

standing and walking in wet and slush. Cattle cannot thrive that are thus exposed; so in this economic point of view it would pay to have a clean, dry yard. To this end there needs proper drainage, and with this the water from the roof should be prevented from discharging in the barn-yard and run into reservoirs or tanks, and utilized to water stock in the yard instead of driving them a distance away in cold and stormy weather or during the burning sun of a hot summer's day. Another advantage occurring from a dry, well-drained yard, would be that of liquid manure, which on nearly all our farms goes to waste.

Manure tanks could be built at a slight outlay and would pay for themselves in the utilized liquid in one year. The best of the dung pile in this country is washed away into the surrounding sloughs and drains, and adds to the impurity of the water about the farm and renders it unhealthy for the animals that partake of it. In a sanitary point of view, a clean, well kept yard would add much to the comfort and health of the farmer's family; and when all these things are considered, it would certainly be desirable for our farmers to look to their barn-yards as soon as possible, or get them in order for the weather.

Bridges and Culverts.

The recent disastrous floods in Middlesex and adjacent counties, and the carrying away of nearly all the bridges and culverts, ought to demonstrate to the farming community the fallacy of the present system of bridge and culvert building. A few hundred dollars saved when the bridge is first built probably means a loss of thousands of dollars afterwards. In most cases to keep down the cost of the bridge, embankments are thrown out on either side of the river and the bridge sprung across. These embankments are probably high above the ordinary water mark, but when the water rises from heavy rains these embankments, if not carried away by the rushing waters, most effectually dam the river, and the consequence is that low lying lands are submerged and incalculable damage done, and the farmers at one fell swoop pay more by loss of crops than they would have to pay by years of taxation for the bridges to have been properly constructed. Now that our country is being drained, the rains which fall upon the land are run off and conveyed to the streams very rapidly, instead of remaining upon the land and going away gradually, as it did in years gone by, and it is no uncommon occurrence now-a-days to see in a well-farmed district small creeks after a heavy shower almost instantly become mighty torrents, and the culverts which formerly were large enough to allow the water to pass under the roadways, are now altogether insufficient for the purpose. More debris is brought down the streams, and the culverts are easily choked. The consequence is that the road-bed for many yards is carried away or badly damaged. All these things should make our farmers ponder, and open their eyes to the fact that the saving system that has been pursued in bridge and culvert building is false economy. The outlay of a few dollars extra at first would be many dollars saved in the end. The farmers who have to bear the brunt of the taxation must weary of continually paying for reconstruction. Again the question arises, Would it not be better to have fewer bridges and have them placed where really necessary, and have them properly constructed under the supervision of experienced engineers, instead of the members of Township Councils, who can not have had experience sufficient to enable them to control such important works? If competent engineers cannot be obtained in Canada, then by all means import them.

Threshing Time.

Threshing will be later this year owing to the backwardness of the season. To thresh the fall wheat early is a good plan; in the first place, it gives room for garnering the other grain. Taking the average of years, selling in the fall is the most advantageous. There are a great many risks to run in keeping wheat a length of time; and if a less price be got in the fall it is better than to keep it and run the risk of shrinkage, must and rot, if not kept in proper bins. Last year there was a great quantity of wheat spoiled by threshing early, and when the straw and grain were damp. The wheat was piled up in large quantities, and the dampness produced heat, and the grain mustered. There is more wheat spoiled every year before it gets to the millers' hands than people are aware of, and simply by keeping large mows of wheat without moving. Grain of any kind, when threshed early, should be continually on the move. When wheat is moved from the farmer's granary to the local buyer, and from there to the railway, and from that to the steamboat, &c., every handling improves its condition with regard to dryness. According to present advices the wheat crop on this continent will be over 84,000,000 bushels less than last year, and, consequently, prices may be expected to have an upward tendency.

Last year a number of farmers were burned out through the carelessness of threshers, and defective smoke-stacks on the steam engines, and it behooves our farmers to look carefully whether the engines that are used are properly supplied with efficient spark arresters, so as to run no risk of being burned out. The general run of smoke-stacks are blocked up with dampers and screens, and to get draught so as to do a good day's work, these dampers have to be opened so as to keep up steam. When the ground and all the surroundings are dry, there is a rush of sparks from the smoke-stacks which renders threshing extremely hazardous. On this account a number of farmers put off threshing until late in the fall, to avoid the danger of being burned out. There is no excuse for either manufacturers or threshers using unsafe and dangerous smoke-stacks, for there are sufficient safe and reliable smoke-stacks that give both draught, and at the same time arrest sparks, to make them a perfect safeguard against fire. Let every farmer see that threshers have a license from some reliable fire insurance company, and that he has a safe smoke-stack and arrester on his engine.

Hay Tedders.

A prominent farmer near this city has used one of these useful implements this season, and informs us that he would not be without one. It enabled him to get in his hay both quicker and in better condition than before he used one. As soon as the mower had gone a round or two, the tedder was started, and kept pace with the mower. The hay was dry and ready for cocking the same day, and was hauled the day following. We are sorry that none of these useful implements are manufactured in Canada, and hope that some of our manufacturers will turn their attention to making them. They would have proved almost invaluable to farmers during the past unfavorable season.

Mr. Shaw Wood, of London township, from experiments made last year in growing oats, gives the preference to Mole's Ennobled, Australian and Swiss oats. The latter were fully two weeks earlier than the other two varieties, but was more liable to rust. He found the Australian and Mole's Ennobled about equal in growth, vigor of stem, stood well, and were free from rust; but 90 kernels of the Australian weighed equal to 130 of the other varieties. He also states that his experiments showed the Russian and Australian to be the same oats.

Special Contributors.

A Chatty Stock Letter from the States.

[From our Chicago Correspondent.]

There has of late been uncommon activity in fine breeding cattle. Fine stock breeders are busy, and as a rule are making liberal profits out of their business. There probably has not been a time when there was such an active call for good breeding stock as at present. There is nothing of a "boom" in the trade; it is of a more stable character. There is simply a good healthy demand for good cattle, and it is very clear that people are not rushing into it headlong simply because "everybody" else is, or because of any undue newspaper notoriety, but it is all owing to the fact that people are satisfied, from experience, that it is the proper and most profitable thing for stock men to do.

Recently there arrived at Chicago, from quarantine at Baltimore, a herd of 230 fine breeding cattle, including five Polled Angus and 225 purely bred Herefords, undoubtedly the largest and finest importation that has ever been made of these cattle. The cattle belong to a party of Wyoming capitalists and breeders. When the herd arrived in quarantine there were 202 head, but many of the cows calved and materially swelled the already large herd. In the lot there were about 20 males; the others being females, ranging in age from suckling calves to old cows. Such a lot of thoroughbred breeding females has never before been sent to the plains. The stock is owned by gentlemen who will engage in breeding high grade bulls for the range. Heretofore there has been more or less of this done, but the breeding of thoroughbreds and grades has been done on breeding farms farther away from the free cattle ranges. Perhaps the stock will be more hardy for being bred in the same climate in which they are to do service.

Some very fine distillery-fed cattle were recently marketed at Chicago. They were half-blood Herefords, originally from the Wyoming ranch of Swan Brothers; in fact they were the first fruits of the bulls of that breed which they took out to the ranch some three or four years ago. The lot numbered 75 head, averaged 1,880 lbs., and sold at \$6.15 per cwt., which was at least 25 cents per hundred more than any other cattle sold for on the day of their arrival. They sold to Armour & Co., to dress at Chicago and be forwarded in refrigerator cars to a New York butcher who makes a specialty of handling the best grades of beef. The lot dressed sixty-four pounds per hundred, an extraordinary record, being about eight pounds above the average. The lot attracted much attention, and was inspected by numerous breeders of note, the most of whom came for the express purpose of seeing the first really large lot of Herefords that has been marketed. On the same day, and with the same lot, was a large shipment of ordinary range cattle that had been slop-fed the same length of time as the half-bloods, which averaged 1,309 lbs., and sold at \$5.75. A few practical lessons like that, showing in actual figures the value of improved blood, carry more weight than almost any amount of theorizing.

Slop-feeding cattle at distilleries is gaining in popularity every year, and has been done very extensively this year. It is rather remarkable how completely and in how short a time all prejudice against still fed cattle has been overcome. The time was, and it was no longer ago than three years, that such cattle would not sell within fifty cents to a dollar a hundred as much as could be realized for corn fed beeves of corresponding quality. It was argued that there was necessarily