

ground barley, beans or corn is a very good ration. Beans, peas and barley should not be given to a young animal.

More Light on Cultivation Methods

Arthur Christie, Dundas Co., Ont.

As Mr. Brethen says in Farm and Dairy for February 25th, "when men like Mr. Rennie and Mr. Fixter differ so widely in their methods of cultivation, what are we to do?" The conclusion that I have come to is that the man who gets along best is the man who adapts himself to his surroundings and makes the best use of the material he has at hand. He must also endeavor to find out for himself which is the best method, also the one which suits his soil best. There is a saying that reads "experience is one of the best teachers." As my experience I presume has been even shorter than Mr. Brethen's I would like some of the older men to take part in this discussion. This old axiom pertains more to the farming industry than to any other business. A man may attend an agricultural college for ten years and if that man has had no previous experience in farming, in nine cases out of ten he will be a failure. So let some of the older men join in this discussion.

I was raised on a farm and have worked on a farm all my life. I spent one year at the Guelph Agricultural College. I take the leading farm papers; I also get the different bulletins. I attend the stock classes and institutes. I read all the papers I take, also the bulletins and lay them aside and keep them for reference or for re-reading. I also endeavor in every way possible to improve my methods and I find there is something new to learn each succeeding year and I do not know half as much as I would like to know. I believe if I were to keep right on for 20 years more I would find there is something yet to learn in connection with the greatest industry on earth.

MR. RENNIE'S METHOD TRIED

When I left the Ontario Agricultural College I was greatly taken up with Mr. Rennie's method of farming. I decided to put it into practice on my father's farm. I accordingly fixed a piece of clay loam for roots, ribbed it up in the fall and

left it until spring. In the spring I put the spring-tooth cultivator on it and tried to work it up. After going over it three or four times I became disgusted and hitched on to the plough and ploughed it. I found the centre of the ridges fully as hard as the land was before it was ploughed the previous summer. One of my neighbors who was counted the best farmer in our section, a man who had made a success of farming, became convinced that Mr. Rennie's system was the proper one to follow. He purchased a cultivator for somewhere about \$60 with ribbing attachment. He had a ten acre field on which he had grown a tremendous crop of leaming corn the previous season. The corn had been planted three feet four inches between each hill. In the spring he put the hired man cultivating in this field. After he had cultivated it three or four times he got it ready to sow. As I was anxious to find out how he was getting along I passed the farm the

the poorest and dirtiest piece of grain he ever grew. I have heard men praise this system all over the country and I have seen them preparing their corn ground in the fall for a grain crop. You may judge of my surprise when passing their farms last spring to see them back with the old plow breaking up the baked soil.

In answer to Mr. Brethen I beg to say that although the greater part of Eastern Ontario is clay loam, the land in my immediate vicinity is grave"ly loam, somewhat rolling, with a few of the more level fields clay loam, with a rocky or stoney sub-soil. Hence I have had an opportunity of testing surface cultivation and of observing others test it in different soils.

ANOTHER NUT TO CRACK

With regard to cultivation I would like to ask Mr. Brethen why he "pulls his manure up to the top of the corn ground." I find when I have plowed down a crop of grass and manure that I have made a store house for conserving moisture. When the bacteria commences to work in the grass and manure it is then in a condition to store up large quantities of water; and it cannot be improved by stirring it up. I then keep the harrows going until it is ready for the two-horse cultivator, after which I endeavor by shallow surface cultivation, to form as fine a mulch as possible, and thereby prevent evaporation. I also find that by using the broad shears on my cultivator and by keeping the weeds cut off just below the surface a few inches that it gradually weakens the plants. Were I to cultivate deeply and draw the manure to the top it would spoil my storehouse and tend to dry the ground out.

I do not claim my method is the best in every case. I merely claim it suits my conditions, for while my neighbor's corn was curled up in the leaf during the continuous drought last summer mine was always fresh and green. The difference between Mr. Brethen's method and mine can easily be seen. While shallow plowing and deep cultivation has proven the more successful with Mr. Brethen, deep plowing and shallow cultivation has proven the better in my case.

CROPS TOO HEAVY TO HARVEST

As to the increase in crops by the different methods, Dundas being a strictly dairy county, we find that our farms are increasing in fertility

A Welcome Visitor

Ed., Farm and Dairy.—We congratulate you on the get-up and the fast improvement of Farm and Dairy. We believe it to be one of the best, if not the best farmer's paper in Canada; we have come to this conclusion after reading our other weeklies and dailies. There is a regular scramble in the household to get hold of Farm and Dairy when it arrives.—Geo. H. Caughell, Elgin Co., Ont.

next day. All hands were gathering the corn roots and old stocks into piles with pitch forks and burning them. The cultivator was put into the shed and was not taken out again until it was sold at a sale.

RIBBING NOT A SUCCESS

Since I have been on a farm of my own I have purchased a sub-soil cultivator with ribbing attachment. I have tried it and my experience has been as Mr. Fixter says, the centre of the ridges are hard and lumpy, and the old corn stalks and roots clog the harrows and drill making it almost impossible to get a good seed bed. A man in my neighborhood who has a good clean gravelly loam farm borrowed my cultivator last fall to prepare his corn ground. He told me this winter it was



The Directors and Prominent Members of the Eastern Ontario Dairyman's Association, as photographed at the Prescott Convention, specially for Farm and Dairy

The directors of this association are elected each fall at the district dairy meetings held in the different dairy districts of Eastern Ontario. They include members and ex-members of the House of Commons and Ontario Legislature, wardens of counties, reeves and other prominent men. For list of names see page ten.