solved to make the following further concessions to its members :

1.—It has increased the maximum amount payable per calf by £1, making it £6 for a calf over six months old, and £3 for a calf between three and six months old.

2.—It has relieved the members from the payment of 2d. per head per annum for management expenses, which will now be defrayed from the interest on the reserve fund, and other miscellaneous income.

3.—It has reduced the insurance contribution for cows payable by all members of not less than ten years' standing by 3d. per quarter, to 9d. per cow.

The chief result of these concessions is that all members of the club over ten years' standing will have their cows insured to a maximum of £12 on a total payment of the very low rate of 3s. per cow per annum.

These facts should give some idea how to run similar organizations in Canada. That they are useful and profitable to a community cannot be denied.

A QUAINT SCOT'S CUSTOM.

In many parts of North and Western Scotland there are what are called crofting townships where sheep are managed on common land grazings. With a view to giving each crofter an equitable right, it was long ago customary to fix a "souming" for each township. This means that a certain number of sheep are allowed per five dollars of rent, but this rule has been frequently ignored, and it is not unusual to find some crofters own hundreds of sheep, while others do not own twenty between them. The Scottish Board of Agriculture is trying to square things up a bit, and points out the regulations of one township where an excellent system is in vogue. Here the crofts are from five to ten acres arable. They are well cultivated, and a large proportion of winter feed is produced on them. Cheviot sheep are kept. Each crofter owns his individual stock. The souming is eleven sheep per five dollars. A horse equals eight sheep and a cow five. The committee consists of five members, elected every three years at a public meeting by vote of all the crofters concerned. Briefly its duties are : To engage shepherds and pay them ; to maintain a supply of rams ; to sell all cast ewes and wether lambs ; to provide dip, and arrange for dipping; to regulate the number of sheep allowed per five dollars ; to charge so much (half a dollar) per head on all "overstock" men and divide the amount thus collected among those having "understock" at so much per sheep ; and to charge on all sheep (lambs excepted) sufficient per head to pay for all expenses, including shepherding, dipping, extra helpers, wintering of rams, repairs to fanks and fences, etc. At the end of the year each man's total expenses are deducted from his total income, and a cheque for the balance is handed to him by the clerk.

Each year the committee buys in a well-bred stud ram from one of the neighboring farms, and selects as stud ewes the required number of the very best ewes in the township, irrespective of their ownership. The bought-in ram is put to these in a separate park. After service the ewes are wintered in the ordinary way along with the rest of the township sheep, but have a distinguishing mark. The tup lambs from these ewes are inspected when a fortnight old, a number of the best of them being marked ; and, later, a final inspection of the very best of these is made, the lambs then being marked as future rams, and becoming the common property of the township. They are well reared and are never allowed to serve till one and a half years old, nor longer than for three years. (Ewes are not allowed to breed until two and a half years old—two-shear—and are usually sold after producing three crops of lambs). The selling of stock is done upon co-operative lines.

London, England. G. T. BURROWS.

Clip the Sheep.

It is not so many years ago that almost all the sheep in the country were washed before being shorn. This necessitated that the fleece be left on until the warm weather. Washing sheep was considered a good job for a holiday, and the twenty-fourth of May, being the first of these after the water became warm enough, was very often selected for this outing. Things have gradually changed ; labor is not so plentiful as in former days ; and the price for unwashed wool, all things considered, is equally good as that for washed, and to-day most of the sheep are clipped without being washed. Shearing is, as a consequence, done at an earlier date than formerly. Unless the sheep are being prepared for showing purposes and a warm pen can be provided, it is not wise to shear them too early when the weather is still cold, but sometime in April or just before the teams commence work on the land is a good time to get it done. Even then the sheep must have shelter. It is often good practice to shear before lambs are dropped, if the man who does the work is very careful. In-lamb ewes will not stand rough handling without injury, and the ewe's comfort must be considered during the operation. The shorn ewe's udder is much easier for the lamb to find than if it were hidden away in clusters of wool, and there is less trouble from sore eyes in the lambs. Shearing before spring's work starts is also time saving, as once the land is ready to work there is never much respite from the demands of tillage of various kinds, in which to do such odd jobs as shearing sheep. If the ewes have lambs at foot at shearing time, it is good practice to dip the lambs a few days afterwards. Here is another point in favor of early clipping. The long wool is a great breeding ground for ticks, and early shearing aids in ridding the sheep of this pest. The ticks crawl from the shorn ewes to the lambs, and if the lambs are dipped nearly all the ticks are trapped. Of course, if the weather be cold, dipping is out of the question. Clipping early saves the sheep from considerable suffering, for the ewe compelled to carry her winter coat well into June and sometimes up to July feels the heat greatly. If a day can be had now and the sheep are not already clipped, have the work done, as it is not likely that time will be more plentiful later on.

THE FARM.

The Crop Reporting Board of the United States Bureau af Statistics, estimates that the average condition of winter wheat on April 1, was 91.6 per cent of a normal, against 80.6 on April 1, 1912 ; 83.3 on April 1, 1911, and 86.3, the average condition for the past ten years on April 1. There was a decline in condition from December 1, 1912, to April 1, 1913, of 1.6 points, as compared with an average decline in the past ten years of 3,6 points between these dates.

A correspondent of "The Farmer's Advocate," A. Hooper, of Huron Co., Ontario, has used sand to cover over the top of his silage in the silo, and reports excellent results. He tramps the silage down thoroughly, and then applies a coating of fine sand over the top. This he found excluded the air, and his silage, when the silo was opened up for feeding, was in perfect condition right to the top. Next year he is going to place a little sacking over the silage before placing the sand on to prevent any of the latter from getting into the silage.

Seed grain cannot be too thoroughly cleaned or selected. One of our Western Ontario correspondents recently told us that he has raised on his farm a variety of oats for the last seventeen years, and owing to selection, the same variety to-day yields ten bushels per acre more than when he first introduced them on his farm. This does not look much like proof of the old belief that a variety" runs out." True it will if no selection is practiced, but this man cleans his seed three times through the fanning mill, screening it heavily to take out all small and inferior seeds and weed seeds, and blowing it hard to discard all light seeds.

Wet Shocked Corn when Filling Silo.

Editor " The Farmer's Advocate." :

Seeing your request for " experiences " of farmers who have filled silo during December—and not having seen many replies, I thought perhaps our experience might be of some value to you, and readers.

I will describe the kind of silo and mode of filling, which might perhaps make a difference in the keeping qualities in other makes of silos, and ways of filling. We have a wooden silo, same make as is extensively advertised in "The Farmer's Advocate" 12x24 and 2 feet cement at bottom and two or three of us to fill it alone. As a rule we draw in in flat rack with very low trucks, with heads of sheaves towards cutting box, and the feeder can pull them off as fast as machine steel table can draw them in. We step team up as unloaded, so that corn is close to the feeder. We cut very fine. Other man is in silo spreading and tramping. We have an 8 h.p gasoline engine and blower to fill with. However I mention the above facts to let you know that it was not all rushed in one day and all the tramping that was done was by one man. When silo was full we let it settle, and filled again and so on, until we had it full of settled silage. Then we found we had three acres more out in stook. We started to feed out of silo at once ; having fed out six feet, we decided to refill again. We filled again about the latter part of November. Just run it through the cutting box as it came from the field, it was rather dry, but we did not add any water to it, not because we did not think it needed any, but we were busy and it made a lot of extra-hard work hauling water. After the silo was full, we set in stakes around the silo and then set up some old binder canvas all around which made a total of 8 or nine feet filled. It was alright the first few days we fed it, but as we got further down it was considerably fire-fanged. There was quite a waste. When we reached the silage which was put in during October, we started to put in the remainder about one acre and a half, or 45 stooks with 30 sheaves to stook. Before we started to fill this time, we got ready to give it a good dose of water. Having a quantity of old pipe of different sizes from 1 to ¾-inch. We connected largest 1¼ to the tank, and by getting two or three reducers and a few elbows we ran it up to the top of the silo and then one over through the centre, with the end capped and holes through the pipe which went over the top of the silo, and then set the windmill going every time we went after another load. When we came back it was sprayed to perfection. We have just finished feeding that portion, and I must say it kept excellently and cows eat it well. There were a few places around the edges where we thought it was not wet enough, so we took off the pipe that runs horizontal with silo and put in one without holes, in a barrel underneath the end of a pipe, and dipped out with a pail and poured around the edges. We found it as good as two men carrying water, and far easier. There may be one objection to it, that the water soaks down in the silage that was put in earlier, which may give it a tendency to freeze more. This last filling was put in on Jan. 3rd.

Middlesex Co., Ont. SMITH BROS.

[Note—Publication of this interesting letter has been delayed by pressure of space, but the delay will in no sense have reduced its value.—Editor.]

Planting and Cultivating Beans.

Could you favor me with a little information on bean growing—what kind of soil, and how best to prepare it ; the best variety of beans to sow, and what time to sow them, and how best to cultivate them.

Brant Co., Ont. HERBERT GERMAN.

Bean growing is becoming quite a profitable industry in some sections of Ontario. Beans thrive on a great variety of soils, ranging from a sandy soil to a clay loam. A rich, gravelly or sandy loam is considered best adapted to bean culture, although a well-drained black-clay loam is an excellent soil for this crop. Avoid a heavy-clay soil, although fair fields have sometimes resulted from a fairly heavy soil. A clay soil seems to restrict vine growth, and while the vines may be well podded they do not throw out enough growth to produce large yields. Soil should be well-drained, loose and friable. Fall-plowed soil is to be preferred. If possible manure the land before sowing the beans. This is not absolutely necessary, but the manure will increase the yield and especially where winter wheat is to follow the bean crop is very beneficial to the next year's crop.

Bean planting is usually done sometime between June first and June twentieth. The bean plant is frost-tender so must not be planted too early. This late planting makes it necessary to keep the land well worked during the spring season to get the land in good condition and to form a fine mulch on top to check loss of moisture. It is also necessary to cultivate frequently in order to rid the soil of all weeds.

For planting, large growers use a bean planter, but an ordinary eleven-hose grain drill may be used to plant rows twenty-eight inches apart. If the soil is sandy two or even three inches is not too deep to plant, but in heavier soils covering the seed from one inch to one and one-half inches is deep enough. The amount of seed sown per acre varies somewhat. If a small variety is sown three pecks is enough ; if a large variety, sow a bushel per acre, or, in some cases, up to a bushel and a half. There are several good varieties. Pea beans, Yellow Eyed, and Red Kidney, are giving good satisfaction. Pearce's Improved Tree bean, Schofield Pea, White Wonder, and Small White Field, are some varieties which have done well at the Ontario Agricultural College.

Commence cultivation as soon as the rows can be seen across the field. Some growers harrow the crop just, as the beans are coming up. This is good practice if a heavy rain has fallen after planting, and the land has become more or less run together and crusted. Harrowing breaks a few of the young plants, but if plenty of seed has been sown little damage from this cause will result. In dry seasons the crop cannot be cultivated too often and in any case it should be gone through once a week. Culti-