



MARKET SLIP—LOW WATER—ST. JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK.

things are neglected. That is where most of us fail. One thing in which we are much behind our neighbors of the Eastern States is in the use of paint. How many houses there are which have been painted but once, when they were built, and have been dingy and weatherworn for a generation? It is different on the other side. It is no uncommon thing there to see a frame house 60 or 70 years old looking almost new, so well has it been painted. Farmers can do their own outside painting if they try, and the phrase "fresh as paint" shows the improvement in appearance that would be effected.

The Silo: When and How to Fill It.

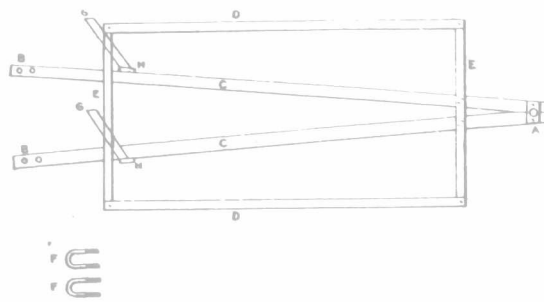
So much has been written in past years on "silo filling," that those who have been interested in the subject will have but little to learn. There may be others, however, who have not had a silo or been reading the "Farmer's Advocate," until this year, who are anxious to see the question discussed. To these this article is dedicated.

As corn is the chief and, in fact, the only plant used to any considerable extent in this country for silage, the exact time at which it should be cut has involved some controversy, both on the part of scientists and practical farmers. Until recently, the consensus of opinion has generally been in favor of cutting in the late milk or dough stage, but either by accident or experiment, good feeders have found that when it was allowed to reach such a stage of ripeness that ears may be removed for seed the most satisfactory results are obtained. It has been pointed out that at that period of ensiling, as compared with the former, the ears of corn have a higher feeding value owing to their greater maturity, and that the stalks and leaves contain a lower percentage of water; hence there is an absence of that excess of acid so objectionable in silage. In certain northern districts, the fear of frost causes some to begin cutting before corn has sufficiently ripened, believing as they do that freezing lessens to a large extent its usefulness. This, in a measure, is true, but not to the degree generally believed. Where the corn is cut soon after freezing takes place little loss is sustained, and when the advantages to be gained are considered, it is better to risk a low temperature in the hope of securing a riper corn.

The different methods in vogue for cutting corn appear to vary with different localities. Many who grow limited areas still use the hook and cut by hand. Others have a low sled or boat, upon either side of which is firmly fastened, in a slanting position, an old crosscut saw with the back extending outward and sharpened for cutting. The end of this saw extends a foot or so from the boat, and is supported by a heavy bar of wood. This apparatus, which is propelled by one horse, is built just wide enough to catch two rows; upon it stand two men, who take the stalks as they fall, and as an armful has been cut the horse is stopped and the bundles are laid down. This process is, of course, slow as compared with a good corn binder, and where a number of farmers can co-operate or each have enough corn to make the purchase of a binder profitable, the latter is much more satisfactory.

In hauling to the silo the practice involving the least labor will be most economical. The ordinary farm wagon with the reach taken out and heavy sills of considerable length placed under the axels and extending from hind to front wheels, and having a platform built thereon, as shown in accompanying cut, makes a handy truck upon which to load and haul the corn to the silo.

In cutting corn the exact length desirable still remains a matter of opinion, but, all things considered, about an inch long seems to be pref-



erable. If cut longer it does not pack so firmly in the silo, consequently does not keep quite so well, and a higher percentage is apt to be refused by stock. It certainly should not be longer than an inch. The practice of shredding (tearing in fine shreds, efficient machines for which are on the market) instead of cutting is gaining in favor in some localities. Although we cannot speak from experience, there is, doubtless, much to be said in its favor.

The way in which the cut corn is elevated to

the silo matters but little—either carriers or blowers are satisfactory, and many prefer the latter—but the corn should be made to fall near the center, and better quality of silage will be assured if a man be stationed inside to keep the mass well mixed and tramped. The slower the silo is filled the more tons can be stored therein. Some follow the practice of filling and allowing to settle for a week, and afterwards filling again. The chief objection to this is that there is apt to be a layer on the top of the first lot spoiled through fermentation. In any case a second filling will be necessary unless considerable time has been spent in the operation.

Since siloing was first introduced much has been said regarding the proper cover for the silo. A heavy cotton cloth well oiled has been recommended and used with fair results. This cloth is useful as a covering even while the silage is being fed. A much commoner practice is to place about a foot deep of chaff or cut straw over the corn; on this may be spread a few handfuls of barley, and the entire mass well moistened with water. Where this is done the surface soon becomes impenetrable to air, and fermentation in the upper layers of silage ceases.

Camera Competition.

Last year the "Farmer's Advocate" conducted a camera competition, which proved decidedly popular. The large number of amateur photographers who sent in samples of their work and the artistic excellence of the photographs indicated in a surprising degree the progress that has been made in that direction. Many of the photos were quite equal in artistic excellence and execution to the work of professionals, the subjects selected showing great variety and interest. So encouraging were the results, that we have decided to announce another competition open to amateurs, and to offer much larger prizes than we did in the competition of 1901. We now offer eight prizes, as follows: 1st, \$10; 2nd, \$7; 3rd, \$5; 4th, \$3; 5th, \$2; 6th, \$1; 7th, \$1; and 8th, \$1; for the best photographs of country homes, individual animals or groups, gardens, field scenes, orchards or fruit trees, bits of scenery or anything of that nature, subject to the subjoined rules:

All photographs must not be less than 4 x 5 inches in size, mounted, and be the work of amateurs.

All photographs must be clear and distinct in detail and well finished.

They must reach the "Farmer's Advocate" office, London, Ont., not later than October 1st, 1902.

The name of the competing photographer and post-office address, and the name and location of the scene, must be marked on the back of each photo.

Any person competing is at liberty to send more than one photograph if desired, but only one prize will be awarded to the same individual.

All the prizewinning photographs will become the property of the "Farmer's Advocate" for the purpose of illustration. We reserve the right to purchase, at 25 cents or 35 cents each, according to size, any photographs that do not win a prize.

No photograph is eligible to competition from which an engraving has previously been made, and photographs must be the work of competitors.



NORTH-WEST ARM, HALIFAX HARBOR.