

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

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Grain Stacking.

Owing to the early harvest, a very considerable portion of the grain is already in stack or has been threshed from stook. Still, in some of the northern or newer districts of the Province and Territories, where there was a more generous rainfall during the earlier part of the season, and consequently heavier crops that have not ripened so rapidly, there is yet stacking to do, and a word of caution may yet prove helpful, especially to some of the newer settlers who may have had little experience in stacking grain. Owing to the comparative shortage of fodder and hay in many sections, it is important to stack all the best of the straw, as bright, well-saved straw is much better stock feed than poorly-cured or late-cut swam. Therefore it is well in selecting stack sites to bear the straw stack in mind and arrange, if possible, that they be not left in the middle of cultivated fields, to be a continual nuisance throughout the following year. It has been found a good plan to have a piece of unbroken sod centrally located and reserved for a stack yard, unto which all weed seeds are drawn along with the grain and can be burned off and destroyed the following summer. A little care in stacking the straw turns the wet, prevents it from being blown about, and leaves it convenient to draw in during the winter.

Grain stacks can be built round or oblong, the former are now common and can perhaps be more easily built, but in a long stack more stuff can be put away from the weather, and when properly "placed" they are equally convenient for threshing. Round stacks are generally placed in sets of 4 or 6, thus: , with just room between for the separator. A brief description of how a round stack should be built to turn rain may be of interest, and we reproduce from an article on grain-stacking published a year ago, the following:

"Beginning a round stack, start with a round stook in the center, continuing the stook, keeping the sheaves as upright as possible, till the foundation is large enough. In this way no heads touch the ground to get damp, and an even foundation is given, which makes the stack less liable to slip out when building, and less liable to lean when settling. Before beginning the regular outside tiers, it will likely be necessary to lay some extra sheaves in the center to bring it up full, and keep all sheaves on the next tier sloping downwards towards the outside. Now begin a layer of sheaves round the outside, laying the second row at the same time, and placing the butts of the second about to the band of the first. The stacker should keep his weight off the outer row, and in laying the inside rows continue round and round systematically, laying one row at a time as closely together as possible, stepping on each sheaf as laid, each course overlapping the one below about to the bands, or sufficiently to keep the center well above the outside row. Thus the outside will settle more than the center, as it will not be so compact and solid, and all sheaves slope downwards and outwards. By putting on a bulge—that is, letting the stack out a little larger each course till high enough for the take-in—more grain can be put under the same roof than if the stack is built with straight sides. At the "take-in" be sure and have the center full. Continue as before, taking in each course a little, and keeping the heart very full. The butts of the sheaves become set in the stooks, and by a little care in placing them with the slope downward on the outside roof tiers, a very smooth, neat job can be made, and if the heart is always kept full there will be little danger of wet getting in. Every course of sheaves should be continued systematically to the center of the stack: it makes the stack more solid, and more stuff can be put in than when merely a pile of sheaves are thrown into the middle. It is not necessary to carry the stack very high, or make a roof like a church steeple. A sharp-pointed stick about four feet long run down through the cap sheaf will hold it on and let in no water.

I hope you will allow me to say that I am simply charmed with the high standard of excellence to which you have brought the *ADVOCATE*. With best wishes, I beg to be, my dear sir,
Yours faithfully,
J. G. DAVIDSON.

Give Weeds a Finishing Touch.

A careful and observing man, who had recently been on an extended trip through the Province, remarked in our office the other day that "The battle with noxious weeds is only well begun." Almost everywhere he had been fields and roadsides were showing abundant evidences that noxious weeds were still a very live issue. In spite of all that has been said and written on the subject, and in spite of the fact that nine out of every ten farmers *know* better, still annual weeds are allowed to ripen seeds by the million, and biennials and perennials to produce leaves, and thus store up in their roots the food necessary for continued growth and seeding the following year. A piece of land is set apart for summer-fallowing, it is carefully plowed, and perhaps harrowed or cultivated a couple of times, then the rush of harvest and threshing comes on, and no more attention is given to it, or the balance of the season is so fully occupied that there is really not time to give the fallow any more work, so great is the amount of work undertaken by most of our wheat farmers. In the meantime, the biennials, such as the evening primrose, false tansy, golden fumitory, and others; the perennials, as the thistles, couch grasses, morning-glories or sunflowers; and the winter annuals, like the stinkweed, tumble mustard, fleabane, blue bur or skunk-tail grass, are silently, but surely, making their preparations for another year's mischief, undoing much of what has been accomplished by the cultivation already given.

Another stroke of the cultivator right now may be needed on your fallows. See to it.

The Tuberculin Test Plague.

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE has freely devoted much attention and space to the discussion of the subject of bovine tuberculosis, its origin, causes, prevention, and possible cure, giving special emphasis to the value of ventilation and a full supply of pure air and sunlight as an essential agency of prevention, the cheapest and best of the possible provisions against the insidious disease, which is largely a sequence of modern methods of stable construction, and is seldom contracted in open-air conditions. The tuberculin test as an agency for the diagnosis of the disease was, a few years ago, with much assurance proclaimed a discovery of great value, being, it was claimed, practically infallible in its operations, and coming with the almost universal endorsement of veterinary scientists, it was received by stock-raisers and the public generally with all the consideration due to a discovery of such vital importance. The earlier exhibitions of its efficiency as an agent for discovery were certainly such as to warrant much of the merit claimed for it, and in so far as that is concerned, we are not sure that when intelligently applied by careful and competent practitioners it has lost much ground in the estimation of unprejudiced witnesses, but in the hands of inexperienced and incompetent manipulators, and under unreasonable and irksome regulations its vagaries have brought it into such general disrepute that there are now comparatively few so simple as to do it reverence. It may yet have its place of usefulness when judiciously applied, especially in the case of city dairies, where sanitary conditions are not sufficiently observed; but its indiscriminate application to imported animals for breeding purposes has always appeared to us, in view of the uncertainty or very distant possibility of its contagious character, to be an unnecessary hardship to importers, and one which they have borne with a patience worthy of a better cause. It is surely an absurdity to suppose that practical men will pay large prices and all the added expenses of transportation for stock of which they have the least suspicion that they are unhealthy. There are well-authenticated

cases of animals purchased for America being condemned on the tuberculin test in Britain, and after a few weeks re-tested and passed as sound. In our last issue reference was made to a case in which five high-class bulls purchased for the Argentine were tested by English veterinary surgeons and certified sound, but two of them being condemned by the Government veterinary at the Argentine port, on the same test, they were returned to England for slaughter, where a careful examination by a qualified veterinary failed to find any trace of disease. It is such instances as these that serve to bring the test into contempt, and when to this is added the opinion of breeders that in not a few instances the application of the test has had an injurious effect upon the health of animals, especially pregnant cows, subjected to it, there need be little wonder that importers are strongly disposed to declare war against regulations which hamper and harass enterprising men in the discharge of a business which tends to the public benefit as well as their own. In the State of Illinois, appeal has been made to the courts by cattle owners for protection against the squirt-gun of the vet. under cover of the law, and owing to contrary decisions by judges in different counties as to the legal right to enforce the test, the Governor of the State has wisely declared the regulations of the State Board of Health inoperative, pending the appeal to a higher court. This is probably but the beginning of a fight for freedom from official bondage, which will grow into larger proportions unless relief come soon in the form of more rational requirements. Importers have loyally submitted to a ninety-days quarantine for the discovery of contagious diseases—a precaution which all agree is proper—but when cattle have to run the gauntlet of two tuberculin tests within four months, as many have when sold by Canadian importers to go to the United States, it is a severe strain upon the patience of the breeders, as well as upon the constitutions of the animals.

Canadian Prizes for British Schools.

One of the signs of the times is the greatly increased attention given by the Government of Canada to the development of this country as the greatest colony of the British Empire. The latest step taken by Lord Strathcona, Canadian High Commissioner in London, Eng., is the distribution of books on the subject of the Dominion to schools in the United Kingdom, and the presentation of a bronze medal for competition in each school which takes the subject up. The books themselves are valuable educational works, and quite interesting, one an atlas and the other a reading book which treats of the history and present condition of Canada. It is by E. R. Peacock, M. A., of Upper Canada College, Toronto, with an introduction by the Very Rev. G. M. Grant, LL. D., Principal of Queen's University, Kingston, and is beautifully printed and illustrated, and teeming with information conveyed in a clear and agreeable style. The little atlas is a gem of its kind, and contains seven teen excellent maps of other countries (the U. S. excluded), in addition to ten relating to Canada, accompanied by a geographical text of the most comprehensive and compendious character. Not only will the pupils but the teachers derive a great deal of information from these two valuable little school books, and the idea of offering a prize in each school for the best essay at Christmas is as ingenious as it is novel. The idea is an admirable one, and will not only afford the boys and girls of Britain accurate knowledge of this part of the Empire, but cement the ties existing between Canada and the motherland. The High Commissioner is to be congratulated upon the efforts he is making.