

is that they are very fond of it green or cured; that they work better, or whether it produces heaves or not I am not prepared to say; but I would like to say a word for the hog if I am not getting away from my subject. We winter our sows, when we have no roots, on cut clover, soaked, with a sprinkling of bran, and find it very economical. We also find it good for growing or even fattening pigs, but with more of the bran or meal. At present—June—we have eighty-four (84) pigs running on a two-acre paddock of lucerne clover, getting nothing but the clover and what they will drink. They work hard, but they cannot keep that patch down; it is getting ahead of them. So good is clover for pasture, the pigs are doing well, and we expect to have a few tons of cheap pork before the winter comes.

The advantages of cutting clover early mentioned in your article are decisive, but I believe are not fully understood or appreciated by many of our farmers to-day. I have known men who were, perhaps, a little behind with their haying, leave the hay until their fall wheat was cut and in the barn. Last season taught a lesson to the tardy ones; those who were behind and had their hay wet so often were unable to sell, and admit that oat straw was more relished by the stock. Better cut early and avoid to a large extent the chance of being spoiled by either rain or old age. We find the question of having the clover well cured in the cock very important, also keeping it from the dew and rain. If possible, we leave none lying over night. With alfalfa the greatest care must be taken not to allow too much exposure to sun, as the leaves fall off very readily. Out after the dew is off, rake as soon as leaves well wilted, medium sized cocks before evening dew falls, allowed to stand for several days until thoroughly cured, well stacked or put in mow, and if the quantity is there, the horses, cattle or sheep, and even hogs and hens, will come out in good thriving condition, and even fat if so desired.

Huron Co., Ont.

F. C. ELFORD.

Harvesting the Clover Crop in P. E. Island.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—Your article on "Farm Work for June" is seasonable and pointed, and should be carefully read by all who are so fortunate as to have a good crop of clover to make into hay this year, and I am happy to say that most all farmers down here have. Clover is perhaps the best paying crop we grow on the farm, even if we do fail to save it in the best of order. But if we can get it cured properly, there is no other crop can be compared to it in value. Well-cured clover is said to be worth \$5 to \$6 a ton for its manurial value after it is fed, and it is surely worth as much for stock feed. The feed in clover is so very largely contained in the leaves and blossoms that it is very important that in curing and handling it these should be all saved. The directions in your article for cutting and curing the crop are pretty full and explicit, and leave little to be said.

The secret of making good clover is to begin early, before it is too ripe, and take your time to it. We mean by this, don't hurry and cut down a lot of it at once, and run the risk of having it all spoiled. Unless you are sure of fine weather don't leave it in swath over night. If it is tossed about during half a day in sun and wind, cock it up at night before the dew falls. No fear of it spoiling this way for a night and a day, if there is no water in it when it is cocked up. We never leave hay in windrows over night, for if it gets wet in that shape it is about useless. We would much prefer leaving it in swath.

Hay caps are almost a necessity in curing the clover crop; a hundred or two of them will pay for themselves a year like this when the clover crop is heavy. They can be made cheaply of a square of cotton forty inches wide, well oiled, and a stone tied to each corner or pegs to stick into the bottom of it is cock through the corners will serve to keep them in place. We prefer to put our clover into the bottom of a deep mow, and we think it can be cured much better and greener that way, as if it begins to warm up by putting a weight of other hay on top it will press the heat out of it and completely cure it. The air being excluded in the mow is a great advantage in keeping clover. If the cocks are covered with good caps and let stand till the hay is well sweated, it will not require long after opening out to get it in prime condition for the mow. The crop of clover on this Island this year will be worth many thousands of dollars to the farmers if harvested in proper condition. With a wet haying season much will be lost at best; but with care and judgment in haying and using all the help we find useful, much may be saved that would otherwise be spoiled.

Queen's Co., P. E. I.

W. S.

Dodder Infesting Clover and Lucerne.

On several occasions there have been brought into our office specimens of clover entwined with dodder. No doubt this parasitic weed is quite generally distributed, even more so than farmers recognize. There are various species of dodder, all of which are annual plants with inconspicuous yellow, pink or white flowers growing on threadlike stems of similar color. It may grow upon and draw its nourishment from almost any herbaceous upland plant, but it thrives best on clovers.

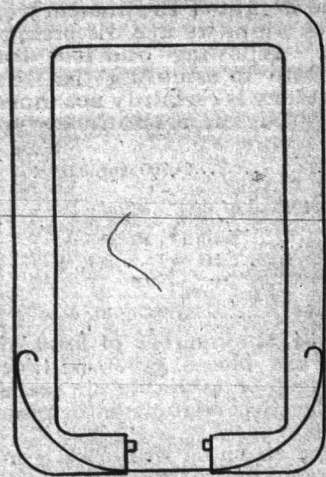
The seeds are generally introduced with impure clover or distributed with hay. The seeds germinate in the soil and grow up as do the clover plants. After growing several inches high it clings to some green plant. When it binds this host plant tightly many roots or suckers are produced and grow into the tissues of the plant, elaborating its sap. The clover plant, when thus attacked, usually dies, as

does also the root of the dodder, but the dodder stem continues to grow, extending itself to other clover plants, from which it continues to draw nourishment. Thus the dodder lives on, dying behind as its support is destroyed, and pushing out branches to attack new plants. It soon begins to produce clusters of flowers, and if not interrupted a succession of flowers and seeds is produced, being checked only by the frosts of autumn. The seeds, ripening and dropping throughout the season, are able to retain their germinating power five years or longer, but will grow at the first favorable opportunity. It is never safe to sow clover or lucerne seed from a dodder-infested field.

Eradication of this nuisance is not an easy matter. All vegetation on infested spots, and for some distance around, should be mowed as closely as possible with a scythe. If the seeds are not formed the fodder may be fed to stock, but if seeds are formed it should be saturated with kerosene and burned. About a week after the infested spots should be carefully examined for new growth of the dodder vines, which not infrequently appear on the remaining stubble or surrounding growth. Strong brine, sulphate of lime, and dilute sulphuric acid have been recommended as a destroyer of dodder, but the sulphates of iron, potassium, and copper, are claimed by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Division of Botany, in a recent bulletin, to be most effective when dissolved in water and liberally applied in ten per cent. solutions. The solution should come in contact with the dodder vine, which it kills, as well as the clover upon which it is growing, but the clover plants usually grow up again from the roots. It is well to hoe infested spots after the vegetation has been removed, or give the patch a season's cultivation. To pasture closely with sheep is a good method of subduing a badly infested field that is not desired to be broken up, but the animals should not be allowed access to other fields or they may carry some of the seeds in their wool or feet.

The Stone Silo.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:



GROUND PLAN OF STONE SILO.

from the inside face of the wall. Then get tongued and grooved lumber, the narrower the better, so that it won't warp and let in the air; cut to fit across the open space on to the scantling. This makes it much more convenient to throw ensilage out, as you can take pieces off as you desire. I plastered inside with common mortar once, and last coat with water lime and Portland cement, and bottom as well, so there is no waste at the bottom. For about six weeks after it is filled the liquid comes out through one place into the stable by bucketfuls, as it can't escape otherwise. It is well to make the wall as air-tight as possible with mortar.

I cut for half a day into the silo, last fall, two inches long and some one inch. In the evening I noticed in FARMER'S ADVOCATE it was better to cut corn short, as it would pack better and take up less room. I find it is much better cut short every way you like to take it. In the first place, one can run the barley fork through it and peel the top off, and the fork is always clean; but when I got down to the long cut it was everlastingly sticking to the prongs. With the short cut it was easier to mix with other cut feed, and the cattle liked it better. This advice alone was worth two or three years' subscription to the ADVOCATE. It took two men to take it off the wagon and feed the cutter with less than half-inch cut. I like high speed for ensilage cutter. I use a jack with horse power. It's much better to keep your knives one-sixteenth of an inch from the plate when cutting corn, and then you can keep your knives sharp.

JOHN JONES.

Wellington Co., Ont.

It is announced that the Dominion Express Company has reduced its rate on fruit from British Columbia to Winnipeg from \$4 to \$2.40 per 100 lbs., and \$2.25 per 100 in 1,000 pound lots. The B. C. people are endeavoring to supplant the California fruits in the markets of Manitoba, and as they are paying more attention to the selection of varieties and the conditions of shipping, they should, with the more favorable express rates quoted, succeed, which would be greatly to the benefit of both provinces in retaining the money, formerly going to the States, within Canadian territory.

The Octagonal Cement Silos.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR.—I am pleased to note the interest you are taking in discussing the question of silos. This, to my mind, is one of the most important questions of the day to the average farmer, because of the close competition and very small margin on all farm products, and especially so with those who feed for beef, dairy or breeding purposes. With them it is a question of where can I get the raw material cheapest, and the most convenient to be manufactured into beef, dairy products or live stock, and thus lessen my expenses? It is a question of economy, then, we are after, and to my mind the silo goes far to aid in the right direction.

After having come to the above conclusion, we want a silo of some sort. Now, the question is, What sort of a silo shall I build that will fill the bill properly, and not be too heavy an outlay? This I understand to be somewhat of a puzzle to many. For my own part I can readily settle the question, but for another I cannot, because circumstances differ so much with different people. In discussing this question I would like to say, after the experience I have had with silos for the last eight years, that I believe any of the modern silos, well built, will keep ensilage good if properly put in. Then it is largely a matter of individual choice between the round, octagonal, square or rectangular as to shape, and a question of economy and durability as to the material with which it is built. Now, sir, I have worked with and been around several different styles of silos, namely, those of wood, built square, rectangular and round (of staves and frame), stone (square), and those of cement (square, rectangular and octagonal), and my choice of these is cement, built eight-sided, and having the corners cut, making it practically sixteen-sided and almost round inside, so that it has every convenience and all the advantages of a round one, and, taking the durability into consideration, it is by all means the cheapest, providing you can get good, keen, coarse gravel conveniently, especially when you have to pay, as we do, \$16 to \$17 per thousand for suitable lumber. Allow me to say, I claim the honor of building the first successful cement octagonal silo in this part of the country for the Hon. John Dryden, Minister of Agriculture, for whom I am acting as farm foreman. I laid out the plan and superintended the whole thing myself, and kept up the farm work besides. And it cost very little in excess of a wooden silo of the same capacity. Any one wishing further particulars regarding the building of an octagonal cement silo I will be pleased to answer such questions as I can.

Ontario Co., Ont.

A. H. CHRISTIAN.

[NOTE.—We are sure many of our readers will be anxious to learn from Mr. Christian the dimensions of the octagonal silo he so successfully built, the thickness of walls, the number of barrels of cement contained in it, the proportion of gravel and stone to cement, the number of men and time required to build it, the arrangement of the doors, and the arrangement of wooden frame used in building the structure.—EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE.]

Preparing for Fall Wheat.

The high price recently ruling for wheat will no doubt lead farmers generally this year to make provision for sowing a larger acreage than usual. This is quite natural, and we would not dissuade those who have available land suitable for the crop from taking chances on what appears to be a good prospect for continued good prices; but we would emphasize the importance of making a good preparation for the crop and giving it a fair chance to give a fair return. The experience of farmers in the past year in many sections of the country where wheat was sown on unsuitable soil, or on ill-prepared seed-beds, should not be forgotten, but should teach them to profit by the mistakes of the past and to practice wiser methods this year. The extreme drouth which set in last year immediately after harvest and continued through the months of September and October over a large area in the central provinces rendered the germination and growth so very slow and imperfect that the crop was weak to begin the winter with; and the severe freezing in the first weeks of April still further enervated it, and the result is, in many cases, a very unsatisfactory prospect for a crop. These remarks apply principally to clay lands where care was not taken to preserve moisture in the land preparatory to sowing. On land that was summer fallowed, being frequently stirred and consequently kept moist, wheat started well and made good growth, even on strong clay lands. We also noted that on clover sod that was plowed down during the wet weather in July, and kept well worked on the surface after each succeeding shower up to seeding time, the wheat made a good start and stood the winter well, and is very promising. We have also seen some very good-looking crops that were sown after peas, which had been grown on sod plowed in the spring, the land being simply cultivated, without plowing, after the peas were harvested. If the land is tolerably clean, and the surface is well harrowed after each rain, such a preparation has proved quite successful. Wheat may also, to a limited extent, follow barley or oats if the land is in good heart and there is sufficient moisture in the ground to admit of its being worked fine after plowing. If the land is not rich enough it is unwise to risk wheat on such a preparation