Alfalfa Maxims.

Prof. L. R. Waldron, Superintendent of the Experiment Station at Dickinson, N. D., contributes these pithy alfalfa maxims to "Dry Farming." They are pretty sound, though the first one should have been qualified by the phrase, "not always by artificial means":

1. Alfalfa must be inoculated.
2. Alfalfa cannot stand wet feet.
3. Alfalfa needs a well-drained soil.
4. Alfalfa is a poor weed-fighter the first season.
5. Alfalfa does not thrive when not cut.
6. Alfalfa should be cut when one-tenth in bloom.
7. Alfalfa should not be cut too late in the season.
8. Alfalfa roots go deep.
9. Alfalfa is the prince of drouth resisters.
10. Alfalfa needs a deep, well-packed seed-bed.
11. Alfalfa does best on manured soil.
12. Alfalfa is best seeded without a nurse crop.
13. Alfalfa should be seeded with a drill.
14. Alfalfa should not be pastured until well established.
15. Alfalfa should not be pastured in the spring, when starting growth.
16. Alfalfa boards itself, and pays for the privilege.
17. Alfalfa adds humus to the soil.
18. Alfalfa sod plows hard.
19. Alfalfa sod produces good crops.
20. Alfalfa yields are large.
21. Alfalfa hay represents quality.

Stooling No Miracle.

In a review of the condition of the experimental grain plots at the Ontario Agricultural College, in last week's issue of "The Farmer's Advocate," reference was made to the showing of a fall wheat called Virginia Miracle. We had previously written the Department of Agriculture at Washington regarding a wheat of that name, said to have been originated by a Mr. Stoner from a remarkable individual plant found growing on his farm in a field of fall wheat. The following information has been received on the subject:

Replying to yours of the fifth instant, addressed to the Hon. Willett M. Hays, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, and referred to this Bureau, I would say that the "Miracle Wheat," regarding which you inquire, was looked into some years ago, at a time when it was being exploited. It was found that comments upon it by H. A. Miller, Assistant Agriculturist in this Bureau, had been grossly distorted in such a way as to radically change the nature of a statement that he prepared regarding it after he had visited the farm of K. B. Stoner, at Fincastle, Virginia. For example, Mr. Miller stated that the yield on the Stoner farm had been from three to five bushels more per acre than that of other varieties grown there. In the published literature, this statement was changed to read, "Yields from two to three times the yield of other varieties grown on the same farm," etc. For your information, I enclose herewith a copy of a memorandum reporting the behaviour of the variety at Arlington Farm, in a test where it was contrasted with Fultz.

R. GULLING,
Chief of Bureau.

Dept. Agriculture, Bureau Plant Industry, Washinton, D. C:

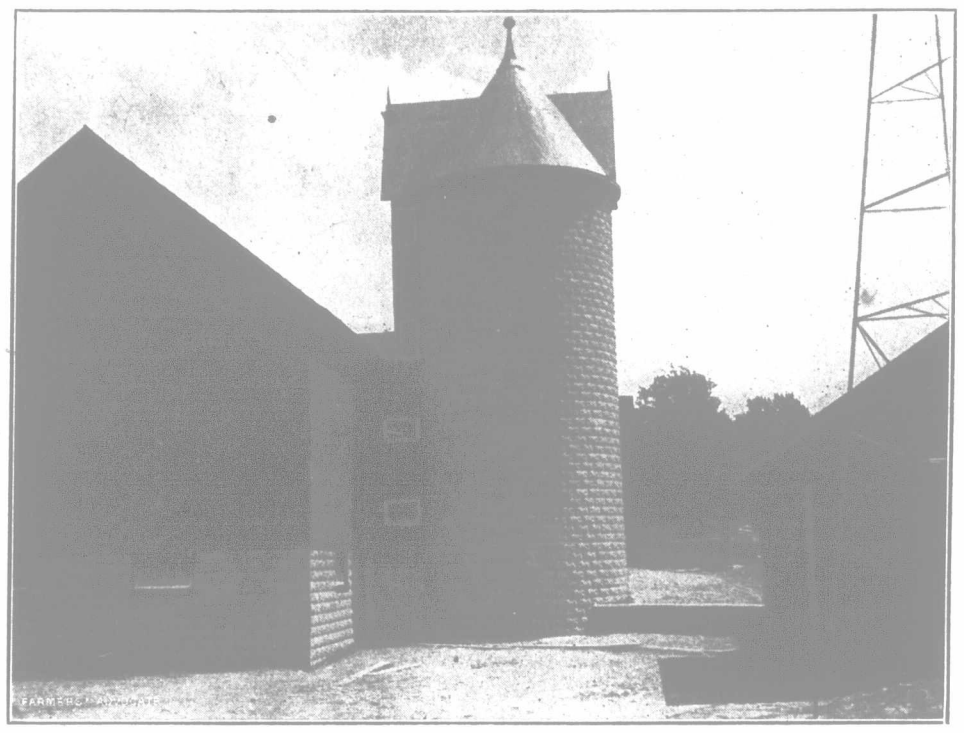
MIRACLE WHEAT AT ARLINGTON EXPERIMENTAL FARM.

The wheat was planted in rows one rod long, seed 12 inches apart in the row. This is the method said to give best results in stooling. Sown thus, the plants produced from 8 to 25 good heads. Planted in rows 12 inches apart, and the grain approximately one inch apart in the row, the stooling decreased to 8 to 10 heads. It is believed, if the grain were sown in 8-inch drills, under ordinary conditions, the stooling would be no greater than that of the other good varieties. The wheat had 100 per cent. winter survival, with excellent spring vigor. The plants were 53 inches tall, vigorous, with long leaves. There was 50 per cent. leaf rust and 50 per cent. stem rust; no smut. The wheat headed May 22nd, and ripened June 20th—seven days later than the earliest wheat, and from three to five days later than the average wheats. In yield, the rows, as compared with Fultz, the check, were as follows: Miracle wheat, lowest yield per row, 7¾ ounces; highest yield, 10 ounces; Fultz, highest yield per row, 20⅓ ounces. This would give, approximately, a yield of 33 bushels for the Miracle, and 66 bushels for the Fultz.

H. B. DERR,
Agronomist.

If any readers of "The Farmer's Advocate" have had experience with this or other new fall wheats being introduced, we would like to receive reports, giving the facts of actual experience with them, whether favorable or otherwise.

With regard to the stooling habit, it may be advantageous within certain limits, but the saving of a little seed in sowing is not the main factor in a large or profitable crop.



Mr. Teskey's Barn and Outbuildings.
Silo, stable, and milk-house below windmill and tank.

THE DAIRY.

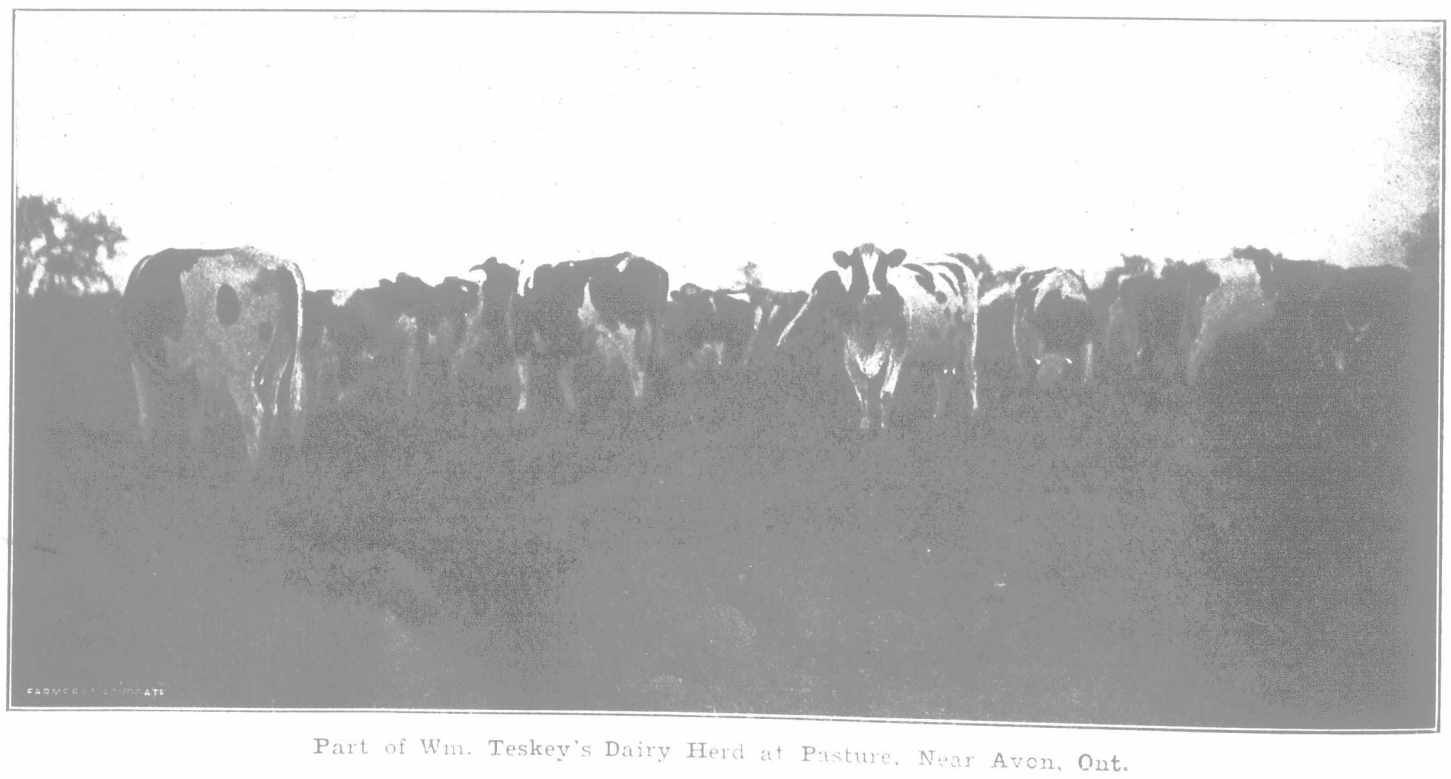
A Dorchester Dairy Farm.

Under capable direction, the cow and the silo, corn and the legume, make an invincible farm quartet. "The Farmer's Advocate" lately came upon an apt illustration of the truth of this statement in what some might think an out-of-the-way quarter of South Dorchester Township, but in another sense it is very distinctly "in the way" of good farming. A farm of only 125 acres is rather small, a good many would think, but the race is not always to the swift nor the battle to the big-acreage men. Plenty of milk makes fat bank checks, but man does not live by milk alone, even though it be the best all-round food. There is the satisfaction that comes from the determined effort to do things right, working with daily recognition of the Divine order. Nor could one crave a more beautiful pastoral scene than these tree-engirded fields looking over the Elgin valley that lies eastward toward Oxford County. To any properly-balanced man this becomes as real an asset as dollars minted by Holsteins from grass. So William Teskey thinks as he looks across the landscape and over his 23 grade cows that in the 1911 season brought cheese-factory returns to the amount of $60.00 each, and the bunch included two heifers in their second year of milking, and six in their first year. Besides cream and butter used at home, no inconsiderable quantity, some 500 pounds of butter were sold, amounting to, say, $125.00. From hogs sold, there was a return of about $300.00, and from calves and other products, probably $100.00. This season, the April cheese check from 18 cows and heifers amounted to $268.15, and the May check $345.03, for 33,015 pounds of milk produced by 22 cows.

It seems to be a fairly good grazing farm, though rolling, and grass is the staple summer food for the herd. Whitecap Yellow Dent corn is the main winter-food reliance, and about 15 acres are grown for the cement-block silo, 40 ft. 2 in. x 15 ft. 5 in., which has been in use three seasons, and stands perfectly, without a check in its walls. The engraving shows what it looks like. As previously described in these columns, it was erected at a cost of about $450.00, including a good metal roof.

The first year a mixture of flint and dent corn was grown, but it did not ripen properly or evenly, and Mr. Teskey has settled down for the present to an early-maturing variety of White-cap. A bushel-and-a-half basketful (or what they will clean up) of good silage night and morning between two mature cows, is the standard feed, with clover or alfalfa hay at noon, and plenty of clean straw for bedding, from which the cows pick a good deal, as they can in the swinging stanchions with which they are tied. If any cows become thin in flesh, they are coaxed along by the addition of a little meal, composed of home-grown oats and barley and bran. About three tons has been the most mill feeds purchased in a year, the farm producing practically all that is needed for feeding.

The great secret of doing well with cows, says Mr. Teskey, is in the wintering. Keep them healthy, hearty and in good flesh, but not fat. It is idle to expect cows to give profitable returns if they are run down constitutionally when they go out on the grass. If they are in that state, what happens? Why, during the flush of pasturage, when they should be giving their best returns at the pail, they will take the grass to build themselves up for a month or so, and by that time dry weather will be on and the cream of th



Part of Wm. Teskey's Dairy Herd at Pasture, Near Avon, Ont.