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EDITORIAL.

Are we going to have any ice harvest? The grain harvest was precarious enough, but at this writing it looks uncertain whether there will be any chance at all to put up good ice.

Barn building and remodelling is one of the liveliest topics of this season. As usual "The Farmer's Advocate" has been on a still hunt for plans and ideas. It will pay intending builders to watch our columns closely.

Not only is the number of silos increasing rapidly, but there is a noticeable increase in the average size, more especially the depth, of those erected from year to year, except where a second silo is being provided for summer feeding.

A water system is defective if it necessitates keeping the stable temperature always above freezing. Very few Canadian stables are well enough constructed and insulated to render this possible at all times without unduly sacrificing ventilation. Such a stable might be built but seldom is.

In building a silo by all means get depth. The more the better, so long as it is safe to build and practicable to fill. We prefer one deep silo to two small ones. On an ordinary hundred-acre farm we would not entertain the idea of building a cement silo less than forty feet high, and would seriously consider forty-five. The capacity of that lower five feet is simply wonderful, and this well compacted silage at or under ground level is just the thing for summer feeding. It keeps better than the looser silage out of the top of a narrower silo. Only a thin layer spoils between time of discontinuing feeding in the spring, and recommencing in July.

With the innumerable and endless round of chores necessary on a stock farm, it is almost impossible for one man to do everything as he would like, and the temptation comes up to slight things. This temptation, if repeatedly yielded to, soon forms a habit of shiftlessness until one never has time to do anything right. On the other hand, let one insist on doing well whatever he undertakes, cutting down stock and reducing scale of operations, if necessary, and he then develops habits of thrift which save profits by avoiding loose ends. The idea that one has not time to take pains is about as insidious, and only a few degrees less mischievous than the idea some people have that they cannot afford to be honest. Neither is true.

The finest exhibition specimens are not always produced from the most successful or most profitable crops. The prize-winning Spy apples from our Demonstration Orchard in 1911, were grown on a diseased and dying tree. It produced large well-colored fruit, but not nearly so many barrels as healthy trees alongside. Similar to this is the experience of an Alberta farmer who bought wheat seed, sowed it on ordinary land, showed it at a local seed fair where it got nothing, being dirty, and sold for a dollar the bushel, which, when cleaned, won a world prize at Omaha. Exhibitions are all very well and serve an excellent purpose, but the most successful prize-winners are not always the most commercially successful farmers.

Neglected.

The winter months are really the constructive period in agriculture, especially in the matter of farm buildings, for it is during this period that plans for remodelling old buildings, or the erection of new structures, occupy the minds of the farmer contemplating improvements. Architecture is said to have a potent influence upon the generation, and there seems to be considerable truth in the statement, for are not a man's out-buildings, more than he often dreams, an indication of the personality of the man himself? whether or not the buildings have an appreciable effect upon the people of the age, they surely exert an almost unlimited influence upon whatever class of live-stock is housed therein. Our winters are of such severity that it is necessary, for the animal's welfare, that it be sheltered and fed. This means stabling is necessary, and stabling in the twentieth century should mean the installation of a practical, efficient and comparatively inexpensive system of draining off foul air from and diffusing pure air through these stables.

This artificial removal of confined air which, has been subjected to the contamination resulting from perspiration, admixture of gasses and foul odors, present in all tightly closed compartments where animals are confined, is known as ventilation. Ventilation is not a new word by any means. Farmers' Institute speakers, some of our best live-stock men, the agricultural press and writers without number, have been, for several years, putting forth every endeavor to spread enlightenment upon this subject. The old days, when it was thought necessary to exclude all fresh air from the stables in order that the animal heat given off by the stock could be retained for their comfort, and to keep the roots from freezing, are past. Walls, sills and joists dripping with the foul moisture from many lungs can never prove the ideal condition in which to keep stock. Consider for a moment that fresh air is just as necessary to the life of your live-stock as is food and water. It has been estimated that a cow requires twice the weight of pure air daily that she does of food and water combined. Can she get it in a tightly closed stable? This means for a cow weighing 1,000 lbs. live weight, approximately 200 lbs. of pure air daily. Air weighs about .08 lbs. per cubic foot. Think what this means to the cow. Mechanical skill of the present day has made it possible to construct doors and windows which fit. The door, with cracks literally large enough for the cat to go through, and the windows which filled only a part of the hole in the wall left for it, are not seen in the newer types of stable. Consequently, unless provision is made for it, fresh air cannot gain entrance to the stable in any considerable amount.

Disease lurks in the dust floating in the air of the poorly ventilated stable, and the moisture-laden ceiling and walls are a "paradise" for bacteria. Statistics show that bovine tuberculosis is far more prevalent in Northern and Southern countries. Why? Because the winters necessitate stabling of stock, and consequently they get less pure air. No other disease need be mentioned. Pure air is essential to health, ay, even to life itself.

How can it be had? All that is necessary is, in building new or improving old stables, to put in a sufficient number of inlets through or under the walls, and outlets through the roof of

the building. simply opening windows is not enough. It is necessary to get the pure air without causing draft. Windows with a proper means of deflecting the air upwards to break the draft may be used as inlets, but then outlets are necessary. Of course windows on opposite sides of the stable may serve as inlets and outlets according to the direction of the wind, but this plan causes drafts across the stable, and is not ideal. No window is a success as an inlet and outlet combined, and it is, by many, considered advisable to have a system of ventilation entirely independent of the window, whose primary object should be the admission of light.

Intakes through or under the wall, as the case may be, should be well distributed around the stable, and should be large enough, in total cross-section area, to allow at least 15 square inches per head of cattle or horses stabled. Outlets should not be less than 18 inches across, and should be placed near the center of the building, and open near the ceiling of the stable. Inlets should not be controlled. Unless the weather is very severe it is better not to leave such an important factor to a herdsman. Simply regulate them so as to prevent drafts. Outlets should be tight. Tongued and grooved lumber is good for this purpose.

Why this repetition of what may seem to be a hackneyed subject? Because, in many of our so-called up-to-date barns and stables, and those in almost every other particular first-class, ventilation has been neglected or ingored. Progress is being made, but not with the rapidity there should be. Give ventilation the consideration it should have in the new or improved stable.

Cows, Prices and Profits.

A prominent speaker at the Western Ontario Dairymen's Convention in Woodstock, deplored the fact that our cheese exports are declining while our butter exports have practically ceased. He argued, by implication, that we should have some active organization aiming to increase the number and improve the quality of our cows. To the alleged lack of such effort, and to the culling process which is taking place in many individually-tested herds, he attributed part of the decrease in exports. A second reason assigned was the lesser profit of dairying as compared with some other lines, a dollar per hundredweight for milk not being sufficient to render dairying attractive.

The latter argument nullifies the first. The law of supply and demand sends prices down as production increases. This is particularly applicable to the case under discussion, because any considerable increase in milk supply would have to be exported as butter, cheese or cream, and the price of this exported surplus would be governed by cheese and butter prices prevailing in Great Britain. Milk used to produce this butter and cheese for export could not possibly net the producer very much above one dollar per cwt. on the average, and often not that. Moreover, the moment we accumulate a surplus of butter or cheese for export, home prices, in most localities, drop to the export level, and so the price of milk to all patrons of cheese and butter factories would be fixed by what could be paid those producing milk for the manufacture of export products. Furthermore, the establishment of lower prices for milk at cheese factories and creameries would tend to keep down the price of milk and