

"We have fed alfalfa to everything on the farm," said he. "Our milk cows do well on it. On changing from red clover to alfalfa hay we can notice the difference in milk flow in a couple of days. Our fattening lambs do especially well on alfalfa. Even the hens enjoy a lunch of alfalfa hay mixed with meal in a wet mash, and the pigs appreciate a mixture of this kind also. There is only one class of animal on the farm that we would not like to feed alfalfa to, and that is the pregnant mare."

A volume would not hold all of the nice things that the older alfalfa growers that we met in the county had to say about this Queen of Forage Crops. We did not meet a man who was not well pleased with the crop. The most pleasing feature, however, of our tour among the alfalfa growers of Peterboro county was to note the large number of farmers who have seeded alfalfa for the first time. This is particularly true of the younger farmers.

#### THE ESSENTIALS OF DAIRY SUCCESS

Peterboro county farmers, in common with the farmers of the older counties in Ontario, depend largely for their living on the dairy cow. Three factors enter most largely into making a prosperous dairy community, good cows, good management, and a soil and climate that make it possible to grow suitable feed for our cows at a reasonable cost. The first two conditions depend on the man himself. But unless climate and soil are right, profitable dairying would be impossible.

No one questions the adaptability of Ontario's soil to the growing of corn. We have long contended that alfalfa, too, is well adapted to Ontario conditions. What we have seen in Peterboro county makes us more and more certain that Ontario farmers would be well advised to go in more and more extensively for this Queen of Crops, Alfalfa. And then, with these two great crops, we are in a good position to get maximum returns from our farms.—F. E. E.

#### The Greatest Power on the Farm

R. E. Gunn, Ontario Co., Ont.

The greatest power used in Ontario is horse power. The rule established on our farm is to work as many horses per man, as it is found practicable. The largest plows, cultivators, harrows, harvesting machinery, hay tools, etc., consistent with good work are used. The horses used are the best Clydesdales we can grow or buy.

Dairymen are accused of not taking good care of their horses. I am sure if they fully appreciated the pleasure and profit to be derived from good horses carefully handled they would never lay themselves open to that accusation. The horse power on our farm one year got thin and poor. The worry and trouble that was caused thereby made the management decide that no excuse warranted the horses being in bad shape. Horses in poor condition resemble an engine working at half its efficiency, or machinery left continually to the detrimental effects of the weather; it is impossible to get the best work out of them. Horses of proper weight, well fed and properly mated, enable their owner to get the best results possible.

#### WHAT IS "WELL MATED"?

Notice the term "well-mated." This does not necessarily mean that the horses are the same colour, have the same markings, or are within say 100 pounds of each other in weight. These considerations go to make up a perfectly mated team, but a well mated team from a farm standpoint means horses that are of the same speed, disposition, and that have been well trained to work together.

More power is lost through having a lazy

horse on a three or four horse team than there would be if that horse were taken out and the remaining workers allowed to do the work themselves. This is worthy of consideration, for it is hard on a man's temper to have to yell his throat sore at one horse while the others do their work. If our horses were all slow we would do as any man would do with a bad gasoline engine—try another make.

#### Seven Silos Owned by One Man

Eric Kitchen, Brant Co., Ont.

We have seven silos on six farms. Three of these are cement and four stave silos. The cement structures cost about one-half more to build, but we believe are cheaper in the end. We notice no difference in the keeping qualities of the ensilage in the two kinds of silos. Of course, it is necessary for both to be airtight, and we find more trouble in this respect with the stave silo.

To keep up the fertility of a farm with a silo is an easy proposition. So convinced of this fact are we that we would not rent a farm to the average tenant unless it was first equipped



#### Better Than a Gold Mine

The alfalfa field of Mr. H. C. Garbutt, here illustrated, along with its owner, is a much surer wealth producer than most gold mines. Mining stocks are an uncertain proposition. With proper attention alfalfa is a certainty.

—Photo by an editor of Farm and Dairy.

with a silo, as our experience is that one-half the rental is taken out of capital account in these days when the price of hay tempts the tenant to convert it into ready cash. Silage and clover are not saleable products, but there is nothing produced on the farm that tends to make such a rich and bulky manure heap.

There are three things we consider paramount in leasing a farm: 1, there must be a silo; 2, the landlord must furnish the clover seed; 3, the lease can be terminated at the end of any year by either party by giving three months' notice.

#### ONE LARGE SILO PREFERRED

We believe that one large silo 14 by 40 feet is better than two smaller silos with the same capacity. We find there is comparatively small loss of ensilage by quitting feeding say the middle of May until commencing again in July.

It is not a settled question with us yet whether or not we can afford to grow roots to feed with ensilage. We see no difference in our cattle that have been fed roots and silage or just silage. But we do see a difference in the condition of our cattle whose rations consist of grain, clover hay and ensilage and those that are fed clover hay and silage alone. We do not believe there is any economy in feeding straw to cattle where we have clover and silage.

#### My Modern Hay Making Machinery

Frank R. Driscoll, Wellington Co., Ont.

Modern haymaking machinery is found at its best in two implements—the side delivery rake and the hay loader. I would not care to be without either.

After hay has been lying in the swath for a few hours I run it into windrows with my side delivery rake. I find that the hay will dry much faster there than in the swath, and in a very short time it may be drawn to the barn or stack. The hay loader attached to the rake and drawn over the windrows is a rapid and easy method of loading. In a very short time with this implement the hay may be gathered from the field to the barn in safety. I recommend the use of the hay loader as a great labor saver. With it a man and boy can put on a load of hay in from five to 10 minutes with ease.

#### INSTEAD OF THE TEDDER

In a very heavy crop of hay, in which tedders are often used for shaking the hay out to dry, I highly recommend the use of a side delivery rake for that purpose. After the top of the hay is sufficiently dried it may be gone over with the side delivery rake, which leaves it in loose coiled windrows that allow the wind and sun to penetrate. This process will cause the hay to dry much quicker than where the tedder is used. If hay should get a heavy rain while in the windrow, instead of shaking it out and scattering it over the ground as was done in the old way, it can be gone over again with the side delivery rake and will then dry in a very short time.

In many cases with an average crop of hay, by the use of a side delivery rake and hay loader I can cut the hay and haul it to the barn or stack the same day.

#### "Roomy" Mares Not Liked

C. W. Gurney, Brant Co., Ont.

I take exception with those who talk favorably of "big, roomy mares." Like begets like. The farmer who has mares of this class is apt to choose an under-rated stallion that he believes to be full of quality. And such a pony stallion of draft breeding is the poorest animal we can breed from. Such a stallion will not counteract the roughness of the mare. A combination of bad points are much more apt to come out in the progeny than a combination of good points.

I have found that loosely-put-together females do not have as good success in raising colts as tidy mares. The foals are stronger and smarter to start with.

**Free Nitrogen.**—The report of the Canadian Experimental Farm for 1911 reports an interesting experiment, where clover was grown continuously for 10 years on the same plot, the ground being dug over every second year and re-seeded. The hay was cut and allowed to rot on the ground. The soil was sampled and analyzed at the beginning of the experiment, and at intervals up to nine years, with the result of a remarkable increase in the nitrogen content, amounting to 472 pounds an acre, in the soil to a depth of four inches, in nine years, or an average of 52 pounds a year, having a yearly money value of \$9.36 or total value of \$84.96. If this clover had been fed to cattle, and the manure carefully saved and applied to the plot, nearly as large an increase in the nitrogen content of the soil would have been found.

Just as in growing beets and mangels, thinning out to give more light, air and sustenance is necessary, so pruning will balance a tree and give each part a better opportunity to obtain the advantages of light, air and food.—A. McNeil, Chief, Fruit Division, Ottawa.

#### How

Hy. Glendon

In making alfalfa the greatest mistake possible is to cut by cutting at rapidly as possible.

Labor is an important factor. We should therefore turn out of the morning alfalfa is to show on the stems, the blossoms are uncut. We cut with the dew has pretty well dried, and the mowers with the cutter cutting. We should not cut for a short time in the

We run the tedder and rake in the morning and let lie in the evening day we run windrows in the forenoon. The second night. We cut the morning. The alfalfa and the hay is harvested.

This is the plan of the past three years. The quality of hay that winter with a fine

do we will probably object to the objection will be the work with the tedder that working with of one man and a easy for the man, only on the farm.

The second objection will knock a great deal of saving alfalfa. Quite a number of ripe will fall off the hay, however, in leaves as by the frost may appear strange. Large green alfalfa great loss of leaves

folly. We should bear in mind that the organ of the plant that is the soil through the alfalfa leaves are sun for any length of brittle, and fall off percentage of the stems. By the frost leaves do not become condition, and content the stems. In this rapidly and a great to the barn.

By the frequent cut alfalfa is kept in ground, permitting a good north-west that has not had an ideal conditions for

IN CASE If the weather is and put into small We let these colts at If the weather be