

that I think are important. First, try and have at least one day to intervene between rain and cutting, so that the ground is fairly dry. This is important on heavy clay soils. Second, fresh-cut clovers or grasses appear to dry out better with a northwest wind than they do with a south or east wind.

Ontario Co., Ont.

HY. GLENDINNING.

Curing Alfalfa in Mid-air.

Driving recently through the County of Lincoln in Ontario the writer happened to notice a field of curing hay put up in an exceptionally peculiar style. The stacks were not unlike those to be seen scattered over the marshes on the Bay of Fundy, yet they were smaller in size and consequently more numerous. They were elevated, however, as though to avoid floods, but in this conclusion we were wrong, for it is the way in which Otto Herold, of Lincoln County, cures his alfalfa even on the high uplands. Mr. Herold informed us that the method is practiced in parts of the State of Illinois, in Ireland and in Germany, and although a little preparation is necessary before cutting, after the alfalfa is thus handled it is proof against injury during unsettled or rainy weather. In his advocacy of this system Mr. Herold laid particular emphasis upon the way the leaves will cling to the stalks and to the absence of any necessity of drawing the alfalfa as soon as it is dry. On a farm with many departments, such as the one in question, this is an important factor, for if the teams and the men are busy at one job they are not obliged to leave and haul the alfalfa at once. This farm is producing vegetable seeds in large quantities in addition to fruit and other products, so a method of curing hay without extravagant or inopportune demands upon the men and teams is exceptionally well suited to his particular conditions.

To cure his alfalfa in this way a man was sent to the bush to cut and prepare the stands. No special name was given the frame on which the alfalfa is stored, so the writer will use the term "skeleton" for this occasion. Three sticks, 7 feet long and not more than 3 inches in diameter at the large end, were first cut and loosely wired together at the top. It would be better, we were informed, had holes been bored near the top and the wire fastened through. As it was staples held the wire from moving, and appeared to be rendering efficient service. A five-inch spike is then driven into each stake, 18 inches from the ground. After the skeleton is stood up in tripod form a 6-foot stick, lighter in weight than the uprights, is laid across two spikes. Then another stick is laid on the remaining spike and brought inside of one leg of the tripod to rest on the first horizontal bar. When a third horizontal bar is laid in place the skeleton, as illustrated, is complete. Counting the material used and the man's time each skeleton or form cost 7 cents. The sticks themselves were not calculated as they came from the woodlot on the place, but the man's time cutting them is included in the cost. Mr. Herold recommended boring holes and using wooden pegs in place of the spikes. Such a change would make them more easily stored, as the pegs could be removed in the fall. On another farm owned by the same farmer pegs are used instead of spikes, and the improvement is marked. In stacking a forkful is first placed on each projection of two horizontal bars, then a forkful on each bar between two legs on the tripod. After that the building may go on round and round the form until enough is laid on to weight approximately 500 pounds when it is dry enough to haul to the barn. Being elevated 18 inches from the ground there is abundant opportunity for a circulation of air under the stack and up in the cone-shaped center of it. The plants beneath the stack should not be killed out either if the alfalfa be allowed to stand a considerable time in the field, as often happens when the crop is cured in cocks.

In preparing the alfalfa for this system of curing it is tedded, and in some cases put on the skeleton the same day it is cut. If the dew and extra water is dried off and nothing left but the juices within the plant it is safe. It is left thus until it is fit to draw to the mow. Mr. Herold said, "I will guarantee it to stand two weeks of unsettled, rainy weather and not spoil. It will bleach of course on the outside, but under that it will be fresh and best of all the leaves will remain on it."

Two eight-acre fields of alfalfa had been treated in this way when we were shown them on the 17th of June, and in each field were about eighty such stacks. Never having had experience with curing alfalfa in this manner we are simply describing the system and repeating Mr. Herold's recommendation of it.

When cutting hay, do not forget to mow the weeds just about to seed in the fence corners. One of the most prevalent and productive means of spreading noxious weeds is dirty fence rows. A man with a scythe can soon cut off their chances of reproduction.

Watch for Bladder Campion.

Every farmer knows white cockle and most are familiar with night flowering catchfly but not all know bladder campion, which is in reality the worst of the cockles and is not hard to identify. What botanists call an inflated calyx, which looks like a small bladder, is a distinguishing feature which should aid anyone to correctly name the plant. It is a troublesome perennial, with deep root stocks, spreading by these as well as by seeds. The plant is a light green in color, smooth, and, as a general thing, from one foot to twenty inches in height. The flowers are white



Form Ready to Receive the Alfalfa.

and about an inch in diameter. The seed closely resembles that of white cockle and night flowering catchfly. Only a man who has made a study of these seeds can distinguish one from the others. It is a roadside, fence-corner and grass-land weed and where present crowds out cultivated plants and does not yield readily to cultivation. The seed is very hard to get out of red clover seed in which it is a common impurity. Clover or hay fields infested by this weed should be cut early before the campion has seeded and then plowed deeply and thoroughly worked until fall. The following year the field should be hoed. Avoid sowing clover containing the seed of this weed and also refrain from seeding down land



The Small Stack Complete.

One of 160 small stacks of alfalfa seen curing on the farm of Otto Herold in Lincoln County, Ont.

already infested with the weed. Follow a rotation of crops which permits of deep cultivation early in spring and throughout the fall. Annual crops to be cut green for fodder are advisable and the land may be plowed deeply immediately afterward. Where a few isolated weeds are found in the clover they should be hand-pulled. It is necessary to be on the lookout for this weed, seeds of which are often found in clover seed.

No one would advise a young man to form the tobacco habit, but the soldiers at the front call tobacco their greatest comfort. They should not be deprived of anything which allays their suffering.

THE DAIRY.

More About Municipality-owned Milk Plants.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Some one has said that students have an infinite variety of means for resisting the introduction of knowledge into their heads. If this be true of students it is much more so of the "average" man, as we have usually found students anxious for, and receptive of new ideas. Experience shows that new ideas for the advancement and improvement of humanity require considerable "hammering" before they will be received by the masses. It is for this reason that we are returning again to the subject of city-owned milk plants in the hope that some one with the necessary initiative and will-power, may take up the idea in a practical way and give the method a fair trial in Canada.

It is one of those questions that requires, not so much the knowledge of a specialist, as that of a man who is a "born leader of men." While there is no doubt a good deal of truth in the saying of President Hill, of North Carolina, at the Agricultural College Convention recently held at Washington—"Profound knowledge of a specialty, plus power to be reasonably at home in many realms of thought—these after all are the ingredients of forceful manhood," this type of man is not necessary to start and carry out such an undertaking as we have in mind. Rather, what is needed, is a man of one idea with the necessary grit and determination to carry it through to a successful issue. Such men are met with in nearly all walks of life. They are commonly known as "cranks," but as a rule it is impossible to turn them,—from the object they have in view. The world needs a considerable number of these "cranks" in order that it may progress and get out of the "ruts" which tend to prevent the onward movement of the "Jitney," Democracy.

Let us hear what a well-known New York philanthropist, Nathan Straus, has to say on the question, as quoted from address given recently before the Public Health Association in the United States:—

"City owned, city purified, and city distributed water supplies have cut out one of the three great causes of typhoid fever, and this policy has been vindicated; but milk, even more than water, is a carrier of the germs of diseases; not of one disease but of six,—typhoid, scarlet fever, septic sore throat, diphtheria and summer complaints, and more serious than all these, milk is a common vehicle for the transmission of tuberculosis to the human being."

We need not be alarmed by the foregoing statements. It will cause no more disease to know that certain foods are common carriers. It will tend to prevent the spread of these contagious diseases by recognizing frankly, possible sources of contamination. Human beings are all too careless of that wonderful thing called life. The wonder is that we live so long as we do, considering the extreme carelessness of most persons, with regard to what is commonly known as their health.

Not long ago we were talking with the manager of a city milk plant, who, we believe, is honestly trying to secure for, and sell to, the people of that city, a pure and wholesome supply of milk at reasonable cost. He is not a native of the city where the plant is located and which he recently purchased. He said, the chief difficulty he found was the laxness of city control with reference to the milk supply. As an instance he cited the following:—A certain producer of milk came to him and desired to sell his milk. The manager of the milk plant went out to the man's place, on the outskirts of the city, where he found the owner feeding "swill" to his cows. There were tubs and troughs of "swill" all around the yard and the cows were drinking this to produce milk. The manager refused to handle the milk, under any consideration. The owner of the swill-milk factory, was surprised as he had, or said he could get, a milk-license to sell milk in the city. This is an example of the extreme laxity of many city regulations.

Some might argue that if such things occur under present conditions, they would be worse if the milk business were entirely controlled and owned by the city. Not necessarily so, as in this latter case, the city officials would be more likely to consider it their duty to properly look after the milk supply. As it is now, "what is everybody's business is nobody's business."

Let us hear Nathan Straus further:—"We have the fact that municipal governments intervened and took control of the water supplies chiefly to stop the ravages of one disease, typhoid fever. My proposition is that the same policy should be followed in dealing with an article of food of universal use, and insist that it is a common cause of six plagues. The obligation to do this is recognized by all. The only room for discussion, is as to how this duty is to be fulfilled. Absolute municipal control of the milk supply