

# The Farm with the Silo

A Visit to a Southern Manitoba Farm which has been made Profitable by Up-to-date Methods

By E. J. TROTT, B.S.A.

Situated on a quarter section adjoining the town of Deloraine, quite close to the railroad track, is a cluster of farm buildings which, to the observant, will probably arouse a little curiosity. The buildings in themselves are not at all pretentious; the yards and surroundings are not very

that it was dry that summer and while everybody else's pasture was all burned up, that corn of mine just seemed to grow like a weed. People for miles around heard about it and those driving by on the road would get out of their rigs and get in the field to have a look

planter a bushel will plant anywhere from seven to eight acres, putting three or four kernels in each hill.

## Some Corn Wrinkles

"Now, here's a scheme which I have tried this year. I have found that the gophers are very fond of the young leaves and every year they have bothered the crop. This year a neighbor of mine, who has seen hundreds of acres of corn grown in the States, told me to dip the seed corn in coal oil just before it was to be planted and the gophers would not bother it much after this treatment. Just how this is going to pan out I don't know, but it's worth trying anyhow. The varieties which have given me the best results have been North Western Flint, North Dakota Dent, and Longfellow. Last year Flint and Longfellow gave me about the same results in maturing and feeding qualities. I always grade my seed before planting; the seed may look alright, but when it has been graded you'll find quite a lot of small kernels have been shaken out. About the best way with a small quantity of seed is to grade it by hand, using a barley sieve. As soon as the corn is up I start to cultivate it. I generally harrow it two or three times on real hot days until it is from four to six inches high and then start in and cultivate. The first time I cultivate deep and after

dairy type almost to perfection. Just then we were passing by the windmill and a remark was made about the complete water system that was in operation thru the buildings. "Well," my companion said, pointing to a large reservoir out in the pasture field next the barn, which had evidently been dug out, "there is where the water comes from. I have just about perforated this farm with holes looking for water. Down East I was a well borer and so I've had quite a lot of experience at the job, but I couldn't get any satisfactory water supply until I hit on that scheme. There happened to be a little run way right there, so I dug out a hole which is now eighty feet long, fifty-five feet wide and about thirteen feet deep, having a slope from the top of two to one. It doesn't take long to scoop out a place like that if you go about it right. One thing I learned when digging it was to plow twice in the run way thru which all the loose dirt from the bottom of the reservoir was carried away to every plowing done in the reservoir itself. You'll find that the earth in the bottom of the run way gets packed very solid, so that two plowings will be necessary to keep it from getting too steep. As soon as this was finished I dug a trench about ten feet deep from the reservoir into the well and filled this up to well above the level of the water in the reservoir with broken stone, gravel and sand. Now the water filters thru into the well and the supply has never given out yet. The water from the well is pumped up into the tanks in the barn by the windmill and we always have plenty of pressure on the system."



"S" stands for Silo, System and Success

much different to those seen around many other tidy farm homes, but there is one outstanding feature which, in that particular district of Southern Manitoba, is sufficient to stimulate a little more than usual interest in anyone interested in agricultural matters. That feature is the silo. Around that silo hangs a very interesting story of how brains and determination have, in the space of eight years, turned a dirty quarter section, without any buildings on it worthy of the name, into a paying farm and a pleasant homestead.

"After knocking around in all parts of Canada ever since leaving home, it was just about eight years ago that I happened to be in Deloraine," said Mr. Weaver when we were talking together in the light, airy barn in which the herd of mostly pure-bred Holstein cows were being milked, "and it just struck me then that there was an opening right here on this, what was then a dirty quarter for someone to keep a few cows, get into the dairy business and supply the town with milk, so I started in."

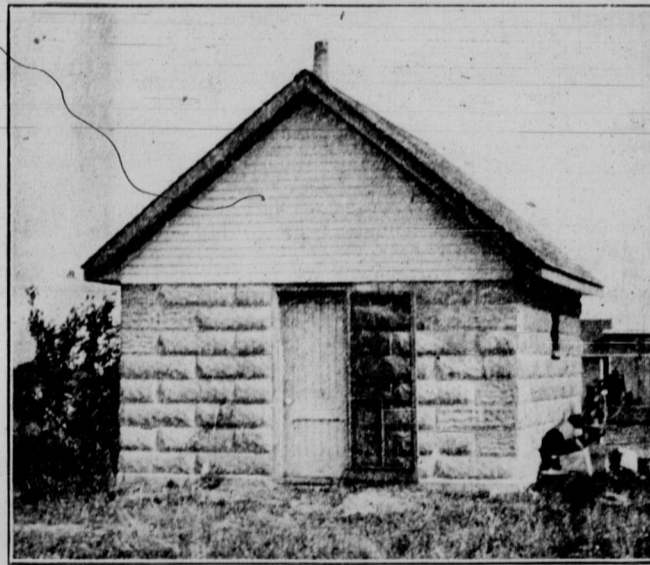
We were talking in the barn, which is fitted up with metal cow stanchions and cement floor. It is well lighted, has a water system fitted thruout by Mr. Weaver himself, and is equipped with tracking for litter and feed carriers. Right in the centre of the east side of the barn is the door leading into the silo. There was a layer about eighteen inches deep over the bottom of silage,

## Corn in Manitoba

"How do I like silage for feed? Why, it's the only feed worth while," replied Mr. Weaver to our enquiry, "all the stock like it. I think corn is one of the most valuable crops that a farmer can grow, and the strange part about it is that not very long ago there wasn't a stalk of corn grown in this country."

"You know farming in this country seems to me to be a kind of experiment; there is nothing cut and dried about farm methods yet, that is if a man wants to get on, because, in these days, unless a man gets out of the rut of grain, grain growing he is going to lose money every year and get his farm so dirty that in the end he'll have to get off it anyhow. A man in this country has to try new things, or if every man doesn't do it, at any rate someone in the locality has to go ahead and try out some new idea or new crop to discover whether it will be suitable to his locality and in this way help to make farming more profitable. Of course, it costs a man something both in money and time, but when he gets hold of something that is worth while, there is a whole lot of satisfaction attached to it. Take this district, for instance, four years ago there was no corn grown, here. That spring, however, I got some seed from the South and put in a small patch for fodder for the cows. It just happened

at it. Well, it helped out so well that year that I figured that I couldn't do without it again, and since then I have put in more ground to corn each year.



THE DAIRY

"As clean and cool as anyone could wish for"

This year I have twenty-eight acres in."

## Everybody's Growing It

"Oh, yes, the neighbors grew some corn the next year. The acreage put into corn has increased every year until now—I was just figuring it up the other night—and there will be about seven hundred acres planted in corn in this district alone. Some change from none four years ago, isn't it? I've learned quite a few things about corn since I started growing it. On my land, which is a good stiff black loam, last year corn did better planted on fall plowing without manure than on spring plowing with manure. The way I do generally is to fall plow and harrow the land and then spread on a light coating of the well rotted, mixed manure which has come from the stable during the winter. This land is then disced, after which it is harrowed to loosen up the straw, disced again the opposite way to that in which it is going to be planted, harrowed again and then planted. I find it is no good to plant corn before the ground has had a good chance to warm up. Somewhere around the twenty-fourth of May it is generally hot enough. I used a corn planter for the first time last year and found it made a great saving in seed. The planter seeds it three feet eight inches each way in hills and corn seeded this way gives me the best results. Before using the planter I used to drill the corn in, using every seventh drill and seeding half a bushel to the acre. With the

that run the scuffler or cultivator shallow so as not to disturb the shallow root system which the corn plants have. In harvesting it I use now a corn binder and figure on cutting it before the first frost. I don't believe a little frost hurts its feeding value, but it does cut down the bulk of the ensilage which will be made by the corn, but a day longer in the fall, if frost doesn't come, is worth three or four in July, because more sugar will be in the stalk. Well that's enough about corn; you haven't seen my pigs yet, have you?"

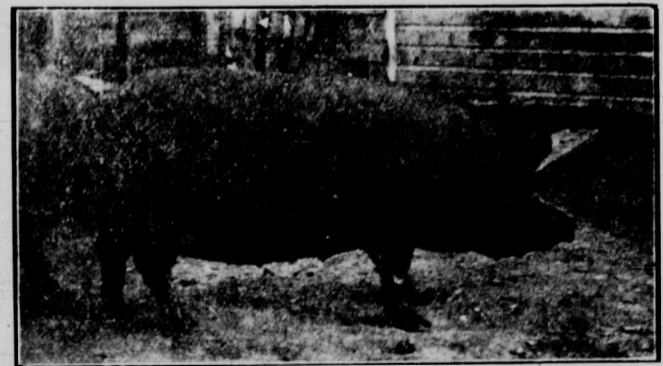
## The Water Supply

I hadn't, so we started out of the barn towards the piggery. Passing down the line of cows we noticed some very good grades, showing quality and dairy type and there were also several very good pure-bred cows in the bunch.

In answer to an enquiry, Mr. Weaver said that all these cattle were tested periodically with the tuberculin test and any reactors disposed of. In a calf shed next the barn were four splendid calves, one heifer especially showing

## The Ice House

"No, I've never had any trouble with the pipes freezing up. When I laid them I put them about four feet in the ground in a square box made of four by one inch lumber. I laid the pipe on pieces of wood, so as to keep it off the bottom of the box and filled in around the box with sawdust. Talking about sawdust reminds me of the ice house. I cut all the ice I can store in the ice house and use all summer out of the reservoir and a whole lot more besides. Last winter I cut seventy-five loads of ice in the first cutting and sold them to the town for soft water, making on an average two and a half dollars a load. Besides that, see what a lot of trouble soft water saves in the threshing engine boiler flues. People from all around draw water from that hole for all purposes." By this time we had walked round the corner of the barn and, pointing to a sow lying down in a pile of straw, my companion said, "That old sow over there is nine years old. She is the mother of all my stock. I believe in staying



"GOOD FEEDING AND PURE BREEDING"

First prize sow over six months and under one year at the Dominion Fair last year. Owned by C. W. Weaver, Deloraine

with a good thing when I get one. That old sow has been worth more to me than again, top worked constantly with the duck-foot cultivator and harrows or better still pastured by sheep. Sheep are becoming more and more widely recognized as an important factor in Western agriculture, not only in weed control, but also as an aid in the conservation of moisture by packing the land and also as a factor in enriching

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