

## What About the Future of the Winter Fair?

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

The crowded condition of the last Winter Fair held at Guelph, Ont., was proof positive that it is scarcely possible to expand it any further under the present conditions. Indeed, the exhibit that was enclosed in the buildings at that show would have made a much grander sight if it could have been spread out, saying nothing of the great numbers of horses that were stabled around the city. No doubt something should be done, and that very soon, to accommodate the growing needs of this great educator. Some, no doubt, will say, wait until the war is over and business becomes normal again. I am not so sure that we can afford to relax our energies even that long in a business that plays such an important part in the feeding of the millions, and in meeting the war debt of our land. Possibly property can still be procured for increasing the stable accommodation, but if that were done would things be satisfactory? I submit that they would not. The present arena and seating capacity is far from satisfactory now. What would it be when the Fair expands one-half more, which it will do in a very few years if it is not retarded, judging from the way it has grown in past years.

I think that the Provincial Department of Agriculture has this problem to meet, in the best interests of the Province, and I believe the sooner the better; and I further believe that almost everyone who has the best interests of the educative value of this show at heart, believes it should remain closely allied with the Ontario Agricultural College. My proposition would be, to make the best possible arrangement with the city of Guelph, re the old building, and then erect a building worthy of the industries that it represents, on the College farm, viz., on the northeast corner of the dairy farm, being the nearest point to the city. The very first saving would be many thousands of dollars that a suitable site elsewhere would cost, and ground would always be available for extensions, as the expansion of the show demanded. This building could possibly be made a source of revenue in connection with the College if taken in time. It seems to me that the first thought that strikes people who have attended shows at Guelph in the past, is that the College site would be too far from Railways, Hotels, etc. To such I would say we must make up our minds that we must leave the present site very soon, because it cannot be made adequate. Where is there another site more convenient? Where can one be supplied more cheaply, within 20 minutes walk of Hotels and Railways? The only other place that seems anxious to secure the show is Toronto, where either site, viz., Queen's Park or the Union Stock Yards, is 30 minutes or more car ride from hotel accommodation. The present car lines to the College could be arranged to handle all freight as well as visitors, and if this matter were taken hold of soon, perhaps the proposed Hydro Radial could be arranged to land both passengers and freight right on the spot. Middlesex Co., Ont. R. H. HARDING.

## Adds Plenty of Water to Dry Corn.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I thought perhaps the results of our experience in putting corn into silos, under different conditions, might be of interest to some of your readers. We have a large-size silage cutter for our own use in partnership with one of our neighbors, and we filled eight silos besides our own two, and the condition in which the corn was put through the machine varied greatly, but the conditions which we have in mind as widely different, are as follows: The corn for one silo was cut before it was frosted, while it was quite green. The corn for our own silo was slightly frosted, and was advanced to mature stage; in fact, we saved something like three hundred ears for seed, which has been tested and found to show a splendid germinating percentage. In our own case about one-quarter of our corn was stood up in a long stook near the barn, after having filled the silo, and left standing there until two weeks ago, when it was put into the silo one fine day, filling the upper 16 feet. Two other silos were not filled, nor was the corn cut until it was quite badly frosted and was allowed to get quite dry. These two silos were filled with this dry corn about the middle of October, and in filling them the silo owners used some water. They allowed some water to run into the machine and was blown up with the corn, and just here is where we think we learned something. In both cases they allowed about a quarter inch stream to run in with the corn, and before we filled our silo, a couple of weeks ago, we found out that in neither case was there enough water put with the corn, as it came out very moldy and too dry to make good silage. When we started filling our own silo the last time, our corn was just as dry as that of either of these others. We filled our water tank and

set it on the barn floor so as to get the elevation, and attached a garden hose with a tap on the end, and while the machine was running we put a full half inch stream into the machine and blew it up with the corn. As a result our silage is coming out in grand condition. After filling the second time we did not stop feeding at all. Of course, for a few days, while the silage was making, it was very warm and a little mouldy, but not a dry mould like the others, and the cattle have eaten all of what was given them without any ill results so far; and now the silage is fine, and if we were putting corn that was the least bit dry into a silo again we would put plenty of water with it. We see no difference in the silage made from dry corn well matured and corn freshly cut and put into the silo before being dried out. The quality of the silage in both cases seems to be about the same.

We are awaiting with a good deal of interest the results of the experiments carried on at Weldwood, regarding the sowing of corn in rows as against planting in hills. Our idea that we have taken so far from your experiment is that we should sow corn that will mature, and sow it thickly in rows so as to get the tonnage, and sow it early so that it will mature, and even though it does not have the ears it will have the same feeding value in a more digestible form than if the ears were in evidence. Is this right? Northumberland Co., Ont. B. ARMSTRONG.

[Note.—We would draw our correspondent's attention to articles in our issue of Jan. 27, in which we attempt to further explain thick-sown corn. By all means plant early-maturing varieties if trying this experiment. We do not claim that the thick-sown is more digestible than the hill-planted, although it may be. Our analysis showed it to be nearly equal to hill-planted in feeding value. But the thick sown last year yielded almost double the weight per acre.—Editor.]



A Big Barn.

Barn of Morris Scovil, shown in plan 4, this issue.

## How Was It Done?

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I noticed in a recent issue of your paper that the winner in the seed corn competition that got the Free Course at Guelph, grew 154 bushels of shelled corn to the acre. At same percentage that other competitors who also went to Guelph figured their amount of shelled corn, this young man had 221 bushels of ears, which would mean a large ear of corn on each of four stalks in every hill on the acre. We, who have grown corn in a corn belt, know that it is impossible to be free from a large percentage of barren stalks, and Government experiments show that four, or fewer, stalks will give the larger yield of ears. It looks to me as if some mistake has been made in this case. I would think that good judgment should teach editors and Government officials that a case of this kind should demand their attention. I also notice that he has grown this enormous crop with a cost of \$12.32. I may not be familiar with all rules governing this competition, but understand that \$5.00 an acre shall be paid as rent, and 15 cents an hour for man labor, and 10 cents an hour for horse labor. Allowing \$1.75 for plowing an acre, and \$1.75 for fitting it for planting, and 82 cents for planting, leaves \$3.00 for cultivation. This, if correct, is a very large crop to grow without manure or fertilizers. If this corn is to be cut it could not be cut for less than \$2.00, and if it is to be husked and cribbed it could not be done for the whole amount, \$12.32. I have heard several speak of this report in your paper. Perhaps you could give your readers a little more information in regard to this acre of corn. Essex Co., Ont. CECIL STOBBS.

[Note.—We can give no further information on the acre-profit competition. We published results as sent us by those in charge of the competition, and are not responsible for them. Corn was not the only crop which seemed to give phenomenal returns. Other crops, as oats and mangels, gave very high returns, according to the report. We are glad practical farmers are questioning these, for it seems that either the average practical farmer is a poor success or there is something

left out in some of the figuring. We published the results as a matter of agricultural news as sent out by the Department. If there is any explanation required those in charge of the experiments are invited to make it through these columns.—Editor.]

## Never Buy Till Needed.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I take much pleasure from reading the "Editorial" pages of your valuable paper, finding many instructive and timely hints therein, but I take exception to the motto as emphasized by the practical farmer at the Experimental Union, viz., "Never buy anything till you need it."

Now, for instance, let us take our clover and grass seeds, our seed grain and our seed corn. Must we wait till we need these? If so how can we test our clovers for purity and germination? And we may as well say the same regarding the grain and corn. If we wait till we need these the rush and hustle at seeding time will turn our minds from these all important acts, and the results will probably not be nearly so satisfactory as though the buying had been done at a less busy time. Also, time will not permit of our buying the most economical way, the price will probably be higher, and we run a much poorer chance of getting what we want. The writer makes a practice of having on hand several months before seeding, all the seed required. If in doubt as to any seed we take advantage of the free service offered from the Seed Laboratory, Ottawa, and have some tested for purity or germination, or both, and such a habit formed will seldom be regretted.

Probably what this practical farmer had in mind when he made this broad statement was in regard to buying farm machinery. May I offer a bit of advice regarding this? Never buy a piece of farm machinery from an agent traveling through the country. When that individual calls let him leave you literature regarding same, prices, terms, etc. If you think you need it, then at your leisure you can look over his pamphlets, compare his machine, prices, etc., with other standard makes, and then buy what you (not any agent) considers best value. Ontario Co., Ont. H. W.

## A Letter from the Trenches.

"Farmer's Advocate" readers will be interested in the following letter, written by Captain C. F. McEwen, son of Lieut.-Col. Robert McEwen, a prominent live-stock breeder of Middlesex Co., Ont. Captain McEwen is at the front with a cavalry division, and his cleverly-worded rallery at two Canadian papers, one of them "The Farmer's Advocate," shows the spirit of the Canadian lads on the firing line. The same jocular spirit was shown throughout the entire letter. We can imagine we see the boys eagerly grabbing papers from home. The letter was written to Captain McEwen's sister, and after acknowledging the receipt of the two papers mentioned, and besides references to personal matters, and to Captain McEwen's brother, Allan, who is a Major in the 10th Field Battery, also at the front, it reads:

"It was interesting to get a Farmer's Advocate again and note that the Advertisement is still running a full inch, having been promoted from among the sheep ads. to those of cattle. By the time this war is over, and business really starts again, Dad will have everyone who reads 'The Farmer's Advocate,' persuaded that small, early-maturing sheep are the only kind to make money out of, and after that just suggesting South-downs will solve the problem."

"It is so refreshing to again see the dry humor of the Editorial columns of Canada's leading agricultural journal, I never thought them so humorous before. About December, along would come all kinds of advice about getting ready for Christmas and the winter. During January you keep your stables ventilated and keep putting in more windows, also get up a little firewood for the good wife. In February you start an elaborate book-keeping system, which you let drop about April, attend live-stock courses, and keep poking more light in the barn. During March you always have your memory jogged to get out the harrows, and send them down to the blacksmith to be sharpened; and, you should be collecting a pile of old bricks to rub the dust off the mould board of the plough. You should now start to cut down the heavy winter's reading, and try pitching manure to harden yourself for the spring's work. Also rub a little salt and water on your shoulders to toughen the skin and prevent collar boils in the warm, spring weather. If you find this a success, try a little on your horses. Try and get a little more sunshine in the stables. It is a great help in keeping the old blue-grey in good humor. The windows you placed on the north side of the barn earlier in the winter, when you had forgotten about the sun, you can move around to the south. At Weldwood we found that washing the windows made them cleaner, but as one experiment is



County Barn.

all room for the average barn, stalls permit of tying up thirty cattle. The feed room and convenient to the root bins, but McBain has found this a satisfactory remodelled barn, 48 by 77

Plan No. 4 shows a very large and well-laid-out barn on the farm of Morris Scovil & Son, Queen's county, New Brunswick. This is a very complete plan, and should interest some of our readers who require a large barn. The barn is equipped with stanchions, manure carriers, etc. It is on a concrete foundation, as shown in the photograph, and the stables hold 27 head of cattle in the stanchions, with a large number of box stalls for calves. A big root cellar is provided. The barn is used particularly for fattening cattle, the calves being raised in the box stalls, and fed off as the stanchions the next day. The plan of ventilation, which was described in this paper, is used

plans will be of some use to our work in connection with plans of their farm stables. Any particularly good plan of house to send it to us for publica-

