Feed Lot.

a huge pile of cobs from which in
ng days they were fed the savory
owadays the market here at home
e meat, but it asks for the sappy,
ll-fleshed yearling or two-year-old, fed
calf up on silage, roots, straw, chop
The steers of years ago got roots but
nd some, we are sorry to record, get
It is wrong of course, but farmers are
re silos year after year and some day
verty-stricken will be without them.
ed of an educational campaign to en-
production of greater quantities of
ilage. With plenty of these two
r either one, store cattle can be
exceedingly plain feeds and do well,
them fattening animals will put on
eight more cheaply than can be ac-
n any other way. The element of
the growing season enters into the
more particularly with roots, but
can be solved if plans for the future
time.

umed that every stockman of this
e a good supply of either roots or
rally speaking there is no excuse for
em. Then there is the time-honored
oats and barley chopped together.
er but not inferior comes wheat,
ear, a great many farmers must feed.
do so without any regret, for it is
d what the Westerner is netting for
rthern even though he sell it as high
orn is plentiful in some sections, but
icts steer feeding is not practiced as
lsewhere in Ontario. Throughout
on, Elgin and parts of Middlesex
derable corn is stored in cribs to be
, but elsewhere the greater part of
ot fed from the shock goes into the
County, of course, grows corn
ut there beef takes second place to
may almost be considered as king
in the feed runs; it is a standard
efficiency and worth of other feeds
Unless fed with clover hay or other
ld probably pay to purchase some
al or oil cake and feed along with
ent stations in the United States
a profit from the use of cottonseed
corn is abundant. We also have
lot of steers that were finished last
nbton County on silage, hay and
al, getting as much as 6 to 7 lbs.
teer of the concentrate. That oc-
he farm grains were scarce and
eed was cheap. The steers did
a choice lot when finished. We
mstance only to suggest that one
s without the corn, wheat, oats or
essary, but, of course, the silage
ingredients common to shelled corn
y.

then that corn, when available, is
t of feeds, we might proceed to the
usually fed. Oat and barley chop is
common and it gives good results,
ould improve it as a fattening
latter grain by some is considered
while others claim that it will
r cent. less gains. It, like corn,
ohydrates but it has more protein
Consequently it is superior to corn
re cattle or growing animals, and
in that capacity so far as needed.
ith oats and barley, wheat is quite
orn and steer feeders can use it to
od advantage if they have it on
r. Equal parts of the three grains,
r, fed along with about 30 lbs. of
bs. of roots to each 1,000-lb. steer
produce gains as economically as
that could be fed. A concentrate
prove this mixture would be a
of oil cake or cottonseed meal.
at "Weldwood" we fed 1½ lbs. of
ition to oat and barley chop and
gains. Silage and roots were fed
s previously mentioned and the
n the average 235 and two-fifths
ths, or 2.2. lbs. each per day.
st made an average daily gain of
th gained almost 2 lbs. and an-
not do well gained 1.6 lbs. per
ere, as previously stated, young
about 1,000 lbs. They probably
ckly than older steers would have
a short period, and they were
e feed than would be advisable
feeder period is the practice. One
ed by Mumford, an authority on
art heavily on roughages, includ-
falfa hay, and give the steers all
e without wasting any. In addi-
2 lbs. corn per steer per day, in-
ally until 10 lbs. are fed. After
1 lb. daily until 17 lbs. are fed;
t this be increased to 22 lbs. per
this is quite applicable to our

conditions at the start, the quantity soon mounts up to an allowance that a great many feeders would not care to dole out in this country. Where the cattle are to be fed for 6 months, 6 weeks should elapse before the animals are put upon full feed. In the meantime they should have plenty of roots and silage, clover or alfalfa hay, and failing these some nitrogenous concentrate.

The quantity of grain that should be fed per steer must be decided by the man in charge. He must be able to detect an animal as soon as it is not right. Underfeeding and overfeeding can both be read in the individual steer or heifer if the herdsman knows his business. The steers referred to in a preceding paragraph were getting 9 quarts of chop, 1½ lbs. of oil cake, 30 lbs. silage and 21 lbs. of roots each after the first month, and in addition to this their hay allowance was increased till they received about 10 lbs. per day each in the last month. So long as a steer will consume this amount and keep his appetite keen he is not getting too much; many steers will handle even more grain. Cattle fattened in the Corn Belt of the United States are fed very liberally, but much of the corn passes through them undigested and is later picked up by hogs. Even in Canada in many cases steers are followed by pigs, and where corn is fed it is not a bad practice. Oftentimes the pork alone is a very large part of the profits which accrue from the feeding operation.

MAKING BABY BEEF.

Whole milk is one prime essential in making baby beef. However, it is usually necessary to relieve the dams of some responsibility and force the calves along with grain and roots or silage. Finely-ground oats and bran are very good at first, and the calves will take to the mixture at a tender age. Oil cake meal will be found useful in this case, but it should not be necessary to continue the bran any length of time, for the young calves will soon learn to eat roots and silage when oat and barley chop with a handful of oil cake will encourage the production of flesh and supply all necessary ingredients. There is no reason why a portion of the ration should not be ground wheat. It is fattening, but at the same time it is very appropriate for growing animals.

Last June on a Middlesex farm we saw a very nice lot of baby beeves ready for market. They were about 15 months old and would weigh approximately 900 lbs. each. During their lifetime they got very little hay, silage being the chief roughage. Mixed grains or chop were fed as soon as the calves would take to it. Young steers and heifers in the stalls, at that time about 5 months old were getting 2 lbs. of chop per day, and this would be increased to 6 or 7 lbs. daily during the finishing period. Throughout the lactation period the calves were allowed to suck, and this nourishment combined with chop and silage resulted in economical beef.

WINTERING STORE CATTLE.

Store cattle should not be allowed to stand still as regards growth and gains during the winter, neither should they be fed expensive feeds. Roughages such as silage and roots should form a large part of their daily meals, and with plenty of these they should assist in cleaning up considerable straw or poor-quality hay if it be on hand. We have seen steers and heifers that butchers would not reject in the spring wintered on such a frugal fare as roots and good oat straw. They would have done better no doubt with some chop or good clover hay, but those commodities were not available for that class of stock and they did well without them. With a liberal allowance of silage and some dry fodder steers and heifers will come through the winter quite satisfactorily, but if substantial gains are desired a little chop will give good returns. Wheat in such a case would be very appropriate for it is this class of cattle kind that can utilize it to best advantage. The stock would be making bone and muscle, for which reason wheat would be one of the best of grains to feed. It should be borne in mind, however, that wheat alone is not so good as when mixed with corn, oats or barley. Alone it is pasty and sticky in the mouth, and when in use in this stable this winter, especially for growing stock, it would be wise to mix it with a small quantity of oats or barley or such grains as can be spared. With fattening cattle it should not form so large a percentage of the ration as is recommended for store cattle.

A newspaper report from Boston, Mass., claims that four-fifths of the milk consumed in that city comes from Canada and the adjacent states in tank cars, and in consequence cows are disappearing from the state hillsides to the extent that there are now only 50 cows to every 1,000 of the population of the commonwealth. The problem has got into politics, the republican candidate for governor having promised constructive legislation, if elected, that will be fair to the consumers and encourage the state live-stock industry.

FARM.

The Institute Problem

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate".

In a recent issue of "The Farmer's Advocate" you invite a discussion of the proposed reorganization of the Farmers' Institutes or the forming of the proposed County Boards of Agriculture.

Anything pertaining to Farmers' Institutes, which have contributed so much to the prosperity of the rural community in the past, should be of interest to all agriculturists. That interest in Institute meetings is waning seems, on the surface, to be a fact. In many cases this is so, and yet in others, much interest is yet manifested; at any rate it seems so to me, although having had but limited experience in Institute work I find that in the older, more thickly-populated districts interest has waned, but not so in the more remote and comparatively thinly-populated districts. In these places interest is shown by the numbers attending, and by the many questions asked.

It seems to me that there are several reasons for the lack of interest in these former districts, among which might be mentioned the following: 1, the influence of the press; 2, lack of numbers owing to rural depopulation; 3, lack of ample rewards in farming.

In the first place we find our agricultural papers, in ever increasing numbers, being placed in the homes of most of our farmers by a persistent number of canvassers and otherwise. These papers contain all the up-to-date literature and findings in science in regard to agriculture, so that it is very difficult for institute lecturers to bring anything new before an audience.

Then perhaps we forget that there are not so many rural dwellers now as there used to be.

Our Lady of the Snows.

A Canadian stream wrapped in its winter cloak.

The number of discarded churches and schools are sad reminders of this fact. Therefore, there are not so many to attend our Institute meetings. In this township can be counted block after block of one thousand acres being worked by from ten to twelve men.

The last reason is the chief one, however, and is the cause of the second one. The rural problem is purely economic. There is an important work ahead of the new Government Commission, viz., to find out what is the matter with Canadian agriculture. If they find out, as many of us are convinced, that farmers are seriously handicapped by our economic laws, and can induce the powers that be to remedy the matter, then the Institute problem will also be solved.

Perhaps there will be a difference of opinion regarding the third reason, viz., that farming does not yield sufficient returns. The majority of us are engaged in mixed farming, and must of necessity continue so. How many men on the average farm are making any more wages than a good hired man? A good man receives by the year three hundred dollars, with his board and washing thrown in, if living with the family, thus costing the farmer about five hundred dollars. Now, how many farmers can show an increase in ten years of five thousand dollars. Perhaps in some cases we may, if we count the increased value of land. The fact remains that if our children and women folk received wages for the work they do the farmer in many cases would have nothing.

Now, in view of this fact, is it any wonder that interest in farming itself is waning, and if interest in farming wanes, how can it be maintained in Institute work? The question then naturally arises: Are farmers being exhorted to get busy and increase production, while our Federal Government is allowing injustices and burdens to be placed upon them? Are we being asked to swim with mill-stones about our necks?

My opinion is that so long as these unjust economic laws remain, so long will farmers lack interest in agriculture and in Institutes, but let these be removed, then will people flock to the land, interest will be revived, and there would not need to be much of a change in Institute work, unless it would be to employ more demonstration work and have lantern-slide talks.

With regard to the new scheme, it no doubt is advisable in many districts. But why not have the territory covered by these Boards coincide with the territory covered by the District Representatives rather than according to the political ridings. For instance, my own township is in Russell Riding, but is included in the territory covered by the Carleton County Representative. One of the objects of the new scheme is to develop local talent, which would be a good thing. It should also result in the discussion of and the remedying of difficulties, which may be purely local, and of which an outside delegate might know little.

Carleton Co., Ont. JAS. F. FERGUSON.

About a Corn Experiment.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In your issue of Nov. 11 you gave an account of a test with corn grown for silage purposes. It is not my desire to criticize I. B. Whale, who conducted the experiment, nor to boom one variety of corn more than another, but I believe it is important to look at such a test from as many viewpoints as may affect its bearing and value.

It is inferred that all the varieties were planted on the same date, or thereabouts; also that they were all harvested on the same date and in an impartial manner. If the climatic conditions would have permitted you to have delayed harvesting the Dent varieties, your test was very unfair and could not but prove fatal to the later-maturing varieties. I consider this part of the test to be the basis of merit.

It is needless to note that had Quebec Yellow been in the test, it would have caught Longfellow napping, to say nothing of the Dent varieties. In the seed corn belt we find that Longfellow matures about ten days earlier than some of the Dent varieties. The writer saw last season some Golden Glow, which was grown at Huntingdon, Quebec, and which was quite well matured. I would think that almost invariably Dents would be grown well up to maturity in Middlesex county.

I am glad to note that the test was made in a field. Too many tests have been conducted with one or two rows of each variety, as it is generally conceded that a narrow strip of corn never does well.

This test should induce growers of Dent seed corn to select the earliest maturing strains of each variety. I do not wish to be misunderstood, as I have always advised the growing of such varieties as will properly mature, whether it be in the seed corn or silage belt. Government reports confirm the value of well-matured corn for silage purposes. Tests and scales are very important factors in determining results.

Essex Co., Ont. ROBT. W. KNISTER.

[Note.—It was unnecessary to "infer" anything as the corn was grown on our own farm "Weldwood," and it stated explicitly in the article describing the experiment that all varieties got exactly the same treatment. They were all planted on the same day side by side in the center of our corn field and they were all cut the same day, Sept. 28, at the time our corn was being cut for silage purposes, and surely as late as one could safely leave corn on heavy land in Middlesex county. We simply gave the results of the tests as we found them, and think that our article was fair to the varieties as they showed up this year on our particular type of soil. The experiment was carefully conducted and the results carefully compiled. It is only one test. Others another year might not agree with it. All varieties had as many days to mature as we could give them. Dents could not have been left ten days longer.—Editor.]