Saving Corn Fodder.

Whether corn fodder has been grown properly or otherwise, all that can be done now is to save it properly. In early sections much of the crop will be cut, but very little is yet removed from the field, except that put into silos.

In the great corn-growing States, the value of the stalks is largely lost sight of, but Canadians waste little of the stover, except through carelessness in saving. One method of handling the field corn crop is to pick off the cobs as soon as the inner husks become white or yellow. The stalks can then be cut and bound into fair-sized bundles and stacked up to cure in large shocks. If the crop is cut before the ears are removed, it may well stand in the shocks until ready for the crib, when the stalks will be ready to be hauled to the barn or stack. Some prefer hauling to the barn before husking, but that involves extra handling in removing the cobs and in storing the fodder. It is all well enough to have a few loads in the barn to husk on rainy days, but the bulk of it is better done in the field.

Either stacks from which the ears have not been removed or corn fodder piled in large quantities in the barn deteriorate very rapidly through heating and otherwise. As fast as the corn is husked, bind it in convenient-sized bundles for handling with a fork. Binder twine answers well for this purpose, as by it the bundles can be made as large as desired. Some use bands of oat straw. The stalks when properly cured will keep well stood on end in the barn or stacked in round or square stacks of small diameter. To commence a stack, throw down a few poles or rails to make a stack bottom eight or ten feet square, set a pole up in the center twelve or fourteen feet high to build around, and begin in the middle and get it four feet high by the time the first layer of butts is laid at the outside. Keep the middle full so that the bundles will slope well, the butts being at least four feet lower than the tops. Carry the sides of the stack up straight until it is ten feet high, and then gradually narrow; round top out like a shock, tying the top closely to the pole set in the center. These stacks should be conveniently located so that they can be hauled into the barn as they are needed to feed.

With strictly fodder corn the manner of cutting varies with different persons and in different localities. Few methods have been found better than hand cutting. It is well to allow it to wilt a day or more before tying; then tie with the tough leaves, small stalks or binder twine. Round shocks of twelve bundles are about right, as they stand well and do not mold. Long shocks built against poles resting on cross stakes are conveniently put up and usually stand and cure well if carefully built. Two rows on a side, stood almost straight up, and well bound around with binder twine, is a plan liked by many. After standing for a month in good weather, it is then ready for the barn or stack, as recommended for the fodder of the ear corn. There is more danger of molding with fodder corn than stover, as it usually contains more sap. For this reason the stack should be of even less diameter than is necessary with the stover. A good mode of procedure in building a stack, having the 15-foot center pole inserted two and a half in the ground and the bottom made of short rails, well raised in the center, is as follows: The stacker stands close to the pole, with his left arm around it to hold himself on, and lays the corn bunches, butts away from the pole and tops reaching past the pole on the side next himself, two feet or more, according to the length of the corn. Thus he continues going round and round until he is ten, twelve or more feet high, when the last four or five bunches are placed with their tops up the pole and firmly tied, when the stack is finished. As the stacks settle the sides alone drop, so that they are absolutely waterproof, if care has been exercised in fitting the sheaves and keeping the stack firm against the pole. This method keeps the corn moist without mold and with little waste from mice.

Pumpkins for Cows and Hogs.

The farmer who has been provident enough to grow pumpkins among his corn or in patches adjacent to the barn has a valuable adjunct to his other fall feed, especially in Eastern Ontario, where pastures dried up very early. They can be profitably fed to hogs as well as cows. When one has a feed-boiler and a little rough wood, pumpkins can be boiled along with peas or barley with very little fuel. One good firing-up will render the whole mass of finely-divided pumpkins into a fit state to be mashed up along with ground barley or other grain. Such food is extremely palatable, and when mixed twelve hours before feed will be in fine form to enter the animal economy to excellent advantage.

For cows, one or two good-sized pumpkins fed once or twice daily will increase the milk yield and prevent a loss of flesh. Whether one has pumpkins or not, it will never do to allow the cows to drop in their condition and milk flow. A little of the corn that had been intended for winter will give better returns fed at such a time than if held till the housing season.

A Scottish exchange reports that two men were lately sentenced by the Wolverhampton Stipendiary to three months' imprisonment, with hard labor, for plucking fowls while yet alive.

Rye Hay.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—In many sections of Canada this year the hay crop was poor. This, following a year such as the last one, in which both timothy and clover were cut down by a May frost in the greater part of the Western Ontario peninsula, has made many farmers look to other plants for winter forage. Of course, corn is our great grass, and, whether used in the form of silage or dried in the stalk and cut as may be needed, makes the best and cheapest winter stock feed. Next to it comes winter rye, cut green and cured as hay. While rye hay is not as good as timothy, yet it gives an abundance of good, palatable food. It may be sown any time from the middle of August till the last of October. In the latter case, only when the late fall is favorable may good results be expected. It may be sown the same way as fall wheat, in which case it does well as a nurse crop for grass seed, but good results are obtained by sowing on a stubble field without any preparation. It is now usual to seed down every white crop sown in the spring with clover. If the catch be good the clover may be left for a crop next year, but the past two seasons have not yielded very good catches of clover, and on these it is a good plan to sow the rye. If the ground be hard, it is well to wait till after a good rain has mellowed the surface, and sow in drills with the seeder from a bushel and a half to two bushels per acre. Thick seeding gives a finer straw and is preferred if the crop is for hay or for pasture. Sometimes the field has been harrowed before seeding, sometimes harrowed after; rolling has also been tried. This year the rye was sown without either of these aids; merely sown on the stubble, and the catch is good. It is not yet too late to try this in fields where the catch of grass and clover, or clover alone, is poor. A good mixture of clover with the rye very much improves the hay for cattle feed. If the growth be rank in the fall, it should be pastured by sheep or young cattle. The mixture of rye and clover makes excellent early spring pasture where the soil is dry, and does not readily become "poached" by the trampling of the stock. This, followed by rape sown in June, cleans a field and gives a lot of summer feed. If left for hay, the best results have been obtained from mowing when the rye had flowered and the clover blossomed. Cut with the mower and treated like hay, it gave excellent forage. Cut with the binder and stooked, it took a long time to dry, and the sheaves weathered more than was desirable. Having tried both ways, cutting with the mower and handling like hay is preferred. The sheaves run through the cutting-box and mixed with cut corn make good feed. To those who have not tried this plan of sowing rye on a stubble field the results will probably be a surprise. Rye hay is a valuable addition to our list of forage crops. D. MCCRAE.

Guelph, Canada.

A Big Silo.

It is said that the largest silo on earth has been built on the McGeach estate, Jefferson Co., Wis., under the management of Mr. Elijah Harvey. It is round, 62 feet in diameter, and 80 feet from bottom to top of cupola, or from bottom to top of plate, 40 feet; the lower nine feet being below ground, which was constructed of stone, also the floor, both cement-plastered. The upper portion is of lumber, tar paper, coal tar, etc. It took 72 cords of stone, 62,000 feet of lumber, and a big wagon load of nails to build it, and a writer in the *Prairie Farmer* puts the cost at some $2,400, the capacity being estimated at 3,228 tons; enough to feed 350 cows 50 pounds a day for a whole year. We would say that another "big thing" about this silo was the big mistake it was to build one of that capacity instead of a number of smaller ones.

POULTRY.

Cull the Young Flocks.

In every hatch of chickens the average production of males and females is about equal. The result of this law of nature is that at this season of the year the yards are crowded with young roosters whose sole occupation is to eat food and worry and tease the pullets. This constant worrying prevents the growth and welldoing of the pullets, and should be prevented. Cull out the young roosters and as soon as ever they are fit for broilers or roasters let them be killed. They will pay better then, even if the price be low, than at any other period. As they grow older they become more restless, quarrelsome, and a greater nuisance to the pullets, and neither thrive nor fatten so well themselves nor permit the pullets to do so. When culling out the roosters, cull out also all the small, undersized pullets and put them to themselves and push them for the market or home table. In this way the pullets to be kept for layers will be a select lot of fine, healthy birds. These are likely to make the best and earliest layers, and will produce the finest and earliest chickens. It is possible by practising such a system of culling and selection, and by mating with roosters of new blood, also selected for like good points, to materially increase the size and good qualities of the whole flock. The influence of selection is just as great amongst poultry as amongst other live stock.—*The Southern Planter.*

DAIRY.

A Long Distance Test.

Under direction of the Government, samples of butter were shipped from Victoria to England and back in order to thoroughly test their keeping qualities. It speaks volumes for the perfection to which the Antipodes have attained in the matter of making, packing, and shipping facilities when all the samples were found, after their 24,000-mile trip, to be in splendid condition. The striking qualities of one lot were its dryness and absence of salt, it being treated with only two pounds of salt and three-quarters per cent. preservitas to the one hundred pounds of butter. In another sample four pounds of salt was used and one-half per cent. preservitas. The Government expert at the final test felt prepared to pit the samples against any other butter in the world at that age.

Good Buttermaking in Victoria.

Mr. W. Roberts, a buttermaker of repute in Victoria, judging from the number of prizes he has captured all over that colony, in describing his method, first emphasizes the necessity of perfect cleanliness in milking (dry hands) and in everything with which the milk, cream and butter come in contact.

As soon as the cream comes from the separator, he says, it should be cooled by putting the vessel containing the cream in cold water and leaving it there until perfectly cold. Second, never put warm cream in the same vessel as the cooled cream; never mix the cream until it has also been cooled. Third, never churn the cream until it has ripened for about three days. Before beginning to churn rinse the churn first with boiling water and afterwards with cold water. To every 10 gallons of cream, the temperature of which should be from 58° to 62°, add two teaspoonfuls of saltpetre and six teaspoonfuls of sugar dissolved in boiling water, and put into the churn when cool. The churn should be turned gently and regularly, as too much speed causes a lot of gas and makes the cream frothy, which will make soft and inferior butter. Some dairymen approve of stopping the churn when the butter is about the size of a pin's head, but he thinks that this is a mistake, as a lot of the cream which gathers around the churn is lost, and if it be washed, of which he does not approve, this cream must all be washed away with the water. The butter should be about the size of marbles before the churn is stopped.

The butter should then be put in the butter-worker and worked until all the buttermilk is taken out. The buttermaker should not be afraid to work the butter until it is free from buttermilk. He prefers dry-working to water-washing the butter, being confident that he can make butter by the dry process that will keep as well as any butter that has been washed, and he advises dairymen who wash their butter to give the dry process a trial. He has made butter by the dry process for the last 29 years, and always found it to be of good keeping quality. If there is any buttermilk in the butter, it will not only be of bad keeping quality, but of loose consistency and bad appearance. After the buttermilk has all been taken out, the butter should be weighed, and about two pounds of salt and twelve ounces of preservitas added to every hundred pounds of butter for export; a quarter of an ounce to every pound of butter for market.

"Sixteen to One."

This is what we want—sixteen good grade cows to one thoroughbred bull, and when we get them we will be in a way to make at least a little money in the dairy. It is hard lines, no one denies that, but it even is worse for others. There are more people in the cities who are suffering than there are in the country, and while that does not help us any, still it ought to keep us from grumbling so much. And, by the way, what good does grumbling do? It does not make the cow give any more milk, while an armful of extra green feed very probably would. Good times may come, and they may not. And the wisest thing for us to do is to adjust ourselves to these circumstances, and do the best we can.

I have no patience with the man who says the present hard lot of the farmer is due to his extravagant way of living. I never could see the reason why the farmer was not entitled to just as many of the pleasures of this life as the lawyer. But be this as it may, it is a condition that confronts us, not a theory, and that condition is one of unprecedented low prices. We cannot say how long these prices will continue, therefore it seems the best thing for us to do is to adjust ourselves to these circumstances, and get along as best we can. We may talk all the politics we want, so long as we do not let politics interfere with our work; but if in the meanwhile we keep on hoping for good times, and make no provision for the present bad times, we stand a good chance of having more trouble than we have now.

There are men who now at this present time are making a living from their dairies, and if one man can do this why cannot we? But the man who is making anything from his cows these times has no cow on his place that is not paying her board, and a little profit; the milkman does not go down