

## FARM.

### Ridging Up.

Where the land is heavy clay and rather low-lying it is a good plan late in the fall, last thing after all the plowing is completed, to ridge some of this up and leave it so exposed throughout the winter. The value of ridging is that it allows the frost to get at the soil and disintegrating and rendering it in a much more friable condition than where it is run together and the frost has not the same opportunity to act. Besides this, one of the main advantages is that ridged soil dries far more quickly in the spring, and thus permits of earlier cultivation and earlier seeding, and experienced farmers know what each day in seeding means to the crop. Ridged soil may be worked down in the spring with the cultivator and harrow, and quickly put in condition for the crop. It is often possible to gain from three or four days to a week on a low piece of ground by this practice. It is worth while for this reason alone.

We would strongly advise readers having such land to try part of it ridged up this fall. A team working a ten-hour day will ridge from three and one-half to four acres. The ridging may be done with a double-mould-board plow, such as is used for making turnip or mangel rows or it may be done almost as well with an ordinary single plow, the process being simply cut and covering. The plowman must, of course, attend to his business if he desires the ridges to be thrown an even height and an even distance apart, and all the rows kept straight. It does not take long to cover an eight or ten-acre field in this way, and we feel sure that results will justify the labor and expense on low, heavy clay soil. Of course, well-drained, lighter up-land does not need this treatment to the same extent as the lower and heavier land, but many of the stiff clay-loam fields might be loosened up considerably and placed in a condition to be earlier sown by the practice.

### Dangers of Late Pasturing.

It is the firm conviction of many stockmen and general farmers that late pasturing of the new seeding and even old pastures in the fall does more harm to the next year's growth than anything else which happens to it under general farm practice. It is quite a common sight in driving through the country to see large herds of cattle and sheep, even on after it has frozen up, being compelled to gain their living from pasturing. This is not fair to the grass, which must have at least some growth in the fall to protect the roots for the winter. Sheep, for instance, eat very closely, and take the grass and clover down almost to the root-heads. It is hard to estimate the extent of the damage done in this manner, but we have often noticed pastures which had been closely eaten off late in the fall previous, and which the following year produced very little grass or hay, as the case may be.

An eighteen-acre field came under our observation last year. A large flock of sheep ran on this field until nearly Christmas. The sheep did well, being fat and healthy, but the pasture was closely cropped. This year it came on late, and did not produce a good half crop of hay. The field was in good condition, and no doubt had the sheep been kept off it the fall previous, would have grown double the quantity that it did.

Besides this late pasturing is not always best for the stock. Sheep stand it much better than cattle, particularly milk cows. Where the cattle are kept out in fine weather they should be stabled inside and fed night and morning. This will maintain their condition, and will ease the strain on the pasture very materially. This is rather an important point, for every farmer requires good pasture and big crops of hay next year.

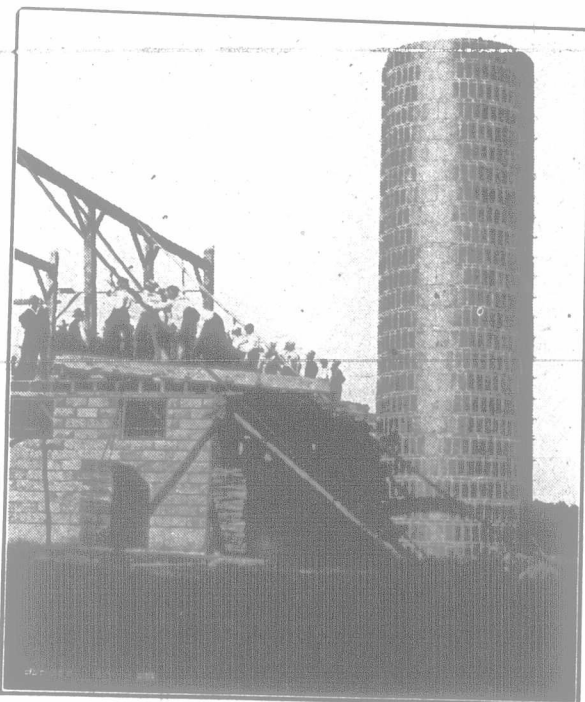
### Select Seeds.

In a recent issue of "The Farmer's Advocate" discussions of the seed problem for next year have been carried on. These referred mainly to roots, garden vegetable and flower seeds, but we would again draw attention of all readers to the fact that they are being urged on every side to produce more abundant crops next year than Canada has ever seen. To do this it is first necessary that nothing but the best seeds go into the ground next spring. It is none too early right now to begin selection. At threshing time the cleanest and brightest portions of the crop from the best fields on the farm should have been kept separate in seed bins for the purpose. Late this fall or early this winter this seed should be cleaned and re-cleaned until nothing but the strongest, plumpest seed remains for next spring's seeding. This cleaning, if thorough, should remove all weed seeds and foreign material, and the right kind of start should be given the crop of 1915. It is not too early now to begin this work.

### A Made-over New Barn and a New Silo.

In this issue we are illustrating an old-fashioned barn raising. Readers familiar with the new style of plank-frame barns and the lighter-framed barns which are being built, will notice particularly the large amount of timber used in the construction of this big barn. This is due, no doubt, to the fact that the material was on hand from an old barn. Other things we wished to illustrate were the height of the foundation. This is a particularly high foundation, with plenty of light. Notice the large windows, and how close they are together. Also a good feature is the root house under the barn approach. This is built of the same material as the barn foundation, namely, cement blocks.

The other illustration shows the men in pro-



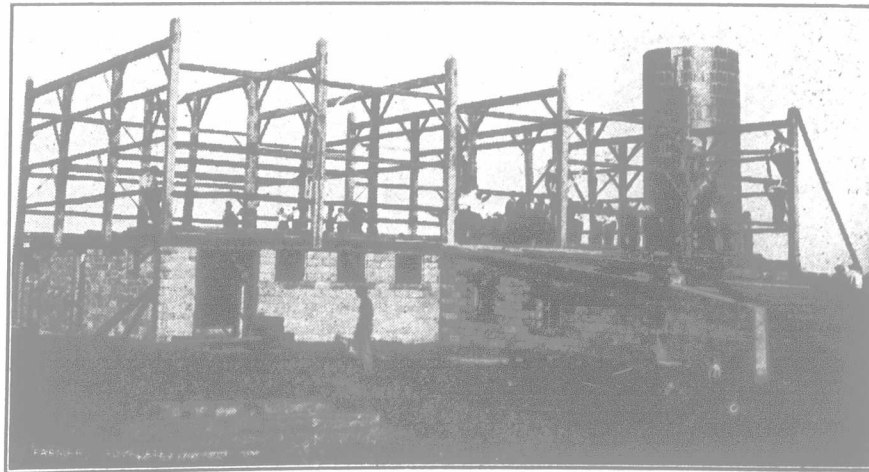
Raising a Bent.

A fine silo, all completed but roof.

cess of raising the second last bent, but we particularly wish to draw attention to the silo and its position. This silo is placed, as silos should be, where it is at all possible, on the sheltered side of the barn, being at the south end. This is a new type of silo in Canada, being only introduced into this country less than a couple of years ago. The silo is now completed with roof. It was in course of construction, all being finished but the roof at the time our photograph was taken.

### The Farmer's Labor Income.

Some farmers look askance at the extension work carried on by the Agricultural Departments of our Governments. It may seem folly to a man with his farm well equipped with stock, buildings and implements, and the land well



An Old-fashioned Barn Raising.

drained, to have educators propounding new doctrine or even his own ideas around the rural communities, yet so many farms are poorly managed, so many farms are poorly worked, and so many working farmers are so poorly paid that any good government feels duty-bound to elevate the standing of its people.

From the United States Census of 1910 some surprising figures may be gleaned. From them we learn that the average income per farm amounts to only \$980. Out of this it pays \$340 for expenses, leaving an income of only \$640. From a commercial point of view we are obliged to deduct from this the interest on his

capital invested, and this at five per cent. on an average amounts to \$322. What is then left of the \$640 may truly be called the farmer's income, but it only amounts to \$318. A scanty amount for one year's hard labor of an enterprising family. Family labor other than that of the farmer himself gets small remuneration, but should they be recompensed according to the market value of labor the \$318 would look small after being drawn upon for such purposes. A Canadian census would probably expose similar incomes, but on the other hand the report of the Minister of Agriculture for Ontario reveals the fact that the money deposited by farmers in our banks will average about \$600 for each farmer in Ontario. There are then two classes of farmers; one making very satisfactory incomes, and another working for very meagre revenues. This must be true, for in some counties the deposits ran from \$700 to \$12,000 for each depositor. There are many then who cannot have surplus money, and many, we are sure, do not expend it in stock, buildings or implements. Returning again to United States conditions, we know that the labor income of many farmers is above the thousand dollar mark. If the average is only \$318, how small then must be the income of those who bring this average down. These latter are the kind that extension work must benefit, and if any farmer is on "easy street" he should not discourage the progressive movement, but he should throw himself into line and assist the up-building of the farming enterprise, and the labor income of that class that brings the average down.

## THE DAIRY.

### "The Butter Sticks"—Cause and Remedy.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

A number of buttermakers on the farm have trouble with the butter sticking to the churn, worker, ladles, and printer, and do not know how to remedy it. To have the butter sticking to everything it comes in contact with, is very annoying. Because of this sticking quality in butter, no kind of metal known at present is satisfactory for churns, workers, etc. We have had very nice looking churns sent to us for testing, that were nicely enameled and had every appearance of being the "coming churn," but when put to practical test, they failed in this one point—the butter would stick to them so much that it made the work of removing it so difficult, and the butter had such a greasy, mussy appearance after scraping it from the inside of the churn, that we were forced to report adversely on what looked to be a big improvement in material for a churn.

Up to the present wood is the only satisfactory material for manufacturing churns, ladles, etc., which come in contact with butter. But wood is not an ideal substance for dairy work, because of its comparatively short life. The continual wetting and drying of all dairy utensils makes favorable conditions for decay. Practically all dairy utensils last but a short time. We are still looking for something that will be ideal for the manufacture of dairy machinery and small

ware. The materials used chiefly are wood, tin and iron, but none of these are wholly satisfactory—wood rots quickly; tin and iron rust and cannot be used where butter comes in contact with these metals because of its adhesive or sticking quality. Recently clay has been tried for making churns, but clay products have to be made heavy in order to obtain strength; they are easily broken; and butter sticks to an earthenware churn, although some claim to be able to overcome this difficulty by greasing the inside of the churn before adding

the cream.

If some one asks why butter "sticks"? we can only answer that it does. We know this from practical experience, although we may not be able to satisfactorily explain this properly.

In order to prevent the butter sticking, we resort to a practice that is as old as churning, yet few understand the reason of the operation. As a result of experiment it has been found that water and butter—in fact all kinds of oily substances, have no affinity, or liking, for each other. We all know that it is practically impossible to mix oil and water, unless we resort to special measures. In the case of butter we