

Now that I have found fault with the plans mentioned above, I will endeavor to explain as cheap and effective a plan as I think can be obtained. I might state at the offset that I used a bank-barn for eight years, ventilated by two windows on one side, three in one end, and three doors in the other end. The foul air escaped by the chutes through which feed was put down from above. I found that plan to be a complete failure; so much so that I was convinced that a change was necessary, as I considered the animals were half poisoned with foul air. My present system is as follows: The door at one end entering the feed alley I reduced in length by cutting an inch off the bottom. At the other end of the alley I built a pipe as wide as the window and two inches across the inside. I allowed this to extend down to within two inches of the floor and up to the bottom of the window, where it opened to the outside of the building; so that all the air that enters the building comes down the pipe. It will, therefore, be readily seen that the quantity of air admitted may be regulated to suit the number of cattle in the stable by putting a little straw against the openings. For the exit of foul air I made eight pipes, eleven by two inches, and placed four of them on either side of the building, extending from the top of the stable wall to the plate against the roof of the barn. Now, think of my surprise when I found, on cold mornings, the barn roof coated with ice as much as three feet from the pipes by the steam which contained the gas that John Gould, of Ohio, said would go downward. My view of the question is just this: by admitting the fresh air into the feed alley, before it reaches the cattle it is partly warmed without coming into contact with anything which will unfit it for breathing.

I was particularly pleased with your suggestion in January 15th issue, to "Name the Farm." I have been wishing for the last ten years that some way could be found to induce farmers to put their names on their gates at the road. A board two feet long and six inches broad, with name painted on, would answer well if nailed to the gate or post. Such a practice, if it were general, would be a great convenience to a person seeking John Brown's place, for instance, because then he would not pass it unknowingly, as is so frequently done.

I may say that I use the sign board in following queen bees from one hive to another. As a swarm issues from one hive to another, and is put into a new hive, the sign board, three by two inches, is taken and put upon the new hive; on this is marked where the queen was obtained, her age, and whether cross, quiet, or good for comb honey.

Simcoe Co.

JAS. R. BELLAMY.

Institute Work -- Northern Ontario.

SIR.—A few observations upon the trip through Muskoka, Parry Sound, and Algoma, in attending Farmers' Institutes, may not be without interest to your many readers. The production of fine butter, milk, poultry, eggs, and lambs with which to supply the tourists during summer is becoming of more importance yearly to the farmers of Muskoka, and can be made more profitable, as a large proportion of these products are imported every year. Mr. J. J. Beaumont, the President of the Institute, recognizing the importance of this trade, has for the past two seasons been operating a small steamer upon Muskoka Lake, and trading with the tourists in these lines with very satisfactory results. At Port Carling we had the finest meetings of the district, and farming here is evidently making progress. A feature of the meetings here was a free luncheon between the meetings, served in the Hall where the meetings were held, and I would commend this social spirit to some of our Institute people farther south. We were pleased to learn that the erection of two silos in the neighborhood is contemplated. Passing on to Utterson, and through Parry Sound district, we held a succession of fairly good meetings, and were shown samples of one or two of the earliest varieties of corn, which had been grown and matured well in different neighborhoods of the district. Signs of progress are noted as we pass, especially in the neighborhood of Magnetawan, Parry Sound, McKellar, and Sundridge. At the last named place, Mr. H. Muir, formerly of Township of Downie, is getting very satisfactory results from about ten cows, handling the milk with a small separator and selling his butter at 24 cents per pound. He built a silo last season, but did not grow enough corn, so his silage did not last long; his yield was about twelve tons of Compton's Early per acre. At Sault Ste. Marie there is good encouragement for the farming community to look forward to a home market for many of their products, for with the large pulp mill now in operation, and also the business of the fine canal, and other enterprising institutions, the "Soo" is destined to become a place of importance. Upon St. Joseph's Island and Thessalon the banner meetings of the entire trip were held. What an enterprising, whole-souled, united people these Islanders are! We were shown many fine varieties of wheat and other grain here and at McLellan on the north shore; Mr. Wm. Murray having also about 110 varieties of potatoes, and finer peas the writer never saw. On Manitoulin we visited some fine, comfortable bank-barns and houses which will compare very well with the older parts of Ontario. (I inclose under separate samples of wheat grown on St. Joseph's Island, collected by Mr. Dickson.)

[NOTE.—The samples (4) received are certainly remarkably fine and would do credit to any farm in Ontario. They were as follows: Algoma Amber (a large, red wheat), grown by T. Fayson; Red Fife ("No. 1 hard"), grown by Albert Grexton, St. Joseph's Island; Clawson's winter wheat (white), grown by Wm. Reid; and "White Fife," grown by A. M. Rains.—EDITOR.]

Mr. A. P. Ketchen, of Brucefield, who is now acting as foreman of the Experimental Farm, Guelph, being the other member of the deputation, gave good advice upon "Breeding and Feeding Beef Cattle," "Cultivation of Roots," "Hog Production," etc. He emphasized the importance of feeding only well-bred steers, smoothly and compactly made, that handled well, were of quiet dispositions, and good, strong feeders; kindness in treatment and regularity in feeding; and thought the Herefords, as a breed, better pasture cattle than the Shorthorn. He advocated raising more roots for both cattle and hogs, stating that he had wintered brood sows entirely upon roots, and that with the free use of roots, with a light grain ration, pork had been produced at the College at a cost of two cents per pound.

Dairying.—In passing through the district of Parry Sound for the second time, I formed the idea that the conditions are not such as are the most favorable to insure success in building cheese factories and manufacturing cheese upon the co-operative principle.

Owing to the rough condition of the roads and the broken settlement, it is hardly possible to secure the milk of more than about 200 cows at any one point throughout the neighborhoods that I have visited, and this number, or even 300 cows, would mean only a small factory, and the expenses of drawing and manufacturing in this sized factories are found to be too great, even in the frontier counties of Ontario. It will be noticed

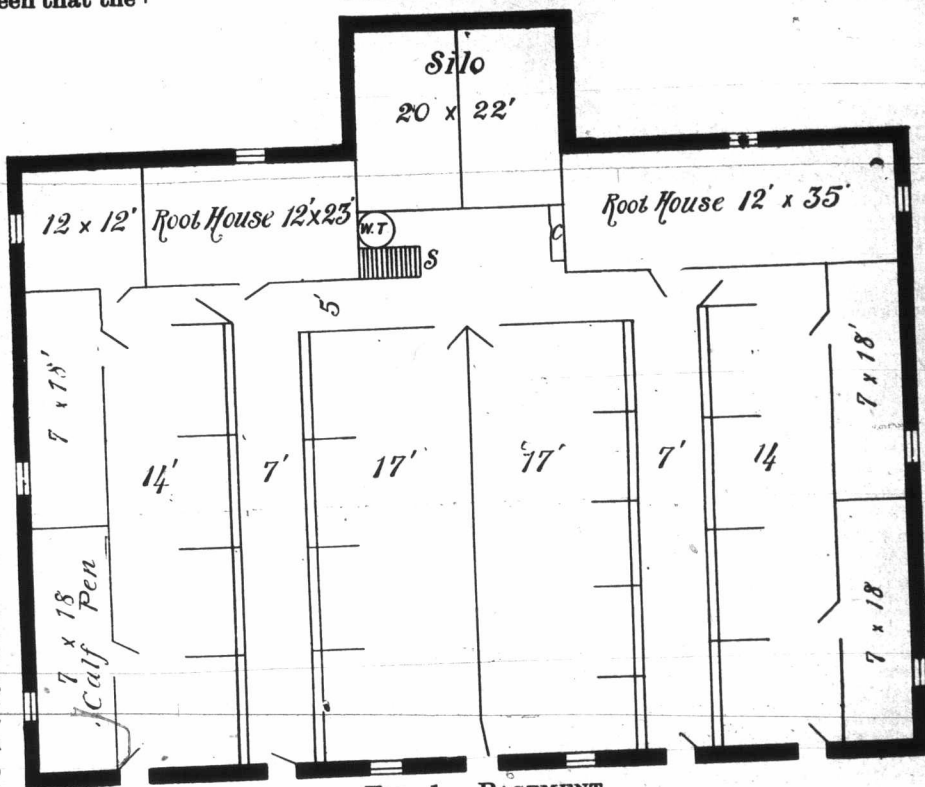


FIG. 1 — BASEMENT.

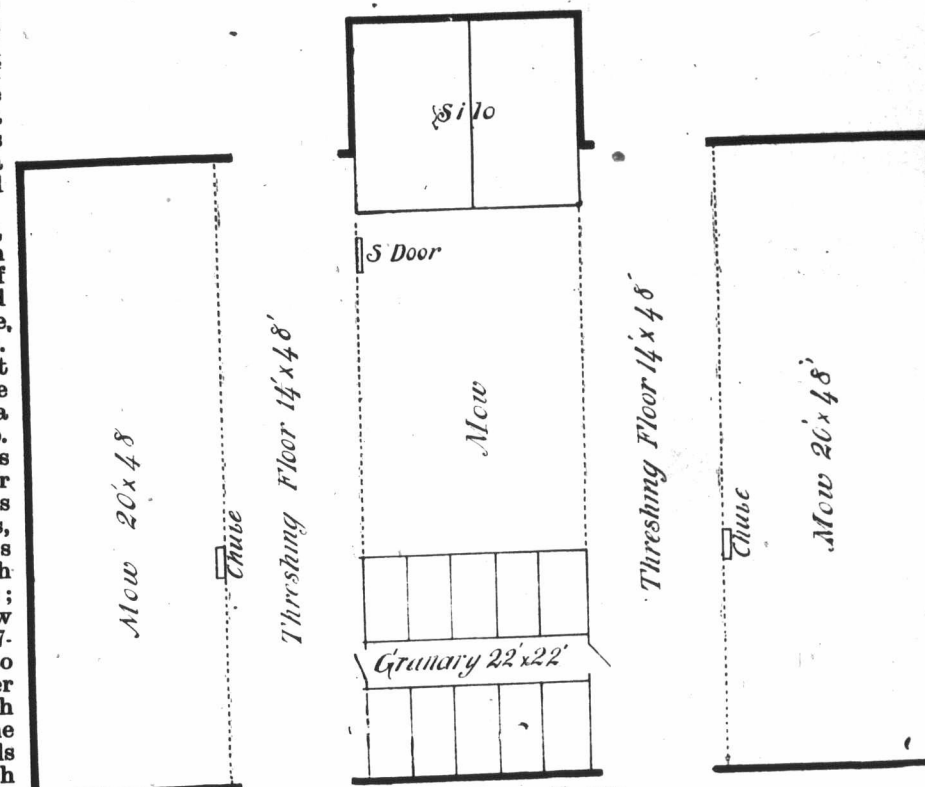


FIG. 2 — BARN FLOOR.

WELL-ARRANGED STOCK BARN.

Sacaline Not a Success.

Prof. W. A. Henry, of the Wisconsin Experiment Station, writes that, so far as he knows, sacaline has never given any returns of value in the States, and he would not think of spending any money in that direction. This corresponds with the result of a test made with the plant by a member of the ADVOCATE staff. Prof. Henry's advice is to let novelties alone till recommended for localities with "conditions similar to your own" by one or more of our experiment stations. He adds: "No doubt the seedsmen reaped a harvest last year on sacaline alone sufficient to pay for thousands of subscriptions to a good agricultural paper, and most of the money, too, came from those who were too poor to buy agricultural reading matter."

To Prevent Sow Eating Pigs -- Name the Farm -- Apiary Note.

SIR.—I noticed in your issue of February 1st a question from a subscriber in Grey Co., who wishes to know the cause of sow eating pigs. I may say that years of experience has taught me that it is due to a craving on the part of the sow for flesh, caused by the drain on her system while producing so much flesh in the form of her young. To prevent this trouble I feed my sows for two weeks before farrowing, a liberal amount of meat, which also has the effect of making the offspring much stronger and better.