climatic conditions differ very much from yours. Spring is generally late in arriving. Oats are sown any time between the 6th and 30th of April, according to weather conditions. Here is sown a little later. No wheat and very little barley is grown. Most of the land is worked on the five-years' rotation or "shift," viz.: First year to oats; second and third years to grass; fourth year to oats, and fifth year to turnips and potatoes. Our summer is the season which is most unfavorable to the successful growth of crops, being, as a rule, somewhat cold, and either too wet or too dry in its earlier part. We sometimes harvest with favorable weather, but wet weather is generally prevalent at this season.

The following agricultural returns, issued by the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries for last year, will give you a correct idea of the produce of Orkney for that season. The produce of oats was 106,986 quarters, from 33,598 acres, an average yield per acre of 25.38 bushels. The average yield in Scotland was 43.04 per acre. Prices ruled very high in Orkney, from 17s. to 20s. per qr. Two thousand seven hundred and forty acres to potatoes yielded 13,619 tons, the average yield per acre being 4.75 tons. Scotland averaged 5.50 tons per acre. Turnips and Swedes yielded 136,779 tons from 14,303 acres; average yield, 9.56 tons. The average yield in Scotland was 14,303 tons. Hay, grown from clover, sainfoin and grasses under rotation, amounted to 6,828 tons, from 8,121 acres; average yield, 16.82 cwt. per acre. Two hundred and eighty-seven tons of hay from perennial grass was also obtained from 643 acres, an average yield of 8.93 cwt. per acre.

C. M.
Orkney, Scotland.

VARIOUS METHODS OF HANDLING ALSIKE FOR SEED.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In reply to your invitation, I offer the following particulars regarding the growing of alsike clover for seed. I have known as much as an average of seven bushels per acre off 18 acres, seeded with 3 pounds per acre. However, a good sate, reliable sowing is 6 pounds per acre, or better. From five to seven bushels per acre would be considered an average crop. It is not a good practice to pasture alsike clover in early spring. The clover should be allowed full growth till time for harvesting the seed. We have had good results from seeding with both fall wheat and spring grain, but our best result was from seeding on ground sown with barley. However, wheat is O. K. Where there are a large number of bees kept, we always find a good alsike locality, provided we have proper soil and climatic conditions. I believe the most successful way of harvesting is by cutting, if possible, when the dew is on, to prevent shelling? Cut with the mower, after which are three men following and rolling the alsike in bundles with the back of the fork, and then throwing out to the side, so that the wheel of the mower will not pass over it, and it will not be trampled under the horses' feet.

One man follows the mower for half a round, then another goes for the other half, and then the third man is waiting to commence as soon as the team comes. A good walking team will usually mow faster than a man can follow, and as we wish to cut as much as possible when the dew is on, we want to rush it through.

Others use a sulky rake to lump it up, and a man throwing the bundles to one side. The former practice is much better. The table on the mower, as some have it, I believe, is more trouble than it is worth.

Some stack the clover, and thresh it with the clover mill out in the field. Others draw it from the field to the machine, and thresh it in the center or one corner of the field, as it is drawn