

*By Mr. Wilson:*

Q. Horse manure is the cheapest mixture ?

A. No doubt, and much more attractive to the grasshoppers.

HOW TO SAVE BINDER TWINE FROM BEING EATEN OFF THE SHEAF.

Another interesting result which came up in these experiments with grasshoppers, was the effect of adding salt to the mixture. A difficulty which is sometimes experienced by farmers in Manitoba, is that field crickets and grasshoppers eat the binder twine with which the grain is bound in the field, and this is a constant source of trouble, and sometimes a good deal of loss and extra labour results from this. Mr. Vane and Mr. Criddle tried several things, among others salt. They soaked their twine in brine to see if that would prevent the insects from eating it. Instead of having the desired effect, they found that it was eaten much more readily. They therefore added salt to the horse manure mixture, and found that it was much more attractive as a consequence. They therefore now always add a pound or two of salt for every pound of Paris green. Further, they found that the binder twine could be protected by soaking it in a solution of bluestone, two pounds to seven gallons of water.

*By Mr. Gould:*

Q. I do not see how he could soak it, the balls are rolled solid.

A. He soaked them in warm water, leaving them for half an hour.

Q. But the balls are so hard I should think they would not get saturated at all ?

A. They did, and he then dried them by putting them up on the rails of a fence to dry in the sun.

POISONING SPARROWS AND GOPHERS.

*By Mr. Johnston (Cardwell):*

Q. Just before leaving that question of poisoning insects, can you give any suggestion as to how to poison sparrows, which are becoming a great pest on the farms and around barns ?

A. I think strychnine is the poison generally used for that purpose.

Q. How do you apply it ?

A. It is dissolved in alcohol, and then after dilution with water, grain is soaked in it.

Q. Is there not a danger that the chickens might get it ?

A. Yes. There is danger of that, but it must be put out of their reach.

*By Mr. Stewart:*

Q. Large quantities of strychnine are used in Manitoba to poison the gophers. You need to use it in very small quantities ; one two-hundredth part of a grain will kill a gopher. One grain of strychnine weighed in the druggist's scales, was dissolved in water, and two hundred grains of wheat were counted out, and soaked in the water. A single grain of wheat was enough to kill a gopher.

A. That may account for the failure of some of the experiments which have been tried with sparrows. You see it frequently stated that at first a few sparrows are poisoned, but the others soon learn, and will not after that touch the grain. It has been found very frequently that sparrows after a short time cannot be poisoned. It may be that the poison was applied too strong, and they detected its presence and would not eat the grain.