## A Beef Ring for 20 Members.

Enclosed please find chart which I use for cutting up beef for a ring of 20 members. I have used it for three years, and it has given the best satisfaction of any ring in this locality. Several applicants have asked me to give my chart, and to explain how to run it. I think it will be readily understood. It is run just the same as the one for 16 members. Our rules are just the same as for a ring of 16 members. The only difference is, we have the members furnish a basket or cotton bag to put the beef in when cut

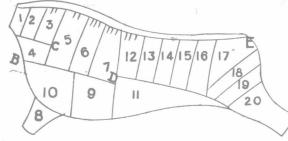


CHART FOR BEEF RING OF 20 MEMBERS.

up. Then we hang it up, with their name on it. You will see by my chart that the beef will have to be quartered a little differently from yours for cutting the beef up in 40 pieces. To give each party a boil and a roast, it must be divided after the beef is cut down in halves. You must cut it across between Nos. 7 and 12, leaving four ribs on the hind quarter. After laying the front quarter on the table for cutting up, you will cut off front shank, No. 8; then cut from line B, making two pieces No. 8; then cut from line B, making two pieces (Nos. 10 and 9); then take off neck, No. 1; then take roast No. 7 (3 ribs in it); roast No. 6 (2 ribs); roast No. 5 (2 ribs); then cut across to line C, taking piece No. 4 (boiling piece); then No. 3 (2 ribs in it), leaving piece No. 2. After cutting up the two fore quarters, you will let down the hind quarter on the table and surface line D, leaving flank No. 11. table, and cut from line D, leaving flank, No. 11; then cut roast No. 12 (3 ribs in it); then follow along 13, 14, 15, 16; then cut across line E (rump roast). No. 17; then cut off Nos. 18 and 19, leaving hind shank, No. 20.

This is a table to put the pieces for each one:

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The weight of the beef is supposed to be not less than 400 lbs., and not to exceed 500 lbs., all to be cut up and divided into 20 shares. I think the beef should not be less than 450 lbs. It cuts up in much nicer pieces.

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Ontario Co., Ont.

## Dominion Grange Convention.

The annual meeting of the Dominion Grange was held at Toronto on January 30th and 31st. Worthy Muster Jabel Robinson, M. P., conducted the various sessions. Reports of the various Granges in licated that renewed interest is being taken in Granges by members throughout the country, and that many dormant Granges are being resuscitated.

The Master in his address reported that the anks in the Grange in the United States are being filled by thousands; in Michigan alone 100 new Granges have been formed during the past year. The Grange in the United States is endeavoring to put down trusts, combines and monopolies, and injustice in every form. "It is patent," said the Master, "that the Government can do little in the way of making the farmers rich-this depends on their own skill and energy. But the Government can see that the farmer is not robbed by wealthy cor-porations by being discriminated against by transportation companies." Mr. Robinson referred to excessive railroad rates, and asked the members to support a demand for a railroad commission. The great value to the country of the Agricultural College was dwelt upon, and a strong plea was advanced for free rural mail delivery.

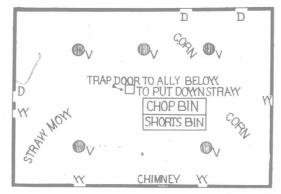
The committee on legislation reported that the Minister of Railways had announced that the Government will appoint a permanent railway commission to deal with all matters of freight and passenger rates before the companies will be permitted to collect the same from the public. It was deemed that the country is not as a whole ready to adopt a system of rural mail delivery, but that the Government should try the experiment in a few sections in order to learn its ultimate advantages. Other matters of more or less importance were dealt with. The next annual meeting will be

held in Toronto, early in February, 1902.

The election of officers resulted as follows: Worthy Master, Brother Jabel Robinson, M. P., Middlemarch (re-elected); Worthy Overseer, Brother John McDougall, Milton (re-elected); Worthy Secretary, Brother William F. H. Fisher, Burlington (re-elected); Worthy Chaplain, Brother W. Oke, Whitby: Worthy Treasurer, Brother J. Fallis, Newbridge(re-elected); Worthy Lecturer, Brother Henry Grose, Lefroy; Worthy Steward, Brother Samuel Goodfellow, Duncan; Worthy Assistant Steward, Brother W. W. Lane, Blenheim; Worthy Gate, keeper, Brother W. Gray, Londesboro, Lady officers; Ceres, Sister Mrs. E. Brown, Whithy Pomona, Sister Mrs. W. Gray, Londesboro; Flora, Sister Mrs. J. Robinson, Middlemarch; Lady Assistant Steward, Sister Mrs. W. W. Lane, Blenheim. Auditors, Brothers J. C. Chapman, St. Thomas, and O. W. Quantz, Painswick. Executive Committee, Brothers George E. Fisher, Freeman, and Hy. Glendinning, Manilla.

## A Model Hogpen.

SIR,—Having seen some plans of hogpens in late issues of the ADVOCATE, I thought I would send you one of my pen, built in 1899 on a concrete foundation, 50 ft. long by 32 wide, and about 16 ft. from ground to eaves. The concrete is about 3½ ft. above ground, 8 ins. thick, set on a 16-in. base in the ground. It was put up under the supervision of Mr. Hagar, with Battle's Thorold cement. Troughs and floors are of the same material, with a 1-ft. by 5-in. wall between each pen, on which the partitions rest, with slide doors between eight of the pens. The partition next the boiler is concrete, 3½ ft. high, 5 ins. thick. The floors slope from troughs back to one corner of each pen. The wet is soaked up by litter of straw and sawdust. The troughs are made in two different shaped moulds, about 12x14 ins.



LOFT OR UPPER FLOOR OF MR. ED. V. DECKER'S PIGGERY.

wide, and from 5 to 6 ins. deep. It took sixty barrels of cement, mixed with lake gravel and stone, for the whole foundation and floors. On the concrete walls are good hewed sills, with a good strong hewed frame on them. Above the concrete wall to the loft floor is double boarded, with tar paper in between. The outside siding is planed paper in between. The outside siding is planed pine, with the cracks all battened, and painted with two coats of oil and oxide of iron. windows in all, with six 10x14 lights in each window, six downstairs and four upstairs. The end ones upstairs are in the gable ends, and are never opened. The pens are about 8 ft. high in the clear, and the measurements are from outside of wall to center of partitions. Each pen will hold from fourteen small to eight or nine pigs fit for market. The two doors at the ends of alley and the one on south side are 4 ft. wide by 7 ft. high, so that one can take a horse and stone boat through, if so desired, to clean out pens, but  $\Gamma$  always clean out through windows and hog doors about once a week. The hog doors only come up to the sill, and the windows are above the sill. I have five ventilators, made of 8-in. galvanized iron pipe, which extend from pen ceilings out



GROUND FLOOR OF PIGGERY BELONGING TO MR. ED. V. DECKER, ELGIN CO., ONT.

through the roof. They are marked V in plan. Doors are marked D, windows W, troughs T. The two doors on north side of loft plan are for throwing corn in, and the one on west end for putting in straw. My roots I keep in barn cellars about 200 ft. from pen, and I do not find it very much trouble to bring a basketful down night and morning when coming to the house. Then one pulper answers for both cattle and hogs; but if one desired he could use one pen for roots, as it very seldom freezes in my pen. My pen is built on the level ground, for I do not think that many farms would supply a bank like Mr. Gier speaks of, especially around here. I consider concrete better than stone or brick, for I think it is cheaper, drier, and hogs will not gnaw it as much. The grain is let down from bins in loft by chutes into mixing tank. As to cost, that will vary very much. My piggery cost about \$300, besides my own labor, and I got all the rough lumber and timber and stone on my own farm, and the gravel off the lake beach. The fronts of pens are on hinges, so when I want to move pigs from pen to pen, I just swing them up and run the pigs along the alley, which is 1 ft. wide, and plenty wide enough.

Elgin Co., Ont. ED. V. DECKER,

## Can Chess Originate from Fall Wheat?

BY PROF. JAMES FLETCHER, BOTANIST, EXPERIMENTAL FARM, OTTAWA.

There is perhaps no popular error which has gained such wide credence among farmers in this country as that the distinct and characteristic grass known as chess (Bromus secalinus of grass known as chess (Bromus secutions of Linneus) can, under certain adverse circumstances, originate from the seed or injured plantlets of fall wheat. Two excellent letters appeared on this subject in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE for November 15th, by Mr. H. Pettit, and December 1st, by Mr. J. H. Jull. I also have received a great many letters on the subject, and at the request of the Editor I submit here-

with some facts concerning experiments which have been carried on here at the Central Experimental Farm year after year for the last nine years. During this nine years. time the plots where the plants of fall wheat and chess were growing side by side have been examined by many thousands of farmers, a large proportion of whom believed, previous to their visit, that chess could be derived from fall wheat. In this country, the idea that one well-known plant can change into some other plant seems to be restricted to the supposed change of wheat into chess, and among a very few, from chess back again to wheat. The idea of such changes, however, is not a new one, for in Europe, since early times, various



similar changes were thought to be possible. In Sweden, and some parts of England, chess was at one time thought by some to be de-generated rye; the poison darnel, one of the rye grasses, to be degenerated wheat or rye; and the very name rye grass for the Loliums seems to have its origin in this belief. Some farmers objected to sow Italian rye grass, believing it was sure to turn into quack grass. It was even thought that the various small grains were convertible into each other in a certain progressive order: wheat into rye, rye into barley, barley into rye grass, and rye grass into chess. In this free country, where belief is untrammeled even by reason, we go at one step from wheat to chess. In the English agricultural journals of a number of years ago were explicit directions for transforming one kind of grain into another, and in the Journal of Agriculture for 1861, page 321, a case is cited in which these directions were followed. In June, 1855, a few rows of oats were dibbled in in a garden. The plants were cut down in the green state twice during the summer and were protected from frost in the winter. Several of the stools survived the winter, and in the summer of 1856 produced several ears of barley. No longer ago than 1885, Mr. C. S. Read, a wellknown farmer, agricultural writer, and member of Parliament, stated (Gardener's Chronicle, 1885, page 533) that he had known oats (which were kept cut during the first year and protected by a covering of straw during the winter) to produce the next year other kinds of grain; in one case wheat, in another, rye, and in another, barley. The editor of the journal in which this report is published, who is also a botanist, states naturally enough that he is astounded that such beliefs should still be held by persons of intelligence (A. A. Crozier: Popular Errors About Plants). Every practical Canadian farmer will know, when reading the above statements as to the change of one kind of grain into another, that although the state ments were made in good faith, such statements are absolutely erroneous, and they can prove for themselves with very little trouble that although so widely accepted, the popular belief that fall wheat can be changed into chess is equally without foundation: and the strangest thing to me, I must confess, is that so few of the very large number who inquire about and profess to be interested in this subject will do anything in the way of experiment to learn what the true facts of the case are. I have over and over again offered the seed of chess to those who profess to believe that that grass is, to use the often-repeated term, "a bastard grain." which some say will not grow from its own seed, or if it will grow, will not produce similar seed. It is very seldom that this offer is accepted, and of those that do accept the seed, few sow it and report the results. Owing to the widespread destruction of fall wheat last autumn by the Hessian fly, a discussion of this subject is now timely, for doubtless much chess will be noticed in the fall-wheat fields next season, not because the wheat plants having been injured by Hessian fly have changed into chess, but because chess seed was either sown with the wheat or was lying in the ground from a previous crop, and owing to the destruction of the wheat plants, the chess will have room to develop luxuriantly. Chess is a well-known wild plant or weed in Europe, and, like many other weeds, has been accidentally introduced into the country. It is one of the Brome grasses, of which there are many species, no less than a dozen of which are native in North America. The valuable

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