

and plenty of manure. It is a very costly crop to clean, and an uncertain crop to reap. No doubt its growth is conducive to cleaning land and keeping it clean, but in days when labor is scarce it does not seem sound policy to advocate growth of a crop which entails a heavy labor bill.

SCOTLAND YET.

## Barns and Their Builders

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

So much interesting and valuable information about the contents of barns appears in your columns that something about the barns and those who build them might not be out of place. Those who wish to study elaborate construction can do so in the advertising and other columns.

The earlier makeshifts need not be noticed. When the pioneer required a log barn about 30 feet by 40 feet and 16 feet high, he had overcome most of his difficulties, and hope shone on his future prospects. The raising was an event in a bush wilderness, and his neighbors helped. The most important men were the "corner men," the axemen, who fitted the logs at the corners. Sometimes the logs were hewed and the corners dove-tailed; usually they were left round and the ends "V'd." As the building increased in height, so did the self-importance and eagerness of the "cornermen." The first to complete his corner had the honor of naming the barn. The ceremony was giving the barn a name, and throwing a bottle from the first finished corner. This practice was also followed for some time at the raising of framed barns. At the launching of a ship a bottle is broken at the bow. It was not considered a good omen if the bottle was broken at the christening of a building. This seldom happened, as the contents were valuable and there were eager hands below to prevent such accidents. The men who put on the roof and laid the split shingles had mechanical experience, but as their work was done in quietness after the raising, they did not receive the publicity that their skill perhaps deserved. Nobody counted for much on these old structures but the corner men. Except for their association with the worthy people who built and used them, these old barns had little to commend them. Storms drove between the logs; rodents made them a home; constantly settling the doors would seldom swing. It was said though, that the contents never heated or mildewed, and that lightning never struck them.

Settlers from the United States are credited with having introduced frame barns into the Niagara District more than 100 years ago. Some of these are still standing, 36 feet by 48 feet with a 16 foot post, a low-pitched double roof, supported on each side by a purlin, in a few a single plate at the ridge, was about the limit in size. There are more smaller. The floors, studding, rafters, braces, as well as the frame were finished with the broadaxe. Why they should trouble to stud these heavy, everlasting frames, and cover with flimsy clapboarding does not seem clear. The more so when nails were made by hand. A pound of nails to a bushel of wheat, was once the rule. They were invariably furnished with that puzzle to modern framers, the heavy swingbeam, often trussed or bridged to another beam. Threshing with the flail, tramping out with hoes, or the open cylinder, the grain was not separated from the chaff, and was stored under the swingbeam, for a suitable wind, as there were no fanning mills. Doubtless there were others, as none of these old barns were provided with base-

ment stabling. Making due allowance for the choicest timber, these old-time framers thoroughly understood their work. Most of these old barns have been remodelled, but there is generally enough of the original structure left, to show the design and workmanship of the first builders. Tenons fit the mortice, and shoulders the boxing, with a neatness that is not excelled to-day. Besides the hewing, they knew the use of the square and chalkline, and taxing timber out of wind. Where this method of working timber was first discovered is a matter of dispute. Writers on the square state that it was first used as a calculating tool, in Connecticut about 150 years ago. Previous to that the square was only used to mark a right angle, as carpenters now use the try square. If this is so, it is reasonable to suppose that taking timber out of wind soon followed. Millwrights claim they were the first to adopt this method, in the construction of frame grist mills. Barn framers, always prompt to see a good thing, learned from them. On the other hand, barn framers claim, that the slanting purlin post, so common in barns but not in other structures, must have been the work of one of their trade. No ordinary system of calculation or even mensuration will give the length, say nothing of the correct cut of this timber. The length and cut must be ascertained by the square, and by one who knows how to read it. However this may be, one thing seems certain that no one can lay out and properly frame even sawn timber, without knowing how to take timber out of wind.

There is something peculiar about laying out timber, especially barns. Many splendid workmen never acquire it, or at best take years, though possessing sufficient education. While others, who can scarcely read the inch figures on the square soon learn to lay out any building, neatly and correctly.—It seems to be a gift.

While there was plenty timber to be hewed, and especially after bank barns were introduced, the framer was a man of power in the community, and his opinion valued on many matters outside his profession. He selected his patrons, where, how, and when to build and chose for his assistants the most active and intelligent young men in the district. His word was more than law; it was superior intelligence as well. Never an ordinary mortal, at the raising he was almost superhuman. If the race was between two townships, he developed an authority that would serve a general of a division of troops. This was needed, if all stories about these old-time races are true. If they could only build one, or at most two different styles, they built them well, as their work shows, though present-day framers look with envy on the timber they had. Besides knowing how to build a variety of styles, the modern framer has to know how to enlarge, remodel, extend, etc. Stables are no longer mere rows of stalls. Whether of wood, cement or iron, stabling must be built with a view to litter carriers, silos and water as well as economizing space and labor. The upper structure must be constructed with an eye to windmills, hayforks, sheaf carriers or rack lifters, and many other things that were not dreamed of a generation ago, such as gasoline, and electric machinery. All this frequently with nail perforated junk, or brash, crooked, and twisted, new material that their predecessors would not use for firewood. Not having the authoritative influence of his predecessor, the builder is frequently imposed on. When masons make blunders, it is left to the framer to straighten things out. When amateur cement builders get the foundation walls all

wrong it doesn't matter, the framer will fix it. He has to know other people's jobs as well as his own. The man who said that the present-day framer required the constitution of Samson, the wisdom of Solomon, and the long suffering patience of Job knew what he was talking about, probably was one himself. However, the framer has risen to the occasion, though very few new framers in the older districts at least, are of new material, handsome, durable, and convenient barns in the older districts at least, are of new that would once be considered impossible. The framer who first enlarged a barn by the process known as "splitting," deserves a place with the one who laid out the first slanting purlin post. One good thing about barn work remains, however, the Ontario housewife lives up to a noble tradition, and seldom can the framer and his gang complain of their accommodation when boarding out.

Lincoln Co., Ont.

X. A. Y.

## Four Acts Affecting Agriculture.

During the fifth session, twelfth parliament of Canada, just closed at Ottawa, no direct legislation affecting the Department of Agriculture has been introduced by the Department, but four bills more or less of an agricultural character have been brought down.

An Act to amend the Bank Act. This permits chartered banks to lend money for the purchase of seed grain on certain security, the bank acquiring first lien upon seed grain and crop; no loans must be made after 1st August, 1915.

An Act respecting Seed Grain, Fodder and other Relief. This provides in Alberta and Saskatchewan for the purchase, sale and distribution of seed grain, fodder and other relief during the year 1915 to farmers and settlers in the drought-stricken area of 1914.

An Act to amend Canada Grain Act. This provides for the application of Part 111 to all water carriers, and gives power to the Board of Grain Commissioners to apportion losses on shortages between elevators and vessels.

An Act to amend the Adulteration Act. This strengthens the position of pure maple products, compelling all imitation or compound maple sugar or syrup to be labelled as such, it defines adulterated sugar and syrup, and restricts the use of the word maple to the pure products.

The Live-Stock Branch of the Department of Agriculture has recently put into effect an order, in-council whereby the importation, manufacture, sale or use of hog cholera serum or virus, except by an Inspector acting under the special authority of the Veterinary Director-General is prohibited.

## Ontario Licence Board

The Ontario Provincial Board of License Commissioners has been named to include the following: J.D. Flavell, Lindsay, Chairman; W.S. Dingman, Stratford, Vice-chairman; Frederick Dane, Toronto; George T. Smith, Haileybury; John A. Aycarst, Toronto. The appointments take effect May 5, and the new Act comes into force at once. The Chairman gets a yearly stipend of \$6,500, the Vice-chairman, \$6,000, and the other commissioners \$4,000 each. The Board will take over the present License Branch. This Board will have absolute control over the administration of the laws and over the existence of every license in the province, and is given power to cancel or suspend any license as it may deem expedient.

# Toronto, Montreal, Buffalo, and Other Leading Markets.

## Toronto.

Receipts at the Union Stock-yards, West Toronto, on Monday, April 19, numbered 141 cars, comprising 1,910 cattle, 340 hogs, 34 sheep, 34 calves, and 543 horses. Quality of cattle was best in many weeks, but prices easy, at steady quotations. Choice export steers, \$7.25 to \$7.50, with two loads at \$7.75; choice butchers steers and heifers, \$7 to \$7.25; good, \$6.75 to \$7; medium, \$6.50 to \$6.75; common, \$6.25 to \$6.50; cows, \$4 to \$6.50; bulls, \$5 to \$6.75; feeders, \$5 to \$6.75; stockers, \$5 to \$6; milkers, \$5 to \$9.1; veal calves, \$4 to \$9. Sheep, \$6.50 to \$7.50; yearling lambs, \$8 to \$11; spring lambs, \$5 to \$10. Hogs, \$9.25 weighed off cars.

REVIEW OF LAST WEEK'S MARKETS  
The total receipts of live stock at the City and Union Stock-yards for the past week were:

	City.	Union.	Total.
Cattle .....	31	391	422
Hogs .....	287	3,935	4,222
Sheep .....	813	10,116	11,229
Calves .....	187	391	578
Horses .....	88	1,180	1,268
	117	1,211	1,328

The total receipts of live stock at the

two markets for the corresponding week of 1914 were:

	City.	Union.	Total.
Cattle .....	4	290	294
Hogs .....	42	3,828	3,870
Sheep .....	67	6,863	6,930
Calves .....	—	738	738
Horses .....	—	1,162	1,162
	40	215	255

The combined receipts of live stock at the two markets for the past week show an increase of 131 cars, 352 cattle, 4,299 hogs, 106 calves, and 1,073 horses, but a decrease of 160 sheep and lambs, compared with the corresponding week of 1914.

Deliveries of live stock at the Toronto market were moderate for cattle, and hogs, sheep and lambs were light, but calves were plentiful. Trade in fat cattle was slow all week, especially in the heavyweight steers, the top prices for which were about 40 cents per cwt. lower than for the previous week, while light, handy-weight steers and heifers were in demand at firm values. Prices for fat cows and bulls were strong all week, and canners and cutters were slightly higher, as the supply did not equal the demand. Stockers and feeders, for which there was a good demand, sold at firm values, be-

ing higher than for some fat cattle in a few instances. The receipts of milkers and springers were not large, and those of choice quality were scarce, selling at firm but not any higher prices. Deliveries of calves were larger, and generally of poor quality. Government restrictions in regard to weight and age are being rigidly enforced, and several lots were placed under lock and key by the inspector, being less than three weeks old, while four is said to be the standard. Values in all classes of calves were lower. Sheep and lambs were scarce, and of poor quality as a rule, selling at firm values for those approaching good quality. Hogs sold at firm prices all week, although the packers tried to reduce values.

Butchers' Cattle.—Choice heavy steers, 1,300 lbs. each, sold at \$7.60, and not more than two straight loads brought this price during the week; choice, light-weight steers and heifers sold at \$7.25 to \$7.50, but few at latter figure; good steers and heifers, \$6.90 to \$7.15; medium, \$6.50 to \$6.80; common, \$6.15 to \$6.40; choice cows, \$6.25 to \$6.50; good cows, \$5 to \$6.25; medium cows, \$5.50 to \$5.75; common cows, \$5 to \$5.50; cutters, \$4.50 to \$4.75; canners, \$4 to \$4.50; bulls, \$5.25 to \$7, the latter

price being for a few choice-quality animals of fine bone, and young.

Stockers and Feeders.—Feeding steers, 800 to 900 lbs., sold from \$6.25 to \$6.75, and a few brought \$7; steers, 700 to 800 lbs., \$6.25 to \$6.50; stockers, 500 to 600 lbs., \$5.50 to \$6.

Milkers and Springers.—Choice, heavy Holstein and Shorthorn grade milkers and early springers, sold from \$75 to \$95 each; medium to good cows, \$50 to \$65; common to medium cows, \$40 to \$50 each.

Veal Calves.—Choice veal calves, \$8.50 to \$9.50; good calves, \$7 to \$8; medium calves, \$5 to \$6; common calves, \$4 to \$5, and "bobs" \$2 to \$3 each.

Sheep and Lambs.—Light ewes, \$7 to \$8; heavy ewes, \$5.50 to \$6.50; rams, \$6 to \$7; spring lambs sold at \$5 to \$10 each, but there are too many light lambs coming, some of which sold as low as \$3 and \$4 each; yearling lambs sold from \$8 to \$11.

Hogs.—Hogs weighed off cars started off at the beginning of the week at \$9.15 to \$9.25, but as the close sold as high as \$9.35 to \$9.40.

## BREADSTUFFS.

Wheat.—Ontario, No. 2, \$1.43 to \$1.45, outside; Manitoba, at bay ports, No. 1